

Threadbenders Weaving Guild – Fall 2023 Guild Report

Threadbenders have been working hard to complete all the goals and plans that they committed to, prior to Covid. We have become a legal non-profit guild. We now have a Threadbenders private Google group email address for members. Business cards and flyers have been made using a gmail account just for non-members and interested new members to contact the Guild. We have had three weekend workshops as well as a plethora of small weaving projects. Six members from our guild were able to attend the Weaving Convention in Bend this past June. The WeGO "Filaments" Traveling Show was our final achievement. Every single goal has been attained and we are moving on to new and exciting endeavors.

This spring, we started a weaving circle that meets twice a month at a local Grange Hall. We are looking to expand our weaving circles to other areas and personal homes so that everyone can have easy access to the location since our guild is spread into multiple counties of North Eastern Oregon.

In April, Elaine Wagner, one of our members, owns a Baby Doll sheep ranch and we were able to pet the baby lambs. Baby Doll sheep are friendlier, quieter and less skittish than other breeds. As we met the ewes and rams, we learned about the crossbreeding program that is producing adorable lambs with black noses and feet. The Baby Doll sheep have fleece so dense that they need to be shorn twice a year, making the fiber shorter, but soft and beautiful. After the farm tour, members made felted ornaments.

In May, we had a raw fleece to scarf program at Threadbender, Pam Miller's, Alpaca farm. She demonstrated each and every step of the different stages of processing the fleece. We even got to pet her alpacas.

In June, Threadbender member, Sue Danielson, volunteered to do a weaving booth for local schools at the Youth History Camp in conjunction with the Eastern Oregon Museum. Students rotated from one station to another for 1/2 hour sessions of historic hands on learning. It was very successful.

Needless to say, our summer was full of demonstrations during June and July at the Crossroads Carnegie Art Center gallery in Baker City, Oregon where the "Filaments" show was displayed. We had members spinning and weaving, using a variety of looms and spinning wheels. We culminated the show with a soap felting class that was well attended and enjoyed by all.

In September, we were introduced to the video "Uzbek Ikat: The Personal Saga of an Exceptional Cloth." What an amazing process to watch. The products were so unique, bright and beautiful.

We are looking forward to another year of camaraderie and learning.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Bushman
Threadbenders Weaving Guild

**See below for pictures



Threadbender member, Cynthia Newman, at the opening of the “Filaments” Traveling Show in front of her three submitted weavings. On the far left is her "Best of Show" weaving titled Five Stories Up.



Threadbender members demonstrating spinning at the “Filaments” Traveling Show. From left to right: Donna Rainboth, Maureen Kelly, & Kirsten Badger



Elizabeth Venn, explaining the details of a weaving to a visitor to the “Filaments” Traveling Show.



Kirsten Badger explaining a tapestry weaving to visitors at the “Filaments” Traveling Show.



Threadbenders members, Margaret Mead and Linda Honeywell, discussing the weavings at the "Filaments" Traveling Show.



Spinning demonstrator, Donna Rainboth, answering, executive director of the Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, Ginger Savage's question. (on the right) Center, Sue Danielson, a new Threadbender, watching the spinning.



Threadbender, Sue Danielson, helping at the final Felted Soap class activity for the "Filaments" Traveling Show.



Longtime Threadbenders member, Mickey Edwards, organized and led the Felted Soap Class.



Threadbender, Pam Miller, helps at the Felted Soap class.