

2016 Weavers Guild of Boston Awards

submitted by Nancy Hodes, Ro Spinelli, and Laurie Autio

Helen Barrett Award

To a member whose service has made them of outstanding value to the guild.

Ginny Longley

Ginny has been a member of the Weavers Guild of Boston for over 30 years. In these years Ginny has always shown a willingness to help out in any way she could. She served as webmaster for several years and has always been there to lend a hand for whatever needed to be done, even helping out with committees along the way that she was never officially on!

Then, Ginny became involved with the Annual Sale, volunteering year after year. She has been the quiet backbone of both the Annual Sale and the Nominations committees in the last two years, showing over and over her great patience, knowledge, and hard work. She will again be involved with the sale, as one of the co-chairs of the upcoming WGB Annual Sale this coming November, 2016.

For many, many years Ginny has been a reliable and competent presence on the WGB board.

We appreciate the many hours she has given us!

Constance Gallagher Award

For excellence in one or more of: linen weaving, teaching, research, or meticulous craftsmanship.

Carol Wooten

for craftsmanship/excellence in weaving

If you have ever seen Carol's work up close, you all know what an exemplary craftsman and artist she is. One of her scarves is the front piece for the WGB website, but our guild is not the only group that has been proud to honor Carol's extraordinary craftsmanship. Her craftsmanship has been recognized by Handweavers Guild of America, the New England Weavers Seminar (NEWS), Complex Weavers, and also internationally, by the Guild of Canadian Weavers and Spinners.

In 2009, Carol was awarded the NEWS Fashion Show Weaver of Distinction. Then, in 2013, she also became a NEWS Gallery Show Weaver of Distinction. Over the years she has won numerous special prizes at NEWS, including the HGA Award in 2011.

Carol won the Best in Show and HGA awards at Convergence 2010 in Albuquerque. In 2014 the Guild of Canadian Weavers Nell Steedsman Award was awarded to Carol, for her Fashion Entry at HGA Convergence, in Providence. Her work was featured on the cover of the Journal of the Canadian Weavers Guild.

Carol's work is frequently juried into HGA Convergence and Complex Weavers' "Complexity" Exhibitions. Every piece of Carol's work shows in her unique excellence in dyeing, weaving, and sewing her handwoven art.

Deborah Berry Award

To a deserving and promising weaver to celebrate their interest and skill

Deborah Kaplan

For her creativity and play with materials and all aspects of weaving we award Deborah Kaplan the Deborah Berry Award. Many well-documented samples form the basis for each piece Deborah weaves. She explores materials, from the very unusual to the mundane including horsehair, metal, fine linen, feathers, and overtwisted yarns. She is always pushing, analyzing, developing new techniques, and seeing where the possibilities lie. By taking chances and trying unpredictable combinations, she finds new avenues of creative work and personal expression.

Debbie has exhibited her work and won awards in many shows from local to national venues. She participates in the guild sale. Her teaching is helping others to learn to explore design in new ways, and to push themselves through play. We can't wait to see where she goes next!

Celebration of Weaving Life

In memory of weavers who have passed away in the last year.
This year's award is in memory of Gulli Kula and Anne Seamans.

Suzanne Jones

Each year the guild chooses someone who represents the joy of integrating handweaving into their life. Sue Jones is one of those people. She has served as vice president of NH Weavers Guild, Associate Dean of Weavers Guild of Boston, originator of Fuzzfest, a celebration of weaving for the public, and is active in her new guild in CT. The idea for Interlaced, celebrating our 90th WGB birthday, came from Sue. When she lived closer, she was often the smiling face near the door at WGB meetings, with a knack for making people feel comfortable.

Sue continues to push herself in weaving, taking classes (including Explorations in Advanced Weaving for 4 years), trying out new ideas, and combining structures. She has won awards for her weaving at NEWS, HGCT, and other places, including best in Repp for the beautiful church runner she wove. Many people have learned how to make a bag from Sue's classes in bag making. She is currently making curtains in a combination of structures for her home in Guildford, taking classes from a French couture seamstress, and celebrating her commitment to her husband and family. Her view of life keeps her young and inspires those around her.

Distinguished Achievement Award

To a weaver who has a Master Rating and has made a major national contribution in the fiber field.

Ute Bargmann

The first time I met Ute, I was a new weaver at my first guild meeting, a study group on outer wear. I talked about a wool jacket in 2/2 twill with a daring stripe in aqua amongst the natural colors. Ute spoke next. She talked about the 16-shaft coat she was weaving, with different structures and different patterns for each piece. I was blown away and nearly 30 years later I am still blown away by her work.

Ute has her master weaver certificate from Hill Institute, but she was a master before she started. Her diamond intellect focuses on detailed, accurate, and exhaustive research and analysis. She is fascinated by historic weaving and has translated works from Old German. Her interests range from name drafting in 4-shaft overshot, 3-shaft weaving, elaborate pick-up techniques, dimity in Southern US counterpins, band weaving of many types, to figuring out how Anna Neuper's 16th century pearl bands were created - and then weaving them. Nothing pleases her more than solving the puzzle of how something was actually done rather than making assumptions.

Ute has taught many, many classes, written articles, and served as chair and other positions for her three local guilds and a number of positions for NEWS. One of her favorite places to lecture has been at the annual weaving history conferences held in Clayton, NY. She is one of our treasures.

Honorary Membership

To a Guild member who has made a major contribution in the fiber field.

Mary Elva Congleton Erf

Where does one start with a weaver like Mary Elva? The woman is a dynamic researcher, teacher, weaver, and writer.

With interests ranging from Shaker reproductions textiles (especially towels, rugs, and tapes), fabric analysis, to miniatures, dimity, friendship projects, to embroidery, to the Bayeux tapestry she demonstrates mastery and engagement. In addition to passing along her skills through teaching across the US and in Australia she has written four books and many articles in Shuttle, Spindle and Dyepot, the Weaver's Journal, Handwoven, and The Shaker Messenger.

1991 Co-Authoring Simple Elegant - on linen lace weaves

1991 Tiny Textiles - Miniaturizing to doll house scale, showing skill in adapting materials, patterns, and fine threads

2005 Shaker Towels for the 21st Century - Linens in all their glories and many structures

2015 Weaving Shaker Rugs: Traditional Techniques to Create Beautiful Reproduction Rugs and Tapes

Her work has been exhibited in many places and her reproduction textiles are included in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Shaker Museums at Pleasant Hill, KY; Canterbury, NH; and Hancock, MA.

She is past president of the Handweavers Guild of CT and has served the community in many ways, especially as an incredibly open and generous mentor.

We celebrate Mary Elva with our highest award and deepest appreciation.