

Central Oregon Spinners & Weavers Guild

Scholarship-Grant Report, May, 2026



Our guild had Karen Gelbard, The Oregon Weaver, “theoregonweaver.com” teach 3 workshops in Bend in May. She is a masterful weaver of handwoven fabrics that she sews into stunning garments including coats, jackets, vests, skirts, shawls and scarves.

We had the first workshop of the week as a design ideas workshop. Using trash bags and duct tape, we constructed garments on our dress forms using these items in creative ways. A lot of fun and some surprising garments were displayed at the end of the day.

Dropbox link

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/54nti5mrdhy9gezf8ena3/Edits_COSW_Guild_Trash_Bag_Garment_Workshop_20260519_190051.MP4?rlkey=x4g2dtkmzpsm6g993bi57mox&st=t3iy78ay&dl=0



We had 2 sessions of sewing garments with handwoven fabric. Many in the workshops had never woven yardage before, and had never cut their handwoven fabric! That is a scary thing, but we all made it through the pattern selection process, layout on the fabric, then cut. We had several different types of woven fabric, some from Rigid Heddle looms using larger yarns and knitting yarns, and some from multi-shaft looms using tencel, wool, cotton, and other mixed warps. The students brought their own sewing machines and

Karen furnished a serger to secure the woven fabric ends. A big learning curve for many of us, but at the end of the 2 workshops, some fabulous garments were created.

We appreciate WeGO offering this scholarship – grant so our guild could take advantage of Karen’s expertise in design, weaving, and sewing garments.

She also provided the guild program on May 20. My Origin Story is her journey as a handweaver, clothing designer, and seamstress from college in the 70’s to helping weave Timberline upholstery fabric, to weaving large rugs and wall hangings for Sunriver Resort Lodge, to a career in garment construction and sales throughout the US at high end Art Fairs each summer. She is on the board of the Bend *Art on the High Desert* that features over 140 artists and their work from all over the US. This year’s show is the last weekend of August.

Many of us in these workshops are anxious to further our development as seamstresses and are energized about weaving yardage and making garments in the future.



