

**Weavers' Guild of Boston
Annual Report
Dean**

I find at the end of my first year as Dean that I am most grateful for all the people of the Guild who have been most supportive and eager to help in many ways. I especially appreciate my wonderful Board. Their experience, willingness to engage and move the Guild along into new challenges is inspiring.

As required we held four Board meetings, May, August, December and March:

In May we held an overview of the coming year, looked at the Survey results and decided how to use them to inform our initiatives and how to best share the results with the Membership. One challenge was to set some new challenges to increase membership to younger weavers. Martha Rossman began a new program under the Grants Committee to reach out to Textile programs at local colleges and offer scholarships. Susan was to provide lists of members who have checked off interest in providing samples, outreach, Plymouth projects, snacks, etc. for all of the associated Board members to make their jobs easier.

In August, we devoted time to membership issues, an education overview and voted on Martha's Grant proposal. The majority of the rest of the meeting was devoted to issues of the fall sale in Weston. Eileen Crawford was approved for a scholarship to an Olds College Master Weaver program.

December was a busy meeting analyzing the progress of the fall. Education classes were filling well, membership was growing as Susan reached out to lapsed members, The November JOY workshop was a big success and we had two students apply for the Grant Scholarship. The Annual sale reports were in. We were told that the Barn would not be available next year so a committee was formed to look for a new venue. A Beth Guertin, Julia Flanders, Mary Brunell, Carol McClennen and I went to the Fuller Craft Museum to see if they would host the 100th anniversary celebrations in 2022/23. Other venues have not been responsive. This fall we were approached by Emil Tipple, a LaSalle college student in a Branding class, to see if the Guild would work with her on her class project. Beth, Carol, Sue Knowles and I met with her and she attended one meeting to interview members for her project. We would receive her findings in the Spring.

In March we passed out the results of Emily's class project. We are not ready to fully adopt her recommendations on logos and other branding materials, but thought some of her ideas might inform planning for the 100th anniversary celebrations. We continue to grow and the education programs are well attended. Nominating is working hard to fill positions, but the Sale Assistant position continues to be a problem. An ongoing problem with 2017 sale location is the number one concern for Elizabeth Springett. Eileen Crawford continues to help the Bulletin evolve into a useful resource for members with new columns.

As I write we do have a new location for the sale at the Wellesley Congregational (Village) Church in Wellesley Square. It will be October 25-28. This will give us a chance to test out the new town and afford us another year to make a permanent selection of location. The days and times will be different due to the location, but the traffic level is better in Wellesley. The Church is being very accommodating and supportive.

Now to start all over again.
Diane Chaisson, Dean