

## **Contemporary Handweavers of Houston**

General meeting minutes: 09/21/2019

Location: CHH 2327 Commerce #106

Houston TX 77002

The Contemporary Handweavers of Houston (CHH) met at the Guild House on September 21, 2019. President Barbara Esterholm called the meeting to order. About 35 members were present.

1. **Membership (D'Anne Craft)** - Door prizes were won by members Lynn Gammon, Barbara Esterholm, Jane Swanzy, Mary Brown, Susan Antican, and Claire Drinon. In addition, two new members were present Robert Feltenberger and Jane Swanzy.
2. **Vice President (Pat Powell)** –
  - Pat shared multiple volunteer opportunities including Family Day at Craft Center with Indigo dying activity on November 2.
  - There is a new resident at craft center, Tim Gonchoroff who is a weaver.
  - Kudos to members who have been given honor of being included in exhibits. Linda Thompson is showing at Ft Collins as well as St. Charles, Illinois. Janet Bottom has pieces in Chute, Women of the West Exhibit.
  - Connie Elliott was recognized for her willingness and enthusiasm for volunteering for colonial events. If any members are interested in helping, she's a great resource.
  - Reminder that Guild House Volunteer Appreciation and Training is set for September 29, from 2 to 4 p.m.
  - Connie Elliott shared information on volunteering for Quilt Fest.
3. **Refreshments (Barbara Esterholm)** – Thanks for everyone bringing refreshments. A volunteer for Refreshment Chair is still needed so let Barbara Esterholm know if you are interested. Key activities include reminders to those that need to bring refreshments, and sitting up the table a little before the meeting and making coffee.
4. **Workshops (Barbara Esterholm for Dinakar Iyer)** – Barbara provided an update on the various upcoming workshops.
  - Nancy Crompton (Rosepath using rags) to be held Nov. 15-17. Currently 11 people have signed up, with 2 remaining spots available.
  - Anastasia Azure workshop has been cancelled since minimal number of people were not met.
  - Din is also pursuing additional workshops including with Elizabeth Hill on deflected double weave, Karen Donde for Turned Beiderwand. In the fall, considering Denise Dvovnat and Sarah Louise Fortin.
  - As a reminder, Convergence is scheduled for July 24-30 and open enrollment starts the beginning of October.
5. **Webweaver (Diane Ferguson)** - The website was having an issue the day of the meeting, but could be accessed by entering through another link, such as a sneak peek link.
6. **Newsletter (Barbara Esterholm for Theresa Regerson)** - Reminder that articles and pictures are due by Wednesday September 25.

7. **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, then continuing with full days on the weekend, October 18 and 19.
- To get the word out, feel free to post information on Next Door for your community.
  - Information sharing items are available including postcards, poster, as well as postcard that can be mailed.
  - Sneak peeks have been going out to those on the e-mail list.
  - Entry rules are on the website.
  - Inventory should be uploaded by October 5.
  - Volunteers should let Peggy know when they are available.
8. **Show and Tell** - Multiple members shared items that they have been working on.
- Ginny Marten made a replacement quilt for the one that she had made for her son when he was young. The original had been loved to pieces.
  - Jan Day shared baby blanket for co-worker.
  - Pat Powell had several lovely painted silk scarves that she had created, even managing to display the wonderful design on the backside by using a different fabric.
  - Sherry Wilson shared a fascinating jacket made with fine yarn.
  - Fern Handler shared painted scarf that she had made in workshop.
  - Diane Ferguson shared woven scarves, including one with a weave that caused a ribbed effect.
  - Sheila Hardyman-Theisen was modeling a lovely shirt that she had knitted.
  - Barbara Esterholm shared some wonderful towels that she had woven.
9. **Programs (Connie Elliott)** – Connie introduced the star of the day, **Mary Welch**, and her work involved with Nasa to recreate fabric for the historical Mission Control exhibit, also known as "Mission Control, We Have a Weaver". Miscellaneous highlights include
- The control center for the exhibit was painstakingly recreated. Details include ceiling tiles, carpet, ashtrays, coffee pots, etc.
  - However, the fabric on the Steelcase chair seats, was no longer available. Some folks involved in the restoration project knew that Mary wove and checked to see if she still was weaving. They were invited to her studio to discuss the project. Little did she know that she wasn't only a consultant, but would be the person to design and create the fabric.
  - In their archives, the original manufacturer had a small (~1.5 inch) sample of the different fabrics available, including one of the original chairs. A Xerox of the sample was insufficient to determine the weave, so Mary was allowed to handle the original sample.
  - The original fabric was nylon fiber, and Mary proposed using wool as an appropriate substitute. The request was reviewed & approved.
  - The original weave was a basket weave so Mary wove multiple samples for review. Because the selected sample required that the three different yarns be used, it required three shuttles, and close attention to detail to ensure that they lined up side by side for the basketweave. A fine black thread in particular was challenging.
  - When increasing scale from the samples to the full width, the beating was different, so Mary and her husband attached a weight on the beater to result in a cloth similar to the sample.
  - Mary ended up weaving 15 yards that were used to upholster 18 chairs. They had considered more chairs, but could only find the carcasses for 18.

- Mary had the honor of attending the ribbon cutting ceremony. She got to observe all the details that went into the exhibit. One unique item was a container with scrappings of gum, etc. from under the chairs.
- Overall, the project took only six months.
- Mary Welch is appropriately listed on the sign of companies and individuals who made the restoration possible.

There is no regular meeting the month of October due to the sale. The next General meeting is on November 14 (Thursday) night with teacher, Nancy Crampton, being the program.

Minutes recorded by Jan Day.