

THRUMS

Newsletter of the Syracuse Weavers Guild

President's Message

Someone asked what I was weaving and I found myself unable to think of what was on my loom. The thought of hitting reset as I return to my life in upstate NY settled on me.

As 2019 begins we all have an opportunity to hit reset, to look at our weaving and art and think about aspects we want to explore further, such as new techniques or structures we want to learn, new ways to approach or share our weaving.

Our Guild is resetting as we say good-bye to Elyse Meltz, our Guild president, long-time member and librarian. We wish her well as she settles in North Carolina.

Cynthia Pendergrast

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.

Program Highlight



Thanks to Judy Fox for presenting "The Travels of a Wool-a-byte: We stop for sheep" at the December 1, 2018 meeting. After recent travels to Scotland, Wales, Iceland and Norway searching for all things fiber and specifically wool, along with culture, history and great food, Judy shared some of her discoveries through music, pictures and narrative. We visited historic tartans in Scotland, Icelandic sheep and goats, weaving in a Norwegian weaving center, efforts to preserve all things related to wool production in all countries, historic castles in Wales, etc.

New Member | Donna Movsovich

1. Are you new to the CNY area?

I have lived in CNY area about 30 years. I moved from Syracuse to Marcellus about 11 years ago.

2. How long have you been weaving?

When I first moved here, I became interested in the art of weaving. I took some lessons and joined a weavers guild. I remember that the Guild, at that time, was meeting in Cazenovia on the property of Lorenzo State Historic site. But then life happened. I got a job and pursued my master's degree and weaving took a back seat.

3. What is your favorite type of weaving?

30 years ago, I wove placemats and wall hangings using a "big" used 4 shaft union loom - my first loom! I still have it and through the years I used it to teach weaving to youth groups, girl scouts and even brought it to a couple of conferences; making rag rugs from fabric strips brought by the participants.

I retired in September and now have more time to re-learn how to weave! I feel I am a beginner once again. And my interests have changed. Currently, I am obsessed in learning to tapestry.

5. What other fiber interests do you have?

I like to crochet, knit, cross-stitch and embroider.

6. What other hobbies do you have?

I am taking piano lessons, my other love.

7. Anything else to share?

Since joining the guild, I have learned a lot. The knowledge within this guild is tremendous and its people are wonderful! I am excited to be part of this craft again! Thank you for the growth opportunities.

Software Apps for Weavers | Judy Fox

At a recent workshop, participants recommended three apps others might find interesting.

I Love Hue is a colour and perception game available from Google Play. The player reorders mosaics of coloured tiles into ordered spectrums.

Interaction of Color is an iPad app by Josef Albers is described at <http://yupnet.org/interactionofcolor/> and available from the App Store for \$13.99; the trial version is free.

WIF'n Proof from <https://sandozsoftware.com> is a digital assistant for the iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch and most Android devices. For about \$15 you can download an app to your phone or computer and for a little more can get them on both which will accept WIF drafts and help you follow the pattern. You upload a WIF to their website then download it on your phone in the software. Makes following complicated patterns for threading and weaving as simple as touching your smart phone.

Question of the Month | Susan Mehringer

Thanks to the eleven people who responded! Hopefully all will enjoy the results and we'll have more participation next time.

How many years have you been weaving? (Not counting potholder looms)

The answers ranged from 4 to 46 years! Average was 17 years.

How did you learn to weave?

- My first lesson was with Nell Zamaroski at F.I.T in 1969
- Took lessons from Clara Rose
- I took classes from Sue Belloma at BOCES.
- Took a class at Riverside Church in NYC
- The Syracuse City School District used to have adult education classes in weaving, with looms to use. The classes were held at Central Tech, in the city. The instructor was a past member of SWG, Kay Gilmet. I took the class for 3 semesters and then bought my own loom. Meanwhile I joined the Guild.
- I first learned from the little booklet that came with my Ashford rigid heddle loom. I then graduated to a floor loom at the Annual Craft Weekend held at the Rochester Folk Art Guild.
- I started weaving on a loom rented from a local spinning guild the year before we moved to upstate NY
- Books, reading Ravelry, later classes (Vavstuga, MAFA)
- College class
- Class

Other comments?

- Weaving involves both sides of the brain. I love that there are endless possibilities of what to weave, and that I will never learn all there is to know about weaving. (Darlene Endy)
- I find our group helps me learn about weaving even when I am not investing in a project. Always curious, sharing and encouraging.
- I do remember weaving a newspaper mat for Girl Scouts but my interest in more sophisticated weaving started in college. I bought my first loom from Clara Rose Thomas.
- After you learn the basics, you just have to do it and learn from experience
- Learning to weave is a continuous process. I am always finding lots of things that I don't know or haven't tried.

Guild Weaving Challenge *Inspired Weaving* | Joyce Lock

This year's challenge is to weave a piece inspired by an image - a photo, a postcard, a work of art, a page from a magazine, etc. You may use an image you select at the Challenge Kickoff in September or find your own. The best images for this exercise have simple shapes, large areas of color, but not a lot of fussy detail. However, this is your challenge, so choose an image that *inspires you*.



Since this is a very free form exercise, if you find the idea of designing and weaving your inspired piece intimidating, fret not. In her November presentation, Sarah Saulson supplied us with techniques and a worksheet to aid us in translating an image that speaks to us into a piece that speaks to us. There are many parameters to work with: color, texture, weave structure, weaving fiber, dimensional space (2D or 3D), etc. You might choose to weave a wall hanging, a table runner or towel, a basket, a small band, a garment. The choice is up to you. You might choose a more literal interpretation of the image and use a tapestry technique or not. Again, the choice is up to you.

As with previous challenges, we'll hold an informal get together if needed to nudge participants' creativity along.

We will present the challenge pieces at the April meeting. Also bring the image that inspired you and the piece you wove. Be prepared to share your interpretation of the image and how it inspired your woven work. This also includes your process, challenges, successes and lessons learned.

Contact Joyce Lock if you have questions, joycelock3@gmail.com

Membership Form | Donna Movsoovich

We always welcome new members. Join us for a few meetings and then decide.

Regular 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 Movsoovich
2527 W. Seneca Turnpike
Marcellus, N.Y. 13108

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Syracuse Weavers' Guild 2018-2019 Programs

January 5th Video: Weaving with Supplemental Warps Facilitator: Sue Szczotka

Due to Elyse's move, the previously planned program has been changed to viewing, then discussing the video "Weaving with Supplemental Warps" with Deb Essen.

February 2nd Program: Peruvian Textiles in a Box - Textiles and Traditions of the Peruvian Highland Weavers Facilitator: Sue Szczotka

The Peruvian Textiles in a Box provides an introduction to and education about indigenous textiles and the skilled artisans who make them. Through a documentary video, *Peruvian Weaving Revival* and actual samples of the artisans' work, you will meet the weavers, dyers, knitters and spinners of the Peruvian Highlands who are cooperative members of the Center for the Traditional Textiles of Cusco (CTTC). Hear the story about the vision of Nilda Callanaupa Alvarez, the founder and director of CTTC, whose mission has been to preserve and perpetuate the traditional textile arts of her village of Chinchero and the other Highland communities. The program also includes 5 presentation boards with 20 samples of the actual textiles for a complete tactile experience.

March 2nd Program: Warp/Weave/Wear Presenter: Barb Decker Facilitator: Nancy Smothergill

It has happened to all of us. We see a gorgeous work of art, beautiful fall foliage, a photo in a magazine. The colors and textures inspire us and we want to honor them somehow. Let's weave something to wear. In this lecture we will explore the endless possibilities of using a variety of materials, weights, textures and colors in one warp - how the choice of weave structure and weft can change the look and feel of the finished fabric and how to add width to a warp already on the loom. The program will include a show of classic, comfortable, fashionable garments made from the imaginative use of squares and rectangles.

April 6th Program: Presentation of the Guild Challenge "Inspired Weaving" Facilitator: Joyce Lock

Bring the image that inspired you and the piece you wove. Be prepared to share your interpretation of the image and how it inspired your woven work. This also includes your process, challenges, successes and lessons learned.

May 4th Program: Annual Pot Luck Luncheon and Towel Exchange

The final meeting for the year will be held at Nancy Smothergill's house.

Guild Meetings

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

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
7248 Highbridge Road
Fayetteville, NY 13066

Committees

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

Guild Officers

President

Cynthia Pendergrast

1st Vice President

Sue Szczotka

2nd Vice President

Judy Fox

Secretary

Darlene Endy

Treasurer

Donna Johnson-Brown

Guild Website

www.syracuseweaversguild.org

"To weave or not to weave?"...

WHAT A STUPID QUESTION!!!!

Hostess List | Lois Koenig

January

Linda Miller | Judy Fox

February

Meg Welch | Donna Johnson Brown

March

Joyce Lock | Laureen Whitney

April

Sally Meyers | Sue Szczotka

Alternate: Laureen Whitney

Thanks to those who have already served this year:
Cynthia Pendergrast, Donna Connery, Lois Koenig,
Joan Brickner, Sonia Hartman, Darlene Endy,
Jayshri Prasad, Susan Mehringer

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.

Study Groups | Judy Fox

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 Liverpool Library in the Sargent room 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 and skills of the topic under study. Study groups are a good way to explore new areas with the support of other guild members and to keep projects moving.

Contact Judy Fox if you have questions, jafxmsw@aol.com

Traveling Looms | Judy Fox

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.

The **Rep loom** and the **Color study loom** are on the move.

Upcoming Conferences, Festivals, Exhibits

In our members' survey, you asked for ways to get to know each other better. How about attending a conference, going to a museum, or planning projects, taking classes, and shopping at an upcoming festival? 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, select Calendar, then All Events. The list below covers the next two months.

Date	Time	Event
Sat. 1/5	10:00 AM	Guild Meeting Video: Weaving with Supplemental Warps Facilitator: Sue Szczotka
Thu. 1/10	10:00 AM	<u>Tapestry Study Group</u> All are welcome to attend the Tapestry Study Group that meets in the Sargant Room of the Liverpool Library.
Sat. 2/2	10:00 AM	Guild Meeting Program: Peruvian Textiles in a Box – Textiles and Traditions of the Peruvian Highland Weavers Facilitator: Sue Szczotka
Thu. 2/14	10:00 AM	<u>Tapestry Study Group</u> All are welcome to attend the Tapestry Study Group that meets in the Sargant Room of the Liverpool 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	Travelling Loom	Judy Fox	Currently not available to rent
Peacock 12" 2-H loom #1	Available	Nancy Smothergill	http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg
Peacock 12" 2-H loom #2	Available	Nancy Smothergill	http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg
Peacock 12" 2-H loom #3	Available	Nancy Smothergill	http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg
Inkle loom	Available	Joyce Lock	
Harrisville 22" 4-H floor loom	Available	Joyce Lock	https://harrisville.com/products/22-floor-loom-4-harness-6-treadle Picture shows 6 treadles, this one has 4 direct tie treadles. Not easily transported
Nilus LeClerc 12" 8-H table loom	Guild Demos	Joyce Lock	Looks like Structo
Purrington Norris 12-H table loom	Travelling Loom	Judy Fox	Currently not available to rent
LeClerc Dorothy 15" 8-H table loom	Travelling Loom	Judy Fox	http://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/pics/leclerc/ldor007.jpg Picture shows levers all on right hand side of loom. This loom has second set of shafts (5-8) located on left hand side.

Back cover photo thanks to Amy Parker. Her project is shared with the "Syracuse Weavers Guild" group on Ravelry, along with many more.



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Susan Mehringer
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Ithaca, NY 14850

