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FIBER

The Newsletter for
Southwest Women's Fiber Arts Collective

SWFAC is a resource that connects fiber artists in the southwest with one another and with opportunities to sell work, learn new skills, teach and secure materials. SWFAC performs outreach to women and children by teaching fiber arts. We promote the concept of cottage industry as a means of fostering economic self-sufficiency and artistic development for women and others working in the fiber arts.

Director's Corner. from Donna & Rebecca

Goodbye from Former Executive Director, Donna Flenniken

Hi Everyone,

As I'm sure most of you have heard, I've resigned as Executive Director at SWFAC and a new person, Rebecca La Fleur, is on board. I feel confident that Rebecca will be a great ED and do a wonderful job!

I received a job offer with a program in which I had previously worked and just didn't feel I could turn it down, so I am with the Family Support Program at Hidalgo Medical Services.

I have very much enjoyed working at SWFAC and with its members and hope to continue to be involved as a volunteer and a SWFAC artist. I think the organization is phenomenal. It's hard to believe that The Common Thread is staffed by volunteers and that other volunteers do so much to contribute to the organization.

I hope I'll see many of you in the future as I continue to be involved in SWFAC activities, and I want to thank many of you who have been great support people, especially the wonderful Board of Directors!

Thanks so much for everything!

Such a warm welcome from new Executive Director, Rebecca La Fleur

Thank you for making me feel at home! Everyone has been very gracious in offering assistance and answering questions. Donna spent time with me to review the various grants – even writing a final report so that I wouldn't be “overwhelmed” in my first days. The Board hosted a fabulous reception to introduce me to members, many were able to make it, and it was a very special event for me.

To those of you that I have not yet had the opportunity to meet, please know that I am thrilled to be a part of your organization. I want to hear your thoughts and concerns, so please don't hesitate to contact me, via e-mail (director@fiberartscollective.org) or my cell 575/590-0237, at any time.

In recognition and honor of how far you have come, I would just like to express thanks:

- *To Charmaine*, and others, for the vision to “give birth” to this collective, the tireless efforts to see it established on a firm foundation and “growing” it to new heights
- *To Donna*, who stepped up to take the reigns and shared her expertise, organizational skills and insights with whirlwind speed
- *To the Board*, past and present, who have given of their time, energy and wisdom to guide the organization
- *To you, the members*, the volunteers, the voice, the force that carries us and enables us to meet our objectives and dream big **Thank you!**

I’m confident that the spirit of “working together” that you’ve shown me will continue to propel us forward. *Thank you* for allowing me to be a part of the excitement!

SWFAC Happenings

New Funding for Internet Marketing Training

SWFAC was recently awarded \$5,000 from the Freeport McMoran/Grant County Community Health Council’s “Community Enhancement Fund” to provide a special training program this fall. The training will be conducted by staff from the Women’s Economic Self-Sufficiency Team (WESST) of Albuquerque/Santa Fe/Las Cruces. The first training session will teach participants how to market fiber arts they have created. The second session will help participants learn how to maximize search engines on the internet in order to sell their work. This avenue offers a much larger audience and internet sales could result in considerable income for area women in this economically depressed section of New Mexico. In addition, WESST staff will provide 14 hours of consultation to SWFAC board members and the Executive Director to design a customized internet marketing program for The Common Thread.

We are looking at possible dates in October for this event and will keep you posted as details develop. SWFAC is incredibly grateful to Freeport McMoran and the Grant County Community Health Council for making these training opportunities possible!

Summer Fiber Arts Program

In July, Pat Bouchard conducted fiber arts activities for the youth at the Silver City’s Recreation Center. The kids had a fabulous time and Pat did *survive*. In fact she did such a good job, that Sarah Bohanan asked if we would continue doing activities. In order to get back to her with a response, please let Rebecca know if you would be willing to volunteer to conduct a couple of classes (or a few), or if you could “assist”.

Monthly Volunteer Drawing

Speaking of Pat, she generously creates a necklace and earrings for a monthly drawing for those working in the gallery. Each time a volunteer works in the gallery, they place their name in the “hat” and at the end of the month the beautiful gift is awarded. Recent winners include: July – Michele Parlee; June – Pam White; May – Jacque Cusick. The pieces are absolutely gorgeous! Pat, we appreciate your dedication and inspiration to us all!

etsy Website

There are several new artists who are participating in the etsy website from SWFAC. Work on the etsy website is also featured on SWFAC’s website at fiberartscollective.org. Take a look at some of this great work when you have a chance!

Bill Blakemore very kindly set up SWFAC as an etsy participant and got us running. We really appreciate all his work! Vickie Gadsbury has graciously volunteered to now manage the etsy effort. Thank you Vickie for “stepping-up”

SWFAC Library

Speaking of Vicki, she recently resigned her responsibilities for the SWFAC Library and Silver Tabor has taken over this job. We greatly appreciate Vicki’s help in the past, and Silver’s willingness to step into her shoes.

New items at the library include:

The Artist’s Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity,” by Julia Cameron; publisher NY: Penguin/Putman 2002. Subject: Creativity

Exercises, thoughts, inspiration, tackling creative blocks – this book covers it all to help release the artist within. Index and reading list included.

Crochet Snowflakes by Helen Haywood, 1980. Subject: Crochet

Black and white photos and drawings on crocheting a variety of snowflake patterns.

Embellish chic detailing ready-to-wear by Connie Long; publisher Tauton Press 2002.

Fun ideas on how to make extraordinarily decorative clothing using beads, sequins, trim fabrics, hardware and threads. Fun and inspirational. Includes sources and index.

We recently received a donation of quilting, needlepoint and craft magazines, as well as a few books and patterns, from Olive Aimsbury before she moved to Phoenix. We’ve selected a few items to place in the library. The remainder are available for members. If you are interested in selecting items for your own reference, please give Rebecca a call to set a time to meet with her at the office on Market Street. Any items not chosen in the next month or two will be offered to other sources.

Board Change

With sadness, the Board accepted the resignation of Deb Shatzkin in June. Deb continues to have many demands on her time that prohibited her from continuing on the Board. Donna Flenniken has agreed to serve as Secretary for the Board. Our thanks to both of you for your past and continued service to SWFAC!

Work on Display

If you are in downtown Silver City and drop into Shevek & Co. Restaurant. you’ll notice a number of fiber arts pieces by SWFAC artists. The owners very kindly offer us hanging space on a regular basis. New work will be hung periodically. If you’re interested in showing your work at Shevek’s, please leave a message for Rebecca at The Common Thread or e-mail her at director@fiberartscollective.org.

The Common Thread Needs Summer Items

Several people have commented that we need more summer items in the gallery. If you have something you’ve completed, or something in your creative basket, please bring it into The Common Thread for sale.

Gallery Inventory Completed

A special thanks goes to Jean Hill and Silver Tabor for taking on the immense task of gallery inventory and checking items against the artist’s inventory sheets. We plan to schedule inventories every 3-4 months, so if you are interested in volunteering, it would be something that could be done in shorter blocks of time, if you can’t commit to a gallery schedule.

New Membership Policy

The SWFAC Board has revised our membership and volunteer policy to create, we hope, a policy that is simpler, fairer and more in tune with the current economy.

- **Membership Fee.** The annual fee for individual members, whether selling or non-selling, has been reduced to \$15. Also, it will be due on an annual basis, at the end of each calendar year.
- **Commission Rates.**
 - Members who volunteer for 72 hours per year in any combination of SWFAC programs, including The Common Thread, qualify for a 25% commission rate.
 - Members who cannot volunteer or who cannot contribute at least 72 hours per year will pay a 35% commission rate.

Regarding Membership fee. We hope that this reduction will make membership more affordable to you, our current members, and more accessible to new members in these more difficult economic times. 2009 is a transition year, so if you have already paid your dues of \$25-\$35, you will not need to pay your annual membership fee for 2010. If your membership falls due from July-December of 2009, you would pay one half of the new membership fee (i.e., \$7.50) for the remainder of 2009. Then in December you would pay the full \$15 for 2010.

Commission Rates.

Our intention here is to put all your wonderful and valuable volunteer efforts on an equal footing. But we also need to reflect how much we need your volunteer work. We hope that you will still choose to volunteer as much as you can at The Common Thread. Without your help, we would need to reduce the hours it is open, which would reduce your opportunity to sell your work. However, our other volunteer programs—outreach, teaching, putting on Tapestry of Talent, staffing out-of-town shows, publicity, help with office and computer work—are also critical to our mission and to our viability. And we recognize that volunteer opportunities may be more limited for those of you who do not live in the Silver City area.

Again, in recognition of these more difficult economic times, we are reducing the commission rate for those of you who do not meet the 72-hour volunteer requirement from 42% to 35%. We hope this will make membership more attractive to those of you who have difficulty volunteering, providing you with some extra earnings or making it possible for you to price your work more affordably, if you so choose.

Remember that you are responsible for reporting your volunteer hours quarterly. In October we will revise your commission rate, if necessary, depending on your reported hours for the October 2008-September 2009 year, as we have done in the past.

What this means on a practical level: if you are currently getting the 25% commission rate, you will continue to do so, but when we evaluate your volunteer status in October, based on your annual hours worked, your commission may change. If you are currently paying the higher commission rate, your commission will be changed to the 35% rate, beginning with sales made in July.

Please contact our Executive Director, Rebecca La Fleur (director@fiberartscollective.org or 575/590-0237) to learn what volunteer opportunities are available and get in touch with Pam White (pamwhitesc@yahoo.com or 575/956-8473), as always, to volunteer at The Common Thread. You may also contact me (tcoble6104@comcast.net or 575/388-5847) with any questions you may have.

We hope this change of policies will benefit you and encourage you to continue your strong support for the Collective.

Upcoming Events.

Santa Fe Rag Rug Festival & Design Collective

We're headed to Santa Fe on August 14th with the wonderful items you are submitting for this year's festival. Our thanks to the New Mexico Women's Foundation for hosting this annual event – ". . . a

Women's Cottage Industries educational program helping to create a more abundant life for New Mexico's women and girls." This has been a very good event for us, we appreciate all of the labors involved in planning and executing the festival.

Tapestry of Talent

Plans for the 3rd Annual Tapestry of Talent fashion show are well underway. Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 26th from 2:00 to 5:00 pm at the Bayard Community Center. The fundraiser ticket price is \$25 and may be purchased at The Common Thread or through the mail. Volunteers are still needed, and a detailed list will soon be distributed. If you can assist with arrangements prior or on the day of the event, please let Rebecca know or just show up for the next meeting on Thursday, August 13th and August 27th at 10:00 am at The Common Thread.

In addition to items to be included in the style show and sold in First Peek Boutique, members can submit an artistic bra and a wall hanging if they desire. Participants can submit a total of six items, plus a bra and a wall hanging. People who attend can vote for their favorite art bra for \$1 per ticket or 6 for \$5. The art bras can be sold if the creator wishes to sell the item. Proceeds from the sale of voting tickets and bras will be donated to breast cancer survivors. Each art bra submitted must be hung on a padded hanger supplied by the artist who created the bra.

Wall hangings can consist of any kind of fiber art that can be hung. These can be for sale or display only and can be by members or non-members. However, only members can sell their work at the event. Wall hangings are to conform to the "lavender and lace" theme and are to be 24" x 24" in size. The opportunity to hang work is a great outreach for non-members, so if you know anyone who's interested, tell them about this chance to exhibit their work.

The floor plan for the show has been revised to offer much better visibility. The First Peek Boutique will be stationed inside the large room, with items being sold both before and after the event.

The absolute deadline for entries the First Peek Boutique will be September 11th to allow members to also participate in the Santa Fe Rag Rug Festival.

Workshops

SWFAC member Jane Hoffman, will teach a natural dye workshop "Harmonious Hues: Create a Color Palette with Natural Dyes" on August 14-16, 2009 at the Blue River Studio in Alpine, AZ. This workshop is appropriate for beginning and intermediate students. The 3-day comprehensive workshop will show you how to create a rich palette of beautiful, lightfast and washfast color from natural dyes. Participants will use native, cultivated and imported dye material including plants from Jane's dye garden. The cost for the three-day workshop is \$300 plus a \$25 materials fee which will include yarn, dyes, mordants, fuel and handouts. For more details, see the notice posted in The Common Thread or contact Jane at j.hoffman@frontiernet.net; at 928-339-4426; or at Blue River Studio, P. O. Box 529, Alpine, AZ 85920. More information is available at www.artistsregister.com/artists/AZ104.

If you want to visit California this fall, the American Quilt Study Group will hold its Annual Seminar in San Jose October 1-4 at the San Jose Marriot. Numerous research papers will be presented and there will be several study centers with information about numerous quilting topics ranging from 20th century quilts to contemporary art quilts. The seminar will also offer tours of several studios and a private viewing of the Joyce Gross quilt collection at the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textures. For more information, contact Maureen Craig, AQSG Area Rep at 956-1296 (work) or 534-4387 (home) with questions, or go to www.aqsg.org or www.silverbellquilts.com.

New Faces and Familiar Faces All Important!!

A special welcome to our new members: *Doris Steiger*, a weaver who creates beautiful sweaters and other woven items; *Michele Parlee*, who has some adorable bags at The Common Thread, as well as some very attractive and original greeting cards; *Rebecca La Fleur*, our new director, has attended several of our classes over that last couple of years. Annie Lessem and Harriert Rogers have joined but have not yet submitted items for consideration. A new member, but not new to gallery, is *Silver Tabor*. She has been working with us through the Goodwill Community Citizens Program. She has knitted caps in the gallery and is working on other items. Please extend a special welcome to our new members!

Renewing SFAC members include Eileen Cwik, Hosana Eilert, Diane Hanning, Joan Jensen, Anna Marie Joens, Lisa Kuecker, Dorothy Pine, Connie Powers, and Janet Shepard. Thanks to each of you for renewing. Your participation, is **vital** – we know that a member’s level of involvement can vary depending on other commitments, but be assured your input and support makes it all happen!

Members in the News

Quilter Lynn Welsch has had two quilts juried into the Houston International Quilt Show which will be held this year the week of October 12. This is one of the most prestigious quilt shows in the country and it is quite an honor to be selected to exhibit a quilt, much less 2 quilts! Lynns’ quilt, “Peace, Love, and Flower Power” will be exhibited in the Innovative Applique (small) category. Her quilt, “Out for a Sunday Night (Aliens)” quilt will be exhibited in the Whimsical category. If you have any excuse to get to Houston in October, check out this quilt show—it is huge and inspirational even for non-quilting fiber artists.

Jean McLaughlin Cowie was “Artist of the Month” at Tapestry Gallery in Madrid, NM and will be part of a juried exhibit “Light Fantastic” by New Mexico Art Quilters at the Branigan Cultural Center in Las Cruces during August.

Sandy Hopper taught a wonderful silk painting class at the Hubbard Museum of the American West in Ruidoso Downs on July 31st and August 1st. *Great class – sorry if you missed it.*

Members – please share with us what you are doing exhibitions, recognitions, classes, etc. Drop a note to director@fiberartscollective.org. Thanks!

Competitions / Exhibitions

The Hubbard Museum of the American West is sponsoring a juried art competition designed to help identify artists in New Mexico whose work may or may not yet have received the recognition it deserves. The competition is open to all New Mexico residents, regardless of their age. Jurors will be art professionals and will review all entries anonymously (without knowing artists’ names). Cash awards totaling \$2,800 will be awarded. Entry fee is \$25 per entry which must be received by the Hubbard Museum on or before December 7, 2009. Digital images are submitted rather than the original art. A flyer with full details is available at The Common Thread, or should now be on their website at www.hubbardmuseum.org.

MEMBERSHIP

Interested in becoming a member of SWFAC? We'd love to have you.

Please send in this form with your name, e-mail address and/or phone number and we'll contact you and send you membership information.

Name

Address

e-mail address

Telephone

cell number

Interested in renewing your membership in SWFAC? Please fill out this form and send it in with your renewal membership check. (\$7.50 through December).

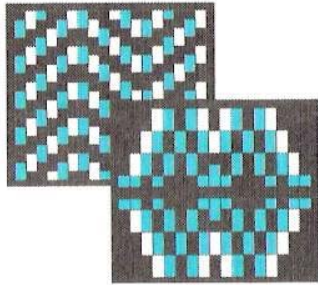
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Southwest Women's Fiber Arts Collective

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Bill Blakemore—Vice President,
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Staff

Rebecca La Fleur—Executive Director, director@fiberartscollective.org
Silver Tabor — Administrative Assistant
Pam White – Volunteer Coordinator for The Common Thread

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