**Conference of Northern California Handweavers (CNCH) – What is it and why is it important to me?**

Conference of Northern California Handweavers (CNCH is an umbrella organization of weaving and spinning guilds located in the roughly northern half of California. The primary purpose of CNCH is “to provide education to the general public in the craft of weaving and to further and stimulate public interest in and appreciation of the work and art of handweaving.” CNCH is a registered non-profit (501c3) organization.

CNCH organizes its approximate 30 member guilds into five roughly geographic areas:

 Area 1 – South Bay Guilds

 Area 2 – Central Valley Guilds

 Area 3 – San Francisco and Bay Area Guilds

 Area 4 – Sacramento Valley Guilds

 Area 5 – North Coast Guilds

**Central Coast Weavers is a member of Area 2.** The other guilds in Area 2 are:

 Del Oro Spinners and Weavers – Jackson, CA

 Fresno Weavers and Spinners – presently inactive

Golden Valley Weavers and Spinners – Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties – presently inactive.

 Mother Lode Weavers and Spinners – Columbia, CA

Guilds (not individual members) join CNCH and pay a membership fee of $5 per member of the guild. This membership brings us a number of valuable benefits, in addition to supporting the craft of weaving.

**\*Insurance** – as a member group, our activities are covered by insurance through CNCH. This is a real biggie!

**\*Conferences** – CNCH sponsors an annual conference for handweaving related fiber arts.

\***Full conferences** – in even numbered years, the conference is a full conference, with seminars, workshops (classes), fashion show, reception, banquet, marketplace with multiple vendors. Attendees select one or more classes of various lengths to fill the 2 ½ or 3 days.

\***Retreat conferences** – in odd numbered years, the conference is retreat-style. Attendees select one 2 ½ day workshop (class) from the variety of offerings. There is usually only one vendor, chosen for their wide variety of products. There is a reception at the beginning, so attendees meet each other and the teachers. There is also a banquet-type meal later in the conference. **This is the type of conference at Cal Poly in 2023; Area 2 guilds will be putting it on and, as the nearest and largest guild, we will be very instrumental in the many responsibilities entailed. We hope many of our members will be actively involved in the fun and satisfaction of presenting a successful conference.**

**\*CNCHnet** – an online forum for member guilds to share their projects and upcoming activities.

**\*Conference grants** – CNCH provides annual grants for CNCH conferences and for Convergence. Every conference has some kind of fund raiser event to raise money to support these grants.

**\*Organization web page** ([www.cnch.org](http://www.cnch.org)) – for further information. A good site to bookmark, along with CCW and your favorite yarn dealers.