



Thrums

Sept/Oct 2016

Newsletter of the Syracuse Weavers Guild

President's Message

Dear SWG Member,

I've been having a "fibery" summer! I traveled to Santa Fe, New Mexico and attended the International Folk Art Market which was an incredible experience. I also explored lots of fiber related shops and exhibits in Asheville, NC.

There has also been enough time at home to weave some plarn (plastic-used-as-yarn) tote bags, and possibly get my obsession with collecting plastic bags under control.

We can look forward to an interesting year starting off with finally getting to hear from Brenda Rosenbaum about the organization Mayan Hands and traditional hand-weaving in Guatemala. You may recall that she had to cancel last year. I think it would be fun for those of us who participated in the Mayan Hands Towel Exchange to bring ours to the September meeting to show Brenda.

Thanks to Sue Szczotka and all her helpers for planning the coming year of

programs. Thanks also to Judy Fox and Karen Smith for organizing the summer tassel making gathering for our guild donation to the Everson Festival of Trees. Look for the article in this newsletter.

I hope to see many of you in September.

Elyse



Results of the SWG Mayan hands towel project as presented at the May meeting.

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 2015 - 2016

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

Committees

Booklets:	Nancy Smothergill	474-4508
Calling Committee	Carolyn Wolfson	449-1707
	Meg Welch	638-4230
Membership and Exhibit	Lois Koenig	627-0451
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, payable to me.

Our next due date is October **10** for our Nov/Dec issue of 2015-16. 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

SWG Membership Form

2016-2017

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: Lois Koenig
5827 Jasmine Circle
East Syracuse, N.Y. 13057

Hostesses for 2016-2017

Sept: Dianne Leach, Donna Connery

Oct: Meg Welch; Ana Fernandez

November: Field Trip

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: Sherry Gordon; Susan 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!

Program

September 10

Mayan Hands: Preserving Traditional Handweaving In Guatemala

Presenters: Brenda Rosenbaum & Anne Kelly

Brenda Rosenbaum founded Mayan Hands in 1989, a Fair Trade organization that works with traditional backstrap weavers in rural Guatemala, to bring their products to the U.S. Market. They work with over 200 weavers in the highlands of Guatemala. Come to hear the special story of Mayan Hands and that of the special weavers that make beautiful, traditional Mayan textiles. There will be plenty of opportunity to purchase Mayan Hands products, to benefit the weavers.

October 1

Part 1 - Weave a Triangular Shawl

Presenters: Joyce Lock and Elyse Meltz

Weave a triangular shawl on a regular loom? How can you do that? Members of this past year's study group will show you how and share their finished shawls and conclusions about this innovative technique.

Part 2 – 2016-17 Guild Challenge Project

Since everyone enjoyed last year's Mayan Hands towel challenge so much, we have decided to plan another challenge for this year. The details will be a surprise, but we know it will be a lot of fun with a chance for everyone to stretch their creativity and hopefully indulge in learning something new. Be prepared to take a chance and create anything that you can imagine using mystery guidelines that each person will draw at random.

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 Szcotka

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

Study Groups

As per usual, we try to have several study groups meeting during the year to explore techniques and weaving topics in depth. A study group is open to anyone and we try to set the time of the meetings to fit with participants' schedules. No experience is needed, just an interest in learning more about a specific weaving topic.

The small bands group is going strong and is always open to new participants. Look to your e-mail for announcement of the next meeting. Diane Leach and Nancy Smothergill coordinate the small bands group.

The triangle group has completed its work and will be presenting their projects at the October meeting. Lois Koenig has offered to assist anyone working on a triangle project and the group could reconvene if there is enough interest.

This summer we met at Nancy Smothergill's to view Robyn Spady's Totally Twill. Much to think about and much to try.

We are looking for ideas for other study groups. Please e-mail them to me or bring them to the September meeting. *Judy Fox*

Traveling Looms

The Guild tries to have at least one or more looms, owned by the Guild, threaded to travel among members. This traveling loom gives anyone interested the chance to try out a particular weave structure or technique. The loom comes fully threaded, with complete directions for weaving and the yarn needed for the project. It is a great chance to try out something you might not have tried before, or do not wish to put on your loom at home. Please bring ideas to the September meeting.

We will decide on the project to be put on one loom and members will have a chance to sign up to work with the traveling loom. The loom moves from home to home and there is a nominal fee for materials. Give the traveling loom a try - it is a wonderful way to explore some weaving without needing to plan a project or warp up your own loom. The overshot loom has been making the rounds this summer. Please let me know if you are interested in signing up for it. If you have the loom now, please confirm its whereabouts. *Judy Fox*

Tassel Tree for Everson

The Syracuse Weaver's Guild will be donating a tree decorated with tassels made from thrums and other fibers to the Everson Museum Festival of Trees. Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase the donated trees. While the proceeds benefit the museum, the Syracuse Weavers Guild will gain more visibility. Details regarding the dates of the event will be shared in the next issue of Thrums. (Many thanks to Dianne Leach for her very enjoyable workshop in April on how to make tassels! It was then that this idea was conceived.)

A small group met on August 10 at the home of Judy Fox to begin working on tassel-making. Our discoveries include: short cords work better than longer cords, variable length tassels (1 1/2 inch to 3 inches) look good, "chubby" tassels look "happier" than long thin ones, and bright, solid colors also seem to work best. *We will need a substantial number of tassels.* Please bring them to the September meeting even if you don't think they are "quite right." Karen Smith is coordinating the decorating of the tree. *Judy and Karen*



So far, so good.

Last year I came upon this old journal from 1906 in my weaving literature. I had acquired it from an elderly lady years ago who would have been in my grandmother's generation. Her family owned a rug loom at the time. Before I sent it off to the Handweaving Museum in Clayton, I took a few pictures and thought you might enjoy seeing them. Karen



THE Progressive HOME WEAVER

THE ONLY JOURNAL IN THE WORLD DEVOTED TO THE HAND WEAVING TRADE

Vol. I

HARLAN, IOWA, FOURTH QUARTER, 1906

No. 4



Rug Weaving Department

HINTS ON RUG WEAVING.

By Lola A. Custer.

PART I.

PREPARING THE GOODS.

In order to make nice rugs out of old ingrain carpets the goods must be properly prepared. The carpet is first put into a cutting press, which is merely a low table, the top of which is full of slits about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch apart. The carpet is placed upon this table with

each way, made with a wooden framework, which is covered with a wire netting, or poultry wire, with one side hinged for a door. This cage is hung so it will revolve like a barrel churn, a squirrel cage, or the warp reel.

The strings are tumbled about in this revolving cage until the little pieces of warp threads, into which the warp was cut by the fraying machine, are loosened, and fall out together with the lint and dust from the rags. When finished, you have a lot of light, fluffy strings of uniform width, all frayed alike, with no plain places to

you will find that it will be sufficiently narrow when the rug is removed from the loom.

It is very hard to describe the making of the sel-vage. As this is a most important factor, however, in rug making, I will try to explain my way of doing this. Of course, no two weavers use the same method, exactly. It seems no two are able to weave just alike. The main thing is, to keep the edge of the rug straight and even from beginning to end, and to make an edge that is firm and tight. Instead of leaving the strings loose and giving lots of room at the turn (as you do with the jute), the ingrain strips are pulled in quite tightly.

In starting, insert the end of a string between the warp, pressing it against the jute with the fingers. Then bring the string back over the doubler at the edge, put it within the warp shed, and pull it at the edge, and tight. If the warp threads look "puckered," or pulled together in a group, draw them out to their places with the fingers. See that your strings have no loops sticking out at the edge. These loops would be out when the clipping is done, and a raw edge be left to ravel out.

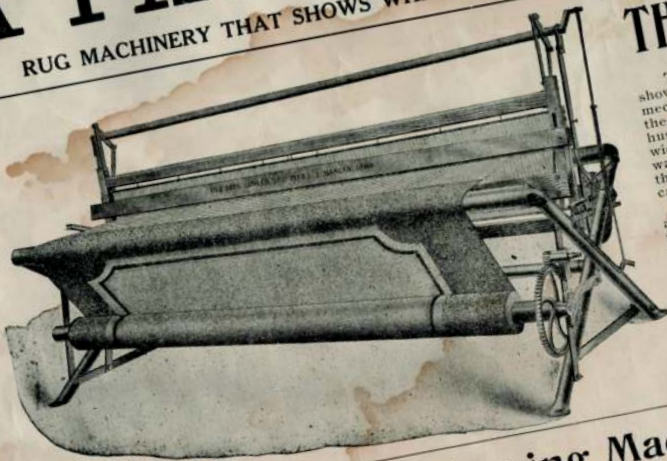
Of course, the weaver must exercise judgment in weaving these rugs. It is as much a fault to pull the goods in too much as it is to leave it out on the edge in loops and kinks. Practice to get a good edge, and then keep it up until it becomes a habit, and the fingers will perform their task without being watched.

Good, strong material is capable of being pulled in

THE PROGRESSIVE HOME WEAVER

A PAGE OF PROGRESS

RUG MACHINERY THAT SHOWS WHAT SKILL, PERSEVERANCE AND MODERN IDEAS CAN DO



THE DEEN WIDE RUG LOOM

The accompanying cut illustrates our latest, improved Rug Loom, showing geared winding device, side harness, shift and automatic mechanism for holding warp shed open. This illustration also shows the rocking shaft above the loom to which the harness frames are hung. This contrivance holds the warp shed open exactly the same width at each end, which is a great advantage. You cannot see the warp beam on the back of the loom, but we have our improvements there also. Our warp beam, fitted with sideruns, is the most practical warp beam that it is possible to put onto a rug loom.

Please study the cut closely and mark what a neat, solid, simple and efficient loom we have succeeded in evolving. It is made of steel throughout, properly braced and everything placed in the most convenient place. It is four looms in one, as it will make four different sizes of rugs after being warped and no time or warp is lost in changing from one size to another. The gear furnishes a powerful winding device and the side shift saves 1/2 of your time. The carpet is beat up from either side of the loom when the harness has to be shifted and always at the side of the loom close to your hand at the right moment. We will find the harness shift lever close to your hand at the right moment. We make these looms in all sizes from 3 ft. up to 12 ft. We have a catalogue telling all about our rug looms and giving prices on the different sizes. It is sure to interest you. Send for it.

The Deen Multiple Fraying Machine

EXCELS THEM ALL

THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF RUG MAKING is the process of fraying. Housekeepers want rugs with a deep, soft, velvety nap and if you cannot furnish that kind of rug, don't expect your business to thrive. You will have the somewhat doubtful pleasure of seeing your neighbors send their rug making to the other rug factory. "The other rug factory" has a Deen Frayer. The reason they bought it was partly because it worked up several times as much carpet in a day as their \$200.00 power frayer was in the habit of doing.

Those who buy our frayer for its perfect and rapid work, soon find out that it has other good qualities. It will not get out of order and it will last practically forever. The knives are quickly sharpened and can be replaced for almost nothing. One of our customers writes: "Your frayer has saved every month more than its cost, just in the cost of repairs for other machine." Price \$35.00.

STEEL AND CASTING THOUGHTOUT.

Gentlemen: I think your Fraying Machine is the best on earth.—ELMER SMILEY, Albia, Iowa.

Gentlemen: Wouldn't trade my frayer for any other I've seen.—WATSON PAYNE, Storm Lake, Ia.



THE PROGRESSIVE HOME WEAVER

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DEEN FLY-SHUTTLE LOOM

Easy to Buy
Easy to Run

Write to: "How the Loom Helps Pay for Itself," 20 day Trial Offer, and prices on Rug Machinery

DEEN LOOM CO., 220 N Seventh St., HARLAN, IOWA

Dear Sirs:

I have just received my new Deen Loom and have never seen any body weave, but I get along all right and am well satisfied with the loom. I have only woven a little over 100 yards yet, but I can weave 19 yards in a day already.

Yours truly,
MRS. N. J. NEILSEN.
Goldfield, Iowa.

The Deen Loom Co.

Dear Sirs: Enclosed find money order for \$5.00 to apply on loom. I am very much pleased with the loom and am in hopes to

Dear Sirs:

Please to find enclosed P. O. order for \$5.00 as last payment on loom. I am well pleased with the loom. It works fine. I would not go back to the old loom for a good deal. I can earn dollars on your loom to cents on the old hand loom.

Yours resp,
MRS. EMMA WOOD.
Middle Granville, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

The Deen Loom is the best I have ever used, though I tried fly shuttle looms of other makes for some time and I feel like saying, without being partial that the Deen is absolutely the best. Each



Thrums

Karen Jean Smith
39 Reed Street
Marcellus, NY 13108

Syracuse Weavers Guild

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