

THRUMS

President's Message

It has been a busy time at my looms lately trying to meet the Challenge deadline, creating inventory for the upcoming sales booth, and gearing up to weave some twill fabric to sew a vest for my aunt's 90th birthday. Meanwhile, the warming weather beckons me outside to do some spring cleaning in my garden, and the list of sailboat projects to complete before summer grows longer. It is good to be busy with a variety of enjoyable tasks, and the longer daylight hours make it feel like there's more time to get things done.

With the approach of summer, our guild year winds to a close, and I'm thankful for all the inspiring programs that keep adding to my weaving-to-try list. I hope to see many of you at our annual potluck lunch and towel exchange, and I look forward to another year of weaving with all of you!

Happy weaving!
Rachel

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 2022-2024

President

Rachel Abbott

1st Vice President

Nancy Gaus

2nd Vice President

Sue Szczotka

Secretary

Donna Connery

Treasurer

Donna Johnson-Brown

LIBRARY | Donna Connery

The book sale of duplicate library books is underway. All you have to do is look at the list of books and let Donna know your selections by May 1st. Rachel will coordinate the payment and pick-up at the May luncheon. Thanks to everyone for making this sale a success.



Latvian flower patterned inkle bands
by Rachel

SWG at Syracuse Maker Faire | Nancy Gaus

It was the second ever Syracuse Maker Faire, but a first for us. Jayshri and I arrived at midday, but aside from parking, set up was easy. The Event Center at Lemoyne College was filled with the buzz and chaos of flying drones, whizzing gizmos, creative artist's demos, speakers on the main stage, and lots of rustling cosplay costumes. We set up and settled in quickly with help from the Maker Faire logistics staff who were very friendly and very helpful.

We got a fair number of people stopping by to try a little weaving, although I suspect there was a bigger crowd in the morning. The multi-shaft table loom seemed to be a fan favorite, but we also had a number of kids trying out the rigid heddle loom. The tapestry Story Loom got a little action, but passersby seemed to be more intimidated by this loom even though it was more straightforward. They preferred to watch us weave on it rather than weave themselves. I think the very nature of the participants at Maker Faire made them more attracted to something that used a bit of tech (lifting levers) to accomplish the goal of weaving.

Having hung last year's tapestry from the CNY Fiber Fest at the top of the Story Loom, I sensed an opportunity in the making. I remember that when my kids were young, there was an event at the annual Cazenovia Pottery Show where kids were encouraged to make pottery that remained with



the pottery guild. Those pieces were put on display at an event six months later at the zoo, where kids were encouraged to make animals out of clay. Some of those pieces were again put on display at the pottery show six months later. I thought it was a charming idea.

So, here we are now with two events where we are offering the public a chance to "weave their story" into a tapestry. Once this gets some momentum, it would be cool to have each event build on the work of the last, to show what's possible when the uninitiated are given a venue to try something new. The goal of the loom is for people to be spontaneous and weave what's in their heart. But some have trouble knowing how to express that, so we need to get better at explaining that goal and perhaps showing some examples from past efforts. I think this has potential to be a fun tradition in the making.



Looming Questions - Collaborative Advice by SWG Members | Rachel Abbott

Dear Tabby,

I consider my looms to be part of my family and give them names. Does anyone else name their looms, and if so, what are the stories behind their names?

–Happy Family

Dear Happy,

What a fun question! We spend so much time with our looms and know their quirks and temperaments, why wouldn't we name them? Although I haven't named any of my looms yet, I'll start paying more attention to their personalities as I weave. Maybe they'll let me know what they want to be called. Read on to meet some looms!

–Tabby

Andie: All my looms have names! Una is my old Union rug loom; she is a workhorse. Bea is my Harrisville 4 shaft; she is a bit more petite and named for a bright and engaging great aunt of my husband. Gert is my newest loom, a Nilus 8 shaft, named for one of my great aunties. Dot is my Dorothy table loom; she is the sampler. Don is my Better loom for tablet weaving and named for the maker, Don Betterley. I just acquired a Cendrel large inkle loom; I think I will name her Cecelia. And finally, my small inkle is Marge, named for my aunt who was actually a frame weaver of rugs. It is quite a party when they are all out!

Sue S.: I have a hard enough time giving my cats good names. The looms are referred to by their maker—the baby Mac (24"), the infant Mac (16"), the Glimakra, etc. Same thing with my cars.

Donna C.: My Harrisville has always been Harry, like "How are you, Harry?" But when I moved a second loom into the same room, they quickly became "When Harry Met Sally."

Susan M.: I've only named one, the Glimakra, "Monster" due to its size. Mary tells me that's fitting since Monster means "pattern" in Danish.

Elaine: All of my looms have been second- (or more) hand, and I was in the habit of naming them after the previous owner. There was Judy, Fran, and the Dolphin amongst others. But so many have come and gone, I have resorted to referring to them by their make and model. So now I have "Big J", a 16 shaft J-Made loom; "Mira", my 27" counterbalance loom; and "The Colonial", a Leclerc colonial. If I ever settle down, I'm sure my looms will have proper names again!

Nancy G: I haven't named any of my looms yet, but I did name my dress form. Years ago my mom helped me make a "packing tape double" dress form. We spent a whole afternoon on her screened porch with me wearing a plastic trash bag over tight-fitting clothes while she applied pre-wetted strips of packing tape in layers all over the bag. With a single cut up the back of the form, I wiggled out and had a perfect copy of my upper body to sew with. It was a fun bonding activity between me and my mom and fitting, since she was the one who taught me to sew when I was a young child.

I have since replaced that form (which no longer fits) but I named my new form after my mom, Harriet, who passed away six years ago. When I sew for me, Mom is still with me. I'm now thinking about naming my looms after other dear people in my life.

Please send your looming questions for future columns to Tabby.

Syracuse Weavers Guild 2022-2023 Programs | Nancy Gaus

5/6

Annual Potluck Luncheon and Towel Exchange

The noon luncheon will be at the home of Nancy Smothergill.
Details will be sent out via email in advance.

Bring a handwoven towel to the May luncheon and enter it into our annual towel exchange. Towels can be any size, any color, or any structure. For every towel you bring, you get to add your name to the basket. Draw a name and take home that person's towel. The more towels you bring, the more you take home!

April Meeting Recap | Rachel Abbott

Guild Challenge: Thrums, Crumbs, and Other Things That You Might Throw Out
April 1, 2023

This year's Guild Challenge focused on sustainability and the three R's—reduce, reuse, and recycle, challenging members to create beauty and usefulness from fibery things that you might ordinarily discard. At the April meeting, we saw a variety of beautiful and inspiring pieces produced by our creative weavers: rag rugs, wall hangings, earrings, scarves, bags, and more. A collection of photos has been put together and distributed by an email link sent to members. Keep saving and using your thrums!



Wall art made from old spindles by Andie



Fan pulls made from thrums by Eileen

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 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 in 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.

Tapestry (Donna Movsoovich)

The Tapestry Study Group meets on Zoom at 2:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday of each month. We are reading and discussing Rebecca Mezoff's book, *The Art of Tapestry Weaving*, although we also discuss a variety of topics - helping and sharing ideas and tapestries with each other. We will finish this wonderful book by our May meeting. Please join us for our next adventure into the "art of tapestry." As Sarah Swett wrote in the introduction of Rebecca's book, "Our world needs more tapestries. It needs your tapestries."

Small Bands (Nancy Smothergill)

Having focused on tablet woven calligraphy for this past year, the Small Bands Group plans to continue to meet for the coming year. Either through Zoom or emailing, we will be planning out the focus for 2023-2024. Please feel free to join the group that enjoys a very narrow but broad pursuit of weaving.

Shoddy Book Club (Donna Connery)

Shoddy continues its exploration of textile history through a new book, *Fabric of Civilization*, by Virginia Postrel. The next Zoom gathering is at 7pm on May 9. If interested contact Joyce to be added to the meeting link. The first three chapters will be discussed.

Helping Hands (Donna Connery)

On April 13, Helping Hands kicked off its first volunteer day of accessioning the collection at the Handweaving Center. What a monumental experience! Nancy G., Elaine, and Donna C. worked with Harriet Burris (TIAC weaving instructor) to add samples handwoven by Norma Smayda for her book *Ondule Textiles: Weaving with a Fan Reed*. These were 24 of the actual samples photographed for the book. What an honor to help preserve this glimpse of weaving history! If you are interested in helping during this phase, just get in touch with Donna C.



"Circus", a colorful reversing twill Ondule textile woven by Norma Smayda for her book.



Harriett, Elaine, and Donna recording the details of an Ondule overshoot textile woven by Norma Smayda for her 2017 book *Ondule Textiles: Weaving with a Fan Reed*



One of our favorite Ondule textiles from Norma Smayda that SWG helped accession into the Handweaving Museum collections.

An Afternoon at the Everson Museum of Art | Nancy Gaus



It was a sunny, warm spring day in March when ten of us from the Guild met at the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse for Alison Atalfi's Artist Talk. This was her first gallery exhibit, and she handled it with ease. Her unique and colorful circular tapestries, made mostly from hand-dyed handspun yarns, lined the walls of the first floor gallery which was filled with visitors. Starting with a 10-minute video presentation describing her process, she transitioned into a fun question and answer session that filled out the balance of the hour. She was asked about her fiber choices, her inspiration, the mechanics of her weaving, and about her personal journey as a self-taught weaver. Questions from high school art students in attendance suggested that they were intrigued by Alison's process enough to perhaps try something similar themselves. She was very encouraging and

assured them that weaving was an artform that they could easily tackle.

After the talk, our small group of ten was led on a tour of the Everson by the lovely Florence, a friendly and knowledgeable docent at the museum. After learning about the unique architecture of the building which was designed by I.M. Pei, we spent time appreciating the world-class collection of pottery in the basement gallery. Climbing to the second floor to see some of the current mixed-media and photography exhibits, Florence left us to enjoy the remaining galleries on our own. In all, it was a lovely afternoon with friends in an inspiring setting.



CNY Fiber Arts Festival Weaving Competition | Joyce Lock and Sue Szczotka

Attention all weavers! Here is a great chance to strut your stuff and maybe win a prize in the process! On June 10th and 11th, 2023, 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 third annual Viv Fulton Memorial Weaving Competition, open to weavers of any experience level, both adults and teens. This year there will be two categories - Home Decor and Wearables. 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!

March Meeting Recap | Donna Connery

Krokbragd presented by Eileen Kloss & Nancy Gaus
March 4, 2023

We weavers demonstrate technical skill, agility, and flexibility on our looms every day. But, our unpredictable upstate weather added yet another dimension to the definition of adaptability when Eileen and Nancy made a last minute switch to Zoom so the show could go on. As an eager attendee, I am happy to say we were treated to a program that both entertained and instructed; they never missed a beat. And, while the Zoom format robbed us of the touch, feel, and ability to really dig into the samples in March, this was all made available to members at the April meeting where they set it all up again! Thanks to Eileen and Nancy for “leaping tall buildings” to bring *Krokbragd* to SWG!

This information-packed presentation taught us that *Krokbragd* is generally viewed as a weft-faced, 3-shaft, boundweave with a rich Norwegian history dating back into the 1600s. *Krokbragd*, or “crooked path”, is traditionally woven with a hemp or linen warp and wool weft creating highly patterned rugs, mats, blankets, or anything else where a thick, heavy, colorful fabric is desired. Threaded on three shafts using a point twill threading, each combination of two shafts (2-3, 1-3, 1-2) are lifted in sequence using a 1-2-3 treadling. Weaving *Krokbragd* is thus a slow process, as three picks are required to create one pattern row. Warp is strictly structural and should not be visible in the woven piece. *Program Tip: Use a high contrast warp so you can see that it is fully covered before you get too far along in the weave.*

Besides the mechanical “how-to” demonstrated with a really clear animation created using the Shot-cut video editor, we learned about the structure, patterns, historical context, and the contemporary trajectory that makes *Krokbragd* a modern weave firmly rooted in history. Eileen also shared her *Krokbragd* journey as she wove her way through Jane Stafford’s online Textile School weave-along, received instruction by Kate Smith at Marshfield School of Weaving, and developed an independent sampling study in surface designs, motifs, contrast, and patterning. *Program Tip: Krokbragd success requires SAMPLING followed by an*

impartial personal critique of your work. Eileen even showed us how to critique our own work, as she talked through what she learned from different samples she created.

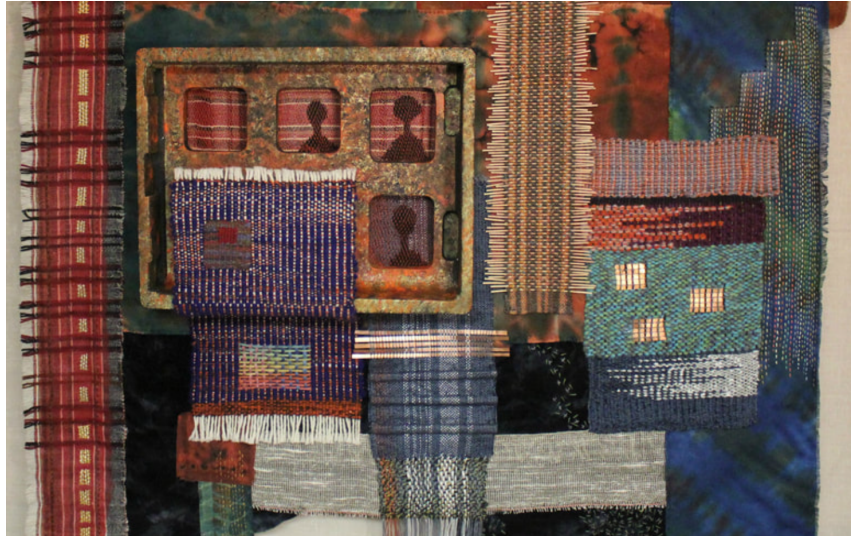


Colorful *Krokbragd* by Eileen

Hopefully you found something in this program that piqued your interest in *Krokbragd* and made you want to learn more. Two ways to get a good feel for *Krokbragd*...be sure to view the program once again using the members only recording link sent out in email, and then participate in the *Krokbragd* traveling loom when it gets warped for fall weaving.

Reuse Inspiration from the Loom Room

Boisali Biswas is a master of collage. She weaves using all sorts of recycled material and incorporates found objects at every opportunity. Check out one of her widely acclaimed pieces below. Can you find the styrofoam packing material?



Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference Joyce Lock



www.EGLFC.org
Facebook: EGLFC
EGLFCConference@gmail.com

Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference

October 6–9, 2023

Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY

Registration Begins April 1, 2023

Six 2-1/2 day workshops to choose from, exhibit hall, banquet and fashion show.



See the EGLFC.org website for more information.

Tassels for EGLFC | Joyce Lock

The Syracuse Weavers Guild has volunteered to supply tassels as table favors for [EGLFC](http://EGLFC.org). If you are interested in donating tassels, bring them to the May guild luncheon, to the June programming planning meeting, or contact to arrange a drop-off or pick-up. Thanks!

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 2022, the guild just received a check for \$72. 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.

Upcoming Fiber Events

Syracuse Weavers Guild

April 29-30, 2023	<u>Washington County Fiber Tour</u>	Washington County, NY
May 1-31, 2023	SWG Weaving Exhibit at the <u>Salina Free Library</u> Reception May 8th, 2023, 7-8pm	Mattydale, NY
May 6-7, 2023	<u>Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival</u>	West Friendship, MD
May 13, 2023	<u>Shepherds Wool Market</u>	Rush, NY
May 13-14, 2023	<u>New Hampshire Sheep and Wool Festival</u>	Dearfield, NH
June 10-11, 2023	<u>CNY Fiber Arts Festival</u>	Bouckville, NY
June 22-25, 2023	<u>Mid Atlantic Fiber Association Conference</u>	Millersville, PA
July 20-23, 2023	<u>New England Weavers Seminar</u>	Worcester, MA
Aug 23 - Sept 24, 2023	<u>New York State Fair Wool Center Demonstrations</u>	Syracuse, NY
August 26-27, 2023	Fiber Arts Weekend, Farmers Museum	Cooperstown, NY

Membership | Andie Scamehorn

It is time to renew! Our Membership runs from May-May, current members you may renew by sending me the form below with your dues, or you can follow the directions and renew by Paypal. Please note the "pay to" is membershipSWG@gmail.com. Also, if you do not plan on renewing, please email me and let me know at this same email. If you are brand new, we are excited to welcome you!

Dues: Regular: \$30. Senior (over 62): \$25

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

(For new members) What skill level do you consider yourself? _____

(For new members) How did you hear about the SWG? _____

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 field.

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

Refreshments | Sally Meyers

Sally Meyers will be asking for volunteers for refreshments for the upcoming 2023 - 2024 meetings. She will be bringing a sign-up sheet to the May meeting. Meanwhile, members should be thinking about helping out the guild by providing refreshments at least once during the year.

Committees

Booklets Nancy Smothergill	Library Donna Connery	Special Projects Sue Szczotka	Calling Committee Carolyn Wolfson	Equipment Coordinator Joyce Lock
Program Nancy Gaus	Membership Andie Scamehorn	Refreshments Sally Meyers	Website Administrator Joyce Lock	Newsletter Susan Mehringer

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	Status	Contact	Notes
Kyra 22" 4S table loom	Available	Joyce Lock	
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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
LeClerc Dorothy Green Model 12" 8S table loom	Available	Joyce Lock	https://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/weave/leclerchistory.htm Scroll down to find table looms.
Purrington Norris 12S table loom	On loan	Nancy Gaus	http://www.purringtonlooms.com/tablelooms.htm
LeClerc Dorothy 15" 8S table loom	Available	Joyce Lock	http://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/pics/leclerc/ldor007.jpg
LeClerc Jano 22" 4S table loom	Available	Joyce Lock	https://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/weave/leclerchistory.htm Scroll down to find table looms.