

THRUMS

Newsletter of the Syracuse Weavers Guild

President's Message

Our 2020-21 program year is set to begin on September 12 with the presentation of our annual challenge and a brief program from Barbara Decker on identifying unknown fibers in order to use up your stash of yarns. After months of NYPause and Covid precautions, it will be good to resume our monthly meetings, to again talk together about weaving. The format will be different as we meet via Zoom rather than face-to-face, but our shared interest in weaving will bring us together in this virtual format.

In a conversation last week, I found myself reflecting on these months and saying that if it weren't for weaving I'm not sure how I would have dealt with all this time at home without the familiar routines and anchors of my weeks. The binder of drafts and samples I'd been filling was about filled in late February, so I started one for pandemic weaving. A common thread that runs between them is the source of the yarn - "stash".

For me, the goal and the game has been to use up as much of my stash as possible - Barb's information will be helpful to help me finish this task! As we live through these different days, I wonder how you have adjusted to the new routines. What has kept you going? What has captured your heart and your mind?

Looking forward to seeing you on September 12,

Cynthia

Guild Officers 2020-2022

President

Cynthia Pendergrast

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.

Small Bands Study Group | Nancy Smothergill

Feeling the need to talk weaving, the Small Bands Study Group met via Zoom on July 30th. Frustrating as it was not to be able to touch and closely examine pieces, never the less, we were all in awe of a piece Rachel Abbott made on her rigid heddle loom, with a different band of tablet weaving incorporated on each side of the loom weaving.

Here is Rachel's description of the work and photos. Notice that she is using two rigid heddles on the loom.

"Here are some photos of my weaving incorporating tablet woven bands into fabric, inspired by Inge Dam. It was woven on a rigid heddle loom using 2 12 dent heddles. I used 5/2 mercerized cotton for warp and weft. The main fabric was warped at 18 epi for a 3-thread straight twill. The band on the left is Kivrim (p. 350 of Claudia Wollny's *Tablets at Work*); the band on the right is Sulawesi (p. 378). Threads from 4 tablets went through each slot of the heddles; this was too many to easily change sheds but necessary to get the correct width so I could beat with the heddle. Tablets were weighted with water bottles off the back of the loom. The length of the fabric warp was 36"; the tablet warp was 46". The last photo shows my pattern sheet to keep me on track. The number on the left side is the 'treadling' for the twill fabric."



For my part, I have been struggling with the 3/1 broken twill structure of tablet weaving. In the last months of Dianne Leach's life, she had started two tablet weaving projects using designs from Claudia Wollny's book, *A Lily Grove*. Just before Dianne died I promised her I would finish the two projects and took the two warped looms. It has taken me a long time to start being successful with this technique, but finally I seem to have gotten the hang of it. The technique involves turning cards forward and backwards in units of two, and breaking that sequence to pull the pattern thread to the top. The background structure resembles a twill weave. The first photo is of the beautiful work done by Dianne. The second photo shows where I finally got the designs right, after many false starts (over several years) and finally beginning to learn the tricks to unweaving back to the mistake.

Syracuse Weavers' Guild 2020-2021 Programs | Nancy Gaus

Note: Guild meetings through December 2020 will be virtual; zoom coordinates will be sent out the week before the event.

September 12

♦ Part 1 - Guild Challenge: 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.

Facilitator: Nancy Gaus

♦ Part 2 - Identifying and Using Unknowns in Your Stash

We all have fibers in our collection that came to us without labels. Find out what you have and how to use them.

Presenter: Barb Decker

Facilitator: Cynthia Pendergast

♦ Part 3 - Towel Exchange Show and Tell

The exchange will work as follows: During the September show-and-tell, we will hold up our towels and describe them. Names of towel weavers will go into a virtual "hat" from which towel recipients are drawn. Weavers are then asked to send their towel through the mail to the person receiving it. If you weave one, you will receive one.

October 3: Exploring Treasures from the American Textile Museum (Field Trip)

We will be experiencing a virtual field trip to the Kheel Center of the Catherwood Library at Cornell University in Ithaca. When the American Textile Museum in Lowell, MA closed, Cornell acquired many of the materials from the museum, including many written materials and some samples of woven goods. Marcie Farwell, curator of these archives, will lead us through a viewing of some of the fascinating items from the era of American textile prominence in times gone by.

Presenter: Marcie Farwell

Facilitator: Nancy Smothergill

November 7: An Exploration of Weave Structures

Want to know more about basic weave structures? Wonder exactly what they are and what defines them? Want to see diagrams, woven samples, and understand their features? Sarah is excited to present an overview of interlacements of warp and weft with a focus on their interaction together! Presentation may include an optional session after the business meeting to engage in a hands-on activity and/or present more depth on how basic structures impact sett/EPI and how fiber choice and structure go together.

Presenter: Sarah Saulson

Facilitator: Nancy Gaus

December 5 Tuning Up Your Loom (Video and Discussion)

This month will feature excerpts from Tom Knisely's DVD, "Loom Owner's Companion". Tom has maintained and woven with hundreds of looms in more than three decades of teaching at The Mannings Handweaving School in rural Pennsylvania. In this video, filmed on location, Tom explains how to get the most from your

loom. From the beams to the bench, from tie-on to tie-up and sheds to shuttles, Tom shows how to prepare yourself and your loom for a satisfying, successful weaving experience.

Facilitator: Nancy Gaus

January 9: Sand In My Shoes (Video and Discussion)

Rebecca Mezoff grew up in Gallup, NM surrounded by many different cultures. She was exposed to traditional European-style weaving by her paternal grandparents, she watched the Navajo weavers around the reservation make amazing things on looms often made out of 2 x 4s, and later she learned the Hispanic tapestry traditions. This lecture discusses her tapestry journey from the little girl sewing dolls to professional tapestry weaver.

Facilitator: Donna Movsoich

February 6: Finger Manipulated Techniques

This program will focus on ways to embellish or add to plain weave on the loom. Interest can be added to plain weave with a variety of ways of finger manipulating the warp threads or by the addition of supplemental threads inserted into the web. We will look at such techniques as Leno, Spanish Eyelet, Brooks Bouquet, inlaid pattern, loops, Soumak, wrappings and Rya.

Presenter: Nancy Smothergill

March 6: Turned Drafts

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. Bring graph paper and pencils, or a computer with weaving software; and if you have any, items woven using a turned draft.

Presenter: Joyce Lock

April 10: Presentation of the Guild Challenge

Bring 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.

Facilitator: Nancy Gaus

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

Membership Form | Donna Movsoich

Thank you for renewing your membership for 2020-2021! We always welcome new members.

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

Dues are for one year. (May-May)

Regular dues: \$30

Senior (over 62) dues: \$25

Checks are payable to SWG

Donna Movsoich
2527 W. Seneca Turnpike
Marcellus, NY 13108

Library News | Donna Connery

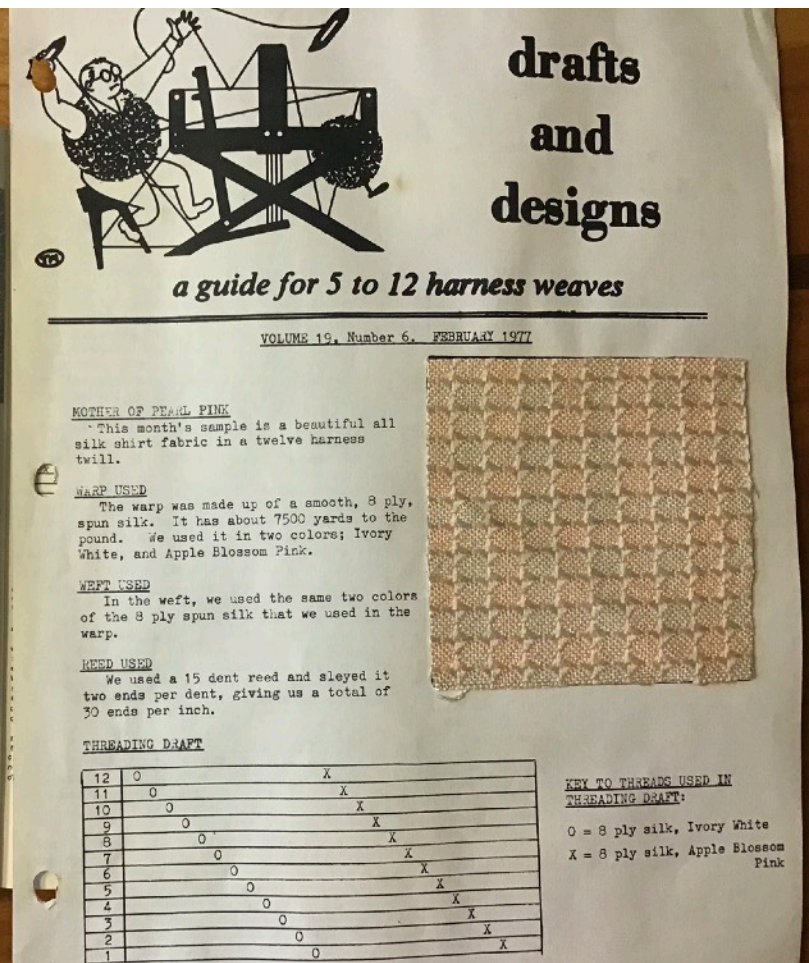
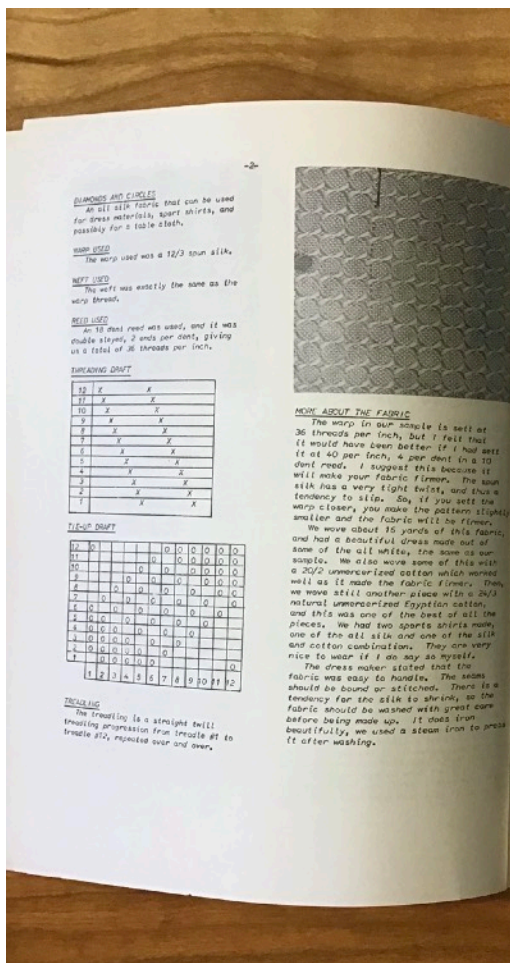
<https://spadystudios.wordpress.com/2014/12/18/these-are-a-few-of-my-favorite-things-44-robin-and-russ-handweavers-and-warp-weft/>

I'm starting our library update with a link because this blog from weaver-author-teacher Robyn Spady did such a good job illuminating the contribution of Robin & Russ (Groff) Handweavers to the weaving world in the mid-to-late 20th century. And we are fortunate to have several in our SWG library collection.

R&R's *Warp & Weft* and *Design Drafts* are monthly publications that ran for a combined span of more than 40 years, with the book *200 Patterns for Multi Harness Looms* tucked in-between. In these resources, the author-weavers shared drafts, small samples, and fabric details on a multitude of weaves. I am highlighting these three publications by the Groffs because their focus on sampling seems to mesh well with our SWG Sampling challenge of 2020-21. So consider digging deep into these resources as you continue along your personal weaving journey and ponder the details of a particular piece of woven fabric.

Here is the library link so you can peruse our shared collection of weaving treasures.

<https://www.librarything.com/catalog/syracuse-weavers-guild>



Hostess List | Lois Koenig

Hostess Duties:

- Know your day. Lois emails a reminder about a week before the meeting.
- Arrange for someone to take your place if you cannot make it.
- Communicate with your partner hostess.
- Provide dessert
- Arrive early to prepare the table and hot water
- Clean up the kitchen
- If you notice that items are needed in the supply baskets, let Lois know.

The Hostess List will be posted when in-person meetings resume.

Committees

Booklets

Nancy Smothergill

Calling Committee

Carolyn Wolfson
Meg Welch

Membership

Donna Movsoovich

Refreshments Coordinator

Lois Koenig

Program

Nancy Gaus

Webmaster

Joyce Lock

Special Projects

Sue Szczotka

Library

Donna Connery

Thrums Newsletter

Susan Mehringer

Question of the Month | Susan Mehringer

Did you achieve your weaving resolutions for the past year?

Since my constant weaving resolution is to use up my weaving yarn stash, then yes, I did achieve that resolution because I did A LOT of weaving during the pandemic. - Joyce

In answer to the question of the month, I did not fulfill my weaving resolution. Yet. I've done a lot of weaving (more than typical, due to the pandemic pause) but did not study shadow weave. Thanks for the nudge! - Cynthia

Classifieds

Leclerc Weaver's bench

Asking \$ 175 or best offer

Contact Sherry Gordon at sher4art@gmail.com



Used electric bobbin winder with modifications. It works well enough, just not as smoothly as the newer ones. Donation of what you wish to the Syracuse Weavers Guild.

Contact Nancy Smothergill at nsmother@twcny.rr.com



Guild References:

Website: www.syracuseweaversguild.org

Mail List: syracuseweaversguild@googlegroups.com

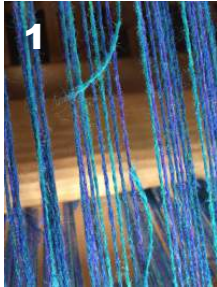
Library Catalog: <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/syracuseweaversguild>

Ravelry Group: <https://www.ravelry.com/groups/syracuse-weavers-guild>

Repairing a Broken Warp Thread the Easy Way.

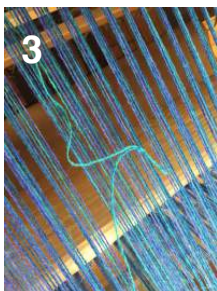
Be sure to check out the additional hints from Sue Szczotka below.

Karen Jean Smith



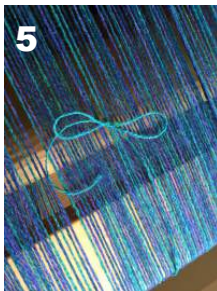
1. Oh phooey! You have discovered a broken warp thread.

2. Measure from the broken piece at the back of the loom to your weaving and add about 20 inches. (The length may vary depending upon where the break is and the size of your loom.) This will be your new warp thread.



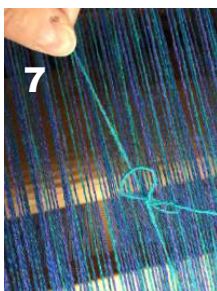
3. At the back side of the heddles, tie a simple overhand knot from the original warp (the end that passed through a heddle) to the new warp thread.

4. Pull through to the weaving side until the knot reaches a few inches past the beginning of the woven cloth.



5. Tie the opposite end of the new warp to the broken end at the back using a single bow tie (as you would tie a sneaker.)

6. On the weaving side pull the new warp tight and fasten it to your weaving with the end wrapped around a pin. You can cut away the knot and extra thread. Continue weaving.



7. When the bow approaches the heddles, pull one end to unfasten it and retie those same ends as in Step 3. Pull the thread through the heddles and beater as in Step 4 and fasten as in Step 6.

Continue weaving.

When repairing a warp with multiple items (many towels, etc.), sometimes the knot tying the new warp to the old broken warp can be made to fall in the space between the two items. Then there is no reason to have to do any more additions and you can continue weaving with the old, now repaired warp thread! Sue S

Finishing: I find it easiest to thread a needle and weave the loose ends into the weaving after I take it off the loom, and before I wash the fabric. This works best with simple weaves and larger threads.

An on-loom alternative from Sue Szczotka would take place at Step 6. Rather than cut off the extra from the original broken warp thread, tie it to a piece of scrap yarn, put that back through the reed and heddle together with the repaired warp thread, and weight the original thread at the back of the loom. Weave for an inch or two, depending upon how slippery the warp is, and then cut off the extra, thereby avoiding off-loom repairs.

Questions? Contact Karen or Sue

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

Guild Meetings

Held on Saturday, starting at 10:00 a.m.
Meetings will be virtual until further notice.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
7248 Highbridge Road
Fayetteville, NY 13066



THRUMS

Susan Mehringer
11 Pheasant Way
Ithaca, NY 14850

