

# THRUMS

## President's Message

Dear Weavers,

It's the end of the year, and I find myself looking ahead to all the wonderful weaving adventures that may arise in 2026, something much more fun to do than make New Year's resolutions! With sincere apologies to Charles Dickens, I think that what lies ahead for each of us rests with who we were as weavers in the past, are in the present, and strive to be in the future. Are you a weaver who likes to know what will come off your loom, spending plenty of time planning and sampling so that what you envisioned is sure to emerge? Or are you a weaver who takes pleasure in the twists and turns of the unknown just to see what really does come off your loom in the end? Or, maybe your weaving requires some of both?

At the end of the year, basking in the glory of hindsight, I think I am a more adventurous weaver, mostly remembering the chances I took that paid off. In 2025, my mind goes to several spontaneous weaves inspired by travels through Morocco and Iceland. But, whilst in the throes of the weaving year, I am absolutely a project planner, sampling regularly to attain results that help me learn my craft and attain my vision. Here's where study groups and detailed notes come to mind. Still it's those happy accidents of chance and episodes of exploration that bring a smile to my face. But, I doubt they would just happen if I didn't push the bounds of my weaving knowledge throughout the year. This just reminded me of this posting on a high school teacher's door: *"success occurs when opportunity meets preparation."* I get it!

I hope you wove something in 2025 that taught you something new and brought you joy. My wish is that your weaving thoughts for 2026 open doors that entice and invigorate you.

Happy Weaving!  
Donna C.

## Guild Officers 2024-2026

### **President**

Donna Connery

### **1st Vice President**

Valerie Kaiser

### **2nd Vice President**

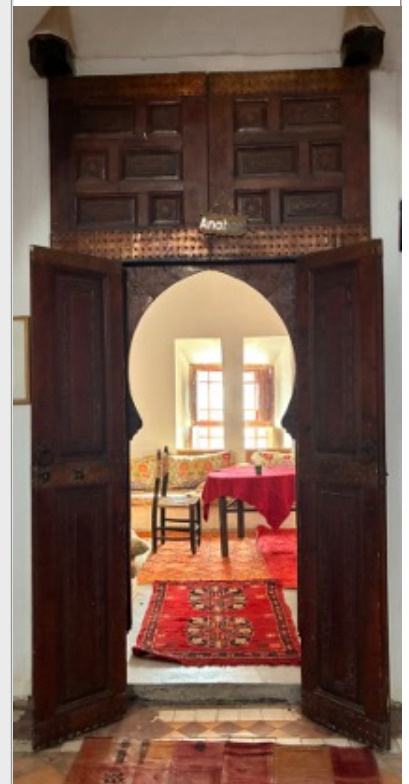
Elaine DuBois

### **Secretary**

Eileen Kloss

### **Treasurer**

Donna Johnson-Brown



## Mission

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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.

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## Traveling Loom | Elaine DuBois

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Thanks to Nancy S. for getting our traveling loom dressed and starting on its rounds! The new project is Overshot Cubed Sampler. We had 12 members sign up. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone's samples.

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## SWG Study Groups and Special Projects | Elaine DuBois

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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 in January 2026. This year it's the square of a polynomial, with weavers picking their own number of variables, yarns, colors, and structure.

### 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. During fall 2025, the team inventoried and rehoused over 100 boxes of handwovens and is now moving on to the 60 drawers and nave of rolled goods like rugs, blankets and coverlets. A special treat in December was to help select about 20 handwoven pieces of historic merit that will be placed in the grand opening exhibit and permanent tool exhibit in the new facility. It was especially fun to have Barb Decker join us for a day, sharing her profound insight into the collections. Barb has a long and storied history with the Museum as she was actively involved with first Curator Sonja Wahl as they romped cross country to gather some of the handwoven treasures we so value today.

### 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)

At the December meeting we discussed tablet woven calligraphy and other double-faced designs. We intend to share experiences at the January meeting, which occurs after the regular guild business meeting.

### 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 welcome all skill levels. We are currently collaborating on a group project. Contact Valerie if you wish to learn more or join in the conversation.

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## November Meeting Recap | Sue Szczotka

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Our November 1st meeting on Tartans and Kilts was an exciting foray into the world of tartans and kilts presented by Barb Tewksbury. Barb used to be a weaver (and a geologist!) but now concentrates on making amazing bespoke kilts. I have to admit that I did not think that I would be that interested in this program, but I was so wrong! Who knew all of the amazing details and variations present in the making of a kilt? Great kilts, little kilts, military kilts - box pleats, knife pleats, aprons - so much to learn!

There are over 12,000 registered tartans and the fabric is mostly woven in worsted wool in four major mills - 1 in England and 3 in Scotland. Kilts are all hand-stitched and take about 20 hours to complete. They cost \$375-400 PLUS the cost of the fabric which can vary from \$240 to \$1400 for a custom fabric. The kilts are not hemmed which would make the fabric too thick for pleating. Usually, the selvage is used for the hem. The construction of a kilt is centered on the fabric with the proportion and sequence of colors in the tartan and the placement and type of pleats determining the final look of the garment.

There are too many interesting facts to recount here so if you did not get the chance to see this program in person, I strongly urge you to watch the video - you will be amazed!

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## December Meeting Recap | Eileen Kloss

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Nancy Gaus presented the hands-on program for our December meeting on Japanese Thread Balls commonly referred to as Temari (Japanese for "hand ball"). SWG members started the process with a clear and informative video covering the required preparation of the balls prior to patterning that was created and provided in advance of the workshop by Nancy Gaus. During the program everything we would need was at our disposal; embroidery floss, embroidery

needles, pins, paper for measuring and yarn for guidelines. Additionally, Nancy prepared handouts with references on stitches, books on the subject of Temari Balls, and slides with instruction for creating beautiful patterns suitable for multiple experience levels. Best of all was the "eye candy" in the form of premade examples

created by guild members! There were 21 weavers working so intentionally and quietly in the gym that you could hear a pin drop. I am aware that at least one of our creatives was able to complete a Temari during the program. Temari fascination will continue as we get to see the finished pieces become show and tell items at upcoming meetings. Thanks for a really enjoyable program.



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## Syracuse Weavers Making Waves | Donna Connery

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The Thousand Islands Art Center recognized the dedication and hard work of the members of the SWG Helping Hands group (from l. to r.) Donna Connery, Joyce Lock, Barb Decker, Nancy Gaus, Rosey Oakes-Lee, and Elaine DuBois with the 2025 Volunteer of the Year Award in December.

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## Upcoming Fiber Events

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Jan 10, 2026 10am-4pm	<a href="#">Roc Day - Black Sheep Handspinners Guild</a>	All Saints Catholic Church Parish Hall 347 Ridge Road Lansing NY
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To Contact a Fellow SWG Member:

- Use your Member Booklet
- Write to [SyracuseWeaversGuild@gmail.com](mailto:SyracuseWeaversGuild@gmail.com)



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## Book Review | Valerie Kaiser

### *WEFT Magazine*

While not technically a book, I feel compelled to offer a review of WEFT following the first three issues and share my experience of the magazine. The Summer 2025 issue featuring Plain Weave was timely given our guild challenge and to be honest, it is the issue I keep coming back to the most. I appreciate the deep-dive approach the magazine takes on a specific topic. I find this approach makes the magazine approachable to novice weavers while still offering new insights to more experienced weavers. You'll see articles written by familiar weavers whose books are likely on your shelves and up-and-coming weavers as well. The projects offered within a particular issue are built around the subject for that issue. One way I hope to challenge myself this year is to take on my first double-width, plain weave blanket inspired by the pattern and techniques explained by Felicia Lo in the Plain Weave issue.

The Fall 2025 issue on Warp is helping me to revisit my warping technique to see what I can do to make it feel more successful. WEFT is in our guild library and I recommend exploring it to see if there is a technique, project, or article that inspires you.



New member Chris Rudecoff explores a colorful plaid with a plain weave towel on her new rigid heddle loom.

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### Guild Challenge: Plain Weave – Not So Plain Joyce Lock

Now that we are through the holidays, it's time to get serious about this year's guild challenge – *Plain Weave, Not So Plain* since the Big Reveal is at the April meeting. To remind you: for this year's guild challenge, members will explore Plain Weave and the ways it can appear much more complex than "alternating one thread up, one thread down." Beyond color and texture effects, think basketweave, log cabin, shadow weave (debatable), rep weave, ikat, crammed and spaced warp and weft, pleating, differential shrinkage, weaving with energized yarns, inkle bands and more.

To motivate you in this challenge, a Zoom meeting will be held in January; look for an email invite.

## Syracuse Weavers Guild 2025-2026 Programs | Valerie Kaiser

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.

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## Refreshments | Sally Meyers

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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:

1/3/2026: Roberta Mou, Joyce Lock

2/7/2026: Linda Miller, Karen Smith

3/7/2026: Paulette Quinn, Nancy Gaus

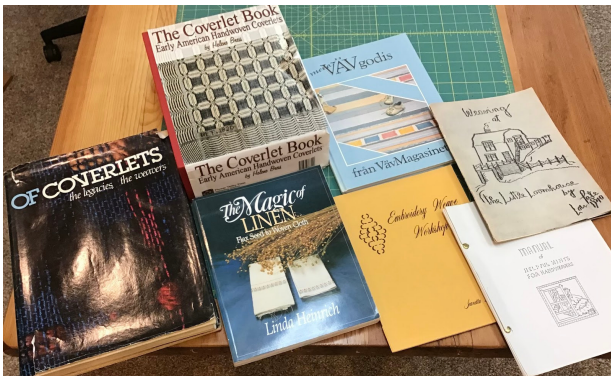
4/4/2026: Sue Szczotka, Sally Meyers

THANK YOU all for volunteering!!

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## Library | Donna Connery

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

Thanks to Elaine DuBois and Eileen Kloss for attending the Clara Rose Thomas memorial book giveaway offered by Roger Thomas and family to our guild members. They found some hard-to-find treasures to add to the library, as you can see in this photo. We greatly appreciate the Thomas family generosity.



Jayshri's warp of many, many towels!



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## Membership | Roberta Mou

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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](mailto: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?

\_\_\_\_\_



Bernd Krause created this wonderfully textured poncho with a variable dent read on a rigid heddle loom.



Sue Szczotka kicks these pin loom squares up another notch with a wonderfully thick fulled-wool bag.



Sue Szczotka wove this beautiful scarf with a twill pattern from Strickler's book.



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## Web Sites and Social Media

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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	Available	Joyce Lock	
Kyra 22" 4S table loom	Not available	Traveling Loom	
Peacock 12" 2S loom #1	Available	Joyce Lock	<a href="http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg">http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg</a>
Peacock 12" 2S loom #2	Available	Joyce Lock	<a href="http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg">http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg</a>
Peacock 12" 2S loom #3	Available	Nancy Smothergill	<a href="http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg">http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg</a>
Inkle looms	Available	Donna Connery	
Purrington Norris 14"12S table loom	Available	Joyce Lock	<a href="http://www.purringtonlooms.com/tablelooms.htm">http://www.purringtonlooms.com/tablelooms.htm</a>
LeClerc Dorothy Green Model 12" 8S table loom	Available	Joyce Lock	<a href="https://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/weave/leclerchistory.htm">https://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/weave/leclerchistory.htm</a> Scroll down to find table looms.
LeClerc Dorothy 15" 8S table loom	Available	Joyce Lock	<a href="http://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/pics/leclerc/ldor007.jpg">http://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/pics/leclerc/ldor007.jpg</a>
Schacht 25" rigid heddle loom	Not available	Paulette Quinn	<a href="https://schachtspindle.com/products/flip-rigid-heddle-looms">https://schachtspindle.com/products/flip-rigid-heddle-looms</a>

## 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