# THRUMS

## President's Message | Sue Szczotka

We all have a home - some are large, some are tiny, some are simple, and some are grandiose. Having a comfortable place to call home is important for security, peace of mind and family, but sometimes we forget how important it is to have a place just for you, which for many of us, means a place to weave. Your space need not be large or fancy, but it needs to be a place you can retreat to and have everything you need in one place. Often, this is not an easy thing. When I first learned to do stained glass, I would cart all of my stuff out to the dining room table, work for a few hours and then put everything away. I was able to get some work done that way, but I did much better when I took over the spare bedroom with work benches and glass storage.

Many people don't have the luxury of a spare room, heated garage or cozy attic but even a nook in a corner of the dining room can become a weaving haven. Make sure that everything that you need is close by and don't let your loom become a place to hang coats or dry socks! Think about making your space as comfortable as possible with good lighting and efficient storage. I often find myself viewing all kinds of studios and work spaces for sewing, wood working or even cooking, looking for innovative ways to use space.

If you have some clever ideas that you use to make your weaving space your very own, I am sure that other guild members would love to see them. Consider submitting photos to Thrums or bringing your ideas to Show and Tell to help everyone achieve their own little bit of weaving heaven!

## Guild Officers 2026-2028

**President**
Sue Szczotka

**1st Vice President**
Valerie Kaiser

**2nd Vice President**
Paulette Quinn

**Secretary**
Emily Lennox

**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.



Find weaving everywhere!

## SWG Study Groups and Special Projects | Paulette Quinn

Study groups are small groups of members that share a common weaving interest. Participants gather either in person or via Zoom at times and intervals that the group decides *on* outside of regular guild meetings. For more information contact the group leader listed for your particular group of interest**.** Should there be another topic in which you would like to make a deep dive with other interested parties, let Paulette know and we will see about arranging a new group.

### Small Bands

### (Nancy Smothergill)

The small bands group will be focusing on the Baltic Pick-Up technique for band weaving to start off the year. For the past couple years we have focused on Tablet Weaving, but are thinking it would be good to explore another way of weaving narrow bands. Anyone is welcome to join us. We meet following the regular guild business meeting, staying in the lounge at the church. If you would like more information about what Baltic pick-up entails, email Nancy Smothergill.

### Tapestry

### (Donna Movsovich)

This study group meets monthly via Zoom every fourth Tuesday at 2:00-3:00 pm. We discuss the art of weaving tapestry. Everyone is welcome to come, whether it is for one session or as a regular.

### Rigid Heddle

### (Chris Rudecoff)

The rigid heddle study group met on September 21st with the objective to determine our way forward for the upcoming year. Valerie Kaiser, the founding leader of our group which began to meet in March 2025, has stepped down from her leadership role. Many thanks to Valerie for starting up this special interest group. Chris Rudecoff is taking on the group leader role. Our goals are to increase our membership, to develop a schedule of meeting topics, and to explore the possibility of adding a rigid heddle loom to the Traveling Loom program. We also changed our meeting day (on Zoom at 6:30 pm) from the third Monday of the month to the third Tuesday. We welcome all guild members to join us; our members are all relatively new to the world of weaving and we are eager to learn from our accomplished guild members.

### Ada Dietz

### (Chris Haefner)

The Ada Dietz Study Group visited TIAC to see the Ada Dietz samples woven by the Cross Country Weavers. The new museum building is amazing as are the displays. After seeing all the fantastic woven samples, our study group decided to have each member design a project. We will get together by Zoom in November to discuss what each of us has chosen to do.

Anyone wanting to make a project using the Ada Dietz algebraic method is welcome to join us.

### TIAC Helping Hands

### (Donna Connery)

The textile collection moved to the new art center in September so our deep dive into the handwoven textiles inventory is officially underway in the new space. Part of the fun now is to select special pieces the museum can use as postcards in the gift shop. Here is a sneak peak at the first one we suggested, a colorful summer & winter piece.



## New Member Introduction | Jules Heller



Hello, weavers! I'm Jules, I live in Utica, I use they/them pronouns, and I'm so happy to have joined this group. I've been a crafter since childhood, but especially since getting into historical-ish reenactment in college. I sew, I embroider, I spin, I weave, I do leatherworking, I quilt, I draw, and depending on the day I either feel like a reasonably competent creative artist with skills and resources to share, or like a total beginner who knows nothing about anything! Lately I've been getting braver adding pickup sticks and more complicated patterning to my rigid heddle and small-band weaving. I'm planning to get the extension to turn my 15" Schacht Cricket into a 4-shaft loom so I can properly fall down the treadling-pattern rabbit hole. Looking forward to getting to know everyone!

## Traveling Loom | Paulette Quinn

The traveling loom offers the opportunity to explore a new structure or technique on a pre-warped guild loom. For a nominal fee to cover supplies, you will get complete instructions with the loom that gets passed around to interested guild members. The current overshot project has only one more weaver to go so we'll soon be deciding on what technique or structure to experience next.

## Upcoming Fiber Events

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| November 7-8 | New England Fiber Festival | West Springfield, MA |
| November 21-22 | PA Fall Fiber Arts Festival | Leesport, PA |

## Committees

**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**
Paulette Quinn

**Website Administrator**
Joyce Lock

## Members Weaving Interests and Looms | Joyce Lock

In the Websites and Social Media section of the newsletter is a paragraph about the "Members Weaving Interests and Looms" file. This resource in the SWG Google Drive lists members' weaving interests and the looms. Have a question about a weave structure or loom? Take a look to see who might have an answer. Want to be a mentor to others? Add your interest and the looms you own to the list. Available to members only, contact Joyce for the link to the file.

## SWG Mystery Nature Challenge | Nancy Gaus

Excitement was in the air as we met in September to contemplate our upcoming guild challenge for the year. Nature is a never ending source of inspiration for weavers and this year nature came to us in the form of mystery bags with nature inside. The Challenge Committee, which included Sue Szczotka, Karen Smith, Valerie Kaiser, Paulette Quinn and Nancy Gaus, presented us with a grab basket of nature bundles. Each mystery bag contained a nature photo taken at the nearby Baltimore Woods Nature Center in Marcellus and a small object or two from the local woods (bark, flowers, features, etc.). As we opened our bags the wheels in our heads started spinning with possibilities.

For the challenge, we use the contents of the bag as inspiration, whether it's color, shape, texture or mood. What will we be inspired to create? But wait! There's more! Karen Smith presented us with a special opportunity. After the challenge reveal in April of 2027, we will gather our creations for an exhibit to be displayed at the Baltimore Woods Nature Gallery in the fall. We will not only be able to submit a piece or two from the Challenge, but we can add other nature-themed weavings and anyone who wants to sell a small selection of additional items can do so at the opening. There will be more information on this in the spring.




If you want to participate but weren't at the September meeting, let Paulette know and she will prepare a mystery bag for you! We have a video recording of the challenge presentation in our video library to get you caught up. Ask Nancy G. for details.

To Contact a Fellow SWG Member:

- Use your Member Booklet
- Email SyracuseWeaversGuild@gmail.com

## September Meeting Recap | Chris Rudecof

Twice Woven - Making Chenille and Using It presented by Sue Szczotka

Guild president, Sue Szczotka launched our 2026/2027 season with a presentation on making and weaving with chenille, the soft, fuzzy, fiber that aptly takes its name from the French word for caterpillar. The article "Weaving a Twice Woven Rug" by Catherine Marchant in the Summer 2024 issue of *Handwoven* was the springboard for Sue's exploration of chenille-making and weaving. Chenille has a twisted core, usually a fine, strong fiber, that serves as the warp and soft, fuzzy strands, bundled together to form the weft. Making chenille is a great way to use lingering thrums or for thinning out stash accumulated from past projects. Any fiber content or diameter of yarn, of any length, can be combined to make the weft bundles, opening up the potential to explore a wide variety of color and texture possibilities.

Sue wove two chenille projects; her experiences from the first project, a small rug, helped to inform and refine her approaches on the second project which aimed for a pelt effect. In the rug project, Sue made up weft bundles of similar widths from strands of different fibers, thicknesses, and lengths. Ultimately she found that managing all the loose ends in the bundles created by this approach was a bit of nuisance to work with. In the pelt project she made smaller bundles from silkier fibers pulled off cones which sped up the bundle making process. The second chenille fabric was easier to work with, especially in the step where the fabric is cut between the warp strands to create the chenille strips. Cutting the strips for the rug project was especially challenging, requiring heavy duty shears and lots of muscle while her rotary cutter was able to slice through the bundles of finer fibers she used for the pelt project.



Rug project cutting the chenille fabric



Rug project chenille fabric coming off the loom

The second stage of both projects was to use the chenille strips as weft for plain weaving. The rug chenille wove up into a much smaller piece than Sue anticipated. The piece is also quite heavy for its size and not very flexible; it may more likely serve as a chair pad. Lack of flexibility is also a characteristic of the second project, but Sue achieved her overall goal of getting a pelt effect with her fiber and color choices. In hindsight, Sue wonders if twisting the chenille weft as she wove may have resulted in a more uniform surface. Nonetheless, both pieces have that luxurious, cushy feel with dazzling, pointillist-like coloring. Sue's presentation was a good reminder of how to use leftover yarn to explore novel weaving techniques and produce satisfying results.



Chenille Pelt



Chenille Rug

## October Meeting Recap | Elaine DuBois

The October guild program was a trip to the Thousand Islands Art Center. Nine guild members attended. The drive north went quickly with lively conversations, sunshine and a gorgeous show of fall colors.

We were greeted by Harriet Burris, an extraordinary fiber artist and long-time supporter of TIAC, including nine years on the Board of Trustees. Harriet led a tour of the new 13,000 square foot facility at 321 James Street, Clayton, NY.

We explored the spacious gallery featuring the current pottery exhibit "Thrown Together" and the Sonja Wahl Weaving Gallery. Members of our Helping Hands study group played a huge part in choosing pieces and getting them displayed in time for the grand opening. It looked magnificent.

The new building contains three generously sized teaching classrooms and bright office spaces. A beautiful weaving studio on the third floor has breathtaking views of the St. Lawrence River. An elevator makes the four floors accessible to all.

But what we really wanted to see was the library and collections!

The library houses over 2,250 titles. While it is a non-lending library, researchers have full access with prearranged appointments. The collections contain over 20,000 textiles primarily focused on 20th century American hand wovens. The major collections include works by nationally and internationally recognized weavers such as Berta Frey, Lucille Landis, Mary Meigs Atwater, Mary Snyder, Myra Young, Theo Moorman, Ruth Holroyd, Klara Cherepov, and Nell Znamierowski.

We looked at some of Marjorie Ruth Ross' "500 Treadlings" which are extensive threading and treadling gamp samplers that are meticulously documented. We also viewed Berta Frey's Skyline, designed as drapery material for Manhattan apartments. We peaked into some original samples from Marguerite Porter Davison's 1950 "green book". While the book was printed in black and white, the samples were in full color of blues, greens, and rusty reds on a natural warp. We looked at color studies done by Mary Snyder and Lucille Landis. A box that peaked Eileen and Nancy's interest was full of bands, woven with various fibers and methods.

After our tour we walked down the street to lunch at The Kove and some strolled the shops and took in the views of the river and islands. We returned to Syracuse full of ideas on how we can use the museum and art center to further our weaving journeys.



Berta Frey Skyline





Nancy Smothergill found an old warp from 1976 in her attic and wove it up!



Donna Connery wove 250th commemorative towels (S&W polychrome) for this year's contribution to her annual towel tradition.



Jules wove this Baltic pickup band from cotton and bamboo fiber to trim a garment.




Guild Field Trip to TIAA

# Syracuse Weavers Guild 2026-2027 Programs | Valerie Kaiser

**Location:** All Programs are held at 10:00 AM at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Community Room, 7248 Highbridge Road, Fayetteville, NY 13066 with the exception of the field trip and the May luncheon.

11/7

## Weaving with Linen

Presenter: Rebecca Lennox

Facilitator: Nancy Smothergill

Learn the ins and outs of weaving with linen and see and feel samples of multiple weave structures and thicknesses. You will gain insight and confidence into weaving with this durable and ancient fiber. Hints for ease of dressing your loom and weaving with linen will be discussed. Multiple samples of different linen yarns as well as woven pieces will be available for examination.

12/5

## Reaching for the Stars

Presenters: Paulette Quinn and Nancy Smothergill

While spinning straw into gold is pure fiction, that paper can be bent, folded and woven into a three-dimensional star is no fairy tale. Using strips of paper, we'll be creating a constellation of enchanting stars in this hands-on program. Bring scissors and nimble fingers. An assortment of paper strips will be provided.

1/2

## Throw in the Towel

Presenter: Gail Pilgrim

Facilitator: Nancy Gaus

What makes a great kitchen towel? Towels are one of the most common and versatile of handwoven projects, great for sampling new ideas and for gifting. Gail Pilgrim will present everything you ever wanted to know about weaving towels -- tips, techniques and inspiration. She'll cover fiber choices, absorbency factors, weave structures, design, finishing and more! Even if you are a pro there is bound to be something new to learn. Find out what takes your towels from ordinary to a work of art. Gail will present over Zoom. Weather permitting, guild members will gather and view this program at the church.

2/6

## Textile Travels

Presenters: Donna Connery, Joyce Lock, and Judy Fox

Facilitator: Donna Connery

Have you ever wondered what it's like to travel with a small group of weavers and spinners to countries rich in fiber craftsmanship? Join Joyce, Donna, and Judy as they share their recent experiences with Loom Dancer Odysseys and Wild Fibers, exploring the contemporary and historic fiber traditions of Iceland, Morocco, and Scotland. No passport required!

3/6

## Stash Busting and Wabi Sabi Weaving

Presenters: Nancy Gaus and Valerie Kaiser

Join Nancy Gaus and Valerie Kaiser as they share their exploration of Wabi Sabi weaving techniques guided by The Rogue Weaver . Leave inspired to let go of convention and discover the textures, yarn weights, colors, and fiber content in your stash to create unique cloth, scarves, or wraps. The discussion will involve lessons applied and learned, what to expect, and tips and tricks learned along the way on both multi-shaft and rigid heddle looms. Samples will be shared in the hope you might come away with ideas to both stash-bust and meet this year's challenge.

4/3

## Guild Challenge Reveal

Facilitator: Valerie Kaiser

Join us in showcasing your results in interpreting both a photograph and a physical object from nature to create a woven treasure! Explain your thought process and techniques used to weave your piece along with triumphs and pitfalls encountered along the way. Not yet finished? Just bring your in-process piece or send in a photo.

5/1

## Annual Luncheon and Towel Exchange

Please join us for our final gathering of the year.

## 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, via PayPal, or at the May meeting.

*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?_____

## 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.

THANK YOU to all volunteers !!

11/7/2026: Chris Rudecoff
11/7/2026: Paulette Quinn

12/5/2026: Karen J. Smith
12/5/2026: Valerie Kaiser

1/2/2027: Nancy Gaus
1/2/2027: Joyce Lock

2/6/2027: Elaine DuBois
2/6/2027: Jackie Bosket

3/6/2027: Eileen Kloss
3/6/2027: Meg Welch

4/3/2027: Sue Szczotka
4/3/2027: Sally Meyers

# 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.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.

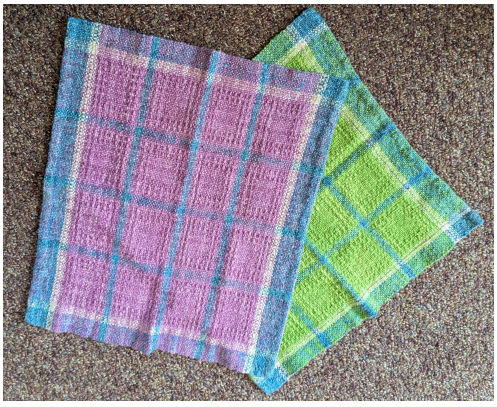
Members Weaving Interests and Looms - Joyce Lock - Link to file is available by request.

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.

## 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 | Not available | Emily Lennox | |
| 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 | Joyce Lock | 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 | Available | Joyce Lock | https://schachtspindle.com/products/flip-rigid-heddle-looms |
| Wavy Stick (aka Shuttle) | Available | Donna Connery | https://www.ashford.co.nz/product/wavy-shuttles/ |
| Bobbin Winder | Available | Joyce Lock | Hand crank, sturdy metal, Swedish |



These colorful napkins, woven by Chris Rudecoff from pima cotton and cupro, are based on a 3/1 closed lace pattern from the Spring issue of Little Looms.



Sue Szczotka continues her adventures in fulling with this beautiful color and weave sample woven from pumpkin-colored Harrisville Shetland, just in time for fall!

To donate, go to
https://eglfc.org/support-us/

# Feeling Grateful? Become a Fiber Angel.

What a gem of a regional fiber conference! EGLFC 2027 is lining up to be a fabulous weekend. We can't wait to experience the newly renovated venue at Chautauqua. And we're thankful for program planners who've outdone themselves. We want as many to attend as possible. Donations from folks like you, our fiber angels, help keep this amazing conference affordable by directly reducing participant fees. Has someone inspired you? Mention their name when making the donation. We'll circle back and collect a photo and details to share broadly at the conference. Anonymous donations are always welcome. Generosity, inspiration and life-long learning are all part of the celebration of the fiber arts at EGLFC.



Elaine DuBois woven these cotton towels for the gift store at Thousand Islands Art Center based on the Thousand Islands tartan.



Jules's lovely and soft merino wool scarf with an unusual fringe treatment.



This tablet-woven dog leash, created by Donna Connery, is for the gift shop at Thousand Islands Art Center and is one of the first projects she made as part of the new Helping Hands Study Group.



Donna Connery took the opportunity to rehearse some lighter colors for a wedding shawl on the overshot traveling loom.