



MAWS

Head to the
MAWS website for
conference info!

Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners

Spring, 2018

MAWS President's Message

Happy Spring, Fiberistas!

Ahhhhh, breathe, spring finally did come to Central Montana as evidenced today by my lilac bush's swelling leaf buds. I did, though, quite happily weave my way through storm after storm this spring! I hope all of you were also able to enjoy the winter/spring surrounded by gorgeous threads, engaged in interesting fiber projects, or just dreaming of your next project from the couch!

Your MAWS board of directors met at Big Sky in April for a tour of the facility for our upcoming conference, **The Sky's the Limit**. We toured for nearly an hour, visiting the newly remodeled amphitheater, roomy class, board and exhibit rooms, the large-windowed dining room that looks out on Lone Mountain, and several guest rooms. There will be a huge tent set up outside to house the dye workshops, too. Plus, Big Sky employees will help us unload and transport ALL our stuff (how many looms and spinning wheels?) when we arrive and depart.

In addition to the diverse fun and educational pre-conference and conference classes offered at this 2018 MAWS gathering, these special fiber-related conference happenings are planned. Jane Patrick, who has been a key figure in the national fiber scene for many years, will discuss and share her wisdom related to the business of fiber at **Business Over Breakfast**. Doris Florig, a most adventurous fiberista (the internet connection on her sail boat slowed conference communications a bit!) will deliver the keynote, **Weaving an Adventure**. And don't miss the panel discussion in the amphitheater when our three teachers Jason Collingwood, Linda Hartshorn and Jane Patrick offer their **Top 10 Fiber Tips**. I figure that adds up to 30 jewels of wisdom from the stars!

In addition, Saturday, June 16 will be **Community Day** at the Sky's the Limit with the public welcome to come and shop in the vendor hall, view the open show, take in **Fiber**

Art Demonstrations in the Sunken Lobby and enjoy the sights at Big Sky.

The Billings Guild is planning a very special fashion show, **True Colors of the Big Sky**, in anticipation of those special wearables that you have created during the last two years. Set your sights on a walk down the runway! The fashion show application deadline is June 5; you can easily access the application form link on MAWS' home page, www.montanaweavespin.org.

The Helena Guild is sponsoring this conference's open show, **Reach for the Stars**. Remember that this show is open to *all MAWS members* so you may enter even if you are not in attendance at the conference. Again, you will find the application link online. Fiber rocks in our lives, right? So let's show it off!

At MAWS' conferences, I particularly look forward to giving special recognition to our past **Living Treasures**, the talented and generous mentors and teachers whom we have loved and honored practically from MAWS' inception. Who will walk to the podium at Big Sky to receive that honor in 2018? I can't wait to find out.

Big hugs go out from me to our conference committee, guilds and the many others who have generously donated their time and creative energy for the past two years to make **The Sky's the Limit, 2018** a reality. I look forward to giving those hugs in person. In the meantime, I...

Weave on,

Susan Lohmuller
MAWS President

"When we engage in fiber arts we are creating something, but we are also participating in historic traditions tens of thousands of years old. We are not only making art for our soul, and for future generations, but we are embodying the work of our ancestors." --the woven road

Visit www.montanaweavespin.org

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Classified Ads

**FOR
SALE!**

FOR SALE: Loom for Sale: Kessenich 4-shaft loom. 58" wide by 45" deep x 49" H when open. Folds up to 24" deep x 50" H for storage. This is my first loom and it served me well for many years, but when I got my Glimarkra, the studio became too crowded to have both set up at the same time. The Kessenich has been very sad and needs a home where it will be used. It's a great, sturdy loom (excellent for rugs/rep weave). Comes with bench, 12 dent reed, 100 extra flat steel heddles. \$700.00 to a good home. Must be picked up in Victor, MT. Call Deb Essen (406-642-6424) or email me at eccmontana@hotmail.com if you are interested or have questions.



Classified ads are free to MAWS members. Send your ads to traceyhensen@gmail.com by July 15th for inclusion in the next newsletter.

“The Sky’s the Limit” in Big Sky, MT

June 12 – 17, 2018

Greetings friends!

With the recent bit of warmth and sunshine that has arrived in the Bozeman area, I find myself dreaming of June in Big Sky. Can you just imagine those mountain peaks against the backdrop of glorious skies and, at their base, an emerald carpet of meadows with wildflowers just coming into bloom? I’m quite convinced that June is the best month and this year even more so, as we gather again to learn, share, greet old friends and make new ones at the 2018 MAWS conference! The Bozeman Weavers Guild is very much looking forward to seeing you there.

Until then: a few conference reminders:

All conference information is collected in our Registration Program in pdf (printable) form. Browse through the conference events, timeline, class schedule, instructor bios and lots of other useful information in one handy document.

Arriving at Big Sky Resort: As you arrive at the Huntley Lodge/Yellowstone Conference Center, pull up in the oval for ease of unloading. You may leave your car in the oval while you get your things to your hotel room, then park your car yourself, or use the help of the nice young people at the door to unload and valet park your car. Tips will be appreciated!

Conference check-in will be in the Firehole Lounge, just off the main lobby. Pick up your conference bag with your name tag, schedules, maps, etc., and your Sky’s the Limit water bottle. Drop off your **exchange item**, either the tea towel or handspun skein, and check in your **open show** items.

Open Show reminder: Please submit your Open Show entry form in advance, if possible. You do not need to send your item ahead of time, but receiving the form in advance will help with our display planning. **All MAWS members are welcome to enter the Open Show**, whether attending the conference or not. If you are unable to attend in person, please send your item with a friend, or mail it to Milly Dover (address on entry form) by June 5. Please make arrangements for pick-up of your item on Sunday, June 17, between 8:30 and 10:00 a.m..



**From the simply yummy to the mind-bogglingly complex,
we want to see what you have made!!!**

Fashion Show reminder: The Fashion Show committee is planning a special event for us! They have requested a deadline of June 5 to receive your Fashion Show entry form to aid in their planning. Bring your garment with you to the conference – we can't wait to see it!

“**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 on the next page, and will also be available on the MAWS 2018 section of the 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.

One-Day Registration is opening May 1. You may have friends unable to attend the whole conference, but wanting to come up to Big Sky and enjoy a day of learning with us! On May 1st, we will be opening registration for classes not yet full to anyone desiring a one day, or half-day class on Friday or Saturday. The evening meal & event will be available to these guests for \$25 each. This is a great opportunity for people wanting to dip a toe into the fiber arts, and for the MAWS organization to fulfill its community outreach and education missions. We welcome all day-participants to our conference.

Keep up with **all the latest conference news** on our website, bozemanweaversguild.org/maws-2018/ and on our conference Facebook page: facebook.com/MAWS2018

See you in June!

Barb French
2018 MAWS Conference Pres.

Please contact the open show committee to preregister your open show items! The form is on page 6 and on the conference website. The committee wants to make sure they bring enough set up and display equipment for your lovely items!

“**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

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!

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.

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 at joyful54@gmail.com 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.



REACH FOR THE STARS!!!

Plan now to enter one or more of the show's 9 categories! Conference registrants may enter up to three items. Pieces must be turned in at the Registration desk by 4:00pm Thursday, June 14th. Five Grand Awards; HGA, Peoples Choice, Best of Show, Judges Choice and Chairperson's Choice will be given, as well as a 1st and 2nd in each category.

Clothing: Garments, accessories: handwoven, knitted, or crocheted

Handwoven yardage: at least 4 yards and 20 inches wide

Household items: Handwoven, knitted or crocheted

Tapestries, rugs, horse blankets

Handspun yarn: Skein not to exceed 250 yards

Handspun finished items: Item should be greater than 75% hand spun

Baskets: All variations

Felted items: Wet, nuno or needle felted

Square peg creations: any original piece that just doesn't fit a category



MAWS Open Show Entry Form

Please include description, size and category of your entries. You may print and send in the mail or provide the information by email. **Please** tell us what you plan to exhibit so we can plan space for the show. Items that have not been "pre-registered" will still be accepted. This completed form must also be attached to each submission when delivered for exhibition. Let creativity flow and Reach for the Stars!!

Please fill out one entry form per submission

Category:

Description:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

.....
Questions? Contact Milly Dover 58 Homestead Estates Clancy, MT 59634 406-449-7910

Or Email Contact: Annette.cade@yahoo.com

A little conference sneak peek...

Written by Mary Bartlo for
the ANWG newsletter

Intro to Fiberworks -- Computer Design for Weavers

Fiberworks is a weaving design software program that is user-friendly and offers great flexibility to create drafts, adjust colors, alter thread thickness and do just about anything else that a weaver needs to create the dream design for his/her project.



On Saturday morning, March 3, twenty BWG members attended Pam Refling's Intro to Fiberworks/Computer Design 'trial run' class. Everyone came with their laptops, pens, notepads and an eagerness to learn about the Fiberworks program. Under Pam's direction, attendees learned how to choose drawing modes to create a design and the associated threading, tie-up and treadling drafts. It was amazing to see the draft warp and weft take shape and then come alive with the addition of color. And it was fun to see how an initial design can then be transformed with color gradients and the multitude of other tools available in the program.

Everyone agreed that Fiberworks is an invaluable tool package for creative weavers who want to pursue their own designs. Interested? Pam will be teaching this class as part of the main MAWS conference offerings. There is still time to sign up!

In addition to a wonderful selection of classes, there will be a variety of events. The last newsletter included information on "**Reach for the Stars: Fiber Artistry in the Big Sky**" (The 2018 MAWS Open show hosted by the Helena Weavers and Spinners Guild), the "**True Colors of the Big Sky**" **Fashion Show** (hosted by the Billings Weavers and Spinners) and the **Conference Exchange Items** (trade handwoven tea towels and handspun skeins). In this edition we'd like to acquaint you with other exciting conference events:

Big Sky Barbeque: Meet the Instructors - The main conference will kick off with a special dinner in the Huntley Dining Room. Meet and mingle, get to know our instructors and look for our MAWS Living Treasures, those wonderful fiber artists who have given so much of themselves to their own guilds and the MAWS organization.

Business Over Breakfast with Jane Patrick - All main conference registrants may attend this special session with Jane Patrick, co-owner of Schacht Spindle Co. If you are interested in the business of fiber, you won't want to miss this opportunity to chat with Jane.

Top Ten Fiber Tips with Collingwood, Hartshorn, and Patrick - Three of our nationally and internationally known conference leaders will share their best tips covering their wide range of practice. Open to all conference registrants.

Keynote Address: "Weaving an Adventure" - Doris Florig, a self-described "Nomadic Contemporary Weaver," has been chosen to give the keynote address on Friday evening, June 15, at the 2018 MAWS Conference. Doris exemplifies the conference theme of "The Sky's the Limit!" with her adventurous spirit and amazing variety of fiber interests and expertise. Doris has been weaving, teaching, writing and exhibiting her work since the 1970's. We are delighted to welcome her to MAWS 2018.

GETTING ENOUGH FIBER?

by Amy Grisak

From the *Yellowstone Valley Woman/Raised in the West Magazine*



IT'S WOVEN DEEP INTO MONTANA'S AGRICULTURE

If you look at the Montana landscape, you'll see fluffy animals grazing on pastures far and wide. Many of these creatures are being raised for meat, but ranchers are also supplying an indispensable product to fiber artists worldwide. Fiber — of all varieties — is woven deeply into Montana's history.



"It's hugely popular. It's like a sub-culture," says Randy Glick, a Great Falls' fiber artist inducted into the Montana Circle of American Masters in the Visual Folk and Traditional Arts. He's been working with fiber for decades. He credits this welcoming community, whose members are more than happy to share how to spin yarn, weave and felt. "I think the appeal is because it is quintessentially Montana," Glick says. "We have a ready supply of every wool available."

From Soay sheep, one of the first domesticated breeds that shed their fleece instead of requiring shearing, to hybrids bred to meet the demands of today, sheep have shaped Montana agriculture. Glick points out that Paris Gibson, the founder of Great Falls, came out to Montana to raise sheep, not to create a town. When Gibson and his family migrated to Montana from Minneapolis in 1879, they raised sheep near Fort Benton, and in 1883 he was elected president of Montana Wool Growers Association, a position he held for over 20 years.

While sheep have proved to be an excellent range management tool, Glick says more producers are trying to find the balance between meat sheep and fiber animals. "We have meat sheep (such as Suffolk) and they still need to be shorn," he says, but it's nearly impossible for the producer to earn enough money from the small fleece to pay for the shearing. When you have a fiber sheep that also works for meat, you have the best of both worlds in value-added agriculture.

Glick uses the wool from Targhee sheep raised along the Smith River to produce his yarns. "Targhee were developed for their fine wool and good meat," he says. "Then, it's cost-effective." Targhee are also known for the softness of their fleece, measured in microns. "If you want it against your skin, you want a micron less than 30," Glick says, and Targhee typically are in the 22-24 micron range.

Glick purchases all the fleece from the ranch, providing a ready market for the producer since Glick doesn't require the cream of the crop like many other fiber artists. Plus, he's able to pay the sheep rancher considerably more per pound than she would receive at the wool pool, where a bulk fleece is sold.

While there are smaller processing mills within Montana, Glick sends his fleece to Mountain Meadow Wool Mill in Buffalo, Wyoming, where they wash, cord and comb the fleece. For every 10 pounds, he expects to receive approximately 4-5 pounds in return after the grease, ruined fiber and vegetable matter are removed.



After he works his magic spinning, he can sell the naturally colored wool or dye it to fit his various color wheels. He can also custom dye for fellow spinners at the Yarn Bar in Billings and the Fibre House in Great Falls, as well as shows throughout the region. He also makes wool dishrags from the Targhee wool since odoriferous bacteria doesn't tend to grow on wool as it does on cotton.

Although wool takes center stage in the fiber world, it's by no means the only player. Glick points out a necessary distinction: "All wool is fiber, but not all fiber is wool. Wool only comes from sheep." Fiber artists will work with everything from cat to musk ox, and some of the popular choices truly have a Montana flair.

"There are a lot of different fiber animals in Montana. The other big one is alpaca. There are a lot of alpaca people in Montana," he says. When buying alpaca fiber, fiber artists will oftentimes purchase the entire fleece. "It's not unheard of to get the animal's name on the fiber you buy." Glick adds, "You see some yak, but not a whole lot." He says bison is also growing in popularity. "They have an undercut that is amazing. It's soft ... and expensive." Bison fleece is hypo-allergenic, water wicking and nearly as soft as cashmere. The only trick here is finding an agreeable bison, willing to let you collect the fiber as it molts. As a result, it's pricey.

But for hardcore fiber artists, price, particularly for special projects, isn't always a deterrent. "I paid \$75 an ounce for qiviut from musk ox," he says. "Some people pay through the nose for fiber and yarn. The vast majority of fiber artists don't do it for the money — it's the passion."

You'll see that passion if you happen to hit up one of the fiber festivals or conferences around the state. There, you'll see the handiwork from fiber artists who have spent countless hours learning, practicing and demonstrating their obsession surrounded by an energetic crowd of enthusiasts.



Susan Lohmuller, president of the Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners, says when it comes to fiber artists, Montana produces the cream of the crop. "There is a lot of local talent. There are top-notch teachers in the state," she says, adding that fiber lovers become completely immersed in the craft because there is always something new. Lohmuller says, "You can never learn everything there is to learn about weaving. It's such a deep subject. Weavers who were mentors to me were still taking classes in their 80s."

Working with fiber resonates deeply with everyone who creates with it. "You connect at a certain level with generations," Lohmuller explains. "Older generations wove for practical reasons, but they were adding beauty to their lives." And Lohmuller can attest firsthand that this beauty is still being woven throughout Montana today.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO LEARN MORE about what's happening in the world of fiber artists, check out the Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners at montanaweavespin.org.



Textural Adventures in Nuno Felt Making with Patti Barker

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, AUGUST 11-12 10 AM - 4 PM

This weekend workshop is designed to give the maker new tools for their fiber art toolbox. Whether you enjoy beading, embroidery, quilting or any other fiber art, this workshop will open a host of new ideas for your surface design work.

Day One - Saturday:

The textural sampler series is an adventure in felt making—from simulated animal skins to roses and ruffles, we will entrap beads, learn mosaics and create raised shapes. Participants will come away with six 10”x10” samplers, with skills and instructions to use in creating unique felted accessories and garments. Material kits include everything you need to create grids, pre-felt shapes/patterns, simulated sheepskin, inclusions & entrapment, roses & ruffles, mosaics & stained glass samplers.



Day Two - Sunday:

The second day provides an opportunity to play and use the skills learned on the first day. This is a great way to begin learning how to create felted wearables. Each maker will come away with a reversible Art Vest of their own design. The kits include everything you'll need - luscious silks, fine merino wool, and a host of embellishments.





WORKSHOP COST: \$175 per person

- \$85.00 to register and reserve your spot
- \$90.00 due on August 1st

MATERIALS FEE: \$100 for two kits for the two days include

- **Adventures in Samplers**, six mini kits with silks, fine merino wool, embellishments & instructions.
- **An Art Vest kit** with two yards of silk, four ounces of fine merino wool, silk fibers and other embellishments, plus instructions. Plenty of color options will be available for selection.

Materials fees are payable to the instructor on the first day of class.



LOCATION: 685 Corral Road Helena, Montana 59602

TO REGISTER: Please contact Susan Engle at sengle685@yahoo.com or 406-439-8106

Patti Barker is an award-winning fiber artist, art show exhibitor and experienced felting teacher based out of Friday Harbor, WA, in the San Juan Islands. Visit her website pattibarker.com for more information.

Interwoven Radiance



Lily Hope, Honoring our Teachers/ Lineage Robe (detail), 2017, thigh-spun merino wool, cedar bark, hand-dyed merino wool, beaver fur, Museum Purchase: Funds provided by bequest of Elizabeth Cole Butler by exchange, © unknown, research required, 2017.51.1

CCNA: Interwoven Radiance
NOV 10, 2017 – JUN 24, 2018

Organized by Tlingit artist and weaver Lily Hope, this upcoming exhibition in the Museum's Center for Contemporary Native Art will celebrate the artistic achievements and vitality of Chilkat and Ravenstail weavers of the Northwest Coast—illuminating the philosophy and ways of life for women weavers.

Placing on view for the first time a traceable lineage of female Chilkat weaver-teachers in the collection of the Portland Art Museum, the exhibition will feature Clarissa Rizal's Resilience Robe, completed in 2014, as well as Lily Hope's Heritage Robe, completed earlier this year. The exhibition will also include a series of Ravenstail robes from Teri Rofkar of Sitka, Alaska, who was a scientist and historian, using all the ancient traditional materials in her masterful works. Finally, the exhibition will feature a robe called Weavers Across the Waters, a community-woven robe including work by more than 40 weavers from the Northwest Coast and into Canada, all of whom contributed an original weaving to the full-size robe.

The cultural practice of Chilkat weaving originated among the Tsimshian, and was retained by traditional Tlingit weavers in the Chilkat Valley of Alaska. Weav-

ing these textiles took months of preparation, including harvesting cedar bark and processing mountain goat hair. The weavers spin earth and animal together by hand for more than six weeks to create the 1,000 yards of warp needed to weave ceremonial robes. Robes are woven on an upright loom, with all tension controlled by the weaver's fingers. Most robes take more than a year to finish. "A woman

who maintains the continuity of weaving values the way of life and what it means to be a true descendant of a Master Chilkat Weaver," said Hope. "We are propelled to engage in a dialogue that re-evaluates a system that

largely overlooks or underappreciates Native women artists of the Northwest Coast."

Native Arts & Cultures Foundation logoSpecial thanks to the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, and the Native American Art Council of the Portland Art Museum for their generous support of this exhibition.

The Center for Contemporary Native Art was established through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and generous gifts from Mr. Mark J. and Dr. Jennifer



Teri Rofkar, DNA Robe, 2014. Photo by Teri Rofkar

Miller, Taffy Gould, Anonymous, and Exhibition Series Funders.
portlandartmuseum.org/exhibitions/ccna-interwoven-radiance

MAWS Board Meeting Minutes

**Submitted by Linda Shelhamer
MAWS meeting April 14, 2018
Huntley Lodge, Big Sky, MT**

Attending: Barb French, Anita Krueger, Linda Shelhamer, Ann Keenan, Terri Schaub, Dawn Ahlert, Sharon Schroeder, Melody Murter, Annette Cade, Joan Goldstein

The meeting was called to order by Susan at 12.15 p.m. Susan introduced Joan Goldstein who has agreed to fill the HGA representative vacancy on the board. Linda agreed to take minutes of the meeting due to Tracey's absence. Those attending showed wonderful felted, woven, knitted items including several items in the MAWS conference yarn dyed by Mountain Colors.

Susan thanked Barb and Anita for arranging the tour of the conference venue, sample hotel rooms, and arranging lunch. Board members expressed their delight with this conference venue and excitement for the upcoming conference.

Minutes

The minutes from October meeting were read and approved.

Susan read the minutes from the email meeting held November 17, 2017.

After the October meeting each board member went back to their guilds with the idea of MAWS sponsoring the ANWG conference in Billings in 2023 in lieu of Billings sponsoring the 2022 conference. During the interim period each guild sent their reaction back to Susan. The guilds voted as follows: In favor Helena, Bozeman, Alpine, Billings Weavers and Prairie Handspinners. Opposed Missoula due to the impact it might have on their planned 2024 conference. Dawn Ahlert moved that MAWS sponsor the ANWG conference in 2023 and Anita Krueger seconded it. The motion carried.

These minutes were approved.

Treasurer Report

Linda provided board with Balance Sheet and Income Statement through April 10, 2018. Linda has submitted the Montana Secretary of State report and is working on 990N form and will submit it to IRS. Linda pointed out that MAWS will have outlays coming up for conference scholarships and Living Treasurer awards.

Web Analytics Report

Sharon provided a detailed analytical report of website activity. She also stated that she has told people either to become MAWS members or pay \$10 to post on MAWS website.

Old Business

ANWG 2023 Susan reported that ANWG board is very excited that MAWS is going to sponsor the 2023 conference. Linda reported on the status of convention centers in Billings. Melody reported that Ruth Terry, the Billings Weavers Guild representative, will be attending the ANWG membership meeting in 2018.

Conference

Barb reported on status of the Sky's the Limit Conference to be held June 12-17 at Big Sky venue. At this date 91 people have signed up for the conference. Although the early registrations have been strong, the conference is still below the break-even point. Barb and Anita presented a de-

tailed break even analysis. Board members reported that this is not unusual with two months to go for registration. Barb reported that no preconference classes were full yet and that there were openings in all but two of the conference classes. The committee is hopeful that classes will continue to fill so that no classes will have to be cancelled. The committee is considering opening up classes to 1 day participants in May to fill more classes and provide the opportunity for more students to attend classes. On Saturday the vendors and shows will be open to the public for no fee.

Scholarship Committee Report

Terri reported that we had only received one scholarship application. Due to this disappointing response, the deadline had been extended to April 14. The board discussed steps to improve scholarship response in the future and will consider funneling some of the unused scholarship to more guild grants for workshops to increase educational opportunities for members.

Living Treasurers Committee Report

Committee chair Melody Murter reported that the committee had received several very good applications and the committee would have a difficult decision. At that point, the board members other than members-at-large withdrew from the meeting. When they returned the Committee announced they had decided on two Living Treasures. They were going to urge the members who had nominated members that had not been selected to renominate these individuals in upcoming years because this had been a very difficult decision due to the number of qualified nominations. The board discussed the budget for Living Treasure gifts.

Nominating Committee Report

Committee chair Dawn reported that all of the current board members except for Terri Schaub had agreed to continue on the board. Terri indicated that Molly McKinnon has agreed to serve as a member-at-large. Susan thanked Terri for her service and thanked the rest of the board for continuing to serve.

New Business:

Guild Grants

Dawn Ahlert presented a request for a \$250 grant for a workshop scheduled May 18-19, 2019, sponsored by the Helena guild. Daryl Lancaster is giving a workshop entitled "Weave A Wardrobe". After moving and seconding, the board voted to approve this grant. Helena must open the workshop to MAWS members and publicize the workshop on the MAWS website and in the MAWS newsletter.

HGA

Joan asked about the HGA representative role. She will contact HGA to make sure they have her down as the state contact.

Upcoming Meetings

The membership meeting is scheduled for June 15 at lunch 12-1 at Huntley Lodge Dining. At this time the elections will take place and the Helena guild will give a presentation about the upcoming conference in Helena in 2020. The next meeting of the new board is scheduled for breakfast Saturday June 16 at the conference in a location at Big Sky to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 4pm.

MAWS Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Linda Shelhamer

IksIncome/Expense Comparison by Category - Last 12 months

4/11/2016 through 4/10/2018 (Cash Basis)

4/10/2018

Page 1

Category	4/11/2016- 4/10/2017	4/11/2017- 4/10/2018
INCOME		
Conference share	3,857	0
Donation	0	750
Dues	2,716	2,820
Misc Income	0	20
SB Dividend	59	116
TOTAL INCOME	6,632	3,706
EXPENSES		
ANWG Dues	35	35
Board		
Board	100	0
travel	139	102
TOTAL Board	239	102
Conference	66	0
Grants Conference	1,000	0
Living Treasure gifts	267	0
Misc Expenses	170	20
Newsletter Expense		
Newsletter Postage	92	78
Newsletter Printing	138	173
TOTAL Newsletter Expense	230	251
Scholarships	400	0
Stipend		
Newsletter Editor	700	700
Treasurer	250	250
TOTAL Stipend	950	950
Unrealized Gain Loss	8	10
Website		
Web stipend	0	200
webhosting	78	155
TOTAL Website	78	355
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,442	1,723
OVERALL TOTAL	3,190	1,983

IksMAWSAccount Balances - As of 4/10/2018

4/10/2018

Page 1

Account	4/10/2018 Balance
Bank Accounts	
Morgan Stanley	15,566
S1 Savings	0
S90 Checking	0
TOTAL Bank Accounts	15,566
Asset Accounts	
Loan To Conference	1,000
TOTAL Asset Accounts	1,000
OVERALL TOTAL	16,566

Hidden Tapestry

I'm so excited to be bringing out a new book to share with you. HIDDEN TAPESTRY returns to some of the themes that threaded through my first novel, THE MADONNAS OF LENINGRAD: the heroism of ordinary people in wartime, the mixed blessings of love, and the power of art to save us. This one tells the true story of one of the most important textile artists of the twentieth century, Flemish American artist Jan Yoors—childhood vagabond, wartime resistance fighter, and Greenwich Village bohemian—and the two wives who shared his life and wove his magnificent tapestries.

In 1959 Art in America magazine nominated Yoors one of the new talents in the U.S.. He was twice chosen to represent the United States at the International Biennial of Contemporary Tapestries, in Lausanne, Switzerland. At the peak of his fame in the 1970s, Yoors' tapestries inspired a dedicated following in his adopted Manhattan and brought him international acclaim. Though his intimate friends guessed the rough outline of his colorful life, HIDDEN TAPESTRY is the first to detail Yoors' astonishing secrets.

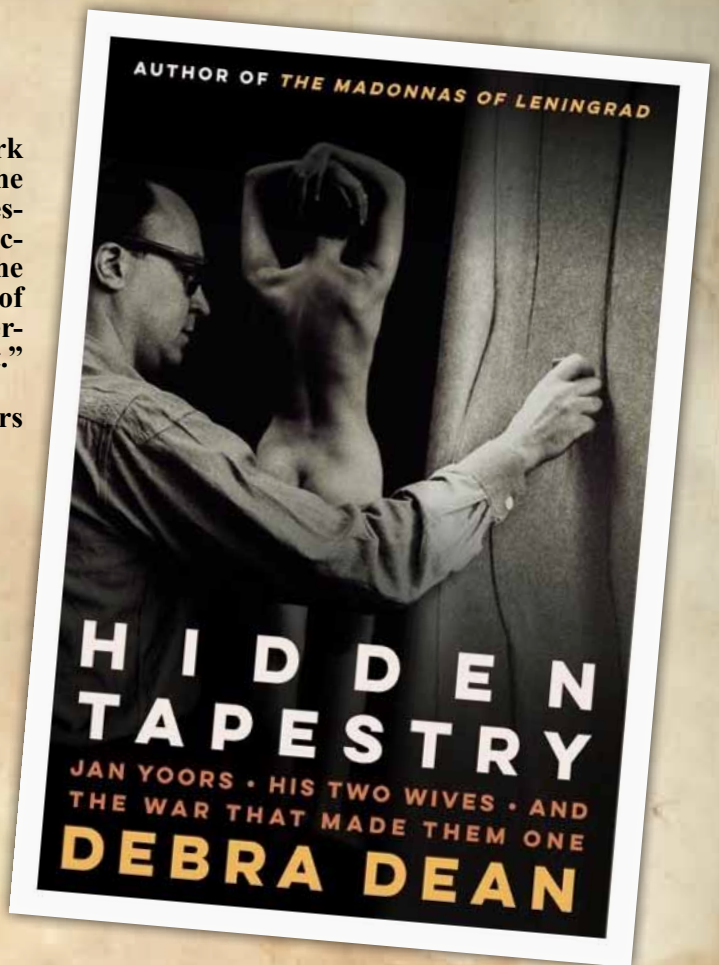
Would you help me get the word out by forwarding this announcement to the other members of your guild and anyone else you think may be interested?

You can order a pre-publication copy of HIDDEN TAPESTRY from my neighborhood bookstore, Books & Books. If you'd like me to sign and personalize the book to you or to someone else as a gift, I'd be happy to do so: just write instructions in the Order Comments field at the very bottom. It's free shipping and the same price but a better deal than Amazon Prime because it supports an independent bookstore. Or even better, ask your local bookstore to order a copy for you.

Good wishes and good weaving,
Debra

"The teamwork demanded by the making of tapestries as we practice it is one of the purest forms of romance and personal fulfillment."

- Jan Yoors



EARLY PRAISE FOR HIDDEN TAPESTRY:

"Debra Dean puts the stitches in the rich tapestry that was Jan Yoors's life, surely one of the most remarkable artistic stories of the twentieth century. She reveals his incredible life of exploration, adventure, and heroism, as well as his truly unique ménage. I'm hugely impressed with her research and writing—and green with envy that she found such a fascinating subject to write about." —Ross King, author of Brunelleschi's Dome and Mad Enchantment

"Debra Dean has written that unique book that is scholarly, historically important... full of vibrant and fascinating characters, beautifully written, and somehow—almost improbably—true." —Ann Hood, author of The Book That Matters Most and The Knitting Circle

"It's rare when an extraordinary artist wins a biographer of equal quality. As someone who admired Jan Yoors greatly and once spent a few days in his unusual household, I'm delighted to see this story told with grace, with careful research, and with such compassion for the women who were an invisible part of his work." —Adam Hochschild, author of Half the Way Home: A Memoir of Father and Son, and King Leopold's Ghost

In Hidden Tapestry, Debra Dean dives into the artist's singular backstory and the equally compelling stories of his wives, Annabert van Wettum and Marianne Citroen. This is a well-researched, well-written, and unusual biography. . . There's a fascinating story here, and Dean tells it well. -Foreword Magazine



News From Missoula Weavers Guild

Submitted by Dona Fisher

Show And Tell



Vanetta used a photograph of the sunset view from her home as the plan for this tapestry. Used the Theo Morman Technique from "Weaving that Sings: Variations on the Theo Morman Technique" by Joyce Harter & Nadine Sanders. This book shows tapestries made by Barbara Hand.

Sharon Schroeder has a sock knitting machine. She shared her colorful socks using sock yarn. The purple and pink socks used yarn from Mountain Colors and the tops are frilly.

Sharon compared learning to use the sock knitting machine to a rocket launch. Slow to start but then it takes off.



Beautiful colors in these two Echo Weave samples from Jackie.



Edie completed a rag rug using strips cut from jeans. She overlapped the jean strips 2 inches to complete this large rug. It was at least 12 feet long since it covered 2 tables at our meeting.



Mary Backstrom displayed her handspun Shetland 4-ply yarn. The color is denim.

Joan Contraman was working on her tapestry lap loom using alpaca yarn. She had a pattern to work both sides. The project will be a workshop at the Mule Train show this summer.



Heather Torgenrud completed the green and yellow striped dishtowel for Shelley Peters, former guild member. Shelley and her husband have settled in Florida after spending time traveling in their trailer. Heather modeled her green sweater that she made on her knitting machine.



Dona Fisher shared placemats done in a Summer-Winter pattern using 5/2 perle cotton.



What is 'Lopi' ?

During the meeting of April 21st, I brought 'Orchard Homes Icelandics' yarn to introduce around as an interesting local product. I passed along the information I received from the shepherd (Brooke Martin) that the term 'Lopi' refers to wool that is spun from both the tog and the tel (or pel), regardless of the type of spin or ply that is used. Her yarn is a light fingering 2-ply, lovely for socks. Most of us probably think of Lopi in the context only of the Icelandic wool that is very lightly spun or not spun at all, as what you see in a 'Lopi Sweater', usually a bulky weight. After hearing a comment that the yarn I brought is not Lopi because it is too tightly spun (someone familiar with Icelandic sheep and wool), I looked it up on the intertubes. Wikipedia (not necessarily the last word) appears to agree with the tog & tel definition, but doesn't go so far as to say that is the 'definition' of the word, just that the source is the two-coated sheep, with all of the coat spun into the yarn. Further investigation seems to support the definition, with this rather interesting summary on Icelandic yarns, from the archived [Kertzer website](#). Kertzer was a Canadian yarn company, absorbed into Coats (as in RedHeart). The real clincher for me is on the [Álafoss Lopi website](#). Álafoss is THE Icelandic maker of 'Lopi' and sells this yarn. This yarn is clearly labeled 'Lopi' and is also clearly a plied yarn. So that, I think, is that. Brooke appears to me to be justified in calling her yarn 'lopi' as a description of the yarn containing both tog and tel; she doesn't label it Lopi, but 'Icelandic Wool'.



By Janet Sullivan

Upcoming Events

May 19, 2018 – 2nd Annual Crazy Mountain Fiber Fest in Big Timber. <http://www.bigtimber.com/crazymountainfiberfest>

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

July 6-12, 2018 - Convergence 2018, Handweavers Guild of America, Peppermill Resort & Spa, Reno, NV Embraces all fiber arts. See HGA's website for more details, www.weavespindye.org.

July 21-22, 2018 - Copper K Fiber Festival in Whitehall, www.ranchingtraditionfiber.com/copper-k-fiber-fest

August 4 – 5, 2018 – Fiberfest Eureka, Lincoln Co. Fairgrounds, 152 Hwy. 37, Eureka, MT <http://www.eurekafiberfest.org/>

August 4 – 5, 2018 – Fiber Arts Fusion, Mule Train Alpaca Ranch, 12780 Mule Train Ln, Molt, MT (North of Laurel MT) <https://mtalpacas.com/new-events/>

August 11 - 12, 2018 – Fiber Art Retreat in Helena. Textural Adventures in Nuno Felt Making with award-winning felt wear designer, Patti Barker. Come away with six 10" X 10" samplers on Saturday and one reversible Art Vest on Sunday utilizing what you learned on Saturday. Link to Patti Barker's website <https://www.pattibarker.com/>

September 3-7, 2018. Weaving Workshop in Shetland Isle Trip \$1,899.00. Here is a link to my website for the trip. <http://www.woolencollectibles.com/weaving-workshop-in-shetland-trip/weaving-workshop-in-shetland-isle-trip>.

September 19-23, 2018 - Textile Society of America 2018 Symposium, <https://textilesocietyofamerica.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

September 28-29, 2018 - Prairie Handspinners Fiber Fest in Billings, see <http://prairiehandspinnersfiberfest.com>

October 10 - 14, 2018 - Trailing of the Sheep, Ketchum, ID. Celebrating its 22nd year in 2018, the Festival has expanded greatly from its humble beginnings, yet the goals and objectives of the Festival remain the same—preserving the stories and history of sheep ranchers and herders, celebrating the rich cultures of the past and present, and entertaining and educating children and adults about the production of local food and fiber that have sustained local economies for generations.

October 18 – 21, 2018 – Camp Marshall

June 11-16, 2019 - ANWG Conference in Prince George, BC More info in newsletter. Email pgfibrearts@gmail.com to get onto the email list for Conference updates.

Joanne Hall classes at the Eugene Textile Center in Oregon:

<http://www.eugenetextilecenter.com>

Understanding and Tying the Counter-march

with Joanne Hall

September 27th, 10 am - 4 pm

\$95

We will discuss basic loom features which make a loom work well. I will explain the characteristics of counter-march looms, along with the basics of the lamm and treadle tie-up. We will discuss the differences between several counter-march tie-ups and the differences found in various counter-march looms.



Swedish Art Weaves

with Joanne Hall

September 28th - 30th, 10 am - 4 pm

\$325 + \$40 materials

The name art weaves comes from the beautiful hangings, runners and pillows, woven by the weavers of *Skåna* who used a variety of decorative weaves. This workshop will lead you through creating a sampler from five different Swedish Art Weaves: *Halvkrabba*, an easy to weave laid-in technique; *Rörlakan* tapestry, a double interlock technique; *Dukagång*, woven as a pick up weave; *Monksbelt*, woven using half heddle shafts; and *Krabba*, a technique which is picked up on a closed shed.

Fiber in the Forest

Join us May 18th, 19th and 20th, 2018

Enjoy three days of weaving, spinning, basketry, felting – and fun! Three-day workshops are taught by enthusiastic fiber teachers—with plenty of free time for hiking, talking, and enjoying the spring!

Fiber in the Forest is held at Camp Myrtlewood, a scenic rustic retreat located in the Coast Range off Highway 42, 40 miles west of I-5.

\$425 price includes participation in one workshop, and room and board. Materials fee is paid directly to the instructor at the time of the workshop. Classes start on Friday morning () and continue through Sunday afternoon.

Dormitory lodging with bunk beds is available Thursday - Saturday nights. Bring your own bedding and towels for hot showers. There are 12 RV Spaces with electric and water hook-ups, as well as plenty of tent space. We regret that pets are not permitted.

Meals are especially delicious and include vegetarian options. Meals are served from Thursday dinner to Sunday lunch. (8 am for breakfast, noon for lunch, 5:30 pm for dinner).

Every year we enjoy the Open Air Gallery. Bring your homespun, handwoven, knitted, felted, or otherwise hand-crafted creations for all to admire. Each item should be labeled with the artist's name and a description of the techniques and fibers used.

<http://www.eugenetextilecenter.com/fiber-in-the-forest>

Happenings at Raven Ridge Fiber Arts

Dyeing Raven Ridge Yarn

I thought you might like to see some of the details of my dye process. I call it hand-painting, but really it's 'controlled pouring of dye on skeins'. I mix my dyes and put them in 1-liter squeeze bottles, lay out 3 skeins of undyed yarn, in this case Aight, and squeeze dye onto the skeins in stripes.

The third image shows the yarn after dye application is complete and ready to be steamed. The white labels are plastic flagging that is color-coded so I know which yarn is which, and they also keep the skeins from getting tangled. The process is messy, but it's so satisfying to see the intense colors.



My Newest Colorway: Calcite Springs

The cliffs at the Calcite Springs in Yellowstone National Park truly grabbed my attention. My new colorway, named for the overlook, brings out the amazing blue layers in the same cliff that inspired my Rhyolite Robin's Egg Colorway. I love how cheerful it is. This new colorway is available in all my yarns and fiber bases in my Etsy shop.



Calcite Springs

2018 Log Cabin Spin-In And Fiber Festival

The Log Cabin Spin-in (Cosur d'Alene, ID) is the first fiber festival of the year in our area, and you can feel the enthusiasm everywhere. My favorite part is when people bring projects they have completed with my yarn or fiber.

Here's Teri H. with her *Tabulated Shawl*, using my *Lupine* yarn as the base color.



Sheryl K. is wearing her *Libby's Shawl* in DK weight *Flathead Cherry*.

Free Artist & Writer's Fiber Residency

APPLICATION DEADLINE: July 29, 2018



360 XOCHI QUETZAL is an artist and writer's residency located on enchanting Lake Chapala, Mexico. International visual artists working with fiber materials, writer's focusing on fiber content and string musicians/composers are all welcome to apply.

FREE 1-MONTH RESIDENCY Dec 15, 2018 - Jan 14, 2019

Imagine spending the winter in sunny México, working on your art to your heart's content. We have fabulous live/work spaces for you. Apply today for 360 Xochi Quetzal Free Residency
Applications are due July 29, 2018

360 Xochi Quetzal 2018 Fiber Residency

Applications through CAFÉ
www.callforentry.org

We also have a personal residency program for artists and writers who need longer periods of creative time (1 - 6 months) throughout the year. These residencies are not restricted to fiber. www.360xochiquetzal.com/personal-residency-overview/

You will fall in love with Lake Chapala!

Visit our new website: www.360xochiquetzal.com

For more info write: 360xochiquetzal@gmail.com

Join our group Facebook page: [360-Xochi-Quetzal](https://www.facebook.com/360-Xochi-Quetzal)

Follow us on Twitter: [@360XochiQuetzal](https://twitter.com/@360XochiQuetzal)

and Instagram: [@360xochiquetzal](https://www.instagram.com/@360xochiquetzal)



**Order of
Rotation
for MAWS
Conferences:**
Bozeman - 2018
Helena - 2020
Billings - 2022
Missoula - 2024
Great Falls - 2026
Alpine - 2028

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.
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.
Donations to help offset expenses are gladly accepted and can be mailed to Linda.

Next Newsletter deadline is July 15, 2018.
Email articles to Tracey Hensen at traceyhensen@gmail.com
Or snail mail: 720 Montana Ave., Apt. 1, Deer Lodge, MT 59722
Phone: 406-366-3738

