



Thrums

Nov/Dec 2016

Newsletter of the Syracuse Weavers Guild

President's Message

Dear SWG Member,

I keep saying this but it *really* is wonderful to welcome so many new members and to talk to more people interested in weaving. Please look for the profiles of our new members in this newsletter!

Joyce and I went to the Little York Fiber Festival and set up a table to demonstrate and display weaving in various forms. She brought a table loom and showed people how it works and I wove on a small rigid heddle loom. After demonstrating at various other events to the general public it was refreshing and inspiring to be at a fiber festival where most everyone who came through had some sort of fiber interest. The questions we got were interesting and varied. We talked to many people interested in weaving because they have memories of a relative who did it, or they have a loom sitting somewhere in their house and they want to learn, or they already are doing some sort of weaving. Joyce talked to a teenage girl who was very interested in the card weaving samples on our table and by the end of the day Joyce had shown her the basics, given her a pack of cards and helped her find patterns online. The girl was there helping her mother who was a vendor, and we were sure by the following day she would be back with a project all set up that she would



Guild members posed for a photo to be sent to the ladies in Mayan Hands who dyed the cotton used for our guild challenge last year. *Top Row:* Donna Connery, Sarah Myers, Cynthia Pendergast, ????, Ana Fernandez, Nancy Smothergill, Sue Szczotka *Middle Row:* Judy Fox, Elyse Meltz, Rosey Oaks-Lee, Clara Rose Thomas *Bottom Row:* Karen Smith, Joyce Lock

be working on while watching her mother's booth. Joyce and I could only go for one day of the festival but we hope next year we can interest other guild members so that our guild can have a presence on both days. It's definitely a worthwhile festival for us to be at and fun to do.

I'm sorry I can't go on the November trip but having been to Rabbit Goody's once I know you will enjoy it!

Elyse

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

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

Committees

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

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 December 10 for our Jan/Feb issue of 2016-17. Suggestions for future **Thrums** are welcome. Please send your written contributions in the text of your email to me: 123kjsmith@gmail.com *No PDF's please!*

Karen Smith

39 Reed Street Marcellus, NY 13108

Welcome New Members!!!

Please add the following information to your booklet:

Val Bechteler 3622 Wildflower Cir Syracuse, NY 13215 315-440-5809 val.bechteler@gmail.com	Lorraine Savidge 7722 Treeline Drive Liverpool, NY 13090 lsavidge@bluefrog.com
Susan Cuipyllo 6007 Lake Street Cayuga, NY 13034 315-730-5133 sec952@yahoo.com	Susan Mehringer 11 Pheasant Way Ithaca NY 14850 607-339-7600 TEXOBEAT@gmail.com

Elaine Dubois 4 Fuller Street Skaneateles, NY 13152 h - 315-554-8136 c - 856-430-4487 Jededubois@gmail.com	Sharon Costie 9334 Lewis Pt Rd, Canastota, NY 13032 acostie@twcnny.rr.com
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Look for profiles of our new members on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter.

Booklet Corrections

Please add
Dianne Leach
121 Linden St. Rome 13440
315-339-2023 dleach9@hotmail.com

Kathleen Grant's winter address:
5712 Emerald Pointe Circle, Port Richey FL 34668

State Fair Winners

Congratulations!!! to SWG members:

Susan Mehringer,

1st prize Coverlet, Blanket or Lap Robe and
1st prize Towels & Table Linens

Elyse Meltz,

2nd prize Towels and Table Linens

Our Syracuse Weavers Guild awards went to

Lynda DeLallo - Marietta, NY - for the third time and
Beth Marcellus - Rome, NY

Guild Library

We have a new book! The Weaver's Studio:
Doubleweave by Jennifer Moore. Interweave, 2010.
This is "the" book on the subject, with gorgeous color
photos, and no longer available from Interweave.
Thank you to Joyce Locke for spotting it at a recent
sale at Golden Fleece spinners.

Hostesses

Sept: Dianne Leach, Donna Connery

Oct: Meg Welch; Ana Fernandez

Dec: Jayshri Prasad Sonia Hartmann

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!

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. If you could not make the meeting, but want to participate in the challenge, please email me, Sue Szczotka. (suezotka@verizon.net) I will send the instructions for the challenge and make your picks for you and pass them along, too. Sorry, you will have to take what I randomly draw! (Note the bags in the photo that each of the members chose from.) Any other questions about the challenge can be sent to me or brought up at future meetings.

Sue Szczotka

Halcyon Yarn Guild Rewards

A great deal for our guild!

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

Program

November 5

Field Trip to Thistle Hill Weavers: Studio of Rabbit Goody

Presenter: Rabbit Goody

Facilitator: Nancy Smothergill

Textile historian and amazing weaver Rabbit Goody has agreed to open up her mill to us once again. For more than 26 years, Thistle Hill Weaver in the Cherry Valley, has been weaving luxurious custom fabrics, carpet, and trim for designers, home owners, museums, and the film industry. Rabbit spoke to us a few years ago about her experiences weaving for the movies. At the mill you will get an up-close look at the various mechanical looms used in her work, including a Jacquard, and other fascinating equipment for production. Rabbit is a wealth of information and at the mill you have a chance to learn about and see how historical fabrics are reproduced.

December 3

The Elusive Southern Dimity Counterpane

Presenter: Kathleen Grant

Facilitator: Sue Szczotka

Join Kathleen Grant on a research trip through the South, seeking information on the elusive dimity coverlet. These all-white coverings were popular during the entire 19th century, yet little information is available about them. During the presentation Kathleen will share what she has discovered so far, and she will bring an assortment of counterpanes for us to examine.

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 that they have woven this year.

New Members

Val Bechteler



I have been weaving for about 10 minutes! Okay - probably more realistically a total of ten hours combined with about half on a rigid heddle loom and half on a Saori loom, and half an hour on a little loom at the Hemlock show.

I spin and wash my own fleece but prefer someone else feed and house the sheep. I never had even the tiniest inkling of desire to spin until exactly 1 year after my brother sold his 90 plus sheep that he'd had for the last 30 years! Funny? I think not! I prefer to comb the fleece; the sound of using carders makes me shiver.

I have sewn for 45 years and I have moved on. I crochet a bit and recently bought a used knitting machine. If any one would kindly talk with me about the knitting machine I'd love to hear of her/his experience. I've played with it but haven't made anything yet except swatches, many of which I have also unraveled!

I prefer to figure out how to make life fun and I like soft stuff to do it with. So fiber it is. I am attracted to weaving with the hopes and dreams of de-stashing and converting my fiber into garments or something else useful and beautiful.

I also love learning and talking about spirituality, my favorite subject.

Susan Mehringer

Are you new to the central NY area?

Not native, but not new. I have lived in the Ithaca area for almost 30 years.

How long have you been weaving?

Six years. I started with a rigid heddle loom Sept 2010, and added a floor loom a few months later.

What is your favorite type of weaving?

I still have way too much to explore to specify a favorite.

What are your favorite materials for weaving?

Silk, cotton, wool.

Do you have any other fiber skills?

Knitting. I can crochet, but rarely do.

Please tell us something that you like to do besides weaving:

Hike, swim, ski

Elaine DuBois

My family relocated to central New York eight years ago from Southern New Jersey.

I started weaving about six years ago when my husband bought a loom at the church jumble sale. The loom was dirty, having been in a barn for a number of years, but lots of fun to clean up and learn on. It is a 12 shaft, 14 treadle J-Made table loom that I believe had been converted to a floor loom. I am basically self taught; I read a lot about weaving. I took my first class this summer at the Thousand Islands Art Center (Handweaving Museum) learning double weave. I don't weave much in the summer but this year I experimented with woven shibori, which was so much fun!
(continued in the next column)

I mostly weave practical items; scarves, table runners, baby wraps and blankets, and of course towels. About 3 years ago I acquired an 8 harness cherry Putney Mountain Loom, that is the centerpiece of my living room. That is what I primarily weave on these days. However, with the guild challenge I may bring out the other loom and try something with all 12 harnesses (never used all 12, only to 8)

I like everything about weaving, so I don't really have a favorite type or material. I like to try everything. I have always been "crafty" - quilting, sewing, embroidery, temari, as well as dying fabric and yarn.

I "retired" when we moved and with my youngest off at Clarkson this fall, I now have lots of time to design and weave! When not weaving or reading about weaving or designing the next project, I like to cook and garden and play with my dog.

Lorraine Savidge

I am a lifelong resident of central New York.

How long have you been weaving?

I have dabbled in weaving over the years....potholders as a kid and on a bead loom to make belts . I have also worked a bit on the large loom at the wool center NY State Fair.

Do you have any other fiber skills?

I am an avid knitter, spinner, and embroiderer.

Please tell us something that you like to do besides weaving:

I love to visit gardens all over the country

New Members (cont.)

Susan Cuipyo

I have lived in CNY my entire life; in fact, my husband and I live in the house that I grew up in.

How long have you been weaving?

I learned to weave from Clara Rose in the summer of 2015, so just over a year.

What is your favorite type of weaving?

I like practical weaving: table runners, placemats, and scarves (so far!)

What are your favorite materials for weaving?

I like working with cotton, and I wove a scarf in tencel that I really like. I've also woven with bamboo.

Do you have any other fiber skills?

I know how to use a sewing machine, but haven't done much sewing in many years.

Please tell us something that you like to do besides weaving:

I like to read, bicycle, cook, and make stained glass.

Anything else?

I'm looking forward being a member of the Weaver's Guild.

36th Annual Colonial Holiday Sale

at the home of guild member

Clara Rose Thomas

Friday and Saturday, Nov 18 and 19 10 - 4

Sunday, Nov 20 12 - 4

Friday and Saturday Nov 25 and 26 10 - 4

Sunday, Nov 27 12 - 4

3280 Cold Springs Road, Route 370
Baldwinsville

There will be 4 crafters who work in the following media: including weaving, basketry, country tin painting and stenciling, barn slates.

Enjoy cookies and cider while browsing for the holidays!

Questions? Contact Clara Rose at 635-3478

Tassel Tree for Everson

Our tree donation to the Everson Museum Festival of Trees is entitled "A Tribute to Mayan Hands." The colors are certainly reminiscent of the colors used in the wonderful work of Guatemalan hand weavers and Ana Ferguson has donated a colorful scarf from Mayan Hands for the tree skirt. With this and the help of all of you who created tassels, we certainly have an eye catching donation to bring attention to our guild and fibers in general.

Our tree will be delivered to the Everson Museum the weekend before Thanksgiving. The Festival takes place from December 2 through 11. Information about admission fees and associated events can be found on the Everson Museum website.

Judy and Karen

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 Loom for Sale!

Brand new Harrisville Loom Kit: 22 inch
\$750 (Retail for \$1125)

Has inserted eye heddles, stainless steel reed, wheels on one side for moving

Contact Clara Rose if interested: 635-3478

A Bit of Fiber History from Iceland



Iceland is well known for its sheep and wonderful knitting yarns, but, before any Icelander ever picked up a knitting needle, people were weaving there.



Before one can knit or weave of course, the fiber must be spun. More conventional spinning wheels are on display at the Folk Museum in Skogar, but these spinning machines are of particular note. We were told that these were an Icelandic innovation, on which more than one line of fiber could be spun at a time.

The machine pictured to the left is a larger, incomplete version of the machine above. There are two pictures of the smaller machine so that the parts might be more clear to you.

Karen



Thrums

Karen Jean Smith
39 Reed Street
Marcellus, NY 13108

Syracuse Weavers Guild



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