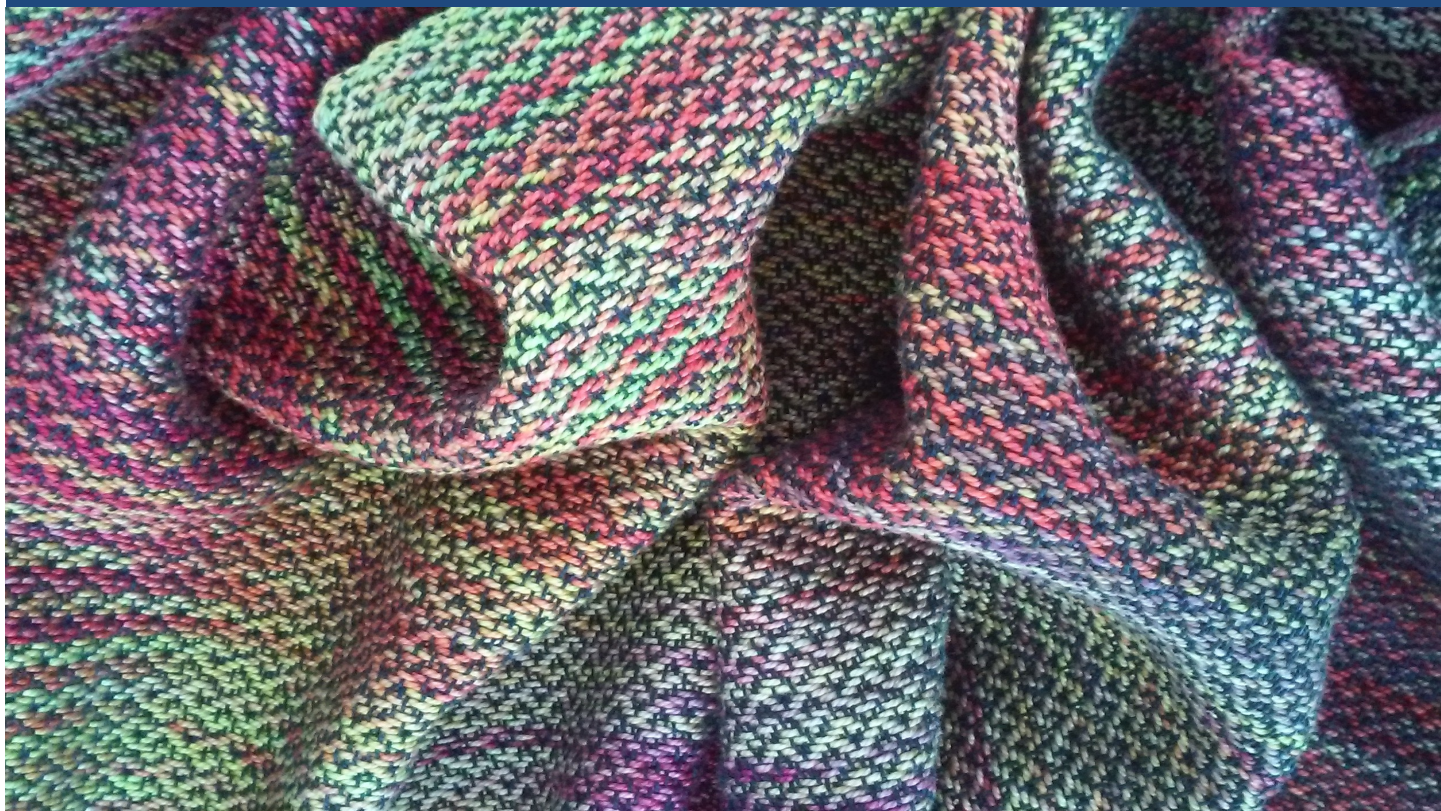


The  
**Shuttle**  
Connecting Through Fiber

March 2017  
Volume 49  
Issue 6



## Weaver's Guild of Kalamazoo, Inc

[www.weaversguildofkalamazoo.org](http://www.weaversguildofkalamazoo.org)

**Our Next Meeting Is:**

**March 13, 2017**  
with

**Beth Smith**

from Hillsdale, MI

**“The Great Skirt Project”**

Come to dinner at 5 pm at Fieldstone Grill  
before the meeting. RSVP by Oct. 6 to

Margie Glenn at

[mushing\\_mag@yaho.com](mailto:mushing_mag@yaho.com)

### Shuttle Deadlines:

For April 2017—March 24, 2017

For May 2017— April 24, 2017

Please send items for The Shuttle to the  
editor at

[Paula.M.Clare@gmail.com](mailto:Paula.M.Clare@gmail.com)

## 2016-2017 Officers and Committee Chairs

President – Karen VanderWeele  
 Vice President – Margie Glenn  
 Secretary – Terri Smith  
 Treasurer – Karen Cote  
 Education – Gail Ross  
 Program/Workshop Coordinator – Margie Glenn  
 Scholarship Program – Anne Mehring  
 Shuttle Editor – Paula Clare  
 Webmaster—Jill Strobel  
 Yearbook Editor – Mindy Tai  
 Yearbook Fabric – Cathy McCarthy/Helen Duffy  
 Service Bureau Coordinator – Melissa Powers  
 Librarian – Kristi Chapman  
 Library Storage – Martha Reeves  
 Membership – Nancy Arlidge  
 Newcomers/Welcoming – Holly Jensen  
 Photographer – Linda Innes  
 Historian/Archivist – Lenore Snyder  
 Hospitality Chair – VACANT  
 Equipment Rental – Nancy Frost  
 Arts Council Rep – Gretchen Huggett  
 MLH Rep – Anne Mehring  
 WAFA Chair – Nancy Crampton  
 WAFA Treasurer – Jill Strobel  
 WAFA Secretary – Cory Zann  
 Exemption Committee – Nancy Clark, Karen Kendall,  
 Nancy Arlidge

## Study Groups

For more information, contact the study group leader.

**Four Harness** – Nancy Krapf/Judith Jones – meets second Thursday at 9:30 am at members' homes.

**Moonbeamers**—Helen Lemmer – meets fourth Monday at 7 pm at members' homes.

**Multi-Harness**—Marta Williams – meets third Wednesday at 9:30 am at members' homes.

**Spinners**—Terri Smith/Carolyn Snyder – meets third Friday 10 am to 2 pm at Parchment Library.

**Swatch Exchange**—Gail Ross – a virtual study group.

**CSW**—Lenore Snyder—meets third Tuesday, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at Marshall District Library.

## 2016-2017

### WGK Program

**March 13, 2017**

**Beth Smith**, Howell, MI  
 Guild meeting presentation:  
**“The Great Skirt Project”**

**April 8-9, 2017**

**JoAnn Bachelder**, Bay City, MI  
 2-Day Workshop **“Designing Stripes”**

**April 10, 2017 \*\*6:30 Start\*\***

**JoAnn Bachelder**, Bay City, MI  
 Guild meeting presentation:  
**“Color”**  
 and  
**WAFA Sale Guideline Review and WAFA Business**

**May 8, 2017**

Annual Business Meeting  
 Presentations from the Study Groups  
 Garage Sale



## **A Letter from our President**

As I've gotten more into weaving again, I discovered that weaving is my thinking time. Which can be a good thing or a bad thing. Sometimes I can figure out the problems that have been going on around me or I can get stuck in my thoughts and have to do something else, like listen to a book. Doesn't stop my weaving though.

So does weaving bring me joy? I think yes. It's one of those things that I can do in order to help make sense of things. It allows me productive time to think through situations and make decisions and put order in my day.

Thought you'd like the results of our 3x5 card informal survey. Our social media most used? The answer is Facebook. Also, we gained 5 more likes. We now have more likes than members in the guild.

In regards to what sold the most, most things were under \$50. So as you're deciding what to make for the sale for next year, you can head in that direction. Just for your information.

Our speaker this month is Beth Smith. Skirts have interested me for a long time. From the ones I wore to school to trying to knit one and running out of patience. Let's see what Beth can show us about skirts.

*Karen*

**Sign-up soon for our next Workshop**

**“Designing Stripes”**

**April 8-9, 2017 with JoAnn Bachelder**

### **For Sale**

**Flax spinning wheel (very reasonably priced). Jackie Wnuk has a flax wheel she and her husband bought as a collectible/antique. She thinks it is in working order; the only part that seems to be missing is the distaff. If you are interested and have questions about it you can contact Jackie at 720-1211 after March 12th.**



## WGK Website Gallery

Want to share your recent project with others?

Want to see what others are working on?

Send photos (.jpg preferred) to Jill Strobel at [heronwork@yahoo.com](mailto:heronwork@yahoo.com) to have your project added to our on-line photo gallery on our web page. Please try to be sure no faces are shown, no cluttered backgrounds. We want to highlight the artistry and skill our membership demonstrates!

## Library News

*Can you help us?* We cannot locate the following library materials. Could you please look around your house, car, loom room, reading stack... and just check to see if you might have one of these lost lambs? If so, please return it to the library table at the next meeting. No questions asked! :)

*Missing:*

“Winning Towels” by Madelyn vanderHoogt

“Boundweave” by Clotilde Barrett

Threads Magazine January 2013

Thank you! -Kristi Chapman, Guild librarian

## WAFA NEWS

Just a reminder to Guild members - proposed changes to the Sale guidelines are due in March. See **WAFA Sale Guideline Review 2017** and **WAFA Guideline Revision Form** in this Shuttle.

Also:

1. WAFA Sale tags will be available at the March meeting
2. Postcards will be available at the April and May meetings, so you can pass them out during the summer.
3. The Exemption Committee will meet at the September meeting

The WAFA Committee is always looking for new members, so if you are willing to help out, we'd appreciate it.

Officers running for election for the 2017 WAFA Sale are:

Nancy Crampton - Chair

Cory Zann - Secretary

Jill Strobel - Treasurer

These officers will be voted on at the April meeting.

# WAFA Sale Guideline Review 2017

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Following is a copy of the most recent WAFA sale guidelines. Periodically, these guidelines are reviewed and revised to reflect the new work our members are doing, and the intent of the WAFA sale.

## Here's how it will work:

- A. If you would like to propose a change, you will need to write out the **EXACT** wording on the WAFA Guideline Revision Form. Keep your proposed change to three sentences maximum. Please fill out the line that indicates the exact place in the guidelines where you wish to insert, replace, or delete the wording. Each proposal will require its own Revision Form. Your actual proposal will not be edited.
- B. In the Comment Box on the form, explain to the membership why you think this Guideline change is needed. The sentences in the box will not be part of the vote; they are for background only.
- C. Completed forms must be received by **3/17/17**. You can turn them in at the March meeting, or send to Terri Feldt, 50297 Jasmine Pt., Mattawan, MI 49071 or [tcfeldt@bloomingtondalecom.net](mailto:tcfeldt@bloomingtondalecom.net). All proposals will be printed in the April Shuttle for members to review. No proposals will be accepted after the deadline.

Each proposal will be read, discussed and voted on at the April meeting. Each proposal will be voted on separately by a show of hands of current guild members in attendance. A simple majority is needed to adopt the change.

The revised guidelines will be published in the May Shuttle and on the website.

# WAFB Guideline Revision Form

**Turn in by 3/17/17**

Your proposal: (in the exact words that will be on the ballot, 2-3 sentences maximum)

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Location in Guidelines: (add, remove, change)

Explain why you think this is needed

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact phone/email: \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed form to Terri Feldt at 50297 Jasmine Pt., Mattawan, MI 49071 or email to her at [tcfeldt@bloomingdalecom.net](mailto:tcfeldt@bloomingdalecom.net)



## EDUCATION CORNER

(Many thanks to Holly Jensen and Terri Smith who contributed material for this column)

I heard birds—what a wonderful reminder of lovely days ahead---and less time indoors. This is a mixed blessing for weavers whose looms are not so portable, but the members of the Spinners Study Group, this month's focus, can take their equipment with them—not just outdoors, but to Service Bureau activities, Art Hop, and the WAFA sale (where some of our photos originate) and stay up close and personal with their fiber almost anywhere.

According to Holly Jensen, the Friday Handspinners Study Group formed in 1987 or '88 at the Parchment Community Library with original members Holly, Sue Banner, Susan Ramsey, Terri Feldt, Katie Meek, Shirley Scarborough, Ellen Colsten, Mary Wilson, and Michelle Norman. The meeting location was a practical choice: they were able to secure this location free of charge, primarily because member Sue Banner's husband Paul was on the library board. The group has always met on the 3rd Friday, September - May and for a year or two, on the occasional Saturday to accommodate those who could not make the Friday meetings. Holly says that her most memorable meeting was in January 1992 when they were having a workshop on hand spinning for lace at the library and she brought her one week old son (who says he has no recollection of this!)

This guild year the Handspinners have a hat-making project as their goal to present at the May 2017 general meeting. They all made scarves last year, so this year's hat is supposed to match the scarf. Those who took the art yarn class can make a hat from the art yarn. All hats can be woven, knitted, crocheted, felted, whatever! Furthermore, thinking about the WGK-MLH display coming up in June, with light teal and purple as the colors of the conference, members may instead choose to use those colors and contribute to the guild's display. This study group takes "study" seriously: there is even "extra credit" for making a name tag!

Unlike our weaving study groups with so many project photos, the Handspinners have many more photos of spinning itself—i.e. the art and camaraderie of spinning is as important as the end product, and when you can spin "in character", so much more the fun.













## FIBER FACTOIDS:

Here is your quiz this month:

### I. What is Waulking the Wool?

A communal method for fulling cloth

A finishing process that is applied only to woven wool (tweed)

Both A and B

If you answered C you are correct! And while this term may be new to many of you, it actually describes a practice that has been documented at least as far back as the 13<sup>th</sup> century and rather than being new is being born again. Unlike many steps in the spinning and weaving process, often accompanied by curses and expressions of pain, Waulking is a process that is accompanied by singing songs, some an hour long (!) and that takes place in a social gathering to accomplish this important final step in the creation of usable wool fabric. In checking out a few great resources for waulking the wool on YouTube, I note that waulking did not involve walking by persons, but rather by the wool which was squeezed and passed around a table (in these examples) but did often involve a “wee bit o’ the dram”—which must have helped deal with the odors of the original process, involving steaming urine to set the dyes.

Having no personal experience with waulking wool, I thought I’d share with you the following description that can be found on the internet: <http://www.thistleandbroom.com/scotland/waulking.htm>

*“There were four parts to the waulking process. The first, similar to the fulling process, entails shrinking the fabric so in its thickening a certain quality of wind and waterproofing is realised. Then cleansing the cloth, folding the cloth, the process of giving it tension after which came a rite of consecration. Waulking was a daylong project and once begun it had to be finished in one session.*



When cloth had been woven and removed from the loom, a luadh session was planned. The waulking women, called na mnathan luaidh in Scots Gaelic, assembled at the house of the owner of the cloth after breakfast. The tweed, up to 70 yards long, was sewn together at the ends to make a continuous loop and then it was soaked in human urine, fual or graith, saved in each house for this sole purpose. The ammonia served to not only deepen and intensify the dye colors but also to remove the oils of melted livers of dogfish used to dress the wool.

Waulking of cloth was done by pounding the material against a board or trampling it with feet, more often the former than the latter. Six to fourteen women, one on each end and equal numbers down the sides, would sit around the waulking board, or, as often, a door was taken off its hinges was set up. The cloth would be pulled towards you and beat on the board then passed slightly to your left before pushing it back, moving it in a four-time clockwise direction. Cloth that was initially eight (middle) finger lengths wide would be three inches narrower when the process was complete in addition to being softer, thicker, and more tightly woven.

For some 400 years, accompanying this work were waulking songs, òrain luiadh, a musical form unknown elsewhere in Western Europe. Waulking was measured by song - not time - it was never said, "it will take another half-hour" but rather "it will take another song". The songs, which have common themes of love, war, hunting and sewing, are very rhythmic and were composed to keep the beat as the cloth was being waulked. The best singer, the ban dhuan, would sing out the verse and then everyone would join in the chorus. The verses and choruses (sometimes there are up to 4 choruses) are very short, sometimes only a few syllables. One of the oldest Gaelic songs in existence is Seathan, Mac Rìgh Eireann\*, a waulking song appearing in the [Carmina Gadelica](#), which would take well over an hour to sing in completion.

Once the waulking process was finished there followed a ceremony of consecration, involving three women. The oldest would lead with the other two following according to age. The first woman would take the folded cloth and move it round a half turn clockwise saying "Cuirim ca deiseal" "I give a turn sunwise." Freeing her hands she seized it again and gave it another half turn to complete the round saying "am freasdal an Athar" "dependant on the father." The other two women repeat the process saying instead in the name of the son, and in the name of spirit."

**HAPPY SAINT DAVID'S DAY! (anyone else have Welsh blood?)**



\* \$5000 was donated to bring the scholarship award to \$10000 for this budget year



Weavers Guild of Kalamazoo

P.O. Box 2795

Kalamazoo, MI 49007

**We have a Facebook site!**

**Weavers Guild of Kalamazoo**



**Please visit, like, and post on our site!**

