

THRUMS

President's Message

Dear Weavers,

Welcome back to the guild's new year. Many thanks to our past officers and members. With such a great foundation to build upon, it's exciting to imagine where the future will take us.

As I write my first President's message, I find myself reflecting on this summer's Olympic Games in Paris where I noticed many parallels between athletes and weavers. At the beginning of the Games, we envision the athletes as solitary, dedicated, focused, and highly trained individuals who spend many long grueling hours honing their skills to achieve a goal. Yet, as the Games progress, we learn their personal stories, embrace their personalities, and share in the fun and joy they exude while doing their very best. We also see their achievements are not possible without the support of their fans, family, coaches, teammates, and competitors.

As weavers, many of us put ourselves in a solitary setting as we work diligently at our design boards and looms creating handwoven pieces that suit our personal goals. For years, we work hard to learn the ins and outs of equipment, technique, color, and structure to create handwovens with even selvedges, beautiful drapes, and pleasing colors that make us proud. But isn't it in the sharing of a handwoven's journey with family, friends, mentors, clients, and our community of weavers that we really experience the joy of our efforts?

As we start our new year, I hope you will seek out ways to share your love of weaving with the guild. To borrow a phrase from our recent exhibit, we truly are "Better Together."

Donna

Guild Officers 2024-2026

President

Donna Connery

1st Vice President

Eileen Kloss

2nd Vice President

Elaine DuBois

Secretary

Valerie Kaiser

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.

New Member Introduction | Chris St. Clair

Hello, all you SWG members! I have been sewing since I was a child, and now mostly sew small items for myself, and costumes for my family members. I have been interested in fabric and weaving for several years and have played around with a couple of rigid heddle looms and an inkle loom. I have a very basic skill level right now, and am still working on beginner hand towels, scarves, and rag rugs. I have taken a couple of workshops in the past that allowed me to work on a floor loom and found weaving to be both fun and meditative at the same time.

I want to improve my weaving skills and graduate to a 4 or 8-shaft table loom. I'm excited to see that others are interested in weaving fabric that can be made into clothing and that this is a topic you have addressed in the past. I look forward to meeting you and learning more in this new adventure!



A Bit of Guild History | Nancy Smothergill

Looking through old Thrums, I came across this piece in Vol. XI, No. 1, September, 1975. The column was written by Dorothy Reynolds, one of the founding members of SWG. It was especially fitting to find this column since when I discovered it, we were in the midst of our exhibit at TIAC. I gave a copy of the article to Marina Lowe, who was delighted to see that connection.

"In July - Six members and two husbands went to the Thousand Islands Museum Crafts School to see the school, the library of Berta Frey, as well as the weaving library of Myra Young. Miss Post greeted us warmly and showed us through the classrooms. There were approximately sixteen floor looms of various sizes and several small table looms. We were then introduced to Mrs. Glory Koehler, who some of us had met in the early sixties. She not only teaches advanced weaving, but is curator of the Textile Rooms.

The articles and sampler are kept in a special cabinet when they are not out for display. The Christmas cards are mounted, giving both fiber and draft below the card, and are protected by plastic sheets and placed in notebooks for easy handling. This makes a working library for anyone interested. Slides are being made of the material, and [the] set will be available for use by organizations at a modest charge. Books and magazines are in the process of being 'catalogued'. Mrs. Koehler showed us a few slides and answered our many questions.

Berta Frey had a marvelous sense of color, up-dated classic pattern drafts, and experimented with the new fibers as they came on the market -an outstanding weaver of her time.

Dorothy Reynolds"

SWG Study Groups | Elaine DuBois

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 Elaine.

Small Bands: Nancy Smothergill

The small bands group meets monthly, right after the business meeting. This fall we will use some of our meeting time to develop a hands-on tablet weaving program for the Guild's December meeting, while exploring small bands. New members are always welcome.

Shoddy Book Club: Nancy Smothergill

The first book for the Guild year is *The Indigo Girl* by Natasha Boyd. Our group meets via Zoom for group discussions. New members are always welcome to join.

Tapestry: Donna Movsovic

The Tapestry Study Group meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 2:00 pm via Zoom from September to May. We have an open format when we get together to share ideas, ask questions, and discuss varied topics about the art of tapestry. Feel free to join us!

Handweaving Museum Helping Hands: Donna Connerly

Our volunteer efforts this summer were all about packing, moving and securing handwovens as the Handweaving Museum in Clayton, NY prepares for new construction. Groundbreaking is scheduled for September.

CNY Fiber Arts Festival | Joyce Lock



**We are
Moving!**

CNY Fiber Festival

June 7 - 8, 2025

**Herkimer County Fairgrounds
135 Cemetery St.
Frankfort, NY 13340**

**Come
celebrate
with us in our
new
location!**



www.cnyfiberarts.org

The CNY Fiber Arts Festival, formerly held in June in Bouckville, NY is moving! Sue Szczotka and I toured the new location at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds in July. While a longer drive for some, this means buildings with concrete floors, real bathrooms, better parking, better handicap access, more food options, and some new vendors from Eastern New York. There will be a dedicated area for fiber arts demonstrators instead of individual guild booths. Guild members and festival visitors will be welcome to bring their own equipment to spin/weave/knit/etc in the company of fellow crafters. Mark your calendars!

Syracuse Weavers Making Waves

Our May 2024 Artists' Talk tinyurl.com/TIAC-Better-Together and guild exhibit, **Better Together, at the Thousand Islands Art Center** in Clayton, NY was a hit! With over 30 beautiful handwoven pieces on view in the exhibit, our group piece - the dish towel clothesline - was a show favorite and a true reflection of achieving good things together!



Dish Towel Clothesline at TIAC



Stained Glass by Donna Movsovich

Stained Glass, a new tapestry by Donna Movsovich, was on display in July 2024 at **Tiny But Mighty, the American Tapestry Alliance exhibit at HGA's Convergence**. Held at the Envisions Arts Gallery in Wichita, this interactive piece was designed to be viewed by handling.

In July, **SWG sponsored an episode of HGA's weekly fiber program, Textiles and Tea**, featuring fiber artist Laurie Carlson-Steger. Thanks to Sue Szczotka for setting it up so SWG could support HGA and help spread the word about the wonderful world of textiles!

Once again, this summer's **Weaving Booth at the CNY Fiber Arts Festival** was popular with visitors. In addition to encouraging festival goers to weave on the Story Loom, guild members wove on a floor loom, a rigid heddle and a table loom. Thanks to Joyce Lock, Rachel Abbott, Donna Movsovich, Elaine DuBois, Eileen Kloss, Jayshri Prasad, Donna Connery and Bernd Krause for sharing their love of weaving with the public. Also many thanks to Nancy Gaus for her work preparing the Story Loom.



The **CNY Fiber Arts Festival Weaving Competition** had 30 weaving entries in the Wearables, Home Goods and Novice categories. Winners from the guild included:

- Rachel Abbott, 2nd Place for her vest
- Donna Connery, 1st and 3rd Place for dish towels
- Eileen Kloss, Honorable Mention for her krokbragd sampler rug



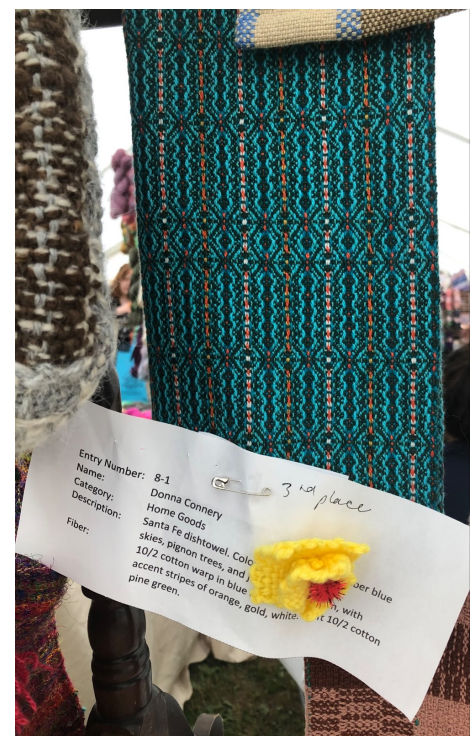
Rachel's vest



Donna's towel



Eileen's Krokbragd Rug



Donna's towel

Library | Donna Connery

[Syracuse Weavers Guild Library](#) Are there any suggestions for resources we might want to add to the guild library to keep it up-to-date? With this year's block and profile draft challenge on our minds, here are a few of the library resources you might consider as you begin your design.

- *Playing with Blocks*: an exploration using multi-harness overshot, Erica Voolich
- *Designing and Drafting for Handweavers*, Berta Frey
- *The Complete Book of Drafting for Handweavers*, Madelyn van Der Hoogt

Upcoming Fiber Events

September 7-8, 2024 Saturday 10am-5pm Sunday 10am-4pm	Pennsylvania Endless Mountains Fiber Festival	Harford Fair Grounds 485 Fair Hill Road New Milford, PA 18834
September 14, 2024 Saturday 10am-5pm	WNY Fiber Arts Festival	EA Classic Rink East Aurora, NY
September 21-22, 2024 Saturday 10am-5pm Sunday 10am-4pm	Adirondack Wool & Arts Festival	Washington County Fairgrounds 392 Old Schuylerville Road, Greenwich, NY 12834
October 5-6, 2024 Saturday 10am - 5pm Sunday 10am - 4pm	Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival	Tunbridge Fairgrounds 1 Fairgrounds Ln Tunbridge, VT 05077
October 12-13, 2024 Saturday 9am - 5pm Sunday 10am - 3pm	Little York Fall Fiber Arts Festival	6799 Little York Lake Road Preble, NY 13141
October 19-20, 2024 Saturday 9am-5pm Sunday 9am-5pm	New York State Sheep & Wool Festival	Dutchess County Fairgrounds 6550 Spring Brook Ave. Rhinebeck, NY 12572
October 21-23, 2024	29th Annual Weaving History Conference	Virtual workshop over Zoom

Syracuse Weavers Guild 2023-2024 Programs | Eileen Kloss

9/7

Introduction of Guild Challenge

Part 1: Profile Drafts and Block Weaves, So Many Possibilities So Few Hands

For this year's challenge, choose an existing profile draft to use or design your own! Profile drafts are as full of promise as an eye-catching skein of yarn. There exists a variety of weave structures into which you can plug your profile draft, each of which will yield different visual and textural results. Considerations such as loom type, number of shafts and treadles will guide ultimate choices. We will look at slide examples as together we make our way around the block weave structures.

Presenter: Eileen Kloss

Part 2: Tips and Tricks Revisited

Come and join in the shared knowledge of our amazing guild by bringing your favorite tools, tricks and tips that make your weaving better, faster, and more fun. We invite everyone to bring their favorite ideas and share them in a spirited exchange designed to help improve your weaving life.

Presenters: YOU!!

Facilitator: Sue Szczotka

10/5

Ada Explained: *Algebraic Expressions in Handwoven Textiles*

Need a way to approach the guild challenge? Join in the fun with Sally Orgren as she guides us through a way to design drafts in any weave structure using *Algebraic Expressions in Handwoven Textiles*, the 1952 monograph by Ada Dietz. Be inspired by samples woven in 2022 by Cross Country Weavers, and time permitting, try your hand at designing your own pattern. No calculators are needed, and proficiency in algebra is not required. Should you want a sneak peak, below is a link to the manuscript.

Presenter: Sally Orgren, Editor of HGA's *Shuttle, Spindle, & Dyepot* and Member of Cross Country Weavers

Facilitator: Donna Connery



<https://www.handweaving.net/document-detail/2964/algebraic-expressions-in-handwoven-textiles-dietz-ada-k-little-loomhouse>

11/9

Field Trip: Alling Coverlet Museum, Palmyra

Note
date
change!

Join us for a field trip to the Alling Coverlet Museum. The Museum houses the largest collection of American hand woven coverlets with over 800 examples! All styles of hand woven coverlets from 1820 to 1880 are represented in an extraordinary collection, which takes over six years to rotate through public display, making every visit unique. We are currently working with the Executive Director and the curator to create a special program, just for the SWG. So save the date and watch for coming details! More information: <https://www.historicpalmyra.com/alling-coverlet-museum>

Presenters: TBA

Facilitator: Elaine DuBois

12/7

Hocus Pocus, Cards are the Focus

Tablet Weaving is not magic, but it might seem like it is. Join us to experience this ancient technique of off-loom weaving. With this hands-on program, the Small Bands Study Group will lead you through the process of threading cards, setting up, and weaving a small band.

List of needed materials will be shared at a later date.

Presenters: Small Bands Study Group

1/4

Fancy Weaving: A figured coverlet, a Jacquard Machine, and the process of recovering knowledge.

Join the jacquard conversation with Justin Squizzero, as he joins our meeting via Zoom from Vermont. He will share his handweaving journey, detail the history of his Jacquard equipment, how the loom works, and the entire process of recreating a coverlet woven in 1830.

Presenter: Justin Squizzero,
Director Marshfield School
<https://www.marshfieldschoolofweaving.org/>
and [Burrough's Garrett](#) blogger

Facilitator: Donna Connery



2/1

Design Using the Fibonacci Sequence

The Fibonacci sequence is a set of steadily increasing numbers that can be found in nature and is thus appealing to the human eye. It is found in flower petal patterns, whorls of a pinecone, and leaves on stems. We'll explore these numbers and ratios to create design patterns to use in weaving and other fiber arts. No need to worry about complicated math.

Bring colored pencils and graph paper if you have them; we'll have extra if you don't. If you prefer instead to do the exercises with yarn wraps, bring firm cardboard (2" x 6-8" strips), tape, scissors and yarn.

Presenter: Joyce Lock

3/1

Rigid Heddle Loom/Weft-Float Lace

This program will cover an overview of the rigid heddle loom including direct warping, use of 2 heddles, pick-up sticks, and the types of projects that can be created using a rigid heddle loom. We'll dive a little deeper into structure and technique by discussing how to utilize weft-floats to generate various lace patterns on the rigid heddle loom (drafts will be provided for floor/table looms as well), including 3/1, 5/1, and 7/1 laces in addition to other variations.

Presenter: Valerie Kaiser

4/5

Guild Challenge Big Reveal

Join in the excitement as we conclude the annual challenge by revealing what each weaver designed, wove, considered, and learned along the way. Even if you didn't finish what you set out to do, be sure to bring your enthusiasm for learning and any questions you may have about blocks and profile drafts to this always amazing show and tell!

Presenters: SWG Weavers

Facilitator: Donna Connery

5/3

Annual Luncheon and Towel Exchange

Shall we kick it up a notch and add a twist to the towel exchange? When you bring your handwoven towel to pass along to another member, include a recipe that either inspired it or reminds you of your towel in some way. The connection between the towel and recipe is yours to decide. But can't you see pairing your favorite honey cake recipe with a honeycomb towel? This year we can keep it simple and just exchange them with each other. But maybe next year we go wild and create a cookbook!

All Programs will be in the Community Room at the church with the exception of the November field trip, December hands-on program, and the May luncheon.

Membership | Andie Scamehorn

Please welcome our newest member!

Chris St. Clair

Our membership year runs from May to May, but we welcome new members any time! You can join by sending me the form below with your dues or via Paypal.

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. 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.

Volunteers:

Sept: Donna Connery, Chris Haefner

Oct: Paulette Quinn, Elaine DuBois

Nov: Field Trip - No Refreshments

Dec: Donna Movsoovich, Joyce Lock

Jan: Roberta Mou, Meg Welch

Feb: Eileen Kloss, Valerie Kaiser

Mar: Linda Miller, Nancy Gaus

Apr: Sally Meyers, Susan Szczotka

THANK YOU all for volunteering!!

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:
<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 available for members to borrow 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.

SWG Video Archive - Nancy Gaus - Link to playlist is available by request.

Recorded videos of our past monthly programs are available for self study or for study groups. Available to members only.

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	Elaine DuBois	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	
Purrrington Norris 14" 12S table loom	On Loan	Nancy Smothergill	http://www.purrringtonlooms.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

Membership

Andie Scamehorn

Social Media

Valerie Kaiser

Communications

Meg Welch

Newsletter

Susan Mehringer

Special Projects

Elaine DuBois

Equipment Coordinator

Joyce Lock

Program

Eileen Kloss

Website Administrator

Joyce Lock

Library

Donna Connery

Refreshments

Sally Meyers

Meeting Tech Support

Nancy Gaus

Sample Book Curator

Eileen Kloss