

THRUMS

Newsletter of the Syracuse Weavers Guild

President's Message

Dear Weaving Friends,

Two documents are open on my computer in preparation for writing this column as we begin our 2021-22 program year. One is the schedule of programs and the other is our membership list. Both bring joy to my heart as I contemplate seeing the members of Syracuse Weavers Guild on a monthly basis in the coming year for an inspiring collection of programs. It was a delight to gather with many members at Clark Reservation State Park in June, a taste of the time we hope to share in the months ahead.

I am sorry that we will not be able to meet in person for our first meeting this year due to the increase in cases of Covid in the area. We will meet via Zoom on September 11 – *half an hour earlier than our usual time* – for a program on doubleweave by Jennifer Moore. At the meeting we will discuss thoughts and plans for the coming year and follow that up with a survey to gauge members' comfort with in-person meetings.

The full list of programs is in this issue of *Thrums*. Nancy G and the planning group took to heart the fact that the guild has many members who are new to weaving alongside more experienced weavers. Our programs are planned to be accessible and useful to all.

There is so much to learn and explore in weaving; I am grateful to the planners who are bringing these programs to us, grateful to have so many individuals who share an interest in and curiosity about weaving, grateful for the opportunity to gather together to talk and learn about weaving.

Looking forward to seeing you (on screen) on September 11.

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.

Back cover: Weave to Win

See article on page 2.

New Member | Lynn Wilson

I am very much a novice weaver. I own a small rigid heddle loom (an 8" Ashford Samplett), a small collection of pin looms, and an Ashford Inklette loom (which I have not used yet). I took a *Try Weaving* class at the Weaving and Fiber Arts Center in Rochester in



May and knew from that experience that I eventually wanted to get a multi-shaft loom. I didn't expect to do so for a few more years, but then an opportunity came up to buy a used Louët Kombo 70 4+4 at the end of June. I'm currently using Deborah Chandler's *Learning to Weave* book to learn the basics and look forward to learning more from this group.



I'm originally from Michigan but have lived in Syracuse for about 30 years. I live with my husband and a 9-year-old cat named Nano. In addition to learning to weave, I knit, crochet, spin, and do embroidery and needlepoint.

Weave-to-Win January-May, 2021 | Donna Connery

Thanks to all who shared their weaving in the SWG race to the top! The total of 451 ft-yards we wove from January-May over-topped the Empire State Building. Congratulations to Barb Decker, Sue Szczotka, and Joyce Lock who were our top 3 SWG Wonder Weavers in this friendly weaving challenge.

Where do we go from here? The Empire State building owned the moniker of the World's Tallest Building for over 40 years (1931-1972). But we don't have to stop there! Let's tune up our looms and see how far we weave from June to December. Maybe we can set our sights on the tallest building in the world today, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, which rises up to 900 yards and doubles the height of the Empire State Building. We have half a year to get there, and the holiday weaving pressure is on for many of us. So keep track of dimensions, take a few pics to share, and Happy Weaving!

Our September meeting will begin half an hour earlier than usual. Please log onto zoom starting at 9:15; we will begin at 9:30. Jennifer Moore has another presentation following ours; she graciously added our meeting to her busy schedule!

Classifieds

Toika Countermarch Loom, 8 shafts, with bench and extras, \$1,500

Contact Debbie Elliot at elliotdeb@gmail.com

A beautiful, solid birch countermarch floor loom and bench made by Toika, Toijala, Finland. There are 8 harnesses, 10 treadles, 16 lams. Weaving width is 44 inches. All parts are in excellent condition. Included is the original Toika raddle, a 6-dent reed, two boat shuttles and two rag shuttles and the original instruction booklet. Newly outfitted with texsolv cords and string heddles (I also have saved the original). This loom weaves beautifully and is perfect for everything from rugs to dish towels. 59" x 43" foot print, 61" tall.

Glimakra Julia Countermarch Floor Loom 4S \$1,000

Contact Debbie Elliot at elliotdeb@gmail.com

Julia is a wonderful loom to weave on with a weaving width of 27". It measures 32" wide and 32" depth. 4S and 6 treadles, 4 lams. Also included: a Glimakra temple, a new Schacht Spindle shuttle, "Weaving on the Julia" DVD, shaft holders, a 50/70 stainless steel reed, a reed and heddle hook, and 100 extra texsolv heddles.



HD 12 yard warping board

Contact Sherry Gordon at

sher4art@gmail.com

Slightly damaged on one peg

Very usable

Asking \$75.



Harrisville Design 22" traveling loom \$250

Contact Nancy Gaus nggaus123@gmail.com

Folds to 28"w x 14" d x 42" h. A light weight four shaft jack loom, it's perfect for sampling or smaller projects. Super easy to thread and easy to weave on. Made some improvements. It comes with 12-dent and 8-dent reeds.

Membership | Donna Movsoovich

Thank you and welcome to our returning and 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 Movsoovich

2527 W. Seneca Turnpike

Marcellus, NY 13108

Programs | Nancy Gaus

Due to restrictions imposed in Onondaga County as a result of increased cases of Covid, we will meet via Zoom once again for our September meeting. As we did last year, a link to the meeting will be sent to members the week before our meeting. *We will gather on Zoom starting at 9:15, then begin at 9:30. Please make note of this change on your calendar so you don't miss any of the program!*

Going forward, decisions about whether or not to meet in person will depend on the situation in Syracuse. While we all are eager to again meet in person, keeping one another safe is a concern. At our September meeting there will be an opportunity to voice concerns and ask questions regarding meeting in person. We'll conduct a poll following the September meeting to gauge members' comfort level with in-person meetings. Stay tuned as plans continue to evolve, and stay safe.

9/11 **Chromatic Fantasy - Doubleweave** **Meeting begins at 9:15, Doubleweave presentation begins at 9:30**

For nearly 40 years Jennifer has been exploring relationships between weaving, mathematics and music in her doubleweave wall pieces. In this multimedia presentation, she will show how she has used doubleweave pick-up as a medium for her geometric designs and color harmonies. She will explain the basic principles of the golden proportion, symmetry movements, tessellations and fractals, and show how she has used them in her work. The program will culminate with a journey through her masters project and an animated video of her weavings dancing to the music of Bach. An overview of the basic process of doubleweave will be included.

Presenter: Jennifer Moore
Facilitator: Nancy Smothergill

9/11 **Guild Challenge**

Doubleweave is a clever structure that allows two separate warps to interact in unusual and fascinating ways. A basic doubleweave can give you lovely and versatile results, but there are many variations on the theme. Doubleweave pickup, deflected doubleweave, doubleweave on rigid heddle, and exciting color combinations are just a few of the options that can thrill even the experienced weaver. What will you do with doubleweave? Report on your discoveries in March.

Facilitators: Nancy Gaus, Nancy Smothergill, Joyce Lock

10/2 **A Review of Handweaving.net**

Handweaving.net is a handy resource that is easy to use with both free and paid membership features. There is more to this website than you might think. It's a collection of easily searchable weaving drafts, a draft editor, a profile draft conversion and block substitution tool, and it includes a versatile color editor so you can try out your color ideas. For a small membership fee you get the enhanced features and the ability to save and upload your own drafts. Jump in and see what Handweaving.net can do for you!

Presenter: Nancy Gaus

11/6 **Idea to Design: A Panel Discussion**

How do you go from an idea to a woven design? Wonder what process other weavers use? How many ways are there are to start with an idea and end up with a woven piece? Infinite, but we'll explore a few.

A panel of five weavers, each representing different aspects of weaving and approaches to design, will respond to a series of questions to give their unique perspective. These answers in turn will promote group discussion. There will also be time for questions from guild members, so come with the burning questions that you have always wanted to ask!

Moderator: Joyce Lock

Panelists: Donna Connery, Susan Mehringer, Nancy Smothergill, Sue Szczotka and Laureen Whitney

12/4 **Small Project: Thread Buttons**

December's program will be a fun, hands-on mini class on making a woven yarn button. Sue learned this technique from Peg Cherre via a Zoom class from the Rochester Guild. Buttons can be made in any size and color with options of adding bling with beads! You will need to make a simple template ahead of time and bring any yarn from 3/2 or 5/2 cotton to sock weight yarn and a blunt end needle with an eye big enough for your yarn choice. Specific instructions will be sent 2 weeks before the class. WARNING: These buttons can be addictive!

Presenter: Sue Szczotka

1/8 **Weaving Without Wear**

Staci Stoffel will present information and demonstrations on efficient ergonomics and postures for weavers in order to reduce fatigue and repetitive use injuries. With a doctorate in physical therapy and 15 years of experience in various settings and with diverse populations, Staci has a unique ability to assess and communicate about a person's ability to move effectively and efficiently.

Presenter: Staci Stoffel, DPT

Facilitator: Nancy Smothergill

2/5 **Name Drafting**

Name Drafting is a method for creating original overshot threadings. Start with a name or phrase selected by you. Convert it into a four shaft threading and treadling with a draw down to envision what it would look like when woven.

Presenter: Cynthia Pendergrast

3/5 **Presentation of the Guild Challenge**

Bring the doubleweave piece(s) you wove for the guild challenge and tell us what you learned. Include an optional sample and information card for our Guild Sample Book.

Facilitator: Nancy Gaus

4/2 **Field Trip - Exploring Treasures from the American Textile Museum**

We will make our Covid-postponed 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 the archives, presented a Zoom program to the group last year. This year she will lead us through an on-site viewing of some of the fascinating items from the era of American textile prominence.

Presenter: Marcie Farwell

Facilitator: Cynthia Pendergrast

5/7 **Annual Potluck Luncheon and Towel Exchange**

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

Library

Donna Connery

Membership

Donna Movsoovich

Refreshments Coordinator

Lois Koenig

Program

Nancy Gaus

Webmaster

Joyce Lock

Special Projects

Sue Szczotka

Thrums Newsletter

Susan Mehringer

Looming Questions - a collaborative advice column by SWG members

Rachel Abbott

Dear Tabby,

How do you organize your stash? Do you display it or hide it? Do you sort by fiber or grist? Do you separate out the colors? Does your storage method inspire you or overwhelm you?

--Nancy G.

Hi Nancy G.,

I received a lot of responses to your question with some good advice! There is a range of organization methods, but everyone agrees that dust and light are bad for your stash. Also, beware because stashes multiply rapidly and may take over your house!

Read what your fellow weavers had to say:

Mauri: I don't have a ton of project stash, but all of my yarn is kept in Rubbermaid containers. The containers of wool are kept in one of our cedar closets in the dark to protect it from moths and light.

Laureen: My stash is scattered...groan. It started on a shelf with my handspun and quickly grew out of space. It spilled onto an IKEA wall basket organizer. Then I read light and dust are bad for yarn, so into a closet it spread. No light, but can't promise no dust. It shares space with Christmas, so being there is the closest to "organized" it's going to get.

Joyce: I converted the games and puzzles shelving in my weaving room into yarn storage. The colored yarns are on display while the overflow of natural, whites, and black is stored in another room. On the shelves, it's sorted by fiber and color. For inspiration, I'll line up a few color coordinated cones near my loom to look at while I'm weaving. Of course, this doesn't address storage of another stash--my spinning fiber!

Donna C: I am definitely a sorter, first by type (cotton, linen), then by size, then by color. The first two sorts are necessary to find anything. But the wall of visible color is the best inspiration for weaving there is! Right now my stash overfloweth its shelves, but here is a pic of the latest overflow yarn parking lot.



Stash of perle cotton



Stash bins of a newer weaver



By type, then color (Donna Connery)

Nancy G: Chaos makes me less creative and saps my energy, so I can't have my fiber out on display. I have bins labeled by fiber content—wool, cotton, linen, specialty, etc. I use grist or weight as a secondary sorting category. I try not to focus on sorting my stash by color. When I empty a bin, I can be surprised to see two different colors tumble out that I never expected to consider together. I might take a photo of the pile on the floor, convert it to black and white, and look for contrasts to use in my project.

Nancy S: I organize my stash by fiber and grist. The majority of my stash is cotton, with lots of perle cotton, sorted by size and then color. All of those yarns are either in a lawyer's bookcase with glass windows or on a couple of cone holder boards with slanting pegs. The unmercerized cottons are in another bookshelf. I try to keep clear plastic bags over the cones not under glass to keep off dust. Chenilles and other synthetic yarns are in another bookshelf. But then there are separate plastic bins with carpet warp, tapestry wool, rug wool, linen, embroidery floss, and one for miscellaneous. I do not have a specific room to call a studio, so the yarn stash is divided between two rooms, the upstairs hall, and the attic. Every once in a while I discover an errant stash bag in the attic and am surprised to find I have that yarn. This all says nothing about my stash of knitting yarn.

Barb: I store my yarn by fiber first, then color. Fortunately, I have a studio now where the yarn can be on shelves, but I started out with them under beds, in cupboards, anywhere there was space. I kept cards with a snippet of the yarn and its location.



Wool (Barb Decker)

Next month's Looming Question:

How can I break out of my symmetry rut and create pleasing asymmetry in my weaving? For example, different sized/colored/placed stripes in warp or weft?

Please send answers, as well as other looming questions, to Tabby at abbotttrc@yahoo.com.



Mohair, chenille, and cotton (Barb)

Upcoming Fiber Events

6/19/2021- 9/12/2021	Utica, NY	Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute Exhibition: <u>Emma Amos: Color Odyssey</u> Amos (1937-2020) was a painter and weaver who worked for Dorothy Liebes in the 1960s and incorporated her handwoven fabric into her paintings.
9/11/2021- 9/12/2021	Harford, PA	<u>Pennsylvania Endless Mountains Fiber Festival</u>
9/18/2021	East Aurora, NY	<u>WNY Fiber Arts Festival</u>
9/25/2021- 9/26/2021	Greenwich, NY	<u>Adirondack Wool & Arts Festival</u>
10/9/2021- 10/10/2021	Preble, NY	<u>Little York Fall Fiber Arts Festival</u>
10/16/2021- 10/17/2021	Rhinebeck, NY	<u>NY State Sheep and Wool Festival</u>
10/16/2021- 1/9/2022	Utica, NY	Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute Exhibition: <u>Isabelle de Borchgrave: Fashioning Art from Paper</u> More than 500 years of fashion history recreated in paper! Nearly 100 full size recreations in paper. Paper! I (Barb Decker) have a book of her work, <i>Pulp Fashion</i> . It's amazing! Can't wait to see it in person.



Emma Amos' handwoven fabric
on the falling figures. African
fabric as borders.
Image credit: Barb Decker



Maria-Maddalena d'Austria, 2007
Image credit: mwpai.org

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	http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg
Peacock 12" 2S loom #2	Available	Nancy Smothergill	http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg
Peacock 12" 2S loom #3	Available	Nancy Smothergill	http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg
Inkle loom	Available	Joyce Lock	
Harrisville 22" 4S 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" 8S table loom	Available	Joyce Lock	Looks like Structo
Purrrington Norris 12S table loom	Traveling Loom	Sue Szczotka	8 Shaft Huck Lace
LeClerc Dorothy 15" 8S 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.

2021-2022 Challenge | Doubleweave Resources

Study Group: A study group facilitated by Joyce Lock and Nancy Smothergill will be forming in the fall of 2021 to provide additional assistance in the doubleweave structure. It will be based in part on Jennifer Moore's DVD "Doubleweave Basics".

Resource List: Donna Connery is curating a list of doubleweave resources that are available in the Guild library, supplemented by other resource recommendations by guild members. The list will be emailed in October. Please send Donna information on any Doubleweave resources you would like to include in the list. And if you have time to write a short review, please submit it to Thrums for an upcoming issue.



THRUMS

Susan Mehringer
11 Pheasant Way
Ithaca, NY 14850

