



MICHIGAN WEAVERS GUILD

CYBER

FIBER FARE

March 2009

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2008

Farmington Community Library, 12 Mile Road between Orchard Lake and Farmington Road, Farmington Hills

11:00 AM **Board Meeting**

12:00 PM **Social Time**

12:30 PM **General Meeting**

1:00 PM **Martha Brownscombe: Slide/lecture *Travels of a Fiber Fanatic!***

2008-2009 YEAR AT A GLANCE

March 21, 2009: Playdate at Joan's House

See page 4 for more information

April 16, 2009 Slide/lecture

Jan Dollan: *The Gees Bend Quilters*

April 18, 2009

2nd Annual Dye Day

See page 5 for more information

May 21, 2009: FIELDTRIP!!

Tour of the Weaving Studio at Greenfield Village



Michigan Weavers Guild

Inspiring creativity and preserving fiber traditions.

www.michiganweaversguild.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here's hoping we can look forward to milder weather this month with some sunshine, less snow and perhaps even Spring! I was not able to attend last month's meeting but heard lots of good things about it. People enjoyed Mary Underwood's presentation about Mongolia, her trips there and felt-making. I'm looking forward to March 19 and Martha Brownscombe's lecture on being a fiber fanatic. Joan Koelsch, our program chairperson, has also planned a fun day to play with and explore beads and wire at her home on Saturday, March 21.

I recently read 2 magazine articles that I wanted to recommend. The first article is from American Craft, Feb./Mar 2009, P.046-053, "A Tale from the Dark Side: Demons, Yarns and Tales". "Demons, Yarns and Tales" was an exhibit in London's Bloomsbury district and was a tapestry show. The tapestries were designed by some of the biggest names in the art world. The idea was to go back to a Renaissance model where an artist designed and weavers wove the tapestries. There were 15 artists who contributed designs and included Kara Walker, Fred Tomaselli, Shahzia Sikander and Grayson Perry. The weavers were from China. It's a really interesting article with some nice photos.

The second article is in Fiber Arts, Jan/Feb 2009, p.42-45, "Maggie Pavlou: Felted Landscapes". Maggie Pavlou uses felt in making her jackets. She uses hand dyed sheets of merino wool that she felts. The sheets are a gossamer-weight fabric and she fuses 2-3 layers of different colors. Eventually she makes them into jackets and vests. There is a page in the article that shows Ms. Pavlou going through various steps to make a vest. This is the Fiber Arts Art to Wear issue and is a treat to look through and read. Enjoy.

As many of you probably know, Ken Allen has been experiencing some medical problems. He recently had rotator cuff surgery and is now at home recuperating. He said he has less pain than before the surgery but has a way to go and will be receiving therapy at home. Ken has been such an important support and resource for our Guild. He has been one of our core members and we hope to see him at a meeting soon. After all, someone has to keep us in line and Ken has been that person. We miss you, Ken. Hurry up and recuperate so you can get back to doing the things you like to do.

Arlene Gendelman

2008-2009 BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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	<i>Laura Lipson</i>	<i>Membership:</i>	SUSAN LOLLI
<i>Publicity:</i>	JUDY BOESKY	<i>MLH Representative:</i>	KEN ALLEN
<i>Historian:</i>	NANCY PECK		
<i>Webmaster:</i>	MARY RIOS		

EXCERPTS FROM FEBRUARY MEETING

The Board meeting was convened at 11:10 a/m/ on Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009 by Nancy Slutsky vice president. Present were: Karen Folland, Jeanne Seitz, Nancy Slutsky, Judy Boesky, Nancy Peck, Erika Proschow, Sarah, Irvine, Susan Lolli, and Joan Koelsch.

Treasurer Ken Allen was absent due to illness.

Joan Koelsch discussed the March program and problems contacting the speaker, and talked about the remainder of the year—Dye Day and Gees Bend Quilters in April and the trip to Greenfield Village in May. Ideas for next year's programs were explored.

Exhibits—Judy Poesky stated that alternate years had a juried exhibit—the next will be 2010-2011 with the venue undecided. The BBAC exhibit in January of this year was well-received.

We have 65 paid members, 7 honorary, and 27 have not renewed and will receive reminder letters.

Fiber Fare received a nice e-mail from Gerhardt Knodel complimenting us on the website and programming.

Judy Boesky reported that 4 fiber arts magazines carried notices of our BBAC exhibit.

Discussion about the name of the Guild resolved that the name of the guild will not be changed, but an

explanatory note about it being a fiber arts guild will be attached.

Jeanne Seitz and Joan Koelsch will provide refreshments in March.

Sarah Irvine, corresponding secretary, sent cards to Ken Allen and Ann Hopwood.

Sarah Irvine also reported on Knit Michigan. 9 members worked at our table, the event raised \$30,000 for breast cancer research and 600 people attended. The Guild came through with roving and other supplies and there are pictures on the Knit MI website.

The website gets many compliments. After the meeting, Sue Lolli will do a website demo for interested members.

MLH wants retro items for this summer's 50th anniversary meeting. J. Koelsch made a motion, seconded by N. Slutsky, that it is our intent to have a guild exhibit at the convention. There is more information on the MLH website. The theme of this year's convention is "Golden Reflections."

HGA has a travel experience for members in Canton, OH, on March 13 and 14. There is also a fiber exhibit at Kent State.

Adjourned 12:05 p.m

Many of you may have received an email about Cross Village Rug Works, but in case you aren't aware, they are a non-profit rug weaving and textiles project located in Emmet County, MI. They hope to act as an economic catalyst for rural Northern Michigan by creating a cottage industry for fiber production, artisan apprenticeship and heritage tourism. They are in need of assistance in locating/obtaining weaving equipment and materials. They also need instructors to teach workshops. If you can help out or would like more information, please contact the Director, Mandy Andersen at 231-536-7849 or email her at info@crossvillagerugworks.com

You can read more about Cross Village Rug Works at:
http://www.harborlightnews.com/atf.php?sid=7031¤t_edition=2009-01-28

WHAT'S UP THIS MONTH?

On March 17th, Martha Brownscombe will be our speaker, presenting “Travels of a Fiber Fanatic.” I think we can all identify with being fiber fanatics. Martha teaches at Michigan State University and has travelled extensively searching out new and unusual fiber experiences. There will be a social time at noon, business meeting at 12:30 and Martha’s program at 1:00 pm.

Something New—A March Play Date

Our scheduled workshop with Martha Brownscombe on wire weaving is just not working out with Martha—she has been too busy to get the workshop organized.

So, as I was waking up a few days ago, I had a “Eureka moment,” as my old math professor used to call them. I have been doing a little playing around with a small frame loom and my “bead soup” trying to get myself prepared for the workshop and have enjoyed myself. My thought was, why not get together and have a play date with wire and beads. No teacher, just a chance to sit down and experiment and play. I don’t know that we have ever done this at MWG—not during the time I have been a member—but why not try something new. So, I am offering my house on Saturday, March 21, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. for this activity. I’ll have coffee ready and soup or salad for lunch. Bring whatever loom you want to work on—preferably a small one, beads (I have been using bead soup, but any beads are fine), wire (I have been using #28, but it just has to be thin enough to wind around the loom), and be ready to play around and have fun. If anyone wants to work on bead fringe, they are welcome, too.

Remember, there will be no instructor—just sharing and pooling ideas.

E-mail me, joank4361@wowway.com or call me at 248-549-4237, if you plan to come. I hope we have quite a crowd. I live in Royal Oak, near 14 Mile and Woodward. I will send you a map or directions when I hear from you.

March Hospitality

Jeanne Seitz,
Joan Koelsch and
Boisali Biswa are bringing snacks for the
March meeting.
Thanks!



Welcome New Member

Trish Boyle

boyletrish@gmail.com

Don't forget, the deadline for the next Fiber Fare is March 25th. Please email me at niteweaver@sbcglobal.net if there's anything you'd like me to include in the next issue.

NEXT MONTH

2ND ANNUAL DYE DAY—APRIL 18, 2009

Our Second Annual Dye Day will take place, starting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 18, with Jeanne Seitz again guiding us to produce beautiful yarns. The day will run until about 3 or 4 pm, depending on how much fiber we have to dye! The workshop will take place the same place as last year, Peace Lutheran Church, in Southfield. The church is on the south side of 13 Mile Road about half-way between Greenfield and Southfield Roads. There is a large parking lot on the west side of the building. Park near the back and enter through the double doors.

We WILL dye cellulose fibers—cotton, tencel, bamboo, rayon, etc. Although silk is not cellulose, we can dye that as well. We WILL NOT be able to dye wool, as wool requires a different set of auxiliary chemicals. (Yes Judy, we can dye reed!!)



Wind your warps in advance, being sure to tie the cross very securely. Any ties along the length of the warp should be loose enough to allow dye to penetrate underneath, however you can tie very tight choke ties between different projects on one warp. This will allow you to differentiate one length of warp from another while dyeing. Weft yarns should be in hanks, not balls or cones, again with figure 8 ties loosely done. Your warps can be white, natural, or you can even try over-dyeing a color that you happen to have on hand. Additionally, you can include stripes of black or other colors in your warps as well. Remember, black yarn will likely remain so, other colored yarn will affect the final color, depending on dye colors used, so keep that in mind if you bring in colorful fiber! If you've got experience hand-painting warps and skeins, then feel free to make them whatever size you're comfortable with. If you've never done it, I suggest that you keep the warps relatively short (4 or 5 yards) and narrow (scarf, or runner width), and use a yarn that it not extremely fine.

Any questions? Call Joan Koelsch at 248-549-4237 or e-mail joank4361@wowway.com. Please use the coupon on the back page of the newsletter to sign up for the workshop.

Cost for the workshop will be \$10.00 for members and \$35.00 for non-members. Make your checks payable to Michigan Weavers Guild. There will be a supply fee of \$35 - \$40, payable to the instructor. All dye related supplies will be included. If you have any brushes or other applicators that you like to use when dyeing, feel free to bring them along, but it is not necessary. If you've got any questions about yarns, warps or dyeing in general, email Jeanne at niteweaver@sbcglobal.net.

So go wind warps and skeins, and bring along as many as you think you can dye in a day!

WHAT'S COMING UP?

Attention: Quilters

MWG – Fiberarts Guild will present a slide/lecture about the Gees Bend Quilters on April 16th, 2009. Jan Dollan will be the speaker. Jan lives in Fraser, Michigan and has made 20 trips to Gees Bend, Alabama. She is personally acquainted with 25 or 30 of the quilters. For our program, she will show a video of the quilters as they work, sing and talk about their lives, as well as bringing at least 6 quilts, several books and scrapbook pages of pictures.

Gee's Bend is a small rural community nestled into a curve in the Alabama river southwest of Selma, Alabama. Founded in antebellum times, it was the site of cotton plantations, primarily the lands of Joseph Gee and his relative Mark Pettway, who bought the Gee estate in 1850. After the Civil War, the freed slaves took the name Pettway, became tenant farmers for the Pettway family, and founded an all-black community nearly isolated from the surrounding world. During the Great Depression, the federal government stepped in to purchase land and homes for the community, bringing strange renown – as an "Alabama Africa" – to this sleepy hamlet.

The town's women developed a distinctive, bold and sophisticated quilting style based on traditional American (and African American) quilts, but with a geometric simplicity reminiscent of Amish quilts and modern art. The women of Gee's Bend passed their skills and aesthetic down through at least six generations to the present. In 2002, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, in partnership with the nonprofit Tinwood Alliance, of Atlanta, presented an exhibition of seventy quilt masterpieces from the Bend.



Photo: Steve Pitkin

In 2003, with assistance from the Tinwood organizations, all the living quilters of Gee's Bend — more than fifty women — founded the Gee's Bend Quilters Collective to serve as the exclusive means of selling and marketing the quilts being produced by the women of the Bend. The Collective is owned and operated by the women of Gee's Bend. Every quilt sold by the Gee's Bend Quilt Collective is unique, individually produced, and authentic — each quilt is signed by the quilter and labeled with a serial number.

In advance of this outstanding program, we are gathering suitable quilting materials and are asking for fabric donations. Materials should be woven (not knit) cotton or cotton/polyester mix, either print or plain, suitable for quilts. Whenever Jan goes to Alabama (at least once a year) she brings a carload of quilt materials for the quilters. If you have any suitable fabric that you

would like to donate, please contact, Joan Koelsch, 248-549-4237, joank4361@wowway.com.

Jan uses all of the money she receives for talks about the Gees Bend Quilters Collective or other donations to purchase material for them or to pay postage to send donated materials to the group.

If you would like to read more about the Gee's Bend Quilters, visit www.quiltsofgeesbend.com

EXHIBITS ELSEWHERE



Kimono as Art

The Landscapes of Itchiku Kubota

At the Canton Museum of Art, Canton, Ohio

Through April 26, 2009

Forty kimono by Master Kubota are on tour in the US for six months only. For more information on the exhibit, go to <http://www.kimonoexhibit.com/exhibit.htm>

HGA NEWS

Join fellow HGA members on the first HGA Members Travel excursions for a two-day exploration of the Itchiku Kubota Kimono Exhibit at the Canton Museum of Art, Canton, Ohio, Friday and Saturday, March 13-14.

Arrive on Friday and enjoy admission to the [Canton Museum of Art](#). In addition to the exhibition KIMONO AS ART: The Landscapes of Itchiku Kubota, view the ceramics of Toshiko Takaezu and watercolors from the Museum's permanent collection.

After dinner, attend a lecture about the exhibition [KIMONO AS ART: The Landscapes of Itchiku Kubota](#) with Curator Dale Carolyn Gluckman, former Curator of Costume and Textiles at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Then browse through your personal hardback copy of the KIMONO AS ART: The Landscapes of Itchiku Kubota exhibition catalog, signed by Curator Dale Carolyn Gluckman.

Saturday morning, March 14, 2009, enjoy a private, before hours, up close look at the kimono as Curator Dale Carolyn Gluckman leads us on an exclusive tour of the exhibit. The museum opens to the public at 10:00, but our tour continues with Dale until 11:00 AM. Then revisit the exhibit or the other parts of the museum at your leisure

For more information and to register, go to the HGA website or click here: <http://www.weavespindy.org/pages/?p=membertravel.html>



MWG Newsletter
Jeanne Seitz
211 Gardenia



Sign me up for the 2nd Annual Dye Day!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Amount enclosed: ☐ \$10.00 member ☐ \$35.00 non-member

Enclose your check and mail to Joan Koelsch, 4361 Arden Place, Royal Oak, MI 48073, BY APRIL 1, 2009.