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# CUYAHOGA WEAVERS GUILD

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## President's Letter Hello Guild...

When we didn't have a program lined up for the November meeting it looked like a good opportunity to make a field trip to the American Coverlet Museum in Bedford PA. At the peak we had 11 people signed up to go, but when the third Thursday in November came, we down to four. Then when I looked at the weather forecast I decided that it would be better to reschedule for sometime in the spring. Getting there would have been fine, driving home through the Allegheny Mountains in the dark with snow and wind would not have been fun at all. Jean and I have taken that route many times to visit our son in the DC area and have seen too many accidents along the way.

As it turned out, Jean and I ended up going to our sons for Thanksgiving, so on the following Tuesday we stopped at the Coverlet Museum along the way. For what it's worth, the roads were clear, but the Turnpike rest area near Somerset still had piles of snow two feet deep.

Many of the coverlets on display were done in double weave which fit right in with the topic for our study group this year. This was one of my favorites. Woven in 1840 in wool, it measures 75" by 94". I'll show more pictures at the next guild meeting.

I do hope we can have a good turnout for a trip in the spring.

Bob



Woven in 1840 in wool, it measures 75" by 94".

## CWG Program Calendar 2024 - 2025

Typical meeting times:      11:30 for Social and brown bag Lunch  
    12:00 Meeting  
    12:30 Program

### September 19

Korean Couture exhibit at CMA.

This year we have scheduled our private tour at the Cleveland Museum of Art earlier than in the past so we will be able to see the Korean Couture exhibit as well as other textile related exhibits, all led by Laura Martin. Thursday 19 September at 10:30

Meet at the Information Desk in the Atrium at 10:15 Member Laura Martin leads us for a tour of this fascinating (plus fashionable) exhibit.

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

<https://www.clevelandart.org/exhibitions/korean-couture-generations-revolution>

### October 10. **NOTE: this is the second Thursday of the month**

Kick-off STUDY GROUP 10:00

Home of Patty

**October 17**

Nancy Kilkenny will be presenting on “Turned Drafts”

**November 7**

STUDY GROUP Jean and Bob Brietzmann

**November 21. Program cancelled**

**December 19**

Holiday Potluck

**\*\*\*\*\*PARDON OUR DUST. UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

**\*\*\* January 16**

**February 6**

STUDY GROUP home of Joan H

**February 20**

Priscilla Roggepnkamp  
Local artist, painting warps  
More info at  
Priscilla Roggenkamp.com

**March 6**

STUDY GROUP Miriam’s 10:00 am

**March 20**

Cally Booker  
via Zoom from Dundee UK  
Topic: Double cloth  
More info at  
<https://weavingspace.co.uk/>

**April 3**

STUDY GROUP Host TBA

**\*\*\* April 17**

**?? May 1**

Last STUDY GROUP Be a Host

**May 15**

## Business Meeting

**June 19**

Picnic

Programs are a group effort this year. More details to come.

**STUDY GROUP 2024 - 2025**

Patty Hridel

Study group has selected Doubleweave is this year's topic.

**From CWG Treasurer**

Patty Hridel

Happy Fall, Thanksgiving, Winter and Holidays which I believe we have experienced rather rapidly in the last few weeks of 2024. With that speedy passing of days, I suddenly realized that I need to remind all of us that our Weavers **Dues are due at the beginning of 2025.**

Our dues have remained exactly \$25 for at least the 20 years that I have been a member of CWG and they will again be \$25 for 2025. That should be easy to remember--it rhymes, if numbers are allowed to rhyme.

We have agreed to change the date dues are due from the fall to the beginning of the calendar year. I suggested this because for the last few years, I was receiving as many checks in the beginning of the year as I was in the fall. I will accept your dues at any time. Bring them to the Holiday meeting at Jessie's house, mail them to me, whatever works for you.

Thank you in advance. I will not be hounding and reminding you on a regular basis but dues are the means of membership in the Cuyahoga Weavers Guild. Thus to receive the benefits of the guild, you need to pay dues.

Adding to my greeting, best wishes for a Happy New Year also.

Patty

Find the dues form on **PAGE 18.**

# Book Review

Nancy Allman

## ***Kimono and the colors of Japan : kimono collection of Katsumi Yumioka.***

Yumioka, Katsumi.

 Books and Journals | PIE International | 2017.

Available via Search Ohio Library system and Amazon

For the color and word nerds of the world.

"This distinctive volume reveals a unique antique kimono collection through various delicate Japanese colors and their use in kimono. The Japanese sensibility is immediately apparent in the classification of the nine traditional color categories of red, green, pink, blue, brown, purple, yellow, black/white, and gold/silver. Each spread presents a single color showing a page-wide photo of a kimono accompanied by a description of the color and its meaning in the context of Japanese culture. The author explains, 'We organized the kimono and obi (sash) according to what I like to call 'Japanese Kokoro no Iro', colors of the Japanese heart. Each category presents what individual colors express or signify. For example, we use white, black and gold as an expression of cheer. Red indicates the sun, blood, and fire. White, black, and silver express sadness.' With the knowledge of both Western and traditional Japanese fashion cultures, Yumioka presents and describes his collection in an easily accessible style." --



Scarlet—-Shu-rio, a rich red tinted with yellow. Scarlet is one of the oldest colors, dating back to the prehistoric Jomon period.

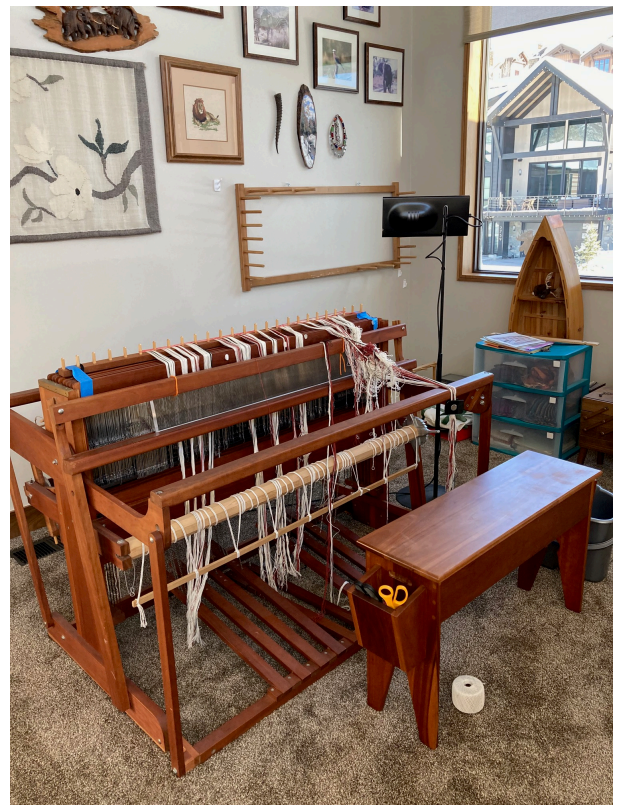


Eggshell Green—- Yanagi- nezumi, a grey with a light green haze, hinting at the image of “gray infused with the green of a willow.”

## Penelope's Perils

Leslie Alperin

I don't even understand how this tangled mess happened! I made NO mistakes while winding the warp on the warping frame. Maybe my young grandkids have something to do with it...I'll never know...but it's gonna take me a long time to unravel it! And when I'm done, how much kitchen towel warp will I have left? Certainly not the ten towels that I originally planned on!!! I'll let you know when I find some time to work on it!



## News from Ele

Ele Richardson

Dear weavers,

Here is some more about my book, "The Owl and the Pussycats." As I wrote before, it is an addition to the old poem, entirely illustrated with my double-weave hangings. If you are interested in looking at all the pages or having your own copy of the book, follow this link: <https://tinyurl.com/39swtnrh>

Clicking Full Screen gives you a good look at each page, If you add it to your cart you may purchase a copy, but I suggest looking for offers from Shutterfly Company first. They often have sales which would help a lot with the price.

Love to all,  
Ele



### The Owl and the Pussycats The prequel

A story in words and weaving

written and woven by

**Ele Richardson**

And they all lived happily  
ever after!



*The end*

## CWG Library News

Victoria Johnson Parratt

Our CWG library has acquired another rare and precious book. It's title is *The Owl and the Pussycats a prequel*

It is written and woven by Ele Richardson.

The book contains 58 full color photos showcasing more than 60 years of Ele's double weave work. It seamlessly works them all together into a delightful tale.

Ele's latest double weave design was directly inspired by Edward Lear's famous poem.

Ele and her daughter Cindy worked together and published a new story for the ages.

This book contains a literal lifetime of weaving woven into a sweet story worthy of a spot on any library shelf.

## **COLOR PURPLE**

Victoria Johnson Parratt

### Royal Purple

Pure purple has been called the color of kings. Creation of the color was so labor intensive and disgusting that the dye and the colored cloth it created was extremely rare and expensive. It was never made for mass consumption. Access was legally limited and the fashion police did pass out punishment for transgressions.

### **The really old kingdom:**

As far back as 1750 BCE, Phoenician people were making pure purple. There wasn't one place called Phoenicia. The word phoenicia is an old Greek reference to purple people. The Phoenicians called it Tyrian Purple. Tyre still exists. Back then it was in the land of Canaan. Now it's in Lebanon, tucked up beyond Cyprus in the far eastern curve of the Mediterranean Sea. Tyre had some really nice trees and a beach, but there wasn't much land for food crops, so the people traveled around and traded. They sold their famous cypress trees and purple cloth. They built boats and went everywhere there was to go. They made a lot of money selling their desirable trees. They became filthy rich from selling their coveted color.



The dye was colorfast and secure. Instead of fading away in the light of day, Tyrian Purple actually got more intense and vibrant with use and exposure. Pliny reported that it required 12,000 snails to produce 1.4 grams of dye. That was enough to dye the trim of a single garment.

The key ingredient needed to make the Tyrian purple is snails, specifically a variety of snails called Murex of the Murcidea family.

These snails all have a Hypobranchial gland used for hunting and self defense. Snail pee on people isn't a viable threat, so they are easily harvested.

When the Phoenicians exhausted the local ecosystem they packed up and moved down the coast in search of new snail colonies to plunder. Eventually their settlements had encircled the Mediterranean like salt encircles a Margarita glass. Huge piles of broken shells tell the tale of their travels.

The industry collapsed with the Byzantine empire at Carthage in 1204.

Phoenicians were known cousins to the Celts, so it shouldn't surprise anyone that the knowledge moved west when the Roman Empire made it no fun to be Phoenician

### **The Celtic Kingdoms:**

I can't swear as to the original Phoenician technique but I have seen the smash and soak technique of Britain.

The English would crush thousands of snails and put them in a warm covered pot for 10 days. When it was deemed "ready", wood ash was added as an alkali. The Assistant had to check for ripeness by the feel and the taste. If the vat felt slimy enough and tasted just the right level of wrong it was time to add fiber. After ½ hour of soaking, the fiber was removed, wrung out and hung up in the air to oxidize. The color went from nothing to green, then blue, and if done correctly, purple. Premature exposure to light would leave you with blue cloth, no job and the taste of 10 day dead snails on your tongue.

I watched Tony Robinson demonstrate this on YouTube to prove that dyers assistant was the worst job in history.

## **The Old Kingdoms of the New world: Mexico**

On this side of the planet it's the same snail family with a completely different attitude. The Mediterranean branch of the Murex family lives entirely submerged in the sea. What the Meso-Americans called the Caracol lives its life on the rocky edge, preferring home to be moist but not soaking. They will actually drown if tossed in over their heads. By a miracle of natural mechanics they stay stuck to the rocks while climbing up and down with the changing tides, always dealing with the crashing waves.

Habacuc Avendaño shows the process on YouTube. He has been a tintorero caracol púrpura since 1956. On the south coast of Oaxaca is a place the locals call El Jicarel. From October to May when the sea is calmest, the tintoreros come and camp out on the sand by the sea with their families. The Avendano family has been tintoreros for so long that no one knows when they started it. It's what they've always done. It's what they still do.

The tintorero pays close attention to the waves as he clambors over the rocks to reach the snails. The tintorero knows that if anybody's going to die for this dye, it's him. The surf can easily drive him into the rocks or sweep him out to sea. Either outcome makes for a really bad, last day at work.

Here, the snails will live to see another day, because the entire process is pick, poke and replace. The tintorero carries his skein of spun fiber in hand as he clamors over the rocks and introduces it to each snail individually. Each caracol is pulled from its perch, turned over and poked in the butt. The first thing it does is pee, which I consider to be completely understandable. As the abuse continues, the snail starts to get really mad or very happy. The hypobranchial gland produces a scant amount of a thin milky white liquid in response. The snail is turned back over onto the yarn and that "milk" soaks a tiny bit of the skein.

The gland that everybody is focussed on is part of the murcidea family defense. Its toxicity generally convinces other creatures to leave it

unmolested. Also used to hunt and stick egg sacks to rocks, the gland is quite useful to the species. Mexicans let them keep it while taking advantage of its natural design.

I can find absolutely no proof of this theory, but I assume Habacuc's ancestors were doing the job for the very highest ups throughout all the Olmec empires. No matter what the empire was called at the time, I'm sure the supreme leaders had to have purpura, but I have never seen or heard of any example of it in museum collections. With knowledge that the finest weavings were considered worthy sacrifices, I can guess that the Gods may have received a lot of the purple cloth. Any method of delivery would have taken care of what the Spanish described as a disagreeable, strong fishy smell.

In the 1980's, Japanese businesses came in with a lack of understanding and no respect for the snails and the caracol population crashed. The Mexican government eventually stepped in and asked the businesses to leave the ones that were left to the locals. Habacuc remembers being able to dye many skeins in a season. He estimates the caracol numbers have recovered to about 1/4 of what they were. His skeins are not for sale being so rare and precious that if it's not given, it's kept. Now Habacuc only makes purple for his wife and daughters to weave. He washes out the saltwater and they rinse the yarn in atole to strengthen the fibers. I'm sure if they sold a scarf, they would only let it go for a royal ransom.

VJP  
12/2024

## Fall Review

Joan Horwitz

This conference has previously been held at Chautauqua Institute. Due to renovations at the institute, this will be held in Olean, NY for 2025. You can find out more information at <https://eglfc.org/>

# 2025 Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference & Retreat Weekend!

**St. Bonaventure University, Olean, NY**

**October 10–13, 2025**

**Experience up close and personal workshops — much better than Zoom!**

The opportunity to be inspired and in-person with world class instructors and your fellow students is at the heart of a great fiber conference! Color, texture, and weaving our lives together in actual — not virtual — community. That's what is at the heart of

the **Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference!**

Our small size and intimate setting provide opportunities to make fiber friends from other guilds, especially around New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Ontario, Canada as well as with participants who haven't yet joined a guild. Instructors and students share lunch and dinner together in dining rooms at the university, with classes a short walk (or drive) away. Our conference lodging is at three near-by hotels where hot breakfasts will be provided each day.

There are seven, 2.5 day workshops to choose from: weaving (both beginner & experienced options), felting, tapestry, spinning and sewing with hand-wovens, from Saturday morning to noon on Monday (Indigenous/Columbus

Day). See our exciting lineup of instructors and class descriptions on our [Classes](#) page.

To summarize the guild meetings, or lack there of for fall 2024:

For our September meeting twelve of us met at the Cleveland Museum of Art where we were once again treated to a guided tour, by Laura Martin, on Korean Couture and an exhibit of Sheila Hicks work. A group of them stayed on to meet informally at the museum cafeteria.

Our program for the October meeting was unfortunately cut short, due to a power outage at the library. Our presented was Nancy Kilkenny who was to discuss turned drafts. She has been rescheduled to speak to us at a meeting in 2025.

The planned trip to the Cov ostponed  
due to inclement weather.



## **FRESH from the digital world**

Nancy Allman

Just a few items from the surfing world:

### **PBS News Hour: Artist takes ancient tradition of basket weaving in new directions**

<https://www.portlandmuseum.org/magazine/pbs-newshour-artist-takes-ancient-tradition-of-basket-weaving-in-new-directions>

### **Weaving memory into textiles**

Hosted by the MIT Media Lab Future Sketches group, CAST Visiting Artist Chloe Bensahel is conducting research on textile and memory, building on MIT's legacy as the first place to weave memory technologies.

<https://news.mit.edu/2024/chloe-bensahel-weaving-memory-textiles-0503>

### **Weaving a decorative history**

Stepping into a random traditional household in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, carpets are usually the most eye-catching and distinct interior decorations. Superior wool meticulously woven with intricate patterns bursts with vibrant colors. These objects of beauty are used by different ethnic groups in Xinjiang to cover floors and sofas or adorn walls, serving as both insulation and decoration.

As an ancient Silk Road crossroads, Xinjiang produces carpets reflecting diverse cultural influences and featuring basic motifs of plants, flowers, fruits, branches, leaves and animals, expanded upon and transformed with geometric patterns.

Artisans use traditional patterns to tell stories and attempt to ignite the next generation's interest to keep the ancient craft alive.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vMN\\_YRoQdg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vMN_YRoQdg)

### **Weaving cloth the Anglo-Saxon way**

How did people make cloth in Anglo-Saxon times? This video demonstrates the methods and techniques involved in weaving cloth, from preparing the wool to using a loom.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDxsg1YW620>

What the hell is Archaeological Textile Research? Dr. Karina Grömer

A short presentation on 'What the hell is Archaeological Textile Research' delivered as part of the HEAS Pecha Kucha on the 16th December 2022.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16K7Nk-DjYQ>

### **Cleveland Museum Of Art**

<https://www.clevelandart.org/exhibitions/arts-maghreb-north-african-textiles-and-jewelry>

This exhibition spotlights the rich artistic traditions of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia during the late 1800s and the early 1900s, through a display of elaborate textiles and fine jewelry in the collection of the Cleveland Museum of Art. These works introduce the specialized skills of North African artists, both Amazigh (Berber) and Arab, Muslim and Jewish, and the diverse aesthetics of their multifaceted communities.



*Furnishing textile*, 1800s. Africa, North Africa, Morocco, Chefchaouen, Moroccan embroiderer. 1916.1247

### **Praxis Fiber Workshop**

<https://www.praxisfiberworkshop.org/classes.html>

Plenty of workshops to explore—for example: Cool Colors with Ice Dye, Shibori, Sculptural Basketry, and Paper Making with Mixed Fibers

## LINKS OF INTEREST

<https://conoverworkshops.com/>

[www.facebook.com/blackswampspinnners/](http://www.facebook.com/blackswampspinnners/)

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

[greatlakesfibershow.com](http://greatlakesfibershow.com)

<https://weavespindye.org>

<https://www.praxisfiberworkshop.org>

<https://www.kent.edu/museum>

<https://www.loomandshuttleguild.org/national-weaving-organizations-conferences/>

<https://weavearealpeace.org/>

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## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS and EXPLORATIONS GLEANED from other Guilds

GLEANED from **MEDINA GUILD** December Newsletter

### ROC\* DAY 2025

*Join us for the Medina Spinning and Weaving Guild's Annual Roc Day Celebration!*

*Saturday, January 4, 2024 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.*

*Medina Presbyterian Church  
5020 Burgundy Bay  
Medina, OH. 44256*

*We will have a gift giveaway, potluck lunch, and our annual event of making kitchen sink batts. Coffee and tea will be provided.*

*\*Saint Distaff's Day (also known as Distaff Day, Roc Day, or Rock Day) is the day when spinners traditionally resumed work after all Christmas festivities had ceased on the Twelfth Night (January 6).*

### BRAIDS 2025 ROCKING BRAIDS AND BANDS

*June 15 - 21, 2023, Cleveland, OH*



Sponsored by the American Kumihimo. Society and The Braid Society. This year it will be at Case Western Reserve University. The week-long conference will feature nationally and internationally known tutors who will offer workshops and presentations on variety of braiding and narrow weaves techniques: from kumihimo, loop braiding, ply-split braiding, sprang, tablet weaving, inkle loom weaving, bobbin lace, Temari and more.

[amksoc.org/featured-home/braids-2025](https://amksoc.org/featured-home/braids-2025)

### **Western Reserve Spinners and Weavers Guild— Facebook Page**

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

### **HANDWOVEN**

[weavetogether.handwovenmagazine.com](https://weavetogether.handwovenmagazine.com)

### **HGA CONVERGENCE 2024**

[weavespindye.org/convergence](https://weavespindye.org/convergence)

### **Youngstown Area Weavers Guild**

<https://yawg.group/>

### **Lorain County Spinners and Weavers Guild**

<https://locoguild.com/>

# NOW is the time to send your membership dues for the 2025



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_



## 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 Robert Breitzmann at [robert.breitzmann@gmail.com](mailto:robert.breitzmann@gmail.com) or Patty Hridel at [hrideljerpat@aol.com](mailto:hrideljerpat@aol.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 WINTER edition is **December 1, 2024**

**Officers and  
Committee  
Chairs  
2024 - 2025**

*Presiding President:  
Robert Breitzmann*

*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 2022-2023  
Robert Breitzmann  
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Patty Hridel  
Victoria Johnson-  
Parratt*

*Programs 2023-2024  
Sheri Gittinger  
JoEllen Salkin*

*Programs 2024 - 2025  
Member Volunteers*

*Exhibition Committee  
Nancy Allman  
Jean & Bob  
Brietzmann  
Victoria Johnson-  
Parratt  
Joan Horwitz  
Patty Hridel  
JoEllen Salkin*

*Nominating Committee  
A great place to volunteer*

*Weaver's Honor Hall  
Rose Rubin  
Elly Rose*

*Contributors  
FALL Issue 145*

*Nancy Allman  
Leslie Alperin  
Bob Breitzmann  
Joan Horwitz  
Patty Hridel  
Victoria Johnson Parratt  
Ele Richardson*

**DEADLINE FOR SPRING  
NEWSLETTER IS**

**March 1, 2025**

Submit to:  
[newsletter@cuyahogaweaversgu  
ild.com](mailto:newsletter@cuyahogaweaversguild.com)