

The May 20, 2024 meeting of the Madison Weaver's Guild will be a Hybrid meeting (in person and via Zoom) for any member to ask Panel of Experts about anything related to weaving, dying yarns, garment construction. Have any questions already? Please send them to tangledthreads16@gmail.com

Here is some information about each member or the Panel of Experts:

Susan Fortney was raised by fiber artists. Her father was a tailor and sewist, while her mother and grandmother did crewel embroidery. At an early age, Susan took up sewing and enjoyed making doll clothes from Dorothy Fisher. When her parents bought a loom, she took up weaving. Susan works with Schacht looms, owning both a rigid heddle and a four-harness loom. She has also taken several workshops at Sievers in Door County. Susan has led guild workshops on clothing construction with hand woven fabrics.

Pat Bullen began weaving at the age of five, when her grandmother gave her a potholder loom. She taught her Girl Scout Brownie troop, kicking off a passion for fiber arts education. Pat began teaching adult fiber artists in 1984, traveling around the country as an expert in "Ready Spin Color Blending" workshops related to her wool roving business Bullen's Wullens. In 2000, Pat taught a full workshop and two seminars at Convergence and gave the keynote at a fiber conference in Montana. Prior to moving to Wisconsin in 2018, Pat served as Director of Textiles at the Cultural Arts Center in Columbus, Ohio. During her 17 years at CAC, she taught all forms of weaving, spinning, dyeing, beading, knitting, felting, and silk screen. These days, Pat enjoys weaving towels on her Macomber, though she has a large collection of equipment including floor and frame looms, spinning wheels, and spindles.

Emily Nie taught herself to weave in 1987 by renting a 4-shaft table loom for a week. She liked it so much that she bought an 8-shaft table loom. She took a class at the local

college to make sure she was doing it right. The teacher was leaving, so Emily took on teaching the class! For twenty years, Emily led introductory weaving. Teaching others made her research and learn a lot so she could answer student's questions and provide useful instruction. After teaching at the college level, she went on to 10 years at a quilt store and after the owner retired and closed the store, she began weaving rugs and scarves for the Round Barn Fiber Mill in Durand, Illinois.

Geka De Vries learned to sew, knit, crochet, and embroider at any early age. Growing up in the Netherlands, fiber arts were part of the curriculum as well as home life. She learned to weave in Wisconsin, where she is intrigued by how color, texture and pattern interact. She liked weaving multi shaft patterns and has expanded this to learning how to create her own designs. She experimented with making a Tulip pattern for an exhibition at Overture Center a couple of years ago. Her interest in weaving traditions of other cultures has taken her on tours to Central Asia, India, Mexico, Peru, Bhutan, Thailand, and Laos. She teaches beginning weaving classes at her home studio and is an instructor at Oakwood West Retirement Community in Madison and at The Clearing Folk School in Door County.