
CUYAHOGA WEAVERS GUILD

President's Letter Hello Guild...

Hello weaver friends...

Back in September Jean and I attended a three day conference at the National Museum of the American Coverlet in Bedford PA. They change what is on display twice a year and we saw a new set of coverlets that they recently put up, but the best part of the conference was meeting other people who are excited about coverlets.

One person we met is the curator at the McCarl Coverlet Gallery. This is the link to their website where you can take a virtual tour of what they have on display.

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

If you google "coverlet index" the first hit will take you to this website that documents everything about coverlets. I really like the section on Motifs to inspire my designs. So much eye candy...

<https://coverletindex.miraheze.org>

We don't have the technology to weave these fancy patterns (at least not yet), but we are going forward with what we have. Most of the coverlets at the museum were made with either Double Weave or with Beiderwand. We recently finished a sample of Double Weave on our draw-loom and have now started making a sample using Beiderwand. The Double Weave is completely reversible, but Beiderwand uses only one pattern shaft per block so it can have greater detail. We'll see what the samples look like to decide which structure to use on the next coverlet we make.

Bob



CWG Program Calendar 2025 - 2026

Openings for program ideas for February, March and May!

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

September 18

Kick off Meeting is a Show and Tell sharing session
Warrensville Branch Cuyahoga County Library
4415 Northfield Rd, Warrensville Heights, OH 44128
[https://www.google.com/search?](https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=4415+Northfield+Rd,+Warrensville+Heights,+OH+44128&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8)

[client=safari&rls=en&q=4415+Northfield+Rd,+Warrensville+Heights,+OH+44128&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=4415+Northfield+Rd,+Warrensville+Heights,+OH+44128&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8)

October 2 10:00 am

Kick-off STUDY GROUP 10:00
Home of the Breitzmanns

October 16 10:00 am field trip

Andean Textiles Gallery at Cleveland Museum of Art
Field Trip Our Docent is Laura Martin. Meet at 10:00am
<https://www.clevelandart.org/exhibitions/ancient-andean-textiles-2>

November 20

African Textiles. Presented by Victoria Johnson Parratt

December 4 10:00 am

STUDY GROUP Home of Patty

December 18

Holiday Potluck

January 15

Renaissance to Runway: The Enduring Italian Houses at Cleveland Museum of Art

Field Trip. Our Docent is Laura Martin Meet at 10:00 Tour at 10:30. This is a ticketed event. \$8.00 – \$15.00 or FREE for CMA members

<https://www.clevelandart.org/exhibitions/renaissance-runway-enduring-italian-houses>

February 5 10:00 am

Study Group Home of Patty Hridel

February 19

Program TBD

March 19

Program TBD

April 3 10:00 am

FINAL STUDY GROUP Volunteer to host

April 10 - 12 Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

Kelly Marshall Workshop Lake FarmPark

Lecture Open to the public Watch for its announcement.

May 21

Program TBD

Business Meeting

June 19

CWG DUES ARE DUE!

January is the official time to send in your dues. Find the form and address for payment on Page 19. Or bring the dues to the next meeting. Patty Hridel, our Treasurer, will be happy to put you on record.

The April Workshop

Custom Woven Interiors

Bringing color and design home with Rep weave



Kelly Marshall

with Amy Egenberger

Photography by John Abernathy

STUDY GROUP 2025 - 2026

Patty Hridel

Study Group 2025-2026

At the end of our study group meetings in May of 2025, we changed a couple of the practices that the guild had been doing and decided at this time to follow a new schedule. We will be meeting on the first Thursday of every **other** month beginning in October. That will be: **October 2, 2025**

December 4, 2025

February 5, 2026

April 2, 2026

We will meet at our homes, 10:00 am until generally 12:00 noon.
The first meeting, 10/2, will be at Bob & Jean Breitzmann's home.
The second meeting, 12/4, will be at Patty Hridel's home.

This year we have selected to make Something to Wear as our theme. I imagine the variety of items from maybe Victoria's lace in a broach. Ideas like a vest, a cloak or cape. Naturally a scarf or skirt, an origami top would be possible. We are leaving the structure of the pattern open, the yarns open and the colors completely open to the weaver's discretion.

Please bring any previously woven garment you have made to the first October meeting and/or any books or patterns you have to share. This is open to anyone in the guild.

Patty Hridel

THE FIBER OF OUR FUTURE

Victoria Johnson Parratt

Humans have always been fiber fans. Our earliest ancestors spun anything they could to create rope and eventually learned what made workable threads to weave with to keep ourselves warm. We domesticated sheep for wool, grew cotton and flax and settled into societies to support the endeavor. There were pros and cons to every option.

Sheep need to be fed and cared for. They have a tendency to wander away, and many animals consider them tasty. Their wool tends to be dirty and waxy and requires some skill to remove without bloodshed. Still to this day, the world produces 1.95 million tons of it each year or 1 million tons of cleaned wool. That's a lot of sheep, but it's still less than 1% of the fiber produced annually in the world.

Cotton seems easier until the crop fails and the soil dies. Cotton farming occupies 88 million acres of the planet, drains aquifers with the water needed, and the pesticides and herbicides required to grow a marketable crop are devastating to the land and waterways. Cotton is about 25% of the fiber produced annually worldwide.

Linen grows cleaner, but anyone who's ever turned that tall reedy flax into fiber will testify to the hard work required throughout the process. It definitely takes a village.

Camelids are nice if they're in the neighborhood, but they present many of the same animal husbandry challenges as sheep, and they spit.

Silk is nature's original extrusion fiber. The 5000 year old process seems simple, and the worms do most of the work. They are notoriously picky eaters though.

We've never stopped looking for better fiber options.

In 1846, Rayon/Viscose was developed by scientists trying to find a new way to use explosives. It is the first semi-synthetic fiber. They grind up bamboo as the base, add carbon disulphide as the solvent and spit out endless streams of thread.

The solvent is flammable, toxic, nasty stuff. Rayon is made using an open loop system meaning the solvent is discarded after use and pollutes the local water systems. Patented in 1884 as Chardonnet Silk, the name Rayon wasn't officially adopted until 1924.

Scottish scientist Adam Millar figured out how to extrude protein into fiber in the 1890's using corn, soybeans and chicken feathers. In 1936, Antonio Ferretti started making Lanital from casein (milk) and in 1940, Ardil fibers were produced from peanut protein and Vicara was made from maize.

The war years brought us petroleum based synthetics which took over in the 1960's and still makes up 55% of the global market today. It's strong, lightweight and doesn't biodegrade while

shedding micro plastics into the environment. Polyester is cheap, but will outlive us all. It will take up space in the landfill long past the lifespans of our descendants.

Today's extruded fibers include Tencel, which is a brand name for Lyocell. Made from eucalyptus using NMMO (N-Methylmorpholine-N-Oxide) as the solvent, it is produced in a closed loop, recyclable system considered to be non toxic and environmentally friendly. Developed in 1972, the brand launched in 1980 and was commercialized in 1992. The biggest drawback to Tencel other than the cost, is that it doesn't hold color well.

In 1980, precision fermentation was developed, and the future of fiber is about to move down an entirely new road.

Penn State professor Melik Demirel, Pierce professor of engineering and Huck Chair in biometric materials has developed an exciting new option. Made for about half the price of wool using far less water and resources, his team has created Procell.

Procell is made from part of what's leftover from making beer.

170 million barrels of beer per year are produced yearly in the US. A barrel is 117 liters. That translates to

19,890,000,000 liters of beer.

That's almost 20 billion liters of beer. Every 100 liters of beer generates 2 to 4 kilograms of spent brewers yeast or

397,800,000 to 795,600,000 million kilograms.

Translated into American, that totals between 876,998,878.971 million and 1,753,997,757.94 billion pounds of spent brewers yeast every year, just from domestic beer production.

I'm not including numbers from food and pharma to keep my brain from exploding.

Some is used to create biofuels, and vegan leather. Some become soil fertilizer, animal feed or compost.

Most will end up in the landfill.

2 pounds of spent brewers yeast will produce one pound of yarn. Using an abundant waste product to produce fiber would free up a lot of land to grow food crops to feed the world.

The team tested out the process at a factory in Germany and made over 1000 lbs of fiber. They created a full life-cycle assessment, studying every step for cost and environmental impact. On a commercial scale, it can compete with wool and other standard fibers using far less resources. It has the look and feel of cotton with the thermal properties of wool.

Procell uses the closed loop Lyocell system that recycles 99.6% of the solvent from batch to batch.

It's also naturally biodegradable.

Professor Demirel started a company called Tandem Repeat Technology, and through [Sonachic.com](https://sonachic.com), sells machine knit sweaters made from Procell. They do look lovely. They describe the color as golden, but anyone who bakes will tell you it's the color of yeast.

Through complete serendipity, it turns out I know a lady, who gave birth to a lady, who's married to a man who teaches at the same university and knows the professor. Contact was made, and I asked to purchase a cone of this yarn that could be the fiber of our future. Professor Demirel offered me a free cone to experiment with in dye pots and for weaving challenges. I gleefully accepted!

Look for the follow up report in your Spring newsletter.

Helena Hernmarck on Craft in America

Contributed Nancy Allman

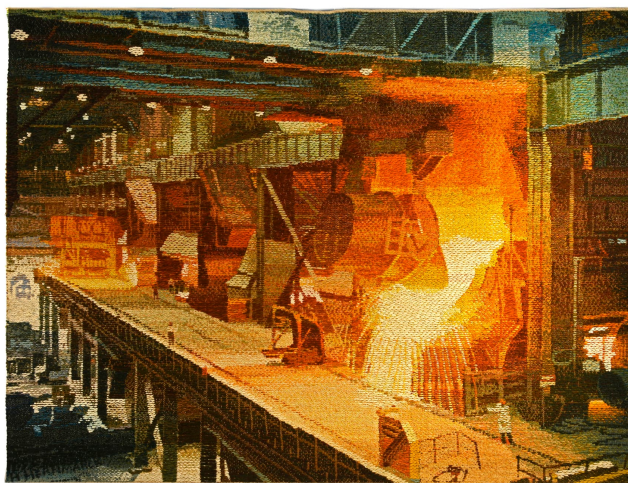
A new broadcast on PBS December 19,2025—check local listings



Weaving, "It's what I've always wanted to do" says Helena Hernmarck. Surrounded by nature in her studio in Connecticut, Helena weaves wall-sized tapestries designed for modern, architectural environments. Preview from EAST, now streaming on the PBS app and broadcasting Dec 19, 2025 (check local listings), as part of Handwork: Celebrating American Craft 2026.

On FaceBook
Via internet

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1471248120725388>
<https://www.craftinamerica.org/artist/helena-hernmarck/>



A Knotty Problem— khipu

Archeology Magazine. Jason Urbanus

Contributed by Nancy Allman

Archeologists are changing their understanding as new analysis of a uniquely Inca record-keeping device, known as a khipu, has changed archaeologists' conception of the individuals who created and maintained them.

Copy and paste this link:

https://archaeology.org/issues/november-december-2025/digs-discoveries/a-knotty-problem/?fbclid=IwdGRjcAOdYjtleHRuA2FlbQlXMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZA8xNzM4NDc2NDI2NzAzNzAAAR4DOwT8E1ljY6ge_Ac42x2s6g3J8rZlaBjJVfj5jYARr3G3gmUEqb7dw56K-g_aem_dPR8_HjZ_PJfHB82plFjhQ



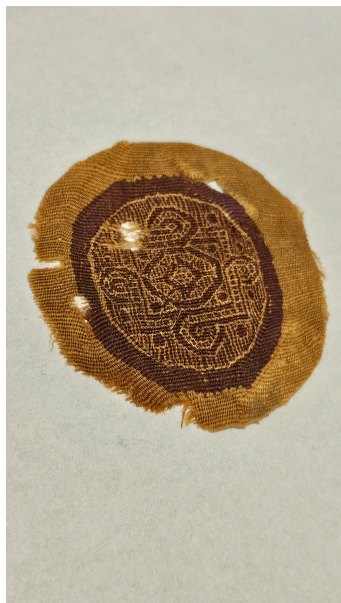
African Textile Presentation

Victoria Johnson Parratt

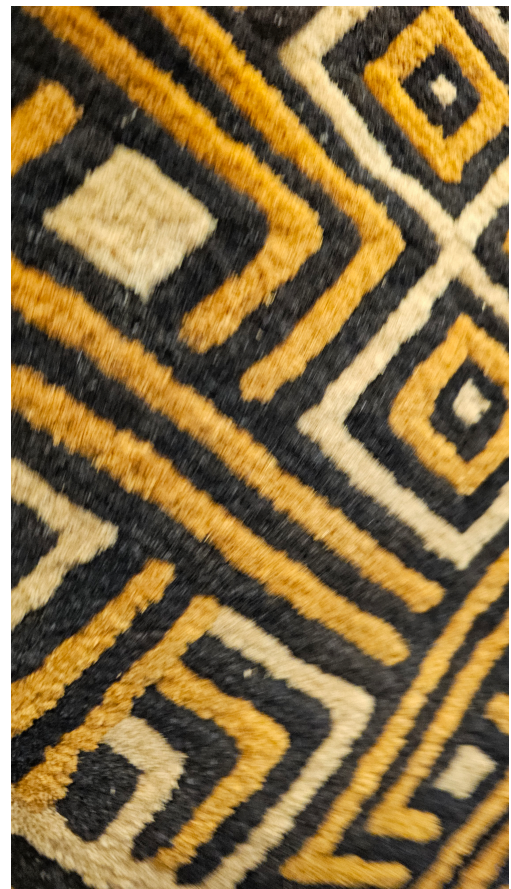
Journey through African Textiles

Helena Richardson









Praxis Fiber Classes and Workshop News

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

[Find Praxis class offerings here:](#)

<https://www.praxisfiberworkshop.org/class-list>

Cleveland Museum Of Art

Native North American Textiles and Works on Paper



Newly on display from the permanent collection are two Diné (Navajo) textiles from the late 1800s, as well as a watercolor from the 1930s made by Oqwa Pi, a member of the San Ildefonso Pueblo.

<https://www.clevelandart.org/exhibitions/native-north-american-textiles-and-works-paper-0>

Ancient Andean Textiles



Ancient Andean weavers created one of the world's most distinguished textile traditions. This new installation features examples utilizing the tapestry technique, particularly esteemed in antiquity.

<https://www.clevelandart.org/exhibitions/ancient-andean-textiles-2>

Renaissance to Runway: The Enduring Italian Houses

Sunday, November 9, 2025–Sunday, February 1, 2026

<https://www.clevelandart.org/exhibitions/renaissance-runway-enduring-italian-houses>



American Printed Silks, 1927–1947

Sunday, November 9, 2025–Sunday, November 8, 2026

<https://www.clevelandart.org/exhibitions/american-printed-silks-1927-1947>



LINKS OF INTEREST

<https://conoverworkshops.com/>

www.facebook.com/blackswampspinners/

www.interweaveyarnfest.com

<https://weavespindye.org>

<https://www.praxisfiberworkshop.org>

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

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

<https://weavearealpeace.org/>

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS and EXPLORATIONS GLEANED from other Guilds

Medina Spinning and Weaving Guild—December 2025 newsletter

ROC DAY 2026

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

Saturday, January 3, 2026

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

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

WILD & WOOLY FIBER EXPO

February 14, 2026, Berea, OH

Held at Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds. \$5.00

**admission, 11 am - 4 pm. Also there are
collectable and craft show at the fairgrounds that
day.**

facebook.com/WildandWoolyExpo

JANUARY

is the time to send your membership dues for the 2026 season



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 **JANUARY** 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 or Patty Hridel at 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. Deadline for the CWG WINTER edition is **March 1, 2025**

**Officers and
Committee
Chairs
2025 - 2026**

Presiding President:
Robert Breitzmann

Secretary
Joan Horwich

Treasurer:
Patty Hridel

Newsletter:
Nancy Allman

Membership:
Victoria
Johnson-Parratt

Librarian:
Victoria
Johnson-Parratt

Card Correspondent:
Joan Horwitz

Web Mistress:
Victoria et al

Hospitality:
Debbie Swan

Publicity:
A great place to
volunteer!

Study Group
Facilitator:
Patty Hridel

Programs 2022-2023
Robert Breitzmann
Joan Horwitz
Patty Hridel
Victoria Johnson-
Parratt

Programs 2023-2024
Sheri Gittinger
JoEllen Salkin

Programs 2024 - 2025
Member Volunteers

Programs 2025 - 2026
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
Winter Issue 148
Nancy Allman
Bob Breitzmann
Victoria Johnson Parratt
Helena Richardson

**DEADLINE FOR SPRING
NEWSLETTER IS**

March 1, 2025

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