WGRI Meeting Minutes, 3/02/2024

In attendance:
27 Participants in-person

Minutes were approved and accepted as posted

Treasurer's Report: Suzanne Hosier
Balance: 14,083.88
Encumbered: 6,918.80
General: 7,165.08

Questions came up about the scholarship fund and if it is still active. Manon confirmed it was ended a few years back. We will look at our encumbered fund and explore ways to use it.

President Report: Donna LaVallee

Nominating Committee - We still do not have a nominating committee to help fill board positions for next season, starting fall 2024. Cheryl has offered to fill the Programs role, however that leaves the Secretary role vacant. If you are willing to take on this lighter position, please let Donna know.

Future Presenters/Programs - If you have an idea about a meeting program you'd like to have, let Cheryl know. Planning has started for next season.

Volunteer Help - We need volunteers to come help at the following events, plan on space between 2hrs or so.
Farm to Fibers Showcase, Providence March 30th. Indoor event with a demo loom set-up
Watson Farm, Jamestown April 27, 10:00 - 2:00. Outdoor event with a demo loom
Coggeshall Farm, Bristol May 18. Outdoor event, Sheep Sheering Day

Promotional Flyers - We'll be displaying brochures at the community event. Luckily, we have a stack of flyers made a few years back. Looking forward, we'll want to update our look. Ideas were thrown out; business cards, QR codes, postcards. Jaimee offered to look into the Moo Cards, which offer 2 photo spots. Donna will make identifying stickers for current brochures.

Study Groups - We are looking to gather focused topic groups for those who are interested. There are a few beginning to form. If you are interested in the following, let Donna know and she'll point you in the right direction:
Ratings Program
Supplemental Warp
Dorothy Liebes

Vice President Report: Jaimee Roberts

Up Coming Programs

April - 4/6 North Kingstown Library, Sara Saulson - painted warps presentation
May - 5/4 Field Trip to WovenSeas in Warren RI, Elizabeth Springett's studio
June - 6/1 Party TBD

New Info re: Sarah Saulson Painted Warp Workshop, 4/4 &4/5.
Location is at Clark Memorial Library, Carolina RI
This workshop is full, but there is a waiting list you are welcome to be added to, contact Gretchen White. If you are attending, please be sure to have the Preparation Email from Sarah. There is information to know beforehand and preparations to be completed.

WovenSea's Field Trip - Following Elizabeth's studio tour, there will be a lunch spot picked out for afterward. If you are interested stay tuned and/or recommend a good spot to eat!

Other Contributions:

Membership Info - Leslie Mahler indicated that all name tags have been updated and please let her know if there are changes to be made or if you need a tag. In addition, Please remember to sign in before the meeting and return your tag when leaving. There are printed copies of the membership directory. Please pick it up at the meeting, since they will not be mailed. An electronic directory will be emailed.

Bags for Foster Care - Jaimee Roberts will be our guild contact for this project. If you can participate, please reach out. You can work on this independently, with a provided pattern. In addition there will be a RIWC event where we can gather together and sew the bags. Dates and details to follow.

Ratings Program Committee - The goal of the committee was to decide if the WGRI Ratings Program was worth reinstating. It was determined that the amount of energy to facilitate our own program would be better spent in gathering a network of RI weavers who'd like to pursue of one of the established programs. The concept being, a "study group" that could meet regularly. Are there guild members interested in pursuing a ratings program? If interested reach out to Cheryl, perrymini@me.com

June Challenge - Sally Rianhard reminded everyone about the June Challenge, woven inspiration from Georgia O'keefe postcards. Please connect with Sally if you need a card and would like to participate. Be inspired by the image in a way that speaks to you, and create anything you'd like. It doesn't need to be a direct recreation of the image. "Let the could come in, not the should". sallyrianhard@gmail.com

RIWC Classes and Workshops - Cathy English named a few highlights.
Ridged Heddle Class
Tapestry Class by Linda Rhynard
Bandweaving on Inkle Class by Elizabeth Springett
Paper Flower Folding Class by Leslie Mahler
Summer/Winter Workshop
REP Weave Workshop
Navajo Weaving Workshop
See website for details: rhodeislandweavingcenter.org

Guild Art on Display - Donna has a piece on display the the Art Association in Fall River. They have a fiber exhibit happening now though the end of March.
Fall River Art Association -
80 Belmont St.
Fall River, MA
Hours: Saturday 5:00 - 8:00, Sunday 1:00 - 4:00

Museum Exhibit - Norma suggested the new MET Exhibit, Weaving Abstraction in Ancient and Modern Art. Sheila Hicks and Lenore Tawney are represented. Showing through June 16th.

Catskill Weaving School - Jaimee shared that founder Samantha Bittman has terrific online programing. You can attend a lecture series, or attend online workshops. The series she completed was with notable Contemporary Weavers, presenting their work and process. (For example; Christy Matson and Diedrick Brackens!)

Program of the Month: Linda Rhynard, Tapestry Weaver and Teacher
Innovative Weavers, Past and Present; New Techniques and Creative Designs

Linda began her presentation with saying, “It’s not all about the Unicorn!”. While she gave us a visual education in the deep roots of medieval Tapestry Weaving, with it’s hey-day in medieval Europe, she also shared a story of now-famous tapestries were once under valued to the point of being used to wrap trees! We were all completely inspired by examples from the iconic modern tapestry weavers, Sheila Hicks and Lenore Tawney, with their non-traditional and expressive techniques. The introduction to current tapestry weavers (Susan Iverson, Fiona Hutchinson and Barbara Burns) exposed us to new ideas being incorporated in today’s tapestry work- adding dimensionality with scaffolding, manipulated warp and unexpected materials.

The second part of the program included a live demonstration of new techniques, creating texture and dimension within a woven work. Scaffolding and pulled warps were shown, turning a flat woven example into 3-D by revealing tunnels, bumps and shape. Fascinating!

Show & Tell

Our meeting ended with Sally, Margaret and Noriko sharing their creations and textiles.

Margaret Moone shared a book, To Weave the Swedish Way. The author used to translate (into English) the Vav magazine publication. In addition she showed us an impressive, red tree-skirt she created!

Sally Rianhard showed us her adorable felted animals and Cheryl’s belated holiday gift - covered button magnets.

Noriko Crasso displayed a precious array of Obi tie textiles from Japan and also shared her new creative endeavor - creating temporary tattoos (with Japanese characters and significance) that she shares, as a vendor, at cultural events. What a fun, on-trend specialty to bring to the community!