

Heart of Colorado FiberArts Guild

Newsletter

October 2015

Comments from Candace

RESULTS OF HCFG INFORMAL POLL ON SALIDA FIBER FESTIVAL BOOTH/ FASHION SHOW/ BOUTIQUE

As a result of many informal comments about the difficulty of running the guild SFF booth and the Fashion Show/Boutique within weeks of each other, I asked HCFG members to comment on the advisability of continuing the current level of financial and volunteer support in the guild booth at SFF, as well as those of the Fashion Show/Boutique, and/or to propose modifications in our current level of support for these areas. Those comments are summarized below (of the forty current members of the Guild, seven sent in written comments). Please read these comments BEFORE you come to the November meeting. At that meeting, any member wishing to make oral comments will be given a maximum of two minutes to speak and then written ballots will be filled out by the members present. The result of this balloting will go to the HCFG Board for action.

GUILD BOOTH AT FIBER FESTIVAL:

FACTS: HCFG has sponsored (at the \$500 level) the Festival from the beginning, as part of our community outreach and to give our members a place to purchase materials not locally available (total sponsorship cost to date \$2,000). HCFG also decided to purchase booth space and offer our members a way to sell their fiber products, with the following results (not including the cost of sponsorship):

2012 – 15 members participated, with sales of \$3,143.87 (commissions to HCFG were \$472.33). Expenses paid by the guild were \$643.85, resulting in a loss of \$171.52.

2013 – 13 members sold \$2,671.06 (with commissions of \$400.66). Expenses were \$799.71, resulting in a loss of \$399.05.

2014 – 8 members sold \$1180.00 (with commissions of \$156.00 and a donation of \$140.00). Expenses were \$371.83, resulting in a loss of \$75.83.

2015 – 8 members sold \$1,915.00 (with commissions of \$279.75, a donation of \$50, and \$80 in participation fees. Expenses were \$387.42, resulting in a profit of \$22.33.

IN FAVOR OF CONTINUING PRESENT LEVEL OF GUILD INVOLVEMENT IN SFF:

1. Having the booth gives our members a place to display and sell their wares, something they wouldn't be able to do otherwise—a benefit that comes with membership in the guild. It is appropriate that part of our annual dues should be used to pay for these benefits.
2. I am in favor of continuing our sales booth or some other kind of display to show our presence in the community.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO PRESENT LEVEL OF GUILD INVOLVEMENT IN SFF:

1. Since we don't make money as a guild on the Fiber Show's booth, why not let those members who are interested pay their own booth rental and work it themselves.
2. Maybe we shouldn't have a booth, and anyone who wants to sell their creations can rent their own [booth]. A number of our members are doing this already. That would also ensure that more items would be available for the Boutique in October.
3. If the guild is not really making any money at this event [I am] not sure we need a tent. If there are a few guild members who would like to sell their items then maybe they should just get together and get their own tent and work it since they are the ones that really profit.
4. I would like to suggest that we do away with the \$10 entry fee for sellers. I feel that we contribute 15% of our sales to the guild and that is sufficient.
5. I don't think we should have a booth at SFF; we should focus our time and energies on the Fashion Show and Boutique.
6. I would suggest other opportunities throughout the year for the members to be able to sell their goods – such as expanding the stash sale or setting up a booth at Art Walk.
7. The Fiber Festival appears to be a lot of work with very little yield, if any.
8. While we can afford to pay for a SFF booth, that is money the 75-80% of members might prefer to see spent in another way. A nationally-known speaker and workshop every year; sponsoring fiber art education in local schools; a retreat at a resort-like setting where members could bring a project to work on; a charity;

adding an evening or weekend meeting so working women could join; having a booth at ArtWalk instead—these are all ways this money could be spent.

FASHION SHOW/BOUTIQUE:

FACTS: This event has been seen in the past as both a fundraiser for HCFG and as a community event for wearable art. Our mission statement calls for us to “encourage public awareness of the quality and creativity expressed in all forms of fiber arts...” and does not specifically mention offering a venue for our members to sell their goods. However, we have come to rely on it as a major income source for both the guild and its individual members.

IN 2015, boutique sales were \$5,429, with the Guild retaining \$814.35 in commissions (however it should be noted that a large portion of these sales went to the guest artist rather than guild members). The cost of rental space is almost covered by the income from Fashion Show tickets, leaving us with an estimated profit of \$707 for 2015. Sales figures for previous years were: 2014 - 4,202; 2013 - \$3,943; 2012 - \$2,917.

IN FAVOR OF CONTINUING PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS:

1. Leave the date and place the same.
2. I don't think we should change the date of the fashion show. The weather in April and May weather is just too unpredictable. It is also my opinion that sales would suffer (I think people are more apt to purchase things in the months leading up to Christmas).
3. The one conflict with having it in the spring is that so much of what our members do is done with yarn that is generally – not always – meant for cool weather, which would be more conducive to Fall/Winter.
4. If this event is indeed our big money maker then we need to keep it going.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS:

1. Assign committee heads and members and have bi-monthly meetings throughout the year to get as organized as possible before October.
2. Perhaps we should go back to the original vision or goals – with no new members stepping up to take on committee positions, we could solve that by not having

events which offer a place to sell our products or make money outside of our yearly dues.

3. If the guild decides not to do a tent [at SFF] then that may relieve some of the pressure of stressing those that take on the burden of trying to work both events. If not, I would suggest that the Fashion Show be moved to either April or May, preferably May.
4. I think if we continue [participation in] the Fiber Festival, we should move the date of the Fashion Show. If we decide not to participate in the Fiber Festival, we can keep the Fashion Show as is.
5. Keep the Fashion Show in October but have it on a Saturday so more people could come.
6. Perhaps we should work on making the Fashion Show and boutique bigger and better by focusing on it all year and providing workshops/ programs/ challenges/idea sessions throughout the year with the idea of producing unique items that could be sold.
7. What we don't want is for the fashion show to become mundane – to lose its sparkle. Whatever we do calendar-wise, we need the entire membership to be involved in the presentation, and that is hard to do when we are all so tired.

Several members commented that the Fiber Festival could become a bi-annual event, in which our Fashion Show could be held in those years when the SFF would not be held, or the Fashion Show could be held in the fall in those years when no SFF was held and in the spring when the SFF was held. However, our guild cannot influence decisions made by the SFF committee. The decision of what to do about our Fashion Show cannot depend on what other groups decide to do.

Candace Weiss

Meeting Notes

October 2, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Candace Weiss. Minutes of the last meeting were approved and placed on file.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy reported that the guild has \$3,856.80 in the bank as of this date. No Fashion Show ticket money has been deposited yet.

Announcements: We have two student members this year. Our first student member, 9-year-old Kendra Johnson, attended the meeting today. Nancy has been teaching Kendra to sew and she will have garments in the Fashion Show. Another new young member, high-schooler Mikaela Hetrick, was not in attendance today.

Fiber Festival Booth: The booth sold a total of \$1,915 in merchandise, with a commission to the guild of \$280. All in all, balancing cost against sales commission, the booth lost about \$22. We will discuss our level of participation in the Fiber Festival at next month's meeting. Candace requested that members offer their thoughts regarding the booth in email form to her before the November meeting.

Fashion Show and Boutique: Favors, table decorations and door prizes due today. Garment jurying will be done at 8:30 a.m. at Nancy's house on Oct. 8, scriptwriting at 10 a.m. at Donna's. Janey Redetzke volunteered to chair the Fashion Show next year with Judy Curran as co-chair. Donna suggested a separate person handle the guest artist. She also would like the guild to consider moving the Fashion Show away from the Fiber Festival. The question of guidelines for Fashion Show entries was raised. A "Designer" line will be added to the description form so that credit may be given during the show.

Programs: Janet Yinger passed around the new program schedule and explained "the box". Thirty challenge boxes were made and passed out. Today's program was making your own name tag from woven squares, yarn, buttons, and miscellaneous embellishments donated by Janet.

Show and Tell

Karen Martinez—shawlette in progress

Kendra Johnson—black/white sewn headband.

Bonnie Pfeil—brown knitted sweater

Elizabeth Shelby—blue self-stripping knitted pullover

Becky Longberg—green shawl/sweater knitted by Trish Knostman, denim work skirt

Jane Templeton—purple/green doll-size sweater from Ann Budd's workshop, blue scarf

Karen Robinson—long woven scarf from IWC class

Sue Keyes—garment challenge tunic top, black with appliqued tree and leaves

Cheryl Eigsti—brown rep-woven rug

Louise Medved—felted purse

Judy Curran—woven black/white San Antonio Spurs scarf for daughter

Marjie Gray—woven yoga mat bag

Janet Yinger—name tags and boxes

Christine Davis—repurposed skirt in purple cotton and recycled white sheer curtain, dress embellished with old lace

Janey Redetzke—black/gray/white knitted pullover

Carolee Litvay—antique buttons on knitted hats, one beige, one pink

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Programs

Join us for a fascinating program at our November meeting in Salida, which will feature fiber techniques that have come to us through our neighbors to the southwest, the Navaho. Frank Campbell will demonstrate spinning on a Navaho spindle, show us his simple loom (he built it!) and talk about Churro wool and southwestern natural dyes. Mellow, meditative and appreciative of the Earth's bounty, the Navaho way of spinning and weaving may find a place on your heart.

Fashion Show and Boutique

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO WORKED ON THE FASHION SHOW COMMITTEE

For those of you who could not make it to the Fashion Show this year, it was a huge success. Because of the hard work from so many members in our Guild, we turned out a lovely event. Thank you, thank you!

We will be having a Fashion Show Committee Meeting after our regular meeting on Friday, November 6. We invite anyone who is interested in participating to please join us. We would love to see you.

Donna Childers

The boutique went very well. Our members created their usual display of wonderful things and I believe our guest artist will be very happy with her sales. She should be a lesson to us all, she puts prices on her pieces commensurate with their value. She sold 15 pieces. Our credit card sales totaled about \$4,729 with cash/checks totaling about \$700. Many thanks to the faithful ladies and gentleman who worked steadily behind the check-out counter so our members could reap the benefits. We appreciate you!

Found at the boutique—a pair of (reading?) glasses, black rims.

Elizabeth Shelby

Sign up!

Programs: Janet Yinger still needs a support person. If you have time she would love to hear from you.

Historian: Elizabeth finds herself so overscheduled that she is unable to perform as a historian should. If someone else would care to take over she will be very grateful.

Colorado Weavers Day

Just around the corner is CWD registration
Remember to save May 21, 2016 without hesitation!
On it you'll find much stimulation

Fine Crafts Sale

Guild member Dee Sapper and friends announce the
High Country Artisans Fine Crafts Sale
November 13-14, 9 am to 4 pm
12600 Coyote Valley Road
Handwovens, Knits, Quilts, Accessories, Cards, Pottery, Jewelry
from Hwy 285, west on CR 260, then west on Coyote Valley Road

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the Methodist Church in Salida on November 6th because the Congregational Church in BV will be holding its annual bazaar that Friday. December and January meetings will be held in BV. Social time starts about 9:30 a.m., meeting begins 10 a.m.