

Contemporary Handweavers of Houston

General meeting minutes: 08/17/2019

Location: CHH 2327 Commerce #106

Houston TX 77002

The Contemporary Handweavers of Houston (CHH) met at the Guild House on August 17, 2019. President Barbara Esterholm called the meeting to order. About 40 members were present.

1. **Membership (D'Anne Craft)** - Door prizes were won by members Mary Welch, Donna Sanner, Marion Sullivan, Rebecca Krepper, and Sherrie Wilson.
2. **Webweaver (Diane Ferguson)** - Diane improved the renewal process on the website. A new page has been set up renewal, rather than taking existing members to the link to join. A member had already tried out the new system and renewed successfully.

An apprentice is needed for the Webweaver position. The Webweaver maintains the website, checks e-mails and follows up on issues, and posts articles related to fibers.

3. **Library (DeeDee Woodbury)** –New books include one on eco printing which is considered the closest book containing a recipe. In addition, a draw loom weaving book has been added to the library. DeeDee mentioned that library volunteers are needed. The request will also be repeated in the newsletter.

A survey has been developed with input from the Board about guild functioning will be sent to members soon. Members should look for the survey and take the survey to provide feedback on the various items. The survey system may be used to gather additional information in the future as well.

4. **Workshops (Dinakar Iyer)** – Din provided an update on the various upcoming work shops.
 - Nancy Crompton (Rosepath using rags) to be held Nov. 16-18. Currently 11 people have signed signed up, with 2 remaining spots available.
 - Anastasia Azure workshop in January has 3 people signed up, but requires 7 additional participants for the workshop to be held.
 - Din is also pursuing additional workshops including with Elizabeth Hill on deflected double weave in March and Sarah Louise Fortin on looms or baskets for 2021.
5. **Annual Sale (Carol Mosely, Peggy Friedrichs)** – The annual sale is one of the guild's key money makers and is scheduled with an opening on Thursday, October 17, and continuing with full days on the weekend, October 18 and 19.
 - To get the word out, they will be asking members to post information on Next Door for their community.
 - Currently working on post cards that will be available for the September meeting, and also available on-line at that time.
 - Need to be a member to participate in the sale.
 - Carol and Peggy are eager to assist anyone interested with questions including determining prices, etc..
 - As usual, those volunteering will pay less of a commission.

6. **Refreshments (Barbara Esterholm)** – A volunteer for Refreshment Chair is still needed. Let Barbara Esterholm know if you are interested.
7. **Amazon Link (Barbara Esterholm)** - There is an Amazon Link on the guild's website. The members are reminded to use the link to provide additional funds to the guild.
8. **Volunteer hours (Pat Powell)** – In addition to the guild sitting hours recorded, volunteers should also record additional hours volunteered for other activities. For example, record hours assisting with the cat toy sweat shop. The time spent in traveling should also be included in the recorded hours. The volunteer hours are used when applying for grants. There is a book in the office to record the volunteer hours in.

There is an opportunity to volunteer for Indigo dying November 2, at the Craft Center Family Festival. Members should let Pat know if interested.

9. **Guild house (Tracy Kaestner)** – A number of classes are being offered at the Guild House.
 - Dying on silk with Ginny Eckley next weekend
 - Eco printing with Molly Koehn on September 7
 - Inkle Weaving with Donna Sanner on September 14
 - Indigo Dyeing with Connie Elliott on September 28
 - In addition, floor loom classes, learn to spin, rigid heddle pickup, and tapestry classes are being offered as well.

Any member interested in teaching a class or being able to assist folks should let Tracy know.

10. **Fiber Fest (Susan Antrican)** - Susan was unable to attend, so she provided the update to Barbara for sharing. The guild participated in Fiber Fest with a yarn winding service. A profit of \$596 was earned with \$2 to \$3 donated per skein.

11. **Life Member Announcement (Tracy Kaestner, Marian Carlson, Mary Welch)**

A new life member was announced, Gerry Woodhouse. Congratulations Gerry! Gerry has served the guild by leading from many positions including as President, Vice President, Publicity Chair, founder of WOW (Way Out West) Weavers, tapestry study group, and the guild's first website. She initiated the CHH Building Fund that pays for the Guild's studio space. Her work has won awards at Small Expressions, tapestry contest, Contemporary Handweavers of Texas, and Convergence. In addition, a key refrain mentioned is her willingness to provide guidance, and share her knowledge, sometimes by making house calls. Gerry is always willing to learn more skills and attended many workshops.

Gerry was nominated for Life Membership by D'Anne Craft and Charlene Kolb. (Note: Jan's notes were supplemented with the information that Diane Ferguson posted on the website by the following day.)

12. **Programs (Connie Elliott)** – The program for August is how members spent their summer. A number of members were able to attend the Contemporary Handweavers of Texas (CHT) conference in Fort Worth.

Members exhibiting at the CHT conference:

- DeeDee Woodbury won Juror's Choice with a shawl with a design inspired by the wildfires faced in the western states.
- Barbara Esterholm won second place in the Member's Exhibit with her shawl.

- Connie Elliott won two prizes for her handspun yarn and shared the lovely overshot ribbons provided to winners.
- Renee Derewetzky participated in the swatch swap in which Texas members swapped towels in the conference colors.
- Tracy Kaestner entered the shirt she was wearing for the meeting in the fashion show.
- Charlene Kolb was unable to attend the meeting, but she represented the guild well and won the Best of Show in the Fashion Show.

Members also participated in a number of the CHT conference workshops:

- Connie Elliott shared her work in progress from Ply Split Braiding with Eileen Thompson to make a rose bracelet.
- Peggy Friedrichs showed her finished sculptural basket from Polly Adam Sutton's Waves on Cedar class.
- Barbara Esterholm shared a stool where she made the seat in Two Tone Weaver's Stool Class that was taught by Rebecca Shanks, when Karen Hobbs could not. The stool had one design on top, and another striking one underneath. There was interest in the class as a potential workshop.
- Jan Day showed towels from the Acadian Hand Towels and Finishing Techniques with Yohannah Klingensmith which including using hemstitching as a design element, rather than just as a finish.
- Renee Derewetzky took the Exploring Four Shaft Shadow Weave class by Mary Berry, which was a round robin to try different shadow weaves. She shared her notebook from the class.
- Fern Handler took the Anthropomorphic Rabbit (or Hare) class with Joyce Hazelrig and created a hare with needle felting on a wire frame.

Members were not idle outside of CHT conference either:

- Pat Powell brought a variety of books that she made including unique styles based on what she learned in Molly Koehn's workshop.
- Marion Carlson shared towels that she made that included both cotton and linen, and result in a fabric similar to sheersucker after it's washed and the cotton shrinks. The towels have a nice hand and are thirsty.
- Kathy Bone wove a shawl prior to a trip to a National Park and is considering weaving one for future trips as well
- Ginny Martin shared a lovely piece made on 12 shafts.
- Diane Ferguson had been busy making some towels during the summer.
- Donna Sanner has continued her summer & winter study into stripes, and has ventured into different colors as well as weaving patterns.
- Marion Sullivan and Sheila Hardyman-Theisen had put warp on a loom for the rodeo and opted to finish it off by weaving twills.
- Jill Manning shared a woven piece where she combined black yarn with her handspun yarn, resulting in a lovely color shift across the piece.
- Sherrie Wilson also shared towels that she made during the summer break.
- Molly Koehn shared some double weave that she's been playing with.
- Din Iyer had a bright yellow piece done in a delicate spider weave.
- Donna Sanner shared a cotton shirt that Fern Handler had embellished with a lovely eco print.

The next General meeting is on September 21, with Mary Welch presenting a slide show.

Minutes recorded by Jan Day.