

November 2016

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST WEAVERS ASSOCIATION

News from the MWA



WE NEED YOU!

**Without your help, there will be no MWA
Conference in 2019.**

**Please talk to your Guild and your weaving
friends about volunteering to help host
the 2019 Conference.**

Notes from the Chair...

For most members of this organization, our crafts—weaving, spinning, dyeing, felt-ing—are a cherished hobby, a sanctuary we seek from our daily work and obligations. As we engage in them, we find relaxation and self-expression. We create textiles that we share as tokens of love or gratitude with those who share our lives.

Many of us also experience stretches of time where the loom stands undressed or the spinning wheel sits neglected in the corner. We long to ply our craft, but the demands and vagaries of human existence just get in the way.

I have just emerged from my own craft desert. During my time away from the loom, I would occasionally find a few minutes to peruse my yarn stash and contemplate a future project. If I was lucky, I could manage to read an entire issue of *Handwoven* before the next issue arrived.

But what really sustained me during that dry period were the meetings of my local guild and last summer's Midwest Weavers Conference. The guild programs and conference workshops allowed me to explore—if only for a short time—topics and techniques that I lacked the time or energy to pursue on my own. I vicariously engaged in my fiber friends' pleasure and sense of accomplishment during our monthly show-and-tells. I was inspired and delighted by the amazing textiles on display in the exhibits and fashion show at our Minnesota conference.

Our fiber community nourished my inner weaver.

It's easy enough for each of us to go it alone: to spin or weave or knit in isolation. But for me, the craft experience is so much richer and expansive when I join other fiber artisans in social and educational endeavors.

Our biennial Midwest Weavers Conference offers many opportunities for both education and socializing. The host committee

in Indiana is putting the final touches on their plans for the 2017 meeting in Indianapolis. You can read the details elsewhere in this newsletter or on the MWA website.

With conference plans almost complete and registration books soon to be mailed, it's also time for members to start planning and creating the textiles they will exhibit at the conference and designing garments for the fashion show. Participating in the exhibits and fashion show allows every member to be a partner in the success of our conference. Consider also that your exhibit and fashion show entries are viewed by a knowledgeable audience that truly values the creative effort behind every entry.

MWA is a community. At times we are able to contribute much time or creative effort. At other times, we seek support and camaraderie. In these ways and many more, we participate. Doing so, we make our community strong.

Betty Huttner

MWA Board Chair

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Textiles at the Crossroads Midwest Weavers Conference 2017 June 12–17, 2017 Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana

Weaving Indiana invites you to MWC 2017! Preconference workshops will be held June 12–14 with conference workshops on June 15–17. We are excited to host this conference, and hope you will enjoy what Indianapolis has to offer.

Butler University, a private liberal arts college, is located in the heart of Indianapolis, close to museums, shopping, and restaurants. We are lucky to be able to use the new residence facility, Fairview House. Please see our website for further details about the campus and specifics about housing.

Please join us for preconference workshops Monday–Wednesday, featuring world-renowned instructors. We have some exciting activities available for Thursday, including a tour to Conner Prairie Interactive History Park that will feature a visit to their historic textile collections. We also are planning some interesting presentations throughout the day on Thursday.

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**Please feel free to
contact a Board
member at any time
to share your
thoughts and ideas
regarding MWA.**

Scholarship Information

Would you like to attend the 2017 Conference, but maybe need some financial assistance? Or do you have friends or guild members that would love to attend a conference, but the expense is keeping them from doing so? Well, the MWA Board can help.

The MWA Board will award as many as twelve scholarships for the upcoming 2017 conference.

The Jack A. Baker Scholarship, which covers the conference registration fee as well as conference housing, will be given to a weaver with less than five years of experience.

Two additional all-inclusive awards will be given to those who demonstrate financial need. The remaining scholarships awarded will cover the cost of registration for the conference.

Gail Richter and Mary Sims were the lucky winners of the drawing held at the close of the 2015 conference. They will each receive a scholarship to cover the cost of registration to attend the conference in Indiana. Congratulations Gail and Mary!

Scholarships are awarded following a blind review of applications by an independent committee. Previous scholarship awardees are not eligible.

Instructions on applying for a scholarship may be found on the MWA website and in the conference registration booklet.

If you have additional questions, please contact Emily Say, scholarship coordinator.



Motions, Debate & Putting the Question

Article XII of the bylaws of the Midwest Weavers Association stipulates that the biennial meeting of the association be governed by *Robert's Rules of Order* and allows for the appointment of a parliamentarian.

The use of *Robert's Rules* ensures that all participants in the meeting—the majority, the minority, and the individual—get a fair hearing while fostering progress in addressing the meeting's business.

To that end, the MWA Board of Directors is currently seeking a member to serve as the parliamentarian during the general membership meeting at the 2017 Midwest Weavers Conference.

Specifically, we are looking for an individual who has prior experience as a parliamentarian, or one who will commit to the necessary study of the *Robert's Rules* to be able to effectively function in the position.

If you are able and willing to provide this important service to our organization, please contact any member of the MWA Board of Directors.

Textiles at the Crossroads - MWC2017 cont'd

(Continued from page 3)

We are excited to have Madelyn van der Hoogt as our keynote speaker Thursday night. "Coming Full Circle" is the title of her talk in which she will be tracing the growth of weaving in her life and how it relates to our textile community. Following the keynote speaker, please hang around for an ice cream social.

Our conference classes include topics such as: basketry, spinning, tapestry, small loom weaving, weave structures, felting, dyeing, design, and jewelry. More details are available on our website.

On Friday and Saturday, we invite you to enjoy members, guild, and instructor exhibits.

Friday night will be the much-anticipated fashion show, "The Greatest Spectacle in Fashion", followed by a reception.

The vendor hall will be open for shopping Friday night after the fashion show.

Saturday night we will close the conference with the Indy Shuttle race. There will be a contest for both the decorative and the fastest shuttles. These will be on display throughout the weekend. The exhibit, fashion show, and shuttle race categories are all available on the website.

Goody bag donations from businesses, guilds, and individuals are always welcome. Peg Coffey is the contact person for goody bags. Contact her at ppcoffey@frontier.com if you wish to make a contribution.

Visit the website and Facebook page for updates as they become available. Watch your mailbox for the registration booklet.

Registration begins Jan 8 and closes April 2, 2017.

- Midwestweavers.org
- On Facebook: [MidwestWeaversConference2017](#)

**WATCH FOR
YOUR
CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION
BOOK COMING
IN THE MAIL
SOON!**

BETTY C. KENNEDY SCHOLARSHIP

The Midwest Weavers Association is pleased to announce that the Betty C. Kennedy Scholarship will be awarded to a scholarship applicant for the 2017 conference in Indiana. It will cover the registration fee.

This one-time scholarship will honor the memory of a loyal Midwest Conference weaver, Betty Kennedy.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Betty lived in Waterloo, Iowa, where she was an active guild member. Betty then moved to Rhode Island, where she was also active in her local guild.

Betty was an excellent weaver and very active in the Waterloo guild, even after she moved back to Rhode Island. She returned to Iowa to work on the 1993 MWA conference. Betty died in 2001. The sale of her books and magazines provided the funds for this scholarship.

We are very grateful for this donation commemorating Betty's ties to the Midwest Weavers Association.

Exhibit Opportunities for you at Textiles at the Crossroads - MWC2017

MEMBER EXHIBIT

All MWA members are invited to demonstrate their weaving and fiber skills by entering this nonjuried exhibit. The exhibition will be judged for awards.

Categories

Greatest Spectacle in Black and White

Show off your creativity and skill through creating functional or decorative pieces for the home (e.g. dish towels, kitchen items, table runners, linens, wall hangings).

RoundABOUTs:

Use natural and synthetics to spin your way to stunning skeins of handspun yarn at least 100 yards in length.

Freeway:

Transform any handspun yarn into your own creation.

The Speedway:

Let the excitement of the Indy 500 Race inspire you to showcase your items woven using eight or more shafts.

Detailing Your Trip:

Think about any of the pieces that make up a complete outfit. Enter your smaller creative wearables and accessories (e.g. hats, scarves, jewelry, shawls). Large wearables (e.g. coats, dresses, skirts, tops, ensembles) should be entered in one of the Friday evening fashion show categories.

Back Home Again:

Choose this category if your creativity can't be corralled into any of the other categories.

4 Way Stop:

Show what can be done with no more than 4 shafts.

Details on how to enter can be found on the conference website: www.midwestweavers.org/conference

FASHION SHOW

The Greatest Spectacle in Fashion

The 2017 Midwest Weaver Conference fashion show will be The Greatest Spectacle in Fashion, with categories inspired by Indiana's love for the automobile and racing. This non-juried fashion show encourages entrants to put the pedal to the metal and push creativity to the limits. Models will be provided, so all entrants can take a back seat and enjoy the ride as part of the audience.

Categories

The Checkered Flag

Any garment that is at least 90% black and white

The Pit Stop

Sportswear, casual chic

Detailing Your Trip

Garments focused on embellishment or complex structures

The Overpass

Outerwear

The Finish Line

Garments for the end of the day/evening wear

The Roundabout

Garments made from handspun fibers



GUILD/STUDY GROUP EXHIBIT

Theme: The Road Not Taken

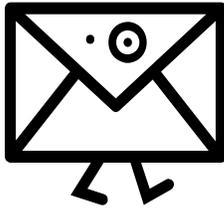
Robert Frost's poem "The Road Not Taken" can symbolize the many different journeys that can be taken as a weaver(s).

Put your thought together to create your vision of a road that led to unexpected surprises and discoveries.

Address Changes

If you move, please let us know by sending your new mailing information to:

Amy Norris
8742 Teasdale Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63124



Membership Dues

Membership dues are collected on a biennial basis. The dues cover the period beginning in January of even-numbered years and carry you through the end of the next odd-numbered year, which is also the year of the MWA conference. These dues help defray the cost of conference scholarships, newsletter mailings, and web site maintenance. Benefits of being a member of MWA include receiving MWA annual newsletters and ***automatically receiving a free registration booklet for the next MWA conference.***

To facilitate networking between fellow fiber enthusiasts, MWA's membership list is on our web site. The list will only include a person's name, city, and state, and will not include any personal contact information. We'll automatically include your information on the web site unless you opt out now or sometime in the future (you can either check the box on the membership dues renewal form or e-mail John Mullarkey, the web site manager).

MWA

FAQs

What does the MWA Board do?

- Identifies guilds willing to host the biennial conference
- Provides conference planning support for the hosting guild(s)
- Provides multiple scholarships for attending Midwest conferences

What support does the MWA Board provide to guild(s) hosting the conference?

First of all, one MWA Board member agrees to be the conference liaison and is available to the hosting committee to answer questions, attend planning meetings, provide resources, and generally help every step of the way. Everyone on the Board has had firsthand experience hosting a MWA conference, so if the designated Board liaison doesn't know the answer, there are others willing to help.

Secondly, the Board has prepared conference guidelines (which are available to anyone on our website: <http://midwestweavers.org/MWAConferenceGuidelines.pdf>). These guidelines provide resources such as sample

contracts, budgets from previous conferences, possible planning timeline, etc.

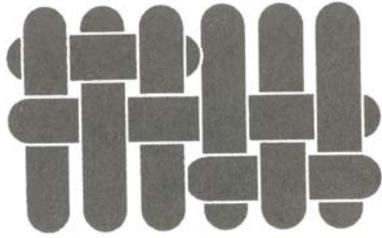
In addition, the Board provides the funding and technical support for the conference website. All website content about the conference is provided by the planning committee, but the MWA hosts the site and our webmaster formats and maintains the site to relieve the planning committee of that burden.

Lastly, the Board provides considerable support for the online registration process. In fact, the Board voted at its most recent meeting to provide someone to build the registration site and provide all the reporting for future conferences.

What does the Board require from guild(s) hosting the conference?

Enthusiasm and creative thinking!

However, the shape of the conference-- how long it is, what activities are included, who teaches and what subject-- is entirely up to the hosting committee. The Board has no requirements for what the conference has to include.



Midwest Weavers
ASSOCIATION, INC.

The official newsletter of

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**More
MWA
FAQs**

What do I get for my MWA dues?

Membership in the Midwest Weavers Association (MWA) is required in order to register for the MWA biennial conference. In addition, members receive a printed copy of the conference registration booklet, plus one printed newsletter each year, usually mailed in the fall.

Why can't I just pay my dues when I register for the conference?

Less than half the membership attends any given conference, so when dues were changed from "lifetime" to every other year, it made more sense to make dues payment a completely separate transaction. Renewal notices appear in the fall newsletter after every conference. And the newsletter is mailed to all members, whether they attend the conference or not.

Why can't I pay for multiple two-year membership periods in advance?

Again, it's a matter of simplicity and ease in record keeping. When the newsletter goes out with the renewal notices, it goes to all paid members. It's not practical to have two newsletters -- one for people who need to renew, and one for people who don't.