



# MAWS

Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners

April/May, 2017

*One of our own made the cover of  
Montana Woman.  
Congratulations, Rickie van Berkum!*



**Don't forget to  
register for the Big  
Sky Fiber Fest in  
June. The form is on  
page 6. Also, don't  
miss the new Copper  
K Fiber Fest in July.  
Info on page 9.**

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

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# Classified Ads

**FOR  
SALE!**



**FOR SALE:**  
Strutto 4 harness loom 13" weaving width \$50 - in Billings - contact Linda Shelhamer (info to the left)

**FOR SALE:**  
Ashford Traditional wheel in good condition with Lazy Kate and 4 bobbins \$225 - in Billings - contact Linda Shelhamer



**FOR SALE:**  
Dorothy 4 harness table loom 24" weaving width \$100 - in Billings - contact Linda Shelhamer

**FOR SALE:** Beautiful Roving \$2. Per ounce. Shetland sheep and Alpaca, mostly blended. Natural colors only. Call or text Dianna Chesley 531.1648

**FOR SALE:**  
12 shaft Glimakra loom. 63 inches weaving width, lots of extras. Buyer needs to pick up. \$3000. Call or text Dianna Chesley 531.1648

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



# Floor loom and Drawloom weaving classes by Joanne Hall

## Classes in Montana City, near Helena

I have two classes coming up for early June and early July

**June 3, 4, Sat, Sun Additional days can be planned.**

**Intermediate floor loom weaving, including countermarch tie-ups.**

The weaves I have on the floor looms can be woven as samples or you can complete a project. I may have something different on some looms in June, but this is what I currently have available on the floor looms:

Crackle, a three block pattern for a towel.

Rosepath, as a pattern weave or woven on opposites, for a small bag.

Blanket sample using a single ply wool.

Tapestry or rug weaving techniques, weaving a sample.

Plus I have the band loom warped for a pick up weave.

This class will give you time at the loom to weave, plus instruction on how the countermarch shed works.

**July 1, 2, Sat, Sun**

**Introduction to drawloom weaving**

Weave images or repeat patterns, using cotton, linen or wool. One of the looms will weave none repeating patterns, so, you can put your name into your sample. If you have favorite yarns to try, you can bring them. Weave on both types of drawlooms, sampling the pattern possibilities. This class is limited to 2 weavers.

Contact me at:

[joanne@glimakrausa.com](mailto:joanne@glimakrausa.com)

406 422 8293





# Save the Date!



The Bozeman Weavers Guild invites you  
to the 2018 MAWS Conference

The Sky's the Limit!  
to be held in Big Sky, MT

## June 13 - 17, 2018

Conference colors  
will be blue, silver,  
golden yellow and  
coral - the colors  
of the sky!

Join us as we explore, learn and  
grow with our chosen conference leaders:

Jason Collingwood - <http://rugweaver.co.uk>

Linda Hartshorn - [www.lindahartshorn.com/](http://www.lindahartshorn.com/)

Jane Patrick - <http://schachtspindle.com/tag/jane-patrick/>

Visit <http://www.bozemanweaversguild.org/maws-2018/>



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



# The Sky's the Limit in 2018!

Excitement is building in the Bozeman Weavers Guild as we prepare to host the next MAWS Conference in June 2018 at Big Sky. The instructors committee is working hard to evaluate the many high-quality proposals we've received from teachers all around Montana and the greater area to ensure a dynamic mix of workshops that will offer exciting opportunities and challenges for all.

We believe that many of you will be as thrilled as we are about our headlining artists, Jason Collingwood and Linda Hartshorn, who are coming to share their weaving and dyeing expertise with us, and thought you might like to know a little bit more about them.

**Jason Collingwood** learned rug weaving from his father, and established his own studio at the age of 24 in the village of Nayland in Suffolk, U.K. Since that time, he has woven over 2000 rugs, and also maintains a teaching schedule which brings



him frequently to the U.S., as well as many other places around the world. We are delighted to welcome him to Big Sky to share with us his knowledge of rug weaving. In a 3-day pre-conference workshop, Jason will teach **3-End Block Weave**. This is the weave structure that Jason uses most in weaving his rugs. Several techniques will be covered in this workshop, including a special emphasis on shaft switching.

During the Conference, Jason will be teaching a two-day introduction to rug weaving that he calls **Plain Weave**. This course is designed for weavers who are trying rug weaving for the first time, although with enough tips and "tricks" to entice the more experienced weaver as well. Many techniques will be taught, giving the weaver much freedom of design.

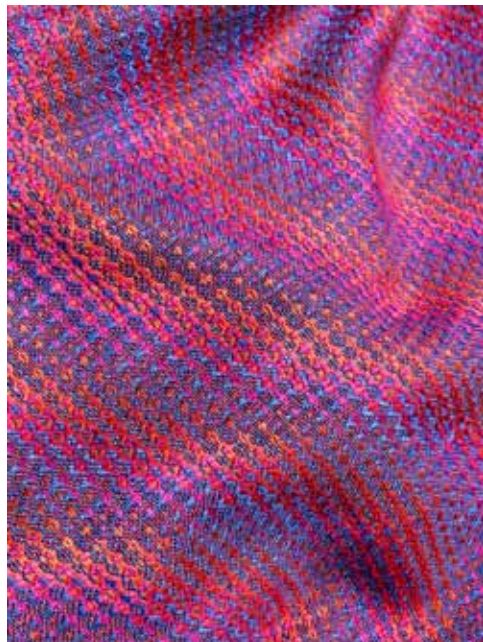
To learn more about Jason Collingwood and these workshops, visit his website at <http://www.rugweaver.co.uk/>

**Linda Hartshorn**, an artist of many talents, is coming to us from Northern California where she has established her Lost Coast Weaving studio, tucked away in a remote and beautiful mountain location. Linda's teaching schedule keeps her busy both in the studio and on her travels. We are very happy to welcome her to Montana, and will be tapping into her weaving and dyeing talents for the 2018 Conference.

Linda will teach a 3-day pre-conference class called **Weaving**

*in a Parallel Universe*, exploring several weave structures that use a parallel threading to create "vibrant colorways, iridescence, and echoes" for marvelous results. As Linda says, "Add the power of parallel threadings to your weaving repertoire"!

During the main conference, Linda will be teaching classes entitled **Organic Indigo, Easy as 1 2**



**3; and Silk Painting and Stamping with Natural Dye Extracts.** Explore, play and learn as you experiment with these natural dye techniques under Linda's tutelage.

Visit Linda's website to learn more about her work and her many interests: [www.lindahartshorn.com/](http://www.lindahartshorn.com/)





# 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).*



**From Bonnie Tarses: Getting ready for First Friday at The Artists' Shop in Missoula**

**From Diana Lasa Blair:**  
I just started carding my center pull, merino pencil roving, once again. These self striping rovings can be found on my Etsy Shop, Going to the Sun Mill. I will be bringing them to the Big Sky Fiber Fest and the Copper K Fiber Festival.



**From Linda Shelhamer:**  
Now that spring has arrived I am finally finishing up the Fan mittens from the class I took at a conference I finished the first in July but put the second one down for months.  
Thanks Mary Warner!



# Big Sky Fiber Festival 2017 Class Preview

Visit <https://bigskyfiberfestival.com/work-shops-2017> for more!



**Many Techniques  
within a Nuno  
Shibori Felted Scarf  
Instructor:  
Melissa Arnold**



**Hand Dyed  
Cotton  
Fabric  
Instructor:  
Anne  
Giuliano**



**How to Spin Self Striping Socks  
Instructor: Joan Contraman**



**Weave an Artistic  
Tapestry Beaded Bag  
Instructor: Joan  
Contraman**



**Advanced Drop  
Spindle Plying  
Instructor: Anne  
Giuliano**



**Spinning Down  
Fibers on a Charkha  
Instructor: Joan  
Contraman**



**2017 Workshop Registration for  
Big Sky Fiber Arts Festival**

**Registration Forms must be received by June 5th, 2017**

**Make checks payable to BSFAF**

**Mail registration form to:**

**BSFAF**

**219 A St #3**

**Victor MT 59875**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**email or cell phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cost:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cost:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cost:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cost:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cost:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_



# Copper K Fiber Fest 2017 Class Preview

To see the complete list of classes at Copper K Fiber Festival go to <http://www.ranchingtraditionfiber.com/copper-k-fiber-fest> and follow the instructions to register.

<http://www.ranchingtraditionfiber.com/copper-k-fiber-fest>



**Little Long Scarf - Linen Stitch Scarf by Julie Norman**

**Fabulous Locker Hooking with Rosanne Anderson**



**Spinning for Excellence with Randy Glick**



**Flower Petals and Dyeing Kettles with Diana Lasa Blair**



**Acid Dye Technic - Create the Yarn just for you by Candice English**



**Inkle Loom Weaving with CR Best Looms/Billie Rawlings**



**Needle Felting Gnomes with LaVonne Stucky**



Linda Smith of Gresham, Oregon, knit our featured project this month. The pattern is **Architexture**, by Jennifer Weissman. Linda knit it in my Flathead Cherry colorway using two skeins of my Alight yarn, which shows off all the varying textures in this beautiful shawl.

This is one of my most popular colorways and is available in all my yarn and fiber bases in my [Etsy Shop](#).



## Happenings at Raven Ridge Fiber Arts



Shannon ([Shannonjknits](#)) on Ravelry, knit her beautiful Vines to Flowers shawl with Alight in my Vixen colorway. The pattern name is **Seeds to Flowers**.

Shannon writes, "Lovely pattern and yarn. For some reason the beads did not appeal to me for this project, so I skipped them. I simply extended the vine pattern over the initial section where the "seeds" were meant to be. Made for the Western Idaho State Fair 2015."



I'm pleased to feature this lovely **Starry Night** shawl, knit by Stephanie (loveforpugs on Ravelry). Isn't it stunning? She knit it in my Flathead Cherry colorway in my Friendly yarn. Although Friendly has been retired, there are some remaining skeins available in my Etsy Shop. This colorway is available in all my other yarn bases.



# Crazy Mountain Fiber Fest

## Classes Offered:

Needle Felting with Connie Simonich

Dyeing Wool for Beginners with Melody Murter

Needle Felting with Karla Butcher

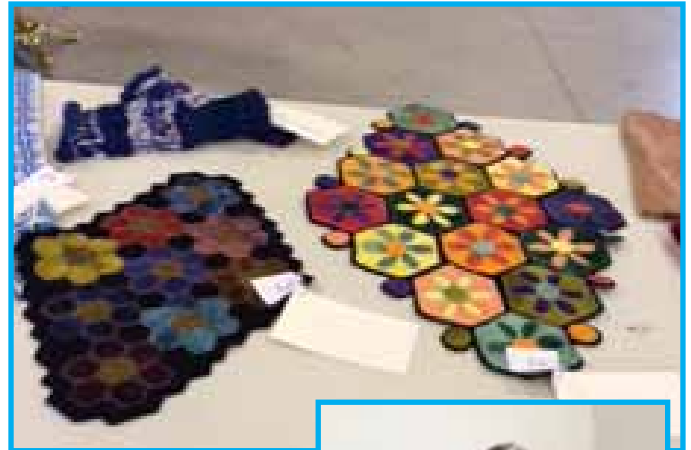
Weaving on a Rigid Hettle Loom with Marcy Foran

Spinning for Beginners with Connie Simonich

Wet Felting on a Bar of Soap with Jill Bue & Heather Jarrett

The Crazy Mountain Fiber Fest was a first-year fiber event in Big Timber this year. It was held May 6-7.

Photos courtesy of Connie Simonich



**Needle felting**



**Dying yarn**



**Marcy teaching weaving. It was Marcy's first time teaching a workshop and she did great.**



**Learning to felt**



# MAWS Board Meeting Minutes

**MAWS meeting April 1, 2017**  
submitted by Melody Murter

Attending: Barb French, Anita Krueger, Linda Shelhamer, Ann Keenan, Terri Schaub, Gwen Haferkamp, Dawn Ahlert, Sharon Schroeder, Melody Murter, Sylvia Talsma

Annette Cade, Millie Dover, and Carol Dees who provided lunch from the Helena guild and were present during the show and tell.

The meeting was called to order by Linda at 1:00pm. Show and tell revealed the true artists among our group and the quality of the regions work.

**Minutes:** The minutes from October meeting were read and approved as corrected to include proceeds of \$3857 from conference proceeds versus the \$3557 in prior minutes. Motion to accept made by Gwen and seconded by Anita.

**Treasurer Report:** Linda provided board with Balance Sheet and Income Statement through March 30, 2017. Linda is working on 990N form and will submit it to IRS. Board members discussed travel reimbursement for board members and members at large. MAWS has provided gas or mileage to board members for attending board meetings. Linda will look into the correct amount and get back to board but it does not match federal amount nor does it have to.

## **Old Business:**

**Conference:** Barb reported on Big Sky venue for 2018. June 13-17th 2018 main conference is June 15-17.

Pre conference June 12,13,14. Huntly Lodge \$149 per night and sleeps 2-4 people. She is looking into costs for Shoshone and Summit Lodges. Meals may be included in conference. Tentative class schedule was reviewed and 2 instructors have signed contracts. Courses sound top notch. Beginning spinning course was discussed and some teachers names were mentioned.

Preliminary conference budget for 2018 reviewed. There will be more space for vendors and there is a thought of getting special yarn dyed in the conference colors. Barb is working on grants at this time to supplement the conference costs. The group is still working on meal cost for the conference

budget.

The conference has contracted for 90 rooms: 30 for pre conference and 60 for main conference.

We may adjust room quantity 6 months prior without any penalties. If we don't meet room minimum, the fee for conference room will be \$1000. Rather than spend time making conference goody bag donations, conference would like guilds to focus on their guild booths and entries for the shows. A monetary donation of approximately \$50-\$75 from each guild for logo water bottles will be appreciated.

Bozeman is looking for guilds to Volunteer for certain projects:

Fashion Show- Linda and Melody would like the Billings Guilds to do this but must ask guild members first; Open Show; Photography; Guild Booths; Gift bags; Award ribbons; Spin In (provide some fiber?), Weave in "taste test looms"?

**Financial Statement Review:** Barb French said she and Elaine Nichols reviewed the MAWS accounts from June of 2014 to August of 2016 and found the treasurer records in good order. Sylvia Talsma concurred that her independent review did not find variations

## **New Business:**

**Website:** Sharon, web master, asked if ok to post commercial advertisements. The board agreed to this in order to increase membership awareness of products or shows available. Most commonly hit site pages were the Grants and the Classified. Sharon She will link Bozeman to MAWS in order to get some 'hype' going for the 2018 conference. Also will provide notification on the MAWS site that there is a FB page also for exploration.

**Scholarships:** clarification of application was discussed after a minor confusion this past summer at the 2016 MAWS. Terri and Sharon will review the scholarship application form.

**Guild Grants:** There was an inquiry for a grant for a felt workshop but grants are for guilds only not individual planned events. Sharon will post this on the website after talking with Susan Engle regarding this inquiry.

Next meeting will be October 14th 2017 at the Montana City School and the Helena guild graciously provides a splendid lunch as always.

Meeting adjourned at 4pm.



# Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Linda Shelhamer

## IksIncome/Expense Comparison by Category

3/31/2015 through 3/30/2017 (Cash Basis)

Category	3/31/2015- 3/30/2016	3/31/2016- 3/30/2017
<b>INCOME</b>		
Conference share	0	3,857
Dues	2,542	2,854
Misc Income	10	0
Newsletter Income	15	0
SB Dividend	27	59
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,594</b>	<b>6,770</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
ANWG Dues	35	35
<b>Board</b>		
Board	0	100
lunch	55	0
travel	194	214
<b>TOTAL Board</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>314</b>
Conference	0	66
Grants Conference	0	1,000
Grants Guild	250	250
Living Treasure gifts	0	267
Misc Expenses	0	170
<b>Newsletter Expense</b>		
Newsletter Postage	69	92
Newsletter Printing	193	138
<b>TOTAL Newsletter Expense</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>230</b>
Scholarships	0	400
<b>Stipend</b>		
Newsletter Editor	700	700
Treasurer	250	250
<b>TOTAL Stipend</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>950</b>
Unrealized Gain Loss	-12	-2
<b>Website</b>		
Web stipend	500	0
webhosting	96	78
<b>TOTAL Website</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>2,330</b>	<b>3,757</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>3,013</b>

## IksMAWSAccount Balances - As of 3/30/2017

Account	3/30/2017 Balance
<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
Morgan Stanley	13,726
S1 Savings	0
S90 Checking	0
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>13,726</b>
<b>Asset Accounts</b>	
Loan To Conference	1,000
<b>TOTAL Asset Accounts</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>14,726</b>

# News from our Guilds

**Helena Weavers  
and Spinners Guild**  
*Submitted by  
Jannine C. Vogley-Turner,  
Roving Reporter*

A group of members from the Helena Weavers and Spinners guided by Joanne Hall assisted the Montana Historical Society Museum in warping an antique turn of the century loom.

Joanne Hall and other members became involved in a project at our state Historical Society, putting a warp on a 100 year old loom that belonged to Amanda Kraftenberg, who lived in a Finnish community in central Montana. We reproduced a blanket that she wove on this loom, so that the will be on display with the blanket on it.

One of the state employees used his phone to film me (Joanne Hall) at the loom. He put it on their Facebook site.

Here is the website - [www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=montana%20historical%20society](http://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=montana%20historical%20society)

Or search Montana Historical Society. Today as I walked into the Historical Society, Todd, who I was told was the handyman who would get some dowels for me to use as tie-on bars, opened the door for me and Maggie, the curator and a couple other Historical Society folks were there to help me. I was carrying the blanket warp, spread out into the long reed and all my other supplies in a couple tote bags.

We went directly to the loom and got it ready for tomorrow's session of beam-



**Getting started with the threading. The sticks are all uneven, but we centered them, hung them on the shaft holders and left a heddle on the end to hold the bottom stick.**

ing the warp and possibly starting the threading. After we finished, one of the ladies asked if I had been officially introduced to Todd. Then, he said his name was Todd Saarinen.

Now, some of you may of heard of that name before, so imagine my surprise to

hear this from someone who I was told was also Finnish. I began to say something about the famous Saarinen at Cranbrook and he said, yes, he is descended from that family.

So, one just never knows where you will find someone who has a weaving background, even though it has been a couple generations. I told him that it was very special to have such a wonderful heritage. He was aware of this famous architect in his family, but was not very familiar with Eero's wife Lilian, being a weaver and the Cranbrook loom.

But Todd is very interested in our project of putting a warp on this Kraftenberg Finnish loom.

For the threading and the slewing, we sat on the cloth beam. The loom was very easy to warp, since it is large and we could get inside. There is no back beam, which was common on old looms, but the warp beam is 24 inches in circumference, making it very nice for keeping an even tension on the warp.

Alex did most of the slewing of the reed. Here we are correcting a problem with a twisted thread as Kammy watches. The reed is the old original reed and we have hung it horizontally by Texsolv cord for comfortable slewing. After slewing, the reed went back into the beater and we straightened the beater by putting a little block in front of the peg at the top of the loom where the beater sits.



**From one of the days that Joanne and the crew worked on the loom.**

*Cont.*





Here I am showing Nanette and Annette how to do two person threading, which goes much faster, especially with hand tied heddles.



We used Texsolv cord to tie up the pulleys above the shafts and for part of the treadle tie-up, since some of the cords were too old. You can see the metal pulley to the right of me. It is the dark spot above the shafts.

This loom was made for Amanda Kraftenberg in 1916 and she wove on it until her death in 1952. She wove many things including a long blanket which was seamed in the middle. The warp we put on the loom nearly duplicates the hand-spun wool yarns that Amanda spun from her own sheep.

She dyed some green to create the stripes you see in the photo. She also dyed some brown for weft stripes alternated with the white. On the right side of the warp, the white stripe is half as wide, as this is where the seam was planned.

In the foreground you can see the post with the hooks, which hold the long pole used to hold the tension on the warp. This loom is a lot like the loom shown in the book, Foot Power Loom Weaving by Worst, printed in 1918.

Amanda lived in a Finnish community in Belt Montana. The historical society

acquired her loom, the blanket she wove and also a rag rug.

Pictures and Narrative provided by Joanne Hall.

## Billings Weavers Guild

### Submitted by Melody Murter

Billings Guild hosted a nuno felting two day workshop with teacher Alena Larson in Early February 2017.

The class was limited to six participants and was held over 2 full days at the Yellowstone Art Museum Visible Vault.

Students learned about different fibers and place in felting, placing fibers to get the smoothest look on finished felt, pattern making for a hat and scarf and the wet felting process.

The finished pieces were stunning and very individual. We all wish to repeat this class for others in the future.



Ruth Terry's hat



Joy Erickson's scarf

Cont.



**The Metamucils (Lewistown)**  
**Submitted by**  
**Bev Polk and Connie Simonich**

What a grand day we had in Lewistown at Susan Lohmuller's to conduct a workshop in pick-up Bronson lace weave! 8 looms (besides Susan's 3) in one place! Serious expressions of concentration all around, but actually a pretty lively group! Fun, fun! Thank you to all for being such great students! Dawn, Annette, Connie, Barb, Marcy, Laura, Joanne, Joan ...

- Bev

**Left column photos, right photo and below photo courtesy of Bev Polk.**



*Laura*



*Connie*



*Marcy*



*Joan*

**Right photo and below photo courtesy of Connie Simonich**



*Laura*



*Susan*

*Joan*

*Barb*

*Marcy*

*Cont.*



## Desert Fiber Arts Submitted by Sharon Ofsthun



### Doubleweave DVD workshop a success

We fit 12 floor looms and table looms into the studio meeting room. Over 3 days, 10a-4p, we watched 10 chapters of techniques in doubleweave cloth weaving. We started together on Chapter One then slowly spread out over the 10 chapters according to our speed in weaving and our interest in each technique. So we ended the 3 days at different spots on the sampler.



But we learned so much more than the good instruction on the DVD. "Each one teach one" was put into action. Teaching each other how to make a heddle to correct a threading error. How to fix a broken warp. What is the sweet spot for your reed to weave on the cloth, the distance from the breast beam where the fell of both layers weaves best?

Motto from the workshop: We're all still learning.

Reactions from some of the students:  
Connie Schlosser, "My brain is tired!"

I'd do it again in a minute!"

Bonnie Baker, "It was great. We learned things and got to know each other better. This should be repeated."

Clifton Door, "Very informative. We could go over everything enough times that we get it."

Niel Kierulff, "Tiring, exhausting! I'd do it again. It should have been more days, like 2 or 3 weekends."

Susan Schmieman, "Excellent way to learn. It was affordable and in a loving environment."

Julie Davis, "I really learned a lot. I feel more confident as a weaver. There's a real feeling of accomplishment when you do it right."



### A mistake is just a moment in time: many mistakes aren't meant to be corrected

Jason Fried online at signalnoise.com, Sept. 10, 2016 Excerpt:

"The collector, a curious character named Jamie Ross, liked to collect Navajo rugs with English words, letters, or language woven into the designs..."

But there was one thing he said that really stuck with me. I asked him why a lot of the rugs seemed to have mistakes woven into the patterns. Obvious distortions in the patterns, stray lines, or a shape that was just a bit off compared to the other shapes in the piece.

He said there are many explanations. One popular one is that the Navajo intentionally weave mistakes into their rugs to remind them that man isn't perfect. That sensibility can also be found in the Wabi-

sabi art of Japan.

But he preferred another explanation. He said the mistakes weren't intentional. What was intentional was the desire not to go back and fix them.

He said the Navajo saw mistakes as moments in time. And since you can't change time, why try to change a mistake that already happened? The mistake is already woven into the fabric of time. It's good to be reminded of it when you look back.

Further, he compared it to climbing a mountain. If you climb a mountain you are sure to have a few missteps along the way. But you keep going. You don't stop and start over if you trip here or take the wrong path there. You keep going.

You can't remove that step. It happened, it's part of the climb. And when the climb is done, you've finished. As long as you made it to the top, you don't call the climb a mistake. Likewise, the Navajo don't call a rug with some off stitches a mistake. If the rug is finished, it's a successful rug. More importantly, a rug with a few off stitches is an honest rug.

Now, I don't know if this is Jamie's own personal interpretation, or something other Navajo scholars (or Navajo themselves) can back up, but it doesn't matter to me. I love the idea regardless."

### New NWRSA Judges in training offered at studio

"Thanks!" from the NwRSA Judges & Standards Committee for hosting a Part 1 training in March. Marie Gettmann of Ritzville led the training with Cheryl Reed assisting. Two DFA members took the training: Susan Swayne and Lissa Staven.

The next parts to Judges Training are to help judge the items in the Gallery at the NwRSA Conference and to help a certified judge at a fair or other venue by clerking. That's filling in the score cards as the certified judges evaluate each piece. Then they can take Part 2 of the training. DFA will host that again September 8-10.

After helping a second time to judge at the NwRSA Conference, the judges in training will be awarded their certification.

DFA received money from NwRSA to cover utilities over the 2 1/2 days of the training.



Cont.



## Missoula Weavers Guild

**Submitted by Heather Torgenrud**  
**Photos by Heather Torgenrud**

"My attention span is about long enough for one project. Then it's time to buy a new loom." - Betty Hawthorn at the March meeting



Melanie Gardner said she loves trying out different effects on her rigid heddle loom, plus she learned to hemstitch on this piece.



Detail of the liturgical stole Betty Hawthorn wove in wool.



## Show and tell

Detail of the wool scarf Connie Bauer wove.



Vanetta Burton wove this runner in 20/2 cotton for the cake table at her son's wedding.



Sondra Gibson spun this interesting yarn from a combination of linen and merino.



Connie Bauer got the krokbragd runner she made all finished.



Sharon Schroeder made this piece from a kit and said if she had it to do over again she would have changed the way the color stripes were placed in relation to the block twill pattern.





# 1000 Cranes

In celebration of her 75th birthday on March 4th, Bonnie asked for help in marking this milestone year by sponsoring The Cranium as they folded 1000 origami cranes.

From Bonnie in March: "The Water Protectors need our help now more than ever. With the eviction from Standing Rock, #noDAPL Last Stand moves to Washington DC and the courts on March 10. As many of us look on with feelings of helplessness and shame, we can still contribute by sponsoring Missoula MT's origami group, The Cranium, as they fold 1000 cranes in support of legal defence for the Water Protectors."



**Here is the group on the date of the Water Protectors march in DC, having completed 1000 cranes. Thanks to all who have donated. Know that all monies go directly to the Lakota People's Law Project with their deepest thanks.**

## Bonnie Tarses' Origami Story

I began folding cranes in an aesthetic and safe attempt to prevent pigeons from pooping on my porch. After I learned that folding 1000 cranes grants the folder a wish, I folded my first 1000 cranes for a dear friend who was gravely ill. Then I learned that the Jeanette Rankin Peace Center was folding cranes to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. The experience was so uplifting that a group of us decided to continue meeting under the name of The Cranium. This past November we completed 1000 cranes in support of the Missoula Library Bond (which passed!) and 1000 cranes for Har Shalom in response to recent anti-Semitic activity in the community. As we completed the cranes, a member suggested we fold 1000 cranes for Standing Rock.





# Artist Recognition



**Thank you to those who joined us in honoring these talented artists at the Montana's Circle of American Masters ceremony and a huge congratulations to Sarah Pilgrim, Bev. Polk and Daniel Roberts! (Photo credits: Meagan Thompson - Pretty Light Images)**

The Montana Arts Council honored three artisans in an induction ceremony of Montana's Circle of American Masters on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at 12:00 Noon, in the Old Supreme Court Chambers of Montana's State Capitol. A reception followed in the Capitol Rotunda. The three honorees were Beverly (Bev.) Jane Polk, Sarah Pilgrim, and Daniel Roberts.

Handweaver, Bev. Polk of Wilsall, weaves cheerful, wearable art, table runners & toppers, towels, and sofa pillows featuring the joyous use of color and Scandinavian practicality. Bev. is a member of the Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners, is a Certified Artist of the Montana Artrepreneur Program, and has taught weaving to young artists in Africa. Weaver, Sarah Pilgrim, also from Wilsall, translates centuries old weaving traditions into 21st-century wearable art. Sarah shares knowledge with the weaving community through the Bozeman Weavers' Guild as well as the Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners. Within these organizations, she has taught both at the local guild level and at state conferences as well as around the Northwest. Luthier, Daniel Roberts, of Belgrade, builds guitars and mandolins using woods chosen first for tonal excellence and then for their unique visual particularity, aurally and dynamically tailored to a musician's needs. Some of his clients include Stevie Nicks and Eric Clapton. Daniel shares his craft regionally, nationally, and internationally, and through apprenticeships.

Montana's American Masters are recognized as exemplary practitioners of visual traditional art forms, and their work reflects the highest quality of craftsmanship, design, and authenticity. Induction into Montana's Circle of American Masters is complex and includes rigorous review within a tiered system to ensure program credibility. Members must create works in depth and brilliance that deepen our awareness of the rich and diverse cultural and artistic traditions of the people of Montana.





# Upcoming Events

## THIS WEEKEND!

### Fiber with a Twist

An Educational Program Open to the Public  
Sponsored by the Northwest Regional Spinners Association

Saturday, May 13, 2017, 10:00 – 3:00  
Richland Public Library  
955 Northgate Dr., Richland WA 99352

### Come check out the Fun

Suggested donation \$5, funds will be used to bring a  
Fiber Teacher to the Tri-Cities

Potluck Lunch, Raffles, Door Prizes, Vendors and Great People  
For more information, including vendor opportunities:

Facebook: [Fiber with a Twist](#)

Webpage: [FiberwithaTwist.org](#)

Email: [fiberwithatwist@yahoo.com](mailto:fiberwithatwist@yahoo.com)

**May 27-29, 2017** - Fiber Train Wool Festival in Nampa, Idaho. Come for vendors, classes and enter to win Peter the Sheep's Rainbow Fleece. Pictured below.



**June 9-11, 2017** - Big Sky Fiber Arts Festival in Hamilton - Registration form on page 6

**June 9-11, 2017** - Pacific Northwest Alpaca Association annual Summer Educational Conference in Prosser, Washington. Visit [www.pnaa.org](http://www.pnaa.org) for more info.



### Cola Pen Workshop

with Sarah Behrens Lemon, May 20th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. at the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings. Master scribes have always used a variety of materials to make customized calligraphy pens. Learn how to transform a recycled aluminum can into a new calligraphy pen.

Cost: \$35.00 members \$40.00 non-members.

\$15.00 supply fee paid to the instructor.

To register for either class, please call 256-6817 or visit [www.artmuseum.org](http://www.artmuseum.org)

**June 28-July 2, 2017** - Treadle Lightly 2017 ANWG Conference at the University of Victoria hosted by The Victoria Handweavers' and Spinners' Guild. More information at <http://www.anwgconference2017.com/>.

**July 22-23, 2017** - Copper K Fiber Festival - The Festival will take place at the historic Copper K Barn, South of Whitehall, Montana, Contact: Kami at [ranchingtraditionfiber@gmail.com](mailto:ranchingtraditionfiber@gmail.com) or Betty at [snowdriftalpacos@gmail.com](mailto:snowdriftalpacos@gmail.com). We are accepting vendor applications. Class list is now available. Registration closes by June 15, 2017 or when classes are full. [www.ranchingtraditionfiber.com/copper-k-fiber-fest](http://www.ranchingtraditionfiber.com/copper-k-fiber-fest)

**September 1-3, 2017** - Festival of the Thread at The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts in Livingston, Montana (See page 23)

**September 30, 2017** - Prairie Handspinners Festival in Billings

**October 4-8, 2017** - Trailing of the Sheep Festival held in Sun Valley and Ketchum, Idaho. Events include cook-offs, sheepdog trials, a forklift fair, and the big sheep parade through the middle of Ketchum.



Photo courtesy of Michael Edminster

**June 13-17, 2018** - MAWS 2018! Yellowstone Conference Center at Big Sky

Saturday, September 30th, 2017

9:00am to 5:00pm

Shrine Auditorium



1125 Broadwater Ave., Billings, MT



Come discover the joy of fiber arts with demos,  
classes, vendor booths and more!

**FREE ADMISSION**

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

[phsfiberfest@gmail.com](mailto:phsfiberfest@gmail.com)  

## PHS Fiber Fest Workshop Sneak Peek!



**Spinning  
Self-  
Striping  
Yarn**

**Making  
Your Wheel  
Work for  
You**



**Weave a  
Tapestry  
Beaded Bag**

**Call of Entry** for Fiber Artists working in fiber and decorative arts including: quilts, mixed media textile art, weaving, batik, knitting, fashion and furniture. Deadline for entry is July 1. This unique juried exhibition will showcase textile and decorative arts by artists from Montana, Idaho & Wyoming. All the artists represented in "The Festival of the Thread" are recognized for mastery of their craft and bring a diversity of styles and mediums to this unique exhibit.

Visit [www.thefestivalofthethread.com](http://www.thefestivalofthethread.com) for Prospectus and Submission Form. Exhibit is Sept. 1-3 at The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts in Livingston, MT., Gateway to Yellowstone National Park.

## IF YOU ARE IN WASHINGTON...

You may want to know that there is a workshop on Navajo weaving being sponsored by Crow's Shadow, a non-profit arts group which has supported Native artists for 25 years. The workshop is June 26-30, given by Anita Hathale. Cost is \$350, all materials provided. Limit of 15 people registration (541)276-3954, to be held in Pendleton.





# Mary Atwater: Dean of American hand weaving

Mary and  
Max Atwater  
are shown in  
Basin in this  
1915 photo.

By Marga Lincoln - Helena IR Staff Writer

Arriving in Basin in the early 1900s as a young wife, Mary Meigs Atwater searched for meaningful work that young women could do while their husbands worked long hours in the mines.

She discovered the ancient art of hand weaving. And for this, weavers all over the world are grateful. Through Mary's research and publishing, she revived what was a dying art.

Soon she had ordered looms, materials and set up a workshop in Basin. Then she brought in a weaving instructor from California.

By 1917 the Shuttle-Craft Work Shop in Basin was born as a cottage industry. And Mary was launched into a career of writing, teaching, researching and sharing weave patterns.

Her major contribution to weaving was an art for draft writing and her ability to understand ancient patterns written in a forgotten type of notation, wrote her daughter Betty Biehl. "In this work, her thorough knowledge of mechanical drawing, decorative design and free-hand drawing were of the greatest possible use."

This was not what Mary thought her life's work would be. She was one of six talented daughters born to Montgomery and Grace Meigs in Rock Island, Ill. Extremely well educated by German and French governesses, Mary traveled to Paris in 1902 to study art, after her father opposed her entry into engineering. Here she met her future husband, Maxwell Atwater, a mining engineer. They would travel through much of North and South America for his work and live in the mining centers of Telluride, Butte and Basin.

Although brilliant at art and weaving, Mary loathed housekeeping. "My husband thought it funny when he came upon me sweeping with the broom handle under my arm. How was I to know how to handle a broom? Of the art of cookery I knew no more than I did of playing the harp but I had a cookbook and I learned," she wrote.

By 1918, Mary was 40 and the mother of two children, Monty and Elizabeth. She was also signed up as an occupational therapist for a U.S.



Army

hospital at Camp Lewis, Wash. Here she pioneered using weaving as a form of occupational therapy. Her husband stayed behind in Montana, managing the Davis-Daly mines in Butte. In 1919 he caught the flu and died.

Mary supported her family through teaching, occupational therapy and writing. In 1924 she published the first weaving magazine in the United States, according to her daughter.

By 1928 the family returned to beloved Basin to run a beaver ranch, which eventually failed during the Great Depression. This was also the year she published *The Shuttle-Craft Book of American Hand Weaving*.

Although she continued publishing weaving books, she also launched into publishing historical novels, mystery stories, short stories and factual articles for crime magazines.

In the 1930s she was hosting informal meetings of weavers at her Basin home. Over the next few years, they would form the Montana Weavers Guild. Guilds later formed in Basin, Boulder, Ennis, Helena, Butte, Missoula and Whitehall.

During the 1940s, Mary taught weaving institutes around the country and continued publishing weaving pamphlets.

She continued to write, weave and publish up until her death in 1956 in Salt Lake City, where she had lived the final years of her life.





The burial chamber containing the model looms (Tao Xie/Antiquity)

# Model Looms Are Missing Link in China's Textile History

## Four miniature pattern looms found in a burial in Chengdu show how the Han Dynasty produced cloth to trade on the Silk Road

By Jason Daley  
smithsonian.com  
May 1, 2017

When construction workers in the city of Chengdu in China's Sichuan province found a multi-chambered tomb while building a subway route in 2013, it's unlikely they realized they were rewriting the history of textiles. But it turns out the tomb dating to the second century B.C. contained miniature looms which were the earliest direct evidence of pattern weaving in the world, reports Laura Geggel at LiveScience.

According to a paper about the discovery in the journal *Antiquity*, the tomb had five chambers and included the remains of a woman around the age of 50. A jade seal on her coffin indicates that her name was Wan Dinu. Four compartments below her burial chamber included chests that held lacquer objects, but one chamber contained four model looms, each about one-sixth normal size. The History Blog reports that archaeologists also found 15 carved figurines of men and women, weavers and their assistants, each about 10 inches high set up in a type of diorama around

the looms, winding thread and using tools.

"We are very sure that the loom models from Chengdu are the earliest pattern looms around the world," Feng Zhao, the director of the China National Silk Museum and lead author of the study, tells Geggel.

Geggel reports that researchers have found older looms in the past, including one dating back 8,000 years ago in China. The Egyptians and Greeks were also known to use looms 3,400 to 2,400 years ago. Pattern looms, however, like the ones discovered in Chengdu, are a much more complicated machine and allowed weavers to produce complex "programmed" patterns.

According to the study, the looms are a missing link between those earlier technologies and weaving machines known from several centuries later. It helps explain how Chinese weavers during the Han Dynasty were able to create the large quantities of Shu jin silk which was traded along



Illustration of the tomb (Yingchong Xia/Antiquity)

the Silk Road throughout Eurasia and as far west as the Roman Empire.

Eventually, the pattern loom was replaced by the even more versatile draw loom, which could create intricate patterns and images of animals and people. "[The draw loom] was then introduced to the West — Persia, India and Europe — indicating that the Chinese silk pattern loom made a significant contribution to the subsequent development of world textile culture and weaving technology," Zhao tells Geggel.

One of the model looms is now on display at China's National Silk Museum.





### 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 July 1, 2017.

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