

New York Threads

The Newsletter of
The New York Guild of Handweavers

Next Meeting – Saturday, September 29, 2018

Brenda Rosenbaum: Mayan Hands, the Journey

Through the story of Mayan Hands, we explore the lives of Mayan women and their textile creations. We look at these in the context of the history of Guatemala, trying to understand why Mayan weavers, though famous around the world as talented weavers, live most frequently in extreme poverty.



We analyze the contemporary situation, at a time when national and international businesses are appropriating designs from Mayan traditional weavings as well as the actual textiles to produce high end items, while the weavers receive only pennies for them. This not only keeps the weavers trapped in the cycle of poverty but endangers the survival of their ancient art, a veritable cultural treasure.

We talk about the emergence of the National Weavers Movement and its struggle to counter appropriation and exploitation. Finally, we examine the impact of fair trade on the lives of weavers and its potential for poverty reduction and as a positive force in the survival of traditional Mayan weaving.



Brenda Rosenbaum is an anthropologist who has worked with Mayan women in Chiapas (Mexico) and Guatemala for more than 40 years. For many years she conducted research in Mayan communities on Mayan culture and gender, myths and rituals, role of women in history, etc. In 1993, she published the book *With Our Heads Bowed: the Dynamics of Gender in a Maya Community*, and has published several articles on these topics as well.



In 1990, Brenda and her husband Fredy founded Mayan Hands, a fair-trade organization with the mission of finding markets for very poor and talented Mayan weavers. She has been working with Mayan Hands ever since (and loved every minute of it!)

www.mayanhands.org

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

MEETING LOCATION

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

Social Hour 12:00 noon

Show & Tell 12:30pm

Program begins 1:00pm

Remember to
bring back your
library books!

MUSEUM TOUR – SIGN UP NOW!

Timeless Treasures: Recently Acquired Folk Costumes and Textiles

The Ukrainian Museum
222 East 6th Street
New York, New York
(212) 228-0110
now through January 6, 2019

Handweaver Halyna Shepko invites you to a tour of the exhibit, **Sunday, October 28th, at 1PM**. Halyna will talk about weaving techniques, history, traditions, and much more. After the tour all are welcome to join Halyna at Streecha Ukrainian Kitchen on 7th St. for authentic, delicious eats. \$8 adults, \$6 seniors and students for museum tour (Streecha Ukrainian Kitchen not included).

To register, email halynashepko@gmail.com or call (845) 255-5936 for more info and to sign up. Space is limited!



Born in the East Village of New York City into a family of musicians and artists, Halyna was raised to treasure folk traditions and music. Now Halyna lives with her family at Shawangunk Ridge Farm in the Hudson Valley and focuses on Ukrainian weaving, textiles, and herbal healing. She is a member of Woodstock Weavers Guild, and Publicity Chair and Board member for The New York Guild of Handweavers. Halyna is a New York State Council on the Arts/New York Foundation for the Arts Artist Finalist.

Exhibit

http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org/ex_171111_timelesstreasures.html

Streecha

<https://foursquare.com/v/streecha-ukrainian-kitchen/4b01e9c9f964a520814622e3>

MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

Maya Textiles and Identity in Guatemala



Schweinfurth Art Center
205 Genese Street
Auburn, New York
<http://www.schweinfurthartcenter.org/>
315-225-1553
September 1 to October 14, 2018

The exhibition will highlight the textiles of different Guatemalan pueblos and how they illustrate indigenous identity on various cultural and social levels.

Sections of the exhibition will have specific themes. For example, one gallery includes three generations of the same family, showing how designs created by a master weaver are passed down to her descendants as cultural property. Other galleries will explore regional preferences in color and design; continuity and change over time in specific pueblos; and a single textile type – the su't or tzute – which is a utility cloth with various every day or ceremonial purposes depending on size and degree of elaboration.

The main hall of the museum will display a traditional Maya backstrap loom, as well as an array of huipiles, women's hand woven blouses, that demonstrate the variety of shapes, colors, and patterns that have been created among the various Maya pueblos. The textiles in this exhibition date from the late 19th century to the early 21st century. You can see an overview of the exhibit in this video. <https://vimeo.com/288588302>



MAD Collects: The Future of Craft Part 1

Museum of Art and Design
2 Columbus Circle
The Future of Craft Part 1
September 6, 2018 to March 31, 2019

MAD Collects: The Future of Craft Part 1 frames MAD's collecting mission and recent acquisitions over the last five years by positioning works by David Harper, Bayne Peterson, Cauleen Smith and other artists within the context of the Museum's current collections plan. The exhibition is curated in relationship to *The Burke Prize 2018: The Future of Craft Part 2* to feature and champion the ever-changing field of art and design practices that sustain, expand and interpret the craft media the Museum was founded to support.
<https://madmuseum.org/exhibition/mad-collects>

TEXTILE TOUR OF THE LESSER SUNDA ISLANDS

Join British textile experts David and Sue Richardson for a fantastic, adventurous voyage on a traditionally designed Indonesian schooner (*phinisi*), custom-built by Buginese shipbuilders. With a maximum of 22 passengers, our American-owned boat has all modern amenities with comfortable en-suite air-conditioned cabins, lots of shaded deck space, an enclosed lounge and bar, and all the latest safety equipment.

Our itinerary takes us along the coast of Flores and on to the islands of Lembata, Alor, Timor, Savu, Raijua, and

Sumba, returning via Rinca to visit the Komodo dragons. In village after village we will see every aspect of ikat production and natural dyeing and have the opportunity to purchase fabulous textiles directly from the women who made them.



Before each visit guests will be fully briefed so that they completely understand the type of textiles and techniques they will encounter and the role that cloth plays within the local community. Our journey will take us through a dramatic volcanic landscape during which there will be time to write-up journals, relax, swim, snorkel, sunbathe and beachcomb.

Our cruise begins at Maumere on the island of Flores on May 2, 2019 and ends at Labuan Bajo, also on Flores on May 13, 2019. Both places are connected to Bali by short direct flights. Contact: davidandsue@asiantextilestudies.com or visit <http://www.asiantextilestudies.com/tour.html>

HISTORIC TEXTILE TOUR, MARSHFIELD SCHOOL OF WEAVING

"Bits and Pieces"- A Historic Textile Tour
London, Norwich, Bath and Beyond
October 10 - 18, 2018

The Marshfield School of Weaving presents an exciting and unusual opportunity to see some of the finest collections of historic textiles in the UK. We have arranged a special week-long tour to meet with curators and see selected examples of textiles including weaving, embroidery, and costumes in the great museums of England. The tour is limited to twenty participants, and we will travel on an itinerary that is designed for weavers, collectors, interpreters and students who are

interested in the textiles that were a part of our early cultural heritage.

The special off-season rate of \$2850.00 per person, double occupancy, includes: transatlantic flights from



Boston, hotels (full breakfast), coaches, admissions to three museums, and lectures. The tour fee also includes a \$500.00 donation to the Marshfield School of Weaving endowment fund (tax deductible).

For the complete itinerary, please contact www.MarshfieldSchoolofWeaving.com, Call 802.426.3733 or email info@marshfieldschoolofweaving.com

WORKSHOP - COLORING TEXTILES WITH BUGS OLD AND NEW

Genspace
140 32nd Street #Suite 108
Brooklyn, NY 11232
September 29: 12:30-4PM
September 30: 3-7PM

The Making and Knowing Research Cluster at the Center for Science and Society at Columbia University is partnering with GenSpace to offer the "Coloring Textiles with Bugs: Old [Cochineal] and New [Bacteria]" workshop. The two-part class will be led by Project Manager Naomi Rosenkranz and former Making and Knowing student Sumeyye Yar.

In this hands-on workshop, you will learn both the history and the science of coloring textiles with organisms using historical techniques and new scientific developments. No experience in biology, chemistry, dyeing, or color-making is necessary and all are welcome!



Tickets are being offered at a subsidized rate for students, artists, and local Sunset Park residents. Apply for a space in the class by filling out this brief [survey](#). Genspace staff will forward registration links to eligible participants. We look forward to meeting you!

HISTORICAL TEXTILES WORKSHOPS



Registration has just opened for the Association for Living History Farm and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM) Mid-Atlantic Regional Skills Workshops on Friday, October 26 and Saturday, October 27, 2018 in Historic Walnford, Trenton, NJ in the Monmouth County Park System. Please download the Program Booklet found on this page to see the class descriptions. The link to the download is midway down the page.

<https://alhfam.org/event-2790038?CalendarViewType=0&SelectedDate=9/16/2018>

The textile related workshops on Saturday include

- Karen Clancy, of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, will lead an all-day natural dye workshop,
- Kat Crippen will instruct teams of four in the steps of wool processing from skirting, washing,

and carding or combing. Teams will then have the opportunity to spin on either a Saxony wheel, a great wheel, or a drop spindle, depending on their skill level and confidence.

- Barb Johns half day flax workshop will demonstrate the safe handling of the equipment and participants, working in teams of two, will take turns using a flax break, scutching knife and board, and finally, flax heckles in various sizes. Planting of the seed through retting will be discussed and resources provided. Participants will take home a small sample of flax straw, the small strick that they create, and their debris.

Other skills will be offered. Visit the organization's website to read the full itinerary, locations and hotel accommodations, and registration. www.alhfam.org. Note that registration closes October 8, 2018,

FIBER FESTIVALS



Please mark your calendars for these upcoming fiber festivals.

Lehigh Valley Fiber Festival, September 29-30, Macungie Memorial Park, 50 Poplar Street, Macungie, PA <http://www.lvfiberfest.com/>

Fall Fiber Festival and Montpelier Sheep Dog Trials, October 6- 7, across from James Madison's Montpelier, VA. <https://fallfiberfestival.org>

New York State Sheep & Wool Festival (Rhinebeck), October 20-21, Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Rhinebeck, NY. <https://www.sheepandwool.com>

Southeastern Animal Fiber Fair, October 26-28, WNC Fairgrounds, Asheville, NC. <https://saffsite.org/>

MAFA NEWS

Forty workshop offerings will greet you at the MAFA conference this summer, June 27-30, 2019 at Millersville University, Millersville, PA. Registration opens February 2, 2019. Since there are so many talented instructors to choose from, we thought that you'd appreciate an early reminder.

Check the workshop listings here:

https://mafafiber.org/conference_year/2019/

CALL FOR ENTRIES - SPIRAL TEXTILE PROJECT

Julia Galliker and Ines Bogensperger launched Spiral Textile in June 2016 as a way to 'crowdsource' textile production experiments for academic research. The project was inspired by an ancient spiral design drawn on papyrus dating from the late Roman period in Egypt (c. 2nd -4th centuries). The unique artifact was discovered in 1927 during University of Michigan excavations at Karanis, a Roman town in Egypt's Fayum Oasis.

In May 2017, they began showing the 50 spiral samples, from 27 artists, in a traveling exhibition. By popular



demand, the project has been reopened to welcome additional participants. To date, nine exhibitions are scheduled as described on the website.

The current FWF research grant covers basic project costs, so there is no registration fee. Participants are asked to register their details and complete the project survey. The closing date for submission of samples is November 30, 2018. Please read the submission guidelines carefully, as there are very specific requirements for technique, materials and color when interpreting the motif. <https://spiraltextile.com/>

THE LATEST FROM PEGGY OSTERKAMP



Weaver's Knots by Peggy Osterkamp. There are 6,000 words and 67 illustrations showing every step in the tying of each knot. Of course, there will be directions to tie a weaver's knot, but did you know there are several different ways to tie it? How to tell you have made it correctly and equally

important, how to undo them. There is also a double weaver's knot included. Special knots are given for slippery threads, hanging and adjusting shafts, tying up treadles. There is a chart for different situations and what knots to use.

<https://peggyosterkamp.com/author/admin/>

MAINE DYE AND TEXTILES

GrowthFountain helps businesses raise capital online with its equity crowdfunding portal. Within the GrowthFountain portfolio, one business of interest to fiber enthusiasts is Maine Dye and Textiles. The original Dyehouse operation, established in Manhattan, was initially purchased by the Creative Arts Division of Johnson Wax and moved to Massachusetts in the 1980s where for more than 30 years, it dyed and sold its own well-established yarns such as Paternayan, and manufactured needle-arts kits including the Elsa Williams line and sold into the hand-knitting market under such labels as Reynolds, Lopi and Jo Sharp.



During this time, a quiet but growing part of the business operations was providing contract dyeing

services to other yarn production mills and the fiber arts community under the supervision of the Head Dyemaster. In July 2012, Ken and Claudia Raessler purchased the business, and relocated the operations and equipment to the Dyehouse's current 18,000 square-foot site on the Saco River in Biddleport, Maine. The company currently has 14 employees and plans to build their staff to 40, running 3 shifts daily.

The work of the Dyehouse is simple to understand, yet challenging to implement in any environment. The objective is to correctly put color on yarn and threads for businesses supplying end-products to the textile market. This represents a critical step in any textile manufacturing supply chain and, so during the firm's more poetic moments, they claim to "Put the Color of Maine back into Textiles".



The dyed yarns (synthetic and natural fibers) are used by customers in products ranging from home textiles to industrial cordage. They assist customers in developing their colors, applying those colors to a wide range of fibers and providing sampling for new product development. Maine Dye and Textiles dyes a wide range of yarn from gorgeous wools for Brooklyn Tweed and Paternayan Persian tapestry yarns, to nylon yarns for more industrial purposes.

You can listen to an interview with Claudia, who is a weaver, here, <https://www.gist yarn.com/blogs/podcast/episode-26-dyeing-yarn-with-maine-dye-and-textiles> visit the company website, <https://mainedye.com/> and read about investment opportunities in this small business. At this writing, there are 56 days remaining in the offering. <https://growthfountain.com/dyehousebuildout>

-Gail Gondek

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The NYGH is pleased to welcome the following new members to the guild: Gary Aspenberg, Amanda Bennett, Jill Grey, Carol Jeffery, Dorothy Miller, Robert Milling, Judith Parsells, Jose, Picayo, Sandra Reynolds, Leeor Sabbah, Halyna Shepko, and Jen Swegan.

CLASSIFIEDS

FREE: Leclerc Dorothy four harness loom. 15" weaving width with approximately 250 heddles. It has some wear but is still completely functional. Included is a canvas carrier with miscellaneous tools and shuttles. Can be picked up in Passaic, NJ. If interested, please call Miriam at 973-219-1425.



FREE: hand-made warping board. Four pieces screw together and are marked to indicate how to assemble. Dimensions are 3' x 2'-6". Posts are approximately 5" long. Can be picked up in Passaic, NJ. If interested, please call Miriam at 973-219-1425.



FOR SALE: Nilus Leclerc 4-shaft loom with 6 treadles. 68" long, 40" wide, 43.5" high at the castle. Complete with heddles, one reed and a bench. Asking price: \$200.00. Buyer must be able to transport the loom themselves, Ridgewood, Queens.
Barbara.goonan@verizon.net



FOR SALE: Macomber 48" loom. 8 harnesses on a 12-harness frame. Includes 6, 8, 10, 12 DPI stainless steel reeds, bench with cushion, raddle and 100 extra metal heddles. \$1500. Pick up in NYC. Call Leeor at 212-645-5424.

NEW LIBRARY BOOKS

My trip to Convergence this summer yielded two new books for the Guild Library. **The Best of Weaver's Thick 'n Thin**, in true Madelyn van der Hoogt style, covers theory so you can design your own projects and has projects so you can learn by weaving. Some topics are diversified plain weave family, thick 'n thin on four or fewer, thick 'n thin tied weaves and "kissin' cousins of thick 'n thin.

Complex Weavers Greatest Hits has more than 150 drafts and profile drafts in the book and on the included CD. The CD has the WIFs of some the drafts so you can open them in your weaving software and use them as a starting point for your projects.

Former Guild member, Kathryn Hare, is donating an almost complete collection of *Prairie Wool Companion* and *Weaver's* magazines. The collection is an excellent resource for all weavers. *The Prairie Wool Companion* covers simple to very advanced rigid heddle weaving as well as shaft loom weaving. *Weaver's* has theory and projects on many weave structures, even in-depth studies on weave structures that are seldom seen in books. These magazines have not yet been processed into the library so they will not be available at the September meeting.

Kathryn's editing turned up Terry Henley's "An Introduction to Card Weaving", a workshop he presented to the Guild in 2007. I'm sorry I missed the workshop. It was during my working days. Many thanks to Kathryn Hare for her generous donation.
—Carie Kramer

2018-2019 GUILD CALENDAR

September 29, 2018

Brenda Rosenbaum:

Mayan Hands, the Journey

October 27, 2018

Lucienne Coifman:

REP, RIPS, REPS, Discovering Rep Weave

December 1, 2018

Hands-On Crafts / Holiday Party

January. 26, 2019

Halyna Shepko:

Baba's Kilim. Ukrainian Weaving Traditions

February 22, 2019

Ria Hawks:

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

March 30, 2019

Ed Bing Lee:

What Knots

April 27, 2019

Carol Chave:

Tapestry as Story from Antiquity to Today

SOCIAL MEDIA

<https://www.facebook.com/The-New-York-Guild-of-Handweavers-111455605593162/>

https://www.instagram.com/NY_GUILD_OF_HANDWEAVERS/

<https://www.pinterest.com/nyhandweavers/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG7Bzh2BR34MwaW8enHEkGg>

<http://www.ravelry.com/groups/new-york-guild-of-handweavers>

<https://weavolution.com/group/new-york-guild-handweavers>

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<http://nyhandweavers.org/contact>

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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](#)