

October 6-Month Report
Salem Fiberarts Guild
Submitted by Doral Stoltz, 10/9/2020

The studio was closed when the Willamette Heritage Center suspended operations in April due to the Covid-19 virus. We were able to reopen in mid-May by spreading out the looms for social distancing, wearing masks, limiting the number of weavers who can be there at any one time and closing the studio to visitors. It is messy (unused looms crammed in the kitchen to make room for the spread-out in the main studio) and not as much fun. No group lunches or sharing of snacks or guests, but at least we get to weave.

The guild ordinarily doesn't meet in the summer so the lack of meetings didn't seem unusual. In September we started our new year with a Zoom meeting involving about 20 members. It proved popular, so we will continue with that format until we can totally open up again. We plan to include "studio tours" where different members, taking advantage of the Zoom video format, show their studio set-ups. We include a show-and-tell segment and are investigating having guest presenters.

We have cancelled our annual sale, traditionally held in October. We continue to offer our woven goods for sale in the reception area of the Willamette Heritage Center.

We continue to communicate through our Facebook page, SFG Now. We use it to display projects as they are taken off looms in the studio and members share news of what they are working on at home. It is a good way to keep in touch.

We did a special project to honor a very active member who has suffered a number of health issues the last couple years. A dozen or so of us took turns weaving a table runner that we presented to her along with a book of photos recording the process. The photos were also shared with the members in a video.

On Halloween we will join Salem businesses and other organizations to host a drive-through treat-or-trick event at the Willamette Heritage Center. We are also a financial sponsor of the event (we ordinarily sponsor at least two WHC events each year, but in 2020 both Sheep to Shawl and Magic at the Mill have been cancelled).

Like everyone else, we are hanging in there ... and looking forward to a happier future.