

# THRUMS

## President's Message

After last month's program by Jan Towsley, someone remarked to me about her comment that even after 50 years of weaving, Jan still makes mistakes. I've been thinking about this, especially this morning as I started to thread my heddles and realized I wound the warp onto the back beam opposite to my threading diagram. I'm taking a break before I work out how to accommodate my error.

As a relatively new weaver who learns by reading and watching YouTube videos, I've made plenty of other mistakes. I try to learn from each mistake as I work out a way to salvage the project. Sometimes I have to step away from a project to allow myself time to cool off and think of a way to move forward. As an avid crossword and Sudoku fan, these weaving blunders are just more puzzles to solve! Only once have I cut off the warp in disgust! But I can use those 'thrums' in another project.

As I page through books of patterns, I think about all the weavers who have come before me. How did they invent all these wonderful structures and techniques? I'm sure they made plenty of mistakes before they achieved their vision. I imagine floats were originally errors in plain weave. Then someone had the idea of purposely creating floats to achieve a more complex pattern. Fabrics with differential shrinkage also might have been an error the first time around. And I'm sure we could find some 'errors' in those beautiful historical coverlets we admire.

To paraphrase chef Julia Child, learn how to weave [cook]—try new patterns [recipes], learn from your mistakes, be fearless, and above all have fun.

Happy weaving!  
Rachel

## Guild Officers 2022-2024

### **President**

Rachel Abbott

### **1st Vice President**

Nancy Gaus

### **2nd Vice President**

Sue Szczotka

### **Secretary**

Donna Connery

### **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.

## Looming Questions - Collaborative Advice by SWG Members | Rachel Abbott

Dear Tabby,

What are your favorite pattern sources? Books, magazines, websites, yarn sites? Do you use weaving patterns as directed or modify them to suit your needs?

—*In Pursuit of Patterns*

Dear *In Pursuit*,

In today's digital age, there are so many resources available for weavers. You can spend hours surfing the internet looking at picture after picture of handwoven pieces. Or you can leaf through classic books of patterns in search of inspiration. Read what resources your fellow weavers use!

—Tabby

Nancy G.: I find inspiration everywhere! It's usually the color combinations and their interactions that draw me in. I find a lot of interesting woven patterns in magazines and online, but I've also been known to whip out my cell phone to take a picture of upholstery in a doctor's office. That Pinterest black hole sometimes pulls me in as well. I don't often weave something verbatim from another weaver's instructions. Same with my sewing—I always modify the design of everything I make. When taking inspiration from a photo, I try to figure out what the structure is and then look for something similar on Handweaving.net. Sometimes I can get pretty close, but often it just sends me off in a new direction.

Donna C.: Much of the time, I look through books with nothing in particular in mind to weave until something jumps out as inspiration. And other times, I'm looking through books to achieve a specific look I'm after. So I definitely use drafts in books as a starting point, and then play in weaving software to add color, yarn, repeats, and treadlings to suit the size and purpose of what I was inspired to weave.

Barb: There's Davison [*A Handweaver's Pattern Book*], of course, and Strickler [*A Weaver's Book of 8-Shaft Patterns*], but nowadays it's usually something in *Handwoven* that sends me to the loom to thread up a pattern. If it's a two shuttle weave, I might try to turn it so it becomes one shuttle.

Laureen: My main source of patterns is *Handwoven* magazine. I have been picking up more on [handweaving.net](http://handweaving.net) and the websites of Gist and Halcyon Yarns lately. I have books but tend to just admire them! Most of the time, any changes I make are pattern repeats or colors.

Nancy S.: I usually use books or magazines as pattern sources. Rarely have I woven something as directed in a source, since as a structure geek, I love to play around with various structures to fit my project plan.

And here's one more answer from last month's looming question: What did you do (related to weaving) on your summer vacation?

Susan Kaplan: I wove the Stair Step Rug (found on Gist yarn.com). I used grey, charcoal, and brick colors and made it twice as long as the original pattern. I replaced my old heddles with new inserted eye heddles. I wove two Halvdräll Towels designed by Arianna Funk. Currently, I'm working on a couple of waffle weave towels in blues, green and yellow. I attended a Zoom session with weavers in our guild during their tapestry study group to see if it's something I wanted to try and got my husband interested in it. Also, I listened in on a couple of WARP sessions and Textiles & Tea sessions as well.

**Please** send any looming questions for future columns to Tabby.

## Syracuse Weavers Guild 2022-2023 Programs | Nancy Gaus

11/5	<b>Make Time for Tassels</b>
	<p>Passementerie is as interesting as it sounds! Once your main weave is over, learn how to put those thrums to creative use as cording and tassels. Use them in decorative gift wrapping, as functional shade pulls, ornamentation, and for other festive uses. This hands-on program will show you how to make them and will kick off our guild project to make tassels as table favors for participants in the biennial Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference (EGLFC) in October 2023. Bring these materials: thrums, scissors or rotary cutter, ruler, and a fringe twister (if you have one).</p> <p>Presenters: Donna Connery and Elaine DuBois</p>
12/3	<b>Weaving by Design with Kelly Marshall</b>
(Zoom lecture)	<p>Since 1992, Kelly Marshall of Custom Woven Interiors has been designing and handweaving functional textiles for individual homeowners and corporate clients. Her custom rep weave designs are stunning, with vibrant colors and bold patterns. In this talk, she will discuss her design process, rep weave, and her journey in developing a weaving business.</p> <p>Presenter: Kelly Marshall Facilitator: Nancy Smothergill</p>
1/7	<b>Selling Your Handwovens</b>
	<p>How many members have considered selling their creative work? You might be surprised at the answer. Many have thought about it, but the process of taking a finished piece and marking it "sold" can be a daunting one to the uninitiated. We will explore many facets of this topic with our resident experts in selling handwoven creations. Whether you just want to dip your toe in the water or dive right in, our presenters will have the answers and encouragement you need.</p> <p>Presenters: Barb Decker, Joyce Lock, Sue Szczotka, Susan Mehringer Facilitator: Andie Scamehorn</p>
2/4	<b>Floatwork/Overshot: How It Works and How To Play With It</b>
	<p>Overshot/Floatwork is a historical, three element, two shuttle, twill-based weave structure known by several names. The program will explore its relation to twill, how patterns have been derived, and various methods of notating the threading and treadling. We will also look at the different ways to use this versatile weave structure.</p> <p>Presenter: Nancy Smothergill</p>

3/4	<b>Krokbragd</b>
	<p>Krokbragd is a thick, 3-shaft weft-faced structure marked by colorful and intricate patterns. This Swedish boundweave is known for its bold pops of color and makes beautiful rugs, cushion covers, table linens, and wall hangings. It's fun to weave on a variety of looms, and spontaneously designed patterns can be both playful and striking. Come and see what all the excitement is about!</p> <p>Presenters: Eileen Kloss and Nancy Gaus</p>
4/1	<b>Presentation of the Guild Challenge</b>
	<p>Bring the pieces you created for the Guild challenge, and tell us what inspired you. What challenges did you face, and what new techniques did you explore?</p> <p>Facilitator: Rachel Abbott</p>
5/6	<b>Annual Potluck Luncheon and Towel Exchange</b>
	<p>The luncheon will be at the home of Nancy Smothergill.</p>

All programs will be in the gym with the exception of the December meeting. The December program will be held in the Community Room at the church.

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## New Member I Lynne Kvinnesland

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I am brand new to weaving, but have always loved the fiber arts and have been sewing and knitting for years. Since I am still some years from retirement, I have resisted the temptation to take up another craft, but on a recent visit to a local fiber festival, I saw so many beautiful wovens that I decided that now was the time to give weaving a try.

As a sewer and a knitter, I enjoy the creation process as much as the finished product. Weaving has the same appeal for me, but I'm especially excited about this fiber art because it will give me a chance to create my own patterns and designs. I will start small but ultimately, I would like to sew a garment from fabric that I have woven (years down the road, I'm sure!). I also have a strong interest in textile history and in pursuing the textile arts in a more sustainable way.



Thank you all for your warm welcome to the group! I'm really looking forward to learning from and with you all in the months ahead.

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## Membership | Andie Scamehorn

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We welcome new members of any skill level! Our Guild membership runs May-May, but you can join at any time.

Dues: Regular: \$30. Senior (over 62): \$25  
Note: Memberships are not prorated.

To pay online, send the dues via PayPal to membershipSWG@gmail.com. Select "send money to a friend" so the Guild does not pay the transfer fee. Renewing members, please include any changes to your contact information in the PayPal "What's this payment for" field. New members, please include all your contact information in this form.

To pay by check, make checks payable to Syracuse Weavers Guild and mail to Andie Scamehorn.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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## Supporting Each Other in Weaving | Rachel Abbott, Joyce Lock

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What are some ways to support each other in our weaving endeavors? There are a couple of resources:

- Email the Google group ([syracuseweaversguild@googlegroups.com](mailto:syracuseweaversguild@googlegroups.com)) to ask for advice on projects, problems, and any weaving-related topic. If you are able to help with any of these inquiries, please do so. We want the Guild to be a place of weaving-support for all levels of weavers and to build the strength of our talented community.
- Explore the *Weaving Interests and Looms* document where members list their weaving interests, looms, and weaving equipment. If you are having trouble with your loom, you can see if someone else has the same loom and hopefully get some help. If you have a question about a weaving structure, how to go about weaving a specific item like a rag rug, general questions, etc, you can contact a person who lists this as one of their areas of interest.
- To access the MicroSoft Word document in OneDrive, just click on the link [https://1drv.ms/w/s!ApCyZpUhX6d\\_d0jnzxAxkHa\\_cg?e=fOtpwG](https://1drv.ms/w/s!ApCyZpUhX6d_d0jnzxAxkHa_cg?e=fOtpwG), no password is needed.
- To add your own information, select the box in the upper right menu that says Viewing, click on it to choose Edit (or it may already be in Edit mode). Then you can enter your information.

So next time you're in need of advice on designing a project, choosing a new loom, trouble-shooting a problem, or getting started with the basics, reach out to everyone via the Google group or to a specific person by using the *Weaving Interests and Loom* document. Let's support each other in creating beautiful weaving!

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## September Meeting Recap | Nancy Gaus

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*Thrums and Crumbs and Other Things You Might Throw Out*  
September 10, 2022

Our first meeting of the new season was a deep dive into the practical aspects of sustainability in weaving. The guild challenge for this year is based on the idea that there is good use for the bits and pieces of loom waste left over at the end of a weaving project. But other materials make for creative and adventurous weaving projects as well. Sue and Nancy took us on a meandering journey through many creative possibilities.

After an introduction by Sue on sustainability issues in weaving, our two presenters covered different creative projects and techniques that use leftover thrums, weft yarns, woven scraps, and samples. They explored Zanshi, Sakiori, and rag rug weaving, then showed how weaving fibers can be recovered from plastic bags, T-shirts, thrift store sweaters, and old cone remnants.

Project suggestions included artful thread wraps, thread buttons, small fabric bags, and passementerie.



Several ideas involved techniques such as inlay, tapestry, braiding, and visible mending. They rounded out the presentation with a collection of images showing basketry with found and recycled objects, greeting cards using fabric scraps, pincushions made from samples, and upcycled clothing.

At the end of the presentation was a complete description of this year's challenge: 'Collect, trade, make, share. What will you make with your thrums and crumbs?' The presentation was captured in video form and is available to guild members for viewing and inspiration throughout the year. Are you inspired? What will you make?

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## Upcoming Fiber Events

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November 5-6, 2022

### **Fiber Festival of New England**

West Springfield, MA

<https://www.easternstatesexposition.co>

<https://www.easternstatesexposition.com/p/fiberfestival>

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>

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## October Meeting Recap | Nancy Smothergill

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### *Rug Weaving on 2-4 Shaft Looms*

October 1, 2022

We were very fortunate to have Jan Towsley come from Rochester to present her program on rug weaving. Despite technical problems which meant her slides could not be projected, Jan accommodated easily by carrying the computer around so we could see the examples she talked about. Jan discussed so many different techniques one could use in rug weaving, her intent being to provide the inspiration for us to jump into rug weaving. This included Navajo style weaving, weft faced plain weave and Boundweave, rya and using different length cut pile rya for specific designs.

Jan also talked about soumak, rag rugs, clasped weft, two-sided double weave, looping techniques, and twill patterning. She explained how she uses bundled wool strands for an intriguing weft and even using single ply roving for a throw rug. One can also use more than one type of weft, such as fabric and wool yarn in the same rug.

Some of the technicalities Jan discussed were how to finish the end of the rug, since a fringe with some yarns fray. She had examples of a finishing technique of wrapping one warp over the next and then running it down into the weaving, a very stable and neat effect. The other issue is that the outside threads sometimes get looser and you may need to use weights to pull on those threads to make the rug lay flat.

Jan showed the many samples she had brought with her for us to inspect. She also had a floor loom set up so she could demonstrate and let others give it a try.

Jan is such an enthusiastic weaver and teacher. It was an inspiring program, with so many possibilities to help us plunge into rug weaving or expand our repertoire of techniques to try.



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## Tassels from Thrums Tip | Elaine and Donna

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You can make thrums a little easier to handle if you take time to straighten the tangles and kinks. An iron and a comb work wonders here. Once you've got things straight, be sure to bring those beautiful thrums to the program meeting in November where you can give, get, and use them for our thrums exchange and *Make Time for Tassels* program.



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## SWG Study Groups | Sue Szczotka

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For those of you not familiar with the study groups, they are small groups with a specific weaving interest that they would like to explore in more depth with other like-minded guild members. Participants gather either in person or via Zoom at times and intervals that the group decides on outside of regular guild meetings. If there are any topics into which you would like to make a deep dive with other interested parties, please contact Sue S., and we will see about arranging a new study group.

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### Handweaving Museum Helping Hands Donna Connery

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We have nine members and a friend from Quebec who signed up to work with the Thousand Islands Arts Center (TIAC) Handweaving Museum (Clayton, NY). Our first volunteer effort, over two days in October, was to secure and relabel boxes and other storage units that already contain parts of the weaving collection. This will ensure TIAC can keep track of where things are as the collections get sorted, stabilized, and accessioned.



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### Tapestry Donna Movsovic

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The Tapestry Study Group has monthly meetings on Zoom on the last Tuesday of the month (2:00 pm). Members can ask questions and share tapestry journeys and weavings. Everyone is welcome! We are reading and discussing Rebecca Mezoff's book, *The Art of Tapestry Weaving*. At our next meeting we are discussing Chapter 9 about closing up holes (or not).

Carolyn shared on our google group listserv this wonderful tapestry she wove as an example not to sew up slits.

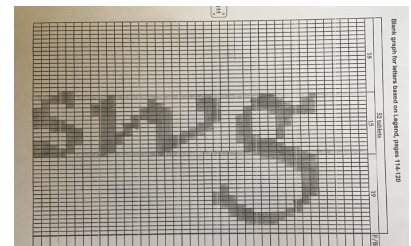


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### Small Bands Nancy Smothergill

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Small Bands continues to meet after the monthly guild meeting. Members are up and running, in the design phase of personal projects using double-faced calligraphy.





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## Refreshments | Lois Koenig

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The Refreshments volunteers provide 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.

A sign-up sheet for the year is passed at the September meeting. If we do not have people for the month, only hot water will be provided.

Please bring any other questions or concerns to Lois Koenig.

### 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.
- Communicate with your partner.
- Provide dessert.
- 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.

### Refreshment Volunteers 2022-2023:

11/5: Lynn Wilson  
Lynne Kvinnesland

12/3: Lois Koenig

1/7: Nancy Gaus

2/4: Eileen Kloss  
Andie Scamehorn

3/4: Rachel Abbott

4/1: Sue Szczotka  
Sally Meyers

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## Library | Donna Connery

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**New Books.** We added one new book to the guild library this month, *Krokbragd, How to Design and Weave* by Debbie Greenlaw. Krokbragd is the program for our March 2023 meeting. Several members have suggested we add Complex Weavers' 40th anniversary book, *Eight Shafts: Beyond the Beginning* (2022), edited by Laurie Autio. This inspiring design book gives a snapshot of what 21st century weavers are doing. Look for a book review in the next few months and check out the CW website for more information. <https://www.complex-weavers.org/40th-anniversary-book/>

**Library Maintenance.** At the October meeting, we agreed that it is important to keep members involved in the process of managing our SWG library. Usage and new acquisitions keep the library vital. So keep checking out books, and remember that a happy library is one that's empty because everything is out circulating with its members! <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/syracuseweaversguild>

New library acquisitions will continue to be recommended and approved by the membership. But there is limited space in the homes of librarians to house our collections of magazines, books, DVDs, newsletters, and boxes of meeting minutes, directories, photos, and so much more. To make room for both new and old to coexist, we will evaluate resources in our existing collection on a case by case basis, starting with multiple copies. In the next few months, look for a list of library books with multiple copies, so we can discuss how to proceed at an upcoming meeting.

## 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	On Loan	Tammy Peck	
Kyra 22" 4S table loom	Travelling Loom	Sue Szczotka	Hand Manipulated Techniques
Peacock 12" 2S loom #1	Available	Nancy Smothergill	<a href="http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg">http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg</a>
Peacock 12" 2S loom #2	Available	Nancy Smothergill	<a href="http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg">http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg</a>
Peacock 12" 2S loom #3	Available	Nancy Smothergill	<a href="http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg">http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg</a>
Inkle loom	Available	Joyce Lock	
Harrisville 22" 4S floor loom	Available	Joyce Lock	<a href="https://harrisville.com/products/22-floor-loom-4-harness-6-treadle">https://harrisville.com/products/22-floor-loom-4-harness-6-treadle</a> 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	Nancy Smothergill	<a href="http://www.purringtonlooms.com/tablelooms.htm">http://www.purringtonlooms.com/tablelooms.htm</a>
LeClerc Dorothy 15" 8S table loom	Available	Joyce Lock	<a href="http://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/pics/leclerc/ldor007.jpg">http://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/pics/leclerc/ldor007.jpg</a> Picture shows levers all on right hand side of loom. This loom has second set of shafts (5-8) located on left hand side.

## Committees

### Booklets

Nancy Smothergill

### Special Projects

Sue Szczotka

### Website Administrator

Joyce Lock

### Program

Nancy Gaus

### Refreshments

Lois Koenig

### Equipment Coordinator

Joyce Lock

### Library

Donna Connery

### Calling Committee

Carolyn Wolfson

### Newsletter

Susan Mehringer

### Membership

Andie Scamehorn

Meg Welch

## Anni Albers Exhibit at Shaffer Art Museum | Donna Connery

*"I was told that there wasn't a chance to get into that [stained glass] workshop because there were so very few chances to execute a stained glass window. And there was one man that was already there; that was all. So the only thing that was open to me [as a woman] was the weaving workshop. And I thought that was rather sissy." ...Anni Albers, 1968 Smithsonian interview on her experience at Bauhaus..*



Thus, chance and circumstance began the weaving career of Anni Albers, an esteemed German Bauhaus artist who fled to the US at the start of WWII, became a Black Mountain College (NC) professor, and was the first textile artist to hold a solo exhibition at MOMA.



The current exhibit at the Syracuse University Shaffer Art Museum, *Anni Albers: Work With Materials*, shows through December 11, so don't miss it if you get the chance! <https://museum.syr.edu/exhibition/current/> For more info, we have her book, *On Weaving* (1965), in our guild library. The Smithsonian did an oral history interview with her in 1968 <https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-anni-albers-12134>, and there is a good Bauhaus documentary called *100 Years of the Bauhaus* you can seek out if you're as much a "follower" as I am!



Chris H. and I experienced the Anni Albers exhibit in September and were impressed with what we saw. It focused on her use of materials in her studies and pairing studies (frequently screen prints) with the woven object. As a teaser, these photos show Albers' 1980/3 *Orchestra III* design study followed by the rug that was woven in 2018 by Christopher Farr, in collaboration with the Albers Foundation.

I'll leave you with these beautiful white on white weavings which were my favorite pieces in the show. Albers designed these in the 1980s as window linens which were commercially woven and many acid etched for interior decorators during her lifetime. These are woven in cotton. I hope you get to make the show and get inspired by Anni Albers' art in design.