



*How to get there from here —START!!*

**Inside this issue:**

<i>Guild Program</i>	2
<i>Guild Program (cont'd)</i>	3
<i>Guild Program (cont'd)</i>	4
<i>Hostess</i>	4
<i>Summer Wrap-up</i>	5
<i>Study Group 2012-2013</i>	5
<i>Dimity/Honeycomb Study Group</i>	5

How do you decide on a project and what motivates you to finally sit down, plan/design, gather yarn and equipment, thread, and finally start the actual weaving? Many of us procrastinate or even become static in our weaving. This happened to me over the past year and for many reasons (all of which seemed logical and reasonable to me)

- Not inspired
- I do not like what I have on the loom
- This project is taking too long so I will thread up another loom
- Oops! I committed to participated in another study group.
- Or the dreaded warp *from the other side*
- Too many other fun and distracting things to do such as visit with friends and family, read, take a walk, watch the Olympics,

US Open, and Wimbledon

But then embarrassment sits in and you start kicking yourself or making false commitment dates to yourself and your loyal weaving buddy.

So what finally moved me to start weaving again? Committing to having an item completed for Creative Arts and I just could not see my loom tied-up (no pun intended) for another so many months. Hey, I have holiday cards to weave, I signed up for the Dimity/Honeycomb Study Group, and the Guild Study Group.

I did complete some weaving related activities during this period so that should count for something. These included:

- Threading looms for the Scottish Festival
- Winding a warp and weaving some of the cards for LPRD
- Winding and threading a second warp for LPRD
- Securing a loom for the



Guild and getting it ready to sale

- Collecting some books to add the Guild library; and
- Finally rewinding and rethreading *the warp from the other side!*

My advice: find a weaving friend, share your state of inaction, participate in some type of weaving related activity, and then by all means get out that cone of yarn, your *"I want to weave this one day"* listing and START!

Oh yes, my holiday cards warp is wound, draft planned, and the Dimity warp is wound!!

*Eunice Smith—2nd Lifetime Membership*

Eunice received her 2nd lifetime membership from the Boston Weavers Guild in May of this year. It was entitled *Honorary Member*. We awarded Eunice her *Lifetime Membership Award* in March.

Way to go Eunice!



## *Program 2012-2013*

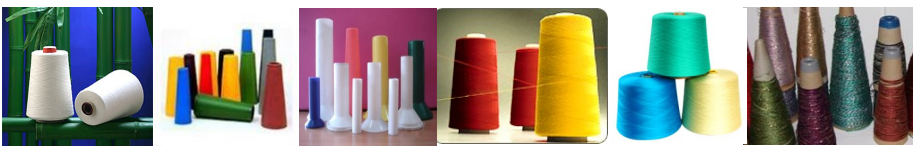
- September 8 AM Study Group: Monk's Belt Presented by: Barbara Eves**  
 Scandinavian in origin, monk's belt adds interest and variation to the simple two-block pattern of opposites by breaking up the blocks into uneven units and treading elongated figures instead of squares. The weave structure, I believe, has a classic, elegant yet tailored look whether woven as a pattern border with plain weave background in between or as an overall design. Either way, the pattern is usually two blocks with a background structure of tabby. Come and join me in weaving this uncomplicated, but imaginative, weave structure in our study group this year.
- September 8 PM Summer Wrap up & year forecast**
- October 13 All Day Tips & Techniques Presented by: Loris Epps**  
 Spend the day trying hands-on techniques to learn and improve your weaving. To include: using a warping paddle, winding more than one end at a time on a warping board, using a warping reel, threading front-to-back, multiple uses of your reed, using a doubling stand, substitute heddles, keeping track of where you are while weaving a long or complicated treading, to raddle or not, and many others. If there is a technique that you have questions about or have not tried and want an introduction, then send your comment to Loris by the end of the summer so that it will be incorporated into the day.
- November 3 AM Fabric Analysis Presented by: Carol Birtwistle**  
 Have you ever admired a beautiful piece of fabric and wanted to duplicate the pattern or weave your own interpretation only to be stopped short because you did not know how to analyze the structure of the fabric? Learn how to pick apart a piece of fabric thread by thread, transferring this information to graph paper in order to draft a draw up. The completed draw up will include not only the threading but the tie-up and treading order as well. We will also discuss how to determine warp direction, ends per inch, picks per inch and fiber content.  
 The workshop will begin by reviewing drafting nomenclature to establish a common vocabulary, then move on to analyze pieces of woven fabric that I will provide for each participant. For this hands on program you need to bring a pencil, eraser, ruler, graph paper (preferably 6 to 8 squares per inch), needle and thread, a T-pin or large needle. A magnifying glass or linen tester will be helpful but not necessary.
- November 3 PM Make a Lunch Bag Presented by: Susan Wright**  
 Susan will provide several easy designs for using your handwoven fabric to make lunch bags. Lunch bags are a good gift to give co-workers - promoting bringing your lunch, saving money, being "green" and eating a healthier lunch (maybe). The bag designs will be easy for those of us who are "challenged" when it comes to sewing. Bag construction will be demonstrated and suitable weave structures will be discussed.

## Program 2012-2013 (cont'd)

- December 1 AM Craft  
December 1 PM Holiday Party
- January 12 AM **All About Alpacas & Their Yarn Presented by: Erica Dwyer**  
In this program we will learn what makes alpaca fiber unique & differences between alpaca vs wool, vs cotton, etc. We'll also find some interesting characteristics of alpaca that we didn't know.
- During the program we will also observe how to use alpaca when weaving and knitting with alpaca wool. Erica will show us use of commercial yarns vs her own and will bring her lines of hand dyed alpaca yarns as well as yarns spun from her own herd.
- January 12 PM **Antique Looms Presented by: Betsy McKee**  
Betsy McKee will offer a field trip to her weaving studio just down the street. The McKees began collecting textile tools more than 25 years ago, in an effort to understand how antique coverlets and other textiles were created. The first loom, a large barn-frame loom, was purchased while house-hunting in Vermont in 1986. For several years it was a sculpture, until Betsy met a Master Weaver from Guildford, CT, who offered to make a house call and teach her to use it. The rest, as they say, is history.
- February 2 AM **Following the "What Would Happen If ... Trail", or "How I Get From Empty Loom to Woven Cloth" Presented by: Barbara Elkins**
- February 2 PM **Create your Own Dreamcatcher Presented by Angela King**  
Angela will show everyone how to make a dreamcatcher.  
In [Native American culture](#), is a handmade object based on a [willow](#) hoop, on which is woven a loose [net](#) or [web](#). The dreamcatcher is then decorated with personal and sacred items such as feathers and beads. The resulting "dream-catcher", hung above the bed, is used as a charm to protect sleeping children from nightmares. As dreamcatchers are made of [willow](#) and [sinew](#), they are not meant to last forever but are intended to dry out and collapse as the child grows older. (from Wikipedia)  
Angela will be making vine and branch hoops and will bring these to the meeting. Guild members will need to bring: [yarn of any color](#) (no homespun; wool works best & must be able to hold some tension; knitting thickness would be good. Bring more than one color if you'd like.), [yarn needle](#), [beads that fit the yarn](#), [feathers](#), [glue gun](#), [scissors](#). Angela will bring some beads & feathers to share. Material fee to be determined.
- March 2 AM **Double Weave Presented by: Fran Curran**  
The basic structure of double weave will be reviewed and then we will look at the block design possibilities offered by creating 'windows'. This will lead to a discussion of how to actually plan and develop an 8H double weave project by using a 4H overshot design as inspiration.

## *Program 2012-2013 (cont'd)*

- March 2**                      **PM**    **Iridescent Weaving: Creating Cloth which Changes Color as it Moves**  
**Presented by: Pat McMullan**  
 Do you want to move beyond your comfort zone colors and add a little zing to your weaving? This workshop will explore the factors which help some textiles shimmer and appear to change color: hue, value, fiber content, size of threads or yarns, lustre, weave structure, sett, drape, finishing, and more. Participants are asked to bring any examples of iridescent fabrics - handwoven or commercial - for show-and-tell. (description copied from NEWS 2013 bulleting). Material fee if participants wish to have a copy of print material.
- April 6**                      **AM**    **Weave those Holiday Cards Now! Presented by: Jayne Flanagan**  
 Let's start designing and weaving right now for the next holiday season and for all those special occasions in between. Do you need a break from weaving towels and placemats, but are not excited about weaving yardage? Weaving for card inserts allows you to try many structures and experiment with small amounts of your wildest stash yarns. Discussion will include the practical considerations of scale, materials, structures and even how the US Post Office can affect your designs. Please bring note taking materials, fabric scissors, handwoven bits and pieces you already have and any examples of handwoven cards to share with the group. Material fee of \$5, includes handout and 5 window note card blanks.
- PM**    **Study Group Projects & Lunch Bags**  
**Presented by: Barbara Eves & Susan Wright**
- May 11**                      **All Day Annual Meeting & Pot Luck Luncheon**



## Hostess

September:	Ruth Buchman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hostess will bring an item for light refreshment.</li> <li>• Guild will provide cups, sugar, stirrers, coffee, tea, and paper items</li> <li>• Members are encouraged to be as "green" as possible by bringing your own cup/mug, cloth napkin, etc.</li> <li>• Clean up</li> </ul>
October:	Susan Wright	
November:	Leslie Crane	
December:	All Members	
January:	Pam Engberg	
February:	Barbara Eves	
March:	Jo Ann Miner	
April:		
May:	All Members	

## Study Group: Monk's Belt and Lunch Bags

The Guild will offer two opportunities this program year to participate in a Study Group. In September Barbara Eves will discuss Monk's Belt and Susan Wright will discuss lunch bags in November.

Members can participate in both. We will expect the finished items at the April meeting and items will be collected to display at NEWS in July.

Sign-ups will be at both the September and November meetings.

## *Summer Wrap-up*

**Cummington:** Was a great success. This year we had quite a few adults trying weaving as well as youngsters.

**Scottish Festival:** The weather was great! We were over run with all changes trying weaving.. It was also wonderful to have time to sit and chat with other Guild members and catch up on summer plans.

**Shelburne Grange:** What a wonderful small country type fair. This year we had our own tent and lots of visitors very interested in weaving. Several of our members won prizes: Eunice, Ute, Loris, and Norma.



### **Dimity/Honeycomb Southern Counterpane Study Group:**

Several members of our Guild accepted the invitation to participate in two Study Groups this program year; the one with the Guild and one weaving and studying Dimity. The Dimity Group is being coordinated by Loris Epps and the mentor for the group is Ute Bargmann. Ute has woven over 50 samples of the above topic and is constantly challenged by the creativity and genius of this type of weave structure and the fact that it seems to be germane to Southeastern USA—from North Carolina down through Mississippi and Alabama and sometime even to Texas. There is very little written about this area and very few surviving pieces as these counterpanes were used and sometimes not appreciated for their uniqueness and historical value. The group is planning several exchanges and will weave a set of samples for the Guild. The final project is not expected to be completed until late 2013 at this time.



Western Carolina University-Hunter



### **NEWS (New England Weavers Seminar) - July 2013 at Smith College.**

- Please do not forget to participate in this year's Study Group so that we can have a full table for the Display Table. We will collect items at the April meeting (if possible).
- We are responsible for the stuffing the packets again.

## Weavers Guild of Springfield

*P. O. Box 2605  
Springfield, MA 01101-2605*

*Phone: 413 734-7005*

*E-mail: [weaversspring@netscape.net](mailto:weaversspring@netscape.net)*

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

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**Meeting location:** Community House,  
735 Longmeadow Street,  
Longmeadow, MA 01106

<i>President</i>	<i>Jane Devlin</i>
<i>Program Chair</i>	<i>Laura Freeman</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Betsy McKee</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Jo Ann Miner</i>
<i>Events Coordinator</i>	<i>Loris Epps</i>
<i>Librarian</i>	<i>Eunice Smith</i>
<i>Assistant Librarian</i>	<i>Sylvia Deliso</i> <i>and Barbara Eves</i>
<i>Webmaster</i>	<i>Pat Billingsley</i>
<i>Historian</i>	<i>Betsy McKee</i>
<i>NEWS Representative</i>	<i>Susan Wright</i> <i>and Karen Wittshirk</i>

## *Upcoming Events:*

1. **The Big E**—several of our members have submitted items in Creative Arts. Check out the results after September 12th at [www.thebige.com/fair/agriculture/CreativeArtsResults.asp](http://www.thebige.com/fair/agriculture/CreativeArtsResults.asp)
2. **West Boylston Fall Fest** on the Town Common, September 29, 2012. [www.wbaf.org](http://www.wbaf.org)
3. Weavers Guild of Boston, November 1-4, 2012. [weaversguildofboston.org](http://weaversguildofboston.org)
4. **Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival**, September 29 & 30, Turnbridge, VT, [www.vtsheepandwoolfest.org](http://www.vtsheepandwoolfest.org)
5. **NYS Sheep and Wool Festival**, September 20 & 21, Rhinebeck, NY, [www.sheepandwool.com](http://www.sheepandwool.com)
6. **The Fiber Festival of New England**, November 3 & 4, Big E, [www.thebige.com/ese/ESEEvents/Fiber\\_Festival.asp](http://www.thebige.com/ese/ESEEvents/Fiber_Festival.asp)
7. **Pioneer Valley Weavers Guild Exhibit** at Cooley Dickinson Hospital, Northampton, MA in October. <http://pioneervalleyweavers.org>

