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Heather Winslow –
Autumn Splendor

President's Letter

Greetings, Complex Weavers!

Since I was inaugurated as the new president in June, I have been thinking hard about what it means to be a member of Complex Weavers. At Seminars, I made it a point - in the hallways and around the coffee urns - to corner as many first-time participants as I could to ask them for their views. What kinds of weaving do they do? What is it about our awesome organization that made them join? Did they find us open and friendly? What could we do to improve their experience?

Since I always think of weavers as generous, garrulous folks who love nothing more than talking about looms and associated matters, some of these conversations surprised me. I was struck by how many newbies had been nervous to come to *Seminars*, worried that they would feel technically lost or excluded from meal-time conversations. Several told me that they had mild cases of imposter syndrome, not sure if they were even 'qualified' to be there. Most shared that they would never have dared come had they not been encouraged by members they already knew.

I was happy to hear (at least among those I spoke with at the time) that these fears were allayed by the warm reception they received from those who already knew the ropes.

But it made me wonder about CW as a whole. What about those weavers from whom we have not yet heard? Weavers with valuable things to share, too nervous to take the first step? Weavers who, when they look around the virtual room, feel out of place or unrecognized? Weavers who don't believe they will be made welcome, even though we absolutely need and want them to join us? It is vital for the health of our organization that we open ourselves to new ideas coming from weavers who currently think we are only interested in what others have to say.

[Continued page 2]

President's Letter, continued

As its priority, the Board is currently exploring ways to convince weavers from under-represented groups of all kinds to give us a try. Equally important, we must ensure CW is a safe space for them when they do. In the coming months we will be workshopping new policies for diversity and inclusion as well as a code of conduct for instructors, *Seminars* attendees, and study groups. We will be forming a new committee to help expand our recruitment efforts and widen participation. We will be rebuilding our website so it better addresses the needs of our community and provides more information — and inspiration! — for the complex curious.

All of this will be done with full transparency to our membership at large. Going forward, there will be a section of the newsletter dedicated to updates about our efforts so that readers will always know what is going on behind the scenes. We may be calling for volunteers. We may be seeking advice from outside experts. We will be working hard to ensure Complex Weavers stays true to its values of acceptance and respect for all.

To that end, I have a challenge to lay before each and every member reading this. Think about what you love about CW. Next, identify a non-member weaver you know that shares our sense of enquiry, curiosity, and compulsion to ask 'What if?' while sitting at the loom. Finally, encourage them to join us.

How amazing would Complex Weavers be then? Let's roll up our sleeves and find out.

Amy Blair

President

president@complex-weavers.org

Complexity 2026

By the time you receive this newsletter, the public exhibit of *Complexity 2026* will be but a very fond memory. But luckily for us, the whole exhibit lives on, thanks to the wonderful work of Teresa Edmisten and Ruth MacGregor. Please visit the [Complexity website](#) and you can not only see pictures of the weaving (including close-ups) but also read the personal statements and get some technical detail of their process. The same information is now also available for *Complexity 2024*. This is a wonderful and inspiring resource for all of us.

Thank you for the privilege of being the Chair of *Complexity 2026*. It has been a wonderful experience: I got to work with some very creative and giving volunteers as we did all the tasks that are necessary to put together the show. A huge shout out to Cheryl Nachtrieb who was responsible for hanging the show at Lakewood Cultural Center, and then for taking it down and returning the pieces to their owners. She put together a great team and they did an amazing job. Linda Schultz, Chair of *Complexity 2024*, mentored me and was always available to answer questions. Thank you, Cheryl and Linda. I so enjoyed communicating with the weavers who submitted their pieces to *Complexity*. It was a joy to 'meet' so many weavers, and then even better to meet some of them in person at *Seminars*.

We are now are looking for a Chair for *Complexity 2028*. I will follow Linda's lead and serve as a mentor and sounding board for the new chair. You will not only be of great service to Complex Weavers, but you will meet some wonderful people and learn new skills! Please contact me if you would like more information.

Jami Johnson

Chair, Complexity 2026

jamijohnLV@gmail.com



Cynthia Newman -- Suspension

Study Groups and Orphaned Library Materials

Because of usage and the need to manage space in the Library, Study Group materials have been removed from the Library. They were not discarded but have been sent to the current Study Group Leaders. Materials from inactive Study Groups were “adopted” by existing groups. Below is a list of the current Study Groups. This list indicates where materials from inactive groups are being housed — in bold text.

Please contact the hosting Study Group if you are interested in borrowing any past materials. They will work out a shipping and payment method. We eventually will have this list on our website. For the time being, please keep a copy of this list in case you may need it.

CW Study Groups

Archeological Textiles—**Medieval Textiles, Math and Weaving, Symmetry**

Bateman Weaves

Beyond Plain Weave Garments

Dimensional Textiles—**Collapse/Pleat/Bump**

Double Weave

Drawloom Explorations—**Ontario**

Early Books and Manuscripts (defunct 2026)

Equipment Compendium—**Beads and Interlacements, Lace, Bobbin Lace, Japanese Textiles, Passementerie, Good and Old Weaving Books, Landes (Lampas?), Network Drafting on 8, Jacquard (in care of Francine Jacobson)**

Exploring Structures —**Acadian, Blended Drafts**

Fabric Design Challenge—**More than 4, Overshot**

Fine Threads—**Deflected Double Weave, Stitched Cloth**

Inquisitive Drawloom Weavers—**Double Harness, Damask, Crackle**

Kumihimo

Ondule

Oscar Beriau Sampling Group

Preserving the Past/Scrapbooks (defunct group 2026)

Samples the Old-Fashioned Way

Sixteens

Tied Weaves and Beyond—**Double Harness, Damask, Crackle**

Twenty Four More or Less

Where Do You Think *Seminars 2028* Should Be Held?

With *Seminars 2026* barely behind us, it is time to begin site selection and planning for 2028. The best way to become part of the discussion about a possible *Seminars* location is by joining the team.

While the Board intends to hire a professional conference planner for 2028 to balance the workload on CW volunteers, a *Seminars* Chair who understands CW's particular needs for both site selection and programming is still necessary. The chair would be responsible for oversight of the professional planner and the volunteer committee, as well as regular progress reports to the Board.

Please contact CW President Amy Blair (president@complex-weavers.org) if you would like to discuss this role in more detail, or if you would like to be involved in *Seminars* planning in any capacity.

Weavers Handshake

Your CWO team is busy getting 25 seminar recordings ready for the [Weavers Handshake](https://weavershandshake.complex-weavers.org), 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 recordings expire after 3 months.

We have an [amazing line upcoming](#) — 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.

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

If you missed Seminars, no worries.

25 Sessions from 19 weaving experts were captured for on demand viewing beginning in September at:



Weavers Handshake

Online, on-demand learning
<https://weavershandshake.complex-weavers.org>

COMPLEX
WEAVERS



Seeking Member Advice for Legal Services

The CW Board needs to engage an attorney to advise about occasional legal questions and assist with contract negotiations for future CW *Seminars* planning. As CW is incorporated in Colorado, the preference is for a Colorado-based attorney that specializes in non-profit organizations.

However, as we are an international organization, we are not sure whether a Colorado location is a requirement. The law firm hired for review of non-profit status in 2023 is no longer available.

To begin this search, we are seeking recommendations from CW members who may be able to recommend an attorney who could meet our needs. This may be based on experience with other organizations or even among their business or personal networks.

Please contact CW President Amy Blair (president@complex-weavers.org) with your ideas as soon as possible.

Field Trip in the UK

There will be a CW visit to the studio of British rug weaver Angie Parker (author of 'Krokbragd : Contemporary Weaving with Colour') on Saturday 17 October in Bristol, England. In addition to her own looms, Angie now owns Peter Collingwood's looms including his specially adapted macrogauze loom. If you are planning to be in the UK at that time and would like to join the group, contact Suzanne Townshend, United Kingdom area liaison, at area_uk_ireland@complex-weavers.org to check availability. This visit isn't restricted to UK members and currently there are spaces available. The cost is expected to be no more than £50 sterling.



CW Volunteer Opportunities

Complexity 2028 Chair

Few CW volunteer jobs are more exciting than being behind the scenes for Complexity, the biennial exhibition that spotlights amazing weaving by our members. 2026 Complexity Chair Jami Johnson and her committee did a masterful job on this year's exhibit. The live exhibit in Denver has closed, but the online exhibition will remain open. Access it at <https://complexityexhibition.org>

Now Jami is eager to hand this fun job over to the Complexity 2028 chair. If you would like to be involved, contact Jami Johnson (complexity@complex-weavers.org) to discuss the 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.

Website Redesign Team

The Complex Weavers website is our virtual home, and it needs an overhaul. The Board wants it to better reflect CW's mission and strategic plan and be more functional for our members and the public.

Before we engage a website professional, CW must develop a criteria/requirements document that can be discussed and agreed upon by all the committees and functions that depend on the website; for example, Seminars, Complexity, CW Journal, Newsletter, Study Groups, Membership, Awards, Area Liaisons, Weavers Handshake and the governing board.

If you can serve on a website redesign committee to help get the process started, we need to hear from you. Experience with a CW program or committee is helpful, but fresh eyes and voices are also welcome. We would also like to hear from any members with website design experience.

Please reach out to President Amy Blair (president@complex-weavers.org) for more information or to join the team.

Karen Donde
CW Volunteer Coordinator
karendonde@gmail.com

Kudos to Small Expressions Artists

Congratulation the following CW members selected to be part of 2026 Small Expressions touring exhibit.

Andrea Blackmon
Helen Leaf
Katherine Manfre

Small Expressions is an annual juried exhibition produced by the Handweavers Guild of America.

Board Happenings - August Board Meeting

August 2026

There was no summer slow down nor time for our new President, Amy Blair, to adjust to her new role following Seminars. The focus has been on follow up on a number of matters stemming from Seminars. First was collaboration on the messages sent to the Seminars attendees and the membership.

At the August 1 BOD Zoom meeting consideration of the actions Complex Weavers needs to initiate to formulate processes and policies to guide the organization going forward began. Two guests joined a portion of the August Board Meeting to share their personal impact of the skit and their expectations of requirements going forward. The BOD is committed to adopting policies and procedures to building a wider, inclusive weaving community. There will be more work on the matter in the coming months.

The board also considered how to proceed with the challenges with the Seminars venue. A letter is being drafted to alert the Westin corporate management of the significant challenges encountered. Planning for 2028 Seminars, Complexity and Weavers Handshake were also on the agenda.

The BOD recognizes that a website upgrade is needed. That is another major project to managed in the coming year.

And as always, over riding all of the above, is how to manage it all with the limited number of volunteers.

Sharon Gardiner
Secretary

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.

Journal Editor: Ruth MacGregor at journal@complex-weavers.org
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Advertising: Christina Chisholm at advertising@complex-weavers.org
Membership/Mailing List: Amy Norris at CWMembership@amyfibre.com
Printing and Distribution: Lynn Smetko at CWPresidentLFS@gmail.com

Your Journal staff, all volunteers, are ready and eager to help you with your contribution.

Classifieds

Supplementary Warp Patterning: Turned Drafts, Embellishments & Motifs by Barbara J. Walker

This comprehensive book by the authority on supplementary warp weaving will teach you that two (or more) warps are, indeed, better than one. Chapters on methods, design, and warping are included. \$37 USD plus shipping.

www.lulu.com. Enter the book title.

Spinning Wheel Sleuth: Hand Loom Supplement #24. \$10

Pennsylvania-German Cantilevered Looms; My Second Weaver Rose Loom; Two Distinctive Band Looms; A Two-Person Tape Loom; Restoring a Tape Loom With a Floating Heddle Hand Loom Supplements #1-10 on flash drive, \$15. By check to The Spinning Wheel Sleuth, PO Box 422, Andover, MA 01810; or via PayPal at www.spwhsl.com.

Color Alchemy Masterclass - Winter Session Registration Now Open

Whether you're planning handwoven projects, developing intentional color palettes, or dyeing your own fiber, yarn, or cloth, Color Alchemy is designed to help you work with color more confidently and consistently.

In this in-depth online course, you'll learn how to:

- Translate inspiration photos into usable color palettes
- Plan color intentionally before beginning a project
- Understand why colors work together
- Match digital colors to repeatable dye formulas
- Build a practical system for documenting and recreating successful color combinations

The course combines live online sessions with on-demand lessons, giving you the flexibility to learn at your own pace while receiving personalized feedback throughout the course.



The graphic for the Color Alchemy Masterclass features a dark green background. At the top, the title "Color Alchemy Masterclass" is written in a white serif font, with the subtitle "THE SCIENCE OF COLOR + THE ART OF DYEING" below it. The central part of the graphic shows a flowchart: "FROM INSPIRATION" (with a photo of a glowing mushroom) leads to "TO INTENTIONAL PAlettes" (with a color palette) and then to "TO BEAUTIFUL RESULTS" (with a photo of a colorful knitted sweater). Below this, a text box states: "An in-depth online course for weavers and fiber artists who want more confidence, control, and creativity with color." At the bottom, there are three sections: "REGISTRATION ENDS Oct 23rd, 2026" with a calendar icon, "LIVE WEBINAR SESSIONS + ON DEMAND ACCESS", and "Learn more at alannawilcox.com".

Complex Weavers members can receive the early-bird price through September 11 using code CW2026. Registration ends October 23.

Learn more and register: <https://www.alannawilcox.com/product/color-alchemy-masterclass/>



Sabena Kull - Vanitas Color



Teresa Edmisten - Promises to Keep