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Guilds comprise an organizational network that is beautifully positioned to reach out to new weavers and help sustain the craft of handweaving. To encourage these important activities, *Handwoven* awarded two \$500 awards this past May 2008, one to a large guild (75 or more members) and one small guild (fewer than 75 members) that demonstrated outstanding outreach and support programs that create new weavers.

This is the third year *Handwoven* is pleased to welcome its industry partners, who have joined the program to broaden the reach of the FiberHearts award. In addition to the two \$500 cash awards sponsored by *Handwoven*, industry sponsors also provided equipment and supplies to those guilds that demonstrated a need for portable equipment such as frame, inkle, and table looms and supplies for using them. This year's partners were: **Bountiful** (inkle loom), **Gilmore Looms** (shuttles), **Golding** (Bobbin winder), **Good Wood Looms** (Frame loom) **Halcyon Yarn** (50 skeins/mini-cones of any selection of their Signature Yarns), **Kessenich** (table loom), **Louet** (table loom), **Montana Looms** (table loom or inkle loom with warping board), **Jonathan Seidel** (box loom), **Schacht Spindle Company** (Flip folding rigid heddle loom), **Weaving for Life** (Seven-Stick Loom).

The winning guilds will have their programs featured in *Handwoven*. All applicants will receive a copy of *Mastering Weave Structures* by Sharon Alderman.

#### **2008 Winners:**

##### **Lake Charlevoix Area Weaving Guild**

*Handwoven's* Small Guild \$500 Award

Located in the picturesque resort town of Charlevoix, Michigan, this newly formed guild of twenty members meets twice a month. The guild nurtures beginning weavers by offering them a series of eight—count them!—eight free weaving lessons! The group is small enough so that newcomers are given special attention. Linda Van Andel remembers when she was a new member, “I would sit quietly and just listen to all the inspiring weaving talk. I was always asked my opinion and included in whatever discussion was taking place.” The guild will use its cash award to help support its free lessons for beginners.

##### **Ottawa Valley Weavers and Spinners Guild**

*Handwoven's* Large Guild \$500 Award

Formed in Canada in 1949, this guild of nearly ninety members supports and creates new weavers by hosting a mentoring program matching novice and experienced weavers and hosting Fun Days. Anyone can drop in and ask for help with their current project or just show off what they have been doing. In order to ensure a future generation of weavers, the guild sponsors elementary school weaving courses including Flock to Frock and Weaving by the Numbers. The guild will use their grant money to support their

numerous yearly demonstrations that are their primary method of attracting new members.

**Moosspinners Guild** of Edgewood, Washington, has an innovative program called C.A.M.E.L. (Creative Approach to Mobile Education Loom). This loom is always warped and members are encouraged to take the loom and finish the project in a week and then pass it on. To help increase the number of looms in circulation, the guild is being awarded a Flip rigid heddle loom from Schacht Spindle Company and an inkle loom from Bountiful.

Since 1953, **The Rogue Valley Handweavers Guild** of Ashland, Oregon, along with its local fiber shop Llamas & Lambs, has kept weaving alive in its community. Budget restrictions in both the local Historical Society and community college ended their ability to support a weaving studio, but the guild teaches on! The guild will use their award of a Louet table loom and fifty minicones of Halcyon Signature Yarn to support their teaching programs.

**Spiritual Journeys Guild** in Concord, North Carolina, is a guild of one, but that will soon change. Reverend Marion L. Rhyne is working toward setting up a guild just for young people. To support her efforts, she is awarded a nine-inch Good Wood lap loom, a Journey Loom from Weaving a Life, and a JK Seidel tape loom.

**Weavers Guild of Springfield** hosts many public demonstrations each year. The cloth that is woven at the demonstrations is turned into cards. All those who give weaving a try are given a card to take with them. To help build the guild's library, Gilmore Looms provided them with a book and DVD of *Learning to Weave*.

**The Weavers Guild of Minnesota** in Minneapolis has the enviable position of housing its guild in The Textile Center of Minnesota. The Center includes a gallery and gift shop, 300-seat auditorium, classroom space, a textile library, and dye lab. With nearly 500 members, the guild hosts numerous workshops and classes that get dozens of beginners started each year. Members will use the award of a Kessenich table loom and Golding bobbin winder to expand their adult and youth education programs.

**For additional information and guidelines visit:**

[http://www.interweave.com/weave/events\\_exhibits/fiberhearts.asp](http://www.interweave.com/weave/events_exhibits/fiberhearts.asp)

#### **About Interweave:**

Interweave, a unit of Aspire Media, is one of the nation's largest and most respected arts and craft media companies, with businesses in magazine and book publishing, online media, television and video programming, directories, and events. The Interweave Publishing Group features 18 subscription magazines and many more special interest newsstand publications sold on newsstands nationwide. Interweave has more than 250 books in print and annually publishes about 40 how-to books on the same subjects as the company's magazines. Additionally, Interweave produces several major events for fiber and bead, gem, and jewelry making enthusiasts and has an extensive Internet network of more than 30 websites and daily e-mail newsletters. Interweave is the proud sponsor of three craft television series airing on PBS: *Quilting Arts TV*, a fresh, contemporary quilting program, *Beads, Baubles, & Jewels*, public television's only how-to program for beading and jewelry making enthusiasts, and public television's newest show for knitting and crochet enthusiasts, *Knitting Daily TV*.

Linda Ligon founded the company in the 1970s when she began publishing *Handwoven* and *Spin-Off* magazines. Since then, the company has grown to employ more than 100 people throughout the country, with corporate headquarters located in Loveland, Colorado and other offices in New York, New York, Malvern, Pennsylvania, Santa Fe, New Mexico, San Diego, California and Stow, Massachusetts. For more information on Interweave, visit [www.interweave.com](http://www.interweave.com) or call (970) 669-7672.

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