

## **Threadbenders Guild – WeGO Spring 2017 Report**

*The Threadbenders consist of weavers, spinners and dyers from Baker and Union Counties in Northeast Oregon. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, beginning at 10 am, at a member's home, or community space such as the Library or Art Center if a larger facility is needed for the program. We currently have 19 members. Our guild year begins in September and ends in June. There are not regularly scheduled programs in July and August.*

**October 2016** – 3 members attended the meeting at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center. Pam Petterson presented a program titled “Pine Needle Baskets with a Twist.” Pam talked about how she designs baskets and gathers colored stones, beads and waxed linen to incorporate into the free-form baskets. The techniques she uses were originally inspired by her instructor Nadine Spier.

**November 2016** – 7 members attended the meeting at Carol Etchemendy's home. Carol gave an informative demonstration on different forms of Shibori including clamping and stitching. Carol shared the steps she takes from the preparation through dyeing to the finished piece.

**December 2016** – 11 members and 4 significant guests attended the holiday dinner party and gift exchange at the Baker County Library. Fine food and creative handmade gifts were shared.

**January 2017** – 7 members attended the meeting at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center. Denine led a hands-on program on weaving circular rugs or wall hangings on specially-repurposed Hula Hoops. Members used Soumak, twining and twill techniques. Ruth Boyd provided wool roving, and Pam Miller explained wool processing through roving to yarn.

**February 2017** – 11 members and 1 guest attended the meeting at the Baker County Library. As part of the rag rug weaving workshop and guild meeting, Jean Lavelle shared examples of her rag rugs woven in different techniques including a rug woven in from her mother's curtains, using roving as weft, color blending using several colors of fine weft together, hand-dyed wefts, tied blocks using a variety of weft materials, and denim.

**March 2017** – 8 members attended the meeting at Cynthia Newman's home. Cynthia presented a program on handwoven transparencies including tips she learned from Doramay Keasbey's book *Sheer Delight – Handwoven Transparencies*. Several members brought transparencies to share with the group and Cynthia gave a demonstration on her Gilmore.

**Special Events – Rag Rug Weaving Workshop** – 10 members attended the 2-day rag rug weaving workshop instructed by Jean Lavelle and held at the Baker County Library in February. The round-robin workshop included several different techniques including tied-blocks, point twill, seed twill, log cabin, overshot, rosepath, turned rosepath and summer and winter. Jean shared a large variety of weft materials which she encouraged weavers to experiment with.