

THRUMS

President's Message

Hello Weaving Friends,

"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end."

In this issue of *Thrums* you will find an article about a guild development retreat offered by HGA this past winter. Four members of SWG attended the virtual event.

Sitting in with Nancy, Susan, Rachel and Donna as they talked about their experience, their energy and excitement bounced around me – and this was via a Zoom meeting! Reading their column weeks after their experience, the energy and enthusiasm still are present. I look forward to hearing their report and the ensuing discussion.

SWG has been a presence since 1960 – 62 years! During those decades there have been many changes but the focus has remained the same – "to stimulate an interest in the art and craft of weaving, achieve a high standard of excellence and help and encourage all persons interested in weaving." It will be interesting to be part of the Guild as it moves forward, finding new ways to stimulate and encourage weavers in the area.

On the topic of moving forward, the new officers will assume their roles at the May luncheon meeting. President Rachel, 1st VP Nancy G, 2nd VP Sue S, Secretary Donna C and Treasurer Donna J-B. Thank you for agreeing to serve!

Good weaving to you!

Cynthia

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.

Guild Officers 2020-2022

President

Cynthia Pendergrast

1st Vice President

Nancy Gaus

2nd Vice President

Sue Szczotka

Secretary

Rachel Abbott

Treasurer

Donna Johnson-Brown

2022 - 2024

New officers elected at the Guild's April meeting will assume their offices at the May meeting. Many thanks to the nominating committee: Donna Connery, Donna Movsoich and Donna Johnson-Brown. The new officers are:

President: Rachel Abbott

1st Vice President: Nancy Gaus

2nd Vice President: Sue Szczotka

Secretary: Donna Connery

Treasurer: Donna Johnson-Brown

Looming Questions - collaborative advice by SWG members | Rachel Abbott

Dear Tabby,

What is your favorite weaving hack? Tip? Trick?

--Homespun Help

Dear Homespun Help,

While we have all read about ideal ways to warp and weave, sometimes things don't always work out the way we want. We need to figure out a solution to a problem on the spot, so we can keep going with our project. I hope these tips and tricks from your fellow weavers will strengthen your weaving tool box. And maybe even help you think outside the box!

--Tabby

Nancy G.: I am constantly running out of bobbins, especially when I'm experimenting with lots of colors. I have discovered that the barrel of a Bic Round Stic pen fits my shuttle perfectly (even my end-feed shuttle that uses pirns). I can buy a package of 8 for about \$2.00 at the grocery store. I pull the pens apart with a pair of pliers, slip a 5" hex bolt through the barrel, and thread a nut on to clamp it tight. Then I stick the whole thing into the chuck of my cordless drill and wind on the yarn.

Sue S.: I have one absolutely favorite find that I use a lot--double-sided Velcro! You can attach anything, anywhere, and it can be re-used hundreds of times. I use it to attach my raddle to my back beam--diameter and angle does not matter. I also use it to attach the warp stick to the apron rod, as well as many other things. You can buy a large roll at Harbor Freight, and it will last you for years. It is also not expensive!

Donna C.: To many weavers, this might be obvious. But to "I can do it myself" me, it took a while. After trying trapezes, attaching water bottles to bouts of warp, warping B2F and F2B, using a tensioning device, etc., I finally just asked my husband to help. I'm happy to report "our" most recent DoubleWeave warp went on like a dream and held consistent tension for the full width to the last available pick. So, I hired him!

Nancy S.: Being one who warps the loom from back to front, my favorite thing is winding the warp with a raddle cross. The 1-1 threading cross is at one end of the warp and the raddle cross is at the other end. I have four pegs at the bottom of both the warping reel and my warping board. For the raddle cross, I wind around the four pegs one way for the number of threads in 1/2" and then change to the other way for the next 1/2" of the warp. When the warp is all secured, the raddle cross end goes on the back rod, and lease sticks go into the raddle cross. This method eliminates counting threads to put in the raddle; you just slip one section from the raddle cross into each 1/2" section of the raddle. Winding the raddle cross is really easy when you get into the rhythm. And since I hate counting out threads or having crossed threads, the raddle cross makes getting the warp on the loom so much nicer.

Laureen: I use a metal board (can be a tray) to hold my treadling sequence. I anchor it with a couple of magnets and use a flat magnet (the kind businesses use to advertise) to follow along in the sequence. That way, even if I have to leave in the middle of a sequence, everything stays in place until I get back.

For projects that need lighter (less tight) tension, half of a pool noodle covers the knots at the cloth beam and keeps everything nice and smooth. Unfortunately, higher tension squishes the pool noodle too much and warps the selvedge ends.

Joyce: Over the years I've repurposed many outdated or broken window treatments. I insert one inch Venetian blind slats to measure out the length for fringe between scarves, placemats, etc. on the loom. Instead of wooden slats, corrugated cardboard, or brown paper bags, I use vinyl roller shades to separate the warp when winding it onto the back beam.

Rachel: Like Joyce, I have repurposed window treatments. I use vinyl mini-blind slats to separate the warp as I wind it onto the back beam. I don't have to worry about getting a continuous piece of paper perfectly lined up and just insert a slat every so often as I wind.

Instead of a pool noodle like Laureen uses, I have used the cardboard tube from wrapping paper to cover the knots on the cloth beam of my rigid heddle loom. It makes the cloth much smoother as it winds onto the front beam.

Please send any looming questions for next year's column to Tabby at abbotttrc@yahoo.com.

Exploring Treasures from the American Textile Museum | Nancy Smothergill

What a fantastic journey back in weaving history on our field trip of April 2. Marcie Farwell, the archivist of the collection of materials from the Lowell Textile Museum, had laid out tables with items from the 1,800 bankers' boxes of items Cornell acquired when the museum closed. She led us through a progression illustrating the weaving industry, primarily from New England.

We saw old weaving drafts with differing systems of plotting out the threading, a meticulously made book from a weaver's documentation for becoming a master weaver, and fascinating handwritten diaries and letters from some 'Lowell Girls', those young women working in the Lowell, MA mills. Marcie showed us numerous sample books



used by salesmen to obtain orders for various weaving companies. It was fun to see the progression of fabrics being offered to the public as time progressed to more modern textile designs.

On display were sample books with different dyed fabric samples and recipes for dyes used. In addition, we saw excerpts from record books kept by the managers of the mills, documenting time, labor and materials used for particular time periods. And finally, we viewed some wonderful "point paper" designs. These are designs transcribed by a master technician onto fine graph paper which then enabled a different skilled worker to punch the correct holes in cards used with a Jacquard head. Many thanks to Marcie Farwell for this trip back in time when weaving mills thrived in the US.

Programs | Nancy Gaus

Logistics for in-person meetings:

We are currently planning in-person meetings for this fall. More details will be available after our June planning meeting.

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.

5/7

Annual Potluck Luncheon and Towel Exchange

Nancy Smothergill has graciously offered to host our May luncheon at her house in Syracuse. This fun and friendly event will include a potluck lunch, our usual business meeting, a presentation about the HGA Guild Development Retreat, and our annual towel exchange. We will also choose a date and location for our mid-June Planning Meeting. Nancy Smothergill will send out directions before the event.

Please bring your own place setting, napkin, and a potluck dish with a list of ingredients. Also bring a check for next year's dues (\$30/year, \$25/year for seniors). Dues may also be mailed using the form on our website.

Bring a handwoven towel or two if you would like to participate in the exchange. If you bring one, you get one, it's that simple. Here is a recent memory of how much fun the exchange can be.



In 2016, our guild challenge was to weave a towel that used all 9 colors from Mayan Hands' Tintes Naturales. The result was as joyful as a spring bouquet.

<https://www.mayanhands.org/>

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. You don't need to have something completely thought out. 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 urge our newest members to attend, since we want 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!

Membership | Andie Scamehorn

Hello members! It's membership renewal time, and as you know, our Guild membership runs May-May. Please mail your check for renewal with the following information to Andie at the address below as soon as practical, or bring with you to our May meeting. Also, please indicate if you need a name tag for meetings, and if you have a change of address or email. This will ensure our membership booklet that Nancy Smothergill publishes and distributes at our September meeting is most accurate!

Dues: Regular: \$30. Senior (over 62): \$25
Make checks payable to: Syracuse Weavers Guild

Mail to: Andie Scamehorn
8374 Salt Springs Road
Manlius, NY 13104

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Weaving Competition | Sue Szczotka

Attention all weavers! Spring is here and it is time to start planning your entry to the Viv Fulton Memorial Weaving Competition at the [CNY Fiber Arts Festival](#). The festival will be held on June 11th and 12th 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 weaving competition, open to weavers of any experience level, both adults and teens. 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 and entry is FREE! The entry form must be completed by June 1st. So, get your creative weaving juices flowing and plan to enter the competition!

Entries can be delivered to the festival on Friday, June 10th or given to Joyce or Sue at the May meeting. Entries can also be mailed to Joyce.



The poster features a purple header with a white woven square pattern on the left and the text "WEAVERS GUILD OF ROCHESTER" in white. Below the header, the text "Celebrates 75 Years" is written in a black script font. The central image is a stylized illustration of a purple hand holding a green shuttle with a yellow thread, set against a yellow background with white sunburst rays. Below the hand is a green banner with the text "Est. 1946" in white. At the bottom, the text "Anniversary Celebration & Exhibit" is in a large black serif font, followed by "Apr 28-May 1, 2022" in a purple script font. Below that, "Rochester Museum and Science Center" is in a black serif font, and "Info at: weaversguildofrochester.org" is in a black sans-serif font.

WEAVERS GUILD
OF ROCHESTER

Celebrates 75 Years

Est. 1946

**Anniversary Celebration
& Exhibit** *Apr 28-May 1, 2022*

Rochester Museum and Science Center

Info at: weaversguildofrochester.org

HGA Guild Development Retreat | Guild Development Committee

In January 2022, the Handweavers Guild of America hosted a virtual guild development retreat to which every member guild was encouraged to send up to four members free of charge. The goal of the retreat was to educate, motivate, and inspire fiber art guilds so that all guilds can thrive. The day-long retreat provided a platform for the sharing of ideas and was organized around four topics: Marketing (i.e., public access and visibility), Technology, Collaborations, and Fundraising. Panelists were brought in to discuss key questions in each of these areas and breakout rooms were created after each panel for attendees to meet, discuss key points, and exchange ideas.

Not all discussion points applied to all guilds. Large guilds which offer a myriad of programs were engaged with new ways to fund their operations and use technology to organize their activities, promote outreach to the public, and fund their activities. Smaller guilds showed interest in expanding their membership, developing a more prominent public face, and meeting the needs of their existing members.

Rachel Abbott, Donna Connery, Nancy Gaus, and Sue Szczotka attended for SWG. The four of us were excited, and surprised, by what we learned at the retreat and met afterwards to identify some key points that might benefit our guild.

- Membership: the key idea is visibility to others who are interested in weaving. While our guild has seen a recent surge in membership, there may be a desire to encourage new members, especially younger weavers, to help infuse the guild with new ideas and recruit additional volunteers to cover key leadership positions and alleviate volunteer fatigue.
- Technology: We have all benefited from the use of Zoom during the pandemic. How can we use other technologies to improve the membership experience or to increase our visibility in the greater community?
- Collaborations: Partnerships with local organizations and businesses could offer new experiences for both our guild members and the public.
- Fundraising: While this may not be a crucial need or goal at the moment, are there ways to use weaving to raise money for our guild or other causes?

Like its members, our guild is a living being: growing, changing, adapting. We can use the ideas we learned about at the retreat as a way to start the conversation about our goals for the guild. We'd like to solicit your ideas on how to keep our guild vibrant and exciting for all our members in the years to come.

We'll share what we learned at the annual luncheon in May. Following that discussion, we'll send out a survey to gauge member interest in various topics. We hope to see you all in May for a fun exchange of ideas!

Presentation of the Guild Challenge | Nancy Gaus

Our long-awaited March meeting did not disappoint. Guild members had been studying and working on this year's guild challenge, "Adventures in Doubleweave", for several months and the room was full of anticipation. Two study groups had formed to help members learn and explore together and inspire each other. Those who participated found it helpful. There were a few members that started at the beginning and wove the sampler from Jennifer Moore's *Doubleweave* book. Their pieces were fun and very detailed. Others tried different styles of doubleweave including doubleweave pickup, doublecloth, block doubleweave, stitched doubleweave, and deflected doubleweave. It was exciting to see finished works such as Sue's deflected doubleweave scarves, Joyce's block doubleweave coasters, Lois' stitched doubleweave hot mats, Amy's doubleweave windows silk scarves and wall hangings, Nancy's corded tubular doubleweave wine bag and doublecloth bands, Donna's doubleweave pickup ruana and shrug samples, and Rachel's log cabin pillow, pickup wall hangings, and tablet-woven bands. The creativity was infectious, and it was obvious that this year's challenge reaped benefits for all who gave it a try.

Images and descriptions of most of the projects can be found on the Guild website's "Guild Challenge" page, at <https://syracuseweaversguild.org/guild-challenge/>.

SWG Study Groups | Sue Szczotka

Good news! There has been interest shown in reviving the tapestry study group which has been on hiatus for over a year. See more details below. In addition, if there are any other topics into which you would like to make a deep dive with other interested parties, please contact me (Sue S.), and we will see about arranging a new study group.

Small Bands Nancy Smothergill

The Small Bands Study Group continues to forge on and will be studying and weaving with the book "Please Weave Me a Message" by Linda Hendrickson. This book is an exploration of calligraphy done with card weaving. The group generally meets directly after our regular monthly meetings but will not be meeting after the annual luncheon. They will resume meetings in the fall and all are welcome.

Doubleweave, Beyond Basics Doubleweave

Both of the Doubleweave Study Groups have finished with the presentation of the Guild Challenge but can certainly be continued if there is interest.

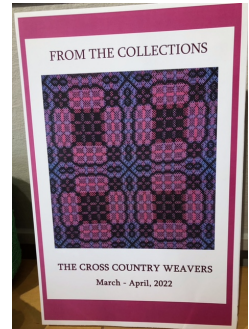
Tapestry Donna Movsovich

The Tapestry Study Group is back up and running! They had their first Zoom meeting and are planning on studying and working through Rebecca Mezoff's book "The Art of Tapestry Weaving". The plan is to meet monthly including through the summer via Zoom and their next meeting is on April 26th at 2 pm. Anyone interested in joining in please contact Donna Movsovich. No experience is necessary.

Field Trip to TIAC Weaving Exhibit | Donna Connery

An unexpected trip to the Canadian border gave me the happy opportunity to visit the Thousand Islands Art Center in April to view its current weaving exhibit and delve into the vast Handweaving Museum library and collections <https://tiartscenter.org/tiac-collections/> Intricate weaving samples plus archives, what a spectacular day!

On display is a sampling from the 65 year history of the Cross Country Weavers, a premier study group of Complex Weavers. Since its inception in 1957, the CCW has entrusted their annual members' notebook of 30 samples, drafts, and notes to the care of the Handweaving Museum. Marina Loew, the current curator, selected about 10 specific annuals to share with the public, with the remaining 55 years of notebooks available to view by appointment. It was so intriguing to study the samples along side their weaving details. And what a treat to find this coat created by our member, Barb Decker. Barb's draft notes indicate the design is an homage to Frank Gehry's "8 Spruce Street", made of fabric she designed and wove for the 2012-13 CCW challenge inspired by architecture. If you miss seeing this preview show in April, it will return later this year after the HGA Small Expressions, scheduled for exhibit at TIAC this summer, moves on.



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

Upcoming Fiber Events

April 30, 2022	CNY Fiber Frolic Beaver Lake, 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/

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	Available	Joyce Lock	
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.

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>