

October 2025 | Number 147 1/2

CW Asset—Our Volunteers

Dates to Remember

October 1, 2025
Registration for Seminars 2026 opens

November 1, 2025 - February 2, 2026
Entry Portal for Complexity 2026 opens

December 2025
Sandra Rude Grant Applications open

June 12-14, 2026
CW Seminars 2026
Westminster, Colorado

June 2026
Complexity 2026



Complex Weavers is run almost entirely with volunteers – everything from organizing *Seminars* and the *Complexity* exhibit to running the Study Groups and producing the *Journal*. We are hoping that we can find and attract more members to help keep Complex Weavers going.

To offer inspiration, we are highlighting members who have volunteered for CW. For this newsletter issue, we are putting the spotlight on Mimi Anderson and Karen Donde. Here is Mimi's description of her volunteer experience with CW.

When I first began learning to weave, in the early 80's, I was fortunate enough to attend Convergence® held in Seattle. There, I saw a dobby loom and was mesmerized. Some day, I thought, even though it was another 20 years before I went that complex! About that time, I was at a regional conference and attended a CW Open meeting, listened and perused Study Group Notebooks, and knew it was time to join this inspiring organization.

My first Seminars was in 2006, and I was hooked securely. I could not wait to learn more!



Mimi Anderson

I have always been a volunteer within my weaving communities. I belong to several guilds and have had the privilege of helping out in many capacities. I am not a teacher, but I love to share what I can. I'm also not a career person, while I have held full time jobs over the years, I was mostly a stay-at-home mom and wife. So I like to help, and use my skills as best I can.

In 2012, I was approached to organize and run *Seminars 2014*. At that time, CW and HGA had separated their conference venues and I was given the option of where and when. *Seminars 2012* was to be on the East Coast, so naturally, living in the Northwest, I opted to bring CW to my own backyard. I had a lot of help, and we pulled it off in Tacoma. I met so many wonderful people, and found it was easy to get volunteers. CW members say Yes, when asked!



Towels — Mimi Anderson

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Volunteer Spotlight—Mimi Anderson, continued

Following that experience I stayed on the CW Board as a liaison for the next Seminars volunteers.

Next there was an opening, due to unexpected passings, for the 1st VP position, and I said yes. I loved working on the board and learning how the various roles played out. People were sharing and competent in their tasks. The organization was growing and advancing into the technology era, learning a lot.

I decided to run for President, knowing I was a bit out of my comfort zone, but that there would be plenty of help and support. It was an experience that helped me grow within the business world that was not in my history. I appreciate the wisdom and the friendships that I made. Volunteering, at any level, for Complex Weavers is so rewarding, whether it be a one-time task, or a longer commitment.

I just love weaving, and while pushing myself to learn new techniques and structures, I find I like to go back to some of the basic projects (i.e., towels) that, by the end of a warp has not been close to exhausted. I wish there were more hours in the day, and that I could flip that switch to get younger instead of older.

Notes from a Reluctant Seminar Chair—CW Seminars 2026

SEMINARS REGISTRATION OPENS OCTOBER 1 at 12:00pm Eastern Daylight Time

Get Ready!!! Study the seminar offerings, make those hotel reservations, figure out your time zone. This is it!

Begin the fun with the Complexity Exhibit opening and awards June 11 and be ready for a full weekend of fun events.

June 12 through 14, 2026 come spend time with like minded weavers, attend amazing Seminars and participate in the Fashion Show, the Off the Runway exhibit, the Poster Sessions. Plan to get out that checkbook for the Silent Auction and spend a little time in the gorgeous summertime in the Colorado Rocky Mountains.

If that isn't enough to bring you to Seminars, we are thrilled to announce our incomparable Keynote Address: **'A Complex Weaving Life' with Madelyn van der Hoogt**

Registration is easy. Go to:

<https://www.complex-weavers.org/seminar/seminars-2026/registration/> and follow the prompts.

If you have questions email Harriette Roadman at registrar@complex-weavers.org or me, Michele Belson at seminars@complex-weavers.org

We'd really love to see you there!

Michele

CW Seminars 2026 Chair

seminars@complex-weavers.org



Handweavers Guild of America, Inc. (HGA) is presenting Spinning and Weaving Week on October 6-12, 2025. For its fourth year, HGA is offering virtual programs that will educate, inspire, and support the fiber art community. Complex Weavers is sponsoring CW member [Karen Donde's studio space](#) through a virtual tour.

Volunteer Spotlight—Karen Donde

How have you volunteered for CW, what jobs have you held?

My first volunteer role was Silent Auction Chair for Seminars 2020, which unfortunately was interrupted by the pandemic. I chaired Complexity 2022 in Knoxville, and while completing that job was tapped to become President for 2022-2024. That commitment includes an additional two years on the Board as Immediate Past President, and in that position I've taken on responsibility for the Sandra Ogg Rude Memorial Fund Grant. I also am working to flesh out the position of Volunteer Coordinator I created while president. I remain a member of the CW Online Offerings (CWO) committee, and provide assistance and advice to the President.



Karen Donde

Why did you get involved in the first place and why did you continue?

Simple. I wanted an opportunity to meet, work with and get to know other CW leaders and members, and I like making things happen. Having had my work included in Complexity exhibits previously, this seemed like a good fit for my non-weaving skills and connected me with weavers I admire for their technical and artistic abilities. The best day as chair was unpacking the selected works in Knoxville and getting to touch and view pieces up close that I had only seen in pictures. It was like Christmas, except I didn't get to keep them. Well, I purchased one scarf, so I got to keep that one. I stayed involved because the more people I met, the more I wanted to meet. I took on the role of President wishing I'd had more Board experience, but received so much support from the get-go, I settled in and got to work. So it's really about building relationships with people I now consider friends and valuable colleagues.

How has volunteering for CW benefited you personally?

I have a lot more confidence in my abilities and judgment when it comes to leading a team toward a common goal. There are always tough days in a position like president of an international organization. Everyone I turned to for help or advice with a difficult situation shared thoughtful and honest feedback. I learned so much from taking in that advice and formulating a plan for moving forward. It has also provided wonderful opportunities to bask in our successes and accomplishments as a team.

Also, like many weavers, I work alone. It is only by connecting with other weavers that I have found my place in this very special club. It has made me a better weaver, teacher and writer.

I was describing my work as a weaver to someone new today, and he asked, "So you're pretty much an expert in weaving." I said I didn't think anyone was really the expert in weaving. But collectively, with contributions from all CW members, we've got this.

What advice do you have for members about taking on volunteer CW roles?

Take a chance and just say yes, even to a small job at first. You have many skills learned over the course of your life that can help keep Complex Weavers moving confidently into the future. Take a look at our mission. Does it speak to you? All you really need to get started as a volunteer is a desire to help bring that mission to fruition.

Do you have a favorite color?

I once told my husband that a good gift was something blue or silk. If it is blue silk, it's a real winner. I still have the blue silk blouse he gave me.

What is your favorite fiber to weave?

Well, silk, as you might guess.

Do you have a weaving challenge you are still interested in investigating?

So many! I will never reach the end of the Turned Beiderwand/Double Two-Tie tunnel. But I do get distracted by other shiny objects along the way, especially new books by weavers I admire.



Twills in a Twist-3-1 plaited twill 2 — Karen Donde

Complexity 2026

I am looking forward to seeing all your entries for Complexity 2026! The time to design and weave is now!

For this newsletter issue, we are featuring the winners of the most recent *Complexity* exhibits. What I took away from both these reflections is that we all wonder if our work is 'good enough', especially if this is the first time we've entered *Complexity*. You'll see that Mindy McCain and Melanie Olde have found it rewarding in many ways, and just being accepted gave them confidence to explore and dream! In addition, Ginger Kaldenbach has documented the background of the Complex Weavers sponsored awards (see page 5).

Our theme has been "Innovations in Weaving" for several years. We've considered changing the theme, but there are so many aspects of weaving that members of Complex Weavers continue to explore, expand and experiment with that the title remains vibrant. We want to see what you are working on that you find exciting, challenging, and creative. One of the many things I love about weaving is that there is always more to learn, more depths to plumb, more 'what if' moments...it is never boring! And one of the many things I love about weavers is their sense of creative adventure and then coming back and sharing their discoveries with everyone who is interested in learning. Please share those discoveries with all of us by entering *Complexity* 2026!

The Entry Portal will be available November 1, 2025 until February 6, 2026, and you will be able to find the link on the [Complexity 2026 page](#) on the CW website when the time comes. This year we are again using the Slideroom application. I found it easy to use, and I hope you do too. But if you have any problems or questions after November 1, 2025, please reach out and I'll get you an answer.

Happy weaving!

Jami Johnson, Complexity 2026 Chair

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Mindy McCain — Complexity 2024 Experience

I entered the 2024 show on a whim — I had just sold my table runner to a friend but she encouraged me to enter it. So I entered, and then waited...

I felt so honored to be included in *Complexity 2024* and winning this award from this organization was such a surprise! As I toured the show in Kansas, I was humbled by everything I saw. To be a part of this show with such a high caliber of weaving excellence has shown me that how the artist feels about her work is rarely how it is viewed by everyone else. It has certainly changed how I see my own work and I plan to enter more exhibitions in the future. Thank you, Complex Weavers, for boosting my confidence and helping me to continue my exploration into challenging weave structures.



Springtime Runner
Mindy McCain

Melanie Olde — Complexity 2020 and Complexity 2022



Hexagonal Cellular Symmetry
Melanie Olde

The first time I entered *Complexity* (2020), I took a chance with an idea that I had been percolating for some time — I wasn't sure how it would be received and it was one of the best chances I've taken. Just making it into the exhibition reassured me that I had found people who understood my work and appreciated what I was trying to do. Having the honour of receiving the Complex Weavers Award was a complete surprise! Since being awarded, I've had many fabulous new discussions, connections and friendships.

I entered the next *Complexity* to show my support for the Complex Weavers and to share with the CW audience how my work had developed since the previous exhibition.

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Melanie Olde—Complexity Experience, continued

The work explored the morphing shapes and surfaces that weaving can produce throughout a cloth. Achieving the Complex Weavers Award for the second time was a mind-blowing, extraordinary feeling. It gave me some much-needed confidence to say ‘hey world, what do you think?’ It encouraged me to embrace my way of exploring weaving and extend myself and my processes even further.

The Complex Weavers have offered me a welcoming space and community amongst people who understand how I’m trying to push weaving in unexpected and experimental ways.



Morphology I—Melanie Olde

Complexity 2026: Innovations in Weaving

In our [September newsletter](#), we spotlighted six weaving-related businesses and organizations that are proudly providing awards for *Complexity 2026*. In addition to these six awards, Complex Weavers (CW) will sponsor four awards. The specific award criteria for all the *Complexity* awards can be found on the [Complexity information](#) page.

The Complex Weavers Awards

The first Complex Weavers awards were presented in 1996 at Handweavers Guild of America's Convergence®. In 2012, at the very first *Complexity* exhibition - *Glamour, Glitter, Glitz*, the Complex Weavers award was First Place, accompanied by a treasured handwoven ribbon, a cash award, and a complimentary one-year membership to CW.

In addition to First Place, CW provides cash awards for Second and Third place. The awards emphasize excellence in weaving pieces that are both original in concept and daring in execution. Works must showcase a threading draft or structure that pushes beyond plain weave, demonstrating the beauty of intricate interlacements.

The Sandra Hutton Award for Excellence in Complex Weaving

In 2023, following the passing of Sandra Hutton, CW created the Sandra Hutton Memorial Fund, supported by heartfelt contributions from members, friends, and family. From this fund, the CW Board and the Hutton Complexity Award Committee established the Sandra Hutton Award for Excellence in Complex Weaving—a tribute to Sandra's vision, leadership, and enduring contributions.

Sandra was instrumental in shaping CW's biennial international juried exhibition, *Complexity*, launched in 2012. The very first juried show, *Glamour, Glitter, Glitz*, broke new ground by elevating handweaving to broader recognition, educating the public, and inspiring CW members to reach new heights. Her influence extended far beyond that one project—she enriched the weaving community with her dedication, creativity, and perseverance.



Dial Up the Stargate — Sandra Hutton

Looking Ahead: Best in Show

The first Hutton Complexity Award was presented in 2024. Beginning in 2026, it will be awarded biennially for Best in Show, honoring the weaver who demonstrates the same design mastery, technical precision, and uncompromising standards that defined Sandra's work.

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Complexity 2026: Innovations in Weaving, continued

This award ensures that Sandra's legacy lives on—encouraging future generations of weavers to innovate, experiment, and excel.

Have fun planning your entry for *Complexity 2026*!

Ginger Kaldenbach
Coordinator, Complex Weavers Awards
Chair, Hutton Complexity [Award](#) Committee
ComplexWeaversAwards@gmail.com



Fire and Earth — Kyrie Garretson

If you can dream it, CW's Sandra Ogg Rude Grant could help you do it.



It's time to dream big about advanced weaving studies or adventures you would like to pursue, because you could be up to \$2,000 closer to achieving your goal thanks to CW's annual Sandra Ogg Rude Memorial Fund Grant, supported by a generous gift from the late Sandra Rude and her husband, Mike.

Applications for the 2026 grant will open in December 2025, so start your research now. More information will be coming in future Newsletters, but to learn more now, click [HERE](#).

If you have specific questions, please contact me.

Karen Donde
Immediate Past President
pastpresident@complex-weavers.org

Know & Go: Seminars 2026

When: June 11-14, 2026

Where: Westin Westminster Hotel, Westminster, Colorado [Reserve your room now!](#)

Registration Opens October 1, 2025

[Leaders](#) [Seminar Topics](#) [Schedule](#) [Events](#)



Mindbender — Kathleen Fennell



Kaleidoscope — Carol Wooten



Royal Blue Rendezvous
Samantha Haring: