

April 20, 2024

MEMBER MEETING

PHILADELPHIA GUILD OF HANDWEAVERS



TODAY'S OBJECTIVES

Shaping our Future Together



WHO WE WERE

Learn about the guild's history and explore the significant developments and transformations we've experienced over the past four years.



WHO WE ARE TODAY

Explore the current state of the Guild, highlighting our recent activities, projects, and membership dynamics.



VOLUNTEER GROWTH

Discover opportunities to volunteer and help build a pipeline of future leaders within the Guild.



VOICE YOUR VISION

Find out how you can share your ideas and suggestions on what you want to see in the Guild's future.

WHAT'S ON THE LOOM?

Agenda for Today

01

MEET
THE TEAM

02

WEAVING OUR
HISTORY

03

TRANSFORMATION
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THE GUILD
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LOOKING
FORWARD

01

MEET THE TEAM

A brief introduction
to the current
Board of Directors





SARA ROBBINS

Director, President

Sara Robbins has been a dedicated member of the Guild for many years. Since joining in 2016, she has held numerous pivotal roles. She has served on the PGHW Board of Directors since 2016, and led the Guild as President from 2021 to 2023. Her contributions have spanned serving as the editor of the Gazette, Outreach Chair, Secretary, Programs Chair, and Education Chair. In February, she again assumed the office of President.

Sara is an avid gardener with a special interest in plants native to PA. She is also on the Board of Director of Awbury Arboretum as VP and chairs their art committee.

Fiber Arts Interests:

Sara's primary passion in the fiber arts is basket weaving, although she also enjoys loom weaving and eco printing

Ask Her About:

Her journey through various leadership roles in the Guild.
How did you become interested in basket weaving?



AUDRA WOLFE

Director, Vice President

Audra started weaving in December 2021, and joined the Guild shortly thereafter. She has dabbled in various SIGs, but is currently most likely to appear at Rigid Heddle, Spinning, Sewing, Natural Dyes, and Evenings at the Guild. Audra initiated the Guild's first Mentorship Program and is currently responsible for the weekly eBlasts.

Audra is a writer, editor, and historian with a focus on science and the Cold War, having authored two books on the subject. She boasts a robust background in public speaking and writing. Her nonprofit experience includes roles on the governing council of the History of Science Society, finance committees for Arch Street United Methodist Church, and a strategic planning body for POWER Interfaith.

Audra is committed to understanding the needs of SIG leaders and collaborating with team members to develop operational and policy guidelines that will ensure the Guild's ongoing success.

Fiber Arts Interests:

Audra enjoys weaving, spinning, dyeing, and sewing—pretty much all aspects of fiber arts except working with sewing or tapestry needles.

Ask Her About:

The stash of osage orange wood in her trunk



BRIDGET FLYNN

Director, Secretary

Bridget has been an enthusiastic member of the Guild since 2013, engaging with the fiber arts community through various roles. She was elected to the PGHW Board of Directors in 2018, and has held the office of Secretary from 2021.

As an experienced educator, Bridget takes joy in sharing her knowledge. She has taught both spinning and weaving courses at the Guild and in private settings. Currently, she leads the Spinning SIG, where she continues to inspire and guide new and experienced spinners alike. Additionally, Bridget assists with the Guild's outreach efforts.

Bridget spends much of her time engaging in fiber arts. Every Tuesday afternoon she helps out at the local public school's crochet club. In addition she sells her handwoven textiles at local craft fairs through her small business, Bridget Flynn Handwoven.

Fiber Arts Interests:

Bridget is a multifaceted fiber artist with a particular passion for knitting, spinning and weaving.

Ask Her About:

Getting involved in the Spinning SIG, tips on spinning or weaving, or participating in the Guild's outreach programs.



MONIKA BRIGGS

Director, Treasurer

Monika joined the Guild in February after taking a rigid heddle weaving class. She recently stepped into the role of Treasurer to address the significant vacancy.

Monika is a CPA who combines over two decades of experience in finance and operations with a dedication to nonprofit financial management. At her previous roles, she managed philanthropic efforts and corporate sponsorships and held leadership positions at several charities. Active on the Not-for-Profit Leadership Committees of the PA Institute of CPAs and the NY State Society of CPAs, Monika excels at distilling complex financial data into actionable insights and champions transparent, efficient operations to drive organizational growth and community engagement.

Fiber Arts Interests:

Monika learned to crochet at the age of 6 and has been exploring fiber arts ever since. She manages a handmade children's clothing and accessories business, where she practices her skills in design, sewing, knitting, embroidery, dyeing, and screen printing.

Ask Her About:

The challenges and rewards of starting and managing a handmade business.



JOANNE ZIMMERMAN

Director

Joanne has been a dedicated member of the Guild since joining in 2012. She has served on the PGHW Board of Directors since 2014, and held the office of Vice President from 2015 to 2017.

In 2019, Joanne undertook the significant responsibility of managing all aspects of building management for the Guild House, a key role which ensures that the space meets the needs of all members and activities. Joanne coordinated the Heritage presentation in September 2017, and has worked on the Celebration of Fiber and the Holiday Sale committees. In 2023, she assumed leadership of the Knit/Crochet Special Interest Group.

Joanne has a keen interest in local and guild history, enjoys gardening, and loves to travel, enriching her perspective and bringing diverse experiences to her roles within the Guild.

Fiber Arts Interests:

While knitting remains her primary passion, Joanne also explores other fiber arts such as dyeing, finger weaving, and paper felting, continually expanding her craft repertoire.

Ask Her About:

Why do we keep the lights on in the loom room?



MELISSA TERRELS

Director

Melissa's journey with weaving began in college, sparking a lifelong passion for fiber arts. Melissa became an entrepreneur while raising her three children in Ocean City, NJ, where she owned an art consignment shop. She also actively participated in community development and fundraising efforts, serving on the downtown revitalization board, the Chamber of Commerce Board, the Library Board, and the Recreation Board.

Upon becoming an empty nester, Melissa moved to Philadelphia and deepened her involvement with the Guild, which quickly became her anchor for making new friends and expanding her fiber arts repertoire. She was elected to the Board in 2018, where she serves as Education Chair. She also leads the Exploring Floor and Table Loom SIG, where members build and maintain Guild equipment under the guise of learning weaving.

Fiber Arts Interests:

While initially a weaver, Melissa's hobbies have grown to include a broad range of fiber arts, which she showcases on her website.

Ask Her About:

Exploring the full spectrum of fiber arts. As a proud enabler, Melissa loves helping members master spinning, sewing, weaving, and collecting fiber arts equipment.



VALERIE CLARK BOLTON

Director

Valerie joined the Guild in 2018 and quickly became an active member. She was elected to the PGHW Board of Directors in 2021, and held the office of Vice President from 2021 to 2023. Valerie co-leads the Surface Design SIG and attends the Book Arts SIG, and has previously participated in the Sewing and Felting SIGs. You can also find her at Portable Fiber Live! and PGHW outreach events.

Professionally, Valerie brings nearly 30 years of experience in various legal disciplines, including Legal Project Management. She also serves as the Secretary to the MidAtlantic Fiber Association (MAFA), and has held board positions at two other nonprofits. Valerie is also actively involved in her church, facilitating a Women's Bible Study and Vacation Bible School.

Fiber Arts Interests:

Valerie is traditionally a sewer - she has been sewing since she was in 3rd grade. However, her interests have always centered around anything related to enhancing or embellishing fabric - printing, stenciling, beading, machine embroidery, hand embroidery, etc.

Ask Her About:

What is surface design?

What kinds of things happen at the Surface Design SIG?



PHYLLIS HORN EPSTEIN

Director

Phyllis began attending SIG meetings at the Guild House on Wednesday nights in January 2023, where she found a growing circle of fiber arts friends. Her journey into fiber arts began with knitting, and under the guidance and encouragement of fellow artisans, she expanded her skills to carding and spinning fibers, natural dyeing, crocheting, and weaving. Phyllis values the friendships and skills she has developed at these gatherings, which inspire her to contribute actively to the Guild's current evolution.

Phyllis joined the PGHW Board of Directors in 2024.

Professionally, Phyllis is a seasoned tax attorney with nearly 44 years of experience at her own law firm, Epstein, Shapiro & Epstein. She has an extensive track record of representing nonprofit organizations and serving on various boards. Her roles have included Treasurer and chair of the investment and finance committees for the Pennsylvania Bar Association, where she earned the Special Achievement Award for her contributions.

Fiber Arts Interests:

Phyllis enjoys rigid heddle weaving, backstrap band weaving, and stranded knitting.

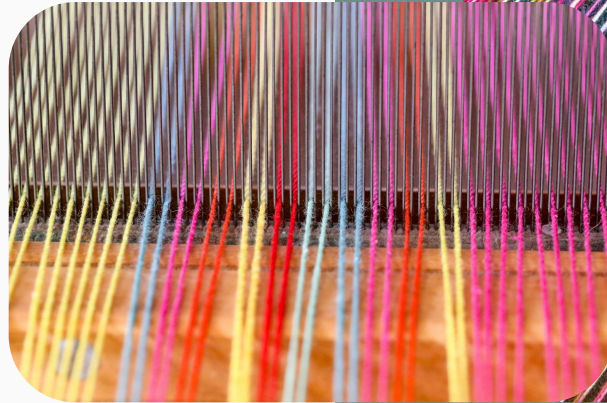
Ask Her About:

Diving into color knitting and backstrap band weaving.

02

WEAVING OUR HISTORY

A look back at the history
of the Guild and key
milestones





OUR HISTORY

- The Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers (PGHW) was founded in 1952 when a group of weavers in the Philadelphia area began to meet to foster their craft.
- PGHW officially incorporated as a nonprofit in 1976.

Account No. _____

15-7316 (Rev. 11-72)

Fee: \$75

3-1-76:37 1461

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CORPORATION BUREAU

es of
poration-
stic Nonprofit Corporation

In compliance with the requirements of 15 Pa.C.S. §7316 (relating to article
ng to be incorporated as a nonprofit corporation, hereby certifies (certify) that:

The name of the corporation is:
PHILADELPHIA GUILD OF HANDWEAVERS

The location and post office address of the initial registered office of the corpora
9201 Germantown Avenue (51)
(NUMBER)

Philadelphia Pennsylvania
(CITY)

The corporation is incorporated under the Nonprofit Corporation Law of the
ollowing purpose or purposes:

The fostering of the art and craft of handweaving by:

- Supplying information, education and encou
interested in the craft through special lect
shops and a three hundred volume library;
- Exposing the highest possible standards ar
craft to the public through annual exhibitio
exhibitions and special community projec'

OUR CHARITABLE PURPOSE

1976 Articles of Incorporation

To foster the art and craft of handweaving by:

- Supplying information, education and encouragement to anyone interested in the craft through special lectures, classes, workshops and a three hundred volume library;
- Exposing the highest possible standards and examples of this craft to the public through annual exhibitions, extra-curricular exhibitions and special community projects.



OUR GUILD HOUSE

- Our current guild house in Manayunk was gifted to PGHW in 1992 by The Wilde Yarn Company, once located next door.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Guild is to foster the craft of handweaving, and other fiber arts, through education and exchange of ideas.

03

TRANSFORMATION AND GROWTH

An overview of the significant changes the Guild has undergone over the past four years





WHERE WE WERE FOUR YEARS AGO

- Pre 2020 membership hovered between 65 - 200 members.
- Our membership was calculated on spreadsheets, maintained on ancient software, and manually counted.
- Members joined during a membership drive run once a year.
- We were a weaving guild with other fiber arts mixed in.

2020: THE YEAR OF TRANSFORMATION



- Social distancing forced a pivot to outdoor gatherings and virtual meetings on Zoom
- This period sparked a wave of interest in new hobbies, and many discovered the joys of fiber arts
- Membership began to grow as leadership was initiating significant organizational changes

IN 2021, WE INTRODUCED A COMPREHENSIVE NEW WEBSITE

A Center For Fiber Arts

[Guild Programs & Education](#)

Visit our
Programs Page
for more information

[Special Interest Groups](#)

Where all the community and learning happens
Our SIG's are groups built around techniques where our
members meet to learn together.

[MEMBER LOGIN](#)

[JOIN/RENEW](#)



AND THE GUILD BEGAN TO CHANGE:

- Our members had a central (though often confusing) new way to communicate
- We initiated a rolling membership program
- We welcomed ALL fiber arts
- Special Interest Group (SIG) participation exploded
- We actively did outreach in communities with which we had not previously connected
- We started social media accounts

WE EXPERIENCED POST-COVID GROWING PAINS



- We continued to make changes to the website
- Our membership began to grow and we celebrated hitting 300 members
- Finding volunteers to lead the growing membership was difficult
- And the world wasn't helping by sending us back indoors, then outside again

BUT WE PERSISTED



- Leadership began to feel frustrated as our membership began to grow very quickly and we tried to hold on to the programs we were used to.
- We were NOT prepared for the growth we were experiencing.

WE HAD TO SHIFT OUR THINKING

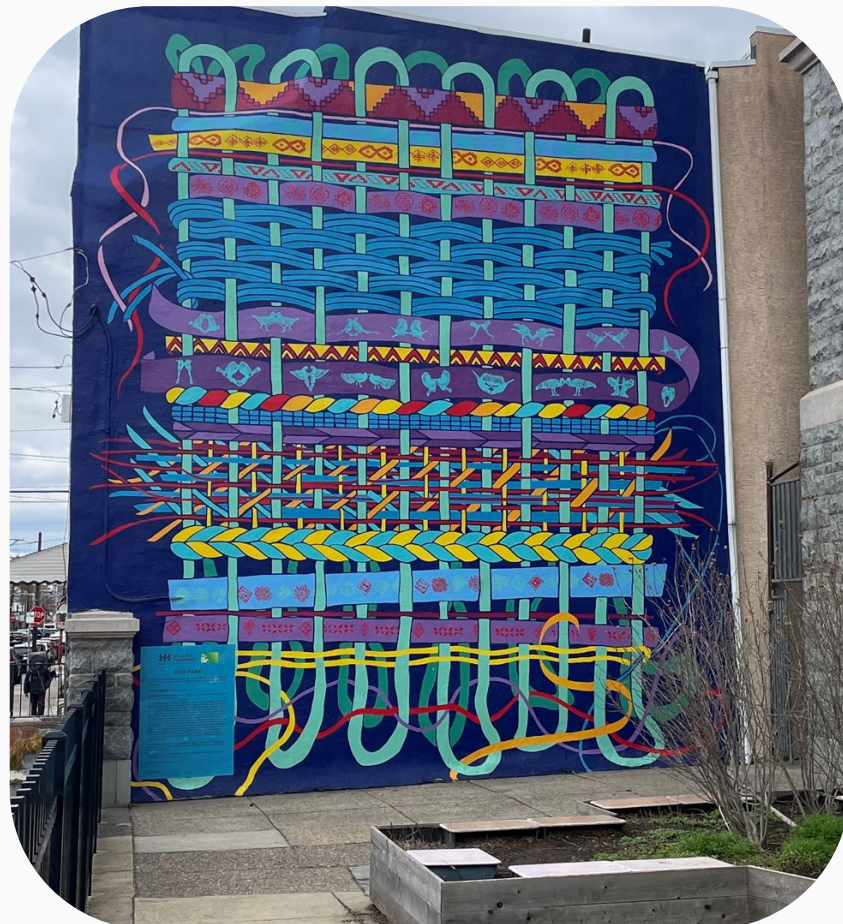


“The secret of change is to focus all your energy not on fighting the old but on building the new.”

- Socrates

It took leadership a minute to adjust, but eventually we turned the wall hanging around...

Instead of fighting to keep the programs and events we were used to, we shifted, gradually adjusting to what the new burgeoning membership was telling us they wanted.



04

THE GUILD TODAY

A snapshot of the current
state of PGHW,
membership,
and ongoing activities.



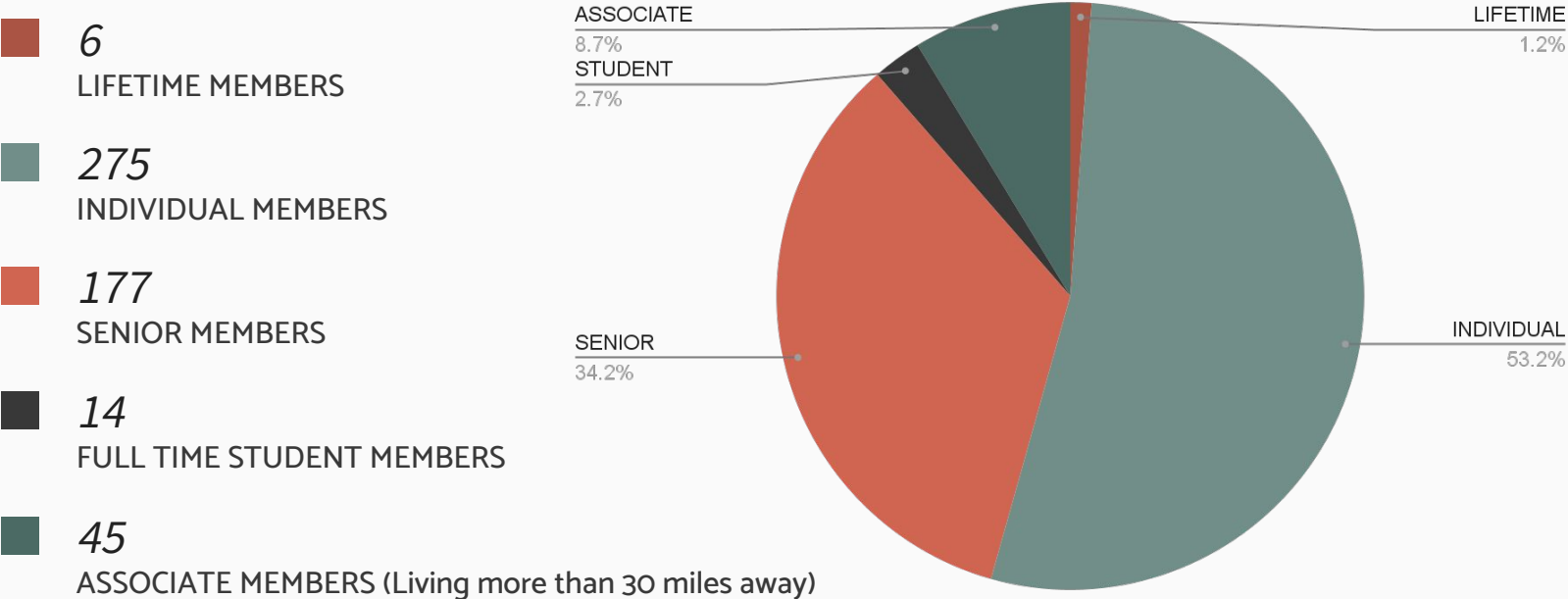


THE GUILD TODAY

- We are 500+ members strong and growing.
- Our 18 Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are flourishing with new mentorship and fiber arts practices..
- We are becoming a fiber force in the city.
- Our membership is becoming younger and more diverse.
- Our guild's reach now extends across a wider area, connecting with more communities.

GUILD BY THE NUMBERS

517 Members Across 100+ Zip Codes (and growing)



GUILD ACTIVITIES UNWOUND

How We Engage with Members and Communities

EDUCATION

Classes, workshops, and programs are offered to members and non-members.

OUTREACH

The Guild participates in various community events that educate the public about fiber arts.

EVENTS

Fiberpalooza, the Holiday Show, and Celebration of Fibers raise funds and allow members to showcase their work.

LIBRARY + EQUIPMENT

Members have access to the Guild's comprehensive fiber arts library, as well as weaving and other fiber arts equipment.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

And of course, SIGs are member gatherings which form the core of Guild life today.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)



BOOK ARTS

SIG Leader: Christine Wilkinson and
Fay Stanford
Meeting Times: 2nd Sunday of the month
12:30 to 2:30
Location: Guild House

This SIG delves into a variety of handmade book creation techniques including stitching, folding, cutting, and gluing, utilizing materials such as paper, recycled items, and both handwoven and purchased fabrics.



FLOOR AND TABLE LOOM WEAVING

SIG Leader: Melissa Terrels
Meeting Times: 4th Sunday of the month
1:00 to 3:00
Location: Guild House

This SIG brings together beginners and experienced weavers to master the craft of weaving on both table and floor looms. Members collaboratively plan, set up, and execute weaving projects while exploring essential techniques such as sett, warping, and finishing.

MORE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)



NATURAL AND SYNTHETIC DYEING

SIG Leaders: Charlotte Chatfield and Dottie Yacek-Matulis
Meeting Times: one Saturday each month
12:00 - 4:00
Location: Guild House

This SIG offers participants the chance to explore the art of dyeing using natural dyes from our garden, mordants, or commercial chemical dyes. Beginners can learn the basics while experienced dyers are encouraged to lead and organize events.



DYE GARDEN

Garden Leader: Daizy Hwang
Spring Garden Opening Day: Saturday, April 27
12:00 - 2:00
Location: Awbury Arboretum

The Natural Dyeing SIG maintains a dye garden at the Awbury Arboretum. Participants engage in maintaining the garden, and learning the techniques of harvesting and processing dye plants.

MORE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)



FELTING

SIG Leader: Marcie Ziskind
Meeting Times: 4th Thursday of the month
10:00 to 12:00
Location: Guild House

The Felting SIG is perfect for anyone interested in learning how to transform protein fibers like sheep wool, alpaca, mohair, and yak into fabric. Whether you're working with raw locks, processed roving, or batts, they guide you through the various methods of felting.



HAND STITCHERS

SIG Leader: Sheryl Kessler
Meeting Times: 3rd Sunday of the month
10:00 to 12:00
Location: Guild House

The Hand Stitchers SIG welcomes all members interested in embroidery, hand quilting, sewing, needlepoint, cross stitch, fabric collage, and crewel. This group embraces all techniques that involve a needle and thread.

MORE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)



KNITTING, CROCHET, AND FINGER WEAVING

SIG Leader: Joanne Zimmerman
Meeting Times: 3rd Sunday of the month
12:00 to 2:00
Location: Guild House

Whether you're a master of the crochet hook, a wizard with knitting needles, or curious about the ancient art of finger weaving, this group welcomes you! Together, we'll deepen our understanding of these diverse fiber arts, helping each other progress and expand our capabilities in a supportive environment.



MULTI-SHAFT WEAVERS

SIG Leaders: Charlene Marietti
Meeting Times: 2nd Sunday of the month
12:30 to 2:30
Location: Virtual

This SIG is all about lively discussions focused on a variety of weaving challenges and solutions. Whether you're curious about weaving structures, project planning, or finishing techniques, this group covers it all. They address both common and unique weaving issues, sharing insights and practical solutions.

MORE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)



PORTABLE FIBERS and EVENINGS AT THE GUILD

These SIGs are about the joy of gathering – sometimes, just being together is the main focus. Come for the good company, engaging conversations, and a wealth of inspiration at each meeting. All techniques welcome.

PORTABLE FIBERS LIVE!

SIG Leaders: Myra Wood and Margie Gale
Meeting Times: Every Wednesday
1:00 to 3:00
Location: Guild House

WEST PHILLY PORTABLE FIBERS

SIG Leader: Kate Dorsch
Meeting Times: Every Monday
5:00 to 7:00
Location: Free Library at 40th and Walnut

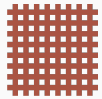
PORTABLE FIBERS ZOOM

SIG Leaders: Myra Wood and Margie Gale
Meeting Times: Every Tuesday
10:00 to 11:30
Location: Virtual

EVENINGS AT THE GUILD

SIG Leader: Leigh Hanna
Meeting Times: Every Wednesday
7:00 to 9:00
Location: Guild House

MORE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)



RIGID HEDDLE WEAVING

SIG Leader: Christine Wilkinson
and Margie Gale

Meeting Times: 1st Sunday of the month
10:00 to 12:00

Location: Guild House + Virtual

This SIG welcomes new and experienced weavers and anyone interested in discovering rigid heddle looms. These versatile looms serve as an excellent introduction to weaving and provide seasoned weavers with a portable and affordable tool for their craft.



SEWING

SIG Leaders: Mary Glenn

Meeting Times: 1st Sunday of the month
2:30 to 4:30

Location: Guild House

Whether you're an experienced sewer, a fabric collector, or a beginner eager to learn, this SIG welcomes you. Join this SIG to find motivation, complete projects, and enjoy the camaraderie of sewing with friends. The meetings are a space for members to share knowledge, learn new techniques, and assist each other with ongoing projects.

MORE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)



SPINNING

These informal gatherings are open to all members—whether you prefer spinning on a wheel or using a drop spindle, you're welcome to join us for any part of the event. Don't miss the chance to spin, learn, and share in a friendly and supportive environment.

SPINNING

SIG Leader: Bridget Flynn
Meeting Times: 1st Sunday of the month
12:00 to 2:00
Location: Guild House

CENTER CITY SPINNING

SIG Leader: Stacey Kaiserman
Meeting Times: Every Wednesday
4:00 to 6:00
Location: Rittenhouse Needlepoint

MORE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)



SURFACE DESIGN

SIG Leader: Valerie Clark Bolton and Lian Sawires
Meeting Times: 2nd Sunday of the month
10:00 to 12:00
Location: Guild House

This SIG explores a range of surface design techniques. They meet to practice and learn in a collaborative environment. Members interested in expanding their surface design skills and experimenting with textiles are welcome



SUSTAINABILITY

SIG Leaders: Ali Valin
Meeting Times: 2nd Thursday of the month
7:00 to 9:00
Location: Virtual

This SIG is dedicated to sustainable practices within fiber arts. They exchange knowledge, tips, and resources on eco-friendly materials and methods. Members also have opportunities to contribute to service projects, such as promoting vegan-friendly fibers at events, enhancing the Guild library, and developing FAQs for the community.

MORE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)



TAPESTRY AND LITTLE LOOMS

- SIG Leaders:** Lori Falbo, Margie Gale,
Carlyn Nelson
- Meeting Times:** 1st Saturday of the month
2:00 to 4:00
- Location:** Guild House

This SIG is dedicated to the art of tapestry weaving, providing a space for both seasoned weavers and newcomers to activate their looms, weave together, and exchange ideas and techniques.

05

MEMBER COMMITTEES

A call to action for
volunteers, highlighting the
importance of participation
for the Guild's future.



OUR GUILD IS CHANGING



and with change comes opportunity...

MEMBER COMMITTEES

Opportunities for All Members to Build the Guild We Want

- **Organizational Structure:** We've categorized the essential tasks of operating the Guild into committees, each overseeing different aspects of our activities.
- **Leadership Development:** Committees serve as a training ground for future leaders, helping to shape the Guild's path forward.
- **Learning and Growth:** Joining a committee allows members to familiarize themselves with the Guild's operational and organizational nuances over time.
- **Volunteer Engagement:** Committees offer a first step for members interested in volunteering, providing insight into the Guild's inner workings.
- **Innovation and Improvement:** If you have ideas for enhancement or possess specialized skills, your participation can help innovate and refine our processes.

MEMBER COMMITTEES

Share the Work, Share the Fun



EDUCATION

- Classes
- Field Trips
- Programs / Lectures
- Workshops



GUILD + ASSETS

- Guild maintenance
- Library
- Equipment maintenance
- Equipment rental
- Equipment purchase and sales



COMMUNICATION

- Weekly eBlast
- Guild Gazette
- Social media
- Works with Education, Development, and other committees as needed

MEMBER COMMITTEES, Continued

Share the Work, Share the Fun



TECHNOLOGY

- Website
- Management of web development contractor
- Oversight of Google drive, including PGHW email management
- Phone lines / Google Voice



DEVELOPMENT

- Grant applications
- Fundraising / Donor relations
- Membership Drive
- Explore other revenue sources, like fundraising events, corporate sponsorship, advertising, etc.



FINANCE

- Oversee and review accounting firm
- Annual 990 filing
- Annual PA registration
- Annual budget
- Risk management / insurance
- Board reporting and annual report

MEMBER COMMITTEES, Continued

Share the Work, Share the Fun



COMMUNITY + OUTREACH

- Outreach / community events
- MAFA Liaison
- Community partnerships
- Work with Development and Hospitality for Membership Drive



EVENTS + EXHIBITIONS

- Holiday Show
- Celebration of Fibers
- Fiberpalooza
- Member Gallery



HOSPITALITY

- Community building
- Member relations and feedback collection
- Refreshments and setup at member meetings
- New member integration

06

LOOKING FORWARD

Discussing next steps, future plans, and how members can stay involved and contribute





VOLUNTEER TODAY

Join a Committee!

Become a part of our dynamic team and contribute to the growth and success of our Guild. Committees are a fantastic way to share your skills, learn new ones, and make meaningful connections.

Sign up here:

<https://pghw.org/volunteer/>

Use the QR code on this page

Or see a board member for a paper Volunteer Form



PARTICIPATE IN OUR MEMBER SURVEY

Launching in May!

Stay tuned for updates via email, social media,
and during your SIG meetings.

Your Voice Matters:

Your input is crucial. Our committees are eager to hear your
thoughts and suggestions.
Help us shape the future of the Guild!



ELECTIONS AND ANNUAL MEETING

Board Elections and Member Meeting:

PGHW will hold elections for the Board of Directors in June. The elected Board will then choose the officers. Join us at the next Member Meeting at the end of June to meet your new Board of Directors.

Stay Informed:

Keep an eye on your emails, social media updates, and announcements during SIG meetings for all related communications and dates.

Run for Office:

Interested in shaping the future of our Guild? Details on how to nominate yourself will be communicated soon.

Your Vote Counts:

Make sure to participate in the elections and cast your vote!



ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

New Accounting Firm

We are currently in the process of sourcing and selecting a new accounting firm to enhance our financial management.

Guild Administration

We are evaluating the need for a paid administrator to assist with the day-to-day business operations of the Guild.

Stay Informed

Further details will be shared as we progress. Your understanding and support are essential as we strengthen our infrastructure.



THANK YOU!

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