

Looming ITEMS

March 2024

Harmony Weavers Guild Newsletter

Vol. 49 Number 7



March Program — Zoom and in-person March 14 @ 10:00 a.m.

"Into the Third Dimension: Texture and Relief in Contemporary Tapestry" presented by Molly Elkind

The world of contemporary work in tapestry is exciting and diverse. Many artists are exploring the potential of texture, creating works that come forward in space or even become completely three-dimensional. In this slide lecture, view the work of a wide variety of weavers who are pushing tapestry beyond two dimensions. Warning: you may leave with a strong desire to weave with weird materials in new ways!

From her blog Talking Textiles — <https://mollyelkindtalkingtextiles.blogspot.com/> — "So . . . what is woven-ness? Over-under-over-under. Interlacement. Warp and weft crossing in specific patterns. All of these, and also: the making of a web, the combining of two or more elements into one integrated whole, the weaving together. Not for nothing do we speak of the fabric of society and the worldwide web. If we probe deeper into the modality of weaving we find an approach, attitude and orientation, that is crucially different from that offered by knitting and crochet, different from surface

embroidery, different from felt- and paper-making. All of these connect elements in different ways and moods and for different purposes. All can make images, but those images will be very different from each other because of their modality.

So I continue to read and to make small experiments, seeking to find the magic center place in the Venn diagram where technique, material, form and concept all converge. I am a weaver, and weaving is a beautiful, ancient, and nuanced language. But all languages grow and change by incorporating "foreign" words and phrases too. Is it tapestry when the weft is plastic? Grass? When the warp includes wire? Is it weaving when strips of fabric are interlaced into metal hardware cloth? I'm about to find out. If you're still with me, thanks for following along."

The photo to the left is a tapestry she is working on — the weft is single use plastic bags (plarn).



Molly Elkind, "The Wreck" (working title), nearly complete. One piece of three to be collaged together.

Bring your lunch and plan to stay after the March Guild Meeting to learn about preparing woven works for display. This free demonstration is the perfect opportunity to get expert advice on how to have your work ready to show at the Harmony Weavers Guild Biennial in May! Please RSVP to Dinah Kirby at dinahkirby@comcast.net or 302-229-7216.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87003062222?pwd=V2VLV2dubm1ObVpFM29JODJWcmwwZz09>

Meeting ID: 870 0306 2222 — Passcode: 046143

From the President's Pen

Hi everyone!

In looking towards the future, I am happy to say that our guild will be making some very positive changes. Read on to find out more.

The first change is that we will now be meeting at the very accessible and easy to get to Brandywine Town Community Center. This is the same place where we held our December holiday party (4050 Brandywine Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19803). The parking was plentiful, with no hill to walk up and down; the front door was very accessible, it had easy access to and from major roadways, and I believe that everyone felt the airy, spacious and light room we were in was a good fit for us. I hope you will all join me in saying that a community center is a good place for a community based guild to meet.

The next change that we will be making is the fact that some of our board members are moving on. Most notably, our Treasurer, Sue Balascio, is stepping down. To this end, she would like to start training the new Treasurer over the rest of the year. Pam Sapko has stepped up and indicated she would like to fill this role. If anyone else would like to be considered for this position, please let me know immediately. Timing is everything; as we will be voting for our new Treasurer at the March meeting.

The other positions that will be open for voting on are Vice President and Secretary. Gail Caron has been our Secretary for the past 13 years and feels the time is right to step down. Feel free to ask Gail or myself any questions that you have about the Secretary or Vice President positions. Our Operations Manual

can also provide answers; we are in the last phases of finishing that effort up and it will be shortly available. We will be voting on a new Secretary position at the June meeting; and, I would like to see a new Vice President step into that role at that time as well. So if you have been thinking about getting more involved in the guild, now is the time!

Toni Ammons would also like to step down from her responsibilities as manager of our groups.io. She's been responsible for groups.io and yahoo groups for more than 15 years! She stated the obvious in that the busiest time is in the fall with membership updates - otherwise it's somewhat routine; and she is willing to help and mentor her replacement.

The third guild change is the fact that we have some funds that we would like to invest for the future of the guild. So, I am putting this out to you, as members, of the guild - if you could, how would you use a good amount of funds to grow, improve and move our guild into the future? Please give this some consideration and come to our March meeting with your ideas!

As we are looking for feedback on all of the above - please take the time to think about how you can help our guild grow. And, we will all use your positive energies and ideas to help us take our guild into the future!

Stay healthy and stay well, everyone,

Nancy

Don't Forget Your Stick Weaving!

Please remember to bring your completed stick weaving from the Holiday Party in December to the March meeting. If you would like to start one, you can pick up sticks and yarn along with some simple instructions from Dinah Kirby at the March meeting. We are planning to hang them together at the Biennial in May.

April
Newsletter

**Articles are due Tuesday,
March 26, 2024**

March Workshop — Displaying Your Woven Artwork

Presented by Joanne Gretz and Sue Balascio

This demonstration will cover several methods to get your woven artwork ready for display in the HWG Biennial Exhibition at the Blue Ball Barn in May. Joanne Gretz and Sue Balascio will demonstrate how to stretch canvas on wooden painting stretchers, mount woven works on stretched canvases, attach small tapestries to a stretched canvas, and methods for hanging free-hanging pieces.

This will not be a hands-on workshop but participants are encouraged to bring artwork to discuss best methods of display.

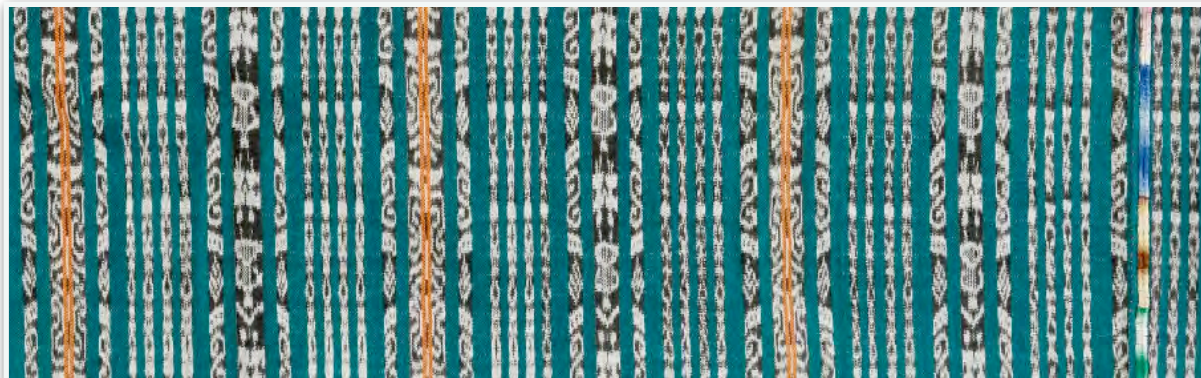
Irresistible: The Global Patterns of Ikat opens at the GW Museum in Washington D.C.

Prized worldwide for producing vivid patterns and colors, the ancient resist-dyeing technique of ikat developed independently in communities across Asia, Africa and the Americas, where it continues to inspire artists and designers today. This exhibition explores the global phenomenon of ikat textiles through more than 70 masterful examples from countries as diverse as Japan, Indonesia, India, Uzbekistan, Côte d'Ivoire and Guatemala.

Irresistible takes visitors on a world tour of ikat that spans centuries and cultures, from India, Monsoon Asia, West and Central Asia, Japan, Africa and the Americas. Highlights include a man's wrapper cloth made by Baule male

weavers of Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa's most widely recognized producers of ikat, and a hip wrapper made for Balinese royalty, whose realistic, figural imagery represents a tour de force of ikat art. Five short films throughout the exhibition provide case studies of contemporary ikat production in India, Indonesia, Cambodia, Japan and Uzbekistan.

THIS COULD BE AN EXCELLENT FIELD TRIP FOR THE GUILD. THE EXHIBIT RUNS THROUGH JUNE 1. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN CARPOOLING TO THE EXHIBIT, PLEASE CONTACT CAROL IRELAND.



Here's what's up with the Downstate Group

The past two months were an active time for members of the Downstate Group. Since many of us were away and/or quite busy in December, we decided to have a “post-holiday” lunch in January. I had hoped to arrange it at an extra-special locale but...it turns out that, since the pandemic, a number of restaurants in the Rehoboth/Lewes area have stopped serving lunch. Most of those that do lunch don't take reservations. As a result, we gathered at the tried-and-true Hotel Romney, nice but we have been there before. Barbara Nelson, Leslie Campagna, Sandy Buckworth, Mickey Irr, Margaret Siegel, myself and a new member – Lori Sandell – ate well and talked fiber for several hours.

One of our members – Barbara Nelson – has been an active participant in the Ocean City Wool and Fiber Expo since its founding 15 years ago. This year, Barbara, Colleen Ware (and her husband Victor) and myself demonstrated a “truncated” sheep to shawl. Colleen's husband Victor (who calls himself the “spin doctor”) demonstrated spinning, while Colleen was plying yarn on a separate wheel. I was weaving (and showing passers-by how to weave) while Barbara was demonstrating basket-weaving. Many people stopped by, watched spinning and tried out weaving. While a number of people expressed interest in pursuing weaving, one has followed-up and I have sent her the Guild newsletter.

Last, but not least, at our regular 3rd Thursday meeting, a few of us learned to make Carolina Snowflakes – a paper ornament that uses basketweave techniques. Since Barbara, our resident basket weaver, had extra paper, we took some home to keep trying these. They make lovely Christmas ornaments and bows for gifts. And, extra bonus – another new member joined us. So...the Downstate Group goes up and down, and now seems to be an up-time.

Deborah Lewis-Idema



The Harmony Weavers Guild 2024 Biennial Exhibition is coming up fast

We will be displaying our talents at the Blue Ball Barn in the Alapocas Run State Park just outside of Wilmington. The exhibition will run from May 3 – May 27.

PLEASE consider entering one of your beautiful pieces! Entries can include wearables (scarves, shawls, jackets, etc.), home goods (table runners, pillows, rugs, etc), wall art, or any other finished piece that embodies your best work! You will be able to sell your pieces at the exhibit.

Entries must:

- be an original work by a Guild member in good standing
- have been created by hand within the prior three years.
- not have been created from a kit or under supervision.

We are also looking for photos of the work you intend to submit. These photos will be used for promotional purposes. Please contact Sue Balascio for more information.

This is a fabulous opportunity for us to share with the public the diverse and fascinating world of weaving!

ALSO, PLEASE ATTEND THE FREE WORKSHOP ON FRAMING YOUR WORK AFTER THE MARCH MEETING.

Sue Balascio

A BIG
Thank You!

to Linda Shinn and Marcia Gregorio for the refreshments this month!



UPCOMING FREE LECTURE:

March 26: Exploring the Long Thread of Korean Textile Arts with Anne Choi, 7 p.m. ET

Join New Jersey shepherd Anne Choi as she reflects on her recent visit to Korea, where she visited the studios of contemporary artists working to preserve and celebrate Korea's unique textile craft history.

FREE, sign up here:

lessonface.com/apply/Exploring-Long-Thread-Korean-Textile-Arts

Upcoming Movie Night:

Our next Movie Night is Wednesday, March 13th at 7 p.m. ET, and our featured fiber artist will be Nick an artist, educator and foremost a messenger,

working between the visual and performing arts through a wide range of mediums including sculpture, installation, video, sound and performance. Cave is well known for his Soundsuits, sculptural forms based on the scale of his body, initially created in direct response to the police beating of Rodney King in 1991. Soundsuits camouflage the body, masking and creating a second skin that conceals race, gender and class, forcing the viewer to look without judgment.

Movie Nights are every second Wednesday at 7 p.m. ET. A reminder email with the Zoom link will be sent one week before each movie night. Questions? Email movies@mafafiber.org.

MAFA 2025 CONFERENCE IS JUNE 26-29 @ MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY, MILLERSVILLE, PA



Harmony Weavers Guild Officers and Committee Chairs

Officers

President..... Nancy Everham
 Vice President ?
 Secretary Gail Caron
 Treasurer Sue Balascio
 Membership & Guild Looms Linda Shinn
 Programs & Workshops Dinah Kirby

Chairs

Biennial Exhibition Sue Balascio
 Kathleen Remsa
 Hagley Craft Fair Sonnie Sperati
 Hospitality Carol Ireland
 Karen Evans

Chairs continued

Internet Services..... Toni Ammons
 Carol Ireland
 MAFA Representative Nann Miller
 Newsletter Sonnie Sperati
 Outreach Carol Ireland
 Publicity/Communications..... Gynnie Moody

Fiber artists gathered together at the Blue Ball Barn

Several Harmony Weavers Guild and FiberGuild members, plus one or two others, enjoyed some sharing and catching up at the Blue Ball Barn one Saturday in February. The originally scheduled January get-together was cancelled due to snow, and an overnight snowfall threatened to do the same in February. But thankfully the roads were only wet.

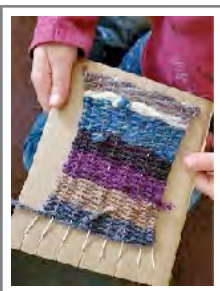
Harmony Weavers Guild members Taylor Holdsworth, Carol Ireland, Gerry Scarfe, Linda Shinn brought their spinning wheels and/or drop spindles. A couple of FiberGuild members and a member of the Facebook “Delaware Spinners” group also came. One brought her young son who had some finger-knitting to do, but was more interested in weaving on a cardboard loom, and making kumihimo braid. He “got it” right away! The next day his mom emailed me to say he’d already started on his third braid.

We had a wool picker that was changing hands, so that was demonstrated using some wool one participant had brought. Carol demonstrated tablet weaving for several of the participants.

Two Guild members dropped in to see what we were doing and to visit. A couple came from the Baltimore area, apparently just to see us! And several hikers from the Wilmington Trail Club stopped in after their 13 mile hike (!) around Alpacas and Wilmington.

This was the second get-together we’ve held at the Blue Ball Barn. I’m thinking it should become an annual event.

Carol Ireland



Look at the Outreach Activities for this Spring

There will be a sheet circulated at the March meeting for members to sign up for one or more of the activities described below. So check your calendars and be prepared to add your name to the sheet. If you’re not going to be at the meeting, please email me (spinningbiker@comcast.net) to let me know which ones you’d like to sign up for.



Sat., April 27 – Shearing Day at Greenbank Mill

Come to help with natural dyeing of Greenbank Mill wool, demonstrate spinning, help with skirting fleeces being shorn at the event, or help kids use the rope maker to make jump ropes. Greenbank Mill also sells wonderful herbs – you can place your order ahead of time.



Sat., May 18 - Scottish Games Spinning & Weaving Demo

For many years, FiberGuild members have spun wool and woven a shawl (which is sold through a silent auction) at the Scottish Games in Fair Hill, MD. Harmony Weavers Guild members are invited to join the FiberGuild folks in carding or spinning.

Dinah Kirby and Toni Ammons will be using wool spun at the event to weave the shawl to be auctioned. You’ll go home with bagpipes echoing in your ears! Admission is free for demonstrators, and participants can also sell their handcrafted items at the Games.

Sat., May 25 - Winterthur “Merino Madness” Craft Instruction

Harmony Weavers Guild members will be instructing up to 30 participants (two groups of 15) on a felting project using Greenbank Mill merino wool during this morning program. The agenda includes a visit to the sheep housed at Winterthur and a discussion of the connection between merino sheep and the DuPont family. Winterthur will send a \$500 honorarium to Harmony Weavers Guild as a thank you!

Carol Ireland

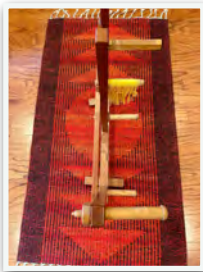
March Sales Event



Gynnie Moody's Moving Sale — call 302-345-9899

Floor Inkle Loom

Sturdy with cosmetic scratches. No brand but it looks like the maple with a finish similar to Leclerc. \$75



Stainless Steel Reeds - no rust

48" - 15 dent - \$40
48" - 20 dent - \$40
12" - 12 dent - \$20
53" - 8 dent - \$50
53" - 10 dent - \$50



Table Warping Mill/Reel

It has the capacity to wind up to 20 yards of warp and is completely collapsible for easy storage. Designed for table top use, it is 2 yards around and has 30" of vertical winding space. Two adjustable spreader bars allow for maximum flexibility in the placement of crosses in the warp chain. Purchased from Jane Porter. \$125



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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 2023-2024

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