

March/April 2011
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FIBER

The Newsletter for
Southwest Women's Fiber Arts Collective

**Mission: Celebrate fiber art and realize its
economic potential**

Messages from the President

A Sharing Opportunity

During the past year, I have made a purse or bag each month for a Volunteer Drawing at The Common Thread. Prior to that, Board member Pat Bouchard made bead necklace and earring sets for the drawings.

I am glad to keep making bags: it is fun to come up with new styles and is a great way to use my fabric stash.

However, it occurs to me that the volunteers might welcome some variety.

Therefore, I would like to invite members to donate a handmade item that we could use in the monthly drawing to alternate with the bags.

If you would like to do so, you can leave the item in the back of TCT (I will put a box there with my name on it). Please phone or email me first at 388-5847 or tcole6104@comcast.net so that I will be sure to look for it and not lose track of anything.

Thanks for considering this—it will be fun to see what we come up with!

Upcoming Changes in the SWFAC Board

Our March Board meeting will be the last of my 3-year Board term. I will be resigning as Board President at that meeting, but I have agreed to stay on the Board for up to another year, to provide for a smooth transition. So look for an announcement of a new officer slate after that meeting.

The last 3 years have been challenging ones for SWFAC, but I have genuinely enjoyed working on the Board, first as Treasurer and then as President. Some of the Board members have changed over time, but all have been wonderful people to work with, and each meeting has left me feeling optimistic that the organization is in good hands.

Pat Bouchard will be retiring from the Board in the following month, having completed her 3-year term. This will leave the Board with its minimum number of people. This is not a viable number because things happen in peoples' lives that may require them to resign from the Board without much notice, and this would leave us scrambling to fill a vacancy because we MUST have at least 4 members in order to exist as an organization.

If you value SWFAC, please consider applying for a Board position! Take a look at the "Volunteer Opportunities" article in this newsletter and contact me (tcole6104@comcast.net or 388-5847) if you are interested or have questions.

Kathy Cole
SWFAC Board President

Classes

Beginning Knitting Workshop

Instructor: Sandra Jefferies

3 Wednesdays: March 9, 16, and 23, 6 pm-8 pm

\$43 for current SWFAC members; \$53 for nonmembers (includes fee for copyrighted material)

This 3-session workshop will teach the basics of knitting: cast-on, knit, purl, bind-off, one or two increases, and one or two decreases. Stockinette, garter, seed stitch and ribbing will also be covered, while learning all about the most important word in knitting: gauge. If time permits, the student will also be given instruction in seaming knitted pieces together.

Metal Embossing/Greeting Card Workshop

Instructor: Michele Parlee

Saturday, March 12, noon-3 pm OR Wednesday, March 23, noon-3 pm.

2610 N. Silver Street (across from the swimming pool) in back conference room.

\$20 for current SWFAC members; \$30 for nonmembers, plus \$12 materials fee

Embossing foil is a thin aluminum that can be easily manipulated into all sorts of shapes and designs. In this class you will create 4 greeting cards out of metal using various metalworking techniques, including embossing, debossing, antiquing the metal, and coloring the metal.

Check out our website, www.fiberartscollective.org or The Common Thread for class flyers!

Classes on inkle loom weaving, papermaking and lamp making, making fabric roses, Devore technique in silk painting, knitting socks, and knitting techniques will be coming up this Spring and Summer. Stay tuned!

Volunteer Opportunities

Board Member

We have a critical need for one or two new Board members. SWFAC's By Laws require us to have at least 4 Board members and we will be down to that minimum number within the next few months.

Being a Board Member does not require special skills or an enormous time commitment. It does require a commitment to SWFAC's mission, a willingness to help guide its direction, and an ability to share your ideas and listen to the ideas of others. Each Board member brings special skills, perspectives and wisdom from her particular life experience.

Specifically,

- Board members must commit to attending monthly Board meetings (usually about 2 hours long) that are scheduled to work for all Board members. It is understood that a member will have to miss a meeting occasionally, and if we have difficulty making a quorum, our By Laws allow us to vote by phone or email.

- Board members must also be willing to serve on a committee or to do other supportive work to help with Board decisions. Classes, Finance and Fundraising, Gallery and Jurying, Website Selling, and Gallery Association Liason are the current committees. Total volunteer time for being a Board member is usually less than 10 hours per month.
- Occasionally, we have special Board training sessions that may involve a full day or half-day meeting.
- The term of office for a Board member is 3 years. Many times, “life” requires a member to retire before that term is finished, but we really need a good faith commitment to serve one term, and certainly for more than one year.

Our Board meetings are, in part, an opportunity for us to keep abreast of what’s happening in SWFAC, through the Executive Director’s Report and Committee Reports.

Also, we normally have decisions to make--some simple, some difficult. Decisions are always made after a discussion in which everyone feels free to express her opinion, ask questions, and bring up relevant facts and information. Importantly, we all listen to each other, and I have found that over my term, most of our final decisions evolve to a consensus. Sometimes we have had to postpone a difficult decision to gather more information or think more about it, and sometimes we have changed our decisions later in light of new information. Sometimes, too, we have reached a decision through email or phone discussions and votes.

Please feel welcome to attend a board meeting. Currently they are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 3 p.m. in Rebecca’s office. If you think would be interested in applying for a Board position or have questions, contact Kathy Cole at tcole6104@comcast.net or by phone at 388-5847.

Classes and Workshops Coordinator

Education is critical to our mission, so we try to offer a variety of classes and workshops throughout the year on various fiber arts techniques and on business topics relevant to fiber artists.

Organizing these does take some time (maybe up to 10 hours per month), but we have a very well-organized system in place for doing this. It is actually a great way to meet new people and to earn volunteer hours. It is a job that could even be split between two people. Each person could do certain months during the year OR one person could set up the classes and the other could do publicity.

Email and some elementary word processing are needed, but no other skills are required. If interested, please contact Kathy Cole at tcole6104@comcast.net or 388-5847.

A special thanks to **each** SWFAC member and the contribution you make to our organization – whether you work in the gallery, assist with shows, provide beautiful handmade art to sell in The Common Thread, or support us financially or in other volunteer capacities – we **appreciate** all that you do! If we each do just a little bit, we can do an amazing amount together!

Silver City Fiber Arts Festival

We're Rolling! - The Silver City Fiber Arts Festival !

By Lynn Welsch, Committee Chair

E-mail: scfiberartsfestival@gmail.com

Greetings to all SWFAC members and fellow fiber artists! A BIG THANK YOU to all the committee members who have been hard at work!

This is going to be one dynamite event! I hope you all have put the dates of 11/11/11 and 11/12/11 on your calendars (and plan to spend some of your time volunteering as well as enjoying the festival! ☺ !!!)

Here's what has been happening lately:

-We have set up a general festival e-mail address: scfiberartsfestival@gmail.com . Please contact me here!

-We now have a fiber arts festival page on our website: www.fiberartscollective.org

-We have an e-mail setup for vendors: vendors.scfaf@gmail.com

-We are partnering with Judy O'Loughlin at the Grant County Extension Service. She has added the kitchen, patio area, and back large hall for room usage by us, Cooperative Extension, and FFA and 4-H groups. They will be involved in helping with the Children's area, food service, sheep shearing, the loan of stages and display stands, a Sit and Sew area (to make pillowcases for the military troops - our event is on Veteran's Day!), sharing a film on cotton, and will produce the Fabulous Fun Fiber Filled Recipe Booklet (that they will sell as a fundraiser for their group).

-Local Non-Profit Groups have been contacted for exhibits and booths

-Local Quilt Groups have been invited to participate in special Mini Quilt Challenge exhibit. As a member, you can make a mini quilt, too for the exhibit!

-The Los Colcheras Quilt Guild in Las Cruces has agreed to loan us quilt racks for exhibits.

-Ten mannequins have been lined up for the wearable fiber art exhibit. If you have a mannequin to lend, please contact us! We really want to showcase the wonderful garment making abilities of our members, so I hope you're working on an entry!

-Numerous Call for Vendor information sheets and applications have gone out to organizations, businesses and individuals. Please send any vendor referrals you may have to the vendor e-mail!

-Twelve booth applications have been given to members and so far three members have signed up for a booth.

-We will have a Festival Store also to sell members items. I hope you are working on them!

-Many sponsorship requests have gone out and we have received \$685 in cash donations(with more promised) and \$225 in in-kind donations (with more promised). If you know any businesses

or individuals that you think may want to be a sponsor, please send that info. to the festival e-mail so we can contact them!

-PA system requests are being written up to borrow equipment from the university

-Over 100 Save the Date Flyers have been sent out to businesses, organizations, and individuals so far. Please send us any contact info. you have for groups, etc. , too! As a member, please keep sending them out to anyone you know!

-The first 1,000 bookmarks advertising the festival have been printed and we have started distributing them at fiber art events. Let us know if you have an event, organization, or individuals you can give bookmarks to and we'll get some to you!

-A half page ad for our festival will be in the Albuquerque Fiber Arts Festival Booklet.

-We have confirmed an expert hand shearer for the sheep shearing demo and Tanabii Natani and the Dine Bi lina for the festival. We will have a "sheep to shawl" exhibit.

-Several classes and make it take it workshops have already been set up!

-Contacts have been made for organizations to help with the Children's area.

-We will be ordering show T-shirts in the next month and they will be for sale at The Common Thread by the beginning of April.

-Pat Bouchard will help with the Raffle, Door Prize, and Silent Auction areas (Thank You!). Members may not want to put in the time, effort, and many hours that the show committee members are....., you can still contribute to the festival by making and donating items for our raffle and a 12" by 12" fiber art piece for our silent auction. You are a very talented group of fiber artists and I hope you will have some items to donate and will also showcase your talents in a 12" by 12" silent auction fiber art piece! Time to get started!

-Janet Tripp has volunteered to help with signs for the festival (Thank You!)

-We are still looking for a Volunteer Coordinator. This person would coordinate and schedule the volunteers for various jobs the days of the festival.

-The position of Advertising Coordinator is also still open. This person would work with Charmaine Wait (Publicity/Advertising Chair) and would follow up with already committed sponsors and businesses for their ad copy.

-Please contact me or Charmaine if you are willing to help out with either of these jobs!

As you can see, we are rolling, but the committee can't pull off this festival alone! Please help us in any way you can to make this festival a great success! We want and welcome all members input, suggestions, referrals, contributions, and volunteer time for this exciting event!

Lynn Welsch
e-mail: scfiberartsfestival@gmail.com
Cell phone: 214-681-5543

The Common Thread

Changing of the Seasons

Hi everyone,

Although we know that anytime now the fruit trees will flower and then we will be hit with a snowstorm, Spring really is on the way! The jury committee would like to request that those of you who live near Silver City begin removing your winter-y merchandise and also merchandise that has been in The Common Thread for a year or more. However, please leave items that we have placed on Etsy (they have a special colored tag). When you remove items, please make a list of them for us and either have the gallery worker remove them from the computer OR leave the list in Pam's folder for her to remove. At the same time, please start bringing in Spring and early Summer items. Our jurying dates in March will be Monday, March 14 and Monday, March 28. On March 14 we will hopefully have lots of new spring things to choose from! Our plan is to have the gallery looking like Spring by the first day of Spring on March 20. We would also like to let you know, that if the gallery begins to look crowded, we may rotate some of your items to the back temporarily. Be assured that they will be rotated back out front in a week or two. We will always ensure that there is a good representation of your work in the gallery, but having too many items on display often confuses and overwhelms customers, and rotating items in and out keeps things looking fresh.

Thanks for your wonderful creations! Please email me if you have questions,

Kathy Cole

tcole6104@comcast.net

Happenings and Opportunities

Las Cruces Rag Rug & Design Festival

March 5th and 6th at the Farm & Ranch Museum

Lynnae McConaha and Jan Tripp have volunteered to take our items and work our booth. THANKS guys! We're hoping that the economy is improving and sales will be GREAT!

Ruidoso Rag Rug & Design Festival

June 11th and 12th, Hubbard Museum

Another sales opportunity! -- our special THANKS to New Mexico Women's Foundation, who works with us throughout the year!

Silver City Gallery Association is planning a studio tour for Silver City and surrounding area on September 17 & 18 from 10-5. Association membership of \$75 is required to participate (by March 15th). Those interested in participating may contact susan@susanszajer.com Information is also posted on the bulletinboard in the back room of The Common Thread.

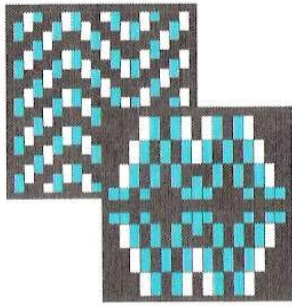
SWFAC member, Prairie Small, is requesting donations of new or gently used art supplies for the children in Palomas as well as help in sewing small fabric bags for the art supplies. A sample bag is hanging in the back room at The Common Thread. Those interested in helping may call Prairie at 535-2480.

Membership

Membership is now on a calendar year basis. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please send your check for \$60 (selling membership) or \$25 (non-selling membership) to SWFAC, PO Box 636, Silver City, NM 88062 or drop by the Common Thread to renew in person. We welcome new members and appreciate the ongoing support of our renewing members! Some members have generously made contributions above the membership amount so that those that may not be able to afford the full \$60 for a selling-membership, can fully participate. We invite others that are able to contribute to do so. If you could benefit from assistance with meeting the selling dues amount, please contact Rebecca La Fleur at 590-0237.

Interested in becoming a member of SWFAC or know someone that would? Stop by The Common Thread to pickup a membership package or check the website (updated forms are being posted.)

If you call The Common Thread at 538-5733 and leave your name and address or e-mail address, we will send you membership information.



The Common Thread
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www.fiberartscollective.org

Board of Directors

Kathy Cole — President
Marilyn McCracken — Vice President
Patricia Bouchard — Secretary
Betty Mishuk — Treasurer
Lynnae McConaha — Director

Staff

Rebecca La Fleur — Executive Director,
director@fiberartscollective.org
Pam White — Volunteer Coordinator/Gallery Manager
Lynn Welsch — Fiber Arts Festival Coordinator

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