



April
2012

The Newsletter of the Nashoba Valley Weavers' Guild

PO Box 50, Harvard MA 01451

April 24th Program – Japanese Sandals to Weave

Carol Vales will demonstrate a Japanese weaving style to make chic sandals just in time for summer. She will bring some sandal samples to get your own creative juices flowing. She usually wears cotton sox when weaving these sandals, so feel free to follow suit. This evening will surely be a fun time! Maybe we can wear them at the Potluck? Please bring scissors and strips of fabric cut into 1/4-1/2" strips. Come at 7 to shop, socialize and peruse a selection of books from the library. The meeting will start at 7:30 at the Fiber Loft.



Guild Challenge

Did you know that the Nashoba Valley Weavers' Guild is 25 years old? Our guild challenge this year will be to use the 25th anniversary in a hand woven article. Perhaps something related to the number 25 (like 25 warp ends, 25 colors, 25 stripes, or the numbers 2 and 5 somehow incorporated) and/or the use the color silver for our silver anniversary. Use your imagination!

Call for Artists

Since 1989 the Merrimack Valley Artisans (formerly the Dunstable Artisans) has had the goal of providing an opportunity for the public to meet local people producing fine arts and fine crafts right in their own neighborhood. We are good at providing support to artists endeavoring to sell more. As a 501c3 IRS charity we also benefit the public with programs in support of the arts. This year our 23rd annual show will be on Sat. - Sun. October 20 - 21, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, Chelmsford. If you would like to find more ways to sell your art, please visit http://merrimackvalleyartisans.org/DA_membership.html and consider applying as a member or as one of our show-only-participants.

--Lynn Ferrillo, former board member of NVWG, and President of MVA.

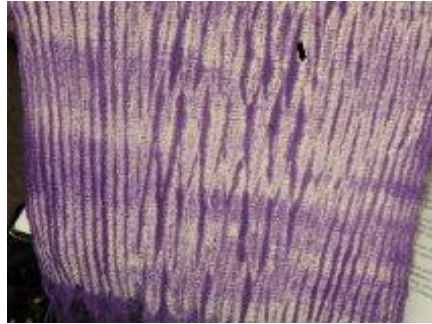
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March Guild Meeting

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Our guest speaker at the March guild meeting was Kristin Kelley. Kristin recently spent time at the John C. Campbell Folk School taking a class on shibori. She brought along samples to share with us on how to use shibori to create uniquely dyed cloth by weaving the threads used to pleat fabric into the warp and weft. Kristin also brought samples made at the Campbell Folk School using polyester fibers in the weaving. The polyester fibers, when heated with steam, result in permanently set pleats. With warmer weather approaching, maybe we will be inspired to try our hand at shibori!



Shibori sample by Kristin Kelley

February Guild Meeting

Back Strap Weaving – Burma

Our February guild meeting was a wonderful presentation featuring the WRAP Weavers of the Worcester Refugee Assistance Project Weaving Cooperative demonstrating back strap weaving. The weavers are refugees from Burma who had been living in a refugee camp on the border of Thailand for up to 20 years before relocating to Worcester. They enjoy weaving and demonstrated for us with great pride and joy. Weaving is something that reminds them of their life "back home" and they are able to supplement their household income by selling their wares at local craft shows including Worcester stART. In addition to the weavers' demonstration, Naomi Northrop, a WRAP volunteer and Liz Hannum from the Refuge Assistance Project spoke about the women and their journey here and how WRAP is an integral part of their lives. For more information:

<http://www.worcesterrefugeeassistanceproject.org/index.html>



WRAP weavers
demonstrating
back strap
weaving



Fiber Related Events

Now – August 12, 2012 – Woven Treasures of Japan's Tawaraya Workshop, The Textile Museum, New York City

Even if you don't make it to New York to see this exhibit you can view the incredible robes and silk fabrics at <http://www.textilemuseum.org/PDFs/WovenTreasures-Images.pdf>. The Tawaraya Workshop in Japan has made reproductions of ancient textiles for 500 years and has made Imperial garments and costumes for Japanese theatre. After years of training, the weavers can only weave about 4 inches of fabric a day in a process that involves manipulating both the warp and the weft threads. The silk is dyed before weaving to produce the intricate patterns on the fabric - the designs are not added afterwards by dyes or embroidery.

April 28, 2012: Sheep shearing Festival. Gore Place, Waltham, MA

<http://www.goreplace.org/sheepshearing.htm>

Sheep and Wool Festivals

April 28, 2012 – Connecticut Sheep and Wool Festival www.CTSheep.org

May 5-6, 2012 – Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival www.sheepandwool.org

May 12-13, 2012 – New Hampshire Sheep and Wool Festival www.nhswga.com

May 19, 2012 – Rhode Island Sheep and Wool Festival

<http://coggeshallfarm.org/calendar.html>

DVD Review

The Loom Owner's Companion: Know and Love Your Loom, Tom Knisely

In this DVD, a new acquisition in the guild library, Tom Knisely covers a little bit of everything relating to looms. It is easy to see why he was voted "Teacher of the Year" by Handwoven Magazine last year. Disc One contains a general overview of the parts of a loom and Jack, Countermarche, Counterbalance and Table looms are discussed and compared. Variations in warp and back beams, heddles, beaters, and reeds are presented next. Disc One ends with reading a draft and interpreting it based on your loom type (rising shed, sinking shed, and countermarche). This disc would be helpful to new weavers in choosing a loom as the information is clearly presented, mentioning pros and cons of each type of loom without preference for one type over the others.

Disc Two would be helpful for weavers who already have a loom at home. It starts with building a tool kit to use and service your loom (everything from fray check to fishing weights), troubleshooting common problems, and caring for, and tuning up your loom (including how to care for the metal parts and wood finish).

Programs Spring 2012

May 22, 2012 – Weaving Journeys Judith Shangold will present Weaving Journeys – a slide show of the Vav Weaving conference in Sweden, as well as, other travels that provided inspiration for her weaving style and accomplishments. You will be surprised what Judith has created on the rigid heddle loom, too! Samples of her work will also be on display.

June 26, 2012 – 25th Anniversary Pot Luck and Guild Challenge

Details coming soon!

NVWG Meetings

NVWG meetings are held at The Fiber Loft, 9 Massachusetts Ave. (Rt. 111) in Harvard MA. Refreshments, shopping at The Fiber Loft and access to a selection of the guild library begin at 7 pm.

New members are always welcome.

Guild Library

A listing of the books and magazines owned by the guild is located at:

<http://www.nvwg.org/library.html>

We're on the Web!

www.nvwg.org

NVWG Officers

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