



NEW YORK THREADS

The Newsletter of
The New York Guild of Handweavers
Box 1623, Madison Square Station, New York 10159-1623
Web: www.nyhandweavers.org e-mail: info@nyhandweavers.org

Meeting at The School of Visual Arts
214 East 21st Street, Room 701
Social Hour at Noon
Program at 1:00PM

February 2013

SHOW-AND-TELL!!!!

Saturday February 23, 2013 at 1:00 PM



It's that time of year again. Our annual Show-and-Tell is around the corner. Be sure to bring along your recent (and not so recent) projects, and share your experiences, questions, and stories with everyone! What's on your loom?

The Loom Woven Basket with Betty Gonter

Saturday, April 13, 2013, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
at the School of Visual Arts, 214 East 21st Street, New York, NY

Weaving Baskets on the loom is an innovative and new way of basket making. It is a great craft for all levels of weavers. We will use our table looms to weave enough material to make a basket using a pulled warp technique.

In this class you will learn how to weave a small basket on your loom.

Enrollment is limited to: 15

Cost: *NYGH Members* \$30 + \$10 materials fee = \$40 *Non-members* \$40 + \$10 materials fee = \$50.

Materials fee includes: basket material. *Please give the materials fee to Betty Gonter the day of the workshop.*

Bring to class: scissors, 1 yard of fleece or quilter's cotton longer than the width of your warp. *You may bring a rotary cutter and rotary mat board for cutting the fabric instead of the scissors.*

Equipment: A multi harness table loom or a portable rigid heddle loom that can create a cloth at least 10" wide. Your loom must be warped with 5/2 cotton before the workshop. The length of the warp should be at least 1 yard. *We will send a reminder e-mail and letter a month prior to workshop regarding the warp requirements.*

Pre-requisites: none

About Betty Gonter: Betty Gonter has been handweaving on and off the loom for over twenty five years. She also has a love of color that has led her to explore silk painting and glass design.

www.bettyshealingcolour.com

Registration: Please complete the form below, detach and mail with a check to: Kate Heidtman
(please make checks out to the New York Guild of Handweavers) 71 Ocean Parkway, Apt. 1N
Please note that the **Registration deadline is March 9** Brooklyn, NY 11218



Name: _____ Daytime phone # _____

Address: _____ Evening phone # _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____ **Workshop fee total: \$30 member \$40 non-member**

The 2013 NYGH Spring Trip on Saturday May 18, 2013
Save the date!



Long Island Fleece & Fiber Fair, May 18 should be a fun packed day out at the Long Island Fleece & Fiber Festival. It's going to be a great opportunity for members to spend time together and participate in activities that revolve around the things we love the most such as:

- Carding: see raw fiber being de-tangled and "teased" apart!
- Dyeing: learn how dyes transform fleece and wool into colorful fiber!
- Spinning: watch how spinners and their wheels turn fiber into spun yarn!
- Knitting: learn the basics of how to knit your own finished

pieces!

- Felting: create your own fiber art pieces using this interesting technique!
- Weaving: see the Hallockville looms in action turning fiber into cloth!
- Quilting: watch demonstrations by quilting artisans and try it out for yourself!
- Furry Friends: meet the sheep, llamas, alpacas, and angora rabbits that provide the fleece and fiber used by fiber artists!
- Eat: tasty food from local vendors!

And if this isn't quite enough to entice you then LLAMA OBSTACLE COURSE should! Come see llamas show off their fancy footwork!

The Guild will **NOT** be handling registration so be sure you do this directly by May 15th for a discounted price. See the website for more information on the fair, registration and transportation:

http://www.hallockville.com/fiber_bus.html

And also be sure to visit [Long Island Fleece and Fiber Fair on Facebook!](#)

Soraya Shah

Further on our Spring Trip to the Long Island Fleece & Fiber Fair

It's official; the Hallockville Museum Farm is VERY eager to have the NYGH come to their Fleece & Fiber Fair, staff an info/demo table, and hand out Guild applications, newsletter copies, postcards and schedules of our upcoming events! Save the date: Saturday, May 18.

Conversations with the Museum administration have netted the following key points:

1. We'll have free use of a banquet-sized (72") table and several chairs to set up a NYGH display and demo/hands-on loom; Gail has mentioned that we'll have a Dorothy and a "popsicle stick" loom for visitors to try out. Perhaps we could contribute weft yarns? (No telling how much we'll need, but a little extra couldn't hurt.)
2. Since we'll bring our display materials on the bus, we'll stick to what we can carry easily AND what will make our table look colorful, interesting and inviting: in addition to a few books from our lending library, let's have a variety of examples of Guild members' finished projects – placemats, towels, scarves, napkins, clothes, cushion covers, etc. If you'd like to contribute a piece for display, please let me know; we can bring them in to the February, March or April meetings, and return them after the Fiber Fair is over (either at the end of the day or by special arrangement.)
Does anyone have some snapshots of Crafternoon for a display board? Or of some of our guest speakers? Or other ideas for what to have at our table? (Carie, I'll touch base with you to arrange to get the NYGH banner.)
3. Since the bus will get us there at approximately 11:00, we'll be setting up an hour after the Fiber Fair begins (which is fine with the Museum staff – they understand the logistical issues.) That means staffing the table from 11:00 – 6:00. Soraya suggested 2 hour shifts, which sounds like a very good idea – plenty of time to see the fair, have lunch, etc. (Even if some of us can go for longer stretches, we should have breaks and/or a backup person.) Volunteers, anyone?
4. I'll be at the next 3 meetings, registering volunteers and collecting finished projects for display. Can you help out with staffing the table and/or helping to carry display materials to and from the Fair?



Are there any special touches that you think would help to make this event especially memorable? Suggestions and ideas are always welcome!

Linda Sax

SPRING WORKSHOP

Please note the change of date on the previously announced workshop. Betty Gonter will offer a day-long workshop on three-dimensional weaving with the pulled warp technique **on April 13**. Weaving baskets on a loom is an exciting new way of basket making, and is a great technique for all levels of weavers. For details, please see the flyer and registration form in this newsletter.



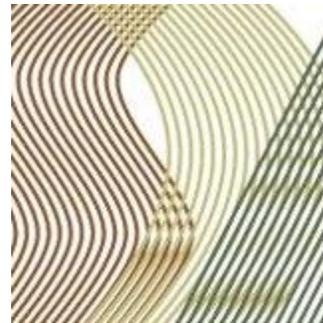
SPECIAL SPRING TRIP

On May 18, you will be able to join for a visit to the Long Island Fleece & Fiber Fair at the Hallockville Museum Farm in Riverhead, Long Island for some good fiber fun. We will also be given the opportunity to promote our guild! More details about this event are included elsewhere in this newsletter.



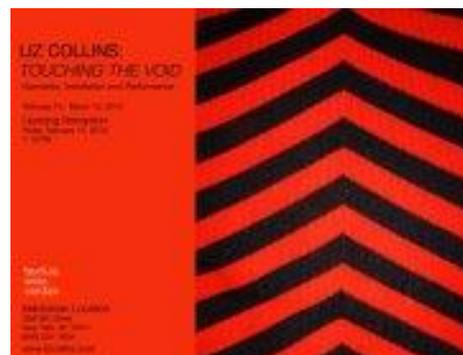
CALL FOR ENTRIES

Surface Design Association (SDA) invites apparel and fashion designers to submit their outrageous, innovative, one-of-a-kind wearables to **in•ter•face: Fabricate**, the juried Members Fashion Show to be staged during the upcoming biennial 2013 International Surface Design Association Conference in San Antonio, Texas, from June 6-9, 2013.



EXHIBITIONS

The Textile Arts Center is presenting the Liz Collins exhibition "Touching the Void: Garments, Installation and Performance". The show will run through March 15, 2013, in their Manhattan location at 26 West 8 Street, New York, NY 10011. (646-225-6554)



YARN COUNT

With permission from the original author, Darby Downey shares the following useful piece which previously appeared in the newsletter of our friends at the Hudson-Mohawk Weavers' Guild:

At a recent Guild meeting the topic of yarn count came up. Yarn design information is not easily located. Having a good library that has texts related to mill production I located information regarding such and thought that it should be shared with the Guild membership at large.

So what does a cotton yarn called 8/2 really mean? Historically when cotton yarn began being produced in England a standard hank or skein of a single ply (ready for the plying process) was determined to be a length of 840 yards. I cannot locate any reason for the exact length but 840 yards is the standards listed in many early yarn production manuals. The first number in yards in our example (the 8) indicated that the number of skeins or hanks at 840 yards to weight a pound was eight. The second number indicates the plying process and the number 2 indicates that our yarn is a 2 ply yarn. If it was a 3 we would have a three ply yarn. So completing the mathematical calculations it would look like this:
8 skeins @ 840 yards of singles = 6720 yards

6720 yards of singles plied two ply or
 $6720 \text{ divided by } 2 = 3360 \text{ yards per pound}$

Let's try that again for 10/2 cotton yarn:
10 skeins @ 840 yards of singles = 8400 yards
 $8400 \text{ yards divided by } 2 = 4200 \text{ yards per pound.}$

What is important is that we as weavers know that the more skeins or the higher the number of skeins the finer the yarn. This assumes that the ply count remains as a constant. Comparing an 8/2 yarn and a 20/3 yarn is quite a different matter.



For a bit of added information let us consider wool. Wool is spun in two very distinct methods referred to as woolen or worsted. Traditionally the woolen method which is a carded preparation was used by knitters and is usually spun with less twist and therefore has a softer hand. The worsted system in which wool is combed and not carded is a weaving style yarn with higher twist and has a less soft hand than woolen yarns. Within the confines of the United States worsted wool mills to avoid confusion

with the cotton standard altered the yarn count numbering system. An 8/2 cotton yarn and a 2/8 wool yarn are about the same size but the inversion of the numbers, ply being indicated first and the yarn size following, was to indicate that the yarn the weaver had in his/her hand was wool and not cotton.

Hopefully this information clears up the question or better yet creates more questions. Weave on...

*Steve Ableman
A Touch of Twist
Pattersonville, NY*

INTERNET RESOURCES

[A glossary of weaving terms](#)

Particularly useful for beginning weavers to help understand weaving vocabulary.

[A pocket dictionary of weaving terms for today's weavers](#) by weaving guru Madelyn van der Hoogt... need we say more?!

For those who admired my Structo loom Tshirt that I wore to the Holiday Party, you can get one of your very own at...http://www.cafepress.com/mf/34458255/structo-cup1jpg_tshirt

Gail Gondek



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We owe a big thank you to Carol Kover and Kathy Vermilye for their generous contributions to last December's holiday party.

Also, we are very happy to welcome Adina Obler to the board as our new membership chair. Thank you for volunteering, Adina!

And we are delighted to welcome two new members this month:

Joyce Silberstang

Alison DeVito

PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2012-2013

3/23/2013 –Harris Tweed & Isle of Harris with Lusmila McColl

<http://www.mccollandclan.com/>

4/27/2013- Hanji, Korean Papermaking with Aimee Lee

<http://aimeelee.net/paper/hanjiresearch/>

OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Vice-President: Soraya Shah

Secretary: Martha Glenn

Treasurer: Pamela Pataky

Programs: Kate Heidtman

Publicity: Linda Sax

MAFA Representative: Kathy Vermilye,

Newsletter Distribution/Hospitality:

Bea Aubrey

Newsletter Editor: Ria Koopmans



Closing date for submissions to the March newsletter is March 11, 2013