

## WeGO report from Portland Handweavers Guild, October 2017

In April, Rosalie Neilson spoke on her newly released book Exaltation of Blocks. It is an amazing resource!

In May, Laverne Waddington did a program and a workshop on some of her specialties in back strap weaving.

New officers were elected at our June meeting. I'm excited to have Sue Walsh as our new President, she has great energy and ideas to improve PHG.

A very successful new study group started this spring. The New Weavers group wanted a program to guide them in their weaving education. Several programs, such as HGA's Certificate of Excellence were reviewed. None seemed right so we started with a focus on weave structures. First, Plain Weave, then the topic of Color and Weave. Now we are starting with Madelyn van der Hoogt's book, The Complete Book of Drafting for Handweavers. Ladella Williams and Rebecca Martin are mentors to the group. It has been exciting watching these new weavers grow in confidence.

My hope is this can be an inspiration to get several more groups going. There is also a Color focused study group just getting started.

There are a few other small groups meeting monthly, with a focus on Rigid heddle weaving, all kinds of dyeing, and spinning.

PHG had a beautiful exhibit in the Multnomah Arts Center Gallery during the month of June.

PHG Booth won ribbons at the Vancouver BC Conference; 1st place for Best Interpretation of the Conference Theme and 3rd place for Best Overall Craftsmanship.

PHG donated \$50 for 2 awards, Best Handwoven and Juror's Choice to the Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival. Two of our members won the awards for

their entries; Marilyn Harrison, hand-spun wool handwoven blanket and Janis Johnson, a linen towel. PHG's Ladella Williams (with some help setting up) created an educational exhibit on all types of Laces.

At our September meeting we heard from Sylvia Emard, who received the PHG grant, and used it to travel to Oaxaca for a symposium on Shibori resist, dye techniques, and a lot more.

Portland Handweavers Guild holds two general meetings on the second Thursday of the month, September through June. Our day meeting has grown in attendance and the evening attendance is smaller. We need a new venue to better accommodate our members. I have started contacting other guilds in Portland to see who might be interested in sharing a place.

We had several good conversations, at our meetings, on the Traveling WeGO exhibit, some to alleviate the fear of entering! Hopefully Portland will have a good representation of entries.

Submitted by Rebecca Martin