

Arizona Federation of Weaving and Spinning Guilds

The Woven Word

Winter 2025-2026

Weaving Arizona's Fiber Experiences Together

Fiber Flashes

The Arizona Federation of Weaving and Spinning Guilds represents 11 guilds around Arizona dedicated to sharing, learning, demonstrating, and encouraging the arts and crafts related to fiber: weaving, spinning, knitting, crocheting, felting, and basketry. We embrace "all things fiber!" See who we are on the last page of this newsletter!

Visit us on our webpage or join our Facebook page to get updated information on Federation and Guild activities, grants, and events.

In this issue, find out about our 2025 Traveling Teacher programs held throughout the state, and get information on our upcoming Arizona Fiber Arts Festival, coming in April 2026.

Federation Officers

Carol Byrne, President
Mary Rooney, Vice President
Nancy Wilson, Treasurer
Marilyn Tschetter, Secretary

Contact Email: contact@azfed.org

Find us:

Website: www.azfed.org

Facebook: facebook.com/groups/azfiberartsfederation

President's Corner

Having said good-bye to summer, 2025 here in PA, I am looking forward to our return to sunny and warm Arizona and to all my fiber arts friends.

REGISTRATION for the 2026 Arizona Fiber Arts Festival is OPEN for all Guild members of the Federation, and opens to guests on November 30, so go to the website (azfed.org) to review the fantastic line up of instructors and wide variety of Workshops and Seminars. Register NOW to be sure that you don't miss out on what interests you. Details of the festival are included in this issue. A big thank you goes out to Kathleen Orloff and her committee who have been diligently working to ensure that the 2026 AZ Fiber Arts Festival is even bigger and better than the very successful 2024 event.

All Federation Guilds are being asked to supply gifts for the Goodie Bags and a Guild Raffle Basket. Member Guilds are being offered a Guild Booth in the Vendor Hall free of charge where your Guild can provide mini demonstrations, promote membership, sell handmade products (sales tax license required) and meet with other Guild members.

Our newest Guild member is the Basket Artisans of Arizona, Inc. If you are looking for another way to express your creativity in basketry, why not attend one of their meetings and determine if this technique is for you? Best news, you won't even need yet another loom! They meet the first Monday of each month in Tempe. For more information, please contact Yvonne Campanella at ybasketsaregreat@gmail.com.

I hope that you had the opportunity to attend one of the workshops offered by the 2025 Traveling Teacher program. Amanda Robi-nette was very well received by the members of several host Guilds. You can read more about her visit in this issue.

Remember the 2027 Guild and Individual Grant Applications are now open. For 2026 we had no applicants. Guilds may apply for up to \$500.00 to support the cost of a teacher or program, and Individuals may apply for up to \$500.00 toward the cost of educational opportunities. You are encouraged to apply for a grant to attend an educational class at a local Fiber conference or Convergence. Applications are available from your Guild Representative.

Please join me in welcoming Marilyn Tschetter as Secretary. I will continue for another term as President. Both will serve on the Executive Board from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027.

Have a wonderful holiday season, and happy Weaving, Spinning, Knitting, Crocheting, Felting, etc. in the New Year! **Carol Byrne, President, Arizona Federation of Weavers and Spinners Guilds, Inc.**

Federation Announces Second Arizona Fiber Arts Festival

2026 Fiber Arts Festival at Camp Verde, Arizona



The Federation is excited to present our 2026 Fiber Arts Festival. We will be returning to Camp Verde, the site of our 2024 Festival. The Festival will be held April 10, 11, and 12, 2026, and will offer workshops, seminars, demonstrations, guild booth displays, and a vendor market. Our new seminar offerings will be designed to lecture and demonstrate about a topic or technique in depth.

Once again, we will be in partnership with the Town of Camp Verde which allowed the Festival in 2024 to provide a welcoming venue in the Town Parks & Recreation Center for our statewide guilds to gather, showcase members' work, and talk with the Festival visitors. For 2026, the Festival will expand its reach in Camp Verde by also using meeting rooms in the Camp Verde Community Library and in the Verde Valley Archaeology Center and Museum. Each of these sites is approximately five minutes by car and offers easy parking.

The vendor market, guild booths, with displays and sales, and demonstrations will be free and open to the public. The Festival is offering 30 workshops and seminars in 2026. Most are half-day and full-day classes; two are longer. Some of the topics are spinning, weaving, dyeing, natural dyeing, basketry, and needle and nuno felting. All workshops and classes require registration and have a fee. ***SEE PAGE 6 for a quick glimpse at the workshop/class schedule!***

Registration opens on the Federation website (www.azfed.org) November 15, 2025, for guild members and November 30, 2025, for the general public. Our Festival Steering Committee members have been working on the Festival for several months now and are extremely pleased with the progress we are making towards another successful Fiber Arts Festival. We hope we will see you there as a student, a guild booth representative, and a volunteer during the Festival. And we hope you will bring a friend.



Traveling Teacher 2025: Amanda Robinette

Our Federation helps to find and financially support a Traveling Teacher every other year for member guilds to host special workshops for their members (we alternate between hosting our statewide Fiber Arts Festival). In 2025, our selected Traveling Teacher was Amanda Robinette, whose workshop offerings varied from Sakiori weaving to "harvesting" yarn from sweaters to Tai Chi for fiber artists. With this wide array of choices, each guild had their own unique experiences with Amanda. Here are some highlights from Sun City, Prescott, and the White Mountains.

The Twisted Threads Fiber Guild (Northern Arizona's White Mountains region) hosted Amanda on April 10, 2025 for a spectacular day of fibery fun. Our morning was spent unraveling sweaters to "harvest" yarn. It's a great way to re-purpose sweaters that have already lived their life and to keep them from a landfill. Amanda explained how to select your sweaters, and how to undo the seams in order to rip 'em apart for yarn. After some frustrations, we all loudly exclaimed "got it!!!" when the seam thread zipped down a seam and the sweater pieces came apart. Then came winding the yarn, treating it to prepare it for use, and then a lesson on how to convert any pattern to suit the gauge you get with your "new" yarn. All of us are looking at thrift stores with a new eye! After a delicious lunch, the group launched into a lesson on Tai Chi for Fiber Artists, flexing muscles that support our bodies while we knit, crochet, weave, and spin. A great time was had by all. Meeting Amanda was the highlight, thank you so much for your expertise and energetic enthusiasm!!



On March 17 - 18 the traveling teacher sponsored by the Federation, Amanda Robinette, taught several workshops in Prescott, AZ. Karen Webber was fortunate to travel from Sun City to participate. One workshop was titled "The Sakiori Scarf" but the Sakiori technique taught by Amanda was about using recycled silk material from discarded clothing to create a variety of new weaving products, not just scarves. Amanda showed how to cut discarded or recycled silk clothing into 1/4th inch "thread" for weaving. In this workshop, we were encouraged to use tencel thread in the warp so that the finished silk product would be soft and flexible (drapey). Photo to right is one product produced in the class that could be used as a scarf or a table runner.



Traveling Teacher Amanda Robinette Class Reviews, Cont'd



Karen Webber of Sun City Oakmont Artistic Weavers wanted to continue the 3-6-60 technique of warping a loom taught to her by Amanda. However, in her northern home, she had no access to a 6-dent reed; but she did have an 8-dent reed so she adapted Amanda's teaching to a 4-8-80 warping technique that incorporated the basics of the workshop. These photos show 2 sets of the resulting weavings. Because she used stiffer and heavier yarns, these will be used as runners rather than scarves.

Amanda taught a group of weavers in Prescott, AZ in a workshop called "3-6-60 Novelty Yarn Scarves". The three is the length of the warp (3 yards), the 6 is the number of different types of yarn or thread and the 60 is how many threads are needed (10 of each of the 6 yarns chosen). One of the primary purposes of this technique is to allow weavers to use leftover balls of yarn from their personal stash, those with varied weights and textures, to form a new and interesting warp. Using a 6-dent reed helped with threading the varied thicknesses. This photo shows the result of one such 3 yard warp. To see the variety of the 6 different yarns/threads used in the warp, look closely at the fringe. Both runners/scarves have the same warp but different weft.



Amanda visited Sun City's Oakmont Artistic Weavers and Fiber Artists to teach "Weaving with T-Shirts" (including making t-shirt yarn, or "tarn," 3 ways). Variations on warping were up to the individual weaver. Staying true to her overall message, Amanda stressed that the purpose of using T-shirts is to recycle/reuse clothing that is no longer being worn. Weavers LOVE to find inexpensive ways to weave, and Amanda's focus is to bring a recycling/reusing outlook into her weaving. The 3 "tarn"-making methods demonstrated were: looper, strip, and continuous cut. The method used was up to each individual. Photos show 2 small rugs woven on a dorothea loom and a larger rug being woven by Janet Skoog on a floor loom. Participants agreed that this method of "rag weaving" resulted in a smoother finish on both sides with very few visible ends. The small rugs in the photo were created for the steps of an RV and have held up beautifully after repeated washings.



Events and Happenings



The Intermountain Weavers Conference (IWC) is currently seeking proposals for their 2027 Conference, to be held July 6-10, 2027 at the Antlers Wyndham, 4 S. Cascade Ave, Colorado Springs, CO.

All information can be found on www.intermountainweavers.org, but here are some details for anyone interested in developing a workshop or seminar proposal:

- Proposals are due no later than 1 Feb 2026.
- Workshop selections will be completed by the end of February 2026.
- 3-hour seminars – 3 hours for a half day. Participants should be required to bring minimal supplies.
- 1-day workshops – 6 hours total for one day. Small equipment such as inkle looms and marudai/kumihimo disks can be required, but no table, floor or rigid heddle looms.
- 3-day workshops – 6 hours total for each day, 18 hours total for 3 days.
- The 3-day workshops will be held Wednesday through Friday, 7-9 July 2027.
- The 3-hour seminars and 1-day workshops will be held on Saturday, 10 July 2027.
- Leaders that are not within 100 miles of the conference location must propose both a 3-day workshop and a 1-day workshops or two 3-hour seminars. The subject matter for 3-day workshops and 1-day workshops or seminars should be different.
- IWC has added virtual workshops between conferences to our offerings. IWC will provide the Zoom environment and a person to manage that environment during the class. We are interested in one to three-hour seminars and multi-session workshops. Topics include weaving, spinning, dyeing, basket-making and other fiber arts – so long as they can be presented virtually.

Please find out more details at the IWC website (www.intermountainweavers.org) or contact us at workshops@intermountainweavers.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Only Yarn Store in Verde Valley is being sold!

Linda Kimberly, current owner of Sedona Knit Wits, and her husband (along with a passel of dogs) have decided to relocate to the Midwest to be closer to family. The shop has been servicing the Verde Valley for many years as a full service knit shop with beautiful yarns as well as crochet and knit classes.

Linda would love to have an interested party speak with her to take it over. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about Knit Wits please call Linda at 928-451-6452.

Arizona Fiber Arts Federation Member Guilds

Note: Guild webpages, if applicable, are listed in full address form and linked here. In the interest of conserving space, Facebook groups are hyperlinked. If needed, search Facebook for your specific Guild group page.

Northern Arizona:

Fiber Artists of Northern Arizona (Flagstaff): <http://www.fiberartistsnaz.org> and [Facebook](#)

Mountain Spinners and Weavers Guild (Prescott): <http://www.mtnspinweave.org/> and [Facebook](#)

Twisted Threads Fiber Guild (White Mountains area): [Facebook](#).

Verde Valley Fiber Artisans (Sedona): <https://verdevalleyweaversguild.com>

Central Arizona:

Arizona Desert Weavers and Spinners (Phoenix): <http://www.adwsg.org/> and [Facebook](#)

Sun City Artistic Weavers and Fiber Arts (Sun City): <https://suncityaz.org/2012/03/13/artistic-weaversfibert-artists-club/>

Telarana Weavers and Spinners Guild (E. Maricopa County): <http://www.telarana.org/> and [Facebook](#)

Weavers West Guild (Sun City West): <http://weavers.scwclubs.com/> and [Facebook](#)

Basket Artisans of Arizona: <http://azbasketguild.org>

Southern Arizona:

Valley Fiber Art Guild (Sahuarita/Green Valley): <http://www.valleyfiberartguild.org/>

Tucson Handweavers and Spinners Guild (Tucson): <http://www.thsg.org/> and [Facebook](#)

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ARIZONA FIBER ARTS FESTIVAL AT-A-GLANCE CLASS SCHEDULE

		FRIDAY MORNING SESSION	FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION	SATURDAY MORNING SESSION	SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION	SUNDAY MORNING SESSION	SUNDAY AFTERNOON SESSION
C V R E C T R	KITCHEN	FF1 Eklund Dyeing Red & Yellow		SAF1 Eklund Dyeing Blue/Indigo		SUF1 Garina Nuno Felting with Viscose	
	Workshops						
	305	FH1 Ruane Spinning Takli Spindle	FH6 Ruane Spinning Hemp	SASU1 Jarchow Double your Fun Using Two Heddles			
	Workshops						
	BRIC	FF2 Noble Pinweaving		SAH1 Deutmeyer Spin Cellulose	SAH3 Deutmeyer Spinning 2.0	SUF2 Brunner Chinese Thread Box Holder	
	Workshops						
C V	204	FH2 Lohbeck Flower Pounding		SAF2 Salamy Punch Needle Rug Hooking		SUH1 Jennings Coiled Silk Pendant	SUH2 Holton Off-loom Weaving
	Workshops						
L I B R A R Y	TERRA COTTA Workshops	FH3 Damrauer Gel Printing	FSA1 Gleason-Moore Basketry Choctaw Swirl Twill				
	FOUNDERS	FF3 Kay Fiber Book Art		SAF3 Brunner Spinning Paper			
	Workshops						
A R C H A E O L O G Y	KEYLIME	FH4 Doig Bobbin Lace	FH7 Bonny Temari Ball	SAF4 MacHale Inkle Loom			
	Workshops						
	KEMPER	FS1 Bradley Evolution of Wet Felting	FS2 Jarchow Join Hand Woven Panels	SAS1 Ruane Hemp & Fiber Artists	SAS2 Braun Wool - Past to Present		
	Seminars						
A R C H A E O L O G Y	BOARD ROOM Workshops	FH5 Davidson Fair Isle Knitting Design	FH8 Bradley Needle Felt 3D Animal	SAH2 Bradley Needle Felt Landscapes			
	LOBBY		FAC1 Museum Staff Behind - the- Scenes Tour	SAAC1 Museum Staff Behind - the- Scenes Tour			
	Tours						