

April 2024 WeGO Report

Salem Fiberarts Guild

Submitted by Dorald Stoltz

October – Fiona McKelvie Zoomed in from County Down in Northern Ireland for a fascinating presentation of Irish linen. October was also the month for our annual handweavers' sale that turned out to be the most profitable ever. As usual, dishtowels were the best sellers, but we also sold lots of scarves, throws, and other items. Rosalie Nielson presented a three-day workshop on rep weaving that was well attended and appreciated. At the end of the month, SFG witches again participated in the Willamette Heritage Center's drive-through trick-or-treat event. Something like a thousand kids and their families (and some dogs) drove through the site to collect candy and other treats from various community booths, including ours.

November – Fuschio Lin, an artist and fashion/costume designer from Portland, presented our November program. This month the WeGO traveling exhibit, Filaments, opened in the WHC's exhibit space. By the time the show closed at the end of January, more than 3,000 people had visited the exhibit!

December – We had our annual Christmas potluck with no program – just time to visit and enjoy. There were lots of door prizes and an exchange of weaving-related items. Just before Christmas, we welcomed thousands of visitors to our studio during the five days of the Willamette Heritage Center's annual Magic at the Mill.

January – The program this month was to be a local rug weaver. However, it was snowed-out.

February – Several members participated in a dye day in the studio. Our program this month featured Annie Fischer of Shuttle Creek Weaving who creates beautiful coats and other clothing from her handwoven fabric. Following the presentation was a trunk show giving members the opportunity to purchase some of Annie's wares.

March – This month's program featured one of our members, Peggy Clyne, demonstrating her sock-knitting machine. We also had the usual show-and-tell.

April – This is busy month for the guild, beginning with a Zoom presentation on silk by Karen Selk of Salt Island, Canada, at our monthly meeting. We will also have a tapestry class offered by Terry Oson of Damascus, OR, and an Intro to Drop Spindle Spinning class by a member, Weisha Mize.

May – Our main activity this month is, as usual, the Willamette Heritage Center Sheep-to-Shawl event. Our guild organizes the fiber arts demos in the Dye House, bringing together local guilds offering spinning, knitting, lace making, etc., as well as weaving. We will also have a class in beading, taught by member Judy Walker.

SFG currently has 122 members. In our studio, 35 looms are rented out. It is a busy place!