

# New York Threads

The Newsletter of  
The New York Guild of Handweavers

Next Meeting – Saturday, February 23, 2019, noon

## Ria Hawks:

### Saori Weaver to 7-year-old boy: what do you want to weave today? Answer: A hotdog

In her presentation Ria will describe the art of SAORI weaving, and demonstrate how SAORI Arts NYC provides the opportunity for people of all ages, who experience developmental, physical or emotional challenges, to discover the joy and creative benefits of free-



style weaving. Stories and work of these SAORI weavers will be shared as examples of the ways SAORI is able to decrease stress and anxiety, while enhancing self-expression and coping skills, all while creating woven art.

Ria Hawks was a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of Columbia University Medical Center. Her focus was to provide children with palliative and curative care for cancer and life-threatening hematological diseases. Throughout her career, she has been an advocate for integrative therapies, which included interventions that promoted healing.

From this perspective, Ria is a founding member SAORI Arts NYC, a nonprofit organization, which provides the opportunity to people of all ages who experience developmental, physical or emotional challenges, to discover the joy and creative benefits of free-style weaving. SAORI ARTS NYC is a full circle for Ria. As a child, Ria enjoyed embroidery and needlepoint with her mother, as an adult she was drawn to nursing people, and now she embraces SAORI weaving to combine her passion for healing with the joy of creating pieces of art.



#### MEETING LOCATION

School of Visual Arts  
133 West 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Aves.  
Room 602C

Social Hour 12:00 noon

*Bring your lunch!*

Show & Tell 12:30 pm

*See what everyone's been doing!*

Program begins 1:00 pm

**Bring back your library books!**

[www.saoriartsnyc.org](http://www.saoriartsnyc.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/saoriartsnyc/>.

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## MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

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### The American Swedish Historical Museum

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

<https://www.americanswedish.org/>



### Ruth From the Heart, Made by Hand: Textile Treasures from the Women of Sweden

Now through March 10, 2019

This exhibition includes selections of the 75 handmade textiles presented to the American Swedish Historical Museum in 1938 from every province of mainland Sweden.

Monsters and animals weave their way around these objects and delight the eye. Both explosions of color and tame geometric patterns inspire curiosity. The variety within this collection means that each object reflects elements from the Swedish provinces to Americans and Swedish Americans.

The gift speaks of more than Swedish regionalism and craft, though. In the eyes of the remarkable figure who organized the collection, these handmade gifts also represent female power. Dr. Hanna Rydh was a politician, women's rights reformer, and Sweden's first female archaeologist who blended academia and activism within this gift. To Rydh, handicraft—within the traditional women's sphere—was a symbol of female accomplishment and signified their equality with men both in Sweden and America.

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### Museum of Early Trades and Crafts

Madison, New Jersey

<http://www.metc.org/>

### Narrative Threads: New Jersey Quilts & Textiles

Now through June 9, 2019



For centuries, people in New Jersey have been producing a stunning variety of textiles. From quilts to woven coverlets

and clothing, textiles are often both decorative and practical, revealing a maker's artistry while also serving vital functions for a family. Whether in front of the loom, around the hearth, or at church, friends and neighbors passed along traditions of community and technique through generations. They often worked with a freedom unknown in other parts of their lives.

*Narrative Threads* showcases historic textiles from the collection of the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts. The exhibit also features pieces made by contemporary New Jersey textile artists who draw inspiration from the past, while continuing to forge an exciting new future for the craft.

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### Montclair Art Museum

Montclair, New Jersey

<https://montclairartmuseum.org/exhibition/new-directions-fiber-art>



### New Directions in Fiber Art

February 9 – June 16, 2019

As humanity relies increasingly upon technology, there is a growing appreciation of the personal, sensuous delivery of mood and content through the familiar components of fiber. Putting forth the discoveries of their world and times, these artists engage the

expressive potential of ancient methods with contemporary voices.

MAM will be exhibiting New Directions in Fiber Art, the New Jersey Arts Annual exhibition highlighting New Jersey's visual artists sponsored by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. This juried show will consist of works created in the array of traditional and contemporary fibrous materials and methods all completed since 2015. The work of Guild favorite Daryl Lancaster is included in the exhibition.

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### Peters Valley School of Craft

Layton, New Jersey

<http://petersvalley.org/>



### HGA's Small Expressions

February 16 – March 31, 2019

This annual, juried exhibit features contemporary small-scale works using fiber techniques in any media, not to exceed 15 inches (38cm) in any direction including mounting, framing, or display devices. The 2018 exhibit was in conjunction with Convergence® 2018 and held at the Wilbur D May Museum in Reno, Nevada. The juror was Virginia Vogel is a Professor of Art at the University of Nevada, Reno and has been associated with the Theatre and the Fine Arts Department at the university.

Located in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Peters Valley offers workshops run by professional artists from around the globe. Handweavers Guild of America is excited to work with Peters Valley in making the excellent collection of fiber works, a traveling exhibit.

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### NYGH AT VOGUE KNITTING LIVE!

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NYGH, together with knitters and fiber enthusiasts from all across the world, enjoyed three full days from January 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> at the ultimate knitting event in New York City, VKL, located at the Marriott Marquis in Times Square. One hundred visitors registered to receive the guild newsletter; volunteers did hands-on demos of weaving and spinning with the public and shared info about the guild and weaving classes in NYC area.



Sally and Lynn talked about what could be happening with Silk City, a favorite NYC weaving yarn destination, when Jack Blumenthal, Senior VP of Lion Brand Yarn came to the table and answered the question, saying that his family recently bought Silk City. Blumenthal said they have yarns on the cone for weavers and was looking for input from the weavers at NYGH as to what yarns are needed. He invited NYGH members to come to the Carlstadt warehouse to have a meeting and check it out. Congratulations to Lion Brand Yarns, and thanks for reaching out and being interested in the needs of weavers!

Halyna Shepko organized the volunteers, with help and advice from Linda Sax, who came prepared with the best chocolate. NYGH and Halyna would like to thank the dedicated volunteers who came out in their free time to help, some came even two or three days.

Heartfelt thanks to: Katy Clements, Barbara Trelstad, Gail Gondek, Fannie Lee, Carol Kover, Gloria Cannon, Judy Lambert, Lynn Yu, Ria Koopsman, Carol Steuer, Paige McAfee, Leslie Ogan, and Sally Orgren. Thank you also to all those that shared samples, and to Sally Orgren and Gail Gondek for bringing their Structo 240/4 looms, as Gail calls them, "The Mighty Metal Monsters"

and to Linda Sax for warping and bringing the Cricket. All the looms were a big hit and visitors of all ages were able to try weaving. Thanks to Ria Koopsman for being such a knowledgeable Dutch ambassador for all the visitors from the Netherlands. Thank you to Gail Gondek for opening up her home to Halyna to save her from a long commute back to her farm each day. Gratitude also to NYGH President, Carol Steuer for her calm, dedicated leadership, and helping with storing the “VKL kit” and Cricket loom for next year. Until VKL 2020!

--Halyna Shepko

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## WEAVING HACKS - FLOATING SELVEDGES

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A floating selvedge is a tool to use to help catch the edge threads with every pick thrown. It can be useful in structures that do not interlace equally at the selvedges, such as twills. To create a floating selvedge, you simply thread an extra, matching warp thread at either side of the warp, through its own dent in the reed, but refrain from threading it in a heddle. When the warp is at rest on a jack action loom, the two floating selvedge threads will float above the warp. When a shed is opened, they will float in the center of the shed. On a CM (Countermarche) loom, the threads will rest in the same place as the warp, but when the shed is opened, the floating selvedges will once again be in the center of the shed opening.

To use them, make a habit of always going over the floating selvedge when entering the shed, and always exiting under it.....that way no matter which side of the web you are working on, your selvedge threads will catch evenly.

One other use for a floating selvedge is on fragile warps, such as a singles or very loosely spun wool like Jagger Spuns' Superfine Merino, which cannot stand the weight or tension of a temple.....a floating selvedge made of monofilament, or fishing line, spaced about three dents over from the outermost thread, will help maintain a perfectly even selvedge throughout the piece.

- from *Anchorage Weavers and Spinners*

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## THE WOOLERY DISHCLOTH COMPETITION CELEBRATES 6/2

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We're having a Weave-Off to celebrate how well our [Bluegrass Mills 6/2 Cotton Yarn](#) has been received. Weave a dish towel with Bluegrass Mills to compete for prizes in four separate categories. Here's the thing though, you don't get your towel back, because we're donating them all to the local women's shelter (Simon House, here in Frankfort Kentucky), because women in crisis need the special energy that handwoven textiles provide, too!

**Grand Prize Winners** in each category will get [Spectrum Packs of our BGM 6/2](#) — that's 21, one-pound cones of yarn in a whole array of colors.

**Second and Third Place Winners** in each category will get \$50 Woolery gift cards.



The four divisions will be:

- 1) **Beginners**; those who have been weaving less than one year. Please use the honor system when determining your beginner status!
- 2) **Rigid heddle weavers** (remember, 6/2 is great in plain weave at 15 or 16 EPI; you can do that on a rigid heddle loom!)
- 3) **Color**: here's the chance to be outrageous; remember, you'll never need to wear it. Be bold and inventive, and knock our socks off!
- 4) **Pattern**: stretch yourself. Do you have 4 extra shafts on your loom that have just been looking at you funny? Use them, be brave and inventive; learn something and get out of your comfort zone!

Deadline April 15, 2019.

Complete rules on [Contest Info Page](#).

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## WEAVE A REAL PEACE

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**WARP** WEAVE A REAL PEACE

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**WOMEN & TEXTILES**  
**A PATH TO PEACE**  
*with speakers from the global community*  
presentations - textile tour - silent auction  
textile market - demonstrations

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June 20-23, 2019  
Georgetown University  
Conference Center  
June 20-23, 2019

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register online now at  
[WeaveARealPeace.Org](http://WeaveARealPeace.Org)

WARP is a non profit, global network made up of weavers, retailers, academics, teachers and activists who value the importance of textiles to grassroots economies

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## APPLY FOR A MAFA CONFERENCE FELLOWSHIP

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MAFA will again offer up to four \$300 fellowships, paid upon completion of a post-conference project that passes on learning from the conference to a broader audience. Applications, including a recommendation letter from a sponsoring guild (NYGH is one!) or fiber arts teacher, are due April 1, 2019. All applicants will be notified of the outcome in May. Full details:

<https://mafafiber.org/grants/fellowships/>

Email questions to [grants@mafafiber.org](mailto:grants@mafafiber.org)

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## MAFA REGISTRATION AND EVENTS

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MAFA registration is open! All registrations will be online. The conference website is:

<https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2019/>

MAFA offers 40 great workshops and this year's Marketplace will host 28 vendors, but that's not all -- events, exhibits and competitions are part of the fun.

The **Fashion Show and Exhibit** will feature garments and accessories created by conference attendees. Open all day Friday and Saturday of the conference, the exhibit will enable conference participants to admire the works up close.



A new addition for the 2019 MAFA Conference will be a **Fiber Artist Exhibit** with the theme "Threads of Communication". Express an event, story, message, conversation through the use of fibers. Find entry details and guidelines on the website [here](#).

The **Kitchen Towel Exchange** is designed to be very "user friendly", each participant will contribute one towel and receive one towel. Towels will be collected during registration and then put on display for all conference attendees to enjoy. Find guidelines and details on the exchange [here](#).

Not only will there be a return of our "**Silly Spinning Games**" at the 2019 MAFA Conference—but we've added a bona fide competition for handspun skeins, right down to the ribbons! Watch the [website](#) for further information about how to prepare for games including gloves (rubber AND cotton!), tinsel, partners, and other wacky challenges. For more details, see [Skein Competition](#) and [Spinning Games](#)

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## SUGAR MAPLES CENTER FOR CREATIVE ARTS

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This summer, in Maplecrest, NY, part of the Catskill Mountains, the Sugar Maple Arts Center is pleased to present the following workshops:

Amelia McIsaac and Susannah White

**Fabulous Felting for the Home**

August 9 to August 11, 2019: 10:am-4:00 pm

Course fee \$250.00

Sarah Saulson

### **Surprisingly Simple Summer and Winter Weaving**

August 23 to August 25, 2019: 9:30am -5:00pm.

Course fee \$325.00 plus \$30 Materials fee.

Accommodations are available on campus for an additional fee. For information on these and many other programs please visit [www.sugarmaples.org](http://www.sugarmaples.org) or contact Laura Pierce at [9acrewood@gmail.com](mailto:9acrewood@gmail.com).

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## **WEAVING HISTORY CONFERENCE**

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Registration is now open for our 25th Annual Weaving History Conference! Held at the beautiful 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel here in Clayton, NY, this conference attracts weaving and fiber enthusiasts with an interest in the history and process behind the craft. We will be celebrating our 25th anniversary with:

- 15 speakers presenting on a range of interesting topics
- *Weave It, Wear It*, an exhibition of woven garments shown alongside the colorful works of weaver Barbara Decker
- A Saturday workshop following the conference on *Saori*, a Japanese weaving technique



And exciting news! Thanks to a generous donation by well-known weaver Mary Underwood, there are two scholarships available this year. Those interested should submit a brief bio, a statement of reason for attending the conference, and a description of how the scholarship will benefit you. All application materials should be sent to Marina at [marina@tiartscenter.org](mailto:marina@tiartscenter.org). Please take a look at our [website](#) for registration information, check our [Facebook](#) page for updates.

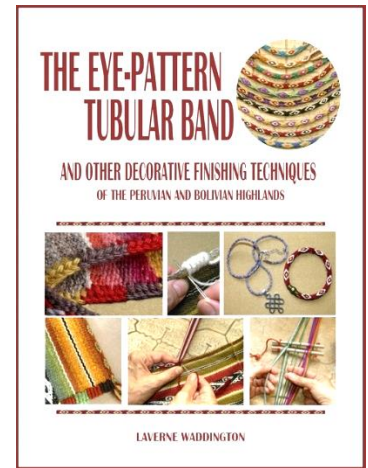
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## **LAVERNE WADDINGTON'S NEW BOOK**

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### **The Eye-Pattern Tubular Band and Other Decorative Finishing Techniques**

Bangles, bracelets, necklaces, fobs for keys and tools, shoe laces, straps and drawstrings for pouches, lanyards and eye-glass holders.... These are just some of the things that can be made using the woven patterned tubular band that I teach in this book. The bands can be as subdued or as colorful as you like using a minimum of two, or up to five and even more colors.



When I was first learning to weave with my indigenous teachers in Bolivia and Peru, I had thought that removing the cloth from the loom was cause for great celebration. I soon realized that this signaled the end of just one part of the process and a whole new beginning of another, which involved finishing the pieces with a series of colorful embellishments.

Dozens of step-by-step photos, diagrams and drawings in this book will take you through the process of weaving the bands as independent tubes for jewelry and accessories, or for using them in the more traditional way in which they are woven and sewn to cloth as a decorative and functional finish.

Traditionally, the warp for these bands is attached to the weaver's waist, or even more simply, suspended between a finger and toe! However, when it is woven as an independent tube, the warp for the band can be easily set up and worked on an inkle loom or any other loom or frame that allows you to adjust tension for take-up. Full instructions for weaving the band as an independent tube on an inkle loom are included in the book.

Instructions show various ways to finish the bands as well as how to use findings to create jewelry pieces and

fun accessories. Tutorials are given for the special technique which involves simultaneously weaving and sewing the tube to the edge of bags, pouches and pieces of sturdy cloth. The eye-pattern tubular band makes a unique decorative finish and also serves to protect the edges.



The book includes other traditional ways to embellish the edges of cloth. Both the cross-knit-loop stitch and coil stitch are presented in tutorials that are bursting with step-by-step pictures and drawings.

Available at Patternfish for \$18.

<https://www.patternfish.com/patterns/27050-laverne-waddington-the-eye-pattern-tubular-band-and-other-decorative-finishing-techniques>

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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The NYGH is pleased to welcome the following new members to the guild: Kathy Halpin, Connie McKeige, Effie Phillips-Staley, Margo Requard, Pamela Rosenblum Rodd Sovar, Janet Wilson, M. Lynn Yu, Anthony Re and Hisami Akita. We are looking forward to getting to know you!

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## NYGH NEEDS YOU!

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We have an opening on the Guild Board starting in the Fall:

**Newsletter Editor:** Duties are to provide the content for each month's newsletter, highlighting fiber-related exhibits, events, books and other items of interest to the members.

If you are interested in finding out more, contact Carol Steuer at [president@nyhandweavers.org](mailto:president@nyhandweavers.org)

Welcome, Vicki Aspenberg, our new treasurer!

## 2018-2019 GUILD CALENDAR

February 23, 2019

### Ria Hawks:

Saori Weaver to 7-year-old boy: What do you want to weave today? Answer: A hot dog

March 30, 2019

### Ed Bing Lee:

What Knots

April 27, 2019

### Carol Chave:

Tapestry as Story from Antiquity to Today

## SOCIAL MEDIA

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Pinterest](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Ravelry](#)

[Weavolution](#)

## OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Contact any of the above, and more, via the contact page on our website:

<http://nyhandweavers.org/contact>

### MAILING ADDRESS:

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## NEED SUPPLIES?

Sign up for Guild Rewards so NYGH gets 5% of every purchase at [Halcyon Yarn](#)

Use this link for automatic 5% guild rewards at [The Woolery](#)