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# CUYAHOGA WEAVERS GUILD

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## President's Letter

Here we are in the middle of the holiday season with yet another variant spreading through the world. Please start washing your hands a lot and wear your masks to the Holiday Party at Jessie's. Remember that it is a pot luck. And the booster shot would be a good idea. We certainly do not want a member of our weaving family to catch anything including the flu or colds. The weaving sig has found inspiration for our next project in the vast collection of art at the Cleveland Museum of Art. We can't wait to see what the results will be.

For the coming year we will be meeting at the Warrensville Library. Evidently the libraries are hosting GED classes and they use big blocks of time. I am just happy we did not have to change our hours for the meetings. Speaking of meetings, if anyone knows of a local weaver who could speak or zoom for our 2022 meetings. Or, if you would like a program on a specific kind of weaving techniques, please let me know. If there is a fiber show happening somewhere close, that info would also be welcomed. My fiber interests are not necessarily the same as yours. Since winter will arrive on the 21st, have fun skiing, skating, snow boarding, building snowmen or just walking in the flurries around us.

Of course, we can stay inside and weave. Just enjoy whatever you do.

Love you guys!

Bobbie

## December - March 2021- 2022 Programs

The Guild programs are currently being planned for in person gatherings and as the weather becomes cooler, inside meeting. Please bring your own masks and follow precautions as you feel necessary. If our Libraries have to close down, we will meet via Zoom.

December 16, 2021

11:30 am Holiday Pot Luck

With any Luck, we will have a Holiday gathering at Jessie's lovely home for our Pot Luck. If your last name begins with A-M, please bring a main dish or salad. If your name begins with N-Z, please bring a side dish or dessert. We will have a Show & Tell of your projects after we have our meal. And, much gratitude to Jessie for agreeing so amiably to be our hostess.

Monthly programs will likely be at the Warrensville County Library.  
Stay tuned for our winter programs. Help Bobbie out with suggestions.

## **\$\$ Paying Dues \$\$**

**Yes,** dues will be collected for the 2021-2022 year.

Find the membership and dues form at the newsletter's end. Checks made to Cuyahoga Weavers Guild should be sent to Patty. Better yet, bring your dues to the next meeting or study group.

## **STUDY GROUP**

Patty Hridel

Here is the proposal for Study Group, 2021-2022.

From our visit to the Cleveland Museum of Art, study group folks searched for an artwork, artist, or collection of pieces. Which will inspire this year's study group projects?

At last count, the word is that we can look out for works inspired by:

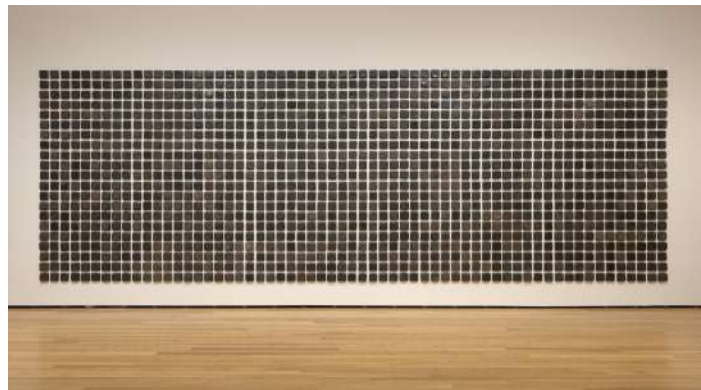
Piet Mondrian,  
Georgia O'Keefe  
Lousie Nevelson,  
Maria Martinez  
Acoma pottery

For those who haven't made it to the museum or won't be able to, consider visiting the museum's web site. You can browse there to your heart's content's

Try it at the search tab

<https://www.clevelandart.org/art/collection/search>

Just a few that have inspired us. More to come!



## **PENELOPE'S Corner**

Nancy Allman

It looks like there weren't any Penelope moments over the last months. Lucky you. If so, that is a great feat. No errors, no re-doing, no tangles, and no grawlises. I can share this one mental lapse that Victoria cleared up in a manner of seconds, after I had spent a lot of gray matter trying to sort out. She has her head together.

For the Study Group project I wanted to resurrect a Ruby Leslie workshop structure her The 3 D's of 3-D: Deflection Differential Shrinkage, and Doubleweave. (April 2012) My sample of an Integrated Cell, Asymmetrical structure would be perfect for my idea. I even have a lovely sample, a draft, a list of yarns and photos. However, the draft reveals an 8 shaft draft. Brain freeze. I don't own an 8 shaft loom, nor do I remember borrowing and transporting said loom to the Orange Library. More brain wracking.

At study group, I pleaded my case. Several suggestions were tossed around a bit. UNTIL Victoria put two and two together. I never borrowed or toted an 8 shaft loom. She pointed out that it was, no doubt, a round robin class. My Integrated Cell, asymmetrical sample came from someone's 8 shaft loom.

Conundrum solved. Round robin, of course.

In order to continue this newsletter feature, who would like to have one for the spring newsletter?

## **DYING IN MY SLEEP**

Victoria Johnson-Parratt

I hurt my shoulder in the process of finishing up the clean out of the sale at the Jackson garage. Days of throbbing pain led me to disregard the danger and sleep in the warm embrace of my heating pad. I wrapped it around my upper arm, tucked it over my shoulder, parked my shoulder blade on whatever was left and went to sleep. I had read the warnings. They told me not to sleep on it, not even lay upon it, but I didn't listen. Even though there is an auto shut off, they worry about the possibility of burns. Nowhere on the label did anyone say anything about dyeing.

I had chosen not to change into my standard granny gown for sleep knowing it would hurt to lift my arm. I crawled between the sheets wearing the same union suit that I had been wearing all day. It's an old favorite, washed and worn for decades without incident and currently missing a button or two. It is supremely comfortable and intensely colorful. The bright primary colors twisted and tie dyed always make me smile.

When I woke up sweaty, I was not concerned. I showered and dressed and moved on with my day. I had no idea that I had been sleeping with a fugitive till hours later when I asked for a scratch. John was alarmed and afraid to touch what he considered to be my severely bruised back. What happened? He said it looked like a gang of thugs had beaten me with boards. I assured him that I felt no sign of what he was seeing. I was in no additional pain and my shoulder actually felt a bit better. The only place I had gone was to sleep, and I couldn't recall anything but pleasant dreams.

The second question we had was "Will it come off?" After 15 minutes scrubbing with alcohol and paper towels, the answer turned out to be "mostly". The bruise faded, but the blue stayed true.

As we joked about the emergence of my inner Smurf and my Pictish ancestry, I pondered my previous night's sleepwear. Suspicions were confirmed when we realized that I had not just dyed my back, I had dyed the bed with my back. A really beautiful spot about the size of my hand marked where I lay. Most of the color concentrated about heart height. It looked a bit like a happy storm cloud. It had the beautiful blues, some red, a little green and a bit of yellow. It turns out the polyester cover on the heating pad did not take any color, but where it ended and the cotton was unblocked, the colors connected. The true range of colors explained the bruised appearance of my back. Movie make-up pro's couldn't have done a better blending.

Now there were more questions. Will it come out? Would the dye be as fugitive on the sheet as it was with the union suit? Did I manage to sweat hot enough for long enough to set the dye into the cotton sheet? How hard did I want to try to remove it?

The original was the prettiest stain I've ever seen. I wouldn't mind the entirety of a bedding ensemble with that color scheme, but I do not have a repeatable technique to achieve that effect.

Nothing else I could do would ever be that easy. I had been blessed with the moment, but I had to move on and let it go.

Not a molecule moved with the warm cycle, so I cranked it up to hot and tried again. I used Color Catchers to monitor dye loss. The red, green and yellow ran away, but just like my back, the blue stayed behind. I'm sure a good boiling in Rit Dye Remover would take it back to the original, but it hardly seems worth the effort.

The stain is now more a clearing than a cloud. Though not as visually exciting as the original, it is a point of peaceful repose. It marks the spot where I had quietly and effortlessly dyed in my sleep and lived to tell the tale.



## Bowling pins and Barbies

Victoria Johnson-Parratt

In an innocent conversation, I accidentally said something out loud. To counter objections to working with tiny thread sizes, I boasted that I could do bobbin lace with rope if I had enough bowling pins. Once it was out, I felt obligated to work through the concept to prove the point. I called Jean and asked if she had any bowling pins I could borrow. For over 20 years, Jean was my first call for testing out those ideas that even I knew were truly unique. I would always warn her when concepts would come that could be considered unusual to the common folk. She would remind me that she had known me for a while and start a cup of tea.

I always had wanted to show bobbin lace big enough to prove how truly weaving it was. I knew I could use thicker yarn to weave cloth with my sticks, I just needed bigger sticks.

While we pondered bobbin lacing with bowling pins, she cursed the fact that she didn't have some in her "just in case" collection. As we pictured the process scaled up to rope, dowels and the power drill, we recognized quickly that we lacked the safety harness required to hang from the wall we didn't have to drill into. Neither of us remembered ever coming across more than one bowling pin while thrifting and it turns out they aren't cheap. We would need a grant to secure the wall, buy enough bowling pins and hire knowledgeable support staff to keep all bones unbroken. Now we're talking paperwork and permissions and far too much work for the fun it may produce. Instead of abandoning the idea as too crazy, we decided it was maybe just too big. So she gently let me down from the thought of bobbin lace with bowling pins and shifted my focus to a less impressive but still visually stimulating size I could self fund while keeping both feet firmly planted on the ground.

We worked through a thought with a tilting table (she already had one) with advancing pre-drilled target holes (just wood blocks and dowels. Check!) The table was a bit wobbly, and would have required much work to achieve show quality. Then I knew. If I was going to downsize to scarf size, I already had the perfect bolster pillow. A recycled styrofoam cylinder stuffed into a lavender lambswool dress, sewn shut across the bottom and cinched at the neck and wrist for storage. I call it my Barbie bolster. When things are tucked away in its décolleté, it looks a bit busty. It rests comfortably on what used to be a laundry bag stand and can handle wide, long work while I sit comfortably in a chair. I knew it could hold a scarf, and would take the fear away in demonstrations. Once I decided to work the Barbie bolster, I thought it only made sense to use Barbie dolls as bobbins. Barbie could handle the long load and do it in style.

Barbie is universally available in all our standard thrifts at very reasonable prices and any excuse to thrift is a good one. Before long I had dozens. The Midgees, Skippers and alternate brand Barbies were culled from the batch and tossed back into the donation bin for the sake of uniformity; those being too light or too small to be even in hand. The Kens and Disney Princes were kept for gimps, but eventually became essential counterweights in the process.

I knew their flowing locks would tangle in the work, so I started with a dozen dolls, a big bath and a mass Barbie beheading. Each quiet pop took me back to a childhood confusion when my siblings found fun in the process. I felt bad. I felt really really bad when I realized that I only needed to cut off their hair, not their heads. The next batch got the buzz cut of bootcamp, but kept their molded rubber craniums.

Everybody went into the Barbie bubble bath, a large pink tub that could handle the whole crowd. Following a good scrub and rinse I laid them out to dry on a towel, dubbed it Barbie's Nude Beach and left them to evaporate naturally. When they had rested long enough, I started winding. I talked myself out of more amputations. I knew I had to keep their legs to hold on to, but the arms had me concerned. It turns out leaving them intact was the best way to go, as the arms could be lowered to secure the off spin and lifted for a quick release. The head offered a convenient place to hook the hitch.

I found yarn at Marcs that was soft and pretty and purple. There was more of the same in cream white. Thick as my thumb, 2 skeins for \$1.99. It jumped into my cart. I knew I could use it to make a soft, warm scarf. I started by winding the scarf length out onto the passive pairs and loading up my weaving pair with all she could hold. Only the weaver pair showed any modesty and that cover lessened with each woven inch. I could work them all in the nude, but I knew that working publicly with naked dolls is less than socially acceptable. Dangling a line of a naked, headless ones is the only thing worse, so I started pondering proper attire. I chose against the purchase of a new wardrobe for the project for budgetary reasons. In the end, I had enough to keep public displays family friendly.

I pinned off a false start to create a natural fringe and spread the threads out to cover the space they would fill between 2 tape measures that girdled the bolster. This eliminated any need for a pattern, aiming instead for an actual measurement on either side. I started with T-pins, which are a bit small for the yarn. Hat pins worked but I didn't have enough. I didn't want to use nails. The Barbie bolster may be fun, but it's fragile. The foam core isn't the same grade and quality my cookie pillows are made from. It's not self healing. Unlike traditional bolsters of rammed sawdust or packed grass, things don't shift back when the pins come out. And it lacks weight. Pins could pull and cut into my pillow and severely limit its life expectancy. I have a spare cylinder but I don't want to repeat myself. I bit the bullet and I bought long thin pins to drive in deep at the selvages. The pinheads are thin plastic flowers in various colors with quantities of each being enough to coordinate in many projects.

Things seemed to start out really well. An obviously woven scarf started covering the curve. Happy Barbies smiled and waved as they hung weaving against the lavender lambs wool. I knew it was working, but the weight of the dolls was pulling down the pillow which quickly started to slide down past the fell. I could do it, but I had to constantly rotate the bolster away to give me more than an inch of workspace. I hung all my Kens and Princes off the back as counterweights but 4 wasn't enough, and I really started to worry about the weight on the pins. I put on a basket for the Barbies to rest in while not working, trying to take some of the load off. I wondered if the weight of the emerging scarf hanging off the back would eventually balance and



Keep the bolster from spinning, but I wasn't there yet, and getting there wasn't going to be as much fun as planned, so we talked through a sub-plan. Like the Barbies, we didn't didn't originally have any pink foam hair curlers, but an easy hunt was had.

Foam curlers come in many colors and sizes, are easily purchased at the local dollar store and weigh almost nothing. Putting a small core into a large curler gives more winding room. Permanent wave rods are the better option, they hold the weft length but are radically more expensive outside of a thrift. I kept two Barbie's as my workers. I replaced all the other dolls with foam curlers. The weight problem vanished and I progressed. As soon as I wove enough, I folded the finished length up and pinned it to create a pocket. This solved two problems. Lacking a cloth beam, it kept the woven work off the floor and the pockets gave my Ken's a stress free hangout to counterbalance from. As the scarf got longer, each Ken got a private pouch.

And then somewhere about 3 feet in I stopped. Maybe I got a little bored. Dangling curlers are far less entertaining than a kick line of clones and that much plain weave worked with fingers gets awfully monotonous. I had already proven my point. I can honestly say that I don't need another scarf. I'm happy I left this "in process" to share with the curious. If I had finished it, I wouldn't have been ready to demonstrate the process at the opening of the show at the Beachwood Community Center on December 12th from 1pm to 2:30. Y'all come! The bolster is part of my contribution to their Dimensional Design show, which will be up and available for viewing through early January 2022. Our own Debbie Silver has also been asked to participate, and 3 other artists are presenting their work in the show. There will definitely be something to see, and admission is free.

I'm hoping before I run out of warp, there will be enough pockets of counterweight Kens to be able to rehang all the Barbie girls for a flourish at the finish. She may not be here to witness, but wherever she is Jean will undoubtedly be grinning and whispering "You go girls!"



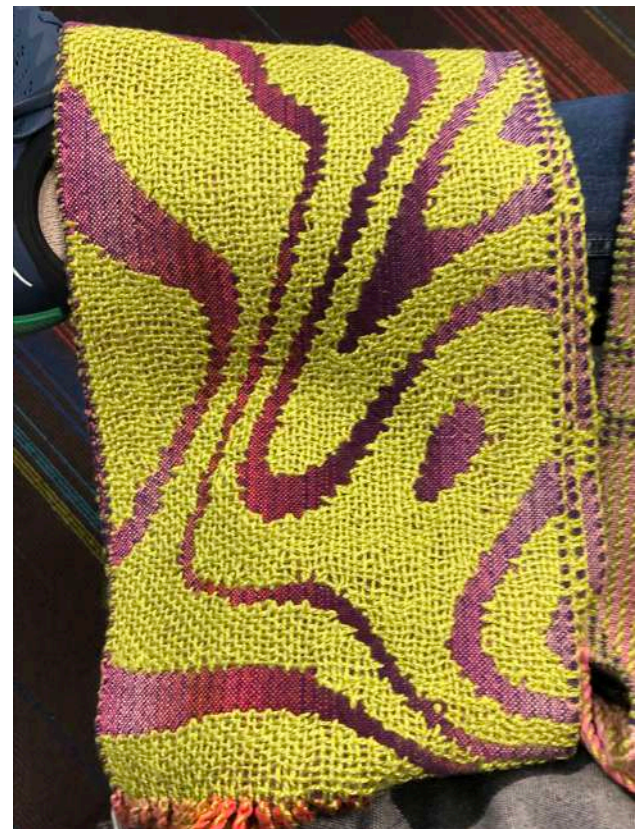
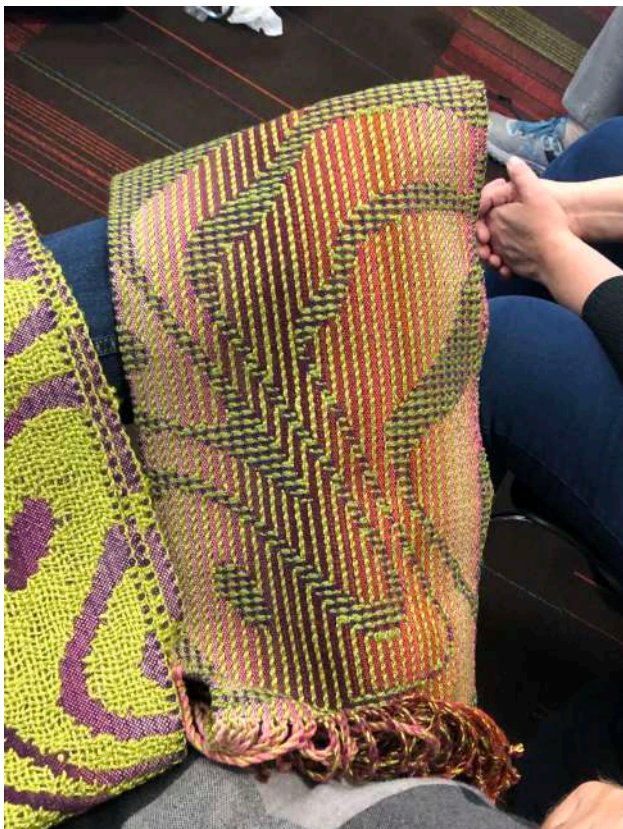
## **WEAVE A REAL PEACE**

The guild maintains a membership in this organization. You can access it using Jean J's email address and the PW: Cuyahogaweaversguild2018. The "C" is capitalized. Check out their blog at <https://weavearealpeace.org/blog/>



## STUDY GROUP AND SHOW 'N TELL

Autumn 2021









## CMA field trip

October 2021

## Fashioning Identity: Mola Textiles of Panamá

MOLA exhibition and our members and CMA docent, Laura Martin, gave a great talk. Thanks to her.

Still on exhibit to January 9, 2022



**MEMBER BIO Debbie SWAN**

Joan Horwich

Debbie began weaving in 2009. She first studied with a teacher in Portland New York ( which is near Dunkirk)

Debbie began weaving on an Ashford table loom. That is the loom that she brings to classes and still enjoys weaving on.

Debbie presently owns 6 looms-including a table loom, counter march, jack loom and peg loom. Debbie recently purchased her baby wolf from the Cuyahoga weaver's guild dead weavers' sale

Her favorite material to use for weaving is cotton and her favorite weave structures are double weave and log cabin, but she states that she enjoys all structures,

One of her goals is to weave material for garments

Debbie belongs to 4 Cleveland area guilds: Cuyahoga weavers guild, Cleveland west, Local and Medina guilds.

Debbie presently resides in North Ridgeville and New York. She and Don plan to eventually build a weaving studio in New York and move there full time.

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Praxis Fiber Workshop**

#### **One Year, One Outfit**

A project in slow fashion.

November 5-January 14

Opening reception: November 5, 6-8pm

Second reception: December 3, 5-9p

<https://praxisfiberworkshop.com/current-exhibition/>

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### **The Project Gutenberg eBook, Hand-Loom Weaving, by Mattie Phipps Todd**

This eBook is for the use of anyone anywhere at no cost and with Almost no restrictions whatsoever. You may copy it, give it away or re-use it under the terms of the Project Gutenberg License included with this eBook or online at [www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org)

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/31630/31630-h/31630-h.htm>

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### **Behind the Doodle: Celebrating the late We:wa**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-8uzqKnXv8>

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### **Mary Jackson Is Continuing a Weaving Tradition Brought to the South by Enslaved People**

<https://www.oprahdaily.com/life/a36672952/mary-jackson-basket-weaver-interview>

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**Officers and  
Committee  
Chairs  
2021 - 2022**

*President:  
Bobbie Shafer*

*Secretary  
Joan Horwich*

*Treasurer:  
Patty Hridel*

*Newsletter:  
Nancy Allman*

*Membership:  
Victoria  
Johnson-Parratt*

*Librarian:  
Victoria  
Johnson-Parratt*

*Card Correspondent:  
Ele Richardson*

*Web Mistress:  
Victoria et al*

*Hospitality:  
Debbie Swan*

*Publicity:  
A great place to  
volunteer!*

*Study Group  
Facilitator:  
Patty Hridel*

*Programs 2021 - 2022  
Victoria Johnson-  
Parratt  
Bobbie Shafer*

*Programs 2022-2023  
Consider volunteering*

*Exhibition Committee  
Bobbie Shafer  
Jean Jackson  
Nancy Allman  
Victoria Johnson-  
Parratt  
Ele Richardson  
Patty Hridel*

*Nominating  
Committee  
A great place to  
volunteer*

*Weaver's Honor Hall  
Rose Rubin  
Elly Rose*

*Contributors  
Winter Issue  
Issue 136*

*Nancy Allman  
Victoria Johnson-Parratt  
Joan Horwich  
Patty Hridel  
Bobbie Shafer*

**DEADLINE FOR FALL  
NEWSLETTER IS**

**March 1, 2022**

Submit to:  
[newsletter@cuyahogaweave  
rsguild.com](mailto:newsletter@cuyahogaweaversguild.com)



## ABOUT CWG

The Cuyahoga Weavers Guild of Cleveland, Ohio is an organization open to all weavers, spinners and any others interested in textiles and fibers.

The Guild's calendar year is September through June. Meetings are held the third Thursday of the month via ZOOM or in person as Covid practices allow. Please refer to the Program calendar and descriptions.

Dues are \$25.00 per year, payable at the September meeting or by mail to the Treasurer Patty Hridel at 17592 Lakesedge Tr, Chagrin Falls, OH 44023.

If you are unable to attend meetings or workshops but would like to receive the newsletters, you may subscribe for. \$12.50 per year.

For more information about the Guild, please contact Bobbie Shafer at 440-954-2866 or [shaferbobbie66@gmail.com](mailto:shaferbobbie66@gmail.com)

Look for us online at <http://cuyahogaweaversguild.com>. The newsletter is published three times a year in the fall, winter and spring.

Please send newsletter content to [newsletter@cuyahogaweaversguild.com](mailto:newsletter@cuyahogaweaversguild.com). Deadline for the CWG fall edition is **March 1, 2022**.

## Deborah Silver

The Technique of Split-shed Weaving update

<https://mailchi.mp/dc4c03e2e6ce/split-shed-double-weave-variations?e=22b0b107cd>

## MEMBERSHIP

### JOIN US

Membership Renewal

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Return payment to Patty Hridel

17592 Lakesedge Trail, Chagrin Falls, OH 44023 payable to Cuyahoga Weavers Guild

Check here if this information is new \_\_\_\_\_

Regular membership for \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Or newsletter only membership for \$12.50 \_\_\_\_\_