



# Thrums

Jan/Feb 2017

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## Newsletter of the Syracuse Weavers Guild

### President's Message

Dear SWG Member,

It was great to see so many people at the Dec. program. We have a lot going on and a lot of enthusiasm which is wonderful to see.

There's a lot of weaving information available online and it can be overwhelming. One thing I recommend to both experienced weavers and beginners is to read the "Ask Madelyn" articles that appear at the bottom of Interweave's "Weaving Today" newsletters. They are written by Madelyn Van der Hoogt, the well-known weaving teacher and author, and she answers questions submitted by weavers.

The one I read today explains yarn counts and what they mean, why they are not always consistent, and it offers useful links to more information. The one before today's was about what to do if you forget to tie the cross on a warp. Even when I think I know the answer to the question submitted, it's fun to confirm my knowledge and read a clear explanation.

Elyse



*A Tribute to Mayan Hands : the Syracuse Weavers Guild contribution to The Everson Museum of Art Festival of Trees*

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### Braids 2016

by Nancy Smothergill

This past July I attended Braids 2016 in Tacoma, WA. Braids 2016 was the 3rd international conference of The Braid Society, a UK based group focused on narrow off-loom techniques. The Braid Society originally concentrated on braiding and kumihimo but organizers of the 2016 conference, Robyn Spady and Giovanna Imperia made a push to include other small bands such as tablet weaving, inkle, Baltic pickup and backstrap band weaving. Since my interest is tablet weaving, I jumped at the chance to take in not only the

tablet weaving instruction, but the opportunity to meet and interact with the well known tablet weavers I have only read about.

I took two 2-day tablet weaving workshops, Linda Malan's class on the Vacant Hole Technique and Kris Leet's class on historical tablet weaving techniques. Both classes were intense, with each participant working on setting up their own tablet weaving warp and learning not only the various techniques but also how to draft our own designs. *(cont. on page 5)*

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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 and encourage all persons interested in weaving.*

## **Guild Officers 2016 - 2017**

<b>President</b>	Elyse Meltz	478-1592
<b>1st Vice President</b>	Sue Szczotka	607-748-9658
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	Judy Fox	685-1330
<b>Secretary</b>	Cynthia Pendergast	339-0785
<b>Treasurer</b>	Donna Johnson-Brown	696-6041

## **Committees**

<b>Booklets:</b>	Nancy Smothergill	474-4508
<b>Calling Committee</b>	Carolyn Wolfson	449-1707
	Meg Welch	638-4230
<b>Membership</b>	Donna Connery	607-657-2681
<b>Refreshments Coordinator</b>	Lois Koenig	627-0451
<b>Program</b>	Sue Szczotka	607-748-9658
<b>Webmaster</b>	Joyce Lock	446-8655
<b>Special Projects</b>	Judy Fox	685-1330
<b>Library</b>	Elyse Meltz	478-1592
<b>Thrums Newsletter</b>	Karen Smith	427-8179

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## **Thrums**

**Thrums** is also available by snail mail. It is generally printed in black and white. If you would like a color copy, the cost is \$15 for the five issues or \$3 per issue, payable to me.

Our next due date is February 10 for our March/April issue. Suggestions for future **Thrums** are welcome. Please send your written contributions in the text of your email to me:

[123kjsmith@gmail.com](mailto:123kjsmith@gmail.com) *No PDF's please!*

*Karen Smith*

*39 Reed Street Marcellus, NY 13108*

## **Traveling Loom**

### **Please Phone Home!**

Traveling looms are guild looms with small projects on them so that you can try techniques you are not familiar with or just want to experiment with. We welcome suggestions for future projects.

If you have one of the traveling looms, please call or send an email with its current location and an update on its next journey. Each time the loom moves, please let me know.

We should have another loom ready to travel in January. This will be a sampler using Theo Moorman techniques. I will have signups at the January meeting or send me an email. More details to come.

*Judy*

## **Study Groups**

The small bands group is steady and strong. They meet after the guild meeting on the first Saturday of the month. New participants are always welcome.

A rigid heddle group will be forming after the first of the year. Elyse will be coordinating the group's first meeting. I already have some names and welcome more.

We welcome ideas for study groups. Groups are self-directed and designed to further an understanding and skills of the topic under study.

*Judy Fox*

[jafoxmsw@aol.com](mailto:jafoxmsw@aol.com)

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## **Guild Challenge**

At the October meeting, the guild challenge for the 2016-2017 year was presented and enjoyed a very enthusiastic response from the members present. Given a random set of criteria for color, weave and fiber, you will decide what you would like to make! If you would still like to participate in the guild challenge, please email me ([suezotka@verizon.net](mailto:suezotka@verizon.net)) to make arrangements.

*Sue Szczotka*

## Program

January 7

### **“Creative Weaving: Lace, Color and Fringe Techniques for the Rigid Heddle Loom”**

Facilitator: Elyse Meltz

Watch a DVD and learn four fun and creative weaving techniques with Sarah Bixler (daughter of Tom Knisely) including fringe, leno lace, Brook’s Bouquet and clasped weft. Although a rigid heddle loom is used in this DVD, the techniques can be done on a floor or table loom.

February 4

### **Exploring Rep Weave**

Presenters:

Nancy Smothergill and Joyce Lock

Rep weave is a warp-faced weave achieved by alternating thick and thin picks of weft. Also known as “ripsmatta”, a Swedish term, this weave is often used for rugs and placemats or table runners because of the ribs. Nancy and Joyce will discuss the set up of the warp and how to achieve this thick and thin look, including how to weave with a closely sett warp. Rep weave is designed in blocks, so the program will include a discussion and examples of profile drafting. This weave structure is a wonderful way to play with color and design blocks.



March.4

### **Weaving Travels**

Presenters:

Gretchen Wheelock and Eleanor Hartquist

Facilitator: Nancy Smothergill

Travel to a remote place and culture can be a glorious adventure in and of itself. But travel with a specific focus on textile traditions and hands-on practice of weaving in those traditions can teach us much about the significance of textiles within a given culture. Eleanor Hartquist and Gretchen Wheelock will share their experiences of three distinct traditions in recent travels to weaving communities in the Andes mountains of Peru, in Teotitlan near Oaxaca, Mexico, and to Navajo lands of the Canyon de Chelly in Arizona. With images and examples of actual weavings representative of each, they will take us on a weaving odyssey that visits the traditions of back-strap weaving, “walking-loom” Zapotec rug weaving, and tapestry-style Navajo rug weaving in these three related, but distinct weaving cultures.

April 1

### **Presentation of Guild Challenge**

Bring your unique weaving masterpiece spawned by the varied guidelines of this year’s guild challenge. We will have a show-and-tell where you can explain your inspiration and educate us on your methods of interpretation of the challenge. Be prepared to be amazed by the creative abilities of your fellow guild members!

May 6

### **Annual Pot Luck Luncheon and Towel Exchange**

Join your fellow guild members at 12 noon for a meeting that is always an enjoyable social event, a scrumptious meal and the final business meeting of the year. Everyone will also enjoy seeing the efforts of ambitious members who will be exchanging towels

## Hostesses

Jan: Cynthia Pendergrast; Judy Fox

Feb: Linda Miller, Nancy Smothergill

March: Joyce Lock; Laureen Whitney

April: Sue Szozotka, Sally Myers

Subs: S.Gordon; S. Kaplan; J. Brickner

### Hostess duties:

- Know your day!!!
- Arrange for someone to take your place if you can't make it.
- Communicate with your partner hostess.
- Provide dessert.
- Arrive early to prepare the table and hot water for drinks.
- Clean up!

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## SWG Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships are for one year (May to May)

Regular dues: \$30

Senior dues: \$25

Make checks payable to:

***Syracuse Weavers' Guild.***

Mail to: Donna Connery  
172 Jewett Hill Rd  
Berkshire, NY 13736

## New Member

### Sharon Costie

I have lived in Central New York all of my life. Actually Canastota. I was even born in the Canastota hospital. I currently live at Oneida Lake, but still a Canastota address. I am married, have two adult children and seven grandchildren. Our Rat Terrier Maggie May completes our family.

I am retired and loving it. I raised and showed horses for over 40 years, but I no longer have any horses. I have admired weaving for some time, but tried my hand at spinning first. I enjoyed it but knew it would never be a passion for me.

I met Barbara Decker at a Foothills Guild meeting and asked her about weaving lessons. When she had an opening, I signed up, and have been weaving since March of this year. I take weekly classes from Barbara in Clinton and am on my third project which is a scarf in Huck weave. The fiber is tencel, which actually is the only fiber I have used up to this point. I look forward to using a large variety of fibers as time goes on. At Barbara's I use a Harrisville 4 shaft loom and when Joyce from the Syracuse Weavers Guild advertised her Harrisville for sale, I purchased it. Once I start using that loom, I can have two projects going at once!!

I have sewn garments and have done tailoring for as long as I can remember. I enjoy taking the train to NYC to purchase fabric and check out the current fashions. I have been knitting for 50 years and have enjoyed basket weaving for the last four years. I am also an avid reader. My husband and I enjoy our Corvettes, and attending car cruises and car events.

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## Halcyon Yarn Guild Rewards

Don't forget!

If you are placing an order with Halcyon Yarn, please mention that you are a member of the Syracuse Weavers Guild. In January the guild will get an annual check for 5% of total member sales.

If you have questions about the program, contact Joyce Lock joycelock3@gmail.com

## Braids 2016

(cont. from page 1) The Vacant Hole Technique is derived from three ancient tablet woven bands from sites in Iceland and involves using only three threads per card instead of the usual four. The space left by the vacant hole creates a texture in the pattern which highlights the pattern thread among the background.



*Vacant hole tablet weaving by Linda Malan*

Kris Leet is interested in reenactment of medieval times, so her class focused on extremely old tablet weaving techniques dating as far back as the Bronze Age. Weavers from way back when were extremely talented and creative but until recently their art was buried. It was a delight to be so immersed in this ancient form of weaving and talking the same esoteric vocabulary as others in the class.



*Stitched bands bag by Kris Leet*

Each of the 5 days of the conference began and ended with a lecture for the whole group. Topics

ranged from Peruvian finger weaving to hair braiding in Denmark, kumihimo with composite carbon fiber materials, sprang, bobbin lace and more. Each of the instructors and speakers at the conference had amazing pieces for display in the instructor's exhibit.



*Warp rep bag by Rosalie Nielson*

Finally, what made this conference so special for me was how international it was and that I knew only one person beforehand. Attendees were from all over the world and it was so interesting to get all these different perspectives on working with fibers. At each meal in the cafeteria I made a point of sitting with different people, learning their fiber interests and bits and pieces about their lives and country. The tablet weaver from South Africa mentioned that it is very difficult to get weaving yarns. One very thoughtful woman from Liverpool England explained why she voted for Brexit. A well know British Kumihimo artist discussed with me and a woman from Japan how she views each of her works, not as a product but as a prayer. Later, in a lecture on machine-created kumihimo I-beams, the Japanese woman turned to me and said "not a prayer". I feel very fortunate to have walked the same campus and shared the same dormitory with so many talented fiber artists.



## *Thrums*

Karen Jean Smith  
39 Reed Street  
Marcellus, NY 13108

## *Syracuse Weavers Guild*

January 7

**DVD: “Creative weaving: Lace, Color and Fringe Techniques for the Rigid Heddle Loom”**

February 4

**Exploring Rep Weave**

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March.4

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April 1

**Presentation of Guild Challenge Results!!!!**

May 7

**Annual Pot Luck Luncheon & Towel Exchange**

Photos from the November field trip to Thistle Hill Weavers:  
1..The cards on the Jacquard head  
2. The Jacquard loom with a 2 color warp.



