

THRUMS

Newsletter of the Syracuse Weavers Guild

President's Message

Gosh, it was good to gather with Guild members at our meeting this morning! Have I mentioned how glad I am that we have returned to meeting in person? Apparently I am not alone in that sentiment. Several members voiced their thoughts on meeting in person following our November Guild meeting, our first meeting in person since March of 2020.

Eileen wrote, "Our meeting earlier was very enjoyable. Such a lovely group of caring people!"

Sue, who drives 80 minutes each way to be at Guild meetings, said "I find it very worthwhile to make the drive and meet in person - it is what truly makes us a guild."

Donna chimed in saying, "I think our guild is the best. Although I am a dues paying member of a few other guilds for online access to programs and resources, I am not truly a member. I just "get" things from them... We [SWG] all gladly share knowledge and experiences with each other, because we feel a commitment to the Guild and each other."

And Nancy added, "The strength of our guild is in the personal contact between members and the back and forth discussion plus ability to see and touch weavings."

This sense of camaraderie and contact with each other was in clear evidence as we sat at tables together this morning making buttons under Sue's direction. Sitting in small groups we were able to visit with each other, learning a bit of one another's story. When it was time for sharing we touched the towels and blankets and runners that came around and shared thoughts, questions and strategies. Such a gift!

I am so grateful to be part of the Syracuse Weavers Guild, grateful for the friendships forged and lessons learned.

I look forward to seeing you all in January!

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.

Book Review | Nancy Gaus

Krokbragd: How to Design & Weave by Debby Greenlaw

What makes a good weaving book? I'm sure every weaver has their own thoughts on this, and I am willing to discuss my own criteria. It must cover the basics in a clear, concise way. It must build on basic principles in the early chapters and guide the weaver to confidently tackle more complex skills at the end. It must have a good discussion about tools and supplies, especially those that are unique to the topic. It must have clear and informative drawings and photographs that illustrate key points. And it must include images of inspirational samples. If the book leads the weaver through an actual tutorial experience, it gets bonus points.

By the above measures, the book *Krokbragd: How to Design and Weave*, by Debby Greenlaw, does not disappoint. It lays a good foundation of history and basic theory in a clear, understandable way, leads you through designing your own patterns, and builds to a satisfying conclusion with the final topic on beautiful edge finishes. It discusses different options for fiber choices and tools and the reasoning behind them. It even includes a detailed chapter on weaving Krokbragd on a rigid heddle loom. Most of the diagrams and photos do a good job of complementing the key points in the text. There are a generous number of examples in attractive colors and six interesting projects at the end. As a whole, the book was a really fun exploration that yielded thick and colorful cloth and a new weaving passion for me.

No book is perfect, and I'd be remiss if I didn't mention a few things that I had issue with. First, a few of the photos in the section on managing selvages were confusing and left me to figure it out on my own through trial and error. Second, most of the samples were very traditional patterns which is probably what many beginning weavers want, but I was wanting more contemporary interpretations of Krokbragd patterns. A search online lead me to the eye-popping patterns of Angie Parker, Petra Marciniak, and Kelly Casanova, and I learned enough from Debby Greenlaw's book that I could reverse engineer most of the online examples (what fun!). My third issue is with the pricing. When it was published, this first of Debby Greenlaw's Krokbragd books was more than \$30 online, which was beyond my weaving budget for a book on a single topic (I borrowed the copy I reviewed). Interestingly, the price dropped after her second book, *Krokbragd Patterns*, was released this past April. Her second book is priced closer to \$48. Since she is the only Krokbragd weaver currently publishing books on the subject, it feels like she is taking advantage and that leaves me just a little miffed.

I must admit my issues are minor, though. Overall this book is a go-to for anyone wanting to learn the basics of Krokbragd. If the price is out of your reach, there are a few copies around that can be borrowed. Note that an errata page is available on the author's website for the edition published before May of 2019.

Weavers' Guild of Rochester Exhibit Award | Cynthia Pendergrast

Our Guild was approached by the Weavers' Guild of Rochester about sponsoring an award for the juried exhibit they will hold in 2022 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Rochester Guild. Our Guild voted to donate \$25 to sponsor an award in a weaving category. The application has been made. Stay tuned to learn more about their exhibit.

Programs | Nancy Gaus

Logistics for in-person meetings:

At our December meeting, the group discussed the possibility of moving our meetings to our previous meeting space when attendance is small, but decided to continue to meet in the gym at Good Shepherd in order to better keep distance. We will park in the back lot and come in the door at the end of the hall. Attendees wear masks throughout the meeting and we are able to sit at distances that are appropriate to the present conditions.

Many thanks to Lois for arriving early to unlock the building and for arranging with the church for us to meet there. And thanks to the members who come early and stay late to help move tables and chairs.

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

Updates and changes to our Guild by-laws were published in the October - November issue of Thrums and were read at the November and December meetings. At our January meeting we will vote to approve the revisions.

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. Please bring a clipboard, pencil and eraser to the program. Graphing paper will be provided.

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**

Location TBD

Hostess List | Lois Koenig

The Hostess provides a snack or dessert and hot water. Members should bring their own lunch, utensils, mug, etc. We will not have access to the kitchen so there will be no access to the refrigerator, utensils, etc.

January 8:, Donna Connery, Donna Johnson-Brown

February 5: Nancy Gaus, Andrea Scamehorn

March 5: Sally Meyers, Sue Szczotka

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.
- Due to allergies and dietary concerns, please bring a list of ingredients for items you bring to share.
- Arrive early to prepare the table and hot water.
- Clean up the food area.
- If you notice that items are needed in the supply baskets, let Lois know.

Committees

Booklets

Equipment Coordinator

Nancy Smothergill

Calling Committee

Carolyn Wolfson

Meg Welch

Library

Donna Connery

Membership

Donna Movsoich

Refreshments Coordinator

Lois Koenig

Program

Nancy Gaus

Webmaster

Joyce Lock

Special Projects

Sue Szczotka

Thrums Newsletter

Susan Mehringer

December Program | Sue Szczotka | Sally Meyers

December's program was a fun, hands-on mini class on making a woven yarn button. Thanks to Sue Szczotka for presenting the class and to Sally Meyers for the pictures. Sue learned this technique from Peg Cherre via a Zoom class from the Rochester Guild and we are grateful that she has shared it with us.



Looming Questions - a collaborative advice column by SWG members

Rachel Abbott

Dear Tabby,

What are your preferred fibers, setts, and structures for household linens, such as towels, placemats, napkins, runners, blankets?

--Where do I begin?

Nancy S.: As with most everything, the fiber and sett of the household linens I weave depend on the structure and how fine or heavy I want the piece to be.

Hi Where do I begin?,

As Maria sang in "The Sound of Music",

"Let's start at the very beginning,

A very good place to start.

When you read you begin with A-B-C.

When you sing you begin with do-re-mi."

When you weave, you begin with structure, fiber, sett. I received many responses to your question and have put the information into a table which I hope you'll find useful in designing your next project. Also, read the helpful tidbits of advice from your fellow weavers!

--Tabby

Joyce: Towels make the perfect outlet for exploration of color and different weave structures. The rectangular shape of towels also lends itself to vertical stripes, which I enjoy designing by creating yarn wraps on pieces of cardboard. Since I love the endless variations with twill treadlings, I generally thread straight or extended point twills. I'm a big one for tying on new warps to old ones, so that allows me to explore more colors using the same threading.

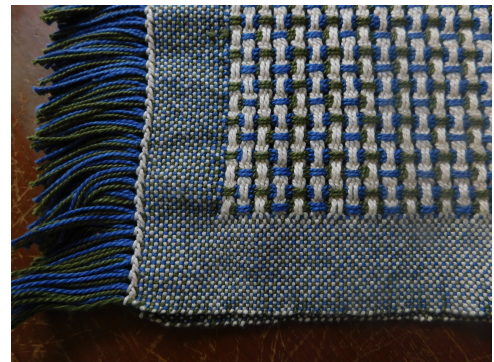


Joyce Lock: Yarn wrapping, Twill and basketweave towel

Donna C.: For towels and napkins, I interchange and mix cotton, cottolin, and linen all the time for both warp and weft. For my recent fixation on rep placemats and table runners, I have been using 8/4 cotton carpet warp sett at 40 epi. The harnesses stick, but with a sword to clear the shed, the end-result is beautifully dense and color rich.



Amy Parker: Baby blanket, Marion Powell's shadow weave draft 8-26-43



Sue Szczotka: Lace placemat

A-B-Cs of Household Linens

Item	Structure	Warp and weft	Sett
Towel	Plain weave	8/2 unmercerized cotton or cottolin	20 epi
Towel	Plain weave	10/2 cotton	30 epi
Towel	Plain weave	22/2 cottolin	30 epi
Towel	Twill	8/2 unmercerized cotton or cottolin	20-22 epi
Towel	Turned twill, rosepath twill	8/2 unmercerized cotton	24 epi
Towel	Huck, basket weave, summer and winter 8-shaft point draft	8/2 unmercerized cotton	20 epi
Napkin	Plain weave	10/2 perle cotton	30 epi
Napkin	Twill, huck	10/2 perle cotton	24-28 epi
Placemat	Huck, twill, log cabin	3/2 perle cotton	12 epi
Placemat	Summer and winter	3/2 perle cotton	10 epi
Placemat	Swedish lace	8/2 (22/2) cottolin	20 and 24 epi mixed in warp
Placemat	Rep weave	5/2 perle cotton	40 epi
Placemat	Rep weave	8/4 cotton carpet warp; medium or maxi cotton Stranggarn for thick weft; 5/2 or smaller perle cotton for thin weft	40 epi
Table runner	Rosepath twill	10/2 perle cotton	24 epi
Table runner	Turned monk's belt	5/2 perle cotton	Background 16 epi; pattern 32 epi
Baby blanket	Shadow weave	Doubled 10/2 perle cotton	15 epi
Baby blanket	Deflected doubleweave	6/2 unmercerized cotton	20 epi

Next month's Looming Question: The pandemic has prompted us to find new ways to interact with fellow weavers. What new weaving resources have you found and how are you interacting with them?

Please send your answers and other looming questions to Tabby at abbotttrc@yahoo.com.

Syracuse Makerfaire

The Syracuse Makerfaire will take place on Saturday, April 2 from 10:00 - 4:00 at the SRC Arena. Back in the before-COVID days, the Guild voted to have a booth with a weaving demonstration and make-and-take craft at the faire. Unfortunately, the rescheduled date is the date of our field trip to the Kheel Center to see materials from the American Textile Museum!

At our December meeting, it was decided to poll the membership to see if there might be members who are unable to make the trip to Cornell but would be interested in helping at the Makerfaire. A survey was sent to members asking about interest in staffing a booth on April 2. With the results of the survey, we will make a decision about whether or not to participate in the Makerfaire this year. Thank you for submitting your response to the survey.

Seeking a Membership Coordinator

Donna Movsoich, our Membership Coordinator, is stepping down. For years she has welcomed new members to the Guild, reminded us procrastinators to pay our dues and kept track of current contact information for the Guild, including keeping our Google group up to date. Perhaps you are interested in being the next person to have the opportunity to welcome new members! The job description (per our by-laws which will be voted on in January) is:

"The Membership Coordinator will collect dues and forward them to the Treasurer, keep an accurate record of members' standings and provide lists to the Thrums Editor and Booklet Coordinator."

If you are interested in serving in this role, please contact Cynthia.

Weave to Win! Total 2021 Yardage By January 1st | Donna Connery

At our May picnic, we unveiled the total reported yardage woven by our members from January-May to be about 450 ft-yards. That's almost 1/4 mile of 1-ft wide fabric which would drape to the ground from the top of the Empire State Building. So what weaving has happened since May? What did you do with all that stash you took home from the picnic? Let's see if we made it past 1/2 mile this year. To get in on the fun, tally up all your weaving efforts from June-December. Compile the L x W dimensions of each of your projects and send them to Donna C (dsconnery@gmail.com) by January 1 so she can calculate the actual ft-yards you created.

The 2021 yardage will be announced at our January meeting. Note: If you didn't total up your weaving for the first half of the year and want to include it now, you can send that along too. Just make sure it's separated into Jan-May and June-Dec.

SWG Web site: <https://www.syracuseweaversguild.org>

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

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

Distaff or Roc Day | Joyce Lock

You may have heard of Distaff or Roc Day since some spinning and fiber arts guilds celebrate it with a pot luck luncheon and contests in January, but do you know its origin? According to Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distaff_Day:

Distaff Day, also called Roc Day or Rock Day, is 7 January, the day after the feast of the Epiphany. It is also known as Saint Distaff's Day, one of the many unofficial holidays in Catholic nations.

The distaff, or roc, used in spinning was the medieval symbol of women's work. In many European cultural traditions, women resumed their household work after the twelve days of Christmas. Women of all classes would spend their evenings spinning on the wheel. During the day, they would carry a drop spindle with them. Spinning was the only means of turning raw wool, cotton or flax into thread, which could then be woven into cloth.

Men have their own way of celebrating this occasion, called Plough Monday, the first Monday after Epiphany when men are supposed to get back to work. Every few years, Distaff Day and Plough Monday fall on the same day.

Often the men and women would play pranks on each other during this celebration...

Library Update - Weaving Samples | Donna Connery

As always, be sure to check our catalog for resources at <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/syracuseweaversguild> that may pique your interest. Special thanks to Eileen Kloss for organizing SWG members' samples and their documentation begun as part of our weaving challenge in 2020. The SWG sample notebook will be at our monthly meetings for members to peruse and augment with new contributions.



The library also has a box of non-SWG sample notebooks from a variety of other guilds that probably were donated to the Guild by families of former members. It isn't certain that we want to keep all these notebooks of yore from distant guilds. Several members took sample notebooks home after our December meeting to look at the content so we will be able to discuss their disposition at the January meeting. Some ideas include making them available to SWG members on the white elephant table and contacting the guilds of origin to see if they would be interested in getting them back.

Small Bands Study Group | Nancy Smothergill

The Small Band Study group met after the December meeting, welcoming a couple new faces. We generally talked about the general focus of the group, including any technique producing small bands and offering support to members new to working on such bands. At the January meeting, again following the guild meeting, we will discuss and demonstrate making a continuous warp for tablet weaving.

Doubleweave Study Group | Joyce Lock

The first meeting of the Doubleweave Study Group was held Monday November 15th; there were nine in attendance including Nancy Smothergill and myself. This initial meeting was a planning meeting and we decided to follow the instructions for the four shaft doubleweave sampler in Jennifer Moore's 2019 book *Doubleweave Revised and Expanded*. Participation in the study group requires access to this great resource. We talked about good yarns to use, their corresponding doubleweave sett, and the looms members will be using. Since Debbie Eliot may use a countermarch loom for her sampler, Nancy contacted Jennifer for suggestions on how to tie up the treadles. Jennifer graciously responded with a countermarch tie-up from one of Peggy Osterkamp's books.

The second meeting was held Monday December 13th via Zoom. Participants discussed where they are in planning and weaving the four shaft doubleweave sampler. We discussed sleying options for different dent reeds depending on the yarns people are using for their sampler.

The next study group meeting will be Monday January 17th at 2:00 via Zoom.

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 Szcotka	Hand Manipulated Techniques
Peacock 12" 2S loom #1	Available	Nancy Smothergill	http://possumjmandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg
Peacock 12" 2S loom #2	Available	Nancy Smothergill	http://possumjmandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg
Peacock 12" 2S loom #3	Available	Nancy Smothergill	http://possumjmandelizabeth.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
Purrington Norris 12S table loom	On Loan	Eileen Kloss	
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.