

# Weavers' Guild of Boston

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MARCH 2021

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## Dean's Message

Dear Members,

Has it been a year since we were together in-person as a guild? It seems like a long time ago. Looking back, we were so fortunate to have Tom Knisely teach our 3-day workshop back in March 2020! I look forward to the day when we can be together again.

Spring is around the corner and I've made good use of the winter months. I was in the mode of cleaning out as many of you have. With the help of a book called *goodbye, things* by Fumio Sasaki, I am working on changing my habits. There were several items I sorted and donated that had not been used (or seen!) in many years.

I also found my scraps of handwoven fabric and put together a quilt square for the Covid Closet Cleanup Project. I used Laurie Steger's template and,

though I'm not a good sewer, I was surprised to find how good it felt to make this piece and connect with the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

The February Meeting was truly inspiring. The Show & Tell and Studio Tours really embodied the theme of 'Bringing the Guild Together'. Thank you to Ginny Hamilton, Pat Vinter, Penny LaCroix and Eileen Crawford for doing a terrific job putting this together!

Our May 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will also be offered on Zoom. Stay tuned for more details later this spring.

Happy Weaving!

Linda Snook, Dean



## Annual Guild Meeting:

May 12, 2021 10:00AM – 1:00PM

- Annual Reports
- Presentation and voting in of the new slate of officers
- Awards
- Ratings
- Guild Challenge

Show & Tell/Weavers' Chat/Afternoon Program

# 2021 Afternoon Speakers

## March PM Lecture

### *Once Upon a Warp: From the Loom to the Runway*

Speaker: **Denise Kovnat**

Every year since 2008 I have set myself a challenge: Weave a garment (or two) that will be juried into the Convergence fashion show, part of the biannual conference of the Handweavers' Guild of America. To date, I have been able to meet the challenge – but there's more to the story, with lots of ups and downs along the way! Anyone who weaves or creates fabric or designs garments will relate. This lecture, followed by a virtual fashion show, traces my weaving journey from concept to completion of a garment

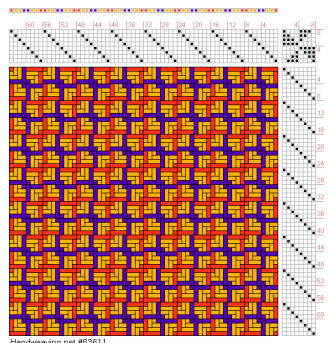


## April PM Lecture

### *Handweaving.net: From the Beginning, and Into the Future*

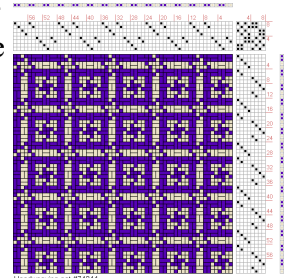
Speaker: **Kris Bruland**

This program will feature an in-depth view of the Handweaving.net site from its beginning in 2004 until now. Kris Bruland, creator of hand-



Handweaving.net #63611

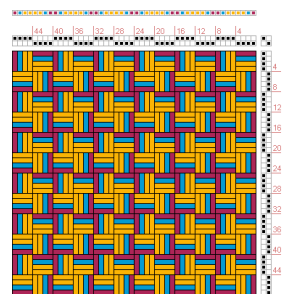
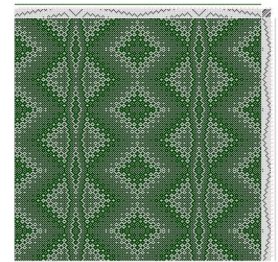
weaving.net, will discuss the history of the site, major content and feature areas including drafts and digital archive documents. The presentation will include an overview of draft collections, special features such as the common threading search and color editor, some unique and beautiful drafts, future plans, questions and answers, and more!



Handweaving.net #71244

A live demonstration showing how drafts for the site are produced through specialized software directly from the digitized pages of old works will be included too. This technique has enabled over 70,000 accurate digital drafts to be produced for Handweaving.net from various works on weaving, many of which were previously unknown yet are now being discovered woven throughout the world!

Please join us if you are curious to know more about Handweaving.net, including what the site offers, how it is unique, why and how it was created, and current and future plans!



Handweaving.net #63606

**March 10, 2021**

***Dorset Buttons:***

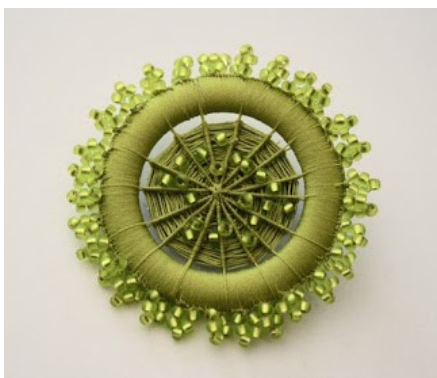
***Their History & How to Make Them***

**Instructor: Denise Kovnat**

Based on traditional needle-lace techniques, Dorset buttons have been created for hundreds of years, beginning in the 17th century as a cottage industry in southwest England. Today they are honored as a “Heritage Craft” in England and are made by fiber artists around the world. They are valued as colorful, whimsical creations for jewelry, as surface-design embellishments and as fasteners for handmade clothing. Come learn the history of these small treasures and view lots of inspirational photos along the way.

Following the presentation, we will spend time learning the fundamentals for making these buttons, part of the historic craft known as “buttony.” The variations are limitless and they can be created anywhere using only curtain rings, a tapestry needle and yarn (and beads if you choose). Further, you can customize these buttons to match your own creations, using yarns from your stash.

**Attendee Limit: 22**



**April 14, 2021**

***Shadow Weave***

**Instructor:  
Anne Graham**



Shadow weave, a structure derived from plain weave, can be used to make fabrics suitable for fashion and home furnishings. Two colors alternate in the warp and weft to produce color and weave effects with a great number of patterning possibilities. Mary Meigs Atwater and Marion Powell developed their own notations for shadow weave; learn how to read their drafts and compare the advantages that each system offers. Convert your favorite designs to shadow weave. Note: students should be able to read a weaving draft.

**Attendee Limit: 22**

## NEWS

A reminder that all guild members are invited to share a photo of their work at the virtual NEWS conference this summer. A photo, a few pieces of information and your weaving can be seen by the world! Photos must be received by April 25. Contact [NEWS2021GALLERY@yahoo.com](mailto:NEWS2021GALLERY@yahoo.com) for instructions and information.

# Speaker Bios

## Kris Bruland

Kris Bruland is a software architect living on Whidbey Island in Washington State. He became interested in weaving nearly 20 years ago after giving his wife a Baby Wolf loom, becoming interested in how it worked, learning about drafts and patterns, and then learning to weave. That led to purchasing a computerized AVL doobby loom and writing software to control it, which later became the foundation for the Handweaving.net website.

Weaving and computer science, just two of Kris' many interests, proved to be a very interesting and fruitful combination. The creative application of custom software enabled a prolific collection of digital resources to be produced and offered to the world as Handweaving.net.

Kris is still working to expand and improve Handweaving.net today, and has many other interests as well, including software and math, orchids, gardening, traveling with his family, woodworking, playing classical piano and harpsichord music, restoring antique apple presses and making cider, and of course weaving!

## Anne Graham

Anne Graham has a BS from Trinity College, and 20+ years of weaving experience. Anne has been Co-chair of the Handweavers' Guild of Connecticut 2009, Show Facilities Co-chair for New England Weavers Seminar 2013 and 2015, and shown at the Wesleyan Potters Gallery Show Fall 2012. She has given lectures at the Handweavers' Guild of CT, Pioneer Valley Weavers Guild, Weavers guild of RI and Weavers of Western Mass.

## Denise Kovnat

A weaver since 1998, Denise Bolger Kovnat teaches online and on-site at conferences and guilds from the U.S. to Canada to Australia, focusing on parallel threadings, collapse techniques and Deflected Double Weave. Her hand-dyed and handwoven garments have been juried into Convergence fashion shows since 2008 and have won awards from the Handweavers Guild of America, Complex Weavers, Treenway Silks and the Seattle Weavers Guild. She is most proud of serving on the founding team for the Weaving and Fiber Arts Center in Rochester, NY, which opened in 2002. She blogs about weaving and fiber art at [www.denisekovnat.com](http://www.denisekovnat.com).

## Awards

Even in this unusual year it is time to thank and celebrate our members for their achievements and craft, but also but also their service to the Guild. Recommendations for awards can be submitted at any time, but must be **received by the April Meeting**. People who wish to make a recommendation are encouraged to find a like minded member to also submit a recommendation. Every nominee must have two letters of recommendation for the award to be approved. Recommendations should also come with pictures of the individual and his/her work. The following are suggestions for choosing what award a person should receive:

### The awards are listed below:

A full write up on each of the awards can be found on the WGB Website: <https://www.weaversguildofboston.org/awards>

**Glowaki Award**  
**Berry Award**  
**Barrett Award**  
**Celebration of Weaving Award**  
**Connie Gallagher Award**  
**Distinguished Achievement Award**  
**Honorary Membership**

### How to Submit:

Please contact any of the Award Committee Members to make a recommendation or if you have questions.

Laurie Autio [lkautio@comcast.net](mailto:lkautio@comcast.net)  
 Diane Chaisson [diane@meadowlarks-farm.net](mailto:diane@meadowlarks-farm.net)  
 Barbara Herbster [Barbara@shuttlesong.com](mailto:Barbara@shuttlesong.com)

## Education Committee Notes



As a committee dedicated to the fulfillment of the mission of our guild, the members of the Education Committee work together to bring a high level of programming to our members and guests throughout the guild year.

Our February meeting theme, “Bringing the Guild Together”, was a resounding success, as evidenced by the positive response. Our Centennial Celebration special projects were highlighted in the morning, including a “mini workshop” on the collaborative project to contribute a quilt square that represented security in the time of Covid 19. The

three programs had “something for everyone”, whether a weaver wishes to pursue creating for the juried Fuller Museum exhibit, creating a scarf for the Cascade of Scarves to be displayed at the Charles River Museum, or creating a square to join others in a collaborative quilt made of handwoven fabrics in one’s closet. The afternoon saw a return to the popular “Show and Tell” feature, when 17 respondents showed their pieces, and told their stories. We concluded the day with a dozen “Studio Tours” of a variety of guild members who generously shared their videos of their weaving spaces.

Our March meeting will occur before this Bulletin is published. The morning workshop and afternoon lecture will have been provided by Denise Kovnat, from Rochester, New York via Zoom. Her morning workshop attendees may share their Dorset Button creations at our April meeting. Weaving for juried show entry at the biennial Handweavers’ Guild of America event, “Convergence”, was the topic for the afternoon lecture.

Our April meeting will feature a morning workshop on “Shadow Weave”, presented by Anne Graham. Our afternoon lecture will be presented by Kris Bruland, creator of “Handweaving.net” a website with a wealth of resources for handweavers. Please join us! The website has registration information. Sign up today to reserve a space in our programs. We are a vibrant, diverse, and welcoming community of handweavers who gather to learn and share our knowledge and enthusiasm for the art and craft of handweaving. Visit our website <https://weaversguildofboston.org> for all of the details.

Eileen Crawford

Associate Dean

[crawfordrn@gmail.com](mailto:crawfordrn@gmail.com)



# Covid Closet Cleanup Project



**The Covid Closet Cleanup Project is moving right along according to schedule.**

Thanks go out to all of you who contributed a square, or fabric samples. The deadline for submitting squares has now passed, so Laurie is now busy assembling the quilt. The quilt will be submitted to the Fuller Craft Museum jurying process in September.

A picture of the finished quilt will be in the August Bulletin.

Thank you all!

Beth Guertin, Julia Flanders and **Laurie Carlson-Steger**



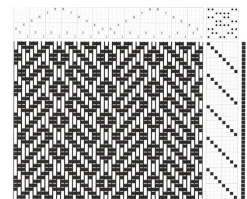
## WGB BULLETIN SAMPLES

### New instructions

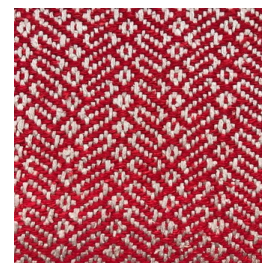
The WGB board voted in April to end the woven sample distribution due to lack of interest in weaving the samples. The exciting news is that the board has launched a new sample program. WGB is asking members to:

1. Weave a 4 to 6" sample (often weavers have that much left at the end of their warp) for the guild library and then
2. Fill out the weaving record sheet template found on the website.
3. Take a close-up picture of the fabric. The information and picture would go into the Bulletin (we may have more than one per quarter).
4. A printed copy of the form and the sample would be put in a book in the guild library.
5. All the drafts will be found on the website on the members-only section for members to print.
6. Please submit your forms and woven samples to:

Nancy Flood, Assistant Librarian  
25 Madonna Street  
Natick, MA 01760  
Email: [nancy\\_flood@suite3D.com](mailto:nancy_flood@suite3D.com)



Sample template is found on the Website or by contacting Nancy Flood, Diane Chaisson or Beth Guertin



**please consider submitting one for the May Issue**

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

As we watch the Covid 19 infection flare up again this month, we continue to plan for getting together in 2022 to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. It will feature many events for members to participate in beginning in May 2022 through December 2023. There will be a juried exhibit of members current work at the Fuller Craft Museum; and an exhibit featuring our history at the Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation; as well as two parties. The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee is working on compiling a list of the type of weavings that will be needed for the CRM exhibit. Keep checking the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tab on the website for information. There are many people participating in the Zoom meetings for creating themed original work for the Fuller exhibit. We are sharing our ideas and getting support from each other as well as finding inspiration to persevere. If you would like to participate in the coaching sessions please contact Beth Guertin ([beth@aplacetoweave.com](mailto:beth@aplacetoweave.com)).

If you are weaving for Fuller and want help and/or have questions please contact Julia Flanders ([julia.s.flanders@gmail.com](mailto:julia.s.flanders@gmail.com)) or Laurie Steger ([lauriesteger11@gmail.com](mailto:lauriesteger11@gmail.com)).

The other ways members can participate in the celebration preparations is to weave a scarf for the cascading waterfall of 100 scarves at the Charles River Museum. The scarves will be from the 2019 – 2020 guild challenge “The Beat Goes On.....” (due December 31, 2020 to Beth Guertin – more info available from Beth), and the 2020 – 2021 guild challenge “Getting Back to Our Roots”. Details for the current guild challenge are on the website under the 100th anniversary tab. Members can also participate in the Covid Collaboration Project (details are on the website and from Laurie Steger).

As we get closer to the 100<sup>th</sup>, the committee will be looking for many volunteers. If you are interested in participating/helping please contact Beth Guertin.

Happy Weaving

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee  
Beth Guertin, 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary co-chair  
Julia Flanders, 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary co-chair  
Diane Chaisson  
Ginny Hamilton  
Susan Pippin  
Laurie Steger  
Linda Snook, Dean  
Eileen Crawford, Associate Dean

## Weavers' Guild of Boston Blog

The Weavers' Guild of Boston Blog is happily creating new posts for you throughout each month. It gets pretty lively on the Blog, join in!

### New on the Blog...

We are always looking for interesting and exciting things worthy of posting, for example this month, we are promoting new online exhibitions, new technology, monthly schedules of free zoom textile talks, and news from the New England Weavers Seminar with weaving projects (2017) from our own members.

### Continuing on the blog...

In December, we started a series of Interviews, showcasing each month, our very own well-known weavers, their stories and their work. Our March interviewee is Norma Smayda, Owner of the Saunderson Weaving School with news of her own – Check it out!



Norma Smayda  
– *Anatolia*  
Photo by artist



Norma Smayda  
– *Desert Flower*  
Photo by artist

### And now about you!

On the first day of each month, we email a Blog Update to our subscribers, just to keep you informed. If you want to join our subscriber list, simply share your email with us at the Blog Landing page:

<https://www.weaversguildofboston.org/wgb-blog> .

Likewise, if you want to share something you are working on, you can do that too! To find out how to write a post and include a photo image, go to the Blog Landing page (link above). See the Submit-a-Post Instructions and follow along! We will help!

*Sara White and Carol McClennen*

Blog Co-Editors

# 2020/21 Guild Challenge

## Getting Back to Our Roots WGB Challenge 2020-2021

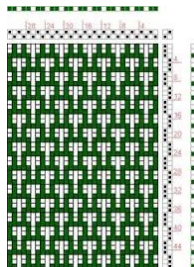
The Weavers' Guild of Boston was started in 1922 by a group of ten enthusiastic weavers who wove utilitarian pieces. The Arts and Crafts Movement was becoming popular, rayon was invented and became the faux silk, fashions changed freeing women from the corset and allowing more freedom of movement.

The January 1939 issue of the *The Weaver magazine* stated: “*The Weaver's Guild of Boston is an organization started by a group of enthusiastic weavers for the weavers of Greater Boston. Its purpose is to stimulate interest in the artistic and technical development of handweaving and it also aims to raise the standard of hand woven fabric by exhibitions previous to which all entering articles are carefully judged by a jury of artists.*”

In celebration of the guild's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the challenge for 2020-2021 is to look at what weave structures were popular in the 1920's and modernize them. The scarves will be used for the guild's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibit at the Charles River Museum.

The scarf should have finished dimensions of 10" x 80", plus 6" of twisted fringe at both ends. Find a pattern/draft from one of the sources used in the guild's early years (listed below) and bring it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by- adapting it to use more harnesses, and/or using the new fibers available today, and using today's fashion colors.

Along with a scarf, you will weave a 12" sample piece (finished length), part of which will be used to create a notebook for WGB library and the remainder will be used to create party favors for the 100<sup>th</sup> gala luncheon.. The documentation of your scarf (challenge project record sheet found on the WGB website and available from Beth Guertin) will also be used to create a book for participants of the drafts. Please note you will not receive your



scarf back until 2024 or later. You are encouraged to use the Guild library looking at books and magazines listed below (also available on *handweaving.net*) from the early years of the guild (1920's and early 1930's, no source later than 1939).



Popular weaving books of the 1920's were:

Edward Worst: Foot-Powered Looms and How to Weave Linens

Mary Meigs Atwater: Shuttlecraft book and Shuttlecraft Bulletins

Josephine Etses Overshot patterns

Eliza Calvert Hall: Overshot;

Anna Nott Shook: Japanese inspired weaving.;

Bronson: Early American Weaving and Dyeing

Holmes: Manuscript Notes on Weaving

Kate van Cleve: The Weaver's Quarterly (1932-1937)

The Weaver magazine from the 1920's and 1930's

The Handicrafter Magazine from the 1920's and 1930's

The article about the exhibition in 1939 stated that there were many woven items in Bronson lace.

Crackle weave, 4, 6, and 8 harness overshot, twill, log cabin, tartans and plaids..

Be creative.....Happy Weaving.....

The scarf, sample and documentation\* is due at the May 2021 guild meeting.

**\* Contact Beth Guertin for the Weaving Project Record Sheet.**

If you have any questions please contact Beth Guertin or Adele Harvey, WGB challenge co-chairs.



## Weavers' Guild of Boston Sample

**Weaver:** Beth Cederberg Guertin

**Date:** February 2021

**Weave Structure:** 4S Point Twill adapted to fit colors

**Source:** Adapted a point twill draft to fit the color stripes; was using up partial balls of colors so stripe colors were limited as to what was available.

**Warp fiber(s), yarn count, and color(s):** Galler Yarns Alapaca (1300ypp) Bleached White, Ice Blue (#211), Aquamarine (#227), Summer Sky Blue (#226), Seaform (#239), Crater lake Blue (#216), Teal (#238)

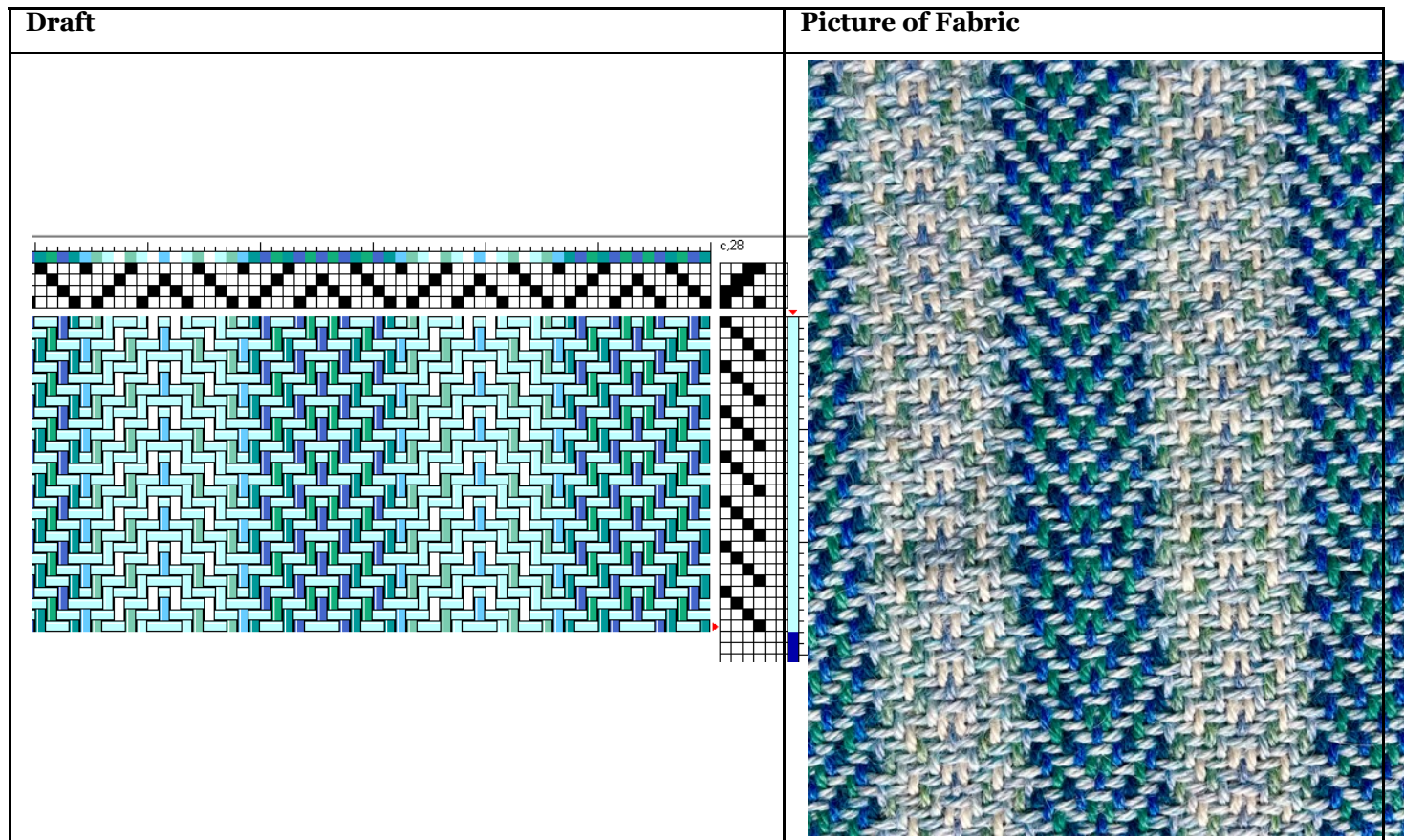
**Weft fiber(s), yarn count, and color(s):** Alpaca (1300 ypp) Ice Blue

**Sett** 12 epi; 12 ppi

**Reed:** 12 dent reed sleyed one per dent

**Finishing:** Machine washed on wool cycle; dried over drying rack

**Takeup and Shrinkage:** 6% in width and length



**About the Weaver:** Beth Cederberg Guertin has been teaching both rigid heddle and multi shaft weaving for more than thirty-five years to children and adults. She enjoys designing projects to use up small amounts of yarns. Beth owns and teaches weaving at her studio, A Place to Weave.

## Nominating Committee Notes

### Nominating Committee Report:

The Guild needs volunteers to fill several open positions on the board so that we can continue to function as we traditionally have done. Please consider volunteering for one of these open positions. You may contact anyone on the Nominating Committee if you want to volunteer or have questions about any of these positions.

The following positions need to be filled as soon as possible:

### WGB Board Current Open Positions:

Outreach Chair

Public Relations Chair

Annual Sale 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chair

The following positions need to be filled in May:

### WGB Board Openings for 2021/22

Nominating 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chair

Outreach Assistant Chair

Please contact:

Susan Pippin: [sfpippin49@gmail.com](mailto:sfpippin49@gmail.com)

Susan Broadmeadow:

[Susan\\_broadmeadow@hotmail.com](mailto:Susan_broadmeadow@hotmail.com)

Manon Pelletier: [mvgpell@gmail.com](mailto:mvgpell@gmail.com)

The [MidAtlantic Fiber Association](#) is a non-profit, all-volunteer fiber arts organization consisting of 50+ member guilds from New York to North Carolina, with a combined membership of

3,000+. Our [2021 Conference](#) will take place online [Thursday, June 24 through Sunday, June 27, 2021](#) with a variety of class lengths from 2-hour classes to 1-day and 2-day workshops.

Our 80+ classes break down as 50% weaving, 20% spinning, 10% dyeing, and 20% other including baskets, felting, pattern-making, spräng, braiding, and temari.

Notable teachers will include Robin Spady, Daryl Lancaster, Mary Zicafoose, John Marshall and Patsy Zawistoski. Along with exciting classes, there will be a keynote address by Jane Dunnewold, lectures, fiber art exhibit, fashion show and exhibit, towel exchange, and the vendor marketplace.

The conference catalog will be available February 20th with full details about classes, instructors, registration, and events. [Registration will open April 10th](#). Sign ups for the Fashion Exhibit and Show, Fiber Art Exhibit, and Towel Exchange opened on January 15th on the MAFA website <https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafafa2021/>

Our Facebook page

is [@MidAtlanticFiberAssociation](#) and our Instagram account is [@mafafiber](#).



## YARN SALE A SUCCESS!



We had a great Yarn Sale January 6-23 from an estate donation. The proceeds totaled **OVER \$1,700**.

Thank you to Beth Guertin for the use of her garage to run the Yarn Sale and for managing socially distanced customers during Covid.

There is much more yarn to be sold at the first in-person guild meeting we have next year (date to be determined). There is also weaving equipment to be sold at a later date. Stay tuned!



Photos by Ron Guertin



Greetings from the WGB Library. Though we can no longer peruse the library's shelves, know that books are still available for borrowing by contacting me : [joanne@bookus-boulet.com](mailto:joanne@bookus-boulet.com). We can arrange to meet at the church in Westborough or at my home in Hopkinton.

Recently, Sally Eyring, a local Guild member, donated a copy of her new book, 3-D Hand Loom Weaving. This book presents an amazingly creative, innovative approach to weaving, using loom control techniques and special tools (designed by the author) bringing weaving to a whole new level. Sally shares her specific techniques in a very clear manner using new terminology combined with drafts and photos. She welcomes weavers "to open your mind and expand your weaving horizons in new directions. I will show you how to break the rules of weaving and manipulate them in creative ways to weave flowing curves and organic forms."

I currently have this book at my home so feel free to contact me if you'd like to take a look.

Be well,  
Joanne  
WGB Librarian

## MOVING SALE

### Ongoing until we move

*A Place to Weave* is moving to a yet to be determined location. In preparation for the move, we are having a sale of yarns and equipment. A partial list is posted on [www.aplacetoweave.com](http://www.aplacetoweave.com) under MOVING SALE.

All yarns are 25%-50% off regular prices for whole cones only. New additions are being added each week.

## *Congratulations* to

**Shannon Mathers**

**Master Weaver!**

Isn't Shannon's work beautiful and inspiring? Don't your fingers itch to go to your loom and try something new? Shannon lives in Hawaii, showing that a Rating can be done very successfully from anywhere!

Shannon got her Apprentice Rating in 2016, her Journeyman in 2018, and now her Master Rating in 2020! She's the first new Weavers' Guild of Boston Master Weaver in nine years.

Participating in the Ratings program can give you a road map to build your weaving skills at your own pace and to whatever level you choose. Details are available in your Yearbook and on the Education tab of the Guild website. Is it time to think about trying it?

I'm always available and happy to answer any questions!

Ruth Buchman, Ratings Chair

([ruthbuchman@gmail.com](mailto:ruthbuchman@gmail.com))



## Shannon Mathers

My weaving odyssey began in 2014 with a Christmas gift of a Schacht Cricket rigid heddle loom. I have been a spinner since the 1980s but

my spinning in the past had taken a back seat to family, school, and work. My excitement upon receiving and learning to weave on my Cricket encouraged me to join our small, local guild and I haven't looked back since.

At my first guild meeting I introduced myself and declared I was a giant sponge there to soak up any and all weaving information I could. I have since been told "I went crazy for weaving"! This said, I quickly discovered my limitations and lack of a solid foundation due to my locale, lack of local resources and the limited number of advanced weavers I could reach out to.

This led me to begin researching not just classes, workshops, and conventions, but also distance learning and certification programs. While there are many available online, when I found WGB's Rating Program it felt so comfortable I jumped in. I was truly a beginner and everything from weaving terms and structures to equipment was new to me. Every level of the Ratings program has been a challenge and at most times quite a joy to have undertaken. Both of my Ratings Chairs, whom I refer to as "my mentors", have been so helpful and encouraging. The jurors comments and critiques have been so kindly given and, coupled with my mentors help, have given me the encouragement to become a better weaver and the confidence to continue with the Ratings every year. I am current program and everyday I am discovering the more I learn the less I know.

*Shannon*



Transparency



Tapestry



Light grouping



Dark Grouping