

Huronia Handweavers 2020 Retreat

Welcome to our biannual HH retreat!

The retreat is a time away just for you and your weaving, to immerse yourself in a weaving environment in a tranquil setting. This weekend is to encourage you to recharge your batteries, expand your horizons and get to know more about your fellow guild members.

This year's HH retreat will be held at Geneva Park, where we have been many times before, March 27-29, 2020. The retreat committee hopes you will take this time for yourself, to come and enjoy learning, camaraderie and friendship, to spend time with old friends and get to know new friends and newer members of our guild. The guild retreat will be offered as a complete package experience, starting Friday evening with dinner and ending Sunday afternoon.

A special emphasis has been made on the programming for 2020, providing you with the opportunity to explore the three major stages of a weaving project: the planning stages, the weaving stages and the finishing stages. In each of these stages three options will be offered to help you improve your success with a weaving project, from start to finish. Each session will have a facilitator to help you with any questions or to offer suggestions and guidelines for your learning.

Program outline:

Stage I: Preparing to Weave – this session is Saturday morning

In this section the initial stages of getting ready to weave will be discussed. You can choose one of the following 3 options:

1. Warp painting – you will be bringing 2 warps for 2 scarves each or one warp for 2 scarves and 2 skeins of weft to weave it with. You will be provided with dyes and all materials needed to paint your warps. Instruction sheets will be provided.

2. Colour Your Fabric – all materials will be provided for you to work with paint sticks and fabric markers to create beautiful fabric for lining or strip weaving or fabric to combine with your weaving. Stencils, markers, fabric will all be available for you to explore another way to add colour to your weaving. A DVD will help give you inspiration to explore different ideas for your fabric painting.

3. Colourful Story Boards – you will concept a complete weaving project using inspirational photos, paint chips and other materials to help make a warp reeling. Then take the reel and design a project around it, choosing yarns, determining sett and structure. By the end of the session, you should have a completed storyboard, ready to go home and weave up as a project.

Stage II: Weaving skills – this session is Saturday afternoon

In this section you will get to experiment with a weave that may be new to you. You will be bringing a ready-to-weave loom, set up with instructions given well ahead of time. You can choose one of the following 3 options:

4. Supplementary Warp Scarf – using instructions provided, you will arrive with your loom set up with a warp for a supplementary warp scarf. You will be provided with the supplementary warp yarn (but not the basic warp or weft) and shown how to set up and use a supplementary warp, weaving a scarf. A facilitator will provide you with instructions and directions to help make your scarf a success.

5. Stubenitsky Code – you have wondered what the Stubenitsky Code is and how it weaves. You will be given warp yarn and instructions to set up a warp threaded to a specific pattern ahead of time. There will be guidance to help you discover what the Stubenitsky Code is and how it works.

6. Figurative Rosepath – you will arrive with a loom set up a warp for 8 shaft figurative Rosepath according to instructions given ahead of time. You will be provided with weft pattern yarn and helped along in your discovery of the many figurative pattern possibilities on an 8 shaft loom.

Stage III: Finishing Techniques – this session will be held Sunday morning

In this section you will explore different ways to finish your project. All materials will be provided. You can choose one of the following 3 options:

7. Embellishment – beading, embroidery, kumihimo braids. Tassels, needle felting and inkle bands. All add to the finished look of your project. In this session you will be encouraged to try some of these techniques, using provided materials and instruction sheets. You will explore different ways of adding that final *oomph* to your handwoven project. All materials for experimenting will be supplied.

8. Finishing – your cloth is off the loom and needs the final touch to make it a beautiful fabric. You will learn to use a home made mangle, hemstitch a hem off the loom, knit a cord for edging, twist a fringe and crochet a hem treatment. You will bring some handwoven scraps and materials will be provided, along with samples and instructions on how to accomplish these.

9. Beaded Cards – your project is finished and you would like to present it to someone with a special card. Using card stock and hand-dyed paper, you will be shown how to bead a card with a special motif of your choice. You will leave with a beaded and embellished card and envelope, ready to impress the recipient. All materials will be provided.

The Retreat 2020 committee hopes you find these offerings interesting and that you will join us for the HH 2020 Retreat. Please choose your three sessions carefully. There are some space

limitations on some sessions, so the sooner you register, the more likely you are to get your preferred session.

More information on costing and other details will follow at the October Guild meeting. All registrations **MUST** be received, with deposit, by the November 2019 HH Guild meeting. Final payment will be due in January 2020.