

THRUMS

President's Message

Hello weavers,

I've just returned from another inspiring SWG program—Beyond Color Card Wraps! From the program description, "Color card wraps can be much more than a way to audition how colors play together—they can be art!"



Thinking back on the round robin part of the program in which we passed around the yarn wrap squares, adding our own bits of yarn to each piece, it struck me that these small squares of yarn are even more than art. They are a microcosm of our guild. Each time a new square landed in my hands, I was inspired by the array of colors and variety of yarns working together to create something vibrant and surprising. As I carefully looked at the wraps, I learned new ways to wrap the yarns to create different criss-crossing patterns. Snippets of conversations around the circle gave me new ideas on how to add my wraps to the square.

Similarly, throughout my time in the guild, I have seen ways to add color and patterns to my weaving by admiring show and tell pieces, learning from programs, and talking with members.

These hands-on programs are an important way to expand our weaving worlds and get to know each other. While weaving can sometimes be a solitary activity, our guild programs and activities remind me that learning to weave, expanding our abilities, and inspiring other weavers is a group activity!

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 do you listen to when you weave? Do you watch videos, listen to the radio, or listen to podcasts? Does music inspire you or do you need quiet to get your work done? What is your weaving soundtrack?

–Whistle While I Work

Dear Whistle,

When I look around at young people going about their business with earbuds in, I wonder if the answer to this question would vary according to the age of the weaver. Read on to see what your peers listen (or don't listen) to!

–Tabby

Nancy S: This is a fun question. I have always needed to control my mind from wandering when weaving or winding a warp. The best background for me is very "mathematical" classical music. When I no longer want just silence, and feel that I need some discipline to my mind, I get out the Mozart, Vivaldi, or Bach CDs. There is no way I could listen to a podcast or actually anything with words. When the weaving is something totally boring and does not involve counting, I might venture into my favorite classical music of Stravinsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, or something else Russian or with a lot of brass.

Laureen: I need quiet when I weave. It's way too easy for me to get sidetracked and lose my place. I'm kind of squirrely and get caught up in lyrics. Music, TV, movies are all way too squirrely. Ha-ha!

Joyce: I watch procedural crime shows while I weave, particularly "Law and Order" and all its spinoffs. Since they follow a formula, I don't miss much when I step away for a few minutes. I also listen to audio books.

Rachel: My weaving soundtrack varies. If I'm weaving something that has a treadling sequence that's easy to remember, I might listen to a podcast. If I need to concentrate a bit more on what I'm doing, then music is better. But for a complicated tablet weaving pattern, silence is best. Otherwise, I spend too much time trying to figure out how to unweave things!

Next issue's looming question: *What is your favorite piece of weaving you've ever done and why? What was your greatest disaster? What did you learn from it?*

Please send your response and other looming questions for future columns to [Tabby](#).

Upcoming Fiber Events

January 13, 2024 Saturday, 10am-4pm	Roc Day Black Sheep Handspinners Guild 347 Ridge Road, Lansing, NY
February 18, 2024 Sunday, 10am-4pm	Tina Turner Knits - Fiber Arts Festival 5257 W Henrietta Rd, Henrietta, NY

October Meeting Recap | Nancy Smothergill

Field Trip to Thistle Hill Weavers



Where to start? Rabbit Goody is such an amazing person, who knows so much about weaving, weaving history, and running a very special mill. She opened up her mill to us, a group of almost 20 people, and shared so much information about starting the mill and her focus on special reproductions of historic weaving plus designing for special orders.

After an introduction to the mill and Rabbit's history with weaving and starting the mill, she divided us into three groups to look at the wonderful old power looms and all the equipment needed in the production of cloth. Rabbit demonstrated using the huge warping wheel, drawing threads from a complex creel. We got to see various looms in operation and also saw how cones and bobbins are wound for this production.

The mill is a fascinating place and Rabbit a wealth of information, which she is so generous to share. We ended by sharing box lunches and lingered on to prolong such a wonderful visit.

November Meeting Recap | Nancy Gaus

Conference Roundup

Judging by the attendance, our November program was a popular topic. This was an odd-numbered year, so there were several regional conferences available to choose from. Our members took full advantage of three of them: MAFA (Mid Atlantic Fiber Association), NEWS (New England Weavers' Seminar), and EGLFC (Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference). Sue, Joyce, Elaine, Sally, and I presented a peek at what those conferences were like, how our classes went, and a bit about what we learned. There were recommended classes to add to any weaver's wish list and tips for a successful experience.

Conferences weren't the only learning venue reviewed: Lynne and I each took multi-day stand-alone workshops, and I took several Zoom classes. Each format had its own advantages, and pointing out the differences in distance, price, in-person vs. online, robin-robin or not, and single vs. multi-day classes gave those considering any of the various venues help in determining the right fit for them.

The experiences shared by not only our panel members, but our enthusiastic audience felt like a giant show and tell, and who doesn't love that? There were lots of questions and many stories. Anyone thinking about attending a conference, workshop, retreat, or online class can have a better idea of what to expect and have the confidence to get the most from their learning experience.



16-shaft deflected doubleweave by Amy Parker

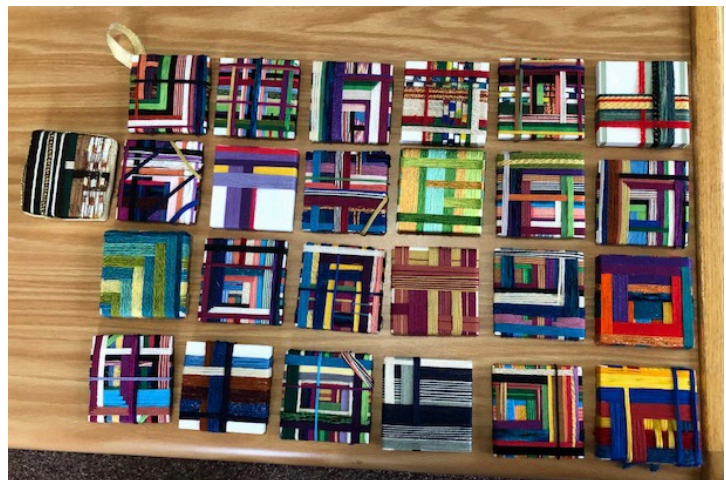
December Meeting Recap | Donna Connery

Beyond Color Wraps



Inspired by *The Yarn Winding Manifesto* by Astrid Skibsted, Sue Szczotka's December program was a super fun and low tension way to wrap up our 2023 programs. Anything can happen when you harness 15 artists' creativity, and weave in 15 personal stashes of yarns in a variety of colors, fibers, and sizes. To the delight of all, we wound up with collaborative art squares, each one unique and beautiful.

After a practice square, Sue moved us through a round robin that gave each crafter two minutes to make her mark on each piece before handing it off to the next. It became quite a challenge to overlay our last few picks without obscuring the work of prior weavers. What a delight to take home an actual finished product!



Syracuse Weavers Guild 2023-2024 Programs | Nancy Gaus

All programs will be in the Community Room at the church with the exception of the October field trip and May luncheon.

1/6

Video: The Handicrafts of Gujarat with Marilyn Romatka

India. The word alone conjures up images of vivid color and pungent spices. The handicrafts one finds there are stunning. Here is your chance to explore many of the skilled craftspersons that make up this national legacy. Follow along with the weaver and the photographer, as they probe the variety of hand-skills in one of the most artistic states in India: Gujarat.

Facilitator: Joyce Lock

2/3

Profile Drafts and Block Weaves

Block party! We invite you to come along to learn about blocks and explore their possibilities. After an overview of what block weaves are and when it is useful to use them, we will cover how to read drafts that utilize them, how some of the drafting programs use blocks, and how to use profile drafts to sketch out your own designs.

Presenters: Susan Mehringer, Rachel Abbott

Facilitator: Nancy Gaus

3/2

Deborah Livingstone-Lowe: Upper Canada Weaving

Deborah Livingston-Lowe is a weaver and historian who runs a business called Upper Canada Weaving, founded in 2010. Originally the business focused on reproduction of 19th century Ontario textiles, such as coverlets, rag carpets, and linens. Since that time, Deborah has expanded her production in innovative ways. She collaborates with fashion designers to create unique fabrics tailor-made for their garment collections.

Deborah works directly with sheep, alpaca, and mohair goat farmers from the Upper Canada Fibershed to bring their fiber to a wider audience. Her designs are inspired by textiles of Eastern Canada (Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland). It's her passion to produce custom fabric for designers, museums, and individuals wanting distinctive fabrics. In her presentation, Deborah will focus on the history of weaving in Eastern Canada, the Scottish influence, and her work in promoting the art of weaving from the 19th century on.

Presenter: Deborah Livingston-Lowe

Facilitator: Nancy Smothergill

4/6	Presentation of the Guild Challenge
	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? Facilitator: Rachel Abbott
5/4	Annual Potluck Luncheon and Towel Exchange
	All details TBA

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.

Small Bands: Nancy Smothergill

The small bands group is working on tablet-woven Andean Pebble Weave. Several members showed examples of their work and we discussed ways to tension the warp and different ways to set up the weaving.

Tapestry: Donna Movsoich

The Tapestry study group meets on Zoom every 4th Tuesday of the month at 2:00 pm. We are learning the "visual language" of weaving by discussing Tommye Scanlin's book, *Tapestry Design Basics and Beyond*. Everyone is welcome to join in the conversation!

Shoddy Book Club: Nancy Smothergill

The Shoddy Book Club met at the end of November and had a great discussion about the book *North and South* by Elizabeth Gaskell. The book and BBC series were recommended by Rabbit Goody. The book had more to do with romance, class differences and the turmoil of industrialized cotton weaving in England, rather than actual weaving and our discussion was lively.

Handweaving Museum Helping Hands: Donna Connery

Our volunteer efforts at the [Handweaving Museum](#) in Clayton, NY are now focused on emptying an offsite location that houses a large portion of the Mary Snyder collection. Hopefully there will be heat in the building and no snow on the roads as we trek north to Clayton. If you are interested in volunteering in 2024, let Donna know.

Better Together, SWG 2024 Exhibit at TIAC | Donna Connery and Elaine DuBois

TIAC announced our [upcoming guild show](#) on its website in December. It was quite a challenge to create a title and exhibit statement that reflects the nature of our guild and its members. Ultimately, we felt it was important to capture our guild's spirit of camaraderie and volunteerism that shines through in so many of the projects we take on. So, here it is!

What? Better Together: Woven Expressions from the Syracuse Weavers Guild

When? April 17- May 24, 2024

Where? TIAC Handweaving Museum in Clayton, NY.

Exhibit statement: *Weaving can be a solitary endeavor. Being human is not. This exhibition demonstrates how the guild inspires, motivates, and supports its members as a group to excel individually.*

Thanks to our 19 members who have already let us know of their interest in exhibiting one or two handwoven articles in the show. As long as you are a member of SWG, it is not too late to participate. Just let Donna C. or Elaine know of your interest. We plan to collect the handwoven pieces at the April guild meeting and deliver them to Clayton the following week.



Promotional artwork developed by TIAC for our show in April.



Donna Connery explains the symbolism in the tapestry piece she created in New Mexico.



Nancy Smothergill explains the value of a potholder loom when entertaining grandchildren.



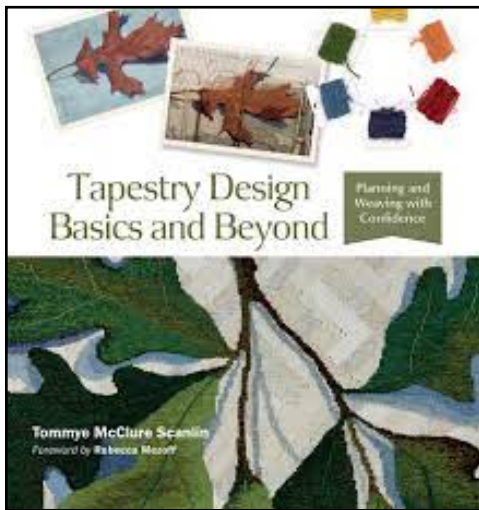
A southwest-inspired towel by Donna Connery.



Beautiful deflected doubleweave scarf by Rachel Abbott.

Library | Donna Connery

Use the [SWG library link](#) to find what's already in the SWG lending library. Since our library exists to serve the interests of our members, I hope you'll share your ideas on books that would be good additions to our collection. The photos show three suggestions received so far for 2024 and are associated with study groups, the challenge, and an amazing use of 8 shafts. If you have an interest in any of these, please consider sharing your enthusiasm by writing a book review for the next *Thrums*.



General inspiration for something to weave can come from almost any book or an online draft portfolio like <https://www.handweaving.net/>. But you can also search our collection for a special technique if you want to dig deeper than "How To" on YouTube. When I'm just hunting for inspiration, my go-to book is *200 Patterns for Multiple Harness Looms* by Russell Groff. This is a book for 8-12 shaft designs. In a format of one page per draft, the weaving details, such as type and quantity of warp and weft yarns and characteristics of the woven fabric, are noted in the narrative. Another feature is that the pictures are in grey and white so I can start envisioning my own color scheme on the weave right from the start. The SWG library also has a binder of the Robin and Russ samples that were originally available as a monthly newsletter, and many were compiled into this pattern book by "Russ."

Refreshments | Sally Meyers

The Refreshments volunteers provide a snack or dessert and hot water. Members should bring their own lunch, utensils, mug, etc. Please bring any questions or concerns to [Sally Meyers](#).

Duties:

- Know your day. Sally will email a reminder about a week before the meeting.
- Arrange for someone to take your place if you cannot make it and notify Sally.
- 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 Sally know.

January 6, 2024

Donna Movsoovich & Valerie Kaiser

February 3, 2024

Nancy Gaus & Elaine DuBois

March 2, 2024

Linda Miller & Maria Aridgides

April 6, 2024

Sally Meyers & Sue Szczotka



Felted acorn by Andie Scamehorn.

Membership | Andie Scamehorn

Please welcome our newest member!

Joan Horwich

Interested in joining us? Our Membership year runs from May-May, but you can join at any time by sending the form below with your dues or via Paypal. To pay online, sign into your PayPal account and send the dues to membershipSWG@gmail.com. Select "send money to a friend" so the Guild does not pay the transfer fee. Please include all your contact information in this field. We are excited to welcome you!

Dues: Regular: \$30. Senior (over 62): \$25. Joining after January: \$15.

To pay by check, make checks payable to *Syracuse Weavers Guild* and mail to:

Andie Scamehorn
8374 Salt Springs Road
Manlius, NY 13104

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? _____

Web Sites and Social Media

SWG Website - Joyce Lock - <https://www.syracuseweaversguild.org>

Visit the website to see the guild calendar, newsletters, a description of the annual guild challenge, activities such as study groups, the FAQs webpage, and a list of resources for beginning weavers.

Spotlight: Resources for Beginning Weavers:

<https://syracuseweaversguild.files.wordpress.com/2023/11/resources-for-beginning-weavers-10-20-2023.pdf>

The website includes the following resources to support you in the guild challenge:

- Sewing support group
- Audio recording of the introduction to the Guild Challenge
- Written summary of the challenge
- SWG resource list of library and online references
- Karen Donde's resource list of library and online references

Instagram - Valerie Kaiser - [syracuse_weavers_guild](#)

Use Instagram to promote the guild and show off our accomplishments. Valerie shows how to post our photos and announcements in a quick 12-minute talk: <https://youtu.be/zCUWrwG6eBk>

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

SWG has a library chock full of weaving books, magazines, and DVDs. All you need to do is:

- Access our catalog on LibraryThing using the URL above
- Search our catalog (not all of LibraryThing) on keyword to see what we have
- Let Donna know by the Friday before meetings what you'd like

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

Post questions, challenge discussion topics, and photos of your projects.

Halcyon Yarn - Joyce Lock - <https://halcyonyarn.com/guild/>

When placing an order with Halcyon Yarn, note that you are a member of SWG (by phone, or in the Comments box for web orders), to net SWG 5% of the sale.

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	Krokbragd
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	
Purrington Norris 14" 12S table loom	Available	Joyce Lock	http://www.purringtonlooms.com/tablelooms.htm
LeClerc Dorothy Green Model 12" 8S table loom	Available	Joyce Lock	https://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/weave/leclerchistory.htm Scroll down to find table looms.
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.

Committees

Booklets

Nancy Smothergill

Special Projects

Sue Szczotka

Website Administrator

Joyce Lock

Program

Nancy Gaus

Refreshments

Sally Meyers

Equipment Coordinator

Joyce Lock

Library

Donna Connery

Communications

Carolyn Wolfson

Newsletter

Susan Mehringer

Membership

Andie Scamehorn

Meg Welch

Social Media

Valerie Kaiser