

SCSWG GUILD MEETING MINUTES

ZOOM MEETING

February 1, 2021, 1 PM

In Attendance: Mary Bentley, Dianne Lim, Yvonne Stowell, Lynda Annibal, Kim Fenton, Roberta Symons, Elaine Lane, Muriel Prior, Lynne Sturm, Joan Reeves, Susan Morris, Dorothy Thom, Penny Stewart, Lynda Daniells, Pam Coxall, Doreen MacLauchlan, Barby Paulus, Fern Magnus-Brown, Marjorie Ann Malcolm, Jana Eby, Mechthild Kroeker, Jean Curry, Helena Tkalez, Lydia Drasic, Danielle Stephens, Trish Clooney, Merrily Corder, Deanna Pilling and speaker, Anna Hunter.

Regrets: Janice Talbot

MINUTES

Muriel moved, seconded by Doreen, that the Minutes from January 4, 2021, be accepted. Motion carried.

LIBRARY

Jana wrote, "We have recently added our 503rd item to the library and if we were to count our magazines we would, no doubt, double that number! Our most recently acquired books include: **Knitlandia, A Knitter Sees the World** by Clara Parkes, **Shetland Wool Week Annual 2020, The Intentional Weaver: How to Weave Better** by Laura Fry, **250 Japanese Knitting Stitches** by Hitomi Shida and **The Vintage Shetland Project** by Susan Crawford." We also have current issues of Fiber Art Now, Handwoven, IW Knits, PLY, Spin Off and VAV. Jana will collect book orders and this Thursday she will distribute them to members at 2pm at the Davis Bay Community Centre parking lot, located just before the Church.

WEBSITE

Helena reported that we have all our minutes on-line now. We are now redesigning the individual pages.

MEMBERSHIP

Peg reported that we now have 101 members. Peg would like an assistant to work with her.

KNIT NIGHT

Dianne has organized and is hosting our Zoom meetings on Tuesday nights, from 4-6pm.

SPIN-IN

Zoom Spin-Ins will be the second Thursday of the month from 1-3pm and hosted by Dianne.

GRANTS and AWARDS

Please remember, if you are interested in an on-line workshop, applications for financial support may be made to Dianne Lim and/or Kim Fenton (Grants and Awards Committee). Application information is on the Guild Website.

PRESENTATION

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Yvonne introduced our speaker, **Anna Hunter**.

The True Cost of Wool, transparency and traceability of our Canadian wool industry.

Anna started knitting in 1999 while she was a live-in nanny in Switzerland. During a leave from her work as an anti-poverty advocate in 2009, she opened up a yarn store in the Hastings-Sunrise area of East Vancouver. The store, Baaad Anna's Yarn Store, quickly became a neighbourhood staple, a great little yarn store with a selection of natural fibres and a focus on local dyers and spinners. She had always wanted to sell yarn that was processed within a 100 mile radius, but found there was not enough yarn available.

In 2015 Anna sold the store and purchased a farm in eastern Manitoba calling it **Long Way Homestead**. In 2016 they purchased Shetland sheep and in 2017 added wool processing machinery. Long Way Homestead seeks to connect people with local food and clothing production.

Anna described the issues of growing wool, such as shelter, pasture, animal care, nourishment of sheep during pregnancy, and regenerative farming- a move to create the best soil health to give the best wool.

She talked about livestock management and the lack of hand shearers in Canada.

The cost of keeping one sheep is \$155 per year for hay, vaccines, veterinary care and shearing. Typically a sheep will give 10 pounds of wool and Canadian Wool buyers will give farmers \$2.50 per pound or \$25.

If the yarn is processed in a local mill one fleece produces 30 skeins but the processing costs are \$480 making each skein a total of \$21 in costs.

Canada has 1 million sheep producing 3 million pounds of wool per year. Wool is often a by-product because most sheep are sold for meat.

90% of Canadian wool is shipped to China where 60% is processed for wool and 40% for stuffing furniture and other uses.

The shipping of wool to China creates emissions and environmental concerns. Anna would like to see us keep our wool here and process it here. For example, wool could be repurposed into insulation bats for Canadian homes, rather than using fiberglass.

She talked about creating sustainable wools which is the Fibreshed model by using local sheep, then processing, dyeing, and creating clothing, all locally.

Anna has started a local Fibreshed in her area and she mentioned the growing Canada-wide Fibreshed movement.

Yvonne thanked Anna for her presentation and thanked Susan for organizing the presentation.

SHOW & TELL

Danielle is knitting socks.

Merrily is knitting a vest for George with local Icelandic handspun dyed in indigo.

Trish who broke her wrist has been able to spin some yarn.

Deanna has been spun and knitted four shawls. She is dressing the loom for a blanket.

Pam is working on the sleeve of her sweater.

Penny has finished weaving bath towels in white 3/2 organic cotton and is warping the loom for a colour course.

Jean wove linen towels as a wedding present.

Mechthild is knitting her baby blanket.

Jana has knitted a vest that is almost completed and has knitted a Shetland wool top in many shades of blues and greens.

Kim finished her Sixteen. She had to rip it back to get the right size. It is now ready for blocking. She is starting a colour work pillow next.

Marjorie Ann wore her finished sweater.

Helena finished her cardigan. There was an issue with the shoulders. It was a Pigeon Knits test design.

Fern is knitting a vest in orange colours with a cable motif.

Barby is on the last sleeve cuff of her sweater and she has also woven a white and black blanket.

Roberta knitted a “karma” sweater for her daughter with a large buddah on front and back. She also knitted a black vest in mohair.

Dorothy has done a bit of dyeing, knitting, and spinning. She is now knitting a tiny gnome.

Lynda A. finished knitting a white hat and mittens for her granddaughter. She is now knitting socks for Jack. She showed a new book, **Traditional Danish Sweaters**.

Lynda D. has been making knitted patches and mending, shown in her book, **Mending Matters**.

Joan R has knitted a winter hat with her handspun which she dyed in horsetail.

Elaine has crocheted a hat with a pom-pom and has also done some Boro stitching.

Dianne has been listening to the Fibre Nation podcasts.

Mary showed her handwoven Deflected Double Weave scarves in natural colours of very fine silk/linen, silk/ramie, silk/wool, 30/2 silk and 60/2 silk.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Bentley