

CONTEMPORARY

Handweavers

OF HOUSTON

CHHit CHHat

Newsletter of the Contemporary Handweavers of Houston

Vol. 71 No. 9

April 2020

CHH and Coronavirus Update

I hope this announcement finds you safe and coping with our changed lives with the coronavirus. CHH's Executive Board has made the decision to continue the closure of all CHH Guild related activities for the Month of April.

This means there will not be an April General Meeting and the Guild House will remain closed. As previously announced the Weave Houston Exhibit at HCCC has been postponed until a Fall date to be determined. The Spring Sale though it was not scheduled to be until May has also been canceled. The Board Meeting scheduled for April 25th is canceled to be rescheduled at a later date. There will not be any additional equipment rental at this time. We have every hope that guild activities can resume in May. The Executive Board will continue to monitor conditions and keep you all informed. Stay safe and fill your free moments enjoying your craft.

Barbara Esterholm, President CHH

President's Message

Like most of you I have more time on my hands with the Stay at Home requirement. My spinning wheel was dusted off after several years of not being used. Very sad my spinning ability now, but maybe it will improve. I've started doing counted cross stitch again. A kit that was purchased at the International Quilt Fest 3yrs ago is almost completed. Yes, I'm still weaving. My entry to Weave Houston exhibit, which has been postponed till Fall, was completed. You'll have to wait until the exhibit to see it. Hot off the loom is a Rep Weave table runner. If you're like me there is plenty of stash yarn in your closet. Some yarn shops are doing mail order, so if the perfect yarn for your project is not in your stash you may still buy.

Hoping you're all well and finding inspiration in creating beautiful craft. - Barbara Esterholm



**General Meeting
Saturday, April 18, 2020, 10am-noon**

Cancelled

Due to the current stay at home order, the April guild meeting has been cancelled.

Upcoming Board Meetings

April 25, 2020 at 10am (cancelled)

June 20, 2020 at 10am. - This is the handover board meeting all current and incoming board members should attend.

All members are always welcome to attend.

Nominees for CHH Board

Note: The current CHH executive board past a motion on Wednesday, March 25, 2020; to over rule the guilds By-Laws that require the announcement of the proposed executive board at 2 General meetings.

Due to the impact of the corona virus we only announced the proposed executive board at 1 general meeting (March 2020). With this addition of the newsletter we have announced the proposed board twice by newsletter. A vote will be taken in May.

The nominating committee is proposing the following candidates for the 2020-21 board. Members should be prepared to vote on the executive board at the May meeting.

Executive Board

President - Molly Koehn

Vice president - Kathy Bone

Secretary - Jan Day

Treasurer - Jill Menning

Past President - Barbara Esterholm

Appointed Officers

Equipment - Donna Sonner

Guild House Director - Tracy Kaestner

Librarian & Historian - DeeDee Woodbury

Membership Co-Chairs - D'Anne Craft & Annie Lancaster

Newsletter Editor - Theresa Rogerson

Programs - Rene Derewetzky & Susan Antrican

Hospitality - Connie Elliot

Workshops - Din Iyer

Webweaver - Diane Ferguson

Sales Co-Chairs - Peggy Friedrichs & Pat Powel

The CHH library is closed along with the rest of the guild house. Stay tuned for updates from the CHH board. In the meantime, I am happily ensconced with my looms & books. Two books I had ordered for the library came in this week and they are sublime! Eye Candy!

The Human Thread: Photography of Joe Coca is like taking a walk with an old friend. Anyone who subscribes to Handwoven or one of the other Interweave publications knows who Joe Coca is. The photographer takes us on his journey of the world along with his colleague Linda Ligon. The stories that accompany the photographs are full of adventures in remote places where gorgeous textiles are produced. Peru, Morocco, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Mexico, Guatemala, parts of China and N. America. Beautiful photographs of humans and the cloth they make and use.

True Colors World Masters of Natural Dyes and Pigments. This book is authored by Keith Recker. You may know of him from the periodical Hand/Eye Magazine, which is a wonderful resource for textile lovers. Later I learned he is the Creative Director of the International Folk Art market in Santa Fe. Recker is described as writer, colorist and artisan activist. In True Colors he introduces us to twenty-six artisans who create color from natural materials.

These lovely books will be added to the shelves as soon as possible.



I have 40 years of handwoven scraps from items I've cut and sewn and the end of warps. For several years I have made myself a promise to get stitching up some items for the sale, but then I just keep weaving and the stash pile gets higher!! I made a run to Joanne's the day the restaurants were shut down

with a pile of scraps for hot pads and aprons. Now I have what I need to make some items for the Spring Sale - woo hoo! Well, okay now the items are for the Fall Sale - this is the best prepared I've been in years! The natural colored apron and hot pads is from my latest towel warp. The purple hot pads are from another towel warp and the pink/white/grey aprons are from the end of a baby blanket warp. I will need many more months of isolation to make a true dent in my scrap stash! - Tracy



Guild House News

The Guild House is currently closed to all activities through April.
All March and April classes will be rescheduled when the Guild House re-opens. Watch the website for new dates.

We are adding more classes all the time - check them out! If you have any suggestions or requests for

the future - drop me a line - tkweaver1@gmail.com.

- March 14 - Introduction to Rigid Heddle with D'Anne Craft
 - Spin Doctor with Connie Elliott 10-12
 - Spinning, Next Steps with Connie Elliott 1-4
- April 4 - Eco-Printing with Molly Koehn
- April 25 - Shifu, paper spinning with Kyla Crawford
- May 2 - Learn to Spin with Lynn Williams

For more information on any of our classes check out - www.weavehouston.org



To access the Guild House:

To enter the main building go to the door in the center of the front or back of the building. There is a coded lock on the door – Press 2341. Our interior door is marked.

Come by and check it out. Hours – Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10-4.

Thank you to our Guild House volunteers!

Thank you to everyone who volunteers at the Guild House. We couldn't do it without you!

Want to volunteer at Guild House? Contact Lisa Rose at lisa@rose2.net. If you do any volunteer work on behalf of the guild, be sure to record your hours in the book located in the Guild House office.



Just before the Guild House closed, I went and got the fabric that was woven for cat toys. I've also started working on an existing tapestry project and finished some dishtowels. The finished tapestry was supposed to be going in the now-cancelled guild show. - Blaine



Do you shop on Amazon?

Lots of people are ordering on line to avoid going shopping in person. If members designate CHH as their charity of choice, our treasury gets a small percentage of the Amazon profits - no extra cost to the members.

There's a link on our home page down in the bottom right hand corner, so it's really easy to sign up. Or just go to <http://www.smile.amazon.com>

Weave Houston Postponed

Wow! We received 46 entries to our CHH's members exhibition at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft! Thank you to all who entered!

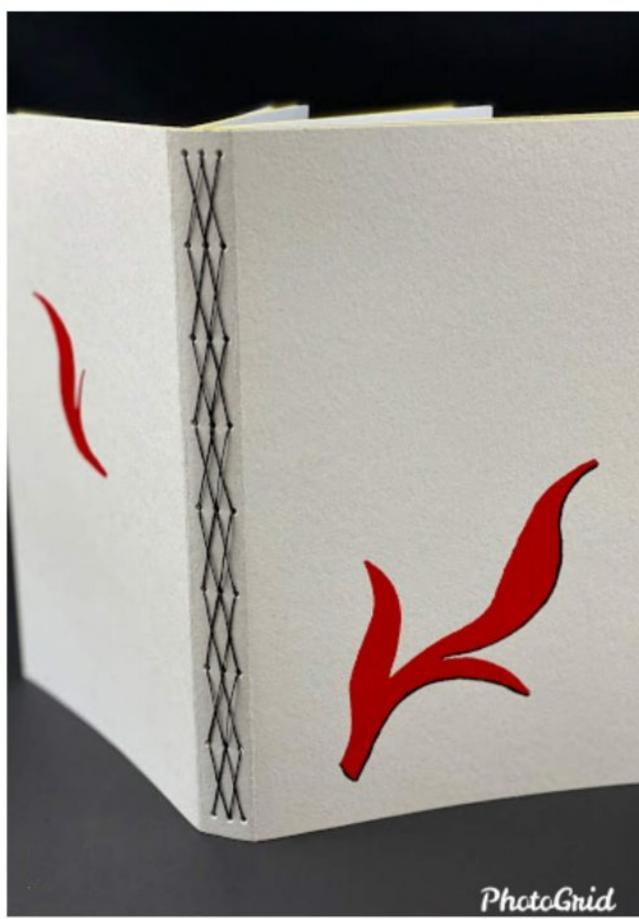
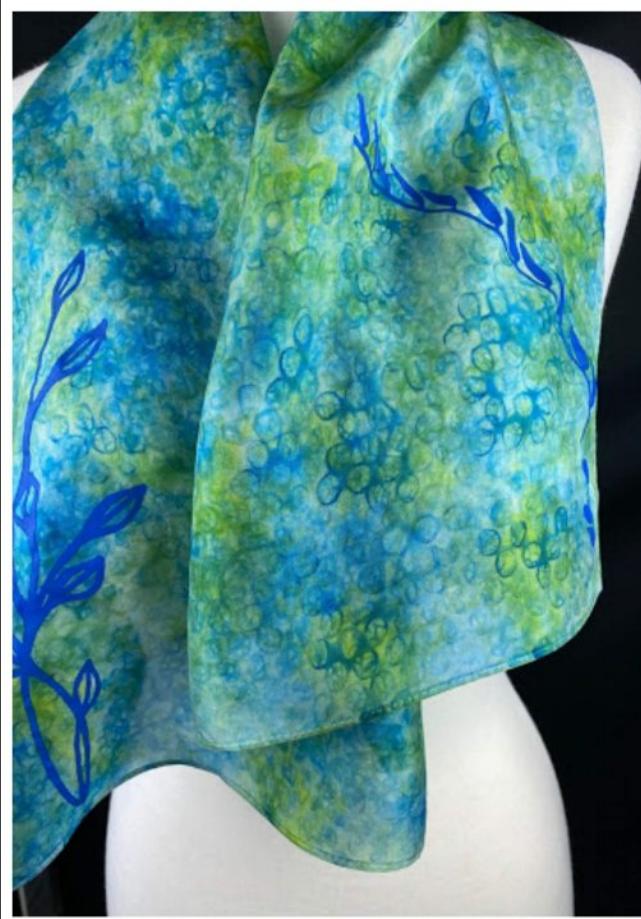
With the uncertainty of when life will return to some kind of normal, we along with HCCC have made the decision to postpone our exhibition until the fall. We want all 46 of these entries to be seen in person, not just online. And we want to be able to celebrate our wonderful work together. We also want to ensure the safety of all of our members. New exhibition dates have not been established yet, but we are working with HCCC to get that done asap.

Until then, stay safe and craft on!

Molly Koehn, Exhibition Chair

mollyekoehn@gmail.com

I'm spending time playing with techniques learned in Ginny Eckley's workshop last year. Scarf dyed and silk screened. Book cover silk screened (binding technique found on You Tube). - Pat Powell



PhotoGrid

CHH May 2020 Sale Cancelled

We have made the very hard decision to cancel our May 2020 sale due to the Corona Virus outbreak. Everyone please stay healthy, and keep weaving, spinning, felting, etc.

I have been doing some weaving and beading during my stay at home period, and I know others have been busy. Hopefully we will all come out fine on the other end of this and have a fabulous sale in October.



Your sale chairs Peggy Friedrichs and Pat Powell

Art on Tap is our weekly newsletter featuring events from the Fresh Arts' Community Events Calendar. Though in-person arts events are canceled and postponed, we will continue to publish Art on Tap each Tuesday with information about where you can access the arts digitally. You can sign up for our newsletter at <https://fresharts.org/>

Artists are innovators and will continue to innovate during this time of uncertainty. We look forward to sharing their work with you. - From, The Fresh Arts Team



Feature your Guild in Shuttle Spindle & Dyepot

HGA invites our Affiliate Guild members to be guest writers for *Shuttle Spindle & Dyepot* magazine's "Guild Spotlight" column. Guild spotlight is a recurring column in each issue featuring stories from our affiliate guild members.

- Columns should be approximately 400 words in length.
- The column should be written using a conversational tone and on a topic of great interest to HGA's core audience such as an interesting project your guild recently completed, a successful partnership with an arts or service organization, a successful new member drive, a private behind the scenes tour your members enjoyed, a challenge or obstacle your guild experienced and how you overcame it.
- We are particularly interested in stories that will inspire the public about fiber arts or provide guilds with ideas to use with their members.

[Review the Guild Spotlight Guest Writer Guidelines](#)

To sign up to be a guest writer please complete the online [interest form](#). Participating guilds must hold an active Affiliate Guild membership with HGA at the time of request and through the publication of the article, but the writer for the guild does not need to be a member. For more information visit our website WeaveSpinDye.org or call (678) 730-0010.

Since being stuck at home with beautiful weather, I'm getting a lot of yard work done. But also a lot more weaving! So far I've finished a big mohair throw and a shadow weave scarf. And I still have another two scarves and some dishtowels on the table looms, and am threading the big loom for a bunch of Bluebonnet Tartan dishtowels. Plenty to keep me busy and get ready for the fall sale, which should be spectacular if we're all spending our time weaving! - Theresa



Swatch Swap 2020: Anni Albers and the Bauhaus

We last met in January after the CHH general meeting. At that time, Dee Dee Woodbury shared all the lovely weavings she has done that were inspired by her admiration of the Bauhaus style.

As we continue to study and learn more about Anni Albers and the Bauhaus movement, we will meet again May 16th after the general CHH meeting from 1-3 PM. This will be our third meeting of this study. Ernest Maldonado will attend and add information and answer questions about the movement and its influence.

We have chosen to postpone our sample exchange until August, which will allow us more opportunity to explore and experiment.

Interested parties contact Marian Carlson: marian.carlson1@live.com

Study Groups

In addition to our regular monthly guild meeting, CHH has quite a few study groups that meet each month to provide our members with an extra opportunity to study a particular subject in more depth, as well as socialize with others interested in the same topics.

CHH SWATCH SWAP: Annual swatch swap exchange. This year's topic will be "Anni Albers and the Bauhaus School of Design". Email Marian Carlson marian.carlson1@live.com for details.

TAPESTRY STUDY GROUP: Meets monthly on 3rd Sunday, 1:30pm, at the **Guild House**.

The focus is on learning about design, equipment, yarns, weaving techniques, mounting, pricing and sale of created tapestries. Projects TBA.

WOW (Way Out West Weavers): Meets monthly on 1st Thursday, 10:00 am, at the *Cinco Ranch Public Library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd., Katy*. The group began meeting in 1998 and has 21 members; some live out of town. Email Marian at marian.carlson1@live.com to see which location. (**West**)

WESTSIDE WEAVERS & SPINNERS: Meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, with the location rotating among members' homes. The group began meeting in 1981. For more info, contact Penny Nelson at 979-733-8120 or penny@skyloomweavers.com. (**West**)

All study group participants must be active members in CHH. Just as visitors are allowed to attend one general membership meeting, so are visitors allowed to attend one study group meeting. Regular participation in study groups requires active membership. It is not fair to those who maintain their membership regularly to have to support those who feel they don't need to because they don't attend the general membership meetings. So study group coordinators please have your delinquent members go to our website, www.weavehouston.org, and renew. Thank you.



Molly Koehn manages the CHH Instagram account.

Please follow and share

[**houstonhandweavers**](#)

An open letter from Deborah Chandler, author of *Learning to Weave, Traditional Weavers of Guatemala - Their Stories, Their Lives, and A Textile Traveler's Guide to Guatemala*.



Within minutes and hours of when I sent this there were changes, and that will keep being true.

March 20, 2020
Guatemala City

Dear Friends,

Some of you have asked me to send an update on the state of things in Guatemala, and of Tere and I, so here's my take on it all. I have not written before because a) everything was changing so fast that anything I said would be out

of date practically by the time you got it, and b) I figured you were seeing the same barrage of news stories I was and knew what was what anyway – unless, of course, you have protected your sanity by not paying attention too much.

Simple stuff: After holding steady at 3 cases of the virus for three days, Guatemala is up to 12 cases, one death. (Fewer than 24 hours, 19 cases, one from our part of the city.) All of those are (were) people who came in from outside, none are home grown except a family member of the person who died, who came home from another country already sick. (It is surprising to me how many Guatemalans spend time in northern Italy.) So the border shut down makes sense. Related to that, there is now a fear of outsiders. Small Mayan villages have voted to not let foreigners in, and some tourists have been hassled big time by people afraid of them. Given the current situation, for now I would not be so foolish as to go out into rural areas, where I would be seen from a distance as one of those foreign disease-carriers. Rural folks here are famous for taking the law into their own hands in the face of a perceived threat, meting out “justice” on the spot. (They are now restricting movement of their own residents as well, and that does not even take into account the national curfew that goes into effect tomorrow, March 22.)

Stranded tourists: 3,000 is the rough count. I know some of them, the really good Loom Dancer Odyssey tour group, and they are safe, but really want to go home. (Suddenly “odyssey” seems like the very right name.) Minutes ago I got a letter from the embassy – which has been totally useless up until now, and might still be – asking for US citizens who want to go home to register with them, in case they can get charter flights. I saw something earlier today about President Trump working with the military to maybe send planes to stranded Americans all over the world, which would be great. Guatemala sent a plane to bring her people home from Costa Rica last week, and as with everyone coming in now, they all went into quarantine. So far two have proven infected. Tere’s niece and her husband got caught in Mexico, so her company sent a car for them – two cars, one in Mexico, one in Guatemala – and drove them back. Since they had no symptoms, they are in home quarantine, as are many others, with a police guard outside to keep them there.

The country is in lockdown, has been for awhile, with no one coming in or going out except Guatemalan citizens and permanent residents in, non-Guatemalans out if they can find a way, and diplomatic personnel. Part of the problem is that most of our neighbors are also shut down, so getting out does not mean getting home. As of this moment, Mexico’s borders are still open, though the border to the US is either closed or about to be.

People are managing to get in secretly. They found 60 migrants from Cuba and Haiti in a major bus station south of the city, having snuck across the border from Honduras; none had symptoms, so they took them all back to Honduras, who I am sure was thrilled. El Salvador just got its first case, (now three total), a man who was sick and crossed the border on foot in a “blind crossing”, ie no guards. And the word today is that Nicaragua just got its first case, not startling, but according to the rumor I heard, they have NOTHING in place about this, for either detection or treatment. Have not heard a word about Belize, who mostly does not seem to exist in local news except when there is a border skirmish, but that’s another story. (Belize has closed its airport and northern border.)

Most non-essential businesses are closed. Restaurants are allowed to serve through driveup windows or delivery services, but nothing inside. No gatherings of more than 50 people, no school, no church, no movies... Most significant, no public transportation, ie buses, anywhere in the country. Taxis yes, private cars and Uber okay, vans or pickups of people no. The tour buses are having to get special permission to bring people back toward the city so they can leave if by some miracle they find a plane to come and get them. The little neighborhood stores may be open, and gas stations, and banks, as may any store selling food, thank God. But they are keeping the social distancing thing well in hand, and there are lines to get in, lines to enter the parking lot, etc. We did our major shopping a couple of weeks ago, seeing this coming, but we want to keep eating fresh fruit and vegetables as long as possible, so today found a store that had only a short line. (We are encouraged, but not yet commanded, to stay

home. Traffic, or the lack of, is a dream! – Nighttime curfew starts tomorrow.) The markets are open for food, with less concern about keeping personal distances (it seemed as we drove by). (Also have learned that at some markets the authorities are taking people's temperatures as they enter, and many are now closed.) Everywhere people are wearing masks, though I think many are of a quality to be useless in the face of this. Still, any mask is better than none, and I read that a big advantage is that a mask reminds you to not touch your face.

We heard that a quarter million people are now unemployed, which is believable. Even the beggars were gone from the streets today. I have friends, a couple in Chichi, who are totally out of income, with the market closed and therefore the hotels closed, so both are jobless, extra scary as they have a new baby girl, their second daughter. And their situation is far from unique. I have gotten LOTS of update letters from various fair trade organizations – probably many of you have gotten the same ones – and all are concerned about how to help the artisans survive when sales are now non-existent. In the case of Mayan Hands, they had to hold the shipment about to leave here because the shut down in NY means that it could have left but could not have arrived. Now all non-essential work in NY is shut down, which means no shipping of orders to customers either, so the income stream has just stopped dead. Never have I felt so rich or privileged.

The mind-boggling thing, of course, is that this story is being repeated all over the world. I personally believe that Gaia, Mother Earth, is finally fighting back in a way far more effective than the smaller place-specific methods like earthquakes, volcanoes, fires, tsunamis, and so many others. The beauty of the drop in pollution shown in satellite photos has gotten my attention as it has many other people's, and I think how interesting that this is hitting only the human population. While I am not saying that I like it, I do like the world-wide and egalitarian nature of it, even while being a little embarrassed that that is only half-true – I am not likely to run out of food or water, which is a pretty huge statement that equal is not really equal. I am far better equipped to survive this than my friends in Chichi and so many other places in the Highlands, or the world. I wonder what the world we know will look like in a year, or two, or five, or ten. Will all this make changes that will serve the planet well, and therefore us, too? Will we learn anything? I certainly want to believe the answer is yes.

On a lighter note, I got a letter from a friend who said she was already bored, and I gather from facebook that many others are also. Not me, we have not gotten even close to that yet. I have my loom, and finally functioning body parts allowing me to weave, and a spinning wheel just waiting for me to bring it back to life. I even have some fleece that was my mother's! I have lots of books waiting to be read for the first or second time. While swimming is over for the duration, I am doing my pt exercises for my back with more dedication (I fell and broke it a year ago, not long after having hand surgery), and am again walking in the mornings. I have plenty of chores to do that I have managed to put off because I did not have time to do them. I'm cooking some (and smiling at notes added to cookbooks 30 or 40 years ago) and baking bread (and loving that). Even though Netflix is going to drop its quality to protect the over-loaded internet, we are watching movies that we have never even considered before. And I am writing to friends, who are also writing back, all interesting conversations --- in an interesting time. I regret to say that I am eating like a bear facing hibernation, so I'm ready for this to last.

So that's my update. I got a new phone, so am getting a steady stream of news from Guatemala, the US, and the world that shows up on my screen, so I have some idea of what you are going through as well. Friends in Rwanda and Argentina have similar stories. Yup, we are all in this together. Here is wishing you a good Spring, that you stay safe, and that something good will come out of this for each and every one of the 7.7 billion people on the planet.

Love,
DC

PS Important to note: Guatemala's new president, Dr. Alejandro Giammattei, is in fact a medical doctor, and that has made all the difference. He has been aggressively pro-active from the start, and as a result we are in better shape than many countries from a health standpoint. Immediately he opened a virus-specific hospital big enough to get started, and within a week, with the help of a \$1 million donation from the country's biggest brewery and additional money from Taiwan, he had created a new "hospital" especially for the Covid-19. Now he is creating three more in spread out locations to be able to serve more of the country closer to home. All are using existing unused buildings, and LOTS of labor, ie providing jobs. He has plans to build new hospitals in all departments (states), which will create another quarter million local jobs and improve health delivery services in the long term. He is good.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Workshop or Vacation Rental

Jason and I moved just between Brenham and Round Top a year ago. We have a BnB and a large room for workshops and other gatherings. There are 2 suites in the converted Barn each have a queen bed and a convertible full size sofa, full kitchen, full bath with double sinks and spacious walk-in shower, wifi and DirectTV. It's a great space for workshops or weekend out of town. There is also a Tiny house (326 sq.') with a queen bed, convertible sofa, kitchen, bath. Buildings are 1 year old and nicely appointed. With 2 units' rental for 2 nights, no charge for use of the Great Room. For more info and photos, click on links below to Air BnB - Cammie Bierle



run thru 5/2020

<https://airbnb.com/rooms/25778061>

<https://airbnb.com/rooms/21263783>

<https://airbnb.com/rooms/25816354>

Rehoming Granny's Old Loom

We inherited an old loom and intended to learn use it but didn't - we would love for someone to have it that would.

No photo of it assembled. We believe it was purchased around 1945 and is a Union Loom #36. We have a sales flyer, an Instruction Booklet and an informational booklet. Granny made a lot of rugs on this loom.

It has been taken apart and we are not able to transport it. We want to keep it out of the landfill. If anyone is interested, please contact Jana at 832-368-7603 or janafaye56@comcast.net.

Due to the coronavirus outbreak the weaving yarn sale, advertised in the March newsletter, will be re-scheduled for a later date.

CHH Officers 2018-19

Executive Board

President

Barbara Esterholm
281-787-7174
Besterholm@comcast.net

Vice President

Pat Powell
713-857-4004
patricia.powell@att.net

Secretary

Dinakar Iyer
713-206-2348
dinakariyer@gmail.com

Treasurer

Blaine Davis
713-664-3128
bd2921@gmail.com

Past President

Susan Antrican
832-361-0184
soantrican@windstream.net

Contact info for committee chairs can be found in the Member's Only section of our website.

INFORMATION

CHH Membership Meetings

are held the third Saturday of the Month, August through May at 10:00 a.m. unless there is a workshop conflict.

Guild House is open on Tues., Thurs., and Sat.
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
2327 Commerce
Houston, TX 77002
713-807-0330

CHH Mailing Address
2327 Commerce, Suite 106
Houston, TX 77002
(we no longer have a P.O. box)

CHH is an Amazon Affiliate

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Contemporary Handweavers of Houston. Bookmark this [Amazon](#) link to support our activities.



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions to the monthly newsletter is the 25th of

each month. The newsletter will be emailed on the 1st. All members are welcome to submit articles or photos that might be of interest to the guild. Articles may be edited for content or space.

Want to advertise in the CHHit CHHat Newsletter that goes to all members?

Contemporary Handweavers of Houston's CHHit CHHat Newsletter is published monthly, August through June, and is sent to all paid members. DEADLINE for stories and advertising is the 3rd Thursday of the month for subsequent month's issue.

Send ad copy to Theresa Rogerson, Editor, (tdunn1953@gmail.com).
Send check in advance to the Guild House address, c/o Blaine Davis, Treasurer.
Electronic copy and artwork is preferred. **Make checks payable to CHH.**

Newsletter Advertising Rates:
\$10/month, which includes one photo and up to 100 words.
Discount rate of 20% applies to advertisers who pay for one year in advance (10 issues).

**For more individual member listings and photos
check out the CHH ad page at <http://weavehouston.org/classifieds/>**



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