

July 2026 | Number 150 ½

CW Asset—Our Volunteers

Dates to Remember

Through August 16, 2026

Complexity 2026
Lakewood, CO

August 12-16, 2026
HGA Convergence 2026,
New Orleans, LA



Tencel warp from Blazing Shuttles with orange silk mixed in. A fine silk weft is currently being auditioned on a 24 -shaft Weavebird using a draft from Handweaving.net.
— Elizabeth Bryan

Complex Weavers is run almost entirely with volunteers. 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 Elizabeth Bryan and Penny Peters. Here is Elizabeth's description of her volunteer experience with CW.



Elizabeth Bryan

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

My first job with CW was President! And I received such a warm welcome from the Board to whom I will be eternally grateful. Currently I am Past-President.

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

I must admit that I got involved because I was asked. However now having been involved I know what a dynamic group of volunteers is at the helm and I am excited to continue volunteering with CW in order to help in my small way to make this organization the best it can be.

How has volunteering for CW benefited you personally?

I have made so many connections through volunteering with CW and I have strengthened many others. It has given me a wonderful sense of belonging but also a great "peek behind the curtain" to see all of the hard work that goes into running an organization of this size. I am in awe of my fellow volunteers.

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

Please know that there is a whole group of people willing to help you out, provide guidance and support, and just generally cheer you on. I have not met another volunteer who isn't willing to help you work out whatever you might be having difficulty with.

Do you have a favorite color?

I actually love almost every colour! I am Canadian so I spell colour with a "u".

What is your favorite fiber to weave?

I adore weaving with Tencel. It takes colour so beautifully with an incredible sheen and drape. I have also started experimenting with Tyvek, fishing line and newspaper for fun.

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

After an excellent session at *Seminars* with Laurie Carlson Steger this June, I am interested in weaving with fiber optic wire, and I have been wanting to take a class on ikat wrapping and dyeing with Mary Zicafoose.

Notes from a Reluctant and Retiring Seminar Chair



Seminars 2026 has come and gone. From an amazing *Complexity* Reception, complete with the fun Taco Truck to sad goodbyes when we all headed home it was a whirlwind of learning and sharing.

Over the next several newsletters, I hope to highlight each of the amazing committees and the incredible job they did. But for now I want to thank all the wonderful weavers who made *Seminars* possible.

First and foremost we all need to thank the unbelievable Harriette Roadman. Her tireless work with the folks at Cvent built the structure we used to register and communicate. Despite some health issues, she persevered and conquered the system. In addition to the unending work she did with Cvent and registration, she was always available to lend a hand with whatever needed to be done. It will be hard for someone to fill her shoes, but for the right prospective Registrar in 2028, she will be invaluable. She is truly a fun person to be around.

After we all got registered, the incredible Teresa Edmisten made sure we could see and hear all our amazing Seminar Leaders. Her tireless work has taken the AV component of *Seminars* to a new level of excellence. Her work in 2024 was groundbreaking and this year she followed through with the promise of excellence we made in 2024. And the Weavers Handshake is still to come!!

We were fortunate to have a crack team of weaving AV interns who made Teresa's (and my!) job easier. From Rocky Mountains Weavers we had Kaitlan Esquivias, Hanna Gritton, Judy Lepthein and Nick Pepping. From Handweavers of Boulder we had Karen Lord Paris and from all the way up north, we had Jenne Schiffhauer from the Handweavers Guild of the Boise Valley. The addition of some young (or at least additional!) legs made the work less overwhelming and more fun for all. I hope you all thanked them!

This opens the topic of guild participation in *CW Seminars*. That will be a subject of its own soon. The full support of the five guilds of the front range of Colorado definitely added to the quality and sense of camaraderie of *Seminars*. But back to the amazing group that helped make *Seminars 2026* a success.

Mary Ann Olson filled the new position of Volunteer Coordinator. Her clear guidance, unfailing organization and tenacity (What time did we decide on...???) helped us stay the course.

Meg Wilson graciously handled the Silent Auction again this year and helped our President, Elizabeth Bryan, with the vest auction. CW members are incredibly generous and Meg made sure *Seminars* profited from that generosity. The youth and exuberance of Astrid Tauber made the Fashion Show fun and exciting.

Paula Heller did a beautiful job of displaying the gorgeous items submitted to the Off the Runway Exhibit, and added some organization and security.

Suzannah Day coordinated the Poster Session AND helped with Nancy Hoskins beautiful display from Egypt. Susannah was also always the first person at Volunteer committee meeting to step up to make a phone call, follow through with some detail we'd missed or just generally pick up the slack.

We should all thank Paula Becker. She handled two new to *CW Seminars* activities, a tour of the Schacht facility and finding some sponsorships to offset cost. Both jobs, local tours and sponsorships, should be considered for future *Seminars*. We were so fortunate to have someone like Paula, with her unflappable nature and tenacity try something new. I'll be writing more about these possible functions for future newsletters. Until then, thank Paula for your morning coffee during *Seminars*.

Susan DuBois handled the MarketPlace perfectly and dear Penny Peters gave us a chance to mourn those who have left us. Jennifer Moore and Virginia Lee organized an amazing group of Seminar Leaders and helped them navigate submitting handouts and helped them stay informed. I know the Leaders appreciated all they did. Margaret Coe again provided us with a lovey logo that kept our message consistent.

[Continued page 3]

Notes from a Reluctant Seminars Chair, continued

Personally I couldn't have survived without Jan Burkhart and Patsy Krechel, my Administrative Assistants. How I was lucky enough to have 2 right hands, I have no idea, but I am most grateful.

Robyn Spady's Bad Bobbin closing ceremonies taught us to be more aware of unintended perceptions. It was an effort conceived from a good heart, with the intent to entertain.

I am sure, once again, I have forgotten at least one amazing person we couldn't have done without. My apologies and know my poor memory isn't indicative of lack of appreciation. With few exceptions (some hockey playing children and a kitchen that wasn't super aware of dietary restrictions come to mind) it was a perfect weekend with the very best of people – all of you, my dear Complex Weavers. My love and gratitude to all my volunteers and to all of you.

Michele
CW Seminars 2026 Chair
seminars@complex-weavers.org

Weavers Handshake

Seminars 2026 is a wrap and your CWOO team is busy getting 25 Seminars recordings ready for the [Weavers Handshake](#), our online, on-demand learning platform. Beginning in September, Session 1 Seminars will be online and ready to view. In October, Session 2 will air and so on each month until all 5 sessions have been enabled - each session is on view for 3 months only - after that they go offline. Seminars can be bought in bundles and individually at <https://weavershandshake.complex-weavers.org>



In-person *Seminars* attendees have a \$300 off coupon for the All Access Pass which does not expire - find it in your conference registration confirmation. Use it anytime to get the discount but remember that seminars expire after 3 months.

For those who missed *Seminars*, the All Access Pass is available for **\$50 off through July 31, 2026** with the coupon code: **bobbinsrround**.

We have an amazing line up coming - thanks so much to the following leaders who participated this year: Barbara Setsu Pickett, Carla Gladstone, Cynthia Newman, Jennifer Moore, Jenny Schu, Karen Donde, Laura Viada, Laurie Carlson Steger, Linda Schultz, Lynn Smetko, Margaret Coe, Nancy Arthur Hoskins, Patricia Martin, Sara von Tresckow, Stacey Harvey-Brown, Teresa Edmisten, Vila Cox, and Wendy Morris.

Weavers Handshake and *Seminars* would not be possible without our room volunteers. Cheers to them and thanks: Kaitlin Esquivias, Judy Lepthein, Hanna Griffon, Nick Pepping, Karen Lord Paris, Jenne Schiffhauer, and last but not least, our CWOO "Bouncer", Francine Jacobson.

It's great to be able to share a little bit of the *Seminars* experience with members who were not able to attend. Stay tuned.

Teresa Edmisten

ATTENTION: Has your email address changed recently? If so, you will need to contact Amy Norris, Membership, at membership@complex-weavers.org. Because your email address can be used to log in to the CW website, the system protects it from being changed except by administrative means behind the scenes. If we don't have your correct email, you won't get CW notices or the link to the next newsletter.

So just reach out to Amy. She'll be glad to help you!

Volunteer Spotlight—Penny Peters

Alice Schlein and Bhakti Zeek were getting ready to publish *The Woven Pixel* in 2006. As it happened, Alice was going to be on the West Coast and I asked her if she would give a workshop on this new — to me at least— way of using the computer to design weaving drafts. I put an announcement in the CW newsletter and a great group signed up for it. Why do I mention this? Because that group became my support and guide and introduced me to so much more.



Penny Peters

I blame Laurie Autio for the rest of it. She was president of CW at the time (though not part of that workshop). She asked me if I would chair CW *Seminars* for 2008. What????!!!!!! I had never been active as a volunteer in CW but I had been to a few *Seminars*. I had to think about it — for about 6 weeks if I recall correctly. But in the end, I did accept and soooo glad I did. I had done a number of roles for Conference of Northern CA Handweavers but this was a step up. It was not the easiest thing I had ever done but amazingly rewarding and, oh my, the people I worked with, were introduced to, were life changing.

So since then I have been President, Past President, on the Nominations Committee twice and put together the memorial program for CW *Seminars* in 2024 and 2026. It's been awhile now since I had a CW "job". I need to volunteer again for something. That's how much I value CW.

Back to the workshop with Alice, it changed my weaving life. I would never have ventured down that road of using Photoshop® had I not had this CW experience. My membership in CW has fostered that continued learning in ways that my local guild (that I love) could not. And it has brought so many wonderful, generous, creative people into my life. Sitting on the sidelines was fun and I did learn a lot but it was volunteering that put my CW experience over the top. Just do it.

Hmm favorite color, I often say yellow but every color has its place. I love working with silk. Cotton is not a bad follow up. I know I would love wool but I live in California and we just don't need that much of it out here. I am still exploring how to coax more design capabilities or avenues out of the computer world. I don't have a Jacquard loom, so am limited to my 32 shafts. :-)

Towels woven for Penny's family members. The pattern came from Handweaving.net. The colored yarn was hand dyed, ombre style then twisted together while wet.



CW Volunteer Opportunities

CW Communication & Promotions Chair

Oversee CW's content calendar and promotions in coordination with other committee chairs to build CW's identity in the weaving community. Position requires good organizational and communication skills. Marketing experience is helpful, but not required.

CWOO/Weavers Handshake

If you have skills in video editing, production, online education development, or project management, become part of Complex Weavers Online Offerings (CWOO). This global committee includes members from Europe, Australia and North America. The team is working to expand online educational opportunities for CW members worldwide. Right now, the committee is preparing the 25 recorded sessions from *Seminars 2026* on Weavers Handshake. Join the team to get behind the scenes. Contact cwoo@complex-weavers.org.

Karen Donde
CW Volunteer Coordinator
karendonde@gmail.com

Complexity 2026

On June 11, the Lakewood Cultural Center, just south of Denver, Colorado, was host to Complex Weavers' *Complexity 2026* reception. It was a great evening with so many weavers admiring such wonderful works of art, all woven by fellow members of Complex Weavers. There were 43 pieces, woven by 41 artists, from 5 different countries. Pieces were woven on looms ranging from a 2 shaft inkle loom and 4 shaft table looms, to 40 shaft floor looms; from drawlooms with up to 50 patterns shafts to TC2 Jacquard looms; from a necklace created on a 4 shaft loom and a marudai, to one piece created completely off-loom using ply-split braiding. So much creativity and complexity was used by our members and now we can see their work to admire and be inspired.

If you weren't able to come to *Seminars*, the exhibit will be available until August 16 at Lakewood Cultural Center. You can see the exhibit online at [Complexityexhibition.org](https://www.complexityexhibition.org), where you can download the catalog from the website. I encourage everyone to check this out, not just for the pictures but also for the technical and other information shared by the weavers. It is inspiring!

The following awards were announced at the reception on June 11:

- **Best in Show: Sandra Hutton Award for Excellence in Complex Weaving:**
Wen-Ying Huang - *Interleave 11-5*
- **1st place and CW Award:** Teresa Edmisten - *Promises to Keep*
- **2nd place:** Brenda Gibson - *Starlight Fractal*
- **3rd place:** Darilyn Bennett - *The 4 Elements: Earth, Wind, Fire, Water*
- **Honorable Mention:** Katherina Kronig - *Impossible Planes*
- **HGA for Outstanding Works of Fiber Art:** Jean Breitzman - *Floral Damask Napkin*
- **Treenway Silks Award for Best Use of Silk:** Carol Wooten - *So Many Rivers to Cross*
- **Heddlecraft More with Less Award:** Liz Heine - *Ondulé Stars of Victory*
- **Handweaving.net Award for Excellence in Weaving with Inspiration from Handweaving.net:** Ivy DeHart - *Falling Leaves*
- **Surface Design Association Award of Excellence:** Heasoon Rhee - *Moonlight Encounter*



Interleave 11-5
Wen-Ying

During the Closing Ceremony on June 14, I had the pleasure of announcing the winner of the **People's Choice Award:** Robert Breitzmann - *Bixby Sunset*.

Thank you to all the weavers who submitted their best work for consideration. I know it was a difficult decision for our jurors, Lynn Smetko, Laurie Carlson Steger, and Paulette Verbeek, to choose the pieces to include and which ones would win awards. Thank you for your hard work and judgment.

We have wonderful, generous sponsors and donors. Many thanks to Susan Du Bois of Treenway Silks, Handweavers Guild of America, Robyn Spady of Heddlecraft, Ray Hutton, Kris Bruland of Handweaving.net, Surface Design Association, and Schacht Spindle Company. Thank you to the Lakewood Cultural Center for their help.

It takes many hands and talents over two years to create Complexity 2026. Thank you to the following CW members or local weavers who were so generous with their time and talents: Linda Schultz, Susan Du Bois, Janet Bealer, Teresa Edmisten, Ruth MacGregor, Patsy Krechel, Michele Belson, and David van Buskirk. And a huge thank you to Cheryl Nachtrieb and her team who hung the show: Ann Heine, Nick Pepping, Judy Pagels, Patsy Krechel, Peg MacMorris, Shelly DeChantal, Susan Du Bois, and Tina Cowles.

It has been a privilege and an honor to lead this group of weavers for the past 18 months. It was exciting to see and study each entry on arrival in our portal and then rewarding to see everybody's hard work come together in Lakewood for this wonderful show.

It's not too early to start planning your weaving for *Complexity 2028*! Also please consider leading or volunteering for the *Complexity 2028* committee.

Jami Johnson, *Complexity 2026* Chair

Complex Weavers Seminars 2026 — Sponsored Student Experience

I am so glad I experienced *Seminars 2026*! This was my first time going to a Complex Weavers event, and I found the three days to be very beneficial and inspiring. I arrived Thursday afternoon and really enjoyed kicking off the whole event by attending the *Complexity* show and admiring all the wonderful artwork.

It was great to be the first sponsored student, I probably would not have gone otherwise, since school is so expensive. Now my mind is full of new ideas from the seminars and I feel excited to embark on next projects. I appreciate that we ate lunch and dinner together, it was lovely to connect with so many other weavers and hear their stories. I am deeply grateful to everyone that made it possible for me to attend, to the instructors of the courses, and to the many folks that I talked to and who inspired in me new ideas.



Karinne Knutsen,
Masters student at Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD)

CW Journal Update

We have more good news on the *Journal* front: the next issue of *Complex Weavers Journal* has gone to the printer! This issue shines the full spotlight on our *Complexity 2026* exhibition, on display through August 16th in the Lakewood Cultural Center, in Lakewood, Colorado. For those of us who cannot make it to Colorado this summer, the exhibition is also beautifully presented in a virtual gallery that's open to all: visit complexityexhibition.org

The PDF versions of the next issue of *CW Journal* will be available soon on the CW website, and the in-print copies should start appearing in our mailboxes sometime around mid-August.

Even with its timely content, sharp-eyed readers will notice that the cover date of this issue is still not the current date. We're working on that — as you may have guessed from the increased frequency of our new issues. We expect to publish two more issues before the end of the year, and we'll continue our accelerated publication pace until the cover date matches the current calendar.

The next several issues are already brimming with more wonderful things, so stay tuned! We, the *Journal* Team, are doing our best to bring them all your way as quickly (and beautifully) as we can. It's all for the good cause: encouraging curiosity, exploration, innovation in weaving.

Ruth MacGregor
Editor, *Complex Weavers Journal*
journal@complex-weavers.org



CW Past and Current Presidents Attending Seminars 2026 (left to right) Cathy McCarthy, Madelyn van der Hoogt, Amy Norris, Penny Peters, Cally Booker, Lynn Smetko, Elizabeth Bryan, Mimi Anderson, Karen Donde, Amy Blair, Wendy Morris

Call for Entries: Viriditas: Flourishing Life Energy

The Fiber Artists of San Antonio invites Texas and continental U.S. artists working in fiber and textile media to enter its 2026 Annual Juried Exhibition, Viriditas: Flourishing Life Energy.

Juror: Jane Dunnewold, internationally recognized fiber artist, educator, and author.

Theme: Inspired by Hildegard von Bingen's concept of the "greening power" that animates all living things, the exhibition seeks innovative interpretations of vitality, renewal, growth, resilience, and humanity's connection to the natural world.

Media: All fiber and fiber-related media are welcome, including traditional, contemporary, and experimental approaches.

Exhibition Dates: November 7–December 11, 2026

Opening Reception: November 7, 2–4 pm; Semmes Galleries, University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Texas

Call for Entry Opens: July 1, 2026

Deadline for Entries: August 31, 2026

For prospectus and entry information: visit <https://www.safiberarts.org/viriditas-exhibit-2026-134029.html>. To apply, visit EntryThingy: <https://app.entrythingy.com/calls/public/14150/> starting 1 July 2026. For questions email exhibit.fasa@gmail.com.

Your Complex Weavers Journal:

Share Your Weaving Knowledge and Experiences

Inside every Complex Weavers member is a story and wealth of knowledge! Sharing our experience and knowledge is the heart of CW and our *Journal*. Unlike other publications, we do not solicit articles from people outside our organization. As we strive to "share information and encourage interests," our *CW Journal* welcomes articles from individuals as well as study group members. If you have something to share, contact us. We will make it easy for you!

Writer's Guidelines are available on the [CW website](#), or by sending a request to the Editor. Material for the *Journal* is given priority according to the date received. Late or lengthy submissions are subject to available space.

Classified and commercial advertisements should be sent to the [Advertising Manager](#).

Address changes may be made by logging on to the website and updating your member profile or by contacting the [Membership Chair](#).

If you do not receive your *Journal* when you think you should, please sign in to the [Membership Directory](#) on the CW website to confirm that your membership and contact information are current.

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