

Weavers Guild of Rhode Island Minutes

Location: North Kingstown Library

March 7, 2020

Call to order

Mary Brunell called the meeting to order at 9:35am.

Executive Committee members present:

President: Mary Brunell

Vice President: Janet Cooper

Treasurer: Gretchen White

Secretary: Elizabeth Hill, excused

Announcements

Welcome to two guests Tricia Easton and Bev Lewis.

Sally Dubois died on February 11th. Her obituary was sent to membership and a copy of it is at the entrance. We will be recognizing her at our 75th Anniversary Celebration (details to follow).

April 6th at 10:00am you can sign up for a tour of RISD Senior Textile Gallery Show and the Textile Department with Susan Sklarek. Joy Beeson is coordinating.

Minutes from the February Meeting

Minutes from the February meeting were accepted by the membership with no corrections.

Treasurer Report:

January 1, 2020-February 29, 2020

Checking Account \$11,404.33

Encumbered Funds: \$5,407.43 (BGH Book Fund, Woven Visions, Kormos Award, Smayda Award, Yardage Challenge)

General Fund: \$5996.90

Incoming Funds: \$127.65 (Dues, Halcyon Rebate)

Outgoing Funds: \$300.00 (Honoraria)

Gretchen noted that the Executive Board voted to move the Education Fund money into the General Fund account and money will be used for A/V equipment and a computer for the guild's programs. We will no longer be giving education grants.

Membership: We currently have 68 members.

Programs Report: Janet Cooper reported on programs for next year are almost complete, with an excellent selection of speakers. Next month's speaker is Steve Mason, photographer on "Leavers Lace." Janet reported that 26 members were signed up to visit RISD for a curated tour of the "Spider Silk Exhibit" on March 11. She handed out directions and parking information.

Committee Reports

Nominations: The executive board has assumed responsibility in light of no volunteers for nominations. Mary Brunell read from WGRI 1953 minutes:

Message from WGRI President Dorothea C. Delabarre

May, 1953

"We are all pleased with the added interest the Guild has aroused. We are delighted to welcome new members who have joined our ranks. However, to evolve the Guild into an ever-stronger organization there must be greater member participation in its projects. Let us all pull together and help to make our programs run smoothly. Service is our privilege."

We are pleased that at the end of the meeting all nomination vacancies were filled.

Publicity: Joy Beeson contacted Susan Sklarek from RISD to view a special exhibit in April by senior textile students.

Weavers Challenge 2019-2020: Sally Rianhard reminded members the challenge is due at the annual meeting.

Newsletter: Mary Brunell and Janet Cooper are working on a Spring Edition.

Yardage Challenge: Deferred.

Website: Deferred.

Community Outreach: No report.

Old Business: None

New Business

The Executive Board voted to recommend to the membership, a bylaw change to reduce meetings by 1-2 per year, with September and June eliminated. This would leave 7 meetings per year. The rationale for this change is to reduce the amount of work that a small number of guild members do to organize and produce the meetings. With so few volunteers, it is a burden for those who do the work. By reducing the number of meetings, we may get more volunteers to help us.

After discussion within the group more members were not interested in reducing the number of meetings.

Norma Smayda asked that the guild reconsider the bylaws change from last year cancelling the January meeting. There were a few more members in favor than opposed to this recommendation, most members did not have a recommendation either way. The board will discuss this at the next meeting and present a bylaw change for discussion and vote at the Annual Meeting in June.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the business meeting at 10:10 am.

Show & Tell

Margaret Moone led a show and tell with several members participating:

- Astrid showed upholstery fabric, cottolin towels, chenille scarves
- Sally showed garlic basket using twining, blue bonnets towels, pin from a handwoven card
- Gretchen showed pot holders in color and weave, a Coverlet Book available in the library collection
- Claire showed dog hair blended with her wool for scarves for her grandchildren
- Janet showed Scott Morris scarves with inlay
- Norma showed her Ondule scarf from Noriko woven in Japan (see story and picture in Spring Newsletter)
- Margaret showed black scarves with Jaggerspun, rayon & mohair with open spacing
- I apologize if there are any inaccuracies in this show and tell. It is hard to listen and get the notes correct.

Next Meeting: April 4, 2020 at North Kingstown Library.

Presentation Today

The HGA COE

Highlights and Pitfalls in the Pursuit of Excellence

As a member of the WGRI when the meetings were held in Slater Mill, I first met Antonia Kormos as she shared in the mostly meetings, bringing her extraordinary textiles to share with the group. I was lucky to meet with her as we curated the pieces for her solo exhibition at The American Textile History Museum in 2014, for that HGA Convergence year. It was Tony who inspired me to take the plunge to attempt the Handweavers Guild of America, Certificate of Excellence Level I. This is a PowerPoint program with the woven samples for inspection.

Laurie Carlson Steger grew up in central Massachusetts. She learned to weave and sew as a child. She earned a BFA in Textile Design and and MFA in Artisanry/Fibers from The University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth. She was recently awarded the Handweavers Guild of America, Certificate of Excellence Level I. Ms. Steger works and contemplates from her home studio in South Dartmouth, MA. For more information, visit her website: www.liteweave.com.

Next Month:

April 4, 2020

Location: North Kingstown Library

Steve Mason: photographer — Leavers Lace

Steve Mason will talk about his book, *Leavers Lace, American Industrial Revolution*, the story in photographs of the last lace manufacturer in the United States. The factory is located in West Greenwich, RI, and operates on equipment 100 years old.

Steve Mason: Steve Mason is an award-winning, Rhode Island based commercial and fine art photographer. Steve specializes in environmental portraits, architecture, military, technology, manufacturing, trades and the construction field. His fine art photography can be seen in many regional, and corporate galleries. He has over 30 years in the industry working all over the United States. He is dedicated to working with clients to create visual branding solutions. Steve is equally skilled on location or in the studio.