

# **2017 Awards Weavers Guild of Boston**

**Committee: Laurie Autio, Adele Harvey, Barbara Herbster**

## **Dorothy Glowacki Award: Eileen Crawford**

To a newer member who exhibits steady progress and merits recognition.

Eileen Crawford began her weaving journey a short five or six years ago. She is eager to learn and master this new skill. Eileen steadfastly exhibits her dedication to the art of weaving, by attending study groups, participating in the ratings program, taking courses, and sharing her experiences. Last fall she sought out an intense learning experience through Olds College in Alberta Canada held in NC, wanting to immerse herself in an academic style program to concentrate her education. The experience at the Olds College Master Weaver Program has given her more confidence as a weaver.

Eileen is a member of the WGB Board where she continues her commitment to exploring ideas and volunteering her time generously for various projects. As our new editor, she has taken on a new focus for the Bulletin.

Learning by doing, and forging ahead with determination and obvious skill are Eileen's gifts to the guild. She has a generosity of spirit and a love of weaving which spurs us all to achieve.

## **Deborah Berry Award: Ruth Buchman**

To a deserving and promising weaver to celebrate that person's interest and skill.

There was much discussion about which award to give Ruth. She was certainly qualified for more than one! Nominations mentioned her meticulous craftsmanship and ability to explore a weaving topic. In 2005 she earned a master weaver certificate from Hill Institute, a grueling six year program. The buckets of ribbons she collected in the Gallery Show of NEWS for scarves, hangings, and many other items gained her the coveted Weaver of Distinction designation in 2015. She is modest about her skill, but it is obvious to anyone who looks at her work that she has a mastery of color, design principles, and an innovative approach. Along with fabric weaving she weaves jewelry, creates tapestries and even knits woolen felted bags.

Ruth has shared her work in lectures and her time and talents as WGB Sale treasurer. A member who has taken workshops alongside Ruth mentioned Ruth's encouragement and confidence building skills. We celebrate Ruth as one of our leaders in creativity who inspires others.

## **Helen Barrett Service Award: Susan Targove**

To a guild member whose service has made her of outstanding value to the Weavers' Guild of Boston.

The Guild owes a debt to those dedicated members who embrace the sometimes tedious, time consuming tasks that sustain it and move it forward. Fortunately, there is a member among us who has consistently demonstrated her organizational expertise, her unending commitment to sticking with the tasks at hand, and her cooperative and obliging nature whenever yet one more request is made. Susan Targove has been a stalwart of the guild, one of those valuable people through whose efforts the guild runs smoothly and productively for its members. Once a professional organizer, she uses those skills to set goals, look at ways to reach those goals, and develop procedures to achieve them. And then she digs in and makes it happen! She is always willing to hear about problems and help sort them out and to hear new ideas and help implement them.

Among her contributions have been organizing and streamlining the Membership database and services,

taking on the guild's responsibility for intake and running the jurying process of the NEWS Gallery Show, acting as NEWS rep (and other NEWS jobs), leading the guild as Dean, and helping develop plans for celebrating the guild's 100th anniversary. Thanks to Susan, new members are welcomed promptly and members who were "lost" have been located and invited back into the Guild. Recently the number of members has been increasing - thanks to Susan's outreach. She has brought a new sense of lightheartedness into the guild with her cheerful outlook, original ideas, clearly defined agendas, and willingness to listen. In addition to all of the above, Susan teaches and continues to inspire us and charm her fans with her beautiful, original tartan weaving.

In the past few years Susan Targove has embodied the ideals of the Barrett Award. With her boundless energy and meticulous organization she has moved the Guild in new and distinct ways.

## **Celebration of Weaving Life Award - Beth Guertin**

In memory of the weavers who died during the past year.

The Celebration of Weaving Life award is given in memory of the members who died in the previous guild year. This year that includes Kathi Spangler, Nancy Hodes, and just a few days ago, Betty Shannon.

Kathi was a razor sharp intellectual with a delightful and equally sharp sense of humor. She collected many academic degrees and honors in her career, but valued her Hill Institute master weaver certificate (2003) as highly as any. She had become very involved with Complex Weavers, serving as Vice President for 4 years, then died a week after she became president.

Nancy's big smile, welcoming nature, and giving heart were a fixture at guild meetings for many of the recent years. She served as Dean, was on many committees, including nominations, location studies, and most recently the 100<sup>th</sup> celebration group. Her straightforward manner and cool head were invaluable assets in committees and board activities.

Betty went through the rigorous WGB master weaving program and served the guild as Dean and in many other capacities. She had a legendary weaving library and a mind to go with it - very bright, astute, always right on. Her weaving was likewise exceptionally fine and precise. At a time when everyone else was weaving heavy and textures yarns she was weaving fine linens. She was a very early member of the renowned Wednesday weavers. Always very pleasant, she gave a lot to the guild and was in the forefront of her husband's scientific activities.

"When I reflect on the years I have spent weaving cloth, I mentally inventory the various projects that I've cut off the loom: some acceptable, some pretty nice and some real dogs. I suppose I am not unique in this respect, and we can all catalog our work in this manner. We are weavers to one degree or another. There are those exceptional people, however, whose woven cloth tells only part of the story. We are fortunate to recognize a member whose everyday life celebrates weaving by sharing this craft and proving that the best part of weaving cloth is not the interlacement, but the interface of those coming together to share something of value."

Beth Guertin is the epitome of this award. Her whole life revolves around weaving, teaching, serving the Guild in many capacities, and encouraging young people to weave. A weaver is what she is. For the more than forty years Beth has been enriching the lives of others. She is a force for weaving education through teaching, mentoring, and reaching out to expose non-weavers of all ages to weaving. She spends many of her "free" days demonstrating weaving at local events, patiently explaining, encouraging observers to sit down at her loom to weave for the first time, and often following up by giving them samples of their work.

Beth has given unstintingly to the guild over the years as teacher, treasurer, hostess to Board meetings, sale treasurer, keeper of the guild supplies, and worker bee in all activities. She is always there whenever she is needed. She creates an environment dedicated to craft and creativity and demonstrates tireless dedication to the Weavers' Guild of a Boston. She has given many people a new appreciation of our beloved craft and

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## Honorary Membership: Barbara Elkins

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

We reserve honorary membership for those members who have made a major difference for weavers near and far. Barbara Elkin's long history of weaving excellence and supporting weavers in many ways makes her an excellent example of the weaver who deserves our highest honor.

For over fifty years Barbara has been involved in the fiber field. Her weaving is outstanding. She selects topics of interest to her, researches and samples until she is fully knowledgeable with the possibilities and variances of the structure, and only then weaves beautiful fabric resulting from her study. Her meticulously woven work often pushes boundaries in a very elegant way. Along the way and afterwards, Barbara willingly shares the fruits of her research.

In 1974 Webs was born as a weaving store. For the next 8 years Barbara began renting and selling looms from her basement and developing a weaving curriculum for novice weavers. She has provided a solid foundation for generations of weavers to take wherever they go in their weaving explorations. Barbara still teaches classes, workshops and guild programs; she is never too busy to answer the many questions that weavers pose in classes, at Webs, or in guild meetings. Additionally, she has arranged for Webs to hold classes and workshops beyond beginning weaving, with a variety of local and distant teachers. Jurying various exhibits over the years is another way she has helped weavers reach or maintain higher standards.

Barbara has written articles for Handwoven Magazine and participated in Interlaced. She has supported the Handweavers Guild of America and the New England Weavers' Seminar Beginning Weavers Workshop, served as chair and many other positions in the Pioneer Valley Guild, and has been a long-standing member of the Weavers Guild of Boston.

Being the owner of Webs has allowed Barbara to reach out to weavers worldwide and to keep her finger on the pulse of the fiber world. She has supplied us with tools, looms, books, and yarns; donated loom time and yarns for special projects, and arranged meeting space for a variety of fiber groups. She has also led a number of fiber-based charitable donations from baby blankets, shawls and scarves for cancer patients, to woven animals to support an animal shelter. Barbara's generous support of the fiber community, in many facets, deserves recognition.

We are pleased to give our highest recognition to Barbara Elkins, not only a New England treasure, but a national one, too.

To the 2017 WGB Awards committee,

It is my very great hope that the committee making awards in 2017 will consider Laurie Autio for the Mary Merrill Distinguished Achievement Award.

I am sure it is unprecedented for the awards chairman to receive an award. Laurie knows nothing of this recommendation. I believe that too much time has already passed in acknowledging Laurie's generous donations of time and talent to the Weavers' Guild of Boston. We not delay further.

Laurie is always present with good humor, great suggestions and practical solutions. She has served the Guild in the capacity of Dean and tackled the ratings program shepherding the Guild into the twenty first century. The WGB 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary book INTERLACED would not have happened if she and others had not put extraordinary effort towards its publication.

A very active member of Complex Weavers, Laurie reaches out with ideas to others both nationally and internationally. Within this community, she helps those she knows well and those whom she has yet to meet. And, this is just the tip of the iceberg. Laurie has always taken more than her share of responsibility for the task at hand, all the while keeping up with her busy personal life and preparing information and weekly challenges for her advanced weaving students.

The Merrill award is given to a highly skilled member who contributes nationally as well as locally. Laurie K Autio, our outstanding candidate, fulfills the requirements perfectly. It is very unusual to find such a dedicated generous individual willing to share her talent with others without thought of the sacrifice to her time. May she continue to be blessed as she moves onward.

Keep the shuttle singing Laurie,

Barbara Herbster

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## Diane Chaisson

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**From:** Diane Chaisson <diane@meadowlarks-farm.net>  
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**To:** adelehvy@comcast.net; barbara@shuttlesong.com  
**Subject:** Laurie

Thank you both for working with me on this. Here is my recommendation.

Ever since I joined the Weaver's Guild of Boston, Laurie has been rather a giant of the weaving world in my estimation. She was Dean when I started attending meetings after my retirement and I soon became more involved in the Guild with my work as Historian. At that point Laurie was deep into producing Interlaced and I observed the deep commitment to weaving in general and the Weavers Guild of Boston in particular. She was always kind and encouraging to new weavers accessible for questions always forthcoming with recommendations for books, and next steps. I took several of her morning classes and was blown away with her knowledge and ability to explain. She presented highly developed materials to take home and refer to and brought wonderful examples for all to see and touch. She is a natural teacher.

Laurie is also a driving force in Complex Weavers nationally leading study groups and working on exhibits and program committees over the years. Complex Weavers is "dedicated to expanding the boundaries of handweaving, to encourage weavers to develop their own creative styles, to inspire through research, documentation, and the sharing of innovative ideas." I can imagine Laurie had a lot to do with creating that mission statement. Laurie is also continuing to learn about weaving techniques and technologies, all with the eye to how to teach it to others. Her yearlong classes in Explorations in Advanced Weaving is a popular one.

Laurie concentrates on the teaching aspects of weaving sharing her vast knowledge with her students and fellow weavers. She is always willing to celebrate the advancement of other weavers. Gives encouragement always, but also seems to prefer not taking the limelight herself. Receiving awards doesn't seem to be her style, but I think it is time to celebrate her many gifts to the weaving world with the Mary Merrill Award.

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