

THRUMS

President's Message

Hello weavers,

As the deadline for this column quickly approaches, I'm thinking ahead to tomorrow's solar eclipse and hoping it will be a sunny day. A story on the radio last week discussed various cultural and mythological interpretations of solar eclipses. Weaving also plays a significant role in mythology across various cultures, often symbolizing themes of creation, fate, and transformation. I began to wonder how weaving and solar eclipses connected. So, I asked Chat GPT for help on relating the creation symbolism of weaving to myths of solar eclipses. It gave me some interesting things to think about. Here is an edited version of its response:

Interconnectedness and unity: In weaving, the interlacing of threads symbolizes the interconnectedness and unity of all things in creation. Similarly, solar eclipses are moments when celestial bodies align, underscoring the interconnectedness of cosmic forces and reflecting the belief in a unified, harmonious universe.

Transformation and renewal: Weaving involves the transformation of raw materials into a finished textile, symbolizing the creative act of bringing something new into existence. Solar eclipses, with their dramatic shifts in light and shadow, evoke themes of transformation and renewal. Just as weaving leads to the emergence of a cohesive fabric from individual threads, solar eclipses symbolize the potential for new beginnings and spiritual growth.

Balance and harmony: Weaving requires a delicate balance between warp and weft, stability and change, order and chaos. Similarly, solar eclipses represent moments of cosmic balance and harmony, where opposing forces align in perfect symmetry. This balance underscores the interconnectedness of light and shadow, creation and destruction, and serves as a reminder of the cyclical nature of existence.

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.

2024 - 2026 Officers

New officers elected at the Guild's April meeting will assume their offices at the May meeting. Thanks to the nominating committee of Sue Szczotka, Valerie Kaiser and Susan Mehringer. The new officers are:

President: Donna Connery
1st Vice President: Eileen Kloss
2nd Vice President: Elaine DuBois
Secretary: Valerie Kaiser
Treasurer: Donna Johnson-Brown

Many thanks to our outgoing officers Rachel Abbott (4 years), Donna Connery (2 years), Nancy Gaus (4 years), and Sue Szczotka (8 years) for their dedication and service to the guild during their terms of office and beyond.

Book Review | Karen Smith

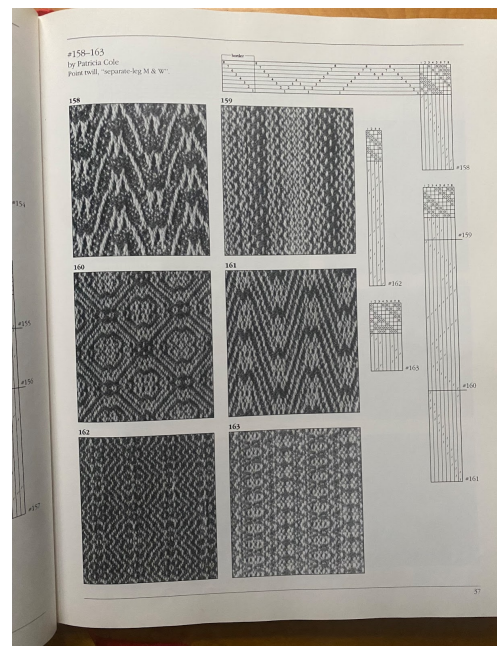
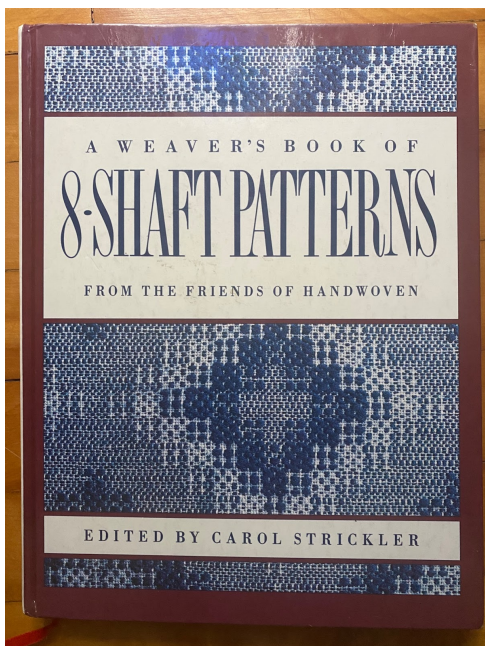
When I first acquired my Schacht 8-shaft loom, I was so excited, and yet I found that I was rather intimidated by it. If I remember correctly, I just admired it for a few months before doing any weaving! Happily, I eventually gathered my courage and began to weave. One book in particular has been a wonderful resource and has provided me with so many ideas.

The book is titled A Weaver's Book of 8-Shaft Patterns from the Friends of Handwoven, edited by Carol Strickler. It is intended for those who already know how to weave and are looking for directions for new 8-shaft patterns. Over 250 weavers contributed samples for use in the book, and although not all were used, the number of photographs and weaving patterns is impressive.

With over 200 pages, this book is filled with possibilities. It is divided into 25 chapters, each dealing with a different type of weave structure, i.e., summer and winter, block twill, plaited twill, crackle weave, tied overshot, and the list goes on. Each chapter begins with a basic explanation of the weave, including threading, tie-up, treadling order, and variations such as appropriate types of yarn. This is followed by a number of examples in the form of black and white photographs along with the drafts needed to create

each one. In many cases, one threading and tie-up can be used with different treadling sequences to create a wonderful variety of designs. The possibilities seem endless!

You can borrow this book from our guild library.



A Bit of Guild History | Nancy Smothergill

Elaine DuBois asked me for information about guild history for our TIAC Zoom presentation. I thought you all might be interested in how it was to become a member of the guild, according to the 1985 Revision of the Constitution. Notice that members are referred to as she – at that time no men were allowed in the Guild.

"Article III. Membership

The membership shall consist of regular and bulletin members. Regular Members: The membership of the Guild shall be open to weavers who own and operate a loom.

Each prospective member must be recommended by a Guild member in good standing, and must be an invited guest at 3 regular meetings. A prospective member may not come to a workshop unless she has attended at least one previous meeting. She must show her weaving at one of these meetings. Upon fulfillment of this requirement, she will file an application for consideration by the Membership Committee.

Every member is required to attend three meetings per year and assume responsibilities to keep membership, except those who were regular members as of June, 1968. Those who do not fulfill the requirements will have the option of becoming a bulletin member or being dropped from the membership. Exceptions may be brought to the Board."

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. or Elaine DuBois, who will take over as 2nd VP in May, and we will see about arranging a new study group.

Small Bands: Nancy Smothergill

The small bands group finished the year at the April meeting with a discussion of threaded-in patterns and techniques. We are hoping for new members in the Fall interested in weaving narrow bands.

Shoddy Book Club: Nancy Smothergill

The final book for the Guild year is *Fabric: The Hidden History of the Material World* by Victoria Finley. Since the book is long, we are reading only the first half for our meeting on May 20.

Tapestry: Donna Movsovich

The Tapestry Study Group meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 2:00 pm via Zoom. We are reading Tommye Scanlin's book *Tapestry Design Basics and Beyond*. This group also does a lot of sharing our ideas and what we have woven. Feel free to join us!

Handweaving Museum Helping Hands: Donna Connery

The next helping hands meeting for the Handweaving Museum in Clayton, NY is April 30th.

Looming Questions - Collaborative Advice by SWG Members | Rachel Abbott

Dear Tabby,

What are your best tips and tricks for weaving ergonomics? How can I thread and tie-up my floor loom without destroying my back?

–My Achy, Breaky Back

Dear Achy, Breaky,

Yours is the million dollar question and one for which all weavers would like an answer. Unfortunately, there are no easy answers. As Barb's answer suggests, it may help to keep your sense of humor!

–Tabby

Joyce: Don't wind all your bobbins at once, only do a few. You will need to get up every now and then to wind another set and thus take a break from sitting at the loom.

Rachel: I like to think of threading and tying-up my floor loom as a yoga session. As I reach for a heddle to thread or bend down to attach a lamm to a treadle, I imagine myself stretching to increase my flexibility. If I feel stiff, I bend in the opposite direction to release some tension in my joints and muscles. As with any form of exercise, I try not to overdo things and take breaks when I need them.

Sue S.: Do not be stubborn like me and refuse to get up until you are done. Get up frequently, at least every 15 minutes and do a little dance, a little stretch, a little anything! Make sure that you have good light, especially if your warp is a dark color, so that you are less likely to make mistakes. Also make sure that you have a padded chair that is just the right height to minimize awkward positions.

Barb: This article has the best poem at the end. It's so true and will make you laugh and nod your head: <https://handwovenmagazine.com/ask-madelyn-is-there-a-way-to-make-tying-up-my-loom-easier/>



Bright and beautiful towels by Sue Szczotka

New Member Introduction | Roberta Mou & Carter Smith

On February 3rd, I attended the Syracuse Weavers Guild with the goal of selling my Leclerc 60" floor loom. I have had my loom since 1980, and it has moved with me from Virginia to Nebraska, then to Arizona and finally to New York. I fell in love with weaving after taking a weaving course at the University of Wisconsin - Stout. My Leclerc loom was a graduation present from my mother. After leaving Virginia, life happened, and between work, children, and caring for aging parents, the loom sat alone in the basement. I was inspired by all of you at my first meeting and have since taken private lessons with Truus Radin from the Rochester Folk Art Guild and have signed up to take classes at Gorges Fiber Arts in Owego. Thank you for encouraging me to try weaving again.



Carter Smith



Roberta Mou

Hi everyone! My name is Carter Smith, and I'm really new to weaving. I haven't started yet, but I'm planning to start working on some stuff this summer. Currently, I am a college student at SUNY ESF majoring in Environmental Education, and I work a few different jobs. That doesn't leave much time for other things, which is a bummer! I'm excited for this summer when I'll have more time to work on creative projects. Currently, most of what I do is sewing and embroidery. I'm looking forward to expanding my skill set. I'm excited to get to talk with you all and see the stuff you've been working on!

Library | Donna Connery

What's coming up on your weaving list for those lazy days of summer? Now that we have a few garment construction techniques mastered, perhaps a lace or dimity weave for a light and airy summer blouse is what you are looking for. Or maybe you want to create some super absorbent beach towels in waffle weave. How about a classic checkered picnic tablecloth for a special outdoor gathering? Whatever is on your mind can be on your loom. The SWG library collection is here to help you turn these ideas into the real thing! Just click the link below and discover what's awaiting you in the SWG Library. Be sure to let me know what books you'd like to borrow before the May luncheon! <https://syracuseweaversguild.org/guild-library/>

Syracuse Weavers Guild 2023-2024 Programs | Nancy Gaus

The final program for 2023-2024 will be the Annual Potluck Luncheon and Towel Exchange on May 4th, held at Nancy Smothergill's house. An email with more information will be sent out a week or two before the event. Beginning with the May meeting, our new 1st VP, Eileen Kloss, will take on the leadership role for guild programs. Please send any ideas and requests for future programs to Eileen.

March Meeting Recap | Rosey Oaks-Lee

Wrap Your Head around the Jacquard Head

At our March 2nd meeting, we once again had a chance to tag along with Nancy Smothergill on her travels as she shared what she has learned about the Jacquard mechanism and how it works. The program was called *Wrap Your Head around the Jacquard Head*, and the first thing we learned was that it isn't a Jacquard loom, but a mechanism - a wooden or metal "head" - that sits atop any loom that can support it.

In the late 1700s, the demand for brocades and intricate patterns in Europe inspired the development of several ideas about how to manipulate individual warp threads in a mechanized way for mass production. It was Joseph Marie Jacquard who finally put the various adaptations together in 1804 in a process that bears his name.



Early Jacquard head on loom

As Nancy showed us drawings and photos and videos of looms and weavers she observed in museums in Lyons, France and near Dresden, Germany, and even at Rabbit Goody's mill in eastern NYS, she explained step-by-step the complexities of this process: the specific mechanics that happen using cords and loops and needles and weights and how the punch cards control the whole process to determine which warp threads are lifted for each pass (using the same binary, 0 and 1, code that computers use).

Thanks once again to Nancy for bringing to us the clarity of this marvelous process!



Nancy's photo of a Jacquard head on loom

Weaving Competition | Joyce Lock

Attention all weavers! Here is a great chance to strut your stuff and maybe win a prize in the process! On June 8th and 9th, 2024, 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. The annual Viv Fulton Memorial Weaving Competition is open to weavers of any experience level, both adults and teens. There are three categories - Home Decor, Wearables, and Novice. Cash prizes for first, second, and third places will be awarded in all categories. Entries will be judged on originality and execution and may be made from any natural fiber, including bamboo, rayon and Tencel™. See <https://cnyfiberarts.org/weaving-competition/> for more details and to register online. 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!

SWG Exhibit at the Handweaving Museum of TIAC | Donna Connery



Better Together: Woven Expressions from the Syracuse Weavers Guild

April 24 – May 24, 2024

Artists' Talk: May 2, 5:30pm (zoom)

Reception: May 9, 4:30-6:30 pm

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.

Looking for a great reason to escape before the summer season gets into full swing? Make your way to Clayton, NY in the beautiful Thousand Islands and see our SWG exhibit at the TI Art Center. Support the arts and our guild exhibitors who have created an exhibit that showcases how our guild supports and nurtures weavers. Those who attend the exhibit will get to feast their eyes on over 30 recent works from our 18 exhibitors:

Rachel Abbott

Nancy Gaus

Eileen Kloss

Amy Parker

Joan Brickner

Chris Haefner

Joyce Lock

Karen Smith

Donna Connery

Donna Johnson-Brown

Susan Mehringer

Nancy Smothergill

Elaine DuBois

Valerie Kaiser

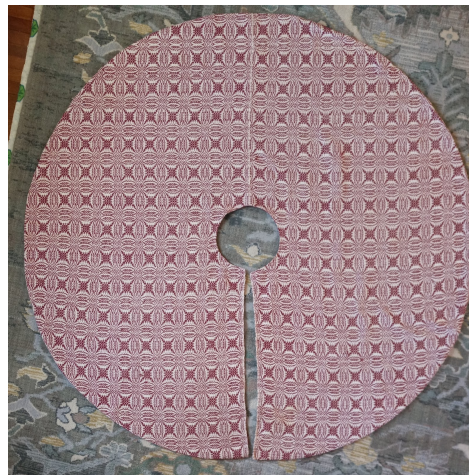
Donna Movsoovich

Sue Szczotka

Judy Fox

Laureen Whitney

Here is a sampling of five pieces in the exhibit, with more photos to come on our SWG Instagram account. Many thanks to all who joined in to make this show a success. Here's a big shout out to my fellow members of the organizing team: Elaine DuBois, Nancy Gaus, and Joyce Lock.



Joyce Lock
Overshot
Christmas Tree Skirt

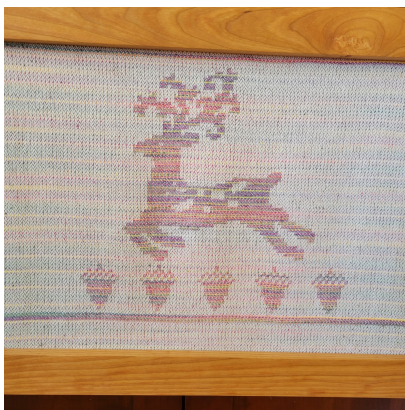


Nancy Gaus
Doubleweave
Stepping Up Bag

Syracuse Weavers Guild



Joan Brickner
Plainweave
Guild Challenge Bag



Elaine DuBois
Damask Wall Hanging
Leap Fall



Donna Movsoovich
Tapestry
Sea & Sky



The reveal of the 2024 guild challenge was a great success, as all these smiling faces will attest! Look for a slideshow from Rachel of the beautiful pieces that were created and shared.

Upcoming Fiber Events

May 4, 2024 Saturday 10am-4pm	<u>Maker Faire Syracuse</u>	NYS Fairgrounds 581 State Fair Blvd. Syracuse, NY 13209
May 4-5, 2024 Saturday 8:30am-6pm Sunday 8:30am-5pm	<u>Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival</u>	Howard County Fairgrounds 2210 Fairgrounds Rd. West Friendship, MD 21794
May 11, 2024 Saturday 10am-4pm	<u>Shepherd's Wool Market</u>	6200 Rush Lima Rd (Rt 15A) Rush, NY 14543
May 11-12, 2024 Saturday 9am - 5pm Sunday 9am - 4pm	<u>NH Sheep & Wool Festival</u>	Deerfield Fair Grounds 34 Stage Rd Deerfield, NH, 03037
May 18-19, 2024 Sat-Sun 10am-4pm	<u>Central Pennsylvania Fiber Festival</u>	Lycoming County Fairgrounds 1 East Park Street Hughesville, PA 17737
May 25-26, 2024 Saturday 9am-5pm Sunday 9am-4pm	<u>Massachusetts Sheep & Woolcraft Fair</u>	Cummington Fairgrounds 97 Fairgrounds Rd Cummington, MA 01026
June 8 - 9, 2024 Sat-Sun 10am-4pm	<u>CNY Fiber Arts Festival</u>	Butternut Hill Campground 6893 U.S. Route 20 Bouckville, New York



Donna Connery's summer and winter towel

Membership | Andie Scamehorn

Please welcome our newest members!

Carter Smith

Roberta L Mou

Jackie Bosket

It is time to renew! Our Membership runs from May-May. Current members may renew by mailing the form below with your dues, or you can renew by PayPal. Also, if you do not plan on renewing, please email me at the same email. Thank you!

Our Membership year runs from May-May, but new members can join at any time by sending the form below along with your dues by check or PayPal. We are excited to welcome you!

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

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.

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? _____

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. We are currently seeking volunteers for the 2024-2025 meetings.

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.

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 weavers.

Spotlight: Resources for Weavers:

<https://syracuseweaversguild.files.wordpress.com/2024/01/resources-for-weavers-1-14-2024.pdf>

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://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	
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

Refreshments

Sally Meyers

Equipment Coordinator

Joyce Lock

Program

Nancy Gaus

Communications

Carolyn Wolfson

Newsletter

Susan Mehringer

Library

Donna Connery

Meg Welch

Social Media

Valerie Kaiser

Membership

Andie Scamehorn

Meeting Tech Support

Nancy Gaus

Website Administrator

Joyce Lock

Special Projects

Sue Szczotka

Thank you to Carolyn Wolfson for her many years of service sending out monthly reminders for our meetings! She will be stepping down from this role in May.