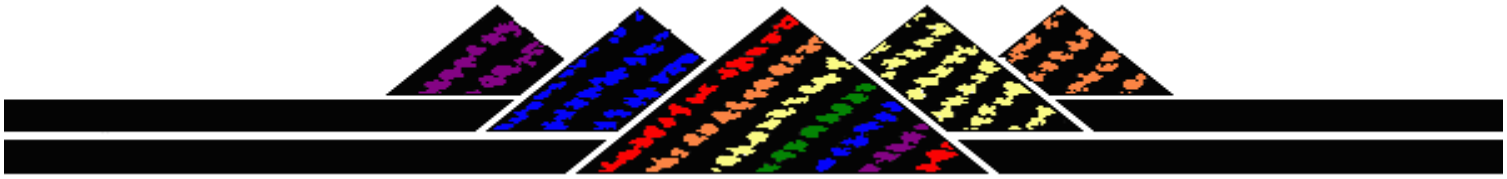
Intermountain Weavers Conference

6-10 July 2027, Antlers Wyndham, 4 S Cascade Ave, Colorado Springs CO
www.intermountainweavers.org

September 2026



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President's Message

The cooler weather of Autumn is finally making an appearance. The crispness in the air has turned my attention to spending even more time in the studio, especially now that the gardening season and Summer activities are coming to a close. The board is focused on the conference, now less than a year away. We're dedicated to providing a fulfilling and affordable experience at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs.

Though moving to a conference hotel is convenient for all, it is also more costly. Sponsors have been stepping up in support. If your guild or perhaps you, yourself would like to help maintain the affordability of the only regional conference in the intermountain west, there are sponsorship opportunities available at several levels as well as the ability to make donations that may be more suitable for individuals. Click here to learn more.

Vendor registrations are picking up too. Here's the current list. Check back for updates. Please consider supporting them as they support the conference.

Our Zoom seminars and classes have been well attended. Thank you to those who have taken the opportunity to increase your knowledge and help support the conference. There are five more Zoom seminars still to come. Take a look and sign up for those that intrigue you.

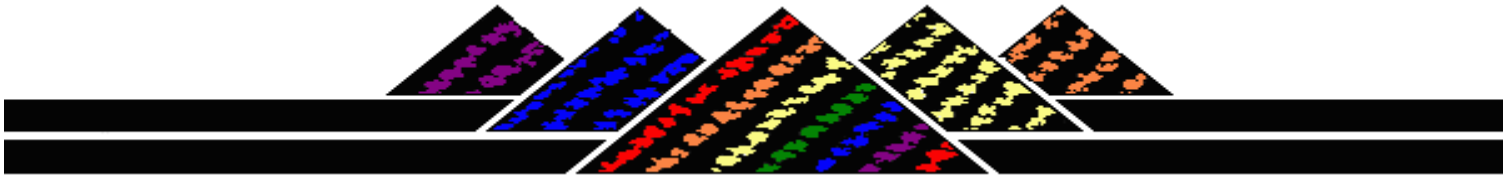
More information about the conference follows in the newsletter. I hope it whets your fiber appetite. We'll also post on Facebook and Instagram. Consider following us on these platforms.

I hope you all have a lovely Fall and are as excited about the upcoming conference as I.

Paula Becker

Important Dates

Sept 1, 2026	Scholarship applications open
Nov 30, 2026	Last day to sponsor for full benefits
Dec 12, 2026	Scholarship application deadline
Jan 10, 2027	Conference Registration opens
Jan 10, 2027	Hotel room reservations open
Mar 9, 2027	Last day to request registration refund
Mar 15 2027	Last day for vendors to be included in the conference book. Applications still accepted.
July 6 2027	Check-in & loom assistance available
July 7-9 2027	3-day workshops
July 8-10 2027	Vendor Hall open
July 10 2027	1-day workshops & 1/2-day seminars



Zoom Seminars & Workshops

IWC is presenting a series of Zoom seminars and classes in the next several months. You must be a paid member of IWC to register for Zoom seminars and classes. Register for all Zoom events at https://www.intermountainweavers.org/register.html

All events will be recorded, and paid participants will receive a link to the recording shortly after the event. The recording will be available for two weeks after the event ends.

Saturdays, Nov 7 and 14, 2 to 4 PM MST
Molly Elkind will teach a two-session Zoom workshop called **Adventures in Paper Weaving.** Paper weaving is a quick and fun way to play with color, image, and pattern—without a loom! Even if you've never seen a weaving draft and don't know warp from weft, you'll be weaving by the end of the workshop. Cost of the workshop is $65.

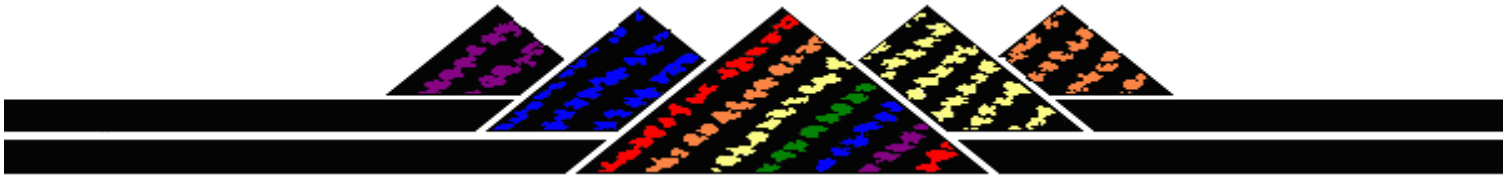
Wed Nov 18, 6:30 to 8:30 pm MST
Deborah Jarchow will teach **Edge Finishing.** During this seminar Deborah will cover several ways to finish the edges of woven pieces. She will discuss and demonstrate picking up edges to knit or crochet and edge trim, felted edges, decorative (netted) fringes, wrapped edges, looped fringe, double row figure-8 stitch and more. Students can watch the lecture, then go back and practice the techniques while reviewing the recording. Cost of the seminar is $40.

Wed Dec 16, 7-8:30pm MST
Robyn Spady will teach **Creative Closure Ideas for Garments Without Invasive Buttonholes.** Explore a variety of techniques for securing garments and accessories using frogs, hand-wrapped hooks and eyes, knots, and clasps. Cost of the seminar is $35.

Wed Jan 13, 2027, 7 to 8:30pm MST
Robyn Spady will teach **Great Weaves for Color and Texture**. It's easy to be captivated by the stunning novelty yarns found in yarn shops . . . but incorporating them effectively into weaving projects can be a challenge. How do you showcase these yarns without overwhelming your design…or your budget? In this program, she'll review a variety of weave structures that enhance both color and texture. You'll discover practical approaches for integrating novelty and specialty yarns into your projects, allowing you to create fabrics that are both dynamic and intentional. Cost of the seminar is $35.

Thurs Jan 28, 2027, 6 to 9pm MST
Marcy Petrini will teach **Combining Twills for Design Options.** Learn how to manipulate the straight draw of a twill to arrive at a variety of simple motifs, the usual twills. Then we combine these to form more complex twills, for example M's & W's. Combine simple and complex twills to give a unique look to your fabric. Cost of this seminar is $45.

Thurs Feb 18, 2027, 6:30 to 8:30pm MST
Marcy Petrini will teach **The Weaver's Way with Color**. Two colors look different when woven in plain weave, a twill, or a block weave. Understanding how our brain perceives the object, in our case fabric, and the colors allows us to match structure and color to obtain our desired effect. Cost of the seminar is $40.



Conference Workshops

https://www.intermountainweavers.org/workshops .

3-day workshops (Wed through Fri)

Dawn Ahlert Weft Pile Techniques for Rugs & Textiles

Susan Conover 4-shaft Overshot with a Swedish Twist

Vila Cox The Original Diversified Plain Weave

Karen Donde Weaving Wearable Cloth

Donna Foley Weft-faced and tapestry on Rigid Heddle Looms

Debbie Held Design and Spin Your Ultimate Sock Yarn

Beth Ross Johnson Sashiko Ori

Annie MacHale Innovative Pick-up Design on the Inkle Loom

John Mullarkey Tablet Weaving From Around the World

Marcy Petrini The Versatile Pointed Threading

Charan Sachar Spinning Textured Yarns

Robyn Spady The Art and Science of Tied Weaves: From Basics to Brilliance

Myra Chang Thompson Botanical Printing

Dorothy Tuthill Weave All Year with Summer and Winter

1-Day Workshops (Saturday)

Susan Conover Introduction to Spinning Flax into Linen

Rachel Courney Pine Needle Basket Weaving

Debbie Held Blending and Spinning Heathers, Tweeds and Flecks

Beth Ross Johnson Xtreme Warping Part One

Annie MacHale Three-Color Pickup for Inkle Weavers

John Mullarkey Tablet Weaving: Woven Shoelaces

Robyn Spady An Introduction to Sennit Braiding

Myra Chang Thompson Kumihimo: Japanese Braiding

Dorothy Tuthill Krokbragd Coasters on a Rigid Heddle Loom

Half-Day Seminars (Saturday)

Vila Cox The Original Diversified Plain Weave (AM), Fractured to Never Ending: Transforming Drafts Using Fiberworks (PM)

Karen Donde Go Big with Color-and-Weave Effects (AM), Drafting Original Color-and-Weave Motifs (PM)

Donna Foley Weaving on the Edge: Wedgeweave Diagonals (AM); Collecting and Using Plants for Natural Dyeing (PM)

Marcy Petrini The Bronson Cousins (AM), Tied-Unit Weaves (PM)

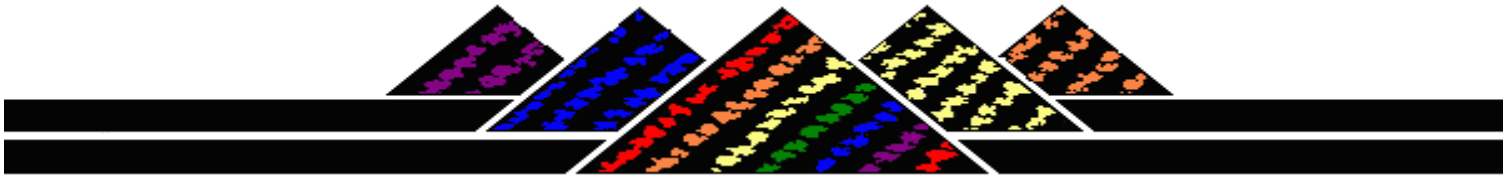
Charan Sachar Creative Knitting with Art Yarns (AM), Buttons, Beads and Novelty Yarns (PM)

Three-day workshops are scheduled Wednesday through Friday, July 7-9, 2027. The one-day workshops and half-day seminars are scheduled on Saturday, July 10, 2027.

As always, we will have a fashion show, the Celebration of Fiber members' show, and Board and Workshop Leader show. We are working on other activities during the conference – stay tuned!

Market and Vendors

Vendor applications are on our website now. The last day to apply to be a vendor and have your name in the conference booklet is March 15, 2027. Vendor applications made between March 16 and July 1, 2027 will be accepted if space is available, but you will not be listed in the Conference booklet.



Conference Registration

Conference registration begins Jan 10, 2027.

You must be a current member of IWC to sign up for classes at the 2027 conference. To join or renew your membership, go to: https://www.intermountainweavers.org/

Current and past members should click on the "Sign In" box on the upper right side of the page. Once you sign in, please verify all your contact information is correct. You can renew your membership on the same page.

If you are not a member, please use the "Join Us" link on the website. Individual memberships are $25 for two years and start in January of odd years. Memberships are prorated based on the sign-up date.

Anyone can attend the following events for free: opening night keynote speech, vendor market, fashion show, and the exhibits. This means your guests and people in the Colorado Springs community may come and enjoy many of the activities.

Starting January 10, 2027 after you sign in, you will be able to sign up for classes, and purchase T-shirts and water bottles, and select meal preferences, etc.

Lodging

We have a conference room rate of $165 per night plus taxes and fees at the Antlers Wyndham. The room rate is good for the duration of the conference plus two days before and two days after if you would like to extend your stay and enjoy the Colorado Springs area. All conference attendees will have free parking with in and out privileges. All of the classrooms, the vendor hall, fashion show, and exhibit rooms are on the main floor of the hotel. It will be easy to go between rooms. Hotel registration opens Jan 10, 2027.

Loom Assistance

Help unloading equipment and transport to classrooms will be available beginning Tuesday July 6. Help will also be available to reload at the end of classes.

Raffle Baskets

Each conference, IWC solicits guilds, members, businesses and vendors to create the ever-popular raffle baskets as a fundraising effort for the next conference. Tickets for the Raffle will be $1 each or $5 for 6.

Examples of items to donate for the raffle include: skeins of yarn, beads, silk remnants, roving, books, tools, handmade and handwoven items, and gift certificates. Please use the following criteria for raffle basket donations.

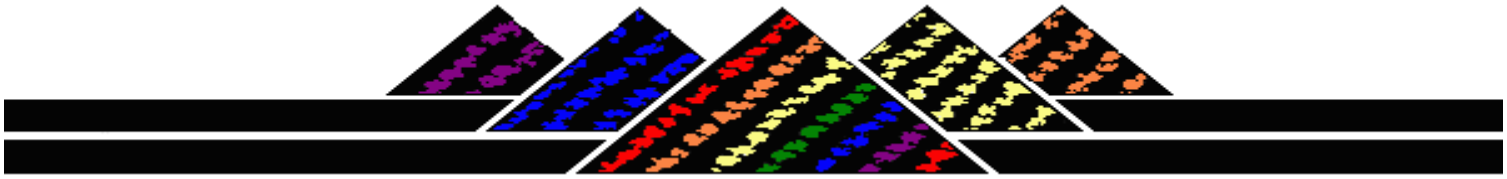
1. Please assemble baskets using only new or unused items. This is not a place to recycle your stash.

2. Please provide a tag with the name of the individual or organization making the donation, including a list of the basket contents to display during the raffle.

IWC will wrap each basket in clear plastic with the tag and drawing day prominently displayed.

Silent Auction

IWC's silent auction consists of items from vendors, workshop leaders and members. Each year, there is a wide variety of items up for auction. Please bring donations for the auction to check-in. Your generosity supports future conferences and is greatly appreciated!



Conference Bags

Guilds and fiber related businesses are encouraged to provide promotional items for the conference bags. These should be small fiber related items which include a tag with the guild or business name and if available, their website. Past items have been spinning wheel charms, needle cases, a collection of weaving tips, key rings made of thrums, etc.

Exhibits

As usual, we will have two exhibits at IWC: Celebration of Fiber and the Board and Workshop Leader Show.

Celebration of Fiber is a non-juried exhibit of IWC members' work. We encourage all the members attending the conference to submit one or two pieces for the show. There will be several awards sponsored by various fiber organizations in addition to IWC, including the ever-popular People's Choice Award.

There is also an award for the piece that best represents the 2027 conference theme, "The Peak of Creativity". You may want to experiment with new fibers or apply a rediscovered technique to make it new. Or perhaps there's a tried-and-true technique you would like to perfect. This is your chance to show off your work whether it is functional or decorative.

Entries must have been completed since the last conference (June 2025). It is easy to enter—no pictures, no jurying. Simply bring your piece or pieces to the check-in desk at the beginning of the conference.

The Board and Workshop Leader Show highlights the work of IWC board members and the workshop leaders.

Fashion Show

We are excited to extend an invitation to all conference attendees to participate in the Fashion Show.

This event is a highlight at the conferences and is anticipated by many. It's an opportunity to share your creations with the community and your friends. If your talent is dishtowels, ask a friend to model one or two by hanging them from the waist. Table runners make great shawls and scarves. The options for creativity at this event are endless. This is a fun opportunity to create inside and outside of your comfort zone. We encourage all those interested in participating to begin planning their projects. Be inspired by the beauty of the fiber, nature, and the colors around you.

Volunteers

IWC would not be possible without all the volunteers who make it happen. Your help with registration, loom assistance, exhibits, raffle baskets, the fashion show, the silent auction, and the vendors is invaluable to make the conference run smoothly. When conference registration begins, we will post a link on http://intermountainweavers.org to sign up for volunteer shifts that meet your schedule.

Scholarships

IWC offers two scholarships for the 2027 conference. The scholarships offer free tuition for one workshop. Travel, lodging, and meals are not included.

Scholarship applications open Sept 1, 2026 and close Dec 12, 2026. Applications are online at http://intermountainweavers.org. Few people apply, so the chances of receiving one are good!

HGA Grants

The Handweavers Guild of America, Inc. Grants program offers financial support to HGA Members for participating in non-accredited fiber art workshops and classes, as well as attending regional fiber art conferences. Additionally, they provide funding to teaching members to promote classes for novice weaving and spinning students. Applications are open now and due by Feb 1, 2027. Grant award recipients will be notified March 31 and funds must be used by March 31, 2028. For more information, go to https://www.handweavers.org/grants

Sponsors and Donations

For the first time in our 21-conference history, we are offering sponsorship opportunities to help fiber arts businesses nationwide increase their customer base by exposure to a targeted audience as well as helping to keep the conference reasonably priced. Please consider becoming an IWC sponsor. Sponsorship levels vary in the amount of advertising you will receive and range from $150 to $1000. Donations of different amounts are also accepted. For more information, please go to https://www.intermountainweavers.org/sponsor.html

"Light travels like an arrow, and time like a shuttle." **Chinese Proverb**

"I do regard spinning and weaving as a necessary part of any national system of education." Mahatma Gandhi