

COMPLEX WEAVERS

Encouraging curiosity, exploration, innovation in weaving

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Newsletter

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President's Message

It is my honor to be your new President and my privilege to offer CW's grateful thanks to those who have volunteered their time, their enthusiasm, and their skill to make us so successful. Mimi Anderson and her team brought us a wonderful Seminars in Tacoma, Washington. Sandy Hutton and her several committees have, once again, organized the Complexity Exhibition that traveled from the Robert Hillestad Textile Gallery in Lincoln, Nebraska, to Seminars, and to Convergence in Providence Rhode Island—drawing rave reviews at each stop.

Planning for Seminars 2016 is underway. Ann Niemi is the Seminars Chair and Kathy McCarthy is the Registrar. The site selection committee has been busy and seminar leaders are being sought. Please provide suggestions to Ann for both seminar subjects and leaders for our 2016 meeting.

Attending Seminars is one of the premier benefits of CW membership. It is a biennial event and both sized and organized to promote easy interaction and sharing among the attendees. To extend this experience to more members, we are encouraging and supporting local and regional CW events. CW Study Days have already taken place as London and scheduled in San Francisco in January 2015. You may find CW activities as part of regional conferences in the future. The Board is formulating guidelines for these events and hope that you, the Members, will help extend CW's activities.

With this year's election, we have transitions in the Board. Penny Peters has become our Past-President to provide continuity in the Board's leadership. Wendy Morris has retired from the Board after six years of service. Wendy guided CW through major changes and organizational improvements and can now be reintroduced to her loom. Cally Booker has been elected to fill the key role that Kathy Spangler played as our First Vice-President. Thank you, Kathy! Lynn Smetko led the *Journal* team since 2011 and brought us into the color world with a truly professional pub-

lication. Now, Ruth MacGregor has assumed the *Journal* Editorship with the October issue and Lynn has become Secretary of the Board. Agnes Hauptli and Ann McDonough will be working with the Area Liaisons to expand their role and their interactions with the members in their regions.

WE NEED YOU! CW operates on the shoulders of its volunteers. In early 2015, we will hold the election for Second Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Study Group Coordinator. The Nominating Committee has been formed with Sally Orgren, chair, Dianne Totten, and Belinda Rose as its members. Please see the announcement in this *Newsletter* and think how you can contribute to roles large and small.

Our website continues to be the major avenue for communication within CW and Deborah Holcomb continues to enhance its functionality. The members-only area of the site contains the membership directory as well as past issues of the *Journal*. You'll find that the June issue of the *Journal* is now posted. The next issue went to press in mid-October, and will be in the mail by the end of the month. We thank the team of authors, editors, and layout artists for their hard work. You'll find it a delightfully eclectic issue with featured articles from the "24s More Or Less" study group.

Your Board and committee chairs have been busy with both face-to-face meetings and their usual internet meetings. The Board Happenings are included below as well as the updated Strategic Plan. We always want to hear from Members with ideas, suggestions, and offers to become involved.



The Board and Committee Chairs at Seminars 2014

All the best,

Ruth

The Churchill Weavers Fellowship

The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) is making available for advanced study and research one of the finest weaving archives in the nation—the Churchill Weavers collection. Comprised of more than 30,000 handwoven textiles and related weaving and business records, this collection promises to enrich many areas of scholarship, especially those related to labor history and textile production in Appalachia.

This is a short-term fellowship designed to assist researchers with travel and living expenses while using the collection. Applications are welcome from independent scholars, college and university teachers, graduate students and scholars working in other related disciplines. Application deadline is March 1, 2015. Learn more about the Churchill Weavers collection and research fellowship at: history.ky.gov/churchill-weavers-collection.

Board Happenings

June 21, 2014 through September 1, 2014

Board Meeting on June 30, 2014

The annual face-to-face meeting of the Board was held immediately following Seminars 2014, at the Hotel Murano in Tacoma, Washington, on June 30, 2014. The key actions of the Board follow.

***Complexity* 2014 Review**

It was agreed that the *Complexity* venues and the show itself were of excellent quality. Sandra Hutton and her team were congratulated on and thanked for their efforts. Sandra will present a final report for the October 2014 Board Meeting. A chairman and venues for *Complexity* 2016 need to be identified as soon as possible.

New and Renewing Board Appointments

The Board approved the appointments of the following members of the CW leadership team: Tim Flint, Librarian; Deborah Holcomb, Web Chair; Chris Jeryan, CW *Newsletter* Editor; Ruth MacGregor, CW *Journal* Editor; Peg MacMorris, Membership; Ann McDonough, Publicity; Ann Niemi, 2016 Seminars Chair; Amy Norris, Merchandising and Advertising; and Marjie Thompson, Manuscript Recovery Fund.

Treasurer's Report

Kathy Warner, Treasurer, reviewed the Profit and Loss financial statements for January 1 through June 26, 2014 and reported that CW is doing very well financially. Richard Jeryan, as President, was put on the bank accounts. Kathy reported income at Seminars of \$1,200 from CW merchandise sales, and over \$10,000 from *Complexity* contributions, sales from *Complexity*, and the Silent Auction. An endowment fund account for *Complexity* was opened with \$20,000.

Strategic Plan 2014-2015

The 2013-2014 Strategic Plan was reviewed with the goal of up-

dating it for 2014-2015. Suggestions for changes to the plan included encouraging smaller CW gatherings, online venues, and perhaps making videos of some Seminars available for those unable to attend Seminars. The Board will review the revised Strategic Plan at the July 2014 quarterly meeting.

Seminars 2014 Review

The Board congratulated Mimi Anderson and her team for having completed one of the best Seminars to date. It was recognized that the conference was very well-organized, the venue was excellent, and there were few complaints from attendees. It was noted that for the first time attendees were granted their first choices for seminars, but as a result some of the classes were very large. Issues dealing with larger classes will be considered by the 2016 Seminars Committee when making plans. In addition, the Committee will draft a policy for Board review regarding video and audio recordings of seminars, as some instructors requested that the use of cameras to take pictures of slides be restricted. Bettes Silver-Schack will prepare the Registration Report. A survey of Seminars 2014 will be sent out to attendees and instructors for feedback.

Seminars 2016 Status

Ann Niemi reported that her committee is looking at the American Midwest, most likely the Chicago area (Illinois) or the Ann Arbor/Detroit area (Michigan). Discussion ensued regarding pros and cons of these locations as far as what each area has to offer, availability of volunteers, and travel logistics for attendees. Ann and her committee will present proposals to the Board for consideration in making the final location decision.

CW Meeting at HGA Convergence 2014

Board members who were going to be at Convergence made plans for the CW meeting on July 16, from 4:15-5:00 p.m.

Critical Data and Property Records

CW must be able to access critical data and property records in the event that something happens to the individual in charge of them. As a result, Lynn Smetko, Secretary, is collecting details, such as locations and passwords, pertaining to these data

and records.

Board Meeting beginning July 21, 2014

This meeting was held electronically via email with the meeting agenda and position papers posted on the CW Board Yahoo Group website. Below are the key actions from the Board.

Strategic Plan for 2014-2015

The Strategic Plan, with modifications suggested from the June 2014 Board meeting, was reviewed and unanimously approved. The key changes made to the 2013-2014 Strategic Plan appear below and the complete plan also is included in this issue of the *Newsletter*:

- To organize *Complexity* 2016 and to pull together a long-term policy on *Complexity* content and on how to secure funding;
- To develop the CW Website to maximize its use and value to members;
- To investigate how the online version of the CW *Journal* can take advantage of hyperlinks, video and other technological advances.

Seminars 2014 Recap

The Board reviewed the recap report given by Mimi Anderson, Seminars 2014 Chair, and again congratulated her and her team on organizing a good conference. A few of the handouts from Seminars instructors are being revised by instructors, and Mimi will notify attendees when the revised copies are available. It was determined that moving the deadline for instructor handouts closer to the conference would reduce the need to repost revised versions of handouts. Mimi will compile a list of "lessons learned and good ideas" to pass on to the Seminars 2016 Committee. The Seminars 2014 survey results are being compiled by Richard Jeryan, and will be shared with the Board when available. The universal response has been, "best Seminars ever!"

Seminars 2016 Status Report

Ann Niemi reported on the plans for Seminars 2016 thus far. There was much discussion by the Board along the following topics.

Venue

The Board discussed the pros and cons of the two locations being considered, Chicago and Ann Arbor, Michigan: what each locale has to offer, travel implications for international attendees, and availability of volunteers to help with the conference. There were a few more tour ideas for the Ann Arbor location, international travel was felt to perhaps be more efficient to Chicago, and the Michigan Cross Borders Guild stands ready to help with Seminars 2016. The Board felt that the focus should be on the actual Seminars events, and that it might be easier to host in a location where help is readily available, but the decision of venue was left to the Committee.

Size of Conference

In recognition that registration for Seminars 2014 filled within several hours, and that some members were displeased with not getting in, the Board discussed the possibility of increasing the size of Seminars 2016. A larger conference would require larger or more classrooms, more leaders or repeats of some classes, a venue that would accommodate increased attendance, and possibly sharing sessions by members. It was felt that increasing attendance to 200 or 250 was doable, but at the same time budgeting for a financial break-even point at 200 attendees would be wise. Once the venues have been researched and the comparative costs and features documented, the venue proposals, attendance limits, and overall recommendation will be given by the Committee to the Board for review, adjustment, and approval.

Registration Process

When planning Seminars 2016 registration, the Committee will take into consideration how the timing affects international registrants, and the possibly of giving registrants their first choices again.

Poster Board Sessions

The Board discussed the concept of scheduling Poster Board sessions as a way to increase the sharing of attendees' ex-

pertise, as well as to create a pathway to gaining more seminars leaders in the future.

Treasurer's Report

The Board reviewed the financial reports as of August 2, 2014, as posted by Kathy Warner, Treasurer. The Board was satisfied that CW is doing very well financially, and has a good reserve in the event that some serious (but unlikely) problem were to arise. As a result, the reports were approved by the Board.

Lynn Smetko
Secretary

CW Strategic Plan

Our Mission

Our aim is that Complex Weavers will still exist in twenty years' time as a thriving international organization that:

- promotes excellence in and understanding of weaving beyond the basics.
- fosters scholarly and practical exploration of weaving techniques, practices and theories whether historical, current or for the future.
- encourages and facilitates the sharing of information relating to weaving.

Our Strategic Objectives

We judge the key strategic objectives for the current board to be:

- to maintain our profile and establish our position as the pre-eminent membership organization for all weavers wanting to develop their knowledge and understanding of weaving.
- to develop opportunities for CW events to be available to a higher proportion of members, by exploring a variety of types of events, geographical variations, modifications to CW Seminars.
- to place increased emphasis on the educational aspect of our mission, including establishing *Complexity* as a long-term high

profile regular exhibition.

- to increase the number of members contributing their skills and expertise to the running of the organization, by dividing tasks where possible and using efficient systems and communication.
- to continue to develop our use of new technologies, electronic communication and social media to run the organization and to communicate more effectively, and cost-effectively, with our members.

Our Priorities

- to organize CW Seminars 2016, building on the success and experience of previous Seminars, aiming for them to be the best yet.
- to organize *Complexity* 2016 and to pull together a long-term policy on *Complexity* content and on how to secure its funding.
- to commission a series of reports on other possibilities for CW events including online classes, linkage with regional conferences, study weeks and local study days, that would promote face-to-face contact and exchange of information between members.
- to consider the role of area liaison, particularly with regard to increasing communication with members and facilitating local and regional events.
- to develop the CW website to maximize its use and value to members.
- to investigate how the online version of the CW *Journal* can take advantage of hyperlinks, video and other technological advances.
- to develop the way CW is promoted to the outside world, including the use of Facebook and other social media, presence at conferences, articles, reviews and reciprocal advertising.
- to increase our revenue stream and increase awareness of CW through the wider weaving world by making publications and any other suitable merchandise available through retailers.

Call for Nominations

The following positions are due for election in 2015:

- Second Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Study Group Coordinator

If you are interested in one of these positions or if you know someone you would like to see in office, please let the Nominating Committee know by 15 November. Ballots will be distributed electronically in February and voting will take place in March.

Members of the Nominating Committee are:

- Sally Orgren, Chair
- Dianne Totten
- Belinda Rose

Please consider running if you are asked, or volunteering if you have an interest.



Did We Meet the Challenge...or What!!

Last spring, President Penny Peters announced that an anonymous donor challenged members to support a restricted account for Complexity and was willing to match member donations up to \$5,000. Members opened their minds, hearts, and wallets and met the challenge. They donated a little over \$5,000 and the matching funds were sent to the Treasurer.

The previous year \$4,080 in donations had come into the fund, so the Complexity account stands at about \$15,000. Once interest rates rebound, it is hoped that earnings will pay some of the ex-

penses of Complexity. Perhaps the bylaws can be changed to allow an alternative safe investment paying more than the current tiny interest rate on money market accounts. I just finished reading the Complexity guest book comments and I'm pretty overwhelmed by comments at all three venues. And, you can still donate to Complexity on the website, if you missed that opportunity. To donate to the fund click on the Complexity button on the CW home page www.complex-weavers.org

But, what I really want to tell you about is the \$80 that was credited in 2013. Most of you will remember the horror of the Waldo Canyon Fire charging over the foothills of Colorado Springs and destroying over 400 homes within the city limits. One of the members of Pikes Peak Weavers Guild and CW was among those burned out. The guild, under the leadership of Susan Bowman and Beverly Weaver, decided to hold a juried show demonstrating how artists handle such stress. The call for entries for *The Woven Word: Firestorm* went out and weavers submitted wonderful, poignant items. To view a slide show of Firestorm visit <http://www.pikespeakweavers.org/firestorm/index.html>

Just as members of the guild were installing the Firestorm exhibit, the Black Forest Fire northeast of Colorado Springs roared out of control and destroyed even more homes than lost in the Waldo Canyon Fire. Several of our members had to evacuate their homes; among them Heather Hubbard. I know many of you know Heather because she belongs to many, many CW study groups. She knew I was planning on attending the Midwest Weavers Conference in order to publicize Complexity. As she hurriedly left her home (and her Megado) under mandatory evacuation, she stopped by and gave me eight pin cushions she had made from some of her handwoven cloth. She told me to sell them at the booth I had reserved in the vendor area and donate any funds they brought in to Complexity. I made a sign, priced them at \$10, and they all sold. This was the first money deposited to the Complexity account. Isn't that a nice story to back up our exhibit? After a week, the fire stopped about one-half mile from Heather's home and the Megado was safe.

*Sandy Hutton
Complexity 2014 Chairperson*

January Workshop with Bhakti Ziek

Bhakti Ziek will present a two-part event for CW in the San Francisco area on **Saturday, January 17, 2015**. In the morning, she will give a slide lecture on her work, which has ranged from backstrap weaving to digital jacquard, and a demonstration of the way she works an image from Photoshop to the TC1, a computer-driven, hand jacquard loom. In the afternoon, Ziek will walk everyone through this process, using simple satin or twill structures. After going through the process with her, it will be easy to follow the directions in the book she co-authored with Alice Schlein (*The Woven Pixel: Designing for Jacquard and Dobby Looms Using Photoshop®*) that is available as a free download on www.handweaving.net. Sign up for the morning or full day. Full-day participants should have a computer with Photoshop or Photoshop Elements on it. If you want to work in pairs, one person can take notes as the other prepares the image. Bring a power strip or extension cord too. There are free trial versions of Photoshop Elements available on the web.

If you are unfamiliar with Bhakti Ziek take a look at her latest installation at: <http://bhaktiziek.blogspot.com/2014/04/stardust.html> or Google Bhakti Ziek textiles in Google Image—a treat for the eyes and spirit.

Cost is \$45 for the AM and \$80 for the entire day. If you are staying for the day, it will be a great opportunity to explore Photoshop with a master, and to dip your toe in to see if it is an area you want to explore. Photoshop Elements is sufficient for our weaving work. The place is St John's United Church of Christ, 501 Laguna Honda Blvd, San Francisco, CA 94127, and the time is AM session 10 to 12:30, PM session 1:30 to 4:30.

Contact Penny Peters at: pennyjanepeters@gmail.com



Detail of Constellations by Bhakti Ziek

UK Study Days with Jette Vandermeiden

Two study days are planned in November in London.



Thursday, November 6: Designing Multishaft Huck Lace Weaves

A theory day on learning to develop your own original lace patterns through the use of blocks and profile drafts. A simple drafting method will provide a multitude of treading variations, which are easily designed. A discussion of the structure will increase your understanding of how to design lace variations using a minimum of 8 shafts to the maximum available to you on your own loom.

Friday, November 7: An Overview of Bateman Weaves

Dr Bateman spent his retirement working out many unusual drafts for 8 shaft looms using supplementary weft weaves. We will look at some of these weaves, focusing on the basic units of Bateman Boulevard and Tag weaves, and discuss how they can be used for designing through changes in treading. Similarities and differences in pattern units, and comparison to recognized structures will be explored.

Venue: Central London for both days

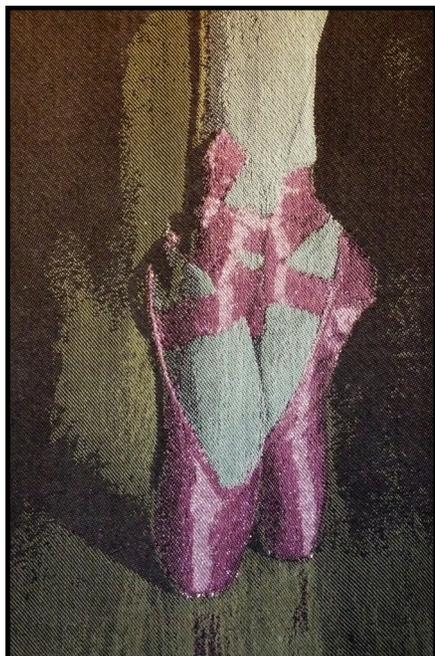
Costs: £50 - £60 per day depending on numbers and venue

We will also be taking the opportunity to go out for a meal on the Thursday evening so there will be time to socialise with other weavers. The cost of this will obviously be extra and it will be somewhere near the study venue.

For further details please contact Leslie Willcock by email at lesley-willcock@btconnect.com

Fiber Celebration 2015 Call for Entries

The Northern Colorado Weavers Guild invites fiber artists to participate in its 41st annual juried exhibit to be held May 1 to June 6, 2015 at the Tointon Gallery in Greeley, CO. Pieces representing fiber media of all types are welcome. Susan Wilson is the juror, and the CW Award will be given. Submission deadline is March 1, 2015. For more information and a prospectus, contact Peg MacMorris, FC2015 Chair at peg.macmorris@gmail.com



Complex Weavers Award 2013
En Pointe by Sandra Rude

Classifieds

Hand Looms, Supplement #17, \$10.

The Looms of Margaret Bergman; Three Bergman Looms; The Saunderstown Weaving School; The Loom at the Old Chelmsford Garrison House; Khmer Looms of Cambodia. Hand Looms, Supplements #1 to #10, on CD, \$15. The Spinning Wheel Sleuth, P.O. Box 422, Andover, MA 01810. www.spwhsl.com

Ply-Splitting from Drawdowns: Interpreting Weave Structures in Ply-Split Braiding by Barbara J. Walker

Learn how to use any single layer drawdown for ply-splitting. Many illustrations and photos guide you through the process. Finishing techniques are included and gallery pages inspire. \$34 USD plus shipping. www.barbarajwalker.com

Powell River Retreat

Powell River is hosting the annual retreat, usually held on Vancouver Island, March 27-29, 2015. A pre-workshop with Mary Berent, March 26-27 is called Designing Full Circle. Diverse selection of events, lovely gathering space for spinners and an ocean view! <http://www.prfiberfest.com/>

Events

Ethel Stein, Master Weaver

The Art Institute of Chicago is hosting an exhibition of drawloom weaving through January 4, 2015 in celebration of the work of Edith Stein. For more information see the museum's website: <http://www.artic.edu/exhibition/ethel-stein-master-weaver>

Fiber Forum 2015

The Southeast Fiber Arts Alliance conference is scheduled for April 16-19, 2015 at Arrowmont in Gatlinburg, TN. Choose from 13 weaving, spinning, dyeing, knitting, felting, design, surface design, and e-textile workshops taught by renowned instructors. For more information, www.sefiberforum.org

Panoply 2015

The Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Biennial Conference will be held May 22-24, 2015 in Burlington, Ontario, Canada. For more information see the conference website, www.panoply2015.ca

Your Journal: Share Your Weaving Knowledge and Experiences

Inside every CW member is a story and wealth of knowledge! Sharing our experience and knowledge is the heart of CW—unlike other publications, we do not solicit articles from individuals outside our organization. In an effort to “share information and encourage interests”, Complex Weavers welcomes articles from individual weavers as well as study group members. Material for the *Journal* is given priority according to the date received. Late or lengthy submissions are subject to available space. Classified and commercial advertisements should be sent to the Advertising Manager. Address changes may be made by logging on to the website and updating your member profile or by contacting the Membership Chair. If you do not receive your *Journal* when you think you should, please sign in to the Membership directory to confirm that your membership and contact information are current.

2015 Publication Schedule:

February 2015: Deadline November 15, 2014

June 2015: Deadline March 15, 2015

October 2015: Deadline July 15, 2015

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CW Journal Article Guidelines are posted on the CW website or can be obtained from the Editor. Please consult them before starting or submitting your article. The Guidelines will answer a lot of your questions and save you time. Your Journal staff, all volunteers, are ready and eager to help you with a contribution.