

Weavers' Guild of Boston

P.O. Box 366, Andover MA 01810

Diane Chaisson — Editor

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SPRING 2020

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April Meeting Cancelled

Please make sure all weavers know about this cancellation

Dean's Message 3/19/20

Hello Fellow Weavers!

Due to the Coronavirus events of the past week, the Congregational Church in Westborough has been closed and our **April monthly meeting has been canceled.**

At this point, we are hoping that the May meeting can go on as planned.

I hope you are all staying well – and getting lots of weaving done.

We will get through this together.

Carol



Original Dean's Message 3/7/20

(before the onset of Coronavirus)

Spring is coming – as I write this there are crocuses blooming in my yard! I hope the last few months have been full of weaving projects for all of you.

I am looking forward to seeing all the musical interpretations at the May meeting and I hope that you are all dreaming of and planning for your weaving submissions to the Fuller Museum's 2022 exhibit marking the 100th anniversary of the Weavers' Guild of Boston.

Please consider nominating members for the WGB awards. Read the descriptions in the yearbook and think of who might be deserving of an award.

Also – please consider volunteering your time for one of the many Outreach opportunities. We need to spread the word that the world of weaving is alive and well!

Carol

Recommendations for Guild Awards Due Date April 5th

While we don't know if we will be having the Annual Meeting this year, we still want to recognize our deserving members. Please take a few moments to think about your fellow weavers, and who in your estimation deserves recognition. Descriptions of each award and past recipients are found on the website or in your Yearbook.

There needs to be at least two letters of recommendation for nominees to be considered for an award. If you submit a nomination, please indicate which Award, and in a few paragraphs why. We also would appreciate a picture of the nominee and his or her work. If you can identify a person who would second the recommendation all the better.

Nominations need to be in this year by April 5th.

Honorary Membership

Celebration of Weaving Life

Constance Gallagher

Distinguished Achievement

Dorothy Glowacki

Helen Barrett

Deborah Berry

Mary Merrill Distinguished Achievement

Contact: Laurie Autio

lkautio@comcast.net

Check out the Website for New Sponsor Ads

This year WGB offered to post Sponsor ads, instead of just a logo, on the website. The Ads link to the advertisers website. We have 3 new sponsors this year, Gowdey Reed, Gist Yarn & Fiber, and Label Weavers.

Please take a moment to view and visit all the Ads on the Sponsors page ("Of Interest" tab.)

Thank you, Sue Knowles Martha Rossman

2020 Afternoon Speakers

We hope to have this lecture
at a later date

April PM Lecture

"A Weaver's Journey"
Elizabeth Hill



The most important thing about me is that I am a weaving enthusiast. I love weaving, I love cloth, I love looms, I love weavers, and I love sharing my enthusiasm.

I believe that cloth and its creation are somehow embedded in our DNA. Making cloth seems fundamental to me; I am saddened by the distance we have created between the fabric that means so much to us (wedding dresses, christening gowns, tallitot, baby blankets and grandma's quilt) and the making of that fabric. I find pleasure, challenge and a fundamental gratification in the colors, patterns and structures of the pieces I make. I want to create items that will be in daily use, but that demonstrate that utility is not "mere utility" but is intimately entwined with our aesthetic needs.

This presentation will be an hour-long talk and "textile tour" in slides on the topic of my life as a weaver including my education, monumental mentors, ideas about cloth & cloth making and how the community of weavers has given me a "warp" to weave on.

Hill, Elizabeth

Elizabeth Hill has been weaving for over 20 years, and completed a 6-year Master Weaver Program at Hill Institute in Florence, MA in 2012. She is past Program Chair for the Weavers of Western Massachusetts and one of a team of tech editors for and frequent contributor to *Handwoven*. She has taught at guilds and weaving conferences all over the country and has kept a (recently neglected) weaving blog since 2010.

Her father is a sculptor, her grandfather an illustrator, her mother a painter and her son aprintmaker. In a brief interlude of practicality in the 1980s (when Japan, Inc. was big) Elizabeth got a BA in Asian Studies from Oberlin College and learned to speak Japanese. After working in the publications department of the Japan Society in New York and starting a family, she moved to Western Massachusetts, returned to her genetic roots and headed full-throttle into hand-weaving.

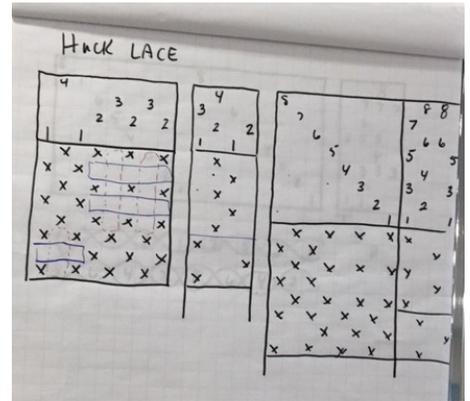
Special Workshop

March 12-14, 2020

Tom Knisely “Weaving on a Straight Eight Twill Threading”

This was a wonderful opportunity to be with Tom Knisely for 3 days and learn about his use of the straight draw threading to weave many structures. He showed us how to draft any pattern repeat of 8 into a straight eight threading draft. We wove a sampler that included several twills, basket weave, rib weave, rose path, undulating twill, monk’s belt, crepe weave, satin, m’s and

o’s, waffle weave, spot bronson, huck lace, and canvas weave. These were created by simple tie-up changes. He brought several samplers to show us. It was a very rewarding workshop and I think all enjoyed it immensely. We are grateful to the Westboro Congregational Church who allowed us to complete the workshop on Saturday even though they were closing due to COVID-19.



March Workshop with Tom Knisley

Weaving With Rags

“Rag weaving has always appealed to me. Whether I’m weaving a rag rug or a table runner and matching place mats, the idea that you are recycling discarded fabrics into a new work of art is very satisfying to me.”



During this mini workshop we were shown how to easily prepare your rags for weaving. We discussed different warp materials that are suitable for rag weaving and why you might choose one thread over another for the best finished results. Most students started to weave their own rag sampler on their pre-warped looms. Thankfully a few of us were able to sit in and take notes

I hope all the students who brought their looms and started the project will share their completed projects at a later date.



Annual Meeting Stay tuned for meeting information

May 13, 2020

WGB Annual Meeting

To Be Determined as the Corona-virus situation evolves

Guild Challenge: " Music through the Decades: a Weaver's Interpretation" Finale. If you participated in the challenge, bring your finished pieces to the meeting (along with your documentation). Guild members and visitors will be eager to see your creations.

Annual Business Meeting: Dean Carol McClennen will conduct the annual meeting and celebrate the year's accomplishments prior to the summer break. Committee chairpersons deliver their annual reports. Awards for both weaving accomplishments and guild work are presented. The ratings chairperson introduces members who have earned Apprentice, Journeyman, or Masters ratings this year. The new slate of officers is presented and voted in.

Potluck Lunch: Members are encouraged to bring a mug, plate, eating utensils, napkin, and - if you enjoy gracious living - a hand woven placemat. Each member should bring a dish or dessert to serve 4 – 6 people, along with serving implements. (Please secure an ingredient list to your dish to help people with dietary restrictions – thank you.) Coffee and tea are on the house.

If your Guild Number is below 1000 or your birth date is before 1937 (here's to you!) please be our guest – you are exempt from bringing a food contribution.

Fashion Show: This is a no-stress, light-hearted chance to display what you have been weaving this year and receive extravagant compliments. Artists bring and model their creations; an emcee describes each work. Fashions may be modeled by the weaver or a friend. Non-clothing can be held up or worn as a drape. Creations from classes and workshops welcome.

If you would like a photograph of you and your work to appear on the Guild's website – optional but fun! – arrive early, before the Business Meeting, to get ready and be photographed.



'Woven & photographed by Sally Eyring

Ratings



Are you house-bound? Self-quarantined or socially-distanced, stir crazy and needing a little structure? Or simply wondering what to do with your stash? Consider working toward a WGB Rating! Ratings are a great way to structure your time and learning, expand your weaving skills, and use up part of your stash.

Starting next year (2021), Ratings are due in February. This means you must notify the Ratings Chair to expect your submission by February 1, and the submission itself will be due at the February meeting. Ratings guidance in the Yearbook and online are temporarily out-of-date on this detail.

Feel free to be in touch. I'm always happy to answer questions.

Ruth Buchman, Ratings Chair (ruthbuchman@gmail.com)

2020 Ratings Submissions

Ratings for this year have been postponed due to the Coronavirus social distancing requirement. Contact Ruth if you have questions. (See above)

WGB Yarn Sales 2020

Clean Out the Old and Bring Home the New



Treasurer's Report March 12, 2020

The results from February yarn table sale:

The Gross amount was	\$285.64
WGB made	\$112.58
Members	\$169.12
Tax	\$ 3.94

March 11, 2020 Yarn Table Sale

The gross amount was	\$308.32
WGB made	\$189.76
Members	\$108.75
Tax	\$ 9.81

Thanks for all the help in set-up, sales, and take down.

Beth Guertin
Treasurer
781-863-1449

Fuller Craft Museum Receives American Craft Council 2020 Award of Distinction

Thank you to the American Craft Council for honoring Fuller Craft Museum with the 2020 Award of Distinction! Our board, staff, and volunteers are elated and humbled to be recognized as an institution that has made significant contributions to the craft field for over 25 years --this coming from the prestigious American Craft Council, craft advocates and thought leaders for nearly 80 years. Congratulations to the other 2020 artist and advocate award recipients. We look forward to celebrating together in the coming year! See the details here on the ACC website.

[@craftcouncil #fullercraftpress #craft #thoughtleader](https://craftcouncil.org/post/celebrating-50-years-awards-honoring-distinction-craft-field)

Obituary

(from Weavers' Guild of RI)

We had very sad news in February. Our Honorary Member, Sally Dubois passed away on Tuesday morning. She was a long-time, beloved guild member. She was very involved in the Bertha Gray Hayes miniature overshot patterns and wrote about BGH for NEWS.

Her daughter, Tobey Fidler sent the news and this link to Norma Smayda.

Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

<https://bostoncremation.org/obituary/sara-shaw-dubois>

Fuller Craft Museum Weavers' Guild of Boston Centennial Exhibition Call for Artists

OVERVIEW:

Founded in 1922, the Weavers Guild of Boston (WGB) has advanced the craft of weaving by the practice of teaching others. With extensive historical records for reference and study, the members have experimented with newly developed fibers, color palettes, and interpretations of patterns. Members have also used new technology to facilitate the design and weaving processes.

Since WGB began, the influence of historic events, social change, and people we have known in our cultural milieu have found expression through the making of cloth. Particular events have had personal meaning to the weaver, which is aesthetically reflected in creations from the loom.

This 2022 exhibition marks the 100th anniversary of the Weavers Guild of Boston, featuring works by current guild members. The works on exhibit illustrate the myriad developments in weaving, fiber art, and modern design over the past century, while highlighting developments in material, artistic taste, and the nature of process oriented craft. The works reflect personal stories and interpretations of historic events and other changing realities over the past 100 years. Museum visitors will witness 2-D and 3-D creations that captivate the senses and engage the mind.

MEMBERS ONLY - THEME FOR ENTRIES:

Members will reflect upon and respond to an historic event or personal experience using the medium of woven textile. Create and communicate the unique story within the framework of fiber construction using your personal approach in technique, materials, and/or compelling subject matter. This is an opportunity to demonstrate the creativity and talent within our guild and expand the perception of our textile art.

ELIGIBILITY:

Weavers Guild of Boston Centennial Exhibition is open to current members of WGB, who **must be a member by May 1, 2020, and maintain membership through 2022.**

ENTRY FEE:

There is no fee to enter this exhibition

SELECTION GUIDELINES and PROCESS:

Pieces will be selected for the *Weavers' Guild of Boston Centennial Exhibition* by Fuller Craft Museum curatorial staff and/or juror(s) in consultation with Fuller Craft Museum on Friday September 17, 2021, in which submissions will be viewed in person (place to be determined) and works will be selected for the exhibition.

Each artist may **submit up to three (3) works – each of which must have been completed from January 1, 2017 to September 17, 2021.** Two dimensional, wall hung work must not exceed 60" X 60" (framing not included), while three dimensional work must not exceed 60" h x 48" l x 48" w.

Full text of the call and relevant dates can be found on the Website. Help will be available at meetings if you have questions. Beth and Julia

OUTREACH WANTS YOU — TO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT WEAVING:

We need you! Historical societies, community fairs, harvest festivals and other organizers love to offer demonstrations of weaving, spinning and fiber arts, and to learn about the Guild. We had more than ten invitations last year, but we were able to respond to only three because we did not have enough volunteer demonstrators. Let's aim to change that this year.

Demonstrating involves weaving or spinning (or other craft) at an event, and helping visitors try their hand at the loom or wheel. You'd need to be able to get yourself to a venue, and, ideally, bring your own equipment, but we will do our best to help you on both counts. It's best to have more than one person at an event, so one person can weave and others talk about weaving and the Guild. Bring a friend — the more the merrier.

We already have three pending invitations for Summer and Fall 2020 (the Guild's presence at Fall events provides opportunities to publicize the sale). Invitations so far are:

Dorothy Quincy Homestead, Quincy, MA, July 18, 2020. <https://nscdama.org/quincy-homestead/>

Alden Homestead, Duxbury, MA, September 26, 2020. <http://alden.org>

Olde Cotuit Fall Festival, Cotuit Historical Society, Cotuit, MA, October 14, 2020. <https://www.cotuithistoricalsociety.org>

If you would like more information, are interested in demonstrating, or want to help at an event, contact Caroline Ronten, carolineronten@gmail.com, or Jane Moore, moore.jane@comcast.net. We'll be happy to hear from you.



Diane Chaisson at Alden House 2019

WGB 2019 – 2020 Challenge

**“The Beat Goes On.....The Heartbeat and Rhythm of the Nation:
Music and Color through the Decades: a Weaver’s Interpretation”**

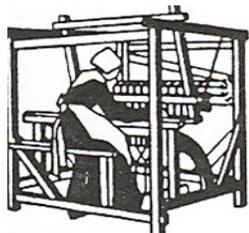


Description of challenge:

In preparation for the guild's 100th Celebration, weave a scarf based on a popular musical score. Participants will choose a popular musical song (not classical music) from 1922 to the present that has meaning for them. Next, participants will research the colors that were popular during the time the song was popular. Using the musical score as your threading and the color trends of that period design a scarf with the finished dimensions of 10" wide by 80" long plus 6" long twisted fringe. The participant may choose any tie-up and treadling. An extensive learning packet will be provided to participants explaining the process. The pieces will be used for the annual sale exhibit and towards our cascading waterfall of scarves for the 100th anniversary celebration. Contact Beth Guertin with questions.

This year's challenge scarves are due at the May meeting. If that meeting gets canceled then please either mail them to me or bring them to the September meeting. Beth Guertin

Weavers' Guild of Boston Sample Spring 2020



Weavers: Nancy Hedberg & Mary Underwood

Date: March, 2020

Weave Structure: Bronson

Warp: 16/1 linen, ice blue, color 511 (source: Glimakra USA)

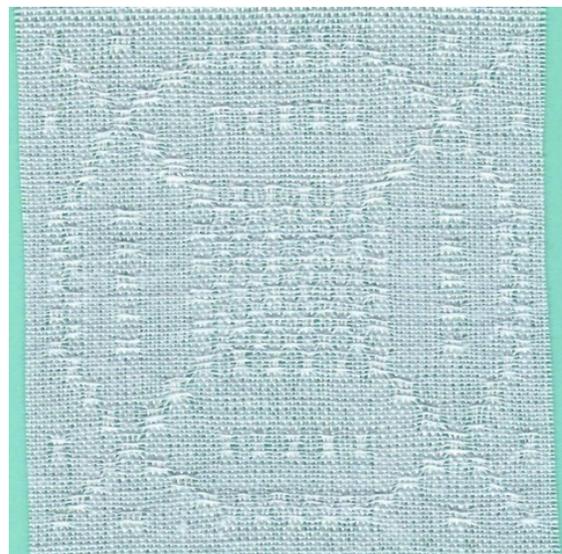
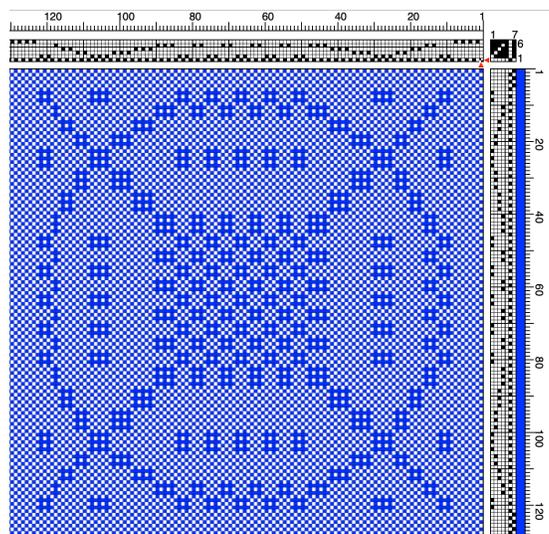
Weft: Same **Loom(s):** Glimakra 10 shafts

Sett: 33 epi, 33 ppi

Reed: metric 65 dents/10 cm or approx. 16.25 dents per inch. It needed an aggressive beat to square the design. Yes, there was breakage. Lots.

Finishing: Handwashed hot/cold, air dried, mangled damp.

Shrinkage: 9% warpwise and 9.5% in width



About the draft: This was taken from *Linen Heirlooms*, by Constance Gallagher, published in 1968, page 138.

An extra block was added to the table to make it square and a plain weave block added to frame the motif.

About the weavers: Mary and Nancy wove these samples in memory of 'from away' WGB member, Ellen Willson. Together with another weaver, Pat Peters, we four 'chicks' mentored once a month with our 'hen', Alice Griswold, from 1999 until Alice passed in 2008. At that time Jean Hosford became a chick and we continue to meet monthly. It was Alice who was in Cross Country Weavers and good friends with WGB member Dorrie Burton and Norma Smayda. Alice dragged Mary, along with her friend Lois Baker from Chicago, and Sonja Wahl (curator of the Handweaving Museum in Clayton, NY), out to NEWS in 2001. Mary was so impressed with the weavers out east that she immediately joined the Boston guild, intending to make those members her role models for making great cloth. She had every intention of going through the apprenticeship program — one reason she joined. Ellen came along with Alice and Mary to the next NEWS, joined WGB, and was the one who actually DID start the apprenticeship program. In her last year, Ellen was working hard on completing the next stage in her program: journeyman. Her journey, sadly, was to another world. Her last project was half Dukagong. She died June 8, 2019. Ellen met Dorrie Burton at a weaving conference in Clayton, NY, and the two had a lovely friendship. Ellen loved Bronson lace, linen, and Dorrie. That brought us to the draft from Gallagher's book. We kept it all in the WGB family.