COMPLEX WEAVERS Newsletter

Encouraging curiosity, exploration, innovation in weaving

October 2026 | Number 151 1/2

CW Asset – Our Volunteers

Complex Weavers is run almost entirely with volunteers. Members are encouraged to volunteer to help keep Complex Weavers functioning. To offer inspiration, we are highlighting members who have volunteered for CW. For inspiration we are spotlighting members who volunteer for CW. Two of those members are Christina Chisholm and Sharon Gardiner.

Volunteer Spotlight - Christina Chisholm



Christina Chisholm

I joined the Journal team last autumn, having initially volunteered to take over the Advertising Chair role from Angela Schneider. I live in the north of Scotland, and worked on the UK Journal for Weavers, Spinners and Dyers (published by the Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers) in various roles for over a decade, so I was keen to get involved with the whole CW Journal production.

My main role is to sell advertising space in the Journal; to fill the pages at the back of the magazine with colourful artwork which benefits both our readers, as a source of useful information, and hopefully the bank accounts of our advertisers (plus of course helping towards our production costs)! As well as periodically reaching out to potential new advertisers, I contact publications similar to ours to offer reciprocal advertising opportunities to our mutual benefit. This allows an element of 'free' advertising for Weavers Handshake, our publications and of course the many regular benefits of CW membership.

The Journal needs a constant flow of interesting articles to fill the pages of each issue, so my subsidiary role is to encourage study group leaders and individual members to contribute. We are aiming to regularly feature the work of the study groups (ideally in each issue, unless it is dedicated to Complexity) as these offer a fascinating and detailed insight into specific areas of study, as well as offering a 'taster' for members thinking of joining a group. These articles are most appreciated by readers when several members of the group write up their studies, all from different starting points and all exploring different aspects of the study group focus, often on yearly themes agreed by the group. So far, several study groups have, or will shortly be, featured; if your study group would like to contribute, please don't hesitate to contact me. We have both written article guidelines and our joint experience to help you!

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Dates to Remember

Textiles & Tea with CW Members

October 20
Stacey Harvey-Brown

October 27
Teresa Edmisten

November 24
Wendy Morris

December 15
Nancy Arthur Hoskins



Hebridean Seascape Silk Wrap
Christina Chisholm

Volunteer Spotlight, continued

Many of our members pursue individual areas of study, exploring innovative new ideas. If you've been working on a subject of interest to other members, please consider writing a one-off article. If you're short of time (a common weaver's problem) we are equally keen to receive short 'filler' items - book reviews, your innovative techniques, etc. Again, guidance is always available from our team members, and no work is published without the author's written permission/approval of the final version, so don't hold back; I look forward to hearing from you.

My route into weaving was my spinning wheel and dye pot; after a few years of knitting a loom started to beckon…at which point I fell head-first into this deep but delightful rabbit hole! All types of thread interlacement interest me, from narrow wares to rugs, although essentially, I'm a balanced cloth weaver with a near-obsession towards colour, design and texture.

Complexity 2026

I thought it might be interesting to share some statistics from the recent Complexity 2026 Exhibit. Of the forty three accepted weavings, how many qualified for the three awards that had specific requirements? What equipment – mostly looms – was used? What was being woven?

There are three awards with specific requirements:

- Eleven pieces were considered for the *Treenway Silks Award for Best Use of Silk*
- Ten qualified for the *Heddlecraft Award for Excellence and Innovation on Eight or Fewer Shafts*
- Four were considered for the *Handweaving.net Award for Excellence in Weaving* with creative use of color and patterning with inspiration from the archives, and/or tools of Handweaving.net
- Three of the weavings qualified for two of the awards

I thought the equipment used was interesting – there was quite a variety used in creating the entries accepted in *Complexity 2026*!

- Ten pieces used 8 or fewer shafts – two were woven on a homemade Inkle loom and one loom had shaft-switching
- Twenty four had more than 8 shafts, more with 32 shafts than any other configuration, two of the 16-shaft looms were table looms
- Five Jacquard looms, all TC-2s
- Three Drawlooms
- One Off-loom piece done using split ply braiding
- One of the 8-shaft pieces was woven on the loom and then the warp threads at both ends were rethreaded onto a Marudai

I used slightly different categories than Teresa Edmisten used for the website ComplexityExhibition.org to answer the question "what was woven?"

- Twenty pieces were woven to hang on the wall
- Fifteen items were meant to be worn – 13 were scarves or shawls, 1 was a necklace, and 1 a strap for a bag
- Six were home furnishings or functional pieces
- Two were 3-D pieces meant for display on a table

As you can see, we weavers are creative in our use of equipment, what we weave and how we intend to use it. There were too many different materials used to list, but it ranged from wire to elastic thread, through all the variations and sizes of yarns/threads we commonly think of.

I'm going to challenge you to put your thinking caps on and start brainstorming future projects and then consider entering one or two of your weavings in *Complexity 2028*!

Jami Johnson, *Complexity* 2026 Chair
jamijohnLV@gmail.com



Kathy Forsythe
Ruffles and Ridges (4s & Kumihimo)

Volunteer Spotlight - Sharon Gardiner



Sharon Gardiner
Wearing blue as usual

How have you volunteered for CW, what jobs have you held?
CW Secretary is the first time I volunteered.

Why did you get involved in the first place and why did you continue?
After having completed the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Weaving Certification Program I had time to volunteer in the weaving community. After having considered a number of options and opportunities I was approached about the Secretary position. Although I had volunteered in a variety of weaving organizations in various positions, CW would be a new challenge. Although I have been a member for several years, I had not concerned myself with the organization itself.

How has volunteering for CW benefited you personally?
Since taking on the Secretary role, I am now more familiar with all aspects of CW. There are so many key offerings that the Board of Directors manage. It was also a job that I could do from home. Other than the quarterly board meetings, I have the flexibility to do my follow up when it suits me. Through this volunteer position I have "met" people I did not know. Previously they were just names in the newsletter or in the *Journal*. Now I have a better sense of them as individuals.

What advice do you have for members about taking on volunteer CW roles?
Ask for the details of the position's responsibilities and talk to the person currently in the position and/or others who have held the position. Accept a volunteer role knowing the commitment you are making and how you will be contributing to CW but be prepared that your experience might not be exactly as it was for others. Things change and CW needs to be flexible to respond. Whether a board position, serving on a committee, helping with an event or project you will help CW continue to provide a wide selection of avenues for weavers to expand their knowledge.

Do you have a favorite color?
Anyone who looked at the items in my closet would say it is blue. I do prefer strong, bold colours and generally those on the cool side of the colour wheel.

What is your favorite fiber to weave?
I don't really have a favorite fiber. I like to weave with most fibers, changing them with each project – just because. However, I rarely weave with wool.

Do you have a weaving challenge you are still interested in investigating?
I have many thoughts. My list of future weaving projects has grown after watching the Weavers Handshake videos. But there are two that have been on my list for awhile but have not translated into action: challenge myself to design and weave something using the warm colours on the colour wheel and, like just about everyone else but me, complete a project with draft 728 from Strickler's 8 Shaft Patterns. After a season of not weaving, I am starting up slowly, with straightforward, relatively mindless weaving.

If you missed CW Seminars, no worries.
25 Sessions from 19 weaving experts were captured for on-demand viewing. Catch it while you can.

Weavers Handshake
Online, on-demand learning
https://weavershandshake.complex-weavers.org

I've been really impressed with the Weavers' Handshake presentations. An excellent standard of professional presentation, very clear audio and video (despite my slow internet speed) and with a sidebar to chart your viewing progress. Best of all is the opportunity to view alongside your weaving software (on a separate device), then pause and replay as many times as needed to fully understand the concepts and techniques. Excellent value and highly recommended to develop your weaving skills in many different areas.

— Christina Chisholm
CW member in the UK



Sharon Gardiner
Warp ready to begin weaving, inspired by Jane Stafford

Weavers Handshake

Wow how I love the ability to learn from some of the best. I bought the total package!! I would LOVE to attend the *Seminars* in person but unfortunately, it's not possible, the exchange rate is prohibitive! So, this is my next best thing. I bought the whole seminar package. All 25 presenters. And what I have watched so far, is enlightening, truly enlightening. And I saved at least AU$14,000! (I live in an isolated part of South Australia and my contact with any other weaver is NIL. This is my answer to learning.)

Ok, so I know how to set up a loom but that's not what the Weavers Handshake is about. It's taking your weaving to the next step. It throws ideas into space and makes you think "What if?". And those ideas can come from any one of the presenters. A seminar that you don't think is going to be of great interest may present something that you have never thought of and it can take you to a whole new place with your weaving. (It's what makes our weaving Complex, purely the 'what if' moments…and trying those ideas at the loom).

I can truly say that I've never watched any seminar that I haven't enjoyed. And I'm very grateful to all the presenters for offering us this fantastic resource. Where else can you attend "workshops" over a period of 8 months that you can watch again and again.

- Purchase the Seminars that interest you. (Use the link below)
- Watch new releases every month. (Each is available for 3 months.)
- Take a breather in December. (No new releases)
- Choose your favourite ideas and weave samples.
- Share sample pics in the comments under CW's social posts.
- Repeat

weavershandshake.complex-weavers.org

(If you've already signed up for Weavers Handshake, invite your friends. Give them a Coupon code so they get $50 off the complete package. And you don't have to be a member of Complex Weavers to participate).

Kate Holmes
South Australia
Member of the CWOO committee



Jean Breitzmann
Floral Damask Napkin
(Drawloom 5 end satin damask)

Seeking Member Advice for Legal Services

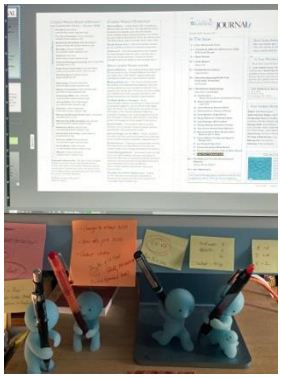
The CW Board seeks to engage an attorney to advise about occasional legal questions and assist with contract negotiations for future CW *Seminars* planning. As CW is incorporated in Colorado, the preference is for a Colorado-based attorney that specializes in non-profit organizations.

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.

Complex Weavers Journal Update



Ruth's Little Blue Team that helps on her desktop

It takes a village. I know we say that frequently, but it's really true: everything is more efficient, pleasant, exciting, streamlined and effective when the work is shared by a team. Also, it's a lot more fun!

Spoiler alert: you'll see an article about our current, remarkable *CW Journal* team, including brief portraits of each of us, in the new issue of the *Journal*. And speaking of the next *Journal,* I'm delighted to report that the new issue will be going to the print shop in the next few days — in fact, by the time you read this, the printing process may be well underway. (If you think you hear faint cheering as you read that, don't worry — it's just me.)

Step by step, we're moving closer to our goal of getting CWJ caught up with the calendar, thanks to the enthusiasm and active support of the *Journal* team. And more: we're doing it without taking shortcuts, so each new issue of *CW Journal* will bring you the full offering of inspiration and weaving excitement that you've come to expect.

So stay tuned, because we're sure to have new news for you soon, then soon again after that. Teamwork is really something, and it's working for all of us.

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



Helen Leaf
Thar
Ply-split braiding

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.

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CW Volunteer Opportunities, continued

Website Redesign Team

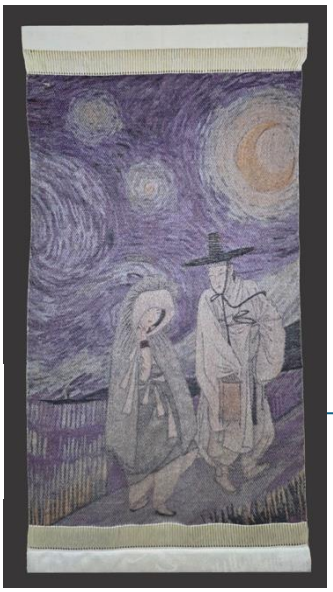
The Complex Weavers website is our virtual home, and it needs an overhaul. The Board wants it to better reflect CW's mission and strategic plan and be more functional for our members and the public.

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



Heasoon Rhee
Moonlight Encounter
(inspired by two distinct artists)
Jacquard

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