

# Fall 2011 Newsletter

## Weavers Guild of Springfield

### All Dressed Up . . .

You have the perfect loom, studio (weaving space), lighting, bench at the correct height; your loom is threaded but have you thought about the attire for weaving.

- Blouses or tops with buttons are not the best items to wear when weaving as they can catch on your warp as it travels over the front beam.
- Blue jeans with studs on the back pockets can cause excessive wear on your loom bench. You could consider weaving a bench topper. What weave structure would you choose?
- Belts can also catch on when weaving as it travels over the front beam.

- Long sleeve sometime do not matter but depending on what you are weaving
- Jewelry is a problem when winding warps and bracelets and rings with high prongs could catch when treading.
- Do you weave with shoes, socks, or bare-foot? As we age our bone structure changes in our feet so sometime it is better to treadle with a firmed footwear such as running shoes. Also, consider the wear of your footwear on your treadles. It is better to wear shoes with low heels or ones without heels. Consider felting, weaving or knitting a pair of weaving slippers.



- Clothes that ride-up can become uncomfortable if sitting at the loom for a long period of time.

- Pockets can be convenient but sometime a apron or French smock is a better consideration.
- Some clothing can cause piling (piks) because of friction especially if weaving with wool or some man made fibers.
- When weaving a light warp make sure that your top will not bleed dye onto your woven fabric.

Pick the perfect and most comfortable weaving attire!

Prepared by Loris Epps and Jane Devlin

#### Special points of interest:

- The Guild has carpet warp for sale, contact Jo Ann Miner
- Please send a note or card to Hilda Guenther to say hello.
- Congratulate winners from the NEWS exhibits.
- Check out the labeling of the sample notebook completed by Jane and Loris in late August.
- It is not too early to think about program ideas for next year.

#### Inside this issue:

Program 2011-2012	2
Hostess	3
Weaving Tips (new feature)	4
NEWS Wrap-up	5
Creative Arts/Shelburne Grange/Fiber Nook Happen-	5
Officers and meeting location	6
Online Resources	6

### 60th Birthday Celebration

Happy 60th Birthday!! The Guild has always maintained a community focus and encourages new weavers of all ages to try weaving.

Thanks to all the members present and past who have contributed to the Guild and

it's continued growth. We all feel that the Guild is a warm and welcoming place to learn about weaving.

We will celebrate with a special cake. Please come and join the festivities!



## Program 2011—2012

September 10, 2011	<p>Morning: <b>Wrap-up of summer</b></p> <p>Afternoon: <b>Mystery Draft Study Group</b></p>	<p>All members</p> <p>Ute Bargmann-Leader</p> <p><i>The first "clue" will be revealed at this meeting when we receive a draft and further instructions. Stay tuned!</i></p>
	<p><b>60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b></p>	<p>All members</p>
October 8, 2011	<p>Morning: <b>Maori Weaving</b></p> <p>Afternoon: <b>Pick-up weaving</b></p>	<p>Leslie Craine</p> <p><i>Indigenous weaving techniques and traditions in the context of Maori culture and New Zealand history.</i></p> <p>Ute Bargmann</p> <p><i>Are you shaft-hungry? Don't you have enough? Well, you can do pick-up and only the length and width of your warp (and your patience) are the limit. Graph paper and marker will do the trick, with nimble fingers and pick-up stick. It does not hurt to be able to count.</i></p>
November 5, 2011	<p><b>All day Round Robin</b></p>	<p>Pat Billingsley-Leader</p> <p><i>Guild members will have the opportunity to weave samples of some different structures. Hands on exploration of structures that you may have wanted to try but never got around to. Anyone who is able to bring a travel loom (pre-warped), please let Pat know. More details at our meeting in September.</i></p>
December 3, 2011	<p><b>Holiday Celebration</b></p>	<p>All members</p>
January 7, 2012	<p>Morning: <b>Soumak Weaving</b></p> <p>Afternoon: <b>Beyond Kente</b></p>	<p>Susan Wright</p> <p><i>Soumak is a centuries old tapestry weaving technique requiring minimal equipment (such as your fingers!) to create beautiful designs for rugs or other objects.</i></p> <p>Loris Epps</p> <p><i>Travel to the continent of Africa and learn about many of the textiles woven and used on the West Coast. This lecture offers a glimpse of strip weaving, embroidered cloth, dyed fabric and plant material, signs and symbols, and other aspects of items used for clothing the body in West Africa. A replica of a loom will be available as well as an extensive handout and bibliography.</i></p>
February 4, 2012	<p>Morning: <b>Stories of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Weavers</b></p>	<p>Laura Freeman</p> <p><i>Handweaving Pioneers: Wild Weaving Women</i></p> <p><i>Biographical sketches of some of our favorite weavers: Amazing stories about amazing weavers including Mary Meigs Atwater, Harriet Tidball, Mary Black, and others.</i></p>

## Program (continued)

	Afternoon: <b>Why Did I Buy That Yarn?</b>	All members <i>We will have a brainstorming session about those yarns and fibers that looked too interesting to leave on the store shelf but now what? We'll swap yarns and share ideas for an inspirational afternoon. Bring those orphan yarns!!</i>
March 3, 2012	Morning: <b>Color for Weavers-I</b>	Pam Engberg <i>Effective use of color in weaving is helped by an understanding of both color theory and optical mixing, but only if they are presented in terms of our medium. Our talks address these topics specifically as they might be used by the weaver. Guidelines, examples, and participatory activities will provide a framework for success and for further exploration of color in your weaving.</i>
	Afternoon: <b>Twining:</b>	Lynnette Douville <i>Twining is done on a frame loom and can be very inexpensive using old clothes, sheets, etc., cut into strips. This is an easy project which yields beautiful, sturdy products such as rugs, chair seats, chair pads, table runners, placemats and more—you can go as far as your imagination will take you!</i>
April 7, 2012	Morning: <b>Color Part II</b>	Pam Engberg <i>See description for March 3<sup>rd</sup>.</i>
	Afternoon: <b>Mystery Draft wrap up</b>	<i>The mystery will be solved as we share our solutions!</i>
May 12, 2012	<b>Annual Meeting</b>	All members

## Hostess 2011-2012

September—Leslie Crane  
 October—Jo Ann Miner  
 November—Laura Freeman  
 January—Sylvia Deliso  
 February—Jane Devlin  
 March—Monica Adreas  
 April—Pat Billingsley

Hostess are to bring milk.  
 Cups, napkins, coffee and tea are provided by the Guild.



## Upcoming Events

### Fiber Festival Big E, West Springfield, MA; Nov. 5-6, 2011

<[www.thebige.com/ese/ESEEvents/Fiber\\_Festival.asp](http://www.thebige.com/ese/ESEEvents/Fiber_Festival.asp)>

<[www.thebige.com/ese/ESEEvents/ScheduleofEvents.asp](http://www.thebige.com/ese/ESEEvents/ScheduleofEvents.asp)>

The Fiber Festival of New England is pleased to host a Wool Fashion show! We are looking for participants to join us on Saturday, at 3:00 p.m. for this fun filled event. If you have a wool (sheep's wool, mohair, alpaca or angora) accessory, outfit, or any piece of apparel please plan on showcasing it for this wonderful event. People interested in participating should contact Kathy Rasys at 413-245-9463 or via email at <kathyrasys@hotmail.com>. Pre-registration is not necessary.

### Eastern States Exposition ("Big E")

West Springfield, MA, Sept. 16- Oct. 2

### Complex Weavers Seminar

Chevy Chase, MD; Sept. 12-15, 2012

<[complex-weavers.org/seminar.htm](http://complex-weavers.org/seminar.htm)>

### Convergence, July 15 - 21, 2012

HGA (Handweavers Guild of America) Conference

<[www.weavespindye.org/?loc=8-00-00](http://www.weavespindye.org/?loc=8-00-00)>

## New Feature: Weaving Tips by Laura Freeman

#### Laura's Weaving Tips and Advice:

*When I am weaving a long pattern, I either photocopy or write out the treadling and clip this to the castle of my loom. As I weave, I slide a large paper clip along the pattern to mark my place. This has been very helpful especially when there are people around saying random numbers or if I need to stop weaving in the middle of a pattern sequence.*

*Thrums: I have found a few uses for thrums. A) You can braid several ends together to make decorate ribbons for packages, wine bottles, etc; B) Children like to braid or macramé these ends to create bracelets or small decorations (as well as peace and quiet for the adults); c) I twist multiple ends together to create dog chew toys.*

#### Questions:

*Sometimes my warp develops uneven areas of tension. How do I create more even tension after I have started a project?*

This space is empty—we were expecting more tips and suggestions. Please do not be afraid to contribute and share your ideas.



**Please consider sharing your tips. Send tips to Laura Freeman.**

## NEWS Wrap-up and Winners

Thanks to all the members who worked so diligently to help make NEWS a success. Especial thanks go to Karen Wittshirk as she has served as the Site Coordinator for several NEWS. Karen took a much deserved respite to Iceland in July. Also thanks to Susan for being our other NEWS Rep and to all of you who helped with the stuffing of the packets.

We also participated in the Display table at NEWS. Thanks to all who helped and submitted items.

### Fashion Show

#### **Barbara Gordon**

“Chimera” – differential shrinkage scarf

-1st Place Scarves, 8 shafts and over  
- Mainly Weavers, Margaret Singer Memorial Award for Best Use of Wool and Color

“Sanguine Synchronization” - collapse weave shawl – 1st Place Shawls

- Cranberry Weavers Award for Exemplary and Creative Use of the Color Cranberry, Vermillion, Ruby or Red  
- Creative Arts Workshop, Creative Use of Weave Structure

**Best of Show** – based on points

### Gallery Show

**Barbara Gordon:** Homage to Eunice

**Susan Wright:** Scarf, Shawl, and bag

#### **Ruth Buchamn**

Scarf

Scarf: 8 or more, 1st Place

Wall Hanging: 1st Place and Helen Kelcote Award



## Creative Arts/Shelburne Grange/Fiber Nook

The following members entered items into Creative Arts at the Big E: Eunice Smith, Sylvia Deliso, Jane Devlin, Loris Epps, Angela King, Ute Bargmann, and Jo Ann Miner.

You can still volunteer to weave during the Big E for Creative Arts in the New England Building by contacting Sarah Swanzky or call Jane Devlin at 734-7005. Loris and Jane plan to weave at least one day.

The Guild will demonstrate weaving at The Shelburne Grange Fair on August 27th. Several members entered items for judging: Ute Bargmann, Jane Devlin, Jo Ann Miner, Loris Epps, Eunice Smith, Sylvia Deliso, and Betsy McKee.

It is not too late to volunteer at the Fiber Nook. The Fiber Nook is held during the Big E (September 16—October 2, 2011).



## Guild Happenings

Thanks to **Leslie Craine** for volunteering to create a slate of officers for this program year and consequent voting. Elections occur every two years so you have time to consider running for any of the positions.

**Susan** is the proud new owner of a Leclerc multi-harness Colonial loom.

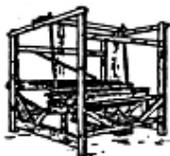
### **Library Policy**

Library books can be taken out for only 3 months. When someone returns a book, they can take it out again (limit another 3 months) so long as no one else wants it. People can take out as many books as they want. All books should go through the librarians for sign out and sign in.



## Weavers Guild of Springfield

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ESTABLISHED 1951

### Officers:

President:	Jane Devlin
Program Chair:	Laura Freeman
Secretary:	Betsy McKee
Treasurer:	Jo Ann Miner
Librarian:	Eunice Smith
Assistant Librarian:	Sylvia Deliso
Events Coordinator:	Loris Epps
Web:	Pat Billinglsey Loris Epps
NEWS Reps:	Susan Wright Karen Wittshirk

The guild was first organized in November 1951, and has been concerned with promoting interest in weaving since that time. Meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month from September to May inclusive.

Membership is open to anyone who is interested in this field of activity. At the present time the list of members includes those who are just starting to take lessons and others who have spent many years weaving and studying textile design and production.

### Meeting Location

*Unless otherwise noted, all guild meetings will be held at:*

Community House  
735 Longmeadow Street  
Longmeadow, MA 01106

## Online Resources

Visit the Handwoven site, [www.weavingtoday.com/forums/](http://www.weavingtoday.com/forums/) for Study Groups for many weave structures, including Plainweave, Overshot, Crackle, Bronson and all sorts of lace weave, Boundweave, Twills and on and on. Each group has a mentor and it seems like the groups are ongoing, so one can join in and learn. Even if you do not join, you can visit their discussions and the Gallery where the final projects are posted. On this site are also other discussions and blogs about all things weaving. Weavers are lucky to have so many resources available to them!

[www.weavolution.com](http://www.weavolution.com)

## a gathering place for handweavers

Weavolution.com is the online international handweaving community where you can connect with others who share your passion for the craft.

The Textile Museum

[www.textilemuseum.org](http://www.textilemuseum.org)

### Library Happenings

- Jane and Loris recently completed a full inventory of the Guild library.
- We are missing a few books and a list will be sent prior to the meeting.
- We are in need of another Library Helper.