



# THRUMS

## Newsletter of the Syracuse Weavers Guild

### President's Message

Darkness envelopes our part of the world in these days of late December. Do you hunger for color? Do you long for light?

It's an interesting time of year to consider our "color wheel" challenge - the use of a single color in a project. Just as a single match can light one's surroundings in the dark, a single color can be used in a way that illuminates and brings interest to a woven piece. How will you use your one color? What will you do to add interest and texture and pattern to your piece? Our sharing meeting is in March this year, so time is accelerating toward that day when we will share our projects. I look forward to seeing yours.

Happy planning and weaving to you,

*Cynthia*

### Textile Travels | Gretchen Wheelock

In December our guild enjoyed Gretchen Wheelock's presentation "Textile Travels in Italy: Weaving Connections Along a Fiber Trail."



After a recent textile tour in Tuscany and Umbria, Gretchen renewed her appreciation of Italy's long and rich history of handwoven textiles. Among various hands-on experiences while there, Gretchen and three other members from the Weavers' Guild of Rochester had the privilege of participating in a five day workshop at the Lisio Foundation, where traditional methods of hand weaving and design are preserved and taught using 19th century Jacquard looms. Apart from an immersion in the true meaning of "slow cloth", this experience helped her to see connections among various historical traditions as well as current day efforts to preserve them.

**Guild Officers**

**President**

Cynthia Pendergrast

**1st Vice President**

Sue Szczotka

**2nd Vice President**

Judy Fox

**Secretary**

Darlene Endy

**Treasurer**

Donna  
Johnson-Brown

**Book Review | Nancy Gaus**

*Totally Twill: The Basics by Robyn Spady (DVD)*

I am fascinated by twill and all the variations that can be achieved from some basic manipulation of threadings, tie-ups, and treadlings. I'm still pretty new to weaving and was looking for a good overview of twill. This video has a decent amount of theory in the first three chapters. Use of illustrations and diagrams really highlight how the structure works and the effects that variations in threadings, tie-ups, and treadlings can have on the patterns that result. I found myself stopping often to take notes and copy diagrams that illustrated the points she was making.

Starting with the fourth chapter, however, she began to weave and that's where my enthusiasm waned. I thought the loom was clunky, the camera angles were limited, and the threads were boring. A wide variety of basic twill variations were covered, but I thought she could have done a better job of explaining the mechanics of each. I kept thinking that I would have explained things differently and used more visual tools to drive the point home. I am a visual learner, though, and so her verbal style didn't quite hit the mark for me. In addition, the samples were not displayed to the best advantage, so it was hard to figure out what she was referring to as she explained the different structures.

It wasn't until I got half way through the video and my mind was wandering that I discovered that there was a workbook included in the "Printed Materials" section at the end of the video. I printed it out and was able to follow along so much better. The diagrams in the workbook were more complete and so much better at conveying what she was trying to explain. I got more out of thinking about those diagrams on my own than I did from listening to her try to explain them. That workbook will find a home in my weaving notebook along with the notes I took on Chapters 1-3.

At the end, she presented a couple of gamp projects that combined various threadings, tie-ups, and treadlings into a nice sampler. She didn't give specific weaving drafts for the two gamps, but there is just enough information to figure it out on your own. The gamps were interesting and I believe that to get the most out of the material, you really need to dig in and create a sampler of your own.

I fault the video for not always being the best match for my learning style, but to be honest I respect the fact that there were several approaches used. Her verbal descriptions may gel better with someone who is an auditory learner. The workbook appealed to my visual mind, and the gamps would satisfy those that learn by doing. Although I felt that her verbal descriptions were lacking for me, the visual aids were there and I just needed to do more work on my own to extract the teachable points. All in all, this video is a reasonably good introduction to twill and can get you thinking about new possibilities.

**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.

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## Syracuse Weavers' Guild 2019-2020 Programs

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**January 4<sup>th</sup>** Making a Small Basket Caddy for Your Loom

Presenters: Patricia Lightbody, Facilitator: Sue Szczotka

Join us for a hands-on program making a small reed basket just perfect for hanging on your loom to hold scissors, sleying hook and a few bobbins. The guild will be subsidizing part of the cost of the class, so the cost per person will be only \$15. We will be asking participants to commit and pay for the class by the November meeting. The size of the class is limited to 20 people. A list of necessary supplies to bring will be sent out in December.

**February 1<sup>st</sup>** Super Show and Tell of Favorite Tips, Tricks and Tools Facilitator: Sue Szczotka

Plan on sharing your favorite tips, tricks and tools with the group. Also, if you have a weaving project that was a real challenge for you, bring it to share with the group. We'll discuss the issues you encountered and how you solved them (or not).

**March 7<sup>th</sup>** Guild Challenge "Just a Slice of the Color Wheel" Presentations Facilitator: Joyce Lock

Bring the piece(s) you wove for the guild challenge along with your story of why you chose the color, your process, challenges, successes and lessons learned.

**April 4<sup>th</sup>** Field Trip - Exploring Treasures from the American Textile Museum

Presenter: Marcie Farwell, Facilitator: Nancy Smothergill

We will be making a field trip to the Kheel Center of the Catherwood Library at Cornell University in Ithaca. When the American Textile Museum in Lowell, MA closed, Cornell acquired many of the materials from the museum, including many written materials and some samples of woven goods. Marcie Farwell, curator of these archives, will lead us through a viewing of some of the fascinating items from the era of American textile prominence in times gone by.

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>** Program: Annual Pot Luck Luncheon and Towel Exchange Location to be announced.

**Guild Meetings:** Held on Saturday, starting at 10:00 a.m.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
7248 Highbridge Road  
Fayetteville, NY 13066

**Guild Directory Correction:**

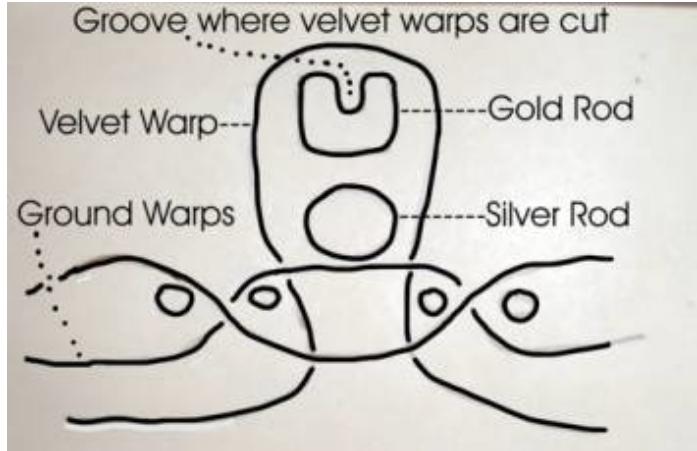
Nancy Gaus' phone number is incorrect.

## Velvet Weaving | Nancy Smothergill

At the Saturday, Dec 7<sup>th</sup> Guild meeting Gretchen Wheelock talked about her weaving experiences at the Fondazione Lisio in Florence, Italy. I gave a brief description of how the Jacquard mechanism on their looms work and showed a video clip of a weaver working the loom to weave velvet. You might be interested in a bit more explanation of how velvet weaving happens.

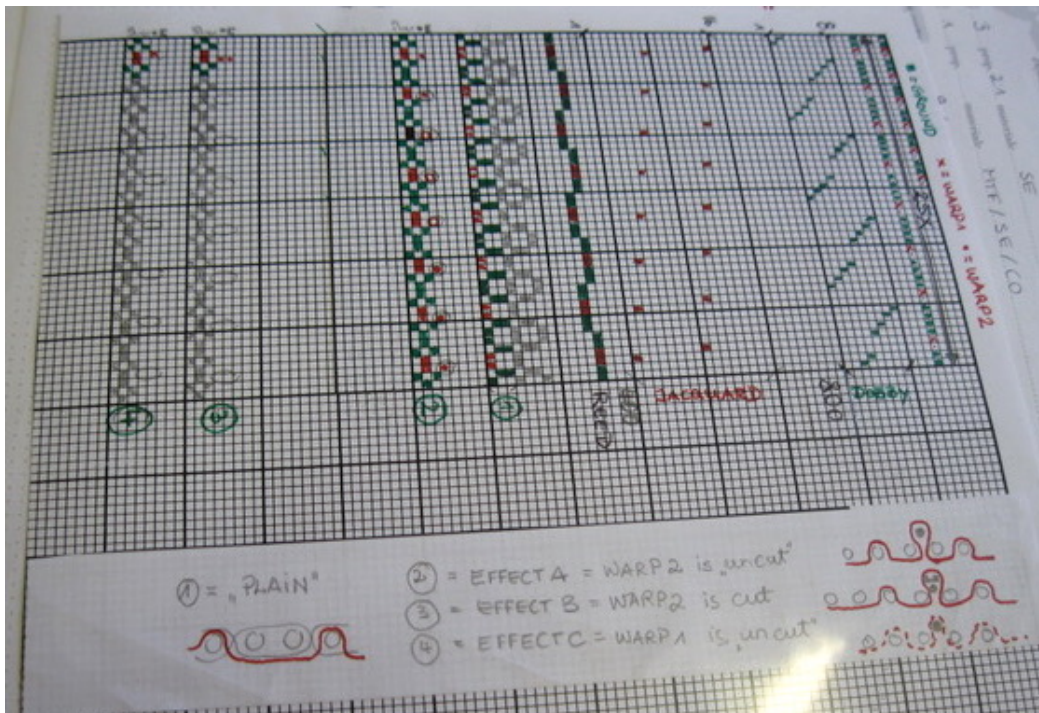
On the loom the weaver was using, the shafts for the background of the fabric are on a dobby loom. For the dobby loom, the order and combination of shafts is controlled by a chain of bars having pegs to dictate which shafts are pulled up. The weaver controls the weaving of the background using a single treadle, which advances the dobby bars.

The velvet is woven on a second warp, the silk pattern warp, and a separate silk shuttle is thrown for the pattern weft. The pattern is controlled by the Jacquard cards. The weaver throws 4 shots of the background pattern using the one treadle controlling the dobby loom shafts. Then the weaver treadles with the treadle controlling the Jacquard mechanism, which raises the pattern threads dictated by the cards. The weaver then inserts a thin rod in the open shed and throws the pattern weft.



She also runs a razor blade type tool down the groove in the rod inserted in a previous pattern shot. That is what makes the cut velvet. If the rod does not have a groove, the rod is taken out after the background shots

that lock it in, making for uncut velvet.



The two diagrams show what happens with the various warp and weft threads in velvet weaving. The graphed diagram is one from a student at the Lisio.

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## Membership Form | Donna Movsovich

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We always welcome new members!

Regular annual dues: \$30  
Senior (over 62) dues: \$25

Make checks payable to: Syracuse Weavers Guild

Memberships in SWG are for one year, May-May

Mail to: Donna Movsovich  
2527 W. Seneca Turnpike  
Marcellus, NY 13108

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

New Member

Renewal

Change of Address

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## Committees

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### **Booklets**

Nancy Smothergill

### **Calling Committee**

Carolyn Wolfson  
Meg Welch

### **Membership**

Donna Movsovich

### **Refreshments Coordinator**

Lois Koenig

### **Program**

Sue Szczotka

### **Webmaster**

Joyce Lock

### **Special Projects**

Judy Fox

### **Library**

Donna Connery

### **Thrums Newsletter**

Susan Mehringer

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## Hostess List | Lois Koenig

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### **January**

Linda Miller | Clara Rose Thomas

### **February**

Darlene Endy | Jan Peneston

### **March**

Sally Meyers | Sue Szczotka

**April** : Travel

**Alternate** : Joyce Lock

### **Hostess Duties:**

- Know your day. Lois emails a reminder about a week before the meeting.
- Arrange for someone to take your place if you cannot make it.
- Communicate with your partner hostess.
- Provide dessert.
- Arrive early to prepare the table and hot water.
- Clean up the kitchen.
- If you notice that items are needed in the supply baskets, let Lois know.

*Thanks to Donna Connery, Nancy Gaus, Donna Johnson-Brown, Lois Koenig, Joyce Lock, Donna Movsovich, Cynthia Pendergrast and Laureen Whitney for hostessing this year!*

## Traveling Loom | Judy Fox

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Traveling looms are guild looms that have a small project on them so that members can try an unfamiliar technique or just experiment. We welcome suggestions for future projects. There is a small fee to cover the cost of the fiber. With the loom comes instruction, fiber and a list of those who have signed up. When you are ready to transfer the loom, please email those remaining on the list to find the next recipient. Please include my address on all the emails so that I know where the loom is. I appreciate knowing when the loom actually changes hands. We like the loom to be traveling at least monthly.

In order to help keep the traveling looms "traveling" we are making the following suggestions and changes in processes.

- When you sign up for the loom you will pay your \$7 fee.
- Sign ups will help determine how much warp to put on.
- Try to work on the project promptly when you receive the loom.
- As soon as you have completed the sample, please let everyone else who has not had the loom know that it is ready to travel. A list comes with the loom.
- Make arrangements to transfer the loom as soon as possible to the next person.
- If you are not coming to the next meeting, you may be able to drop it off at Lois'. She may be able to get it to the church for you. Give her a call or email.
- You don't have to wait for the next meeting to pass it on.

**Color study loom** is circulating. We do have more room for signups. This is any opportunity to play with color and structure and the interface of both.

**Shadow weave loom** is gearing up. We are putting together plans for a traveling loom on shadow weave. We thought it would be a good follow up to Joyce Robards' talk on the topic. You can sign up at the January meeting or by sending Judy Fox an email.

*We always welcome ideas for the traveling looms.*  
*We are actively looking for new projects for the traveling looms.*

Questions? Contact Judy Fox

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## Study Groups | Judy Fox

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

The tapestry group meets the second Thursday of the month at the DeWitt Community Library from 10:00AM to noon. Everyone is welcome including non-guild members.

We welcome ideas for study groups. Groups are self-directed and designed to further an understanding of the topic under study along with the associated skills. Study groups are a good way to explore new areas with the support of other guild members and to keep projects moving.

Questions? Contact Judy Fox

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## This Year's Guild Challenge | Sue Szczotka

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In past challenges, there has been a lot of emphasis on color usage so this year we thought we would free you of that constraint by making the challenge about everything BUT color! The idea is to design a project that is made unique through the use of differing fibers, textures, grists, and patterns but using only a monochromatic palette. You may use a single color or a color with its related tones or shades. If you are into dyeing, you can create these related colors by either adding white (a tone) or black (a shade) to your original dye base. You could even consider making an ombre' project if you really want to go wild! Many of us will probably not want THAT much of a challenge, but for the more dye-oriented adventurous weavers, go for it! I myself have always been very attracted to white on white, so will probably end up at that end of the spectrum. Don't forget that our reveal date is in March, earlier than usual due to our field trip in April. If you have any questions about the challenge, contact Sue Szczotka.

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## February Super Show and Tell of Favorite Tips, Tricks and Tools | Joyce Lock

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While we are working on our guild challenges to present to the group at the March meeting, prior to that we have another member sharing program - Super Show and Tell of Favorite Tips, Tricks and Tools. We all have some to share, a trick you think everyone knows about may be new to others. Also, if you have a weaving project that was a real challenge for you, bring it to the meeting. We'll discuss the issues you encountered and how you solved them (or not). The more participation, the better conversations we'll have. I know this group isn't shy about sharing their thoughts on weaving.

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## Upcoming Conferences, Festivals, Exhibits

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What better way to share our interests in all things weaving than to get out and do it! A full list of upcoming events can be found on the guild website; go to [www.syracuseweaversguild.org](http://www.syracuseweaversguild.org), select Calendar, then All Events. The list below covers the next few months.

Date	Time	Event
Sat. 1/4	10:00 AM	Making a Small Basket Caddy for Your Loom Presenter: Patricia Lightbody Join us for a hands-on program making a small reed basket.
Thurs. 1/9	10:00 AM	Tapestry Study Group All are welcome to attend the Tapestry Study Group that meets at the Dewitt Community Library.
Sat. 2/1	10:00 AM	Super Show and Tell of Favorite Tips, Tricks and Tools Facilitator: Sue Szczotka Plan on sharing your favorite tips, tricks and tools with the group. If you have a weaving project that was a real challenge for you, bring it to share.
Thurs. 2/13	10:00 AM	Tapestry Study Group All are welcome to attend the Tapestry Study Group that meets at the Dewitt Community Library.

Syracuse Weavers Guild Looms 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" 4-H table loom	Judy Fox	Judy Fox	Available February 2020
Kyra 22" 4-H table loom	Traveling Loom (Shadow Weave)	Judy Fox	
Peacock 12" 2-H loom #1	Available	Nancy Smothergill	<a href="http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg">http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg</a>
Peacock 12" 2-H loom #2	Available	Nancy Smothergill	<a href="http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg">http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg</a>
Peacock 12" 2-H loom #3	Available	Nancy Smothergill	<a href="http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg">http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg</a>
Inkle loom	Available	Joyce Lock	
Harrisville 22" 4-H floor loom	Available	Joyce Lock	<a href="https://harrisville.com/products/22-floor-loom-4-harness-6-treadle">https://harrisville.com/products/22-floor-loom-4-harness-6-treadle</a> Picture shows 6 treadles, this one has 4 direct tie treadles. Not easily transported
Nilus LeClerc 12" 8-H table loom	Available	Joyce Lock	Looks like Structo
LeClerc Dorothy 15" 8-H table loom	Travelling Loom (Color Gamp)	Judy Fox	<a href="http://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/pics/leclerc/ldor007.jpg">http://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/pics/leclerc/ldor007.jpg</a> Picture shows levers all on right hand side of loom. This loom has second set of shafts (5-8) located on left hand side.
Purrington Norris 12-H table loom	Available	Joyce Lock	

Website: [www.syracuseweaversguild.org](http://www.syracuseweaversguild.org)

Mail List: [syracuseweaversguild@googlegroups.com](mailto:syracuseweaversguild@googlegroups.com)

Library Catalog: <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/syracuseweaversguild>

Ravelry Group: <https://www.ravelry.com/groups/syracuse-weavers-guild>





**THRUMS**

Susan Mehringer  
11 Pheasant Way  
Ithaca, NY 14850

