

THRUMS

Newsletter of the Syracuse Weavers Guild

President's Message

Hello Weaving Friends,

I've been thinking about design elements lately. We've all heard a weaver suggest to someone lamenting an error that they call it a design element. The first time I heard that it sounded to my ears like a way to cover up a mistake, but increasingly I hear it as a suggestion to work with the mistake, to turn it into something of beauty. To reframe it in a positive light.

As I look at the maroon yarn that had the audacity to worm through a shawl, "design element" comes to mind. Work with those worms and make them design elements? Needle weave something else through the fabric to replace the worming yarns?

What lesson can these design elements teach me? What are the design elements in my life - things I don't want, things I wish weren't so. What can I do with them to allow them to enhance rather than distract or ruin? How can I reframe my particular circumstance to move forward into beauty?

Good weaving to you!

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

Halcyon Yarn Guild Rewards | Joyce Lock

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. At the beginning of the year the guild gets an annual check for 5% of total member sales for the past year. For purchases made in 2021 the guild just received a check for close to \$25. Many thanks to guild members for mentioning the guild when placing an order with Halcyon. Questions? See <https://halcyonyarn.com/guild/> or contact Joyce Lock joycelock3@gmail.com.

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.

New Member | Andrea Seastrand

I was first introduced to weaving in 3rd grade when our Art teacher finally dressed the monstrous floor loom that had been sulking in a dark corner of our classroom. Undressed it was just an awkward piece of furniture; dressed, another thing completely! I can still remember sitting down at it, in complete awe. Then class ended and I forgot all about weaving.



Until 2006 when, bored and flush with the year's tax refund, I thought of that Art class loom again and did some impulse shopping on eBay. I found a 32" rigid heddle loom and started on my own weaving journey which lasted for about a year. In 2008 I finished my MA, moved the loom to the basement and, for the second time, forgot all about weaving.

Until June of 2020 when we moved to Cazenovia and I set the rigid heddle up again, this time in its permanent spot on a proper stand. Since then, I've rekindled my love for weaving as a pastime. I've faced "technical difficulties" and have solved them in my own non-technical way. I've built my stash up and have a basic understanding of more complex patterns. I've known good warps and the not-so-good. I've looked at patterns and thought "I'll never be able to do *that*" only to, indeed, be able to do *that*. Weaving has helped calm my nerves and brought a bit of brightness to a sedentary Work From Home lifestyle that I'm still evaluating. It is time away from a screen, a tangible break from type type type scroll scroll scroll. Even when things go wrong, weaving brings such a welcome creative pause that keeps my thinker thinking and, when things go right, a lovely feeling of accomplishment and reason to pat myself on the back. I love weaving pieces to give away as gifts, especially things for my daughter and baby blankets for some little ones.

Looking back I remember, in 2006, I showed my new rigid heddle loom to a friend whose knitting I admired. I explained how to direct warp, how to get clean selvages, and how someday I'd love to master Log Cabin. Ten seconds in, she'd glazed over. "I think," she said, "you've chosen a really difficult hobby." Maybe so, but it's one I'm grateful for and will stick with as long as I'm able.

New Member | Valerie Kaiser

Started weaving in the summer of 2021 when I took a class on rigid heddle loom at Hill Country Weavers in Austin, Texas last June and was hooked. I joined the Weavers & Spinners Society of Austin soon after and added spinning to my hobbies as well. I am still working on my basic skills and have a 25" Schacht Flip Loom. Near term projects I hope to weave are curtains for my older daughter's bedroom (a stash-busting project) and a poncho from my homespun. I hope to learn double-weave after getting my fundamentals stronger. I started out my fiber hobbies with crochet (my mom and maternal grandmother both taught me) and added knitting a little over 12 years ago. In 2020 and 2021 I helped to coordinate a charity-knit/craft group at my synagogue (Knitzvah) in Austin where we had folks from the greater Austin community partner with us to make all kinds of hand-made gifts (including woven gifts) for the homeless every winter. I have two young daughters (Lilah 4, Rita 1) and enjoy running and cooking (and eating and coffee!) when I am not doing fiber-things. I'm looking forward to getting to know the Central NY fiber community!



New Member | Joni Bucktooth

Hello: My name is Joni Bucktooth. Thank you for allowing me to join the Guild. Excited for some inspiration and learning new techniques to build on my skills.

My husband and I live on the Onondaga Nation. We have five children and 16 grandchildren! We golf and love spending time with family.

My father started me on my crafting career when I was 6 years old. Together we would work on the beadwork to go on our Traditional clothing and since then I have always had some kind of craft in various stages of completion.

I keep busy with garment sewing, quilting, knitting and crocheting. A few years ago I picked up weaving. Getting hooked on the inkle loom first (I now have 4) I then purchased a Rigid Heddle loom. I had fun with that and couldn't stop there. I acquired an Ashford 8 shaft table loom. This is where I figure I could use some support. I haven't done much more than plain weave and twill and I know it can do so much more. All I have learned is self taught from YouTube and a few books. I look forward to speaking with knowledgeable weavers for some guidance and ideas. I hope to see you all again in April. Thank you.

Weaving Competition | Sue Szczotka

Attention all weavers! Here is a great chance to strut your stuff and maybe win a prize in the process! On June 11th and 12th, 2022, the [CNY Fiber Arts Festival](#) will be held in Bouckville, NY. It is a fun, two-day festival with lots of vendors, classes, demonstrations, and more. This year we will be hosting the second annual Viv Fulton Memorial Weaving Competition, open to weavers of any experience level, both adults and teens. This year there will be two categories - Woven Wearables and Table Linens & Towels. Cash prizes for first, second and third places will be awarded in both categories. Entries will be judged on originality and execution and may be made from any natural fiber, including bamboo, rayon and Tencel™. Go to the website at cnyfiberarts.org for more details and an entry form. Up to four weavings can be entered; the entry form must be completed by June 1st. So, get your creative weaving juices flowing and plan to enter the competition!

Guild Planning | Cynthia Pendergrast

On January 29, four members of our Guild participated in a day long retreat sponsored by Handweaver's Guild of America that touched on several topics of interest to weaving guilds. Over the coming months, after they have an opportunity to talk among themselves about what they took from the conference, they will share ideas with us. Thank you to Donna Connery, Nancy Gaus, Rachel Abbott and Sue Szczotka for setting aside time to do this! We look forward to hearing about the day and ideas for our Guild.

Anniversary Award | Cynthia Pendergrast

The Weaving Guild of Rochester is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year! Part of that celebration includes a weaving exhibit, which will run April 28 – May 1. Our Guild is sponsoring the award for yardage woven.

Looming Questions - collaborative advice by SWG members | Rachel Abbott

Dear Tabby,

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?

–Home alone

Dear Home alone,

With computers and technology, our world has become so much bigger while seeming so much smaller. Even though we've all spent more time at home during the past two years, many of us have ventured further afield as we explore the vast network of digital weaving resources and the talented weavers willing to share their knowledge and experience online. Read on to see what adventures your fellow weavers have been on!

–Tabby

Nancy G.: My new pandemic-era weaving resource is the collection of guilds that have gone online. It started with the Weavers' Guild of Rochester where I met many weavers in person just before the pandemic started. Their online meetings, which began in early 2020, allowed me to continue friendships formed earlier in person. This led me to the Weavers Guild of Minnesota which offered a Zoom-based course on Deflected Doubleweave taught by Denise Kovnat from the Rochester guild. Realizing how easy it was to attend Zoom classes and lectures, I then attended programs by Rebecca Mezoff, Molly Elkind, Robyn Spady, Tien Chu, Joyce Robards, and Kris Bruland of Handweaving.net. That last talk, remote from Virginia, led me to actually join the warm and welcoming Handweavers Guild of the New River Valley so that I could sit in on a study group this winter and take another Denise Kovnat workshop in the spring (she does a superb job of online teaching). I also include Handweavers Guild of America's Textiles and Tea lectures in my virtual guild toolbox. I have found it very enjoyable to attend meetings and workshops virtually and am hoping that many of my new distant weaving friends continue to offer virtual guild lectures and programs in the future.

Sue S.: One of the most fun and inspiring things that has become a favorite Tuesday afternoon break is HGA's Textiles and Tea. It is not always about weaving but is always inspiring. It is also very affirming to find out that there are so many talented textile artists out there, many of whom I have never even heard of. What an education!

MidAtlantic Fiber Association's virtual conference last summer was also a wonderful experience. It was well organized and had many opportunities for learning that were included in the conference with no extra fees. It was extremely well done.

I have also enjoyed the opportunity to join the Rochester guild and participate in their Zoom meetings and classes. I have always wanted to join their guild but did not due to the huge commute. As much as we want to be together, Zoom has been a life-saver and a life-changer.

Laureen: Like probably everyone else, I've looked at more of the online resources for weaving such as Handweaving.net, Ravelry.com, and Warp and Weave.com. I took the gradient class from Warp and Weave which was interesting. I haven't done a whole lot more with online resources but appreciate the fact that they are there.

Joyce: My favorite virtual workshop and instructor was Double Rainbow with Jennifer Moore. In addition to being an excellent, well prepared and approachable instructor, she is a master at teaching virtually. Since the workshop was four afternoons spread over two weeks, there was more time to absorb the class material and experiment at my loom.

Cynthia: It is interesting to hear about the many ways my fellow weavers have joined with others in Textiles and Tea, on-line classes, Zooming guilds and so on. Me? I've burrowed in right here. Weaving books that were on my shelf unread are being read. Reading feeds more reading and the exploration and understanding has been good.

Next month's Looming Question: I often fumble my projects at my warping board and during weaving. Is there a particular tool or tip you use to guarantee your success in warping and weaving? Was there an 'Ah-ha!' moment that changed everything for you? What are your favorite weaving hacks? Tips? Tricks?

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

Design Ideas | Laureen Whitney

During the panel discussion I had a few things come to mind that didn't fit the discussion questions so I would like to share those thoughts with you now. There are design principles that help across all disciplines. So here are a few rules of thumb that might help in your weaving design process.

It is best to design using uneven design elements. For example if you are using stripes, 3 stripes look better than 2 or 4, and so forth. Expectations vary of course, but somehow unequal numbers of design elements just work better.

Color, this is where pictures can come in really handy. Nature has awesome color combos, just look at exotic birds for example. Mainly if you like the colors you see in a picture then pull them out for your color palette. Look at the proportions of color in the picture. If you like the combination make sure you have the same balance of color. If there is rust, cream and blue with blue being a small amount, make sure you use the blue as a pop of color and not the main color. Otherwise you may not be as happy with the results. Do a card wrap to test out the balance. Also when you look at colors you will notice they are rarely true, they often have a little something else in them, for instance a blue can have a red tint or a yellow tint and so forth for all the colors. I don't recommend putting a blue with yellow along with a blue with red, or a green with blue in it along with a green with yellow in it as they are more of a miss than a hit. Color has so much more to it but the above is a first look at the idea.

Pictures, you can get so very much from pictures. If the picture has a horizontal look (like a sunset or landscape) you can have an almost instant warp plan. If the picture has texture (like a waterfall or flower bed or grasses) you have interesting pattern options. For instance an overshoot leaf pattern can translate a wave, a ripple, waves of grass, etc. A twill can translate into a planted field, a forest floor, a geode, hearts etc. Flower beds can translate into rosepath, fields can translate into monks belt and on and on.

Texture, there is so much textured yarn out there that you can add to your piece, don't be afraid to try some out.

Just a few design thought options you might want to play with.

Programs | Nancy Gaus

Logistics for in-person meetings:

At an earlier 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.

As always, we welcome guest speaker suggestions at any time. It never hurts to get the ball rolling early by reaching out to potential out-of-town guests. Contact Nancy Gaus with ideas.

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

Basic doubleweave, doubleweave pickup, deflected doubleweave, doubleweave on a rigid heddle, inkle doubleweave, and exciting color combinations are just a few of the options that can thrill even the experienced weaver. What did you doubleweave? How was your adventure?

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. Blank cards are available on our website <https://syracuseweaversguild.org/guild-library/>.

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

mid-
June

Planning Meeting

Our annual program planning meeting for the 2022-2023 season will take place in Mid-June. We will be setting up the slate of programs to be presented at our monthly meetings for next year. We hope to be able to hold this meeting in person this summer and enjoy each other's company while sharing our thoughts for the year ahead.

The planning meeting is most effective when we hear from lots of members with a wide variety of experience and ideas. Do not think that you need to have something completely thought out or that you need to teach anything. Think about things that you have been wanting to learn about, or teachers you have met who would be fun to invite. If you have a special weaving-related skill, we would love to hear about that, too.

We especially like to urge our newest members to attend since we want to be able to meet your needs and interests. We encourage everyone to come with ideas, but it is by no means required. Come for the fellowship, come for the conversation, come for the fun!

State Fair | Cynthia Pendergrast

It's not too soon to start thinking about the State Fair which will run August 24 - September 5. Opportunities to help at the wool center are available through Linda Miller. Information regarding competitions has not yet been posted, but that doesn't mean you can't plan a project or three to enter this year.

Upcoming Fiber Events

April 30, 2022	CNY Fiber Frolic Beaver Lake Nature Center Baldwinsville, NY	https://goldenfleecespinnerssociety.org/fiber-frolic/
June 11-2, 2022	CNY Fiber Arts Festival Butternut Hill Campground Bouckville, NY	https://cnyfiberarts.org/
July 15-21, 2022	HGA Convergence Knoxville, TN	https://weavespindye.org/convergence/

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>

SWG Study Groups | Sue Szczotka

For as long as I have been a member, the guild has had a variable roster of small interest groups called Study Groups. These groups are simply a subset of members who decide that they would like to study a certain topic in depth with some others with the same interest. These groups meet separately from our regularly scheduled meetings and now also have the option of meeting via Zoom. Anyone can start a study group. If you have a burning interest in a certain subject and want to explore it with other members, you can make an announcement at a meeting or via the Google Group email to see if there are others who would like to participate and voila, you have a study group! You can plan your own get-togethers at someone's home or other venue, like a library, or Sue Szczotka can assist you in setting up a Zoom meeting. We currently have a long standing group studying Small Bands (inkle and card weaving) as well as two groups (Basic and Beyond Basic) studying Doubleweave as part of their preparation for the guild challenge. There is also a Tapestry group which has not been meeting since Covid, but will hopefully resume in the future. Study groups are another way that the guild can help you to expand and improve your weaving skill set.

Small Bands

Nancy Smothergill

At the January meeting, we demonstrated how to make a continuous warp for tablet weaving. And at the February meeting the focus was on inkle bands. Several people brought bands to show and we discussed various pick-up patterns. We also discussed various books with patterns and differences in looms and back-strap for weaving inkle bands.

Doubleweave

Joyce Lock

At the January meeting of the Doubleweave Study Group, participants discussed where they are in weaving the four shaft doubleweave sampler in Jennifer Moore's 2019 book *Doubleweave Revised and Expanded*. We also talked about the expanded design options when doing doubleweave on eight shafts; there are four blocks to play with instead of two on four shafts. Jennifer's book also gives detailed instructions on how to weave her eight shaft rainbow sampler.

The next study group meeting will be Monday February 21st at 2:00 via Zoom.

Beyond Basics

Doubleweave

Susan Mehringer

This study group has met twice, in December and January. The next meeting is planned for February 21st at 6:45 via Zoom. The group has six participants, and more are welcome.

The group members each chose their own challenge. At the group meetings, we each talk about our plans, goals, progress, and next steps. Input and group discussion is very helpful!

Committees

Booklets Nancy Smothergill

Program Nancy Gaus

Library Donna Connery

Membership Andie Scamehorn

Special Projects Sue Szczotka

Refreshments Lois Koenig

Newsletter Susan Mehringer

Webmaster & Equipment Coordinator
Joyce Lock

Calling Committee
Carolyn Wolfson
Meg Welch

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.

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 and notify Lois of the change.
- 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.

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	Hand Manipulated Techniques
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
Purrington Norris 12S table loom	On Loan	Eileen Kloss	
LeClerc Dorothy 15" 8S table loom	On Loan	Nancy Gaus	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.

Show and Tell | Nancy Gaus



Andrea Scamehorn shows her tablet weaving chops with these nice bookmarks



Nancy Smothergill found these adorable Friendsheep wool dryer balls online



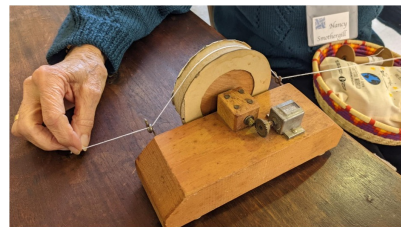
Wonderful rigid heddle scarves and a table runner by new member and new weaver Valerie Kaiser



Cynthia Pendergrast decided to transform her spools of chenille into a couple of nice, cozy blankets



Colorful twill towels by Sue Szczotka



Nancy Smothergill found a vintage yardage measuring wheel in her attic



Beautiful twill and basket weave towel by Rachel Abbott



Andrea Scamehorn made a rug from Solmate Sock recycled loops



Inkle band yoga mat straps by Sue Szczotka