



Weavers Guild of Kalamazoo, Inc.
P. O. Box 2795
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-2795

Meeting of the General Membership MINUTES April 8, 2013

I. President Martha Reeves called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm at the Portage Senior Center. She welcomed members and asked that each put away their chair against the far wall at the end of the meeting.

II. Announcements:

- **Juanita Manning-Walsh** put on her Fiber Festival hat and filled in a few fiber Festival bits.
- **Nancy Crampton** asked members to pick up their new tags and explained the reason for the new Wafa Sale tags this year is to cut down the time needed to reconcile price and artist information. Each member gets 50 weaving or spinning tags for free. The blue tags are for spinners and have more room for fiber information. Each spinner may have a personal tag plus the Guild tag. Yarn prices are to be the same on each tag. Weavers' tags are similar. There is more room on the tear-off portion.
- **Anne Mehring** reminded members the 40th Anniversary bags, are still on sale at half price at \$7.50. Several bags were sold at the meeting. The big box was much lighter on the way back to her car.
- **Ann Neimi**, MLH President, made some Michigan League of Handweavers announcements, including on how not to use the online registration through PayPal if one wanted to send a check. The new online registration is quite smooth according to Jan Tucker who used it for her recent registration.
- **Kristi Chapman** said the Library table has ten books on coverlets set out for review since the evening's presentation was about Jacquard Looms and Fancy American Coverlets.
- **Lori Evesque** announced a felted vessel class by Dawn Edwards at Tillers.
- **Ellen Colston** directed members to the sign-up sheets for volunteers for Service Bureau table in the rear of the room.
 - She has many more requests for demonstrations this year
 - Some requests are from groups new to us
 - Remember she has free tickets for demonstrators, their helpers and families.
 - Topics may include spinning, carding, weaving, felting, and knitting or crochet.
 - She can get looms for weavers if needed
 - No fleeces will be available this year.
 - The Make-it-Take-It area at Fiber Fest also needs volunteers.
- **Dawn Merganer** has worked on the Hospitality committee for five years and would like some assistance next year. Please contact her to volunteer.
- **Martha Reeves** reminded members of the importance of the May meeting.
 - Be prepared to renew membership at that meeting
 - Elect next year's officers
 - Recognize volunteers
 - Vote to accept the annual budget
 - Study Group projects will be highlighted along with some show and tell
- **Judith Jones** has a cache of cards and 30th Anniversary booklets for sale.

- She has the cards priced at 25 cents apiece or for a bargain price of 4 cards for \$1.00.
- The Anniversary booklet was created and printed in 1998 as a calendar, with photography and artwork by members of the Guild.

III. Judith then introduced the evening's speakers, **Richard and Chris Geryan** who spoke on *Jacquard Looms and Fancy American Coverlets*. When Geryan retired from the Ford Motor Company it made a lot of sense to him to translate his 30 year career into that of the Weaving Master at the Weaving Studio, a program of The Henry Ford at the Dearborn museum site. In that capacity he undertook the long rehabilitation of the Jacquard loom, after 30 years of idleness. Chris, his wife and the Henry Ford textile curator, provided research skills.

Richard combined a history of the Henry Ford a huge museum in Dearborn, MI with a review of some interesting inventions by Ford himself in the Edison Institute which became part of The Henry Ford. Among his fiber inventions was the first soy fiber, a mixture of 1/3 soy protein and 2/3 wool which was made into a suit. Ford was photographed wearing the suit which has since disappeared. Geryan outlined the career of Sidney Holloway, gleaned from his "Daybooks" the record he kept of each day's work. Holloway built the Jacquard loom which Geryan has recently completed renovating.

Chris Geryan talked about the textiles, the American Coverlets which they brought for display. She identified "coverlet" as a woven bed covering, as distinct from "quilt," a layered, pieced three layer bed covering containing a middle layer of filling for insulation. These fancy coverlets were woven on traveling jacquard looms that could have hundreds of punched cards that created the design. This sort of weaving became very popular in the early 1800s with the introduction of commercially spun cotton which served as the warp with the woolen weft. Chris noted these covers were warm and durable; they used farm grown woolen yarn and designated status in the owner's community.

At the end of their talk, Martha invited members to see the coverlets, noting some that members had brought in additional examples from their own collections. Esther James brought her coverlet woven as part of a Guild study group in 2004, a lovely piece of white cotton and a fairly soft wool in white and maroon. Julia Daniels also brought some coverlets and a carpet.

Martha reminded members to each put away their chairs as the Guild quickly tidied up the meeting space. The meeting concluded at 8: 40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Mehring

Anne Mehring, Secretary