



# MAWS

Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners

Check out the MAWS website for info and photos!

Fall, 2017



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## MAWS President's Message

Greetings MAWS Fiberists,

The energy level at the recent MAWS board meeting in Helena was near spontaneous combustion! The report from the Bozeman Weavers' Guild on their plans for MAWS' next conference, *The Sky's the Limit*, which will be held at Big Sky, Montana, June 12-17, 2018, had us literally wiggling in our seats with excitement. There are plans for 8 pre-conference classes ranging from 1 to 3 days long featuring Jason Collingwood, Linda Hartshorn, Jane Patrick, Bonnie Tarses, Joanne Setzer, Doris Florig and Judie Overbeek as instructors. Pre-conference classes provide the perfect opportunity to completely immerse in a subject while someone else does the cooking!

The main conference will host a

broad range of classes including 10 weaving classes, 7 spinning classes, 6 dyeing, 3 felting, and 3 on knitting and basketry. Registration will begin in mid-January so be on your toes! Check out [www.montanaweavespin.org](http://www.montanaweavespin.org) for details.

Hey, how about these Montana weavers who are shining on the national scene by contributing their time and talent to the Handweavers' Guild of America (HGA)! Beginning this year, HGA has a new design for their Award of Merit ribbons designed by our own Deb Essen. The new ribbons will be woven on six shafts in a turned overshot pattern using red and black 8/2 Tencel. Wilsall weaver, Bev. Polk, has graciously volunteered to weave those many beautiful ribbons. The HGA Award is given to honor the

most creative and innovative talent found in fiber exhibits across the United States. The award also includes a certificate and pin plus a chance to have your work published in *Shuttle, Spindle and Dyepot* magazine. MAWS' most recent HGA award winner is Kathy O'Hern, formerly of Helena. Also on the national front, Bozeman's historic weaver, Elizabeth Tritthart, has recently taken a seat on the HGA board. Thanks and a big MAWS hug to you all!

I have a quotation by Mary Zicafoose posted on my bulletin board that I find especially inspirational at this time of year. "I am a weaver and today I will weave." So I...

Weave on,  
Susan Lohmuller

Visit [www.montanaweavespin.org](http://www.montanaweavespin.org)

# Maws Board Members

## President - Susan Lohmuller

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### - 2018 Conference Chair

406-586-1881  
barbarafrench27@gmail.com

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### Dawn Ahlert - Central Montana

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### Melody Murter - Billings

melmurter@gmail.com

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42agkrueger@gmail.com

### Terri Schaub - Missoula

dlstks@bresnan.net

### Ann Keenan - Kalispell

pineneedlefarm@yahoo.com

### Gwen Haferkamp - Eastern Montana

406-234-7603 • gwenmrh@midrivers.com

# Classified Ads

**FOR  
SALE!**

## FOR SALE: LeClerc Artisan Floor Loom.

8 shaft loom, back-hinged treadles, 36" weaving width, metal heddles. Folds for ease of moving and threading. In great shape. No bench, some accessories, including an electric bobbin winder. Asking \$750.00 and pick up in Great Falls. Contact Daryl Ries at wgries86@gmail.com or 406-7727-8054 or 788-5719.



## FOR SALE: LeClerc Nilus Table Loom.

It's a 15 3/4 in  
weave width. It  
folds for storage.

Thanks for your  
help.

Robbie Gammack  
MindWork Coach-  
ing, Mediation and  
Facilitation  
406-579-3052



**Classified ads are free to MAWS members.  
Send your ads to traceyhensen@gmail.com by  
January 1st for inclusion in the next newsletter.**



# Tribute to a Beloved Fiberista

By Susan Lohmuller

On May 6, 2017, on a perfect Montana spring day, I hosted a 90th birthday party for my mother in our front yard. That day Mom was surrounded by her precious family who had come to honor her and celebrate her life. Exactly one month later, she suffered a stroke and was gone within a few days. I spent the rest of this summer shedding tears, settling her estate and slowly clearing out her home.

When it came to emptying her project room the emotional going got particularly tough because, you see, Mom maintained a passionate, life-long interest in fiber and was a prudent guardian of all things precious. She had carefully saved the historical record, so to speak, of her fiber life and it was my task to sort through it! Her knitting patterns dated back to the 1940's and included careful notes in the margins in beautiful handwriting. There were numerous patterns for Mary Maxm sweaters from the 1950's and 60's, knit dresses, ski sweaters for her outdoorsy husband, hippie vests (OMG, yes, they were mine!), intricate Arans, and on and on. She hand spun enough wool yarn to warm three generations of loved ones in basic raglan sweaters. Her epic project was a long, hand spun, hand-dyed knit coat in a Kaffe Fassett design. At 5 feet, 11 inches she wore that coat like a runway model!

From about age 10 until well into her 80's, Mom designed and sewed all her own clothes plus she made wedding dresses (including mine), sleeping bags, down coats, auto seat covers, underwear and even sweat shirts.

In her stash I found an unfinished linen cut-work table cloth kit with my own youthful (age 8?) stitches carefully outlining the flowers on one napkin. I emptied an entire dresser full of spools of thread carefully sorted according to color. I uncovered remnants of pine needle basket making projects, quilting, rug weaving (she wove rag rugs 25 at a time), cross stitching, tatting, and finally, patterns for the Form-a-Lines greeting cards that she continued to sew and send until she was nearly 90. Oh, and I must have uncovered 25 pairs of scissors!

Mom delighted in but also found solace working with fiber throughout her joyful, sometimes challenging, and occasionally mundane life, just as we all do. She truly embodied the notion of "no idle hands"... ever! My hope is that she is now resting peacefully with knitting needles and a ball of hand spun in her lap in anticipation of casting on the next sweater.

# October 14, 2017 MAWS Board Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Tracey Hensen, Secretary

Members present were Linda Shelhamer, Tracey Hensen, Susan Lohmuller, Barb French, Dawn Ahlert, Anita Krueger, Sharon Schroeder, Melody Murter, Terri Schaub, and host Annette Cade.

President Susan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Show and tell was the first order of business.

The minutes from the last meeting were read by Melody. Barb French suggested one change to the minutes: the convention will start June 12, instead of the 13th. Linda moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected. Sharon seconded and the motion passed.

Linda presented the treasurer's report. The most notable item on the report was a \$750 donation from Vernice Myers' estate to be used for MAWS scholarships. Membership (dues being paid) has been good for a non-conference year.

At Barb's suggestion, a discussion followed about non members' registration fees for the conference. Non members will have an additional fee to attend the conference this year. This is a change from the option to become a member for \$10 during registration as in previous years.

Linda paid the ANWG's dues for MAWS.

## Old Business

Barb French gave the 2018 The Sky's the Limit conference report. Anita Kruger has stepped into the Vice President position. Barb shared the class list with the board. To date there are 36 classes scheduled. The registration process will tentatively begin in mid January.

Susan brought up the issue of estate sales and giveaways during the conference. The problem with having them at the convention is that they compete with the vendors. It was decided that estate sales will continue to be allowed, but will be set up at specific time (likely Sunday morning) and in a different location other than in the vendor area. The sale will run like a garage sale once the vendors are closed.

Barb brought a skein of yarn that was dyed in the conference colors by Mountain Colors. The yarn will soon be available for purchase on Etsy. The yarn will also be available for purchase at the convention.

Something new for this year will be a round table discussion with three of instructors talking about their top ten tips for fiber artists. This activity is optional.

Vendor fees and housing/meal plans were shared by Barb. Susan reminded the board that material fees must be kept reasonable and not sold to make large profits. The conference committee will be keeping both teaching fees and supply fees fair for everyone. The instructor committee will be charged with keeping an eye on kit fees as they become available.

Barb presented the budget for the conference. The committee is still finalizing the costs, but would like to see the total cost for conference be under \$300, not including the pre-conference events. There was a very generous anonymous donation made to the convention in the amount of \$3,350. It was made on the condition that it be used to help make the pre-conference classes/experience more affordable. The committee is hoping to get at least 100 people registered for the main conference and 36-40 for each of the pre-conference classes.

The contract for the venue/food was handed out and lastly, Barb informed the board that the Billings guild is doing the fashion show, and the Missoula guild is weaving reward ribbons.

The next order of business was the scholarship application follow up. Teri explained that applicants have been wondering which parts of the application are most weighted. The main concern of the board is how you intend to share what you learned from the conference. The board decided to leave the wording concerning this on the application the same, but to explain which parts are most important to anyone who inquires. The board decided to raise the amount of the scholarships this year to \$150. That wording will be included on the applications. Melody moved to present 5 scholarships at \$150 each, Dawn seconded and the motion passed. The deadline for the scholarship application was set at February 15, 2018.

Next order of business was that Lindsey Henson resigned. She was HGA rep. Joan Goldstein volunteered to fill the position. Sharon nominated Joan to fill the position as HGA rep and Tracey seconded. The motion passed.

Next Sharon touched on the website issue that some people are getting messages from scammers. She put the information to be on the watch for on the website. The scams are very similar to those on Craigslist.

Susan nominated Dawn Ahlert to be the chair of the nominating committee. The rest of the members at large will fill the spots on the committee.

Next Susan read a letter from the ANWG president. She is wondering if Montana will host the 2023 conference. Discussion followed. The MAWS conferences coming up are 2020 in Helena, 2022 in Billings and 2024 in Missoula. The idea was put forth that Billings could host the ANWG conference in conjunction with the MAWS conference that would happen in 2022. That would mean skipping MAWS for three years instead of two for that rotation. Missoula would carry on with the 2024 MAWS conference as planned. Each of the guilds will need to be contacted and their opinions considered, especially Billings. It was decided that each board member will discuss this with their guilds and the board will vote on the matter via email in the next month or two. Susan would like the guilds to respond as soon as possible. Anita moved to have Susan respond that the board is strongly considering this as an option, with the input of the guilds. Teri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next order of business was the Living Treasure Application. A chairman is needed for the next convention. Melody volunteered to be the chair. The deadline for the Living Treasure applications is March 15, 2018. The awardees will be chosen at the April 2018 MAWS meeting.

The final order of business was the decision on the date for the next meeting. It was decided the April meeting will be held on the 14th at 11 a.m. The meeting may be held in Big Sky. The board will decided via email at a later date.

Sharon moved that we adjourn the meeting. Tracey seconded and the meeting adjourned.

# Board Meeting Show and Tell

Photos by Tracey Hensen  
See more at [www.montanaweavespin.org/show-tell](http://www.montanaweavespin.org/show-tell)



**Linda Shelhamer -** Gradient yarn shawl is a yak, silk, wool blend hand dyed by Alexandria's Crafts. The gray slip-stitch headband is knit in a sport weight angora blend. The pink headband is in worsted weight wool. The headbands are class samples for upcoming MAWS conference.



**Susan:** Introducing Raggedy Ann and Andy to the MAWS board! On Ann's palm I embroidered "Kiss Me" and on his, "Hold My Hand". Also "I Love You" over each of their hearts. Pattern from 1970 and vintage fabrics from her mother's estate.  
Photo by Susan Lohmuller



**Sharon Schroeder -** Towels woven on a 4 shaft loom using tintes naturales cotton from the women of San Rafael, Guatemala, and a tencel scarf in the Gordon tartan.



**Melody Murter -** Cowl



**Dawn Ahlert -** tapestry

**Tracey Hensen -** Chunky Cowl with Handmade button from Joan Contraman class and a fall WIP



# October 14, 2017 MAWS Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Linda Shelhamer

## lksIncome/Expense Comparison by Category - Last 12 months

10/12/2015 through 10/11/2017 (Cash Basis)

10/11/2017

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Category	10/12/2015- 10/11/2016	10/12/2016- 10/11/2017
<b>INCOME</b>		
Conference share	3,857	0
Donation	10	750
Dues	2,834	2,468
SB Dividend	34	73
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>6,735</b>	<b>3,291</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
ANWG Dues	70	35
<b>Board</b>		
Board	100	0
travel	214	241
<b>TOTAL Board</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>241</b>
Conference	66	0
Grants Conference	1,000	0
Grants Guild	500	0
Living Treasure gifts	267	0
Misc Expenses	150	20
<b>Newsletter Expense</b>		
Newsletter Postage	91	77
Newsletter Printing	145	153
<b>TOTAL Newsletter Expense</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>230</b>
Scholarships	400	0
<b>Stipend</b>		
Newsletter Editor	700	700
Treasurer	250	250
<b>TOTAL Stipend</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>950</b>
Unrealized Gain Loss	-5	-10
<b>Website</b>		
Web stipend	300	200
webhosting	173	155
<b>TOTAL Website</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>355</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>4,421</b>	<b>1,821</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>2,314</b>	<b>1,471</b>

## lksMAWSAccount Balances - As of 10/11/2017

Account	10/11/2017 Balance
<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
Morgan Stanley	13,468
S1 Savings	0
S90 Checking	0
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>13,468</b>
<b>Asset Accounts</b>	
Loan To Conference	1,000
<b>TOTAL Asset Accounts</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>14,468</b>

# News from the 2018 Conference Committee, Bozeman Weavers Guild

*Barb French, 2018 Conference President*

[www.bozemanweaversguild.org](http://www.bozemanweaversguild.org)



## Guild Booths are heading “Up, up and away!”

Hey, ho, calling all Montana Guilds! You are invited to create a guild booth for the 2018 MAWS Conference at Big Sky showcasing your members’ varied and amazing talents in recent work. Our theme of “Up, up and away!” is meant to be open-ended inspiration, encouraging all to soar high as we remember that The Sky’s The Limit! We can’t wait to see what you come up with! Award ribbons will be presented for best use of theme, best use of conference colors, and others. This is no time to be shy! We look forward to seeing your creative endeavors! Each guild desiring a space will be allotted 5’ X 10’. Keep an eye on our conference page at [bozemanweaversguild.org/maws-2018/](http://bozemanweaversguild.org/maws-2018/) for more information as conference plans progress.

## Fashion Show – hosted by the Billings Weavers and Spinners

“True Colors of the Big Sky” is the theme for “The Sky’s the Limit!” fashion show. The show will be an open show without categories or competition. To help the show flow and to be well organized, the Billings Weavers Guild would like entries to be submitted by June 5th. (The entry form is attached here, and will also be available on the MAWS 2018 section of the [bozemanweaversguild.org](http://bozemanweaversguild.org) website). A limited number of on-site entries will be accepted. Only the form needs to be submitted prior to the conference, the garment will stay in the possession of the entrant until the day of the fashion show. You may model your own garment or request a model to show off your piece. We are anticipating some wonderful, colorful garments representing the Big Sky in June.

## Conference Exchange Items



One and all are invited to participate in The Sky’s the Limit! conference exchange. Is there a new (to you) weave structure you’ve been thinking about trying? A color combination you’ve been dreaming about? We’d encourage you to play, experiment, stretch your borders, and bring the resulting **tea towel** or **handspun skein** to the 2018 conference exchange! After we all enjoy the display of towels and skeins, some lucky friend will be the recipient of your efforts as we randomly distribute the items at the end of the conference, and you will receive a towel or skein in exchange. Who doesn’t love receiving a beautiful handmade present? **Any new tea towel or handspun skein of approx.. 50gr – 100 gr.** will be most welcome. Your items will be accepted at the main desk as you check in for the conference. Join the fun!

**A tea-towel exchange display at ANWG 2017**

**Important Date Change:  
Convention will start June 12  
and run through June 17**

## Custom Conference Yarn!



We are delighted to unveil our special, conference colors yarn that Mountain Colors has created just for us! The colorway, named Pale Sunrise, encompasses all the gorgeous colors of our big Montana sky: coral, sunny yellow, sky blue and silver gray. Mountain Colors has hand-painted these colors onto some of their most popular yarns: Winter Lace and Winter Silk, Weavers Wool, and Twizzlefoot, as well as their Bluefaced Leicester top for spinning. These yarns are now for sale on the Bozeman Weavers Guild Etsy shop. All proceeds from the sale of these yarns will go toward the 2018 conference. We hope you’ll enjoy using custom colors yarn for your custom conference project. Thank you for your support.

# MAWS 2018 True Colors of the Big Sky Fashion Show entry form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

email address \_\_\_\_\_

Guild \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be modeling your garment? If not, do you have someone to model it or would you like us to provide a model? If you'd like us to provide a model, what size is your garment?

\_\_\_\_\_

Description (Inspiration, materials, fiber, technique, pattern used, your fiber history, did you make it for yourself or for someone else?) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Provide a detailed and entertaining narration about your garment and yourself for the emcee to read while your garment is being modeled. Use the description above as your guide. We will provide music for the fashion show. (Continue on the back of paper, 200 word maximum. We may edit your narration.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

You will bring your garment to the conference with you, no need to mail it ahead of time. You may submit this form digitally or print and mail it to Joy Erickson 9010 King Avenue West, Billings, MT 59106. Please submit entry no later than June 5th. There will be a limited number of spaces for late registration at the conference. If you register at the conference you will need to model your own garment or provide a model.



## Call for Vendors

Everyone looks forward to the wonderful vendors at each MAWS conference and 2018 will surely be no different. We are accepting applications and expect a wide range of vendors, bringing our registrants all the latest and greatest from the fiber world! Vendors will be in the beautiful and spacious Gallatin Room of the Yellowstone Conference Center which features a convenient drive-up loading door. Vendor booths are 8'X10' and vendors may pick their preferred spot on a first-come, first-served basis. To register as a vendor with MAWS 2018, please visit [bozemanweaversguild.org/maws-2018/vendors/](http://bozemanweaversguild.org/maws-2018/vendors/) for further information and an application.

**“Reach for the Stars: Fiber Artistry in the Big Sky” – the 2018 MAWS Open show, hosted by the Helena Weavers and Spinners Guild, with Millie Dover and Anne Shamley, co-chairing**

## Guidelines for the Open Show

Display your artistry, and enter your work, made since the last MAWS conference, in the following categories:

### Woven Items:

- Clothing
- Accessories
- Home decor:
  - Household items
  - Rugs and hangings
- Items woven with handspun yarn

### Knitted or Crocheted items

- Using Handspun
  - Clothing
  - Accessories
  - Household items
- Using commercial yarns
  - Clothing
  - Accessories
  - Household items

### Spinning , not to exceed 250 yards per skein

- Wool Singles
- Wool Plied
- Linen or silk, Plied or single
- Novelty or art yarn, any fiber

### Felted Items::

- Clothing
- Other

### Basketry:

- Round reed
- Flat reed
- Mixed media ( including any natural or unnatural items)

**Square Peg Creations:** We have tried to include spots for your amazing works, but knowing the extent of your creativity, we have a spot for any square peg creation.

Details of awards and judging will be forthcoming. Please check the Bozeman Weavers Guild website for more information on the Open Show as it becomes available.

**Important Date Change:**  
Convention will start June 12 and run through June 17



**2016 Best of Show winner, Kathy O'Hern, with her unique weaving with copper wire.**

# MAWS Creating Teachers Database

MAWS is routinely asked for the name of teachers of weaving, spinning, dyeing and other fiber arts by its guild and others. We want to create a spreadsheet of teachers names, addresses, emails, etc. so that we can send them out to MAWS members who are organizing classes.

Please send information about the classes you teach along with your address, phone number, email address to Linda Shelhamer, [shara@bresnan.net](mailto:shara@bresnan.net) or mail to 446 Tabriz Drive, Billings, MT 59105. We will not be posting any addresses, etc. online without your specific approval. Any questions call Linda at 406-259-9160.

# 2018 MAWS Conference Class Lineup

Preconference - all topics	# days	instructor
3-end Block Weave Rugs	3	Collingwood
Weaving in a parallel universe	3	Hartshorn
Textural Treats: Patterns & Textures on the Rigid Heddle Loom	2	Patrick
Shibori Dyeing 1 and Too	2	Alexander-Steele
Three Workshops in One: Color Horoscope Weaving, Woven Words, Almost Ikat	2	Tarses
LTW on 4 harness loom	2	Setzer
Natural Dyeing	1	Florig
Increase Your Spinning Options	1	Overbeek
<b>Main Conference</b>		
<b>Weaving</b>		
Plain Weave: An Introduction to Rug Weaving	2	Collingwood
Collapse Weave	1	Overbeek
Tapestry Weaving	1	Florig
Computer Design for Weavers	1	Refling
Tile Woven Décor: a New Look at <i>Time to Weave</i>	0.5	Patrick
Love Affair With Paper Weaving: Creative Woven Cards	0.5	Patrick
Creative Pin Loom Woven, Embellished Bag	1	Patrick
Weaving as Joyous Prayer	0.5	Tarses
What Shall I Weave Next?	0.5	Tarses
Spontaneous Weaving From the Heart	1	Tarses
<b>Spinning</b>		
Learn To Spin	0.5	Murter
Color Magic for Spinners	0.5	Overbeek
Many Colors from Few	0.5	Overbeek
Silk Tasting	1	Fournier
Smooth as Silk (combining fibers)	1	Fournier
Alpaca Spinning	1	Alexander-Steele
Spinning the Rainbow	1	Alexander-Steele
<b>Dyeing</b>		
Organic Indigo I	0.5	Hartshorn
Organic Indigo II	0.5	Hartshorn
Silk painting & stamping	0.5	Hartshorn
Warp Painting for Weavers	0.5	Hartshorn
Eco printing	1	Colvin
Ikat Dyeing with Cochineal	1	Florig
<b>Felting</b>		
Felt Bag	1	Colvin
Intro to needle felting	0.5	Stucky
Felting with Your Favorite Breed	0.5	Stucky
<b>Knitting, Basketry, other</b>		
Intro to lace knitting	0.5	Shelhamer
Color slip stitch knitting	0.5	Shelhamer
Pine Needle Weaving for Beginners	1	Galusha

**Important Date  
 Change:  
 Convention will  
 start June 12  
 and run through  
 June 17**

# Living Treasure Legacy Will Fund Scholarships for 2018 Conference



MAWS received a surprise \$750 donation from member Roxanne Zahller in memory of Living Treasure, Vernice Myers. Roxanne explained that the gift money is from the proceeds of the sale of Vernice's weaving equipment after her death in January 2017, at age 93. According to Roxanne, "One of Vernice's greatest joys was to encourage and teach beginning weavers. She passed along the joy of weaving with patience and delighted in seeing others become excited about weaving." The donation will go to MAWS' scholarship program.

From Cody, Wyoming, Vernice became a Living Treasure at the 2000 MAWS conference in Missoula. The following excerpt is from Lynn Pitet's nomination of Vernice, "Vernice began her weaving career in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where she was already well-known as a painter. In Michigan, Vernice's weaving consisted mainly of large, commissioned wall hangings: two for the LAW School, two for the Physician's Office Complex, and several for an interior decorator. Later Vernice broadened her production to include everything from totes and vests, to shawls and coverlets. She also spun and dyed yarn."

Vernice founded Cody's Yellowstone Weavers and Spinners Guild in 1976 and was one of the three original members

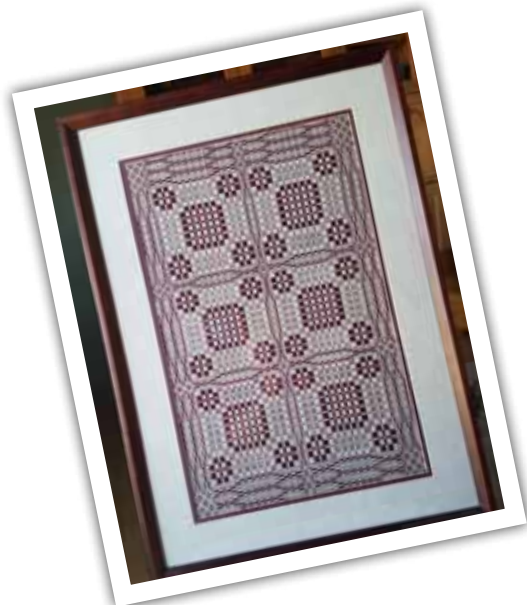


of Western Weavers, a prolific complex weaving guild with members from both Montana and Wyoming. Lynn reported that at age 76, Vernice continued to weave enthusiastically keeping three looms dressed and humming at all times.

Vernice's greatest gift was her enthusiasm for the arts of handweaving

and handspinning. She tirelessly promoted the craft of weaving touching many lives and inspiring many during her lifetime. Vernice helped and encouraged both novice weavers as well as seasoned veterans. She always made suggestions for new guild programs and projects, purchased articles and information for the guild library, and motivated others to learn. She also actively demonstrated at community events.

In sincere gratitude, the MAWS board and members wish to recognize Vernice for her lifelong contribution to the fiber arts and thank Roxanne Zahllers for making the donation from the sale of Vernice's weaving estate. The scholarships will be awarded at the 2018 MAWS conference.





# Happenings at Raven Ridge Fiber Arts

## The Montana Artrepreneur Program

When I am not dyeing yarn, you might find me teaching in the Montana Artrepreneur Program. Our goal is to provide artists with the skills and tools they need to develop a sustainable art business. Every November, we have a beautiful show of art created by the artists who have completed the program. I will have a few pieces in our Coaches' Booth, and there are several other fiber artists who will be there as well. I hope you can come to see the show - I know you will be glad you did!

"Celebrate Montana Art/Artists' Showcase and Sale / 2017  
 Nov 10/ 4 am-8 pm & Nov 11: 10 am-5 pm  
 Radisson Colonial Hotel, 2301 Colonial Drive, Helena, MT"

JEWELERS | PAINTERS | POTTERS | SCULPTORS | FIBER ARTISTS | PHOTOGRAPHERS



CELEBRATE MONTANA ART / ARTISTS' SHOWCASE & SALE / 2017  
 NOVEMBER 10 / 4:00-8:00 P.M. & NOVEMBER 11 / 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. / RADISSON COLONIAL HOTEL / 2301 COLONIAL DR., HELENA



knit girl in idaho

(Photo courtesy Reni.)

Reni (reni-knits on Ravelry) knit this gorgeous **Metallurgy Shawl** using my Wolf Lichen colorway in my Alight fingering weight yarn. Reni says, "The wingspan is approx 50 inches and the depth is 10.5 inches".

This shawl highlights my soon to be retired Wolf Lichen colorway (pictured above).

Beautifully knit, Reni!



What a lovely shawl Linda Shelhamer knit! Her shawl beautifully shows off my Thistle colorway, doesn't it? Linda knit it in my Lambent yarn (50% Merino, 50% Silk), using two skeins of yarn. I love the sweetness of this photo! The pattern is **Midnight in Paris** and is available on Ravelry.

(Photo used with the kind permission of Linda Shelhamer.)

## My Newest Colorway: Opera House

This deep teal colorway was inspired by the fading paint on the old Opera House door in the small town of Phillipsburg, MT. This colorway honors Montana's man-made landscapes.

This new colorway is available in all my yarn and fiber bases. You can find it [here](#) in my Etsy shop.



## Adult Art Education Sign-up Form

Sign up for:	Date	Member	Non-member
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pumpkin Carving</b> Jason Jam	Oct. 21	\$35	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Temari Balls</b> Pamela Gustafson	Nov. 18	\$60	\$67
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Mask-Making</b> Glenda Brauneis	Jan. 20	\$60	\$67
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chalk Pastels Painting</b> Mike Caskey	Feb. 24	\$60	\$67
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Amigurumi</b> Wendy Jam	Mar. 17	\$60	\$67
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Watercolor</b> Carol Welch	Apr. 28	\$60	\$67
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Graphite Drawing</b> Lynn Thorpe	May 19	\$60	\$67

Class fee includes admission to the YAM Total: \_\_\_\_\_

All classes require a minimum enrollment of six students. If a class does not reach the minimum enrollment, it will be cancelled two weeks prior to class date. Your enrollment cost will be refunded fully. **After registering, if you cannot attend a class, you must cancel a full two weeks before the class, or your money cannot be refunded.**

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment

Check  Cash  Visa  MC  AmEx  Discover

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

CW \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you are interested in earning Certificate of Montana OPI (Office of Public Instruction) renewal units. YES NO

Mail to: Yellowstone Art Museum  
401 North 27th Street  
Billings, MT 59101

# Amigurumi crochet Class Offered at Yellowstone Art Museum

## AMIGURUMI Wendy Jam

Saturday, March 17, 2018  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

YAM Education Studio  
Class size: 10 students

**\$60** **\$67**  
members non-members



Learn how to create an adorable small doll (Amigurumi) using crochet techniques. Each student will choose from many features to create a unique creature of their own. Previous crochet experience is helpful, but not required.

Wendy Jam has been knitting and crocheting for over 20 years and has been creating Amigurumi since she first learned about them 11 years ago. Wendy has taught knitting and crochet to adults and children since 2005.

Students should bring one skein of worsted weight yarn in a light color of their choice and a crochet hook US size E (4). These can be purchased at Jo Ann's, Hobby Lobby, Michael's, Off the Needle, or Yarn Bar. Please avoid black or dark colored yarns. The instructor will provide all other supplies.

Sign up  
with the form



406-256-6804  
adulted@artmuseum.org



yellowstoneartmuseum  
401 North 27th Street • Billings, MT 59101

# Little Pumpkin

FREE CROCHET PATTERN

[www.petalstopicots.com](http://www.petalstopicots.com)



## Here's what you need:

- Orange and brown worsted weight cotton yarn
- G hook / 4 mm
- tapestry needle
- fiberfill stuffing or yarn scraps

Finished pumpkin measures approx 2½ in. high and 10½ in. in circumference.

## Pumpkin

Using orange, create a **magic ring** (as an alternative to the magic ring, you can ch 4 and join with a slip stitch in furthest chain from hook to form a ring).

**Round 1:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), 6 sc in ring, join — 6 sts.

**Round 2:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), work 2 sc in same st as join and in each st around, join — 12 sts.

**Round 3:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), work 2 sc in same st as join, 1 sc in next, \*2 sc in next, 1 sc in next, rep from \* around, join — 18 sts.

**Round 4:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), work 2 sc in same st as join, 1 sc in each of the next 2 sts, \*2 sc in next, 1 sc in each of the next 2 sts, rep from \* around, join — 24 sts.

**Round 5:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), work 2 sc in same st as join, 1 sc in each of the next 3 sts, \*2 sc in next, 1 sc in each of the next 3 sts, rep from \* around, join — 30 sts.

**Round 6:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), work 2 sc in same st as join, 1 sc in each of the next 4 sts, \*2 sc in next, 1 sc in each of the next 4 sts, rep from \* around, join — 36 sts.

**Rounds 7 through 11:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), work 1 sc in same st as join and in each st around, join — 36 sts.

**Round 12:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), starting in same st as join sc2tog, 1 sc in each of the next 4 sts, \* sc2tog, 1 sc in each of the next 4 sts, rep from \* around, join — 30 sts.

**Round 13:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), starting in same st as join sc2tog, 1 sc in each of the next 3 sts, \* sc2tog, 1 sc in each of the next 3 sts, rep from \* around, join — 24 sts.

**Round 14:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), starting in same st as join sc2tog, 1 sc in each of the next 2 sts, \* sc2tog, 1 sc in each of the next 2 sts, rep from \* around, join — 18 sts.

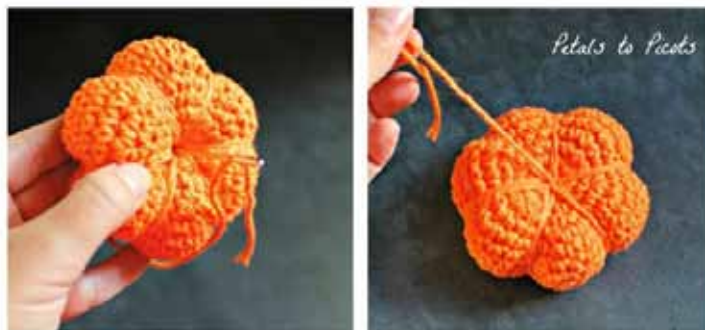
**Round 15:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), starting in same st as join sc2tog, 1 sc in next st, \* sc2tog, 1 sc in next st, rep from \* around, join — 12 sts.

**Round 16:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), starting in same st as join sc2tog around, join — 6 sts.

**\*\*Stuff pumpkin with fiberfill stuffing or yarn scraps.\*\***

**Round 17:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), starting in same st as join sc2tog around, join — 3 sts.  
Fasten off leaving a tail of about 48 in.

To create a pumpkin shape, use a tapestry needle to pull the tail through the center of the pumpkin, wrap the yarn around the side, and pull back through the center. Give a gentle tug to make a slight indent. Repeat this five more times to create evenly spaced indents around the pumpkin. If desired, you can go around again, working over the same yarn indents until you get the result you want.



## Stem

Using brown, create a magic ring.

**Round 1:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), 6 sc in ring — 6 sts.

**Round 2:** 1 sc in first st and each st around — 6 sts.

**Round 3:** 1 sc in first st and next 4 sts, Sl st in last — 6 sts.

Fasten off leaving a long enough tail to sew stem to pumpkin. Sew stem onto pumpkin.

# News from our Guilds

**Missoula Weavers Guild**  
 Submitted by  
 Dona Fisher



Connie Bauer with her "Best of Show" prize winning sampler. It's a rolanan tapestry sampler from the class Barbara Hand taught this spring using churro wool from New Mexico. She won Best of Show in the Natural Fibers Department at the Western Montana Fair!!

Barbara was very proud of Connie's work, but she is looking for completed samplers from the other students. We all look forward to seeing them at upcoming meetings.



Suri Alpaca yarn spun by Molly McKinnon that she brought to Bonnie.

Bonnie also shared the yarn that had been dyed at a previous workshop. See

the next page for pictures and description.



Terri Schaub showed 2 Friendship towels made from a Handwoven magazine pattern 1985 issue. She used 8/2 cotton at 20 epi. The yellow-green towel is finished with a Swedish edge, cotton fabric encasing the edges.



Posey Nickens showed a corduroy rag rug that she completed. The pattern was a "planned" hit and miss pattern.

What is Fibershed: "Missoula Fibershed focuses on the 120 mile radius around Missoula, Montana. It is a community resource for fiber producers, makers and consumers in Northwestern Montana region. We strive to connect everyone involved in the production of Montana-made fiber and fiber-based goods." [www.Fibershedmissoula.org](http://www.Fibershedmissoula.org)



Heather Torgenrud showed off the inkle band that she made during the meeting and used for a leash for her lovely dog Tristan.



Vanetta Burton showed her completed rolanan tapestry sampler from Barbara's workshop last May. The fiber is churro wool.



Edie Schilz displayed her bright dish towels done in plain weave from commercial cotton.



Beautiful Color Gamps were shared as part of the Color in Weaving discussion. In the front from left to right: Leslie Taylor, Heather Torgenrud, Barbara Hand. In the back; Peggy Schlesinger holding one of Jenne's napkins, Terri Schaub hiding behind her gamp, Jenne Pugh with a napkin.

What is a woven gamp? A gamp is a systematic arrangement of warp threadings or warp color sequences in section of equal size, each section being a minimum of two inches and not more than six, and woven as drawn in. Thank you, Harriet Tidball of Handwoven Magazine!

Fiber Finesse Art Show - Posey Nickens' colorful corduroy rugs were in the show.



Molly McKinnon had her alpaca rugs and scarves on display.

Back in January at the in-house mini workshops, Bonnie Tarses guided 8 stalwart guild members in preparing yarn for Turned Weft Ikat. The preparation involved dividing up the silk yarn into 2 oz. skeins and then wrapping sections of the skeins with raffia and/or plastic bags cut into strips. The next step was to wait until the weather got warm enough to set up an outdoor dye pot. Half the group was able to make it

to Janet Sullivan's home for a dyeing adventure. Everyone had great fun!

Bonnie wound the yarn and as soon as each student can schedule a time, she will walk them through the process of winding the warp. Each skein will yield approximately 2" of 12 epi of a 4 yard warp. The ultimate outcome is a shawl about 30" wide x 96" long.



# Knitter's Slang

<b>Cake</b>	Yarn wound into a cylindrical shape
<b>DPN</b>	Double Pointed Needles
<b>DS:</b>	Destash (sell or trade unwanted yarn)
<b>EOR:</b>	End Of Row or Every Other Row
<b>FLASHING:</b>	Similar to pooling below, but more linear
<b>FO:</b>	Finished Object
<b>frog:</b>	(for the sound "rip it, rip it") undoing all your hard work
<b>frog pond:</b>	Storage place for knitted items waiting to be frogged
<b>FSOT:</b>	For Sale or Trade
<b>Gifted:</b>	The act of giving yarn/items to another for free
<b>ISO:</b>	In Search Of
<b>KAL:</b>	Knit ALong
<b>KIP:</b>	Knit In Public
<b>LYS:</b>	Local Yarn Store
<b>muggle:</b>	Non-knitter
<b>OTN:</b>	On The Needles
<b>PIF:</b>	Pay It Forward
<b>Pooling:</b>	When one color in a variegated yarn bunches together
<b>Puddling:</b>	Similar to pooling, but more like a blotch.
<b>RAK:</b>	Random Act of Kindness, a small gift to a fellow knitter
<b>SABLE:</b>	Stash Acquisition Beyond Life Expectancy
<b>SEX:</b>	Stash Enhancement eXperience, aka buying yarn
<b>Tink:</b>	Tink is knit spelled backwards. To undo knit stitches.
<b>TOAD:</b>	Trashed Object Abandoned in Disgust
<b>UFO:</b>	UnFinished Object (an abandoned or neglected WIP)
<b>Vanilla:</b>	An easy, plain pattern.
<b>WIP:</b>	Work In Progress
<b>yarn barf:</b>	Big lump of yarn that comes out of a new ball of yarn
<b>Yarnie:</b>	Lover of all that is the glorious world of yarn

# Found on Facebook

*These photos were collected from Facebook. To submit your own creation or fiber news for MAWS newsletter publication please email it to [traceyhensen@gmail.com](mailto:traceyhensen@gmail.com).*



**Tracey Hensen** tried her hand at intarsia knitting for her new nephew.



**Tammy Jordan** from Goldieknots Montana of Laurel talks with **Kim Lundvall** of Cody, Wyoming, as she spins wool at the **Prairie Handspinners Fiber Fest** at the Shrine Auditorium on Saturday.

Photo by Casey Page



**Barb Pearson** from Weaving Side by Side of Powell, Wyoming, weaves a scarf on a loom at the **Prairie Handspinners Fiber Fest** at the Shrine Auditorium on Saturday.



Photo by Casey Page



**From Edie Schilz: The 3 rugs are done!**

## Upcoming Events

**July 6-12, 2018** - Convergence 2018, Handweavers Guild of America, Peppermill Resort & Spa, Reno, NV Embraces all fiber arts. HGA's website for more details, [www.weavespindye.org](http://www.weavespindye.org).

**June 12-17, 2018** - MAWS 2018! Yellowstone Conference Center at Big Sky

**September 19-23, 2018** - Textile Society of America 2018 Symposium, <https://textilesocietyofameri->

[ca.org/](http://ca.org/) "The Social Fabric: Deep Local to Pan Global" - Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre: 1088 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC V6Z 2R9, (604) 331-1000 / [sheratonvancouver.com](http://sheratonvancouver.com)

**June 11-16, 2019** - ANWG Conference in Prince George, BC More info in newsletter. Email [pgfi-brearts@gmail.com](mailto:pgfi-brearts@gmail.com) to get onto the email list for Conference updates.



**Bonnie Tarses, 75, sits behind one of her looms in her University District home studio on Thursday afternoon. Tarses' most recent works, "The Eight Pillars of Joy," were on display at the Artists' Shop in May.**

Photos by Tommy Martino, Missoulian

# Missoula weaver embeds spiritual, personal messages into her work

CORY WALSH [cory.walsh@missoulian.com](mailto:cory.walsh@missoulian.com)

As a weaver, Bonnie Tarses has noticed how her art form is used as a metaphor for coming together.

"It's what community is," she said. "It's a ubiquitous word. It's used as a metaphor for bringing together disparate elements and making something that's a synergy, that whole concept is beautiful. That's what it's all about."

Tarses, 75, weaves on looms at her home studio here in Missoula, keenly aware that around the world people weave not for pleasure but for food. And so she tries to use her skills to reach out to her own community.

Tarses' latest works, "The Eight Pillars of Joy," were inspired by a book by the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in which their concepts are literally woven into the design.

She's always been inspired by textiles from cultures around the world, especially ones that "use cloth and thread to convey messages, especially in cultures where there isn't a written alphabet."

She began using "color horoscope" weavings in the 1970s, in which she takes a person's horoscope and translates it into color by superimposing a color wheel over the horoscope. It wasn't a far stretch to adapt the alphabet using a similar system: She assigns a color and number to each letter of the alphabet (A equals 1, Z equals 26) and then "spells" a word in tints and shades.

For her latest works, the eight pillars are divided into two categories. The pillars of the mind are perspective, humility, humor and acceptance. The pillars of the heart are forgiveness, gratitude, compassion and generosity. Tarses wove one scarf for each, embedding the message into the color scheme.



**Tarses shows one of her handwoven blankets.**

The material, too, holds meaning. As someone who makes clothing with her hands, Tarses is keenly aware that most people don't think about how — or where — their clothes are made.

So she made her pillars with recycled cashmere. She developed the idea in the last five years of her mother's life, when her mom couldn't knit anymore. Tarses wanted to find her a yarn-related activity as a substitute.

"I started to collect old cashmere sweaters. I would take them apart and she would wind them into balls," leaving Tarses a stock of cashmere to weave with. Her nickname for it is "outstanding moral fiber."

"Somehow by putting eight hours of time into taking apart a sweater, I felt like I was undoing some of the karma that goes along with ruining the cashmere industry" in Asia, where low-cost sweaters are churned out in poor working conditions.

Elsewhere in her "Eight Pillars" exhibition at the Artists' Shop, Tarses shares works with her own color horoscope,

some in handsome wall installations. A particularly stunning piece, "Gathering Over Time," features 50 different samples of color horoscope commissions from 20 years, arranged in a row of 12 narrow scarf-like forms, measuring 31 inches wide 72 inches long.

Two framed pieces show off her interest in a Guatemalan pattern called ikat, involving tie-dyed yarn. "Siobhan's Mandalas," two framed pieces with rectangular designs, have the look of geometric abstraction art.

Tarses grew up on the East Coast. For college, she enrolled in the Rhode Island School of Design to study clothing design. During her freshman year, she was on her way to have lunch and took a wrong turn into a studio filled with looms. She was so struck by the sight that she went and changed her major, without having tried her hand at weaving once in her life.

"When I was 19 years old, as many people spend their whole lives looking for what they want to do, I said I know what I want to do. I want to be a weaver," she said.

Tarses, who gives workshops around the U.S. and Canada and teaches privately, is on her third stint living in Missoula. She first moved here in 1966 to put her then-husband through graduate school. After a few years back East, she returned and spent most the 1970s here before moving to Seattle in 1980. It was 30 years later when western Montana beckoned once more.

A friend in Polson told her about the Garden of a Thousand Buddhas, a spiritual center on the Flathead Indian Reservation. There were plans to have the Dalai Lama himself come to consecrate it, and Tarses wove his horoscope in a piece to be auctioned off as a fundraiser.

She returned to Montana in 2010, and soon was under way with another community project at the Hangin' Art Gallery in Arlee. She set up a loom for a month, where 78 different people contributed to the weaving of peace banners. The Jeannette Rankin Peace Center here in Missoula invited her to do a similar project.

Origami cranes emerged as another community art project. She originally began folding and hanging them on her porch to keep pigeons away. A friend introduced her to the Japanese concept of Senbazuru, a thousand folded cranes hung on string that permit the maker to wish for a friend.

"At the time, I had a friend who was quite ill, and I decided I would fold a thousand cranes for her with the wish that she would not suffer," she said.

That led to a crane-folding project in 2015 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing, which in turn led to a regular Wednesday folding group. They've made cranes for the Har Shalom Synagogue after the distribution of anti-Semitic pamphlets in the weeks after the presidential election; and another in which they folded cranes and solicited donations for the Standing Rock protesters.

She's considering her next community-minded weaving project.

Her work is still greeted by some with a sense of surprise. No one spends too much time thinking about how clothes were once made. In some sense, she said, it's anachronistic.

Some weavers use computers to program their patterns, but she does hers by hand, falling into its particular rhythm.

"I believe that weaving is a very spiritual practice," she said.

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# The Living Treasure Award

## A Tribute to Outstanding Fiber Artists Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners

The Montana Association of Weaver and Spinners' (MAWS) Living Treasure Award is designed to recognize and honor MAWS members who have made outstanding contributions in the field of fiber arts. The award is bestowed biennially on a fiber artist who has demonstrated excellence in craftsmanship, provided leadership or has been a source of inspiration and encouragement to others, or who has contributed to the betterment and development of the fiber arts at the local, state, regional or national level. It is these Montana "treasures" to whom we wish to pay tribute.

The Living Treasure Award recipient is selected solely by the Living Treasure Committee which consists of MAWS board members.

### Rules for Nomination

1. Any current MAWS member is eligible for nomination.
2. Nominees must be nominated by current MAWS members.
3. The MAWS Living Treasure committee must receive at least **two separate nomination submissions or one comprehensive submission signed by two nominators** for a nominee to be considered.
4. Each nomination must include a detailed resume of the nominee's accomplishments and contributions to the field of fiber arts. Guidelines for submission follow.
5. Nominations must be received by **March 15th** of a MAWS conference year.
6. Announcement of the award winner will be presented at the MAWS biennial conference.
7. Each honoree's name will be added to the MAWS Living Treasure Award plaque. Honorees will also be recognized on the MAWS website Living Treasure page.

The completed nomination form must be submitted to the MAWS Living Treasure Committee chairman at the following address (hard copy), or digitally via email to:

Melody Murter, 845 Lewis Ave. Billings, 59101, or melmurter@gmail.com.

8. If you have questions, please contact: Melody Murter, 406-655-5867.
9. All decisions made by the MAWS Living Treasure committee are final.

# The Living Treasure Award

**I and/or We hereby nominate:**

---

**To receive the MAWS Living Treasure Award, for outstanding contributions in the field of fiber arts in Montana. The following information is provided for consideration by the MAWS Living Treasure committee.**

**Respectfully submitted by:**

---

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Guidelines for Nomination

Please attach additional pages as needed.

- 1.** Please describe why you believe the nominee is worthy of statewide recognition by the fiber arts community. How does the nominee particularly excel? Especially note intangible values the nominee embodies that enhance the Montana fiber arts community.
- 2.** Describe the nominee's body of fiber work including evidence of outstanding productivity, creativity, craftsmanship, artistry, or diversity. Include pertinent history or educational development, if applicable.
- 3.** List activities which demonstrate that the nominee has been dedicated to sharing knowledge and skills with others, or has provided inspiration or service to the fiber arts community. Include teaching, lecturing, gallery exhibitions, businesses, blogs or websites, etc., that apply.

- 4.** Describe leadership activities at the local, state, regional or national level such as board positions, guild offices, etc.
  
- 5.** How has the nominee already been recognized and honored by the fiber arts community? Include specific awards, publication, and other recognition worthy of note.
  
- 6.** Is there any other pertinent information regarding the nominee that you believe the committee would benefit from knowing? Photos may be included.



**Dues policy for MAWS**

Guilds are encouraged to have the date their dues are due be October 1st so that MAWS dues could then be sent to Linda by November 1st. Thank you for your consideration.

**Order of  
Rotation  
for MAWS  
Conferences:**

**Bozeman - 2018  
Helena  
Billings  
Missoula  
Great Falls  
Alpine**

Note: You can place quarter page paid ads for \$15 an issue.

Our newsletter reaches over 300 fiber artists. Contact Tracey Hensen: [traceyhensen@gmail.com](mailto:traceyhensen@gmail.com).

Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners (MAWS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Membership runs from November 1st through December 31st. Annual dues are \$10 and include a newsletter subscription. To join MAWS, send dues to: **Linda Shelhamer**, 446 Tabriz Drive, Billings, MT 59105. She can be reached at 406-259-9160 or by emailing [shara@bresnan.net](mailto:shara@bresnan.net). Donations to help offset expenses are gladly accepted and can be mailed to Linda.

Next Newsletter deadline is January 1, 2018.

Email articles to Tracey Hensen at [traceyhensen@gmail.com](mailto:traceyhensen@gmail.com)  
Or snail mail: 225 Quarter Horse Drive, Garrison, MT 59731  
Phone: 406-366-3738

