Portland Handweavers Guild Report

Portland Handweavers Guild – Promoting excellence in the fiber arts.

WeGO Report for the period April to October 2026

Mission: The Portland Handweavers' Guild is dedicated to promoting the artistry and culture of handweaving and related fiber arts. We support and inspire members of all levels through educational opportunities, resources, and creative sharing, and engage with the broader community through outreach and events.

Meetings: Membership meetings are held the second Thursday of the month. There is a day and evening meeting for those members who work and those that don't drive to evening meetings. The presentation is sometimes the same and sometimes a two-part where both are recorded.

Library: The guild maintains a lending library for members. It is available during membership meetings. The guild also rents looms and small equipment.

Guild Activities

General Membership Meetings

May – May Morning Meeting & Program: Jennifer Moore presents Chromatic Fantasy – Music, Mathematics and Magic in Doubleweave For nearly 40 years, Jennifer has been exploring relationships between weaving, mathematics, and music in her doubleweave wall pieces. In this multi-media presentation, she will show how she has used doubleweave pick-up as a medium for her geometric designs and color harmonies. She will explain the basic principles of the golden proportion, symmetry movements, tessellations, and fractals, and show how she has used them in her work. The program will culminate with a journey through my master's project and an animated video of my weavings dancing to the music of Bach.

June – Election of Officers & Strawberry Social. June is an evening only meeting where we elect officers, do show and tell from the Study Groups, and have guild announcements.

July/August –There is no meeting in July or August.

September – Sept Morning Meeting & Program: Felt Sensory Experiences, Connecting Across Time & Space, Walking & Weaving: An Artist Talk by Hannah Watson Hannah Watson shared a presentation, both digital and felt/seen, of her woven works to the group and talked about her personal experiences with weaving as an art form. She shared how drawing with yarn through combining tapestry techniques with these weave structures has, in the past, offered an immensely therapeutic path through sticky emotional depths, aka weaving her way through her "dark night of the soul."

The evening program was: **"The Stuff the World is Made Of": the Bauhaus Textiles Movement in North Carolina & Its Influence Today** with Hannah Watson The creative freedom offered and encouraged through the Bauhaus movement has inspired generations of weavers and designers. Beginning at the loom in Germany with Gunta Stölzl and progressing to Anni Albers at the Black

Mountain College in western North Carolina, the Bauhaus movement sparked and carried joy and innovation across decades.

Hannah Watson (b. 1991, South Carolina) is a weaver, dyer, & mixed media artist whose work is driven by deep diving into the psychology of human development and her connection to place, rhythm, color, and pattern. As her grandmothers were both textile artists and her parents jointly ran an architectural firm, her childhood was heavily influenced by cloth, architecture, and drawing. After earning her B.S. in cultural anthropology and costume design from the College of Charleston, she worked with a women's weaving cooperative in the Sacred Valley, Peru in 2014 and then returned to South Carolina to work with an indigo grower & dyer. Hannah pursued natural dyeing, weaving, and collage education at Penland School of Craft and John C. Campbell Folk School in western North Carolina and completed a Professional Craft degree in Textiles at Haywood Community College in 2019. In 2018, she won a design award through the Handweavers Guild of America and has shown her work at galleries across the Carolinas, including Cloth Fiber Gallery, the Fine Arts Center, the Folk Art Center, and the Asheville Area Arts Council. She currently lives and works in Portland, OR as a textile artist and as an instructor at both WildCraft Studio School in Portland and Wool Friends in Seattle.
www.hannahwatsontextiles.com

October – Mystery Fiber Presentation by Diane McKinnon In this combination lecture and hands on presentation, you will learn some tried and true methods of determining what kind of fiber you are now the proud owner of. First, you'll see an example of a fiber testing set up, including equipment suggestions and safety considerations. Then, you'll watch several demonstrations of fiber testing and learn at home methods you can use to test various fibers and yarn for content. Finally, using your samples, you'll be able to do your own fiber testing. Bring any fiber or yarn you have – even if you know what it is – to play along!

Study Groups

Sewing with Handwovens Study Group - The Sewing with Handwovens Study Group is led by Linda Edquist. Their primary focus is constructing garments with handwoven fabric.

Band Weaving - Weaving narrow wares**.** The Band Weaving Study Group is led by Lynne Fitzsimmons and meets monthly. Their primary focus is inkle and tablet weaving, using all sorts of techniques and equipment from standard inkle looms to back strap setups to large band weaving looms.

Small Looms – Specializing in portable solutions. Rigid heddle, single and double heddles. The Small Looms Study Group is led by David Norris and meets monthly. Their primary focus is rigid heddle weaving, using all sorts of techniques and equipment.

HGA Certificate of Excellence – Even though the HGA program is on hiatus, the group is using the handbook to further their weaving skills and weaving structure knowledge. They pick a section each month to study, and members present their findings at the next meeting.

Linen Study Group - The Linen Study Group is led by Sue Walsh, and meets monthly. Their primary focus is weaving with linen and linen blends.

Workshops



Workshop: Doubleweave Discoveries with Jennifer Moore. Learn all about the magic of doubleweave! In this workshop, participants will weave a sampler that explores weaving two independent layers of cloth, double-width cloth, tubular weaving, color-and-weave effects, pique, quilting, and doubleweave pick-up. Students with 8-shaft looms will also be able to weave samples of 2-block doubleweave techniques in log cabin, checkerboard, windows, and double-blocks. Graphing designs and working with multiple colors will be introduced. These techniques can then be taken home to create clothing, sculptural pieces, decorative hangings, and whatever else the imagination can dream of.

Other Events/Activities

New Weaver Forum - There is a monthly meeting for new weavers to get their questions answered It is held on zoom. There is a morning and an evening meeting schedule.

WeftOver sale - Every fall the guild holds a WeftOver Sale. The sale is our annual clean-out -the-closet event! It is where we pull all the fiber donations out of the PHG closet, and you can clear out some old unwanted stash, too. It is also a wonderful time to pick up items for a deal. We always have a wide variety of fiber and weaving materials, books, and equipment.

Fall sale – Every fall there is a holiday sale for members to sell their handwovens.