



MANITOBA WEAVERS AND FIBRE ARTISTS

(ORIGINALLY THE GUILD OF CANADIAN WEAVERS, MANITOBA BRANCH)

OUR 75-YEAR HISTORY

1947-2022

by

Jo-Anne Tabachek

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Note: The Executive list is in a separate 6-page document.

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PREFACE

When I wrote the 50-year history of the Guild of Canadian Weavers, Manitoba Branch in 1997, the minutes from our early years were missing. Since then, minutes dating from 1954 and/or our guild newsletter, *The Tie-Up*, have been located. Other minutes are still missing or have been lost since then. I have tried to fill in the gaps and correct inaccuracies that existed in the 50-year history. Hardcopies of both histories and additional information are archived in the guild's library.

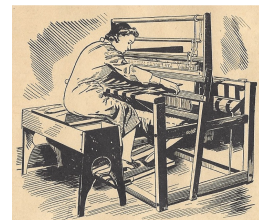
GUILD NAMES

Members often called the local guild the Winnipeg Branch of the Guild of Canadian Weavers (or other rearrangements of the words) but officially it was the Guild of Canadian Weavers, Manitoba Branch. The guild changed its name on June 4, 1999 to Manitoba Weavers and Fibre Artists (MWFA) to remove confusion that existed between the national GCW organization and the local branch. This confusion was compounded with the advent of the internet and the creation of websites by both organizations. Patty Sauder's brother, Scott Sauder, submitted the winning design for MWFA's logo.

To reduce confusion, MWFA will be used throughout this document to represent the Manitoba guild while GCW will refer to the national Guild of Canadian Weavers.

INTRODUCTION

Weaving in Manitoba is influenced by many sources including early settlers, the Manitoba Branch of the Canadian Handicraft Guild, the Manitoba Association for Adult Education, Oscar Bériau and the weaving program in Quebec, the Searle Grain Company, the Guild of Canadian Weavers, and the University of Manitoba.



Canadian Handicraft Guild

Dot From wrote an extensive history of the Manitoba Branch of the Canadian Handicraft Guild that was established in Winnipeg in 1928 and renamed the Crafts Guild of Manitoba (CGM) in 1968. There was a major transition into the Manitoba Crafts Museum and Library (MCML) in 1997. MCML now shares space with the Manitoba Crafts Council at C2 Centre for Craft on Cumberland Avenue. Throughout this document, the organization will be referred to as CGM until it became MCML.

CGM's weaving program began in 1934/35 and courses were very popular. A weaver's group that met in the afternoon was formed about 1938, nine years before the formation of MWFA. The associations between the guilds are described later.

Manitoba Association for Adult Education

La Société d'Enseignement Postécolière du Manitoba (Manitoba Association for Adult Education) was founded in 1934 as a Manitoba branch of the Quebec-based association. The Congregation of Grey Nuns in Montreal sent sisters to Manitoba in 1941 to start St. Joseph's Institute and College in St. Boniface. They taught weaving and spinning and their program was expanded to rural areas and ran from 1941 to 1948. Courses were given in many rural communities as well as St. Joseph's College, Holy Rosary School, and Sacred Heart School in Winnipeg.

Oscar Bériau and the Weaving Program in Quebec

Oscar Bériau was the Director (Director General according to his grandson JP Picard) of Home Economics and Handicrafts for the Quebec government (not the Minister of Agriculture as this author stated in MWFA's 50th Anniversary history). Oscar Bériau was very knowledgeable in regards to weaving and designing a loom. He authored a number of books including *Tissage Domestique* and its English translation, *Home Weaving*. Through Mr. Bériau's efforts, courses were given in many of the fibre arts (weaving, spinning, dyeing, sewing, rug hooking, knitting, leather tanning, and ceinture flechée). Teachers were trained and they in turn taught women in rural Quebec with over 21,000 women taking courses between 1930 and 1934.

Searle Grain Company

Augustus Searle was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Searle Grain Company with its headquarters in the Grain Exchange in downtown Winnipeg. Searle Grain had implemented programs to help farm men improve their crops and wanted to do something for farm women. The company became aware of the success of the handweaving program in Quebec and approached Oscar Bériau about developing a similar program on the prairies. When he came to Winnipeg and presented his ideas, the Searle Grain Home Weaving Program was born. His daughter, Renée Bériau, traveled to Winnipeg and trained four farm women who were fluent in English and at least one other language (French, Russian, Swedish, Ukrainian) to be weaving teachers. Searle Grain's newsletters stated that the weaving courses were given only in Alberta and Saskatchewan. "In Manitoba, the work is being done through the French Section of the Canadian Association for Adult Education." CGM was also teaching weaving but its courses were less accessible to rural women. Searle Grain's courses were six weeks long with 2-1/2 hours of instruction each day, five days a week. Courses were free of charge but women who took them were expected to teach others at no charge and to establish weaving circles in their communities. By 1945, Searle Grain reported they had taught over 850 people who had bought over 300 Leclerc looms through their store in Winnipeg. Courses ended in late 1944 when gas rationing, required to support the war effort, resulted in women being unable to travel to class from their farms.

Dorothy Rankine was a secretary at Searle Grain. Being a skilled a weaver, she was reassigned to manage Searle Grain's "weaving store" in the Winnipeg Grain Exchange from 1941 to 1964 and to provide advice to weavers. The store sold weaving equipment and Leclerc looms through a loan program with small monthly interest-free payments. Searle Grain imported wool from England and Scotland, cotton from Egypt and the United States, and linen yarns from Belgium and Ireland, and sold them on a non-profit basis. Later, they added synthetic and metallic yarns

to their inventory. Dorothy published a monthly one-page newsletter, *Searle Suggestions*, providing valuable information and inspiration to weavers at a time when there were few other written resources. Newsletters included tiny samples of fabrics woven by rural and urban weavers and a brief report about the sample. The store closed when Searle Grain merged with Federal Grain in the mid 1960's.

Guild of Canadian Weavers (National)

The Guild of Canadian Weavers (GCW) was founded by Mary Black (Nova Scotia), Ethel Henderson (Manitoba) and Mary Sandin (Alberta). Ethel Henderson and Mary Sandin taught weaving during the summer program at the Banff School of Fine Arts. They wrote and published *Loom Music* from 1944 to 1965 with 10 issues a year.



Mary Black became aware of *Loom Music* and contacted the two authors. The three women corresponded and met to discuss their ideas of establishing a guild for Canadian weavers. Their main objective was to raise the technical, mechanical and artistic standards of handweaving among Canadian weavers. They believed this could be accomplished through a series of tests to be judged by expert weavers, with certificates given for each level. They established four levels of tests (Basic, Intermediate, Senior and Master) and found people to act as judges across Canada. Correspondence between Mary Black and MWFA indicates that "the tests" were the most important aspect of the GCW. Mary Black and Mary Sandin both completed the final tests in 1955 and were the first people to achieve the GCW's Master Weaver standing. Within MWFA, members achieved 14 Basic, 6 Intermediate, 2 Senior and 1 Master level certificates (Appendix 1). In 1988, Valerie DePorto became MWFA's only member to achieve the GCW's Master Weaver certificate.

The GCW had Provincial Representatives and Manitoba's are shown in Appendix 2.

Weaving Groups in Canada

Since no records remain for MWFA's Executive before 1952, it is not known if Ethel Henderson held the position of being MWFA's first President in 1947. When the Edmonton Weavers Guild formed in 1953, Mary Sandin became its first President. Mary Black may have been associated with the Halifax Weavers Guild, a guild that later became inactive. In 1970 the Atlantic Society of Handweavers was founded in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Mary Black was Honourary President from 1972 to 1988.

Other weavers' guilds were in existence in Canada before 1947 such as the Victoria Weavers' and Spinners' Guild and the Greater Vancouver Weavers' and Spinners' Guild founded in 1934 and 1935, respectively. MWFA was not the only weaver's group in Winnipeg. A weaving group began to meet in the afternoon at CGM about 1938 and there was a lot of overlap in membership after MWFA was established with its evening meetings.

University of Manitoba

The University of Manitoba's Faculty of Home Economics (later renamed Human Ecology) taught weaving as part of its Clothing and Textiles program. Additional weaving courses and workshops were held until the program ended in about 2002.

THE EARLY YEARS – 1947-1956

One only has to read MWFA's early minutes and membership lists to realize that this was a different time compared to the 2020's. Minutes were worded in a very formal way and either handwritten or typed. Copies were made using a typewriter with carbon paper; there were no photocopiers – only mimeograph machines. Information that needed to be received quickly was sent by telegram and payments were made by money order. It was an era when a married woman was always referred to by her husband's initials, with Ruby Monds referred to as Mrs. H. Monds on membership lists or Mrs. Monds in the Minutes. Single women were referred to by their given name (Miss Groff or Miss Margaret Groff).

During these early years, the Executive consisted of a President and a Secretary-Treasurer. MWFA's Executives are shown in a separate document. This format appears to be the organizational structure suggested by GCW. A source of contention was the allocation of membership fees. Each member paid \$2.50 annually, with all funds going to the national group, leaving regional branches with no operating funds. Most of the early meetings were held in member's homes. Minutes do not reveal a planned set of programs. Members shared through show and tell, relating their travels, textiles they saw and places and weavers they met during their travels.

A TURNING POINT - FEBRUARY 8, 1957

Major changes occurred at the regular monthly meeting held the evening of February 8, 1957. It was a wintery night in Winnipeg as 20 people assembled in a member's home. Membership was increasing with five new members joining since November. President, Mrs. Ivy Murphy, addressed the group and said they had become more social than educational. She believed they needed constructive programs to offer their growing membership, a central meeting place, a membership drive throughout Manitoba and a reorganization with each member willing to do their share. She wanted them "to be active and not static". That was the moment everything changed for the guild, with the majority of members voting in favour of becoming more active and progressive. Ivy Murphy's words set members in motion. Before any changes could be made, permission to reorganize was required from the national GCW. They needed a central meeting place, money for rent, and a larger Executive. Dorothy Rankine was appointed Chair of the Nominating Committee and a slate of officers was presented at the next meeting. Instead of two executive positions, they had 13 Executive and committees – even more than GCW with its President, three Vice-Presidents and a Secretary-Treasurer.

The 1957 slate of officers was:

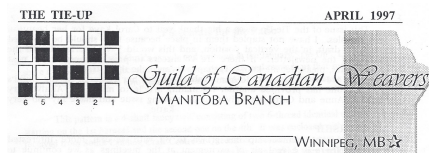
President	Mrs. P. Murphy (Ivy)	Librarian	Miss L. Buckham (Laura)
1st Vice-President (VP)	Mrs. T.C. Rudd (Carroll)	Publicity	Mrs. H. Shand (Bessie) with Mrs. Monds and Mrs. Rudd
2nd VP	Mrs. A.M. Goodwin (Margaret)	Ways and Means	Mrs. T.C. Rudd (Carroll)
3rd VP	Mrs. C.M. Scott (Hattie)	Educational Advisor	Mrs. E.M. Henderson (Ethel)
Secretary	Mrs. H.O. Melville (Eleanor)	Social Convenor	Mrs. H. Lewis (Margaret)
Treasurer	Mrs. A. Michener (Lettie)	Telephone	Mme. P.A. Talbot (Charlotte)
Membership	Mrs. H.S. Monds (Ruby)		

Upon Ethel Henderson's death in 1966, the library was named the Ethel Henderson Memorial Library and a commemorative plaque was attached to the library's bookcase. Throughout the years, the library has grown and today, it is housed in two large bookcases packed full of books, magazines, videos, binders of woven samples, GCW's *Bulletins* and many other treasures. There is also an e-library. MWFA's library is a valuable resource to members and is well used. Pam Green has been the librarian for many years.

GCW also has a library and started circulation to its members in 1972. Initially, it was housed at the home of GCW's librarian, Winnifred Mooney, in Massey, Ontario. Members borrowed books and shared in the mailing costs. Ethel Henderson bequeathed her personal library to Mrs. Mooney who offered it to the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) in Toronto. ROM accepted books they did not have in their collection and the remaining items were added to GCW's library. After Mrs. Mooney's death, Suzanne Mooney became the librarian. In 2022, GCW's library was relocated to Winnipeg, with Joan Brunning-Symons as librarian.

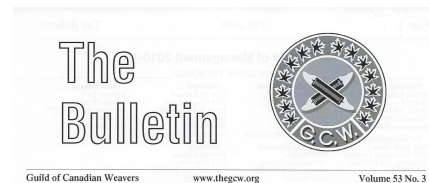
NEWSLETTERS – *THE TIE-UP* & *THE BULLETIN*

The Tie-Up, MWFA's newsletter, began as a notice of the upcoming meeting. The earliest one in the records is a mimeographed copy and simply titled "Notice of Meeting", dated January 3, 1953. The earliest evidence of its being called *The Tie-Up* is February 23, 1960.



The Tie-Up's logo appeared April 26, 1968. Although the Secretary took responsibility for *The Tie-Up*, Searle Grain mimeographed it until their merger in 1964. *The Tie-Up* was sent less frequently in later years announcing two and then three meetings. The minutes were sent along with *The Tie-Up* from January 1993 until November 1997. A sample and record sheet accompanied the newsletters from January 1997 until September 2009. Katie Guth became the first Newsletter Editor in 1997/98, joined by Christine Loff in 1998/99. *The Tie-Up* was redesigned by Christine Loff in September 1998 into a 4-page newsletter. Other editors are listed with the Executive in a separate document. *The Tie-Up*'s final issue was sent Fall 2010. Information is now shared through emails and MWFA's website.

The Bulletin has been published by GCW since 1958. Initially, guilds took responsibility for writing, printing and mailing all four or five issues for a given year. This included the design and weaving, cutting and attachment of one or two samples of weaving to each copy of *The Bulletin*. At some point, guilds became responsible for producing only the samples and record sheets rather than the entire *Bulletin*. In 1986, the number of issues was reduced to four per year. The first *Bulletins* were produced by the Edmonton Weavers Guild (1958) and the Leamington Weavers Guild (1959). The Manitoba guild was responsible for 1960, 1969, 1972 (only one issue), 1974, 1981, 1986, 1996 and 2011 (Appendix 3). In 1974, MWFA members wove 575-600 samples per issue and in 1986, Anne Ayre wove 10-shaft damask on an 8.5 yd linen warp to be cut into 1,200 samples! By 2011, this number had been reduced to 320 samples.



There are two corrections to MWFA's 50-year history. Ethel Henderson moved to Calgary (not Edmonton) in the early 1960's. Ethel did not start the GCW's *The Bulletin* newsletter from Edmonton. GCW facilitated its production and the Edmonton Weavers' Guild wrote and published the first year's four issues for 1958.

TEACHING

Over the years, many guild members taught weaving at CGM, the University of Manitoba, and various shops, conferences, workshops and retreats. On behalf of MWFA, Carol Kaye and Brigitte Weber began teaching Beginner Weaving classes together in 2011 at the Manitoba Crafts Museum and Library (MCML). There was a transition year before Patty Sauder and Susan Lee took over in 2017, teaching two courses a year. Teaching these courses has brought many new members to MWFA.

Members have had weaving published in books and have published articles for magazines. Of special note is Carol James who is an authority on ceinture flechee and sprang. Carol has published books on the subjects and traveled widely to give workshops.

DISPLAYS & DEMONSTRATIONS

MWFA displays and demonstrates weaving at many events. MWFA has had a booth at almost all the Manitoba Fibre Festivals since its inception in 2013. Other events include the Red River Exhibition, Festival du Voyageur, Culture Days, Folklorama and Creative Women's Expo (with the Third Saturday Spinners).



Creative Women's Expo - 1998



Manitoba Fibre Festival - 2015

GUILD CHALLENGES & SPECIAL PROJECTS

Every year, MWFA initiates a “challenge” to its members in October to weave a specific item or use a specific technique and present the results to the membership in April or May (Appendix 4).



Designer Tableware Challenge - 1989

Members take on “special projects” such as weaving scarves to donate to the Christmas Cheer Board as our 1999/2000 Millennium project. In 2003, the guild raised money for Cancer Care Manitoba in memory of Edna Wooler, a member who died from the disease. Ten participants wove something to complement the work of another craftsperson of their choice. Items were displayed at The Forks in Winnipeg in September 2003 and sold through a silent auction bidding process. MWFA was able to donate \$772 to Cancer Care Manitoba.



Fundraising for Cancer Care Manitoba



Edna Wooler

WORKSHOPS & STUDY GROUPS

Initially, workshops (Appendix 5) were organized by committees of MWFA members who were members of CGM. CGM had an ideal studio space filled with floor looms and weaving equipment. Workshops were given once or twice a year by well-known instructors. After the CGM closed in 1997, other venues were located for workshops. By then, there were more makers of portable table looms that were ideal for workshops.



Robyn Spady Workshop “The Fab Four” – 2008



Jean Farrington Rug Workshop – 2003

Study groups often presented a program on completion of their study. Binders of many of the study group’s samples are in the guild’s library.

1968	Textile Structure	1998/99	Shadow Weaves*
1969	Embroidery Weaves	2000/01	Block & Unit Weaves*
1983	Rag Weaves	2012/13	Bumberet*
1983	Shaft switching	2013/14	Theo Moorman*
1997/98	Transparencies	2015/16	Card/Tablet Weaving*
1997/98	Colour in Weaving	2019/20	Lace Weaves*
1997/98	Ikat	2022	Card Weaving
1997/98	Smocking for Weavers		

* = samples are located in MWFA’s library

EXHIBITIONS

GCW sponsored a national Annual Exhibition of Canadian Hand Weaving held in London, ON for ten years. The 11th Annual National Exhibition of Hand Weaving was held in Winnipeg June 3-15, 1963 and was organized by two groups – MWFA and the weaving group from CGM. They found the venue (T. Eaton Company Assembly Hall), judges from across Canada, donations of prizes and handled all the mailings. The T. Eaton Company's display staff helped mount the exhibits. The guild turned down the offer of a "loan" of \$200 from the GCW to fund the event. The guild had already asked each of its members for a loan of \$5 and proceeds from the exhibition allowed them to repay the loans.

Guild members entered their weaving in many juried exhibitions across Canada, at the Manitoba Craft Council, and the "In Praise of Crafts" exhibitions organized by CGM in 1979, 1981, 1983, 1985 and 1986. Many members entered non-juried annual competitions such as the Red River Exhibition. Additional exhibitions sponsored by MWFA are listed in Appendix 6.

1997 "Woven Together: Fibre & Clay" – Manitoba Craft Council's Exhibition Gallery – An exhibition to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of MWFA. Twenty weavers were paired with potters from Stoneware Gallery. Weavers produced wall hangings, clothing, cushions, rugs, table linens and baskets to complement the pottery pieces.



2021 "Woven Images of Manitoba" Exhibit - C2 Centre for Craft's Gallery. Fifteen members of MWFA chose images of places in Manitoba with special significance to them and created weaving depicting those images. This exhibit was intended for Manitoba's 150th birthday in 2020 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



FINANCES

When MWFA formed in 1947, an annual fee of \$2.50 was collected from each member and was sent to the national GCW. The amount covered the cost of each member's belonging to both the national guild (GCW) and the local guild (MWFA). It wasn't until 1967 that an additional membership fee of \$1.00 was collected for MWFA's own needs. As national and local fees increased over the years, the local guild decided that a member could choose to belong to only MWFA and only pay the MWFA dues.

Activities to raise money for MWFA's needs:

- In 1967, members were asked to weave an extra yard of fabric for "Yardage Sample Books". Members assembled 50 books and sold them at \$3 each.

- In the 1970's, members were asked to donate "Talent Money" to the guild with money raised by weaving items and selling them through CGM's shop. In 1972, MWFA designed white placemats and napkins and purchased 2/8 and 8/8 white cotton. Members wove the items using any pattern, sold them through the shop and donated the revenue. They were still doing this in 1975 and wove samples for the GCW's *Bulletin* in 1974 to show two of the patterns (Appendix 3).

- In 2004, a striped wool blanket was woven in three panels at Susan Styrchak's cottage and later sold through a raffle as a fundraiser.



- Guild-sponsored sales included The Weaver's Place on Osborne Street (1977), the PEO Craft Sale at the Concert Hall (2001) and the Scandinavian Centre (2002) with a percentage of sales retained by MWFA.



Sale at Concert Hall – 2001

PROFILES OF HONOURARY & LONG-TERM MEMBERS

ANNE AYRE



Raised in Vancouver, BC, Anne obtained a B.Sc. Agriculture degree from the University of British Columbia in 1952. She lived in Ontario, then Winnipeg from 1971 until retiring to Victoria with her husband Gordon in 1989. She and Gordon raised four daughters and one son. Anne has been an Honourary Member of our guild for many years. She served on the Executive and workshop committees for MWFA and CGM.

Anne practiced handiwork from an early age – knitting, sewing and leatherwork. She learned to weave in 1976 with Ruby Monds and Laura McHugh at CGM and joined MWFA the following year. Anne was intrigued by the mechanics of weaving and became particularly interested in weaving with linen after a workshop with Virginia West. Her weaving includes damask and huck table linens, an overshot bedspread, plus complex weavings on her draw loom. She also wove large architectural pieces such as “Prairie Harvest” and oversaw the weaving of “Prairie Barnacles” for CGM’s 50th Anniversary in 1978. Both pieces were woven in rep weave after CGM sent her to an Advanced Rep Weaving and Installations Workshop in Minnesota given by Ken Weaver. Both items are in the collection of the Manitoba Craft Museum and Library (MCML). Anne won awards for her weaving and had some of them featured in books and magazines.

Anne passed the GCW’s Basic and Intermediate tests completing both levels in one year (1985). She taught Beginner and Intermediate Weaving at CGM and was part of their “Country Workshops” program in Manitoba. Anne continued to teach after her move to Victoria.

CAROL KAYE



Born in Liverpool, Nova Scotia, Carol attended St. Francis Xavier and Dalhousie Universities graduating in 1968. Carol started her studies in Commerce, later switching to Psychology and Anthropology. Along the way she took teacher training. Carol and her husband, Stewart, moved to Winnipeg in 1970 and have a daughter and a son.

As a child, Carol was fascinated watching a friend's mother weave. Before her move to Winnipeg, Carol took a 6-week course in weaving at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. She wrote to CGM in Manitoba and received a long detailed letter from Laura McHugh who was a member of our guild. Later, Laura proved to be a wonderful mentor whenever Carol needed advice about weaving.

By 1981, Carol was teaching typing to Grade 10 girls at Balmoral Hall. The school bought its first four Radio Shack TRS-80 computers for their library and Carol took the free lessons in programming that Radio Shack provided for teachers. This was early days for computers. In 1984, she started teaching younger boys at St. John's Ravenscourt where they received a grant to buy 25 Sony CPM computers (which predated DOS or MS-DOS). Carol taught keyboard and then programming and continued to teach there until her retirement in 2001. She created MWFA's website in 1997 and was webmaster until turning it over in 2022 to Paul Sparling and Brenda Toutant.

Carol joined MWFA in 1970 and taught Beginner Weaving at MCML with Brigitte Weber for many years. She likes to weave functional items - table linens, cushions, upholstery, blankets and rag rugs and isn't afraid to use the dyepot to overdye things. Carol says what she likes most is seeing all the warp threads take their place in order – going from the cones to the chain where they look disordered and then to that moment on the loom where they are all in order, then seeing that first six inches of weaving.

VALERIE OLSEN



Born in Saskatchewan, Valerie has lived in Thunder Bay, Saskatoon, Winnipeg (1961-79), Kamloops and Vancouver, then returned to Winnipeg in 1986. Valerie was a floral designer for 15 years before working in therapeutic recreation, becoming the program coordinator for a geriatrics day program. Valerie and her husband, Anker, raised two daughters. Anker was born in Denmark and the family was involved with the Scandinavian Centre and Folklorama where Valerie demonstrates weaving while wearing her handwoven costume.

Valerie was exposed to crochet, quilting and rug hooking through her mother and grandmother. In school, she learned to weave on cardboard squares with notches cut in the sides. Valerie liked to do “creative things”, and crochet and quilt.

In Winnipeg, Valerie took a course in weaving at CGM in 1968 and joined their afternoon weaver’s group. In 1969, she joined MWFA with its evening meetings. She moved to British Columbia for about seven years and belonged to other weaver’s guilds during that time. Valerie has served on MWFA’s Executive and committees.

Valerie is known for her handwoven clothing. She enjoys creating fabric. Her focus is not on the fabric, as such, but in weaving to create the garment – jackets, skirts, hats and her daughter’s wedding dress. Valerie weaves household items including table linens, cushions, curtains, tapestry, and makes imaginative things from pieces left over from her handwovens. Her creations have been exhibited in fashion shows in Vancouver, Kamloops, and Winnipeg and in juried and non-juried exhibitions. Two of Valerie’s many weavings are:

- her daughter’s silk wedding gown with overshot borders on the skirt and sleeves plus a bolero. It is in the Costume Museum of Canada’s collection.
- black and white cushions in monk’s belt inspired by a black and white historical photograph of her family. Valerie won a prize for this piece woven for an exhibition at MCML highlighting Manitoba history.

SUSAN STYRCHAK



Susan was born in Winnipeg and attended St. John's College obtaining a degree in Arts. She and her husband, Gary, raised two daughters and a son.

Susan's mother knit and took a course in weaving on a box-type loom at a community centre. Susan knit and crocheted and when she saw a demonstration of weaving by CGM at the Polo Park mall in 1969, she signed up for their next course. She found a used loom through CGM and, with Doris King as her first teacher, she was set to weave. Susan joined MWFA in 1970 and has served on the Executive and various committees. She also taught at the Camp Arnes retreats, and participated in a number of exhibitions.

Susan is known for weaving rugs – wool rugs, rag rugs, striped rugs, Navajo rugs and twice-woven rugs. They are bold and colourful because Susan likes large graphic designs. In 2001, Susan received funding from CGM to attend a course in Navajo weaving in Taos, New Mexico. She returned to New Mexico in 2010 to attend Convergence in Albuquerque. Susan attended a lecture by James Koehler, a tapestry weaver who created amazing graphic designs for his rugs. Susan also weaves a lot of blankets and afghans which are as unique as her rugs.

In addition to a table loom, Susan owns a 45" 8-shaft Glimakra countermarche loom and a 45" 4-shaft LeClerc counterbalance loom which allow her to weave large pieces.

SOCIAL EVENTS

MWFA's social events include retreats, Guild Days and potluck dinners. The first retreat at Camp Arnes, Manitoba was held in 2000. Over the years, workshops included weaving, spinning and dyeing with weavers and spinners attending. However, weaving is a less portable craft and now workshops and attendance have leaned towards spinners and knitters. Since 2015, Guild Days have been held once or twice a year. They are well-attended and members work on any craft they choose.



First Retreat at Camp Arnes – 2000



Guild Day - 2015

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Carol Kaye for photographs she posted on MWFA's website and to those members who's memories I jogged in search for information. Thanks to Anne Ayre, Carol Kaye, Valerie Olsen and Susan Styrchak for interviews about their own weaving histories. Thank you to members of the 75th Anniversary Committee for their review of this document, especially to Heather Meiklejohn.

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Appendix 1. MWFA members who passed the GCW tests.

		Basic	Intermediate	Senior	Master
Margaret Lewis		<1957	late 1950's		
Mrs.K.B. Weale		<1957			
Ethel Goodman		late 1950's			
Flora Marshall		late 1950's	late 1950's		
Ivy Murphy		late 1950's			
Margaret Goodwin		1958			
Ruby Monds		1958			
Eleanor Melville		<1959	1959		
Carol Rudd		>1959	<1961	<1961	
Doris King		1967			
Anne Ayre		1985	1985		
Sabine Delaney		1985			
Valerie DePorto		1988	1989	1990	1992
Jo-Anne Tabachek		1998			
TOTAL		14	6	2	1

Appendix 2. GCW's Provincial Representatives for Manitoba.

Ethel Henderson	1949
Ivy Murphy	1951
Bessie Shand	1958
Flora Marshall	1962
?	?
Laura McHugh	1967-1968
?	?
Hazel Cairns	1970
Laura McHugh	1971
Margaret Groff	1972-1984
Susan Styrchak	1984-1988
Valerie DePorto	1989-1991
Debbie Ott *	1992-1997
Christine Loff	1997-2004
Susan Styrchak	summer 2004-fall 2008
Anne Gilmer	winter 2008-summer 2015
Vacant	-
Judith Heubner	summer 2016-Mar 2017
Vacant	-
Bree Bergen *	fall 2019-2022

* Debbie Ott and Bree Bergen were not members of MWFA during their terms.

Appendix 3. Contributions by MWFA to the GCW's *The Bulletin*.

VOL	NO	YEAR	WEAVE / ARTICLE	SHAFTS
3	1	1960	Twill - Drapery	4
3	2	1960	Huck - Dress Fabric	4
3	3	1960	a) Twill - Upholstery	4
			b) Twill - Upholstery	8
3	4	1960	M'S & O'S - 2 Samples	4
3	5	1960	Waffle Weave on a Huck Threading - Blanket	4
12	1	1969	No sample - Design article on Proportioning for Stripes, Borders & Plaids	-
12	2	1969	M'S & O'S - Table Mats or Upholstery	4
12	3	1969	Soumak Variations	-
12	4	1969	4S Variations of Ceinture Fleche	4
12	5	1969	a) Shadow Weave - Upholstery	4
			b) Shadow Weave - Clothing	4
15	3	1972	Tablet Woven Bands	4
17	1	1974	Small Overshots - 2 Samples of White Placemats Woven as a Fundraiser	4
17	2	1974	Goose-eye Twill - Table mat	4
17	3	1974	Summer & Winter - 12 Different Squares per Repeat	4
17	4	1974	Twill Blocks - Table Linen or Towel	4
17	5	1974	Broken Twill - Coat Fabric	4
24	1	1981	Cannele (from an Oscar Bériau book)	4
24	2	1981	Bedford Cord	4
24	3	1981	Waffle Weave	4
24	4	1981	Overshot - Cushion backs	4
24	5	1981	Opphamta (Decorative Pick-up Technique)	4
29	1	1986	True Damask	10
29	2	1986	Handwoven Sweater	4
29	3	1986	Designing Twills, Point Diamond Twill	4
29	4	1986	Batemen Blend Weaves	4
39	1	1996	Multi-Shaft Swedish Lace	8
39	2	1996	Seersucker with Merino Wool	4
39	3	1996	Network Drafting for Borders	4
39	4	1996	Turned Bound Weave Santas	4
54	1	2011	Summer & Winter - Baby Blanket	4
54	2	2011	Summer & Winter - Runner	4
54	3	2011	Summer & Winter - Scarf	8
54	4	2011	Summer & Winter - Starry Night	8

Appendix 4. MWFA Challenges and Special Projects.

- 1978 Huck Weave
- 1987 Linen Block Weaves
- 1988 Ingenious Use of Leftovers
- 1989x Designer Tableware (to complement your dishes)
- 1990x Fashion Accessories
- 1994 Towels
- 1999* Millennium Scarf Project (Donation to the Christmas Cheer Board)
- 2003* Cancer Care Manitoba Project (Fundraiser)
- 2004 Colour Challenge
- 2005 Weave an updated version of Lillian Allen's samples
- 2007 Weave a Bag – Any Size
- 2008 Make a Greeting Card
- 2009 Weaving for Guild's 60th Anniversary Diamond Exhibition
- 2011 Bookmark Exchange
- 2012 Miniature Exchange
- 2014 Weave Hearts
- 2015 Wind a Scarf Warp
- 2016 Wind a Warp
- 2017 Weaving for Canada's 150th Birthday
- 2018 Hand-manipulated Weaves
- 2019 Overshot
- 2020 Applying colour, weave structure and finishing in creating a project
- 2021 A "game" resulting in members weaving something using at least two specific colours
- 2022 The 3R's – Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose

x Record sheets and photographs in guild's library.

* Special projects

Appendix 5. Workshops.*

WORKSHOP	DATE	TEACHER	LOCATION
Navajo Rug Weaving	Jun 1958	Mrs. McGougan	Canadian Handicraft Guild
Emphasis on weaving theory	May/Jun 1960	Stanislaw Zielinski	Canadian Handicraft Guild
Emphasis on colour & fine threads	Sep 1960	Malin Selander	Canadian Handicraft Guild
Colour and Design	1962	Winnifred Mooney	Young United Church
Title? - 21 weaves	Oct 1965?	Joyce Chown	Crafts Guild of Manitoba
Title?	Oct 1967	Mary Snyder	Crafts Guild of Manitoba
Double Weave	1976	Charlotte Birmingham	Crafts Guild of Manitoba
50/50 Weaves	Mar 1978	group	Jennie Webb's home
Rep Weaves	1978	Ken Weaver	Crafts Guild of Manitoba
Rug Weaving	Apr 1978	Chung-Ja Jackson	Crafts Guild of Manitoba
Loom-Controlled Leno	Apr 1982	Agathe Collard	Crafts Guild of Manitoba
Handwoven Linens	Sep 1982	Virginia West	Crafts Guild of Manitoba
Designer Fabrics for the Home	1983	Virginia West	Crafts Guild of Manitoba
Clothing & Embellishments	Spring? 1984	Anita Luvera Mayer	Crafts Guild of Manitoba
Rep Weave	Mar 1984	Anne Ayre	Anne Ayre's home
Shadow Weave & Color-and-Weave Effects	Sep 1984	Jane Evans	Crafts Guild of Manitoba
Rags to Riches	Sep 1985	Catharine Mick	Crafts Guild of Manitoba
Fashion Fabrics	May 1986	Ann Sutton	Crafts Guild of Manitoba
Sumptuous Silk Clothing	Sep 1986	Karen Selk	Crafts Guild of Manitoba
Sheer Transparency	Sep 1987	Phyllis Dedekam	Crafts Guild of Manitoba
Double Cloth	Apr 1989	Judith Rygeil	Crafts Guild of Manitoba
Tapestry with Metallic Threads	Feb 1991	Elaine Rounds	Crafts Guild of Manitoba
Complex Weaves	Mar 1993	Madelyn van der Hoogt	Crafts Guild of Manitoba
Diagonal Clothing	1994	Valerie Olsen	Valerie Olsen's home
Rug Weaves	May 1994	Jane Evans	Crafts Guild of Manitoba
Rug Weaving	Jan 1996	Christine Loff	Crafts Guild of Manitoba
Tartan Weaving	Mar 1998	Heather Carruthers	University of Manitoba
Summer & Winter Weave	Sep 1999	Mary Bentley	University of Manitoba
Paper Making	Mar 2001	Brigitte Weber	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
Kool Aid Dyeing	Mar 2002	Linda Schultz & Jo-Anne Tabachek	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
Silk Fusion	May 2002	Karen Selk (video)	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
Rug Weaving	Nov 2003	Jean Farrington	Franco-Manitoban Centre
Warp & Weft Rep Weaves	Mar 2005	Pirkko Karvonen	Louis Riel Library
Precision Dyeing	Oct 2007	Francine Ruitter	Rovings
The Fab Four (4-shaft)	Sep 2008	Robyn Spady	Robert A Steen Community Centre
Rag Weave & Beyond	Oct 2010	Joanne Tallarovic	Franco-Manitoban Centre
Structures to Create Dots	Nov 2012	Sharon Alderman	Precious Blood Church
One Warp, Many Weaves (4-shaft)	Oct 2014	Robyn Spady	Precious Blood Church
Nuno Silk Scarves (felting)	Oct 2016	Carolyn Bronsdon & Louise Vandernagel	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
Dressing the Loom with a Random Warp	Apr 2019	Norma Westcott	Sir William Stevenson Library
Theo Moorman	Sep 2022	Norma Westcott	Windsor Community Centre

* Short-term "workshops" (as opposed to courses) held in Manitoba attended by a large number of guild members. Other workshops probably occurred organized through cooperation between the Crafts Guild of Manitoba and the Guild of Canadian Weavers Manitoba Branch (MWFA) until 1996.

Appendix 6. Exhibitions sponsored by MWFA.

- 1963 11th Annual Exhibition of Canadian Handweaving – T. Eaton Assembly Hall
(co-organized with the Manitoba Branch Canadian Handicraft Guild)
- 1978 Exhibition of weaving – Faculty Club, University of Manitoba
- 1989 “Designer Tableware and Rectangular Weavings” – Crafts Guild of Manitoba
- 1990 “Functional & Fashionable Accessories” – Crafts Guild of Manitoba
- 1994 “My Favourite Things” – Crafts Guild of Manitoba
- 1997 “Woven Together: Fibre & Clay” – Manitoba Craft Council’s Exhibition Gallery
- 1997 “In Celebration of Weaving” – Dept. of Human Ecology, University of Manitoba
- 2009 “Focus on Fibres – A 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Manitoba Weavers
and Fibre Artists” – Manitoba Crafts Museum and Library
- 2021 “Woven Images of Manitoba” - C2 Centre for Craft