

Looming ITEMS

November 2024

Harmony Weavers Guild Newsletter

Vol. 50 Number 3

**November Program — Zoom and in-person
November 14 @ 10:00 a.m.
Brandywine Town Center
4050 Brandywine Parkway — Wilmington, DE
19803**

**“Natural Dyeing with Local Plants”
presented by Carol Ireland**

It's hard to resist the temptation to try dyeing with almost any flower, leaf, bark or root once one gets a taste of the beauty of yarns dyed with extracts from local plants — soft yellow from Queen Anne's Lace, rich yellow from goldenrod, orange-yellow from osage orange sawdust, intense bronze orange from Dyer's Coreopsis, reds from madder, and of course, blue from indigo. This talk will cover some of the basics of natural dyeing, including the all-important step of mordanting fibers. The differences between dyeing plant and animal fibers, and the unique process for creating an indigo dye bath will be included. The presentation will include demonstrating dyeing in a few dye pots.

We will be meeting jointly with the Countryside Garden Club of Hockessin. The Garden Club currently maintains the herb garden at Tweeds Tavern, a historic building in Hockessin. They are investigating whether to develop a dyers garden in this location.

Carol Ireland has been a member of Harmony Weavers Guild for about 20 years. She started on her fiber arts journey by learning to knit, crochet and sew from her mother. A weaving course in college was the start of her 50+ year interest in weaving. She's been spinning for almost 30 years. After raising two daughters and retiring from DuPont (where she worked as a chemist for 32 years) she was able to devote more time to weaving. Natural dyeing was added to the mix primarily as a result of textile tours in Thailand, Laos, Mexico, Peru and Japan that included natural dyeing demonstrations and workshops.



*The Zoom link will be sent to you through an i.o.
group email*

From the President's Pen

Now that fall is in full swing, make sure you go outside to take in the view (even if it's a short drive). I'm sure the colors will inspire you to make something beautiful!



Speaking of beautiful things - wasn't the Hagley show impressive? I loved seeing all the talent our members were showing off! And the new racks really did a good job of helping display our pieces. If you did sell something, don't forget to cash your check.

Looking to get out and do something? I was searching for art events in the Delaware area and found the Delaware Scene with some events of interest - <https://delawarescene.com/search/?category=3> That Mayhem and Murder sounds interesting - anyone for solving an Agatha Christie murder? But don't wait - it's only presented the first 2 weekends in November. Looking for a little history and culture? There are guided tours of the Rockwood Mansion lasting through the month of November. There's bound to be some archival fabrics / designs represented on the tour.

That's all for now - hope to see you either on Zoom or in person at our November meeting!

Nancy Everham

Thanks to Pam Sapko and Sonnie Sperati for the November Refreshments!

Register for Fall Classes now!

Details and registration for ALL MAFA Virtual classes and lectures is on [Lessonface](#)

- November 2: [Creating Carded Blends](#) with Alanna Wilcox
- November 9 & 10: [Square, Triangle and Rectangle Bias Weaving](#) with Florencia Campos
- November 12 & 19: [Four-Shaft Double Weave - Part 2](#) with Lisa Graves
- December 4 & 11: [Introduction to Sprang: Part 2 Circular Warp](#) with Carol James
- December 5: [A Block for Every Structure](#) with Marcy Petrini
- January 9: [Overshot: In Practice & Theory](#) with Lisa Graves
- January 11 [Lace Weaves on the Rigid Heddle Loom](#) with Deborah Jarchow
- January 19 [Throw in the Towel: Planning, Producing, and Presenting the Perfect Handwoven Towel](#) with Gail Pilgrim
- February 1 [Direct Painting with Natural Indigo](#) with John Marshall
- February 22 [Joining Handwoven Panels](#) with Deborah Jarchow
- February 25 - March 11 [Common & Uncommon Tied Weaves](#) with Marcy Petrini
- February 26 [Lazy Knitter's Guide to Pattern Stitches](#) with Margaret Radcliffe
- March 8 [Designing Huck vs Bronson Lace](#) with Jill Staubit
- March 22 - April 24 [Design and Make Garments on a Rigid Heddle Loom](#) with Deborah Jarchow

December **Articles are due Monday,**
 Newsletter **November 25, 2024**

It was a beautiful day in the Hagley Craft Fair neighborhood

The weather was perfect during the Hagley Craft Fair weekend. Twelve HWG weavers manned the booth and several more set up the booth and broke it down. We sold 13 scarves, 18 towels, 4 framed art, 1 runner, 6 bags, 4 shawls, 4 blankets, 2 yarn skeins, 1 coat, 1 vest, 1 hat and 1 Christmas decoration.

We garnered \$4133 over the two days. And after expenses, the Guild had a profit of \$217. That was slightly more than last year. Thirteen Guild members had items to sell. That number included several weavers who were new to the sale. I would love to see more Guild members participating in 2025.

Sonnie Sperati



Harmony Weavers Guild Officers and Committee Chairs

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President.....	Nancy Everham
Vice President.....	OPEN
Secretary	Lucy Demitrack
Treasurer.....	Pam Sapko
Membership Chair & Guild Looms.....	Linda Shinn
Program Chair/Zoom.....	Dinah Kirby

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.....	Kathleen Remsa
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.....	Carol Ireland
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.....	Gail Caron
Hospitality	Carol Ireland
.....	Karen Evans

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.....	Lucy Demitrack
.....	Pam Sapko
.....	Nancy Everham

Dyeing at Chester County History Center



Our final outreach program of the year took place at the end of September, when Linda Shinn, Taylor Holdsworth and Carol Ireland demonstrated natural dyeing at the Chester County History Center. This was one element of a “Color Quest” program, designed to help kids understand how colors were made, what colors symbolize and how colors were used historically.

Participants made “stained glass” using colored cellophane, ground materials (including cochineal) to make pigments, and learned about prisms. We demonstrated dyeing with goldenrod, cochineal, and indigo.

Thanks to some guidance from Heather Hansen, who did a similar demonstration at Winterthur, and a suggestion from Linda Shinn, Carol finalized a plan for the event. She washed and mordanted (in aluminum triformate, a room temperature mordant that seems to work on both animal and plant fibers) some heavy muslin; tore the muslin into strips; and cut them to make “book marks”. She dyed one end in goldenrod dye and the other end in cochineal dye.

At the event, kids (and some adults) each dyed the center of a fabric strip in indigo. (The two ends of the strips were held out of the indigo dye bath with a connected pair of chopsticks.) The resulting bookmark was a “rainbow” of color: red-purple-blue-green-yellow since the indigo over-dyed some of the yellow and red (actually, more like pink).

We also showed examples of plants and the colors resulting from them, information on how to prepare yarn for dyeing using mordants, and discussed the unique dye cochineal — kids were surprised the color came from an insect!

One of the organizers emailed shortly after the event: “My coworker's daughter is in the office today and I saw she is using the bookmark already.” There’s no better feedback than that!

[Carol Ireland](#)



Here’s another Nunofelting opportunity

For those weavers who missed the nunofelt class in September and still are interested in the technique, here is another opportunity. New Castle County adult education has felting classes periodically at Absalom Jones Center. I took a nunofelting class there prior to the covid epidemic. It was a one-afternoon class. I just checked and they will be having one on Jan. 11, 2025.

I’ve enclosed a photo of the scarf I made in class. Everyone’s looked fabulous.

[Marilyn Bromels](#)



What I did on my Fall Vacation



Bob and I spent a week in Rhode Island and one of our days was spent in Pawtucket at the Slater Mill.

Slater Mill was the first successful water powered cotton spinning mill in America. It is considered the beginning of the American Industrial Revolution. It was built in 1793 by Samuel Slater, an English immigrant. He arrived in American with the dream of making a fortune from his knowledge of British water powered textile machines. It appears he succeeded.

Providence, Rhode Island merchant, Moses Brown had the financial means and entrepreneurial drive to work with Slater. With the help of local mechanics, they reproduced the English textile machines

necessary to spin cotton yarn using water power. Manufacturing was based on the Arkwright cotton spinning system, which included carding, drawing, and spinning machines.

While celebrated as bringing upon the Industrial Revolution with the establishment of the first successful textile mill in the nation, Slater's initial employment of young children ages 7-13 also brought the mill notoriety. Renowned photographer Lewis Hines documented the extremely harsh working conditions for the children, and publication of the images helped lead to the establishment of new laws created to help protect children.

Slater's hiring practices involving children and families established a pattern that was replicated throughout the Blackstone Valley known as the "Rhode Island System".

Sonnie Sperati



And then the visit to





CCCCG Chester County Craft Guild

Chester County Craft Guild Fine Art and Craft Fair

November 2nd & 3rd

10am - 4pm on Saturday * 11am - 4pm on Sunday
100 N Bradford Ave, West Chester, PA 19382

Scan the QR code for more information.

Shop for unique, one-of-a-kind gifts for yourself and your loved ones!



Holiday Fine Art & Craft Fair **CCCCG** Chester County Craft Guild

December 14th & 15th
10am - 4pm on Saturday
11am - 4pm on Sunday

Ludwigs Corner Fire Hall
1325 Pottstown Pike
Glenmoore, PA
Rt. 100.5 miles North of the Turnpike

Admission is free with this postcard!
Scan the QR code for more information.

Don't miss this opportunity to buy your loved ones handcrafted holiday gifts!

Support Local Arts & Local Artists on November 9th & 10th!

2024 Holiday Art & Fine Craft Show



Elven Rudolf Miller
Marsha Jackson

10AM to 5PM * November 9th & 10th
Haverford Community Recreation and Environmental Center (GREC)
5000 Parkview Dr., Haverford, PA 19041
\$5 admission (\$3 admission with this image)

www.haverfordguild.org/Holiday2024

Haverford Guild of Craftsmen

Elisabeth Brown's booth is 58



GBC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THIRD ANNUAL FALL CRAFT FAIR

NOVEMBER 2ND, 2024
9 AM - 3 PM
GBC EVENT CENTER

50+ UNIQUE VENDORS, RAFFLES, FOOD AND MORE!

FAIR WEATHER FIBER SHOP
5821 Telegraph Road Elton, MD 21921

We have over 60 fleeces including raw as well as processed. Our own sheep's yarn as well as throws all made from 100% Gotland in All shades of gray. We have been raising Gotland sheep since 2015.

Please contact Nancy Bentley at 302-530-7028 or email fairweatherfarmfairhill@gmail.com to make an appointment to shop.

MEMBERSHIP

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE GUILD? Please contact Linda Shinn at 302-655-9434 or e-mail info@harmonyweaversguild.org. Membership renewal for each year begins in June and ends by the September meeting in order to be included in the Membership List.. Membership includes a monthly Newsletter available through the web site: https://groups.io/g/harmonyweaversguild or by e-mail attachment.

All monthly meetings are in person at Brandywine Town Community Center and by Zoom.



Membership Form for 2024-2025

Categories for Membership: Active \$35 Full-Time student \$15

👉 NEW MEMBERS ONLY: Joining between January 1 and March 31 - \$20 🗨️ Joining between April 1 through June - \$40 (Includes next season's dues)

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AS YOU WISH THEM TO APPEAR IN THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (_____) _____ E-MAIL: _____

Checks payable to Harmony Weavers Guild.
Mail form & check to Linda Shinn PO Box 4458 Wilmington DE 19807