

# THRUMS

## Newsletter of the Syracuse Weavers Guild

### President's Message

Cleaning my desk, I came across a clipping from April of last year, sent by my knitting sister. It tells of an archaeologist who found a "bunch of fibers twisted around each other" on the underside of a stone tool. The first direct evidence that Neanderthals could make string, it is 40,000 - 50,000 years old.

This struck me anew, since I am reading Kassia St. Clair's *The Golden Thread*. "Archeologists ... gave ancient ages names like 'Iron' and 'Bronze,' rather than 'Pottery' or 'Flax.' This implies that metal objects were the principal feature of these times, when they are simply often the most visible and long-lasting remnants. Technologies using perishable materials, such as wood and textiles, may well have been more pivotal in the daily lives of the people who lived through them, but evidence of their existence has, for the most part, been absorbed back into the earth." (p. 29)

Again, I am aware of the transient nature of who I am and what I do. And yet I keep at it, exploring a weave structure, planning a warp, weaving a towel. Beauty is present and essential in our world. It is in the creating and using, not the preserving, that I see beauty. And so, I tell my sisters to use their towels rather than store them. To enjoy the beauty today rather than save it for someone or sometime.

May we all appreciate the beauty before us in these days.

Cynthia

### Guild Officers 2020-2022

#### **President**

Cynthia Pendergast

#### **1st Vice President**

Nancy Gaus

#### **2nd Vice President**

Sue Szczotka

#### **Secretary**

Rachel Abbott

#### **Treasurer**

Donna Johnson-Brown

### Mission

The mission of the Syracuse Weavers Guild is to stimulate an interest in the art and craft of weaving, achieve a high standard of excellence and help encourage all persons interested in weaving.

Overshot woven by Amy  
Parker on the back cover

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## Book Review | Susan Szczotka

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*Weaving on 3 Shafts* by Erica de Ruiter (2017)

I received this lovely book from Santa (aka Sally) this past Christmas so decided to write a review. The book is a very sturdy, soft cover with nice quality paper and, best of all, is spiral-bound so that it lays flat. There is a solid cardboard cover that encloses it all. It is written in both Dutch and English and each page has a small paragraph of text in each language side by side, along with many illustrations. The author became intrigued with the possibilities of three shaft weaves and first wrote a book in 1992 in Dutch. It was translated in English 10 years later, but, as she says, she kept weaving and writing. This book is the result of more than forty years of exploring three shaft weaves.

The book is arranged in chapters devoted to different structures explored on only 3 shafts; twill, summer and winter, waffle weave, M's and O's, etc. Each example is usually accompanied by a draft and many have colored pictures of woven examples. Each illustration is labeled in both Dutch and English and the layout is very clear and attractive. I really enjoy looking at the Dutch language! There is a section of different ways to weave bookmarks with 3 shafts as well as one on pick-up techniques. I have already woven some towels with a 3 shaft waffle weave and was quite pleased. I highly recommend this book especially if you want to try some new things but want to be "lazy" about threading many shafts.



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## Committees

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### **Booklets**

Nancy Smothergill

### **Membership**

Donna Movsoich

### **Webmaster**

Joyce Lock

### **Calling Committee**

Carolyn Wolfson  
Meg Welch

### **Refreshments Coordinator**

Lois Koenig

### **Special Projects**

Sue Szczotka

### **Library**

Donna Connery

### **Program**

Nancy Gaus

### **Thrums Newsletter**

Susan Mehringer

## Book Review | Rachel Abbott

*The Art of Tapestry*, by Rebecca Mezoff (2020)

Donna Movsoovich's Guild presentation in January on tapestry weaving sparked a fire in me! She showed Rebecca Mezoff's video "Sand in My Shoes" in which Rebecca describes weaving a tapestry diary—tiny tapestries featuring something she saw each day during her artist residency at Petrified Forest National Park. I loved the idea of creating pictures in weaving and also the small scale of the tapestries.

I promptly bought Rebecca's new book, *The Art of Tapestry*, and started exploring. The first part of the book is "Learning" and has five chapters about tapestry basics—what it is, looms and tools, yarn to use, warping the loom, and color theory. Rebecca describes the different options for tapestry looms and includes an



My second tapestry in progress: learning to weave curved shapes.



My first tapestry: learning the techniques of hatching, weaving angles, weft interlock, pick and pick.

appendix with instructions on how to make your own copper pipe loom. She explains and gives examples of yarns suitable for tapestry weaving. Not having done any tapestry weaving before, I found enough information enabling me to make my own tapestry loom out of PVC pipe, warp it with some 8/2 cotton I had left over from another project, and start weaving with some wool worsted knitting yarn I had left over from knitting hats.

The fun really got going in the second section: "Making". As I read through the ten chapters, I wove along on my loom. With clear explanations and diagrams, Rebecca presents simple exercises to practice tapestry techniques, which are organized in a logical, skill-building order. Lesson one was how to make butterflies, something I thought I knew how to



do, but she showed how to do it properly to avoid ending up with a tangled mess as you draw yarn out of it! As I read through the chapters, I quickly learned how to blend colors with hatching, close holes, and weave smooth angles. When I ran out of warp, I learned how to finish the ends of my sample tapestry with knots and braiding. Now I've rewarpd my loom with some proper tapestry warp (12/6 cotton seine twine) and have started the exercises on weaving curves and outlining shapes! Next, it will be time to design my own tapestry, a subject Rebecca covers in a chapter.

Rebecca's writing is clear, and she includes many diagrams and step-by-step instructions for each technique. Her method of teaching is straightforward and confidence-building. She does not expect perfection and explains how to read your weaving to solve problems you may encounter. She also includes inspirational photographs of tapestries to illustrate the techniques she describes. "Tips" and "Tech Talk" boxes highlight useful tricks, tools, and memory aids to help tapestry weavers.

I'm looking forward to starting my own diary of small tapestries!

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## Syracuse Weavers Guild 2020-2021 Programs | Nancy Gaus

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**Remote meetings continue:** *Due to the continuing precautions, Guild meetings for the remainder of the program year will be virtual; zoom coordinates will be sent out the week before the event. Nancy has done a phenomenal job coordinating and making the presentations look smooth and flawless in this on-line format that takes practice and attention to detail. Many thanks to her and to our presenters for their flexibility and determination to continue to provide quality, informative and helpful programs for our members!*

### **March 6:** Turned Drafts

*Presenter: Joyce Lock*

Have you ever wondered what a "turned weaving draft" is? This is your chance to find out. After discussing why you might want to turn a weaving draft, you'll follow step by step instructions to do it yourself. We'll talk about additional considerations to take into account when weaving a turned draft. Prior to the meeting you will receive via email pre-filled graph paper files to print out or copy to your own graph paper. For the meeting, have these sheets ready along with a pencil and an eraser. If you have any items woven using a turned draft that you'd like to share with the group, send a picture to [joycelock3@gmail.com](mailto:joycelock3@gmail.com).

### **April 10:** Presentation of the Guild Challenge

*Facilitator: Nancy Gaus*

Show the piece(s) you wove for the guild challenge and tell us what you learned. Include a sample and information card for our new Guild Sample Book.

### **May 1:** Annual Pot Luck Luncheon and Towel Exchange (Location TBA)

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## Show and Tell via Zoom | Cynthia Pendergast

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Our experiment with sharing show-and-tell via photos worked well at our February meeting. We could see the items well and study details as the person talked. It was interesting that those who shared also talked more about their work, explaining the process they went through to arrive at the finished product; it more closely resembled our in-person show-and-tells. Many thanks to Nancy S for suggesting it! If you would like to share your projects via photo, please send them to Rachel at [abbotttrc@yahoo.com](mailto:abbotttrc@yahoo.com) and she'll put it in a slide show to share. Of course, if you choose to share your projects by holding them to the camera that will still be an option! Whichever means you choose, I look forward to seeing your work.

## Halcyon Yarn Guild Rewards

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If you are placing an order with Halcyon Yarn, please mention that you are a member of the Syracuse Weavers Guild. You can either make a note about the Syracuse Weavers Guild in the Comments Box for web orders or mention our guild in orders over the phone. In January the guild will get an annual check for 5% of total member sales for the past year. We annually get checks for \$30 to \$40, many thanks to guild members for mentioning the guild when placing an order with Halcyon. If you have questions about the program see <https://halcyonyarn.com/guild/> or contact Joyce Lock [joycelock3@gmail.com](mailto:joycelock3@gmail.com).

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## Guild Challenge 2020-2021 | Nancy Gaus et al.

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### Weave a Structure That's New to You; Weave a Sample

Are you stuck in a rut? Too many twill towels? Hyper focused on huck? Outrageous overflow of overshot? Break out of that mold and try something new! Pick a structure that you have never explored before. Push its boundaries, try new fibers, blend some colors. Weave what ever strikes your fancy and be sure to also weave a sample for our new Guild Sample Book. Report on your discoveries in April.

### Create a Sample Card

This part of the challenge is optional. A download link for blank cards is available on the [library page](#) of the Guild's website, as well as other sources. Print it out on cardstock (good) or card stock weight archival quality paper (better). Fill in as much of the card as you can, but it's okay to leave some areas blank. The idea is to have a friendly resource, both from the point of view of the user and from the person filling out the form.

Weave a sample and affix it as instructed to the card. Your sample should be roughly 4" x 4" or larger, but no bigger than 8.5"x11". The edges of your sample can be stabilized with fray check, watered down white glue, or machine stitching.

Plan to submit your sample card at the April meeting. Weavers are encouraged to continue submissions to our Guild Sample Book into the future.

**Need some motivation?** Want to discuss your chosen weave structure with others?

First, add your name and weave structure to the guild challenge participants list (only guild members have access to this list). You will have received the link to the file in an email. If you can't find the email, send a request to [syracuseweaversguild@gmail.com](mailto:syracuseweaversguild@gmail.com) and it will be resent to you. Once the list is displayed (you don't need to sign in) change the green button from "Viewing" to "Editing" to add your information.

There you can see others who are interested in meeting virtually via Zoom, want to chat online via Ravelry, or just want to email each other. After determining who is interested in discussing a specific weave structure and how you want to interact, either contact Cynthia Pendergast to set up a Zoom meeting using the guild account or message each other via Ravelry.

**Wanted:** A volunteer curator is needed to maintain our book and bring it to monthly meetings for easy access to members.

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## Resources for your Challenge Weave 2021 | Donna Connery

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I'm happy to say that I have received some inquiries about resources dedicated to specific weave structures. Our library doesn't always have what your looking for, but that doesn't mean there isn't help out there! I thought I'd pass on a few ideas.

- Remember to look at the SWG spreadsheet to find a study buddy. If the link I attached below doesn't work, please check your original email from Joyce [https://1drv.ms/x/s!ApCyZpUhX6d\\_avTy11ZP1ZOMKKk?e=nVw9J6](https://1drv.ms/x/s!ApCyZpUhX6d_avTy11ZP1ZOMKKk?e=nVw9J6)
- Guild member and accomplished weaving instructor Sarah Saulson offered to help, so take her up on it! General calls for help on the SWG google group might also connect you with the right weaver. All you have to do is ask!
- [Handweaving.net](http://Handweaving.net) is an online treasure trove of weaving drafts and documents. Subscribers can post drafts and use special features to customize their experience.
- Try a general reference book that has a chapter or even just drafts on the weave structure that interests you. For example, check out Strickler's Weavers Book of 8-Shaft Patterns or Davison's Handweaver's Pattern Book.
- If the SWG library doesn't have what interests you, try your local library or a community college library and do a WorldCat search. I have found a great many resources that way!
- I also search libraries maintained by other weaving groups in which I hold memberships. Do a search and see what you find. Some examples are other guilds, Complex Weavers, TWIST. You have to be a member, but you might find it worthwhile.
- Handwoven Magazine has been around for a long time. Check out their indices and then you can tell me what year you want to borrow. <https://handwovenmagazine.com/1979-2004-subject/>
- Heddlecraft Online weavezine by Robyn Spady. You can sign up for a subscription or just buy a particular issue of interest. Each month she focuses on a different weave structure. Joyce and I started here for our Beiderwand study gamp this year. SWG does not have a subscription to Heddlecraft, but here is a link to the index <https://heddlecraft.com/heddlecraft-index.html>

I hope this suggestions list gives you a few new ideas. As always, I wish you Happy Weaving!

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## Membership Form | Donna Movsovich

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We always welcome new members.

Dues are for one year. (May-May)

Regular dues: \$30

Senior (over 62) dues: \$25

Checks are payable to SWG

Mail check with name, email, USPS address, and phone number to:

Donna Movsovich  
2527 W. Seneca Turnpike  
Marcellus, NY 13108

## Weave to Win! | Donna Connery

The SWG library just received a generous donation of weaving books from former SWG Secretary, Darlene Endy. These books filled in some missing classics as well as added new adventures in weaving. Thank you Darlene! But there were also duplicates and cool niche books that now need a home. Eventually, the books can make their way to the white elephant table. But, there's no need to keep them all in boxes until we meet in person again. So we are starting **WEAVE TO WIN!** It's easy. Win the task described in Thrums, and walk away with a great book of your choice. Here's all you have to do this month.

### May 2021 - WEAVE TO WIN!

**Who?** Open to SWG members only.

**What?** Most total handwoven yardage. Keep track of the dimensions of anything you weave, from samples to full projects.

**Why yardage?** We have all been tucked away in our homes a lot recently, so we figured there might be a lot of weaving going on out there!

**When?** Any yardage woven from January 1 - April 29, 2021. Entries due to Donna ([dsconnery@gmail.com](mailto:dsconnery@gmail.com)) by April 29 so any questions can be resolved and she can tally the yardage before our May 1 meeting.



**Where?** Winner announced at the SWG end of year May luncheon on May 1st

**Winner?** Donna will do the math and calculate "foot yards" for each person based on lengths and widths submitted by each weaver. For example, if your dimensions are 3 yards at 12" wide, she will calculate that you wove  $1\text{ft} \times 3\text{yds} = 3$  foot yards. If you weave 6 yards 24" wide, you have  $2\text{ft} \times 6\text{yds} = 12$  foot yards. If you wove 6 yards 6" wide, you have  $0.5\text{ft} \times 6\text{yds} = 3$  foot yards. If you did several weaves, just send in dimensions for each weave, no need to convert or simplify!

**Wow!!** Winner's choice of a book from those shown here..

## Guild Members Loom List | Joyce Lock

Problems with one of your looms? Questions about a loom you plan on getting? Just want to speak to someone else about your looms? Since we aren't getting together in person, these conversations aren't as likely to happen. We've created a list accessible only by guild members to identify the looms you own along with your contact information. You will have received the link to the file in an email. If you can't find the email, send a request to [syracuseweaversguild@gmail.com](mailto:syracuseweaversguild@gmail.com) and it will be resent to you. Once the list is displayed (you don't need to sign in) change the green button from "Viewing" to "Editing" to add your information. Contact Joyce Lock [syracuseweaversguild@gmail.com](mailto:syracuseweaversguild@gmail.com) if you have questions.

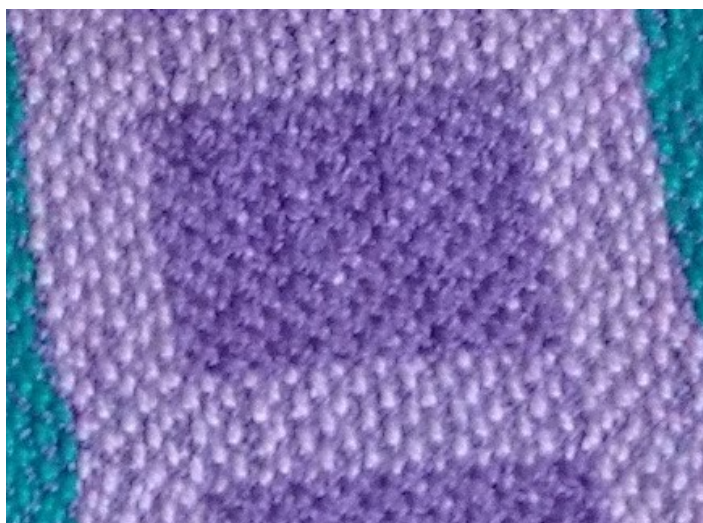
## Syracuse Weavers Guild Looms For Rent | Joyce Lock

Rental fee is \$2 per week. If interested in borrowing one of these looms and it is available, please contact the person listed in the table.

Description	Current Use	Contact	Notes
Kyra 22" 4S table loom	Available	Joyce Lock	
Kyra 22" 4S table loom	Travelling Loom	Sue Szczotka	4 Shaft Huck Lace
Peacock 12" 2S loom #1	Available	Nancy Smothergill	<a href="http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg">http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg</a>
Peacock 12" 2S loom #2	Available	Nancy Smothergill	<a href="http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg">http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg</a>
Peacock 12" 2S loom #3	Available	Nancy Smothergill	<a href="http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg">http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg</a>
Inkle loom	Available	Joyce Lock	
Harrisville 22" 4S floor loom	Available	Joyce Lock	<a href="https://harrisville.com/products/22-floor-loom-4-harness-6-treadle">https://harrisville.com/products/22-floor-loom-4-harness-6-treadle</a> Picture shows 6 treadles, this one has 4 direct tie treadles. Not easily transported
Nilus LeClerc 12" 8S table loom	Available	Joyce Lock	Looks like Structo
Purrington Norris 12S table loom	Traveling Loom	Sue Szczotka	8 Shaft Huck Lace
LeClerc Dorothy 15" 8S table loom	Available	Joyce Lock	<a href="http://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/pics/leclerc/ldor007.jpg">http://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/pics/leclerc/ldor007.jpg</a> Picture shows levers all on right hand side of loom. This loom has second set of shafts (5-8) located on left hand side.



## Guess the Weave Structure!







## **THRUMS**

Susan Mehringer  
11 Pheasant Way  
Ithaca, NY 14850

