

THRUMS

President's Message

Dear Weavers,

Welcome to the hues of fall foliage, where color inspiration is available everywhere you look. From warm oranges, reds, and golds through the cooler greens and browns there is such a rich palette to consider. Nature has a way of combining colors to give the world depth, and taking in the view of a fall hillside makes that so clear to me. In weaving, combining shades of orange and red also adds that depth of field, taking what might look flat as one yarn color to a new level. I am constantly winding color cards to evaluate color combinations I see in my travels. I think my favorite fall color combination is the pairing of purple asters with goldenrod as seen along the roadsides of my travel routes. I find those colors making their way into my weaving brain just about this time every fall. I hope you have some time to get out and enjoy these crisp refreshing days of fall, find some new color ideas, and put them to good use in your handwovens.

Happy Weaving! Donna C.



Guild Officers 2024-2026

President

Donna Connery

1st Vice President

Valerie Kaiser

2nd Vice President

Elaine DuBois

Secretary

Eileen Kloss

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.

To Contact a Fellow SWG Member:

- Use your Member Booklet
- Write to SyracuseWeaversGuild@gmail.com

SWG Study Groups and Special Projects | Elaine DuBois

Study groups are small groups of members that share a common weaving interest. Participants gather either in person or via Zoom outside of regular guild meetings. For more information contact Elaine, or the group leader listed for your particular group of interest.

Ada Dietz

(Donna Connery)

Our Ada Dietz [Algebraic Expressions](#) study group continues to explore this mathematical design process and plans to exchange samples again in 2025-26.

Helping Hands

(Donna Connery)

Construction of the new [Thousand Islands Art Center Home of the Handweaving Museum](#) is underway, with an opening ceremony planned for June 2026. That means our working group is very busy with inventory of the 22,000 handwovens contained in the collections. September was busy with three trips and more than 30 boxes of textiles inventoried, including Mary Snyder's collection of sheep and this timeless sentiment on weaving.



Tapestry

(Donna Movsoovich)

The Tapestry Study Group meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 2:00-3:00 pm via Zoom from September to May. Some of our members are beginning a collaboration project. We choose a theme and then create individual tapestries that will merge into a larger piece. We also will continue to discuss our tapestry journeys and share resources and ideas with each other. We send out a zoom invitation every month to the whole guild.

Small Bands

(Nancy Smothergill)

The Small Bands group will have a mini workshop on designing diagonals for tablet weaving. The workshop is "Dancing Diagonals" on October 24. At the meeting after the next guild meeting we will compare notes about the workshop and look to see where the group is headed next.

Rigid Heddle

(Valerie Kaiser)

Our group has a virtual option and generally meets the 3rd Monday of the month from 6:30-7:30pm to talk about ongoing projects and goals. We met in-person in July to work together to collaborate on tips and tricks for direct warping. Some members are working on their first project, some are trying tapestry, and some are trying clasped warp (among other things). We welcome all skill levels. Contact Valerie if you wish to learn more or join in the conversation.

Shoddy Book Club

(Nancy Smothergill)

The Shoddy Book Club seems to have disintegrated, rather like shoddy. We may have a repurposing again at a later date.

New Member Introduction | Jaylynn Ross



My name is Jaylynn Ross and I came to my first meeting in September. I have been a crocheter since I was 4 years old. I taught myself to knit several years ago. As I slipped down the fiber art trail, I found a Rigid Heddle and wove my first and only piece! I am excited to learn more and hang out with other fiber peeps. Some more about me - I am a licensed veterinary technician and love spending time with my husband, 3 dogs, and 4 cats in my free time, cooking and baking, and trying new restaurants. My husband and I also love to travel when we can. Here is a picture of me when we got married in Thailand a few years back.

September Meeting Recap | Emily L

During part 1, Mary McMahon took us on a journey through her history as a fiber artist. We heard a beautiful and creatively inspiring review of Mary's art evolution from her first experience with a loom in graduate school to her beautiful multi-feet wide and tall tapestries.

Emotionally, she walked us through the milestones of successfully selling your own art: When someone not related to you first buys something you made, when you can cover the cost of your materials, when you actually have to report your income and contribute to your social security with that income, doing commissions from family, and even commissions from non-relatives.

Via questions, beginners got some helpful information about some of the specifics that go into tapestry weaving: if the warp is vertical or horizontal, if the tapestry is woven from the front or back (Mary and many other individual weavers weave from the front, but historically weaving from behind was apparently quite common and often done with assistance). We learned about drawing a cartoon to put behind the weaving as a guide as well as the miniature tapestries that were sometimes made first to be sure everyone was happy with the design.

I think all present were awed by the photographs of exquisite weaving. I do not imagine I am alone in having been inspired to learn more about, and potentially attempt, tapestry weaving.

For part 2, Joyce Lock provided some guidance and ideas for the guild challenge of plain weave. She provided thoughts and examples of how to explore "one thread up one thread down" plain weave. Some examples include tapestry, inkle bands, log cabin, and basketweave. Much spirited debate was had about the subtleties of things that may or may not count as plain weave. The challenge allows everyone to explore something that's easy to understand with many options to add complexity.

Donna also shared some excellent and thorough research looking for Handwoven articles on plain weave. That list was sent to the guild mailing list for reference.



Tapestry woven by Mary McMahon

October Meeting Recap | Elaine DuBois



Fenimore Farms Docent Garry

Saturday October 4th was a beautiful early fall day. The crisp morning air brought a small group of guild members out to Fenimore Farms in Cooperstown NY. We were greeted by Garry, the weaving, spinning and textile docent. Garry showed us some of the looms that are in use at the museum collection. He shared stories of how textiles were produced & the impact they had on family life in the mid 1800's. We looked at historic weaving drafts, often written in unique shorthand. We saw one such draft that Rabbit Goody has translated into modern conventions and Garry wove as a coverlet that will be used on a bed in the museum.

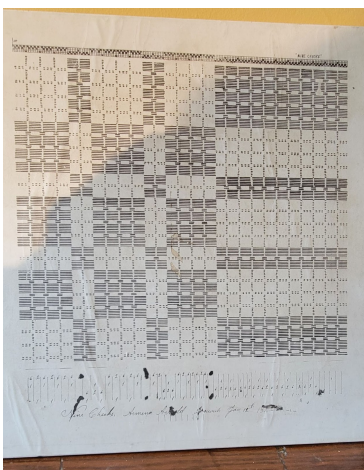
Garry also showed us a countermarch loom that had been expanded to 12 shafts and explained some of the mechanics required to do so. It employed a fly shuttle and had a reed made of actual reed! He explained how reeds were made in the day by splitting the reed and wrapping them with pitch covered twine. Reeds were not measured by dents per inch (or cm) as they are now, but by an antiquated count system called a beer (or beir) whose value varied by location!



Nine checks coverlet obverse

We parted with Garry and had a lovely picnic lunch under an oak tree. We were then free to explore the rest of Fenimore Farm that included typical establishments found in a mid 19th century village such as a schoolhouse, general store and blacksmith shop. The farm also has many animals and Jayshri kindly helped a goat reach a pumpkin!

As the cold weather starts to settle upon us we will have fond memories of our day in the sun at Fenimore Farms.



Nine checks draft



12 shaft countermarch

Traveling Loom | Elaine DuBois

Thanks to all your feedback we decided at the September meeting the next project for the traveling loom will be Overshot Cubed Sampler. Nancy S is currently working on obtaining supplies and preparing the warp. Look for it to start traveling soon.

Key Fobs for EGLFC | Nancy Gaus

Special thanks to everyone who contributed materials for the key fobs that we donated to the EGLFC conference. They were a big hit!

Materials included: small bands from Donna Connery, Cynthia Pendergrast and Joyce Lock; handwoven fabric from Valerie Kaiser and Nancy Gaus; ply split braids from Lois Koenig.



Upcoming Fiber Events

Nov 1-2, 2025 Saturday 10am-5pm Sunday 10am-3pm	The FiberFestival of New England	1305 Memorial Ave. West Springfield, MA 01089
Nov 22-23, 2025 Saturday 9am-5pm Sunday 9am-4pm	Pennsylvania Fall Fiber Arts Festival	Leesport Farmers Market 312 Gernants Church Road Leesport PA 19533

A Trip Back in Time | Nancy Gaus

It's been a long busy summer and I've gotten a bit burned out. I needed to get away and reset and I found just the right thing.

I've been eyeing the classes at Newbury School of Weaving in Newbury, VT. Ever since Justin Squizzero presented his Zoom program on *Fancy Weaving* at the beginning of the year I've been thinking about making the journey up there. I am not a very productive weaver, partly because I've not been able to achieve a good weaving rhythm on my countermarch loom. I've been wanting to learn how to warp more effectively and weave more efficiently on my loom which is somewhat similar in feel to the barn frame looms in his studio. So I booked a spot in the Newbury's *Foundations* class at the beginning of August, found a local VRBO and made the drive through winding Vermont roads. I didn't realize that guild members Donna Connery and Chris Haefner would be taking the same class at the same time - what fun!



The class was inspiring to me. Justin and his assistant, Emma, created an atmosphere of calm and humor in a quiet out-of-the-way historic chapel on the Common in Newbury. Although most of the students chose a twill structure, I kept my plain-weave wool throw fairly simple because I didn't feel like I needed a challenge that week. I just played with the colors, adding a third to the traditional two-color crossbar check pattern.

The warping techniques he taught were straight out of the past and were intuitive and practical. Everything came together in quick order without fussing (unlike my usual warping and loom dressing adventures). I took copious notes so that I wouldn't forget anything when I got back to my next project at home.

I climbed into my chosen 4-poster barn loom and it didn't take long before I found my rhythm. The heavy loom creaked beneath me as I swayed with the shuttle, back and forth as my throw blanket grew in front of me. With a breeze blowing through the open doors and soaring windows on a sunny August day, I felt like I was weaving on a tall ship. I had a smile on my face the whole time! Sitting there in that vintage space, completely unplugged, was so restorative. And to be there with a couple of funny and knowledgeable guild mates was just icing on the cake.

There were three newbies in my class of eight and they achieved results every bit as impressive as the ones made by the more experienced weavers. I am thrilled by the results. I can't wait to go back next summer and take another class.



Syracuse Weavers Guild 2025-2026 Programs | Valerie Kaiser

11/1

Tartans and Kilts

Ever wonder about how plaids relate to tartan or why tartans get registered as unique designs? Hear from an expert in the field, Barbara Tewksbury, who is both a skilled kilt maker and geology professor. She'll share her passion for this traditional Scottish garment, explaining the history of tartans and the unique process of kilt making. Learn about the intricate details of kilt construction and the dedication required to create these beautiful and historically significant pieces of clothing.

Presenter: Barb Tewksbury

Facilitator: Joyce Lock

12/6

Temari Fascination (Hands-on program)

The ancient craft of temari is a beautiful three dimensional form of embroidery. Symmetrical stitches are built up on the surface of a thread-wrapped ball to make intricate patterns. Originally a functional plaything for Japanese children, temari are now suitable for gifting and they make unique home decorations. In this hands-on workshop we will learn how to mark the surface of pre-wrapped balls and make the rhythmic layers of stitching that result in a kaleidoscope of color. You will be provided with a list of supplies and instructions on how to wrap the balls that will be embellished during the workshop.

Presenter: Nancy Gaus

1/3

Warp and Weft: A Conversation in Color

Weaving is a conversation between warp and weft - both parties have something to say and we want the conversation to remain friendly! This lecture looks at ways to successfully mix warp and weft colors, and explains elements of color, how to select harmonious warp and weft, and how weave structure can influence the conversation.

Presenter: Cameron Taylor-Brown

Facilitator: Donna Connery

2/7

The Nettle Dress (Film)

The Nettle Dress is a beautiful film documenting the healing journey that a man takes following the death of his wife. He makes a seven year odyssey, learning about slow fashion while spinning, weaving and sewing a dress by hand made only from locally foraged stinging nettles. He learns the healing power of nature and creates a powerful tribute to honor his wife. The film is accompanied by a pre-recorded Q&A with the artist.

Facilitator: Sue Szczotka

3/7

The Wide World of Narrow Bands

There has always been a need for bands, ropes or braids to tie things together, hold things up, etc. In this program we will explore the various types of woven bands that have been created and used around the world, and the techniques for weaving the bands. Various weaving arrangements will be illustrated with a variety of weaving setups available to look at and try if you wish.

Presenter: Nancy Smothergill

4/11

Guild Challenge Reveal

Facilitator: Donna Connery

5/2

Annual Luncheon and Towel Exchange

Please join us for our final gathering of the year.

Location: All Programs will be at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Community Room, 7248 Highbridge Road, Fayetteville, NY 13066 with the exception of the October field trip and the May luncheon.

Refreshments | Sally Meyers

Refreshments volunteers provide a snack or dessert and hot water. Members should bring their own lunch, utensils, mug, etc. Our supplies are in a basket placed in a storage cabinet provided by the church. Please bring any other questions or concerns to Sally Meyers.

Duties:

- Know your day. Sally emails 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:

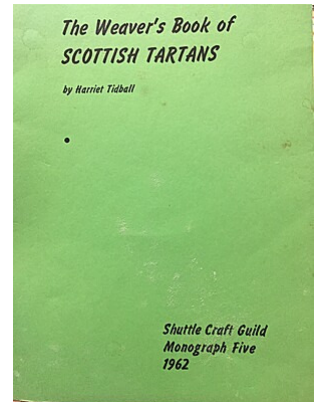
11/1/2025: Jayshri Prasad, Margaret Welch
12/6/2025: Emily Lennox, Eileen Kloss
1/3/2026: Roberta Mou, Joyce Lock
2/7/2026: Linda Miller, Karen Smith
3/7/2026: Paulette Quinn, Nancy Gaus
4/4/2026: Sue Szczotka, Sally Meyers

THANK YOU all for volunteering!!

Library | Donna Connery

<https://syracuseweaversguild.org/guild-library/>

With the upcoming program on tartans in November, a quick search of our LibraryThing catalog revealed two books. All you have to do to create a search of your own is to enter author, title, or keyword into the search field of "your library." Just be careful you don't make the mistake of searching all the books in LibraryThing!



Membership | Roberta Mou

Our Membership runs from May-May, but we welcome new members any time!

Dues:

Regular: \$30.

Senior (over 62): \$25.

Joining after January: \$15.

Join or renew by sending Roberta the form 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.

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

Roberta Mou
205 Burlington Drive
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?



SWG Outing to Fenimore Farms

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.

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.

Members Weaving Interests and Looms - Joyce Lock - Link to file is available by request.

Have a question about a weave structure or loom? Take a look at this list of members' weaving interests and the looms they own. Want to be a mentor to others? Add your interest and the looms you own to the list. 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	Not available	Valerie Kaiser	
Kyra 22" 4S table loom	Not available	Traveling Loom	
Peacock 12" 2S loom #1	Available	Joyce Lock	http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg
Peacock 12" 2S loom #2	Available	Joyce Lock	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 looms	Available	Donna Connery	
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
Schacht 25" rigid heddle loom	Not available	Paulette Quinn	https://schachtspindle.com/products/flip-rigid-heddle-looms

Committees

Booklets

Nancy Smothergill

Meeting Tech Support

Nancy Gaus

Sample Book Curator

Eileen Kloss

Communications

Meg Welch

Membership

Roberta Mou

Social Media

Valerie Kaiser

Equipment Coordinator

Joyce Lock

Newsletter

Susan Mehringer

Special Projects

Elaine DuBois

Library

Donna Connery

Program

Valerie Kaiser

Website Administrator

Joyce Lock

Meeting Space Liaison

Lois Koenig

Refreshments

Sally Meyers



Beautiful inkleband by Nancy S.



Jayshri models a shawl that her mom made.



Karen Jean Smith's wonderful summer and winter project from the block weave challenge.



An intriguing scarf by Donna C featuring a Bateman extended divided twill in linen warp and silk weft.



Valerie's colorful samples from the Ada Dietz study group exercise.



Fun tablet-woven shoelaces from 10/2 cotton by Emily Lennox. Pattern is from *A Tablet Weaver's Pattern Book* by John Mullarkey.