

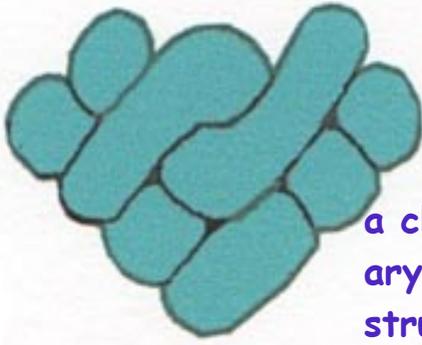


January 2016

Harvest Loom

Southern Nevada
Handweavers and
Spinners Guild,
Inc.

Guild meetings are usually held the second Saturday of the month beginning at 9:15 at the Blind Center 1001 North Bruce St.(except July and Aug) Please check the newsletter each month for date and location of the meeting. Everyone with a love of fiber is welcome.



On the page 3-6 there is an article involving the husband of Stephanie Gaustad. Stephanie will be teaching a class on spinning to some of the guild members in February. It is always interesting to read stories behind our instructors. This article appeared in the New York Times on December 18 written by Margalit Fox. It was submitted by our guild member Janet Mayers to newsletter editor Kathleen Meisel.

Along these lines I'd like to start a new section to our newsletter. I will need your help. Please send me a paragraph or more about some interesting facts about yourself, for example you worked in a circus, you have a doctorate in animal psychology, or whatever. I will write up a small blurb in the newsletter and you will try to match the info to the person. It can be you or someone you know or are related to. My hope is we will learn about each other and have some fun at the same time.

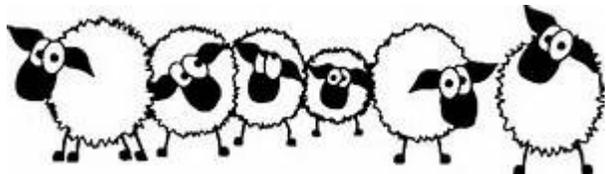


The Fiber Arts Guild
P.O. Box 370604
Las Vegas, NV 89137

Website www.lvfiberartsguild.org
Email lvfiberartsguild@gmail.com



Jan. 9th Guild Meeting



Guild Program

Designing for Fiber

Bibi Bellotto

Food provided by the guild

January 9, 2016

We will have fun using pen and paper with simple lines to make little artsy cards. Being inspired by the international phenomena of Zentangle, we can create new directions for our fiber art. The possibilities are endless and there are no borders unless we choose to use them. You don't need to bring any supplies since I will have enough pens and card stock for everyone to explore with me.



I need new business cards for the yarn shops

Committees

Hospitality	Vicki Johnson
Equipment	Nancy Shinder and Janet Mayers
Librarian	Michelle Duncan
Historian	Monique Portanger
Newsletter	Kathi Meisel
Programs	Maurine Adrezin
Web Site	Charles Parker
<u>IWC Representative</u>	
IWC	Hermi Hiatt



NEW LOCATION

Beginning May 1, we will be at the new location, at the Trader Joe's center.

10545 S. Eastern Ave
Suite 110
Henderson, NV
89052
702-375-30701

SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY, MAY 10
Grand Opening Celebration - details coming soon!

Southern Nevada Handweavers
and Spinners Guild, Inc.

AKA The Fiber Arts Guild

www.lvfiberartsguild.org



Fiber Arts Guild

P.O. Box 370604

Las Vegas, NV 89137

lvfiberartsguild@gmail.com

Elected Officers for 2015-2016

President:	Beverly Fielder
Vice President:	Charles Parker
Secretary:	Jean Suess
Treasurer:	Cinda Towne



Debbi McCarty
debbi@sincityknitshop.com

2165 E. Windmill Lane
Suite 200
Las Vegas, NV 89123
702-641-0210

Alden Amos: husband & Stephanie Gaustad



Alden Amos, a Stradivari of spinning wheels who as a master wheelmaker, teacher and deliciously opinionated author helped spur the modern revival of the traditional craft of handspinning, died on Nov. 28 in Jackson, Calif. He was 77.

The cause was multiple organ failure, said his wife and business partner, Stephanie Gaustad. News of the death of Mr. Amos, who had long lived and worked in Jackson, southeast of Sacramento, was not made public until recently.

In the impassioned and overwhelmingly female world of contemporary handspinners — between 35,000 and 40,000 strong in the United States — Mr. Amos was renowned as a builder of wheels that spun like butter, so sought-after that to buy one entailed a five-year waiting list.

“In a community with so many matriarchs, he was one of the few patriarchs,” said Jacey Boggs Faulkner, the editor in chief of Ply, a quarterly magazine about handspinning, in a telephone interview on Thursday. “He had a deep understanding of the craft, and his tools reflect that, as did his writing.”

Mr. Amos’s magnum opus, “The Alden Amos Big Book of Handspinning” (2001, illustrated by Ms. Gaustad), a work of some 500 pages that was more than a dozen years in the making, is widely considered the handspinner’s bible. Mr. Amos himself, he liked to say, had been spinning “since Christ was a corporal.”

His book's subtitle — “Being a Compendium of Information, Advice, and Opinions on the Noble Art & Craft” — is a window not only onto the text but also onto the author, a big, bearded, overall-clad, plain-spoken Burl Ives of a man known fondly in the spinning community as “the best curmudgeon in the world.”

Handspinning is the art of turning fiber, like wool, silk, flax or cotton, into yarn. While people have been making yarn on small hand spindles at least since the Stone Age, the spinning wheel, which mechanized the process, was introduced only in the Middle Ages

A spinning wheel is a twisting machine. The spinner takes a handful of loose fiber — think of the cotton in the top of an aspirin bottle — draws it out into a strand and feeds the strand into the wheel, whose revolutions impart twist.

The twist makes the yarn, turning an amorphous pile of fluff into a long, supple, durable string, which is then wound by the wheel onto the large spool known as a bobbin. The finished yarn can be used for knitting, weaving, crocheting — anything for which store-bought yarn can be employed.

With the welter of commercial yarn available, an epidemic that by the mid-20th century had sent handspinning into near-terminal decline, an empirical question arises: Why spin?

The answer, to hear spinners tell it, lies in the craft's tactile pleasure for the hands, visual pleasure for the eyes and, ultimately, restorative balm for the soul. To transform fiber on a wheel — with complete control over the color, thickness and texture that result — is, ardent spinners say, the real-world equivalent of spinning straw into gold.

Mr. Amos was, by all accounts, among the most ardent of them all.

Alden Scott Amos was born on Oct. 3, 1938, in Princess Anne, Va., a community within Virginia Beach. His was a distinguished family: His father, Marion, was a Coast Guard officer; a grandfather, also a Coast Guard officer, had accompanied Rear Adm. Robert Peary to the Arctic in the early 20th century.

From his mother, the former Betty Perham, a knitwear designer, Alden learned to knit at 4. At 8, needing a string for his yo-yo, he did his first spinning, fashioning a new, high-twist (and therefore high-energy) string himself, most likely by anchoring a length of cotton to a hook and twirling it by hand.

“I'd been playing with fibers and ropes and cords and yarns and threads ever since I was a little kid,” Mr. Alden said in a 2009 video interview, in which he also took pains to explain the importance, for the handspinner, of drinking beer.

In the 1960s, amid his three Army tours of Vietnam, Mr. Alden built his first spinning wheel from a pattern in Popular Mechanics. “It was a terrible wheel,” he said bluntly years later. “It didn’t spin.”

In the Army, he worked as a helicopter mechanic, and the understanding of the physics of rotary motion that the job gave him would stand him in fine stead as a wheelmaker.

Discharged in 1972, Mr. Alden “became a hippie,” he said, settling in the heady craft culture of Northern California. There he became both an impassioned spinner and a full-time wheelmaker.

“Northern California at that time had a cluster of people who not only got back into spinning but kicked it to a level that people are still aspiring to,” Deborah Robson, who edited Mr. Amos’s book for Interweave Press, said on Thursday. “Everybody else was pretty much spinning funky, lumpy gray yarns that didn’t perform very well. So Alden, out of a combination of curiosity and intelligence, went at the tools and technical aspects of it, in ways that were accessible to the other spinners around him.”

Mr. Amos’s first marriage, to Paula Giannini, ended in divorce, as did his second, to Linda West. Besides Ms. Gaustad, whom he married in 1983, his survivors include two daughters, Brandy and Rebecca Marie; a stepdaughter, Laura Anne; a stepson, Jan Christopher; a brother, Sheldon; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Today, mass-produced spinning wheels can be had from a spate of manufacturers worldwide, for prices ranging from a few hundred dollars to more than a thousand. Mr. Amos’s wheels, which sold for \$1,200 to \$2,200, were completely bespoke, taking into account not only each spinner’s physique, but also the type of yarn — wool or silk, thick or thin — that the spinner made most often.

The 600 wheels he completed over time were elegant, streamlined affairs, devoid of the mechanical bells and whistles with which some commercial wheels are endowed.

“We’re not rediscovering the spinning wheel each time we make one,” Mr. Amos said in the video interview. “If the wheel will produce yarn faster than you can, and do so with a minimum of hassle — it puts in twist, takes the yarn away and nothing else — that’s all you want. All the rest is eye-wash

I'm sitting at Starbucks, which I rarely do. It's weird for a man to be knitting in public. But, for us fellas that knit, it's nothing short of ordinary. There are *many* people that see us, see what we're doing and find themselves asking us lots of questions. And they have no problem stopping to ask questions while you're in the middle of counting.

I've been asked on numerous occasion on email if I ever go out to knit with groups or have knitting friends. Sadly, I don't. I'm too busy counting. I can't lift my head from the stitches to hear what's being said. I'm so focused. I'm there with the rows, both knit side and purl sides facing with the work, and the rest of the world falls away into.... well, nothing.

So, I'm at said Starbucks working up one of my teddy bears, roughly 8 a.m., figured I was safe, not too many people running in and out. And as I'm working on row 10 of the body of the bear, I see three sets of Orange County Sheriffs officers' legs approach. I hear the clearing of a voice, "Ahem... What are you doing?"

I look up and see them staring at me strangely. A trio of enormously inquisitive men in their early 30s pulling up their belts, propping themselves in that "stance." Authoritative, broad, forceful.

Now, you've seen how I look. I imagine I was mistaken for a vagrant and was going to be asked to move along. They do it at Starbucks all the time. Little known secret. You can look rough and sit outside with your coffee and yes, someone will ask you to *move on* if they think that coffee was left behind by someone else. Even though I've paid for the coffee, all it takes is a yuppie couple with a baby feeling "threatened" by the unsavory looking guy outside.

"Could you ask him to leave? Did he *pay* for that coffee? Or is he just taking up space so we can't sit out there with our SUV sized baby stroller? Besides he smells of... something (Old Spice) and our little one is allergic..."

Happens all the time. They spent a gazillion dollars on a latte and a cappuccino and all I had was a tall coffee, with no room for milk. I'm not as important.

You know how it is. Oh, *you know* how it is...

"What is that you're doing?" One of the officer's asked, staring me dead in the face.

"I'm making a teddy bear."

"But, *what* is it you're doing? Is that needlepoint?"

"No! No, it's knitting."

"I *knew it*," he screamed to the guy to his left! "See? I told you it was knitting! I just never saw anyone do it with four needles before. That ain't needlepoint! I *knew it!* I *knew it!*"

"Oh! Yeah! Well, it's so you can work up stuff without a seam," I responded.

"A teddy bear, you said?"

"Yea... or socks. You can do all kinds of things if you can work double pointed needles," I said.

The other two were equally impressed.

"I've never seen anyone do knitting like that before."

OK. So, here is where my own charm popped in. I *wanted* to say, "It's quite common. These are double pointed needles. It's basic knitting 101."

Oh, no. A trio of hot, burly, sexy virile young deputies?!

I replied, "That's cuz I'm a master, a knitting ninja," I twirled one of the double pointed needles between my fingers. "Yeah. Ninja..."

They all laughed, snorting coffee out of their noses and spilling crumpet crumbs to the ground. (Funny, huh? Cops with crumpets? Ha ha!) One shook my hand and said, "I'm impressed. I've never seen a man knit before, but I have *definitely* never met a knitting 'ninja' before. This your usual time?"

It was about 8 a.m. "Yeah... yeah, it is."

"OK, we'll see you next time... and if you have any trouble you let us know. Even ninjas need back up."

Thanks, fellas. I will. The next time I'm there, I'll complain about a yuppie couple with a stroller giving me a hard time.

Gregory Patrick is a writer and knitter in Orlando, Florida. Patrick writes the blog madmanknitting.wordpress.com, where this post [first appeared](#). Check out his hand-knit teddy bears [here](#).

Also on HuffPost:



CALENDAR 2015—2016

- Sept. 12 Guild Meeting potluck Show and Tell
12 Something Scottish Sahara Library 10—3
- October 10 Guild Meeting Loop Braiding Hermi Hiatt
9, 10, 11 Renaissance Fair
- Nov. 14 Guild Meeting Blending Board Demo
Charles Parker
- Dec. 12 Holiday Party Jami Johnson's House
- Jan. 9 **Guild Meeting Designing for fiber Bibi Bellotto**
- Feb 12-14 Spinning Class with Stephanie Gausted
- Feb. 13 Guild Meeting Speaker Stephanie Gausted on
Spinning Practical Color Blending
- March 12 Guild Meeting Scrap Paper Basket
Lori Zajak
- April 8- 10 Class by John Mullarkey Tablet Weaving[
- ~~April 9~~ Guild Meeting cancelled due to conflict with
guild sponsored class by John Mularky
- May 14 Guild Meeting Natural Dye Day at Nancy
Belian's house Charles Parker in charge
- June 11 Guild Meeting End of Year Luncheon and
Elections

FIBER ARTS GUILD MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please enroll me in the Fiber Arts Guild for the year ending June 30, 20__.

_____ \$25.00 dues for General Membership

_____ \$15.00 dues for Seniors (62+)

_____ \$30.00 dues for Families

Membership half price after January for new members only

Please add an extra \$5 if you need your newsletter mailed to your home.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Please make check payable to Fiber Arts Guild and mail to:

Las Vegas Fiber Arts Guild
P.O. Box 370604
Las Vegas, NV 89137

