

# THRUMS

## President's Message

Dear Weavers,

It's an Olympic Year. The vision. The mental preparation. The training. The practicing. The skill. The pageantry. The big event. The meltdown. The analysis. Sound familiar? Let's try a sporting tribute to the Weaving Olympics 2026. How do you see these two worlds matching up?

Enjoy The Game(s), and Happy Weaving!  
Donna C.

WEAVING EVENT	WINTER OLYMPICS EVENT	THE CHOICES
	Biathlon	All you have to do is pair these weaving "events" with the Winter Olympic event that you think seems best suited. Maybe you have a better weave? Just use yours instead. Later we can see how our choices stack up on the podium!
	Big Air	
	Bobsleigh	
	Cross-country skiing	
	Curling	
	Downhill skiing	
	Figure skating	
	Freestyle skiing	
	Giant slalom	
	Half-pipe	
	Ice dancing	
	Ice hockey	
	Luge (feet first)	
	Moguls	
	Skeleton (head first)	
	Ski jumping	
	Ski mountaineering	
	Snowboarding	
	Speed skating	
	Team Relays	

- Double weave
- Fringe twisting
- Honeycomb
- Huck lace
- Krokbragd
- Leno
- Network twill
- Ondule
- Overshot
- Pick-up
- Plain weave
- Production weaving
- Rep weave
- Shadow weave
- Summer & winter
- Tablet weaving
- Twill gamp
- Warp painting
- Warp winding, threading, sleying & beaming
- Wet finishing

## 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.

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## Traveling Loom | Elaine DuBois

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The traveling loom has an Overshot Cubed Sampler on it and is making its rounds through the twelve members that signed up. Six members have already completed their samples so it's time to start thinking about what you would like the next project to be.

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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

(Elaine DuBois)

The Ada Dietz study group is putting the final touches on their second set of samples using the square of a polynomial. We will exchange the samples at the end of February.

### Small Bands

(Nancy Smothergill)

Once we can meet in person, the group will continue their study of tablet woven calligraphy.

### Rigid Heddle

(Valerie Kaiser)

We're continuing to meet over zoom to support each other's individual projects. Many members are interested in weaving towels.

### Helping Hands

(Donna Connery)

Our group is taking a winter hiatus for a few months. But things will ramp up again in March as we make a mad dash to finish our inventory of the handwoven collections in time for the Summer 2026 Grand Opening Reception of the new Arts Center.

### Tapestry

(Donna Movsovich)

The Tapestry Study Group meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 2:00-3:00 pm via Zoom from September to May. We are collaborating on a tapestry project for this 2025-26 year. Everyone is welcome to join us. We send out a zoom invitation every month to the whole guild.



Valerie's plain weave, double weave work in progress.

It is going to be a blanket.

## January Meeting Recap | Nancy Gaus

“Warp and Weft: A Conversation in Color” with Cameron Taylor Brown

How fortunate that we invited Cameron Taylor-Brown to join us from Los Angeles via Zoom for our January guild program! The weather was not suitable for driving and so we all joined the meeting from home in our fuzzy slippers and hot beverages!

Cameron’s depth of knowledge about color theory reflects her 40 years of experience in teaching, researching, experimenting and writing. She began her talk with a solid base of knowledge about color theory including a detailed discussion of six key color variables to consider when weaving: value, hue, intensity, fiber, scale and weave structure. Illustrating these variables with color wheels embellished with actual yarn samples and loads of samples made the concepts fall into place. She used principles from painting that have natural parallels to weaving such as optical mixing, where adjacent colors blend visually to make a new color, pointillism, which aptly describes the dots of color that appear in plain weave, and the technique of “broken color”, which is a good description of the streaks of color that appear from twill floats. She topped off her theory section with a description of several color harmonies that are useful when choosing colors for our textile designs.

Sampling is Cameron’s super power and she coached us on how to make the most of our stash with methodical experiments which vary one color variable while holding the others constant. Often it’s not until you rehearse the interaction of warp and weft colors and interlacements that you understand how the contrasts affect your final project. She considers sampling, as well as yarn wraps and needle weaving, an essential part of her projects and not just a burdensome precursor to the work being done. I am not a sampler, but I think I was convinced that sampling can be as enjoyable as the final weaving.

She gave us homework that we may do together at our next in-person meeting. We each grab several cones or skeins from our stash and together we make a giant color wheel where we can play with value, hue and intensity. For those of us with smaller stashes we can get a lot of pooling our resources. The exercise promises to ignite an interesting conversation on how we all perceive color.

We got even more out of the final Q&A where she gave us advice on problem projects that we offered for

critique. Her answers were thorough and very helpful with suggestions that could be easily applied. It locked in many of the concepts that she had covered. Putting it all together, I personally feel more confident about my approach to rehearsing colors, fibers and structures to make richer and more satisfying woven textiles.



Cameron Taylor Brown with her wide variety of yarn color wheels

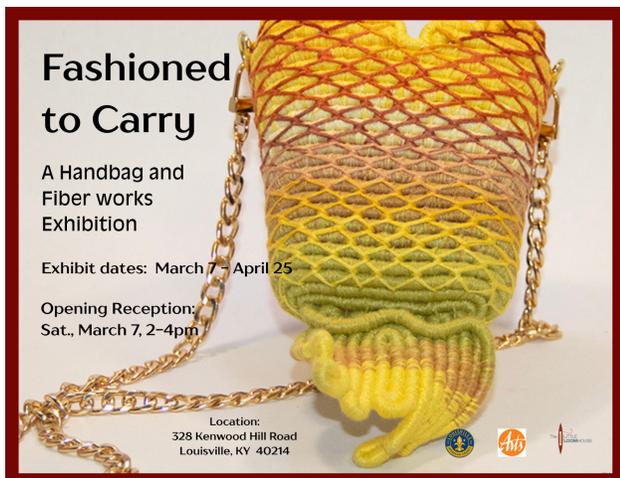
## February Meeting Recap | Elaine DuBois

For the second month in a row mother nature prevented us from gathering together for our regular program. Instead, we stayed safely in our homes and watched the documentary "The Nettle Dress". The movie was beautifully filmed, produced and edited by Dylan Howitt. It tells the deeply moving journey fiber artist Allan Brown took, spending 7 years learning how to and creating a woven garment from locally foraged stinging nettles. While the movie is ostensibly about the creation of a dress, from plant to final form, it intricately weaves the story of life. Allan suffered a terrible loss of his wife and used the process of creating to help him cope with his grief. The viewers are rewarded with stunning photography and a poignant story. The guild purchased the DVD so it will be available in the library to anyone who missed the program or would like to watch it again.



## Syracuse Weavers Making Waves | Donna Connery

Nancy Gaus is pleased to announce that her "Steppin' Up" bag, from our *Sew Much Fun* challenge has been selected to be in the Little Loomhouse *Fashion to Carry* exhibit in Louisville, Kentucky in March.



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## Upcoming Fiber Events

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Apr 18, 2026 10am-4pm	<a href="#">Fiber Frolic</a>	Beaver Lake Nature Center 8477 East Mud Lake Road Baldwinsville, NY
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## CNY Fiber Arts Festival | Joyce Lock, Sue Szczoka

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The [CNY Fiber Arts Festival](#) is June 6th and 7th, 2026 at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds in Frankfort, NY. The fairgrounds are east of Utica and easily accessible from the NYS Thruway. This fun, two-day festival has lots of vendors, workshops, fiber arts and sheep herding demonstrations along with a Youth Sheep Show.

### Weaving Demonstration Opportunity

This is a great opportunity for the guild to promote weaving and the guild itself. Fiber arts demonstrators will be housed in their own building with plenty of space. Demonstrators get a free entry pass to the festival along with the enjoyment of interacting with our fellow weavers and hopefully new weavers. You've got plenty of experience and love of the craft, please consider sharing it with the public!

### Viv Fulton Memorial Weaving Competition

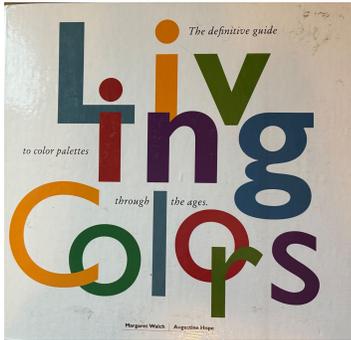
Attention all weavers! Here is a great chance to strut your stuff and maybe win a prize in the process! The annual Viv Fulton Memorial Weaving Competition is open to weavers of any experience level, both adults and teens. There are three categories - Home Decor, Wearables, and Novice. Cash prizes for first, second, and third places will be awarded in all categories in addition to the People's Choice award. 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!

Questions? Contact Joyce Lock or Sue Szczotka

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## Book Review | Donna Connery

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Title - *Living Colors: The definitive guide to color palettes through the ages.*  
Authors - Margaret Walch and Augustine Hope.  
Chronicle Books. San Francisco, CA. 1995.

*Living Colors* is a used bookstore find I made during one of those chance drop-ins. It got my attention as soon as I had to unfold it from two sides to expose its contents. In this manner, the reader is invited to explore art, history, and color chips all in one thoughtful array. Using the author's words to describe this book, it is ...*"a visual thesaurus of color, covering some of the most important palettes in Western history. It presents the designer, whether in the field of graphics, interiors, or fashion, with a source of inspiration and a succinct guide to the precise shades and tones that have characterized each palette."* To achieve this, the authors present 80 entries, organized into 10 chapters, which take the reader on a tour of color schemes that shifts back and forth in history and medium from ancient Egypt to American Pop, Victorian Decoratives to the Machine Age, and Heroes of the Renaissance to Fashion Theatrics. For each of 80 entries, they present a synopsis, a characteristic piece of art (which could be a painting, garment, decorative furnishing, functional item, etc.), and a paint chip palette that reflects the chosen element. But how does this help us as weavers?

Color is frequently called out as a stumbling block to weavers. So finding ways to learn color theory, practice it, and build confidence in our color choices makes the task more natural. This book provides a way to view art through the eyes of artists, using their cues to see our world as inspiration for color. One tool to analyze color schemes in art are online color generators that allow you to upload photos while it selects the palette of the piece for you. Using the information provided in *Living Color* allows the weaver to practice doing this on her own with guides shared in the book. If nothing else, *Living Color* gives us a trip through the ages to see how color palettes have changed with contemporary tastes, but what makes something appealing to the eye has not strayed far.

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## Guild Challenge | Joyce Lock

### Plain Weave - Not So Plain

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This year's guild challenge is "Plain Weave - Not So Plain". The "Big Reveal" in April will be here sooner than you think. Guild members met in January via Zoom to discuss where they are on the challenge. Still pondering what to weave? Take a look at these slides for ideas and motivation:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cqBzDDTKTD1Rg-LAYsKAP1jart-y3CGo/view?usp=sharing>



A point twill currently on Lauren's Macomber, from handweaving .net #79668. Painted cotton and tencel warp. 8/2 bamboo weft, 1st color is lilac to blend to warp, 2nd color is wine for more contrast.

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## Library | Donna Connery

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

I am in my happy place when weaving or rambling around an old books store or library. This makes my role as guild librarian extra special to me. I just started a deep dive into our collections and am really enjoying mornings with a cup of coffee and a *Weaver's* magazine. If you would like the chance to do that and are wondering what weaving publications are available, here's what we have in the SWG library:

- Handweaver & Craftsman (1950-72),
- The Weaver's Journal (1976-84),
- Prairie Wool Companion (1978-88),
- *Handwoven* (1980-present),
- *Weaver's* (1988-99),
- Shuttle Spindle, Dyepot (2004-present), and
- *Weft* (2025-present).



With everything old being new again, it's so much fun to look back on the clothing and hairstyles in vogue at the time. But, and here's the key part, these older magazines each have their own character, style, and target audience so the way weaving is presented is different from today's trade magazines. Having a specific structure explained in a little different way sometimes makes all the difference in "getting it." Like, I just had a eureka moment about handling thick 'n thin yarns.

Besides the weaving information, it is really cool to read articles written decades ago by today's well-known authors like Peter Collingswood (*The Techniques of Rug Weaving*), Jennifer Moore (*Doubleweave*) and Doramay Keasby (*Sheer Delight: Handwoven Transparencies*), when they were just developing their ideas.

Why am I saying this? Our library collections are a tremendous asset to our members. These magazines, plus hundreds of books, are yours to borrow by sending a quick email to me, the guild librarian. I urge everyone to get familiar with our LibraryThing catalog which you can link to from our website and take advantage of these shared resources as often as you can. If you aren't sure about what you're looking for, or if the resource is right, I'm happy to work with you on it so just reach out.

To Contact a Fellow SWG Member:

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

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

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**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.

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

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 Plainweave to this always amazing show and tell!

Facilitator: Donna Connery

5/2

### Annual Luncheon and Towel Exchange

Please join us for our final gathering of the year.

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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.

#### Volunteers:

- Clean up the food area.
- If you notice that items are needed in the supply baskets, let Sally know.

3/7/2026: Paulette Quinn, Nancy Gaus

4/4/2026: Sue Szczotka, Sally Meyers

THANK YOU all for volunteering!!

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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. 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? \_\_\_\_\_



"Harness, Yellow Large", 2010, by Norwegian artist Kari Dyrdal b. 1952, shared by Karen, from her travels. It is large - note the sign next to the work. Dyrdal's work is described as "monumental."

Website: [karidyrdal.no](http://karidyrdal.no). There is a short video of her highly mechanized loom.

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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:

<https://syracuseweaversguild.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/swg-resources-for-weavers.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.

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.

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## Committees

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### Booklets

Nancy Smothergill

### Communications

Meg Welch

### Equipment Coordinator

Joyce Lock

### Library

Donna Connery

### Meeting Space Liaison

Lois Koenig

### Meeting Tech Support

Nancy Gaus

### Membership

Roberta Mou

### Newsletter

Susan Mehringer

### Program

Valerie Kaiser

### Refreshments

Sally Meyers

### Sample Book Curator

Eileen Kloss

### Social Media

Valerie Kaiser

### Special Projects

Elaine DuBois

### Website Administrator

Joyce Lock



February's show-and-tell for Donna C was this pinwheel twill dish towel woven using the Thousand Islands tartan colors. The set is destined for the 2026 grand opening of the new TIAC Handweaving Museum.



Nancy G's table runner made from the traveling loom sample, "Overshot 2-Cubed Sampler". The warp is 10/2 cotton and the weft is 10/2 cotton and Harrisville Shetland thrums. Minimal color play in an overshot pattern.

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## SWG Constitution and By-Laws Proposed Changes | Committee Report

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In order to clarify officer and committee roles, the committee proposes the following changes. Some are minor edits, some reflect the current way things are done with the use of technology. Per the Constitution, changes are first published in *Thrums*, read at the next guild meeting (March) and then voted on at the following meeting (April). Contact Joyce Lock if you'd view the red-lined document in its entirety.

### SYRACUSE WEAVERS GUILD

#### CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS REVISED JANUARY 2022-APRIL 2026

#### Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be ~~the~~ The Syracuse Weavers Guild.

#### Article III. Membership

The membership of the Guild shall be open to all people who have an ~~an~~ sincere interest in weaving.

Members may invite guests to meetings and free workshops during the year. Guests are welcome at fee workshops and events with members having first choice.

#### Article III. Duties of the Officers

The Second Vice-President will ~~arrange for and keep track of~~ monitor and assist all study groups, ~~be in charge of~~ For workshops, exhibits and special projects that are held separately from the regular Saturday meetings, ~~the Second Vice-President~~ will forming a committee as needed, ~~and The Second Vice-President~~ will be a member of the Program Committee.

#### Article VI. Standing Assignments and Committees

The President will appoint the chairs and coordinators unless the committee is the responsibility of an elected Guild officer. Each chairperson and/or coordinator has the option of creating a committee of members as is determined necessary or beneficial. Additional committees or coordinator roles may be created as needed, with membership approval, to support guild functions.

~~The Special Project Committee will consist of the Second Vice-President, who will serve as Chairperson, and additional members as needed. The Special Projects Committee may plan workshops, study groups and special projects, including exhibits, for the upcoming year and/or during the year as the need arises. The committee will make arrangements, including locations, for the activities.~~

The Thrums Editor will have the responsibility of coordinating the publication and distribution of *Thrums*. It will contain news of the Guild, program information and any other material appropriate and of interest to the membership as a whole. *Thrums* will be published every other month beginning with the August issue for the September meeting. ~~The August issue will be sent to current and lapsed members from the previous year.~~ The Editor will give a copy of the year's *Thrums* to the Librarian to be stored.

The Membership Coordinator will collect dues and forward them to the Treasurer, keep an accurate record of members' standings and provide a lists to the ~~Thrums Editor and~~ Booklet Coordinator.

## Syracuse Weavers Guild

The Publicity Coordinators Outreach Committee will publicize activities and exhibits of the Guild and encourage new membership through electronic, print and social media. ~~along with fiber demonstrations at community events. The webmaster will be chair of this committee.~~

The Technology Coordinators will support the electronic needs of monthly programs along with managing the digital resources of the guild.

### SWG Looms and Equipment 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 #1 table loom	Available	Joyce Lock	
Kyra 22" 4S #2 table loom	Not available	Traveling Loom	
Kyra 22" 4S #3 table loom	Available	Joyce Lock	
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-loom">https://schachtspindle.com/products/flip-rigid-heddle-loom</a>
Wavy Stick (aka Shuttle)	Available	Donna Connery	<a href="https://www.ashford.co.nz/product/wavy-shuttles/">https://www.ashford.co.nz/product/wavy-shuttles/</a>
Bobbin Winder	Available	Joyce Lock	Hand crank, sturdy metal, Swedish