



Williamsburg Spinners & Weavers Guild

P.O. Box 2086
Williamsburg, VA 23187
<http://williamsburgspinweave.org>

January, 2020

Monthly Meeting

Monday, January 20

Social Time: 9:30-10:00 am

Business Meeting: 10:00 am

Super Bash

all afternoon!

James City County Recreation Center

5301 Longhill Rd, Williamsburg



Program

Super Bash

Bring a project
to work on
And a luncheon dish
to share



WSWG Minutes

Meeting Date: December 16, 2019 / 10:00 am /
WJCC Rec. Center

Attendees

Kris, Cindy, Linda C., Sandi, Micki, Ingrid, Goodie, Kathy K., Marsha, Liz,, Tina, Barbara, Janet, Dee, Claudia, Debbie, Catherine B., Kym, Izabela, AnnH. , Pam F.

Guests: NONE

Agenda

Sunshine: None

Correspondence: We received a change of address notice for Jane, who now resides at Williamsburg Landing. If anyone wishes to have her address or phone number, contact Linda C.

We received correspondence concerning the history of the Guild. It will be transcribed for the newsletter. In addition, we received a brief origin of Rock Day, likewise found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Approved as published in the Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Balance at beginning of meeting \$ 3388.12. It is time to pay dues, so this balance should increase. Let me remind you to pull out your checkbook while you read this. I did.....

Committee Reports:

Membership: Sandi had no report. Membership chair duties will be taken over by Ingrid beginning January.

Website: no report.

Newsletter: (Marsha): We need a new newsletter editor, as Marsha ate too many

mushrooms for Thanksgiving and is moving to Massachusetts! If you have layout capabilities on your computer and are interested in graphic art, please consider this service. We all rely on it!

Historian: (Judy) No report.

HGA: Convergence will be July 24-30, 2020 in Knoxville. Registration has opened, see the website *WeaveSpinDye.org*. fashion show and many classes Friday) Complexity Seminars, sponsored by Complex Weavers, begins July 19 and goes through July 22. See the website Complex -Weavers.org.

Georgette (new member) is going to Covergence and would like to arrange a meetup there. Please contact her by email if you intend to go.

MAFA: Dave reports that the 2021 meeting will again be at Millersville, PA. So far 270 potential instructors have been contacted but none have been selected yet.

Facebook: No report.

Workshops and Programs:

DECEMBER program: Presentation of challenge. 4 colors done anyway you want. Potluck luncheon after the meeting. See show and tell for description of challenges.

JANUARY Program will be replaced with an all day BASH. Bring whatever you would like to work on, including the equipment to do so. AND bring whatever you would like to eat, and some to share.

Cindy passed around a survey sheet looking for ideas for next year's programs. February we will be making cardboard looms for use at the library class. Suggestions for other programs/workshops included Inkle loom, Marudi, Iridescence. Also a spin in, a fleece exchange. Anyone with any requests or inspiration should contact Cindy.

New Business:

1. The slate of officers presented by the nominating committee was elected by unanimous acclaim. Kris will continue as president, Cindy will be vice president and headmistress, Linda will be secretary, and Kathy will be treasurer.
2. It was suggested that Marsha's departure would leave us without a point person to work with the Library, but Kathy has been the one discussing those issues. The library would like us to mount another show but put it in the Striker Center this time. No decision was made on the issue. We have not mounted a show every year; some years we take the time to create. This issue will be revisited.
3. The library announced a "Maker Faire" to be held in March 8, and asked us if we would like a table where we would display our craft, with an eye to introducing the public to the pleasures of spinning and weaving. In that we will be teaching a cardboard loom class at the Library on February 22, we declined to participate in the Maker Faire.
4. Dee and Barbara announced a Crafting Retreat to be held Feb. 8 at 8:30 am till 5 at Whitcomb Lodge in Beaverdam Park, 8687 Roaring Springs Road, Gloucester. Bring a project, whatever tools you need, and a dish to share. This retreat had been part of the knitting guild which has disbanded; Dee is keeping it going as a general crafting retreat. Yarn Matters store will be there.

Old Business

1. We have an old projector available for sale. Make an offer! The projector will not work with most up to date operating

systems, but software can be obtained that will allow it to run. It is in good condition, it will be listed on Craig's list if no member wants it.

2. A new member has made an old request: PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME TAG! New members are encouraged to make a nametag out of yarn or fiber, any old way. Of course, you could print your name on masking tape and wear it across the bridge of your nose - because we all need help remembering names! Your secretary admits to being one of the worst culprits, and will understand completely any need for snarky reminders.

Show and Tell:

Goodie's challenge was a 4 color tapestry weave with curves and angles that mixed the colors brilliantly.

Kathy finished off her 4 color warp with a summer and winter varigated scarf, mixing dusty rose and orange, her least expected color blend. Of course it was lovely.

Ingrid's 4 color towel featured a monk's belt pattern, and she put her ugly color to use in a trivet.

Marsha wove a scarf that reminded her of the cranberry fields of New England, and also finished off a four-color lightly felted project bag from a cardboard loom.

Claudia put her four colors to work in a trivet, hiding one blah grey varigated in amongst 3 lively colors. .

Debbie R finished her workshop work into a fabric that will be a kindle bag, showing off the marvel of shadow weave. For her 4 color challenge she made 3 large potholders using potholder loops and a large potholder loom.

Barbara used 4 shades of pink to knit a pair of cotton socks.

Tina displayed the skirt she wore, which actually had 5 colors. Her modeling revealed that she had also made her felted boots, topped with needle felted locks. They looked super comfy.

Janet used four colors to felt a sunset scene. None of her colors were ugly.

Iza showed off a towel or mat for her challenge.

Sandi brought her garment bag woven of fabric “shoulders” and a cassette tape body. The black tape had a sparkle to it, which inspired Sandi to weave some more, brown cassette tape and sew a tencel top and sleeves of the same color on to make a New Year’s ball tunic.

Sandi also brought **Judy’s** pumpkin colored twill towel .

Ann H. had knit a very wide shawl on the bias, and she wove a small picture in tapestry for her 4 color challenge.

Cindy wove herself a four color project bag, and also brought a purchased towel woven by Canadian artist Laura Fry.

Kris met the four color challenge by borrowing the colors of a monarch butterfly, thus using one of her favorite colors (orange) in a combination invented by the greatest color artist of all time, Mother Nature. Well done, Kris. .

Liz wove a scarf on a rigid heddle loom using a wavy shuttle and several techniques. She says the wavy shuttle fabric requires careful handling or you can beat the waves right out of it, but it makes a fun project.

PROGRAM - no program, just LUNCH! Thanks to all for the tasty treats and the fast cleanup!

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.



WSWG
December 2019 Meeting
4 Color
Challenge



Tina's (5 color!)
Swirling skirt

<

Judy's 4 color
pumpkin towel
(held by Sandi)

>



Kris's 4 color
"Monarch Butterfly"
weaving

<

Janet's
4 color
"Sunset"
tapestry

>



Sandi's cassette tape garment bag
&
Casette tape & tencel New year's tunic



Cindy's 4
color
Project bag

>



WSWG
December 2019 Meeting
4 Color Challenge



Kathy's 4 color baby blanket ^
&
4 color summer & winter scarf
<



Marsha's 4 color ^
"cranberry bog" tencel scarf



Goodie's
4 color
tapestry
<

Barb's 4 shades of pink
knitted socks v



Ingrid's
4 color
monk's belt
towel
<



WSWG
December Meeting
4 Color Challenge



Iza's 4 color mat^



Ann's
4 color
tapestry
on a
purple
back-
ground
>



And
Ann's
Preliminary
Worksheet
>



Debbie's 4 color
potholders &
awesome sweatshirt
<

Liz's 4 color
rigid heddle
scarf, using a
wavy shuttle
>



**WSWG
Calendar**

Jan 20

**Monthly Meeting
At JCC Rec Center**

Super Bash to follow!
Bring a project
To work on
&
a luncheon dish
to share

Feb 17:

**Monthly Meeting:
At JCC Rec Center**

Program: "Cardboard
loom weaving"

Upcoming Fiber Events

Monday, January 20, 11:30- ?

WSWG Super Bash!

Following monthly meeting

James City County Rec Center. Contact Cindy for more info

Saturday, February 8, 8:30am – 4:30pm

Gloucester Crafters Retreat

Whitcomb Lodge at Beaverdam Park in Gloucester

\$5 entry fee (proceeds go to Humane Society). Raffle, Venders: Yarn Matters & Shanzi jewelry. Bring a project & a dish to share for potluck lunch.

Contact Dee for more info.

Saturday, February 22, 1 – 4pm

WSWG Cardboard Loom Workshop

Williamsburg Public Library, 515 Scotland St.

We need volunteers to help out!

Contact Kathy for more info

2020 Officers

Kris Wessler – President

Cindy French – Vice President

Kathy Kuhn – Treasurer

Linda Coppinger – Secretary

**Check out many more great photos of
the December meeting**

On our website: <http://williamsburgspinweave.org>

And be sure to check out our Facebook page!

History Lesson

We received the following unsigned letter about our very own Guild. Blank spaces are in the original, as is the counting error.

In the late summer of 1986, a group of six women who were interested in spinning and weaving met at the home of Charlotte Headley. These women were JoAnn Baker, Pam Franck, Janet Hart, Charlotte Headley and Terry Lyons.

Much interest was shown in continuing these meetings to discuss and share with each other knowledge each had gained from experience. Programs were decided upon and our next meeting would be on dyeing wool. This group continued to meet monthly. As time went by new members came into the group, Deborah Smith, Rachel Marks and Ann Redford. Due to lack of funds to pay for a meeting place, a public invitation to join the group could not be offered.

This group continued to meet in home until James City County announced the opening of their Human Services Building on Old(sic) Town Road which had a public meeting room that could be reserved for meetings by residents of James City County. Charlotte Headley arranged for a room reservation and on ***** in response to an announcement in the Virginia Gazette, the first meeting was held. We had a larger turnout than expected and much enthusiasm was shown.

This group continued to meet, elected its first officers who were:

Charlotte Headley, President

***** , Vice President
***** , Secretary
***** , Treasurer

The group named the organization, The Williamsburg Spinners and Weavers, we joined the Handweaver's Guild of America, the national organization of spinners and weavers. As time went on an outgrowth of the organization was two spinning groups, one meeting in the daytime and one in the evening.

As time went on the complexion of the group changed from year to year but the membership has steadily grown with the passing years.

Programs of interest were planned, workshops conducted with nationally known teachers, community service rendered, participation in various festivals and demonstrations given when asked by various members of the guild.

Notices of the meetings and invitations extended to new member through local newspapers have helped to bring about an increase in membership.

Rock Day

Happy Rock Day to our Spinners! Rock, from the German “Roken” with two dots over the “o,” which translates to Distaff. In Medieval England (and possibly in Jamestown) St. Distaff’s day was recognized as the day after Epiphany, the twelfth day of Christmas. On that day, women returned to regular work, leaving the festive days of Christmas behind. Regular work universally included spinning - everywhere, all the time.

Ploughman’s day was the day that men returned to work after the Christmas season, on the first Monday after the twelfth day of Christmas. That could well be several days after St. Distaff’s day. Before returning to work, the men would dress in their finest clothes and drag the plough through town to collect “plough-funds” which supported the Church. Real ploughing would begin on the next day. If Ploughman’s Day (no saint needed) coincided with St. Distaff’s day, or Rock Day, then the men and women would play pranks on one another such that no work could be accomplished by either. Here is a poem by Robert Herrick, 1591 - 1634:

Partly work and partly play
Ye must on S. Distaff's day:
From the plough soon free your team,
Then come home and fodder them.
If the maids a-spinning go,
Burn the flax and fire the tow;
Scorch their plackets, but beware
That ye singe no maidenhair.
Bring in pails of water, then,
Let the maids bewash the men.
Give S. Distaff all the right,
Then bid Christmas sport good-night;
And next morrow everyone
To his own vocation.

Happy spinning to all on January 7, 2020, which is also “OLD Rock Day,” set aside for the discovery and appreciation of fossils and old rocks. Maybe we will see some wrapped rocks in honor of the day(s) at next Show and Tell!