



# Thrums

May 2017

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## Newsletter of the Syracuse Weavers Guild

### President's Message

Dear Guild Member,

It was great to have such a successful program about our guild challenge at the April meeting! There were so many varied results and it was so interesting to hear from so many members about all the ways weavers get their ideas and inspiration. It will be fun to see what challenge we decide on for the next program year.

I'm writing this while staying with relatives in Maryland for Passover. This year, along with the joy of being with family and celebrating this holiday together, I got some added motivation for fibery pursuits by helping one of my great-nieces with her next knitting project. My sister (her grandmother) and I took her to

buy needles and yarn and helped her get started knitting in the round. She's a fast learner with a great fashion sense, and I've looked forward to seeing the outfits she puts together ever since she was a little girl. So even though it's not weaving, it's yarn and knowing she learned to knit in school in 6<sup>th</sup> grade is an inspiration in itself!

Welcome and thank-you to Susan Mehringer for becoming our new newsletter coordinator. Looking forward to seeing people at the May potluck lunch and towel exchange.

*Elyse*

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### 2016-17

### Syracuse Weavers Guild Challenge



by Joan Brickner and Donna Connery  
(More on pages 4 and 5)

### Thrums

Our next due date is August 10 for the September/October issue. Please send your written contributions in the text of your email to our new newsletter coordinator, Susan Mehringer!!!: [texobeat@gmail.com](mailto:texobeat@gmail.com). No PDF's please!

Since this is the last issue of Thrums that I will have coordinated, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for being such a terrific group for whom to do a newsletter! Everyone has been great about meeting (or almost meeting!) deadlines, many of you have submitted interesting articles and tidbits, and no one ever gave me a hard time when I forgot to put out a spring issue several years ago! I know that Susan will also have a good experience with you, and I thank her for volunteering for the job!

*Karen*

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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	315-478-1592
<b>1st Vice President</b>	Sue Szczotka	607-748-9658
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	Judy Fox	315-685-1330
<b>Secretary</b>	Cynthia Pendergast	315-339-0785
<b>Treasurer</b>	Donna Johnson-Brown	315-696-6041

## Committees

<b>Booklets:</b>	Nancy Smothergill	315-474-4508
<b>Calling Committee</b>	Carolyn Wolfson	315-449-1707
	Meg Welch	315-638-4230
<b>Membership</b>	Donna Connery	607-657-2681
<b>Refreshments Coordinator</b>	Lois Koenig	315-627-0451
<b>Program</b>	Sue Szczotka	607-748-9658
<b>Webmaster</b>	Joyce Lock	315-446-8655
<b>Special Projects</b>	Judy Fox	315-685-1330
<b>Library</b>	Elyse Meltz	315-478-1592
<b>Thrums Newsletter</b>	Susan Mehringer	607-339-7600

## Traveling Loom and Study Groups

Traveling Looms:

- The rep loom will be ready in the early summer. I will notify those who have signed up shortly before the loom is ready to travel.
- The Theo Moorman loom is in need of some adjustments. As soon as it is back on the road, the next available weaver will be notified.
- The overshot loom is finishing its journey.

We are looking for suggestions for next year's traveling loom agenda.

Study Groups: The small bands group continues to meet after each guild meeting.

The rigid heddle group is not meeting regularly but is available to meet. Call Elyse to arrange a meeting.

We are open to suggestions for study groups for next year.

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

## Syracuse Weavers Guild Membership Form

Memberships in SWG are for one year (May to May)

**You can mail your check to Donna Connery or pay at the May meeting.** Please be sure to complete and return the registration form with your dues, or create your own form with all of the required information. This is very helpful for record-keeping!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Regular dues: \$30 Senior dues: \$25

Make checks payable to: Syracuse Weavers' Guild.

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

## Annual Pot Luck Luncheon and Towel Exchange

**May 6**

**Home of Nancy Smothergill**

127 Circle Rd. Syracuse 13210

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 that they have woven this year.

You will need to bring

- your own place setting including cup, flatware and plate
- a dish to pass
- a list of ingredients for those who have dietary restrictions.
- your dues for 2017-18 (not required on this date but convenient.)

Please let Nancy know by May 4 if you will be attending and what you will bring so that she can plan for tables, chairs and tablecloths. You can also call for directions.

# White Elephant Makeover

by Joan Brickner

As some of you may have seen, I picked up a styrofoam head at the February meeting. She was draped with a black stocking. I hesitated but only for a moment; as an avid thrift store shopper, I knew someone would appreciate her beauty, especially in our fiber loving crowd. Who would have given her up? Karen, (the donator) I can only ask why here??? :)

"Why did you get that?" my daughter Ana asked snidely as only a 14 year old can, as we walked out of the meeting. In my mind this unknown "woman" already had a place in my studio. I was not sure where but I could see her draped in samples, thrums and who knows what else. "She's mine now!" Soon after arriving home, Ana peeled off the black nylon, saw her potential and offered to paint her makeup on. It has taken me some time to trust her artistic sense, but I now know that she is spot on and better than I am at putting colors together. My only direction to her was to keep it neutral.



Ana did fabulous work especially considering it was paint and not actual makeup. Our "lady friend" became neutral, fabulous and ready to show off everything with her makeup and false eyelashes! I enjoyed her transformation and thought others would too. I only wish I had taken a "before" photo.

She needed a name. My GPS is "GyPSy" one of the few sparks of creativity from my sweet husband. Our woman is classy and stylish, but what would we call her? As a family, we couldn't come up with a suitable name. We used a random name generator and ended on Margareta - nothing to do with margaritas, although I have enjoyed them in the past. Now I am enjoying our new Margareta!

*Here's to the White Elephant sale!*

The White Elephant sale is available at each meeting. Look for the White Elephant sale sign and a small tin located on the table to collect money. Members bring in small unwanted items for others to purchase that may or may not be weaving related. Buyers make a donation to the guild for the items, paying an amount that the buyer determines. Any unsold item must be taken home by the member who brought it in. Enjoy the shopping!

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## Scholarship

The Weavers' Guild of Rochester offers two scholarships - one for members and one for non members who wish to attend educational programs such as workshops and conferences. Recipients are asked to share their new knowledge afterward. The next due date is June 1. A direct link is: <http://www.weaversguildofrochester.org/scholarships.php>

Nancy Smothergill received a scholarship in the past. She is happy to answer questions.



Chautauqua Institute, at the Conference Center!  
Oct 6-9, 2017

Co-Hosted by Regional Guilds: Chautauqua Country Weavers' Guild, Enchanted Mountain Weavers' Guild, **Syracuse Weavers Guild !**, Weavers' Guild of Buffalo, Weavers' Guild of Rochester

[www.eglfc.com](http://www.eglfc.com)

Exciting workshops being offered:

Su Butler.....	Easy Pickup .....	.3 days
Barbara Walker.....	Stripes W/ Attitudes.....	3 days
Marilou Schultz.....	Navajo Tapestry Rugs....	3 days
Dawn Edwards.....	Felt Fascinator.....	1 day
	Felt&Nuno Felt Hats.....	2 days
Jan Massie.....	Art Yarn Spinning.....	1 day
	Wheel Magic.....	2 days
Jappie King Black....	Coiled Basketry.....	1 day
	Images in Coiled Baskets....	2 days

Registration period: April 1- June 1, 2017

The registration fee for workshops/all meals is \$355. The room fee is additional. A late fee will be applied to any registration received after June 1, 2017

We hope you can join us! *EGLFC Committee*

## 2016-17 Syracuse Weavers Guild Challenge



*Judy Fox, Sally Meyers*



*Ana Fernandez, Elaine Dubois*

At the April meeting we were finally treated to the showcase of amazing handwovens which evolved out of this year's guild challenge! From pillows to wall hangings and rugs to scarves and everything in between, there was an incredible variety of colors, fibers and ideas. Most of all, I was amazed at the thoughtfulness that went into everyone's work. Each piece was well planned and executed, many with ideas that would never have occurred to me.

I think that the biggest success of the challenge was that everyone really enjoyed themselves and wants to do another challenge next year! I can't wait to see what we come up with!



*Meg Welch, Cynthia Pendergrast*



*Rosemary Oaks-Lee, Sue Szczotka*



*Patti Prince, Darlene Endy*

## 2016-17 Syracuse Weavers Guild Challenge (cont.)



*Nancy Smothergill*



*Susan Mehringer, Lois Koenig*



*Karen Smith*



*Joyce Lock, Elyse Meltz*

### Weavers' Lingo

**stash busting** = to dig into one's collection of yarns to use up whatever can be found so as to fearlessly put yarns together for a new and extraordinary product!

Are you a fearless (or fearsome) stash buster?

*Thank you Joan Brickner for this little gem!*

### Halcyon Yarn Guild Rewards

In January the SWG received over \$40 from Halcyon Yarn! This is because SWG members informed Halcyon of their membership when they ordered yarn. Halcyon gives back 5% of total reported member sales at the beginning of the following year. If you have questions about the program, contact Joyce Lock

# Mundillo

Submitted by Joyce Lock

On a recent trip to Puerto Rico I visited the Museo del Mundillo, the Bobbin Lace Museum. *Mundillo* is a form of bobbin lace known for its particular repertoire of patterns used to decorate clothing. It arrived in Puerto Rico with the colonization of the island more than two centuries ago and augmented the income of many factory workers during the 1920's to 1960's. While the sugar and needlework industry left Puerto Rico over time, lace making with drawn work and embroidery has continued. There are still over 9,000 mundillistas in Puerto Rico, the town of Moca is considered the *Capital of Mundillo*.

Making this lace involves the use of bobbins, cotton or linen thread, pins and a pattern. Traditional mundillo is worked on a box with a pattern attached to a tubular pillow. Using the pattern as a guide for placing pins, the threads are placed around the pins. As a section of lace is completed, the pillow is turned and the pins removed.

The examples on display were incredibly intricate and made from very fine thread. While a small museum, there was a variety of items on display in the form of lace decorated clothing, accessories, samples, antique lace, equipment and modern interpretations of mundillo. The museum offers classes and demonstrations on the weekend, but that didn't mesh with our schedule.



While the museum website is in Spanish, <http://www.museodelmundillo.org/>, if you click on GALERIA on the top menu bar you can see pictures of how the bobbin lace is created along with some of the exhibits.



## *Thrums*

Karen Jean Smith  
39 Reed Street  
Marcellus, NY 13108

### *Fiber Opportunities*

#### **23rd Annual Weaving History Conference**

Thousand Islands Arts Center, Clayton, NY  
May 17, 18, and 19 [tiartscenter.org](http://tiartscenter.org)

#### **New England Weavers Seminar 2017**

Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts.  
July 13 – 16 [newenglandweaversseminar.com](http://newenglandweaversseminar.com)

#### **MAFA Biennial Conference**

Millersville University, Millersville, PA  
July 20 - 23 [mafa-conference-2017.org](http://mafa-conference-2017.org)

#### **Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference**

See page 3 of this newsletter or go to  
[www.eglfc.com](http://www.eglfc.com)