

October 6-Month Report

Salem Fiberarts Guild

Submitted by Dorald Stoltz, 10/17/2022

The Salem Fiberarts Guild now has 95 members and more seem to be joining every month. Getting hands tangled in yarn is so popular right now!

The guild is sorting and rethinking its library and doing a lot of purging along the way. If any guilds are interested in our surplus books and periodicals, let me know (dorstoltz@msn.com). We will donate if you pay the shipping cost (or pick up at our studio). We will have a list of what's available soon.

In May we were so happy to see a Pendleton store open in the Willamette Heritage Center (the guild's home). In addition to their distinctive blankets, jackets, etc., the store has an impressive stock of craft items, including warp yarns, fluffy selvages to make rugs, felting supplies, and fabric.

May found us busy with the WHC's Sheep-To-Shawl event. As usual, we coordinated activities in the Dye House, including weaving, spinning, lacemaking, needlework, etc., to compliment the animal-related activities outside, like sheep shearing and plastic duck races in the mill race. This is always a very successful event drawing thousands of members of the community.

Our meetings are continuing to be both in-studio and via Zoom (with one exception):

May – Annual meeting to elect officers; show and tell.

June – Michael Rhodes visited us through Zoom, talking about his approach to creating his woven art. We also completed the napkin exchange project started in January. The challenge was to weave a napkin to compliment another member's cup. The results were beautiful and impressively varied.

July-August – Summer break.

September – We skipped Zoom this month and only held an in-person meeting. We greeted several new members and had fun with a Weft-Over exchange (one person's discard became another's treasure) and show-and-tell.

October – Laura Strand of Southern Illinois University Zoomed in to share her creative process as she designs and completes large, impressive woven installations.

In August and September, SFG had a large presence at the Oregon State Fair. Two of our members, along with Carrie Rohn of the Aurora guild, co-chaired WeGO's textiles department display and booth, doing intake of entries, coordinating judging, arranging display cases, recruiting demonstrators, and being there all 11 days.

October was our annual handweavers' sale. It is our main fundraising event with most of the proceeds going to the WHC. It was very successful. We sold something like 130 towels (at \$35 each), plus dozens of scarves and shawls, rugs, blankets, and more.

Sarah Saulson is presenting an in-person workshop on painted warps Oct. 20-22 in our studio. And at the end of the month, we again will participate in the WHC's drive-through trick-or-treat. This will be the third year for this very popular community event with cars lining up for blocks to drive through the WHC campus where various organizations man booths to give out candy (and in the case of a local dental clinic, toothbrushes).