

# The Kentucky Weaver from



## This is us...

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## THE LITTLE LOOMHOUSE PRESENTS

### Preservation Update

After a two year pause due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Lou Tate Foundation has resumed preservation efforts on all three historic cabins. The first project will include a rebuild of the chimney and historic chimney topper on Wisteria, leading to new roofs on all three cabins. Other repairs scheduled to take place before the end of 2022 include some foundation work to Top House and Wisteria, and deck work leading into Esta Cabin. We would like to thank our members, Dr. I. E. Bronner, the estate of Ethel Schwartz and her family and friends, D. W. Color House, and the Lorraine Lodge #4 I.O.O.F. for their support toward these projects. Look for more updates over the coming year.



### Education Program Update

The Loomhouse was happy to again be back in our schools working in-person with students. This fall we completed programs for the 3rd and 5th grade classes at Johnsontown Road Elementary, a whole-school program at Okolona Elementary, a 5-day Weaving Residency at Newburg Middle School, a Spinning and Weaving program at Village School of Louisville, and hosted a field trip for the after-school fiber group from Nur Islamic School. This spring we will be providing fiber arts educational programs for Breckinridge Franklin, Zachary Taylor, Frayser, and Kenwood elementary schools, Carrithers Middle School, Big Picture Learning Academy in Shelbyville, and Kentucky Country Day School. We will be hosting field trips for Western High School, The Academy of Louisville Day Program, Sayers Academy, and DeSales High School. We would like to thank the Norton Foundation, Fund for the Arts 5x5 and TAG programs, the Purple Education Fund and our members for their support. You helped make these programs possible.

### Loomhouse Hours:

*Tuesday thru Friday:*  
10 am-3 pm

*Saturday:*  
11 am-4 pm

## In the Lou Tate Gallery

### Ada K. Dietz, *Algebraic Expressions in Handwoven Textiles*

with contemporary interpretation provided by members of Cross Country Weavers

In 1951, Two women, with their Heinz terrier, "Pickles", bought a trailer, packed up their equipment, closed up their Long Beach "Hobby Looms Studio" and started on an over year-long tour across the United States and Canada promoting their idea of using algebraic expressions to write weaving drafts. These two women were Mathematician, Ada K. Dietz, and Textile Artist, Ruth E. Foster. Their work made a definitive contribution to creative folk-art growth, including inspiring the beginnings of the Cross Country Weavers (CCW) in 1957. CCW continues to this day, celebrating its 65th anniversary this year. In collaboration for this exhibit, current members of the group have created new interpretations of *Algebraic Expressions* to be shown alongside the Loomhouse's collection of original woven samples and artifacts from the writing and publishing of *Algebraic Expressions in Handwoven Textiles* draft book, and Dietz and Foster's tour across the country.

**Exhibition runs March 5 – May 14, 2022 in the Lou Tate Gallery.**

**Gallery Hrs: Tues- Fri 10am – 3pm, Sat 11am – 4pm**

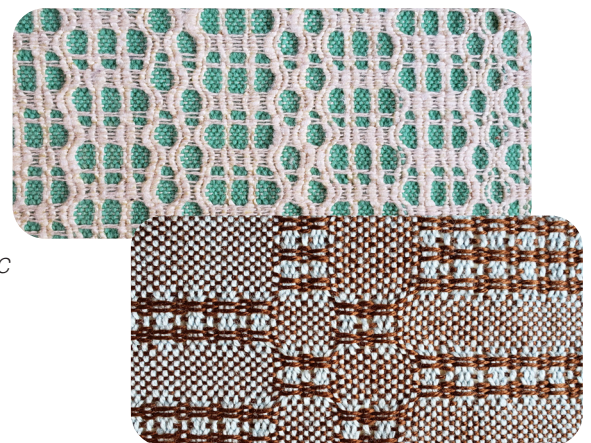
**Opening Reception: Saturday, March 5, 2-4pm, free and open to the public**

**About Ada K. Dietz and Ruth E. Foster** Ada K. Dietz was a Counselor and Biology-Mathematics Teacher at Eastern High School in Detroit, Michigan when, inspired by Ruth Foster, she studied weaving at Wayne University in Detroit under Nellie Sargent Johnson. Dietz began writing weaving drafts during Johnson's class because students were discouraged from copying patterns. It was after Dietz met Foster and they traveled north to study at the Banff School of Fine Arts in Canada that she began developing her ideas for using mathematical equations for writing weaving drafts. Ruth E. Foster was a Weaver with the Hewson Studios in Los Angeles when she met Ada Dietz in Detroit while doing further studies in weaving. Foster studied at the Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and Wayne University, Detroit, Michigan, and taught weaving in the art department at Polytechnic High School in Long Beach California. Foster provided the color and patterning to Dietz's drafts



**About Cross Country Weavers** Established in 1957, CCW is a group of 30 geographically diverse weavers, invited to participate in an annual sample exchange focused on a specific topic. In addition to the exchange between members, two traveling notebooks are assembled for public access and are archived at the Thousand Islands Arts Center - Home of the Handweaving Museum in Clayton, New York and the University of Massachusetts – Dartmouth.

**About the Little Loomhouse connection** Dietz's work was first publicly exhibited at the 1948 Country Fair sponsored by Lou Tate's Little Loomhouse in Louisville, Kentucky. Because of the interest in her work, Tate asked Dietz to assemble an exhibition and begin work on a draft book, which was later published by the Little Loomhouse in 1949 and titled *Algebraic Expressions in Handwoven Textiles*.



## UPCOMING CLASSES

**January 29  
1-3pm**

### *Member Event*



Members are invited to meet up with LLH Studio Manager, Ruth Goodhart to needle felt your own coaster or small wall hanging. Participants are encouraged to create their own designs and experiment with the media. Loomhouse designs are available for participants who would like a pictorial guide. Light Refreshments will be served. Members are free/ non-members are \$25. This event is appropriate for ages 12 and up.

Please call 502-367-4792 or email [thelittleloomhouse@gmail.com](mailto:thelittleloomhouse@gmail.com) for more information or to register.

Consult our website for the most up-to-date schedule of classes offered.

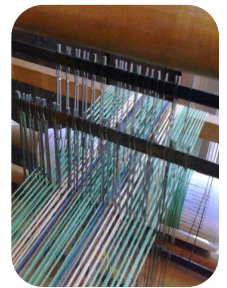


### **Drop-In Weaving Sessions**

Drop-In Weavings are designed for the whole family or the individual, age 6 years to adults. Participants create hand woven pieces to take home. Sessions are hosted Tues-Fri 10am to noon (session 1) or 1 pm- 3pm (session 2), and cost \$25 per 2-hour session all supplies are included.

### **Intro to Weaving**

Interested in learning to weave? This beginners class is perfect for you. Work with a knowledgeable and patient instructor. The cost is \$25 a person for the 1.5 hour class, all supplies are included. Ages: 12 years and up. Class size is very limited. Social distancing and masks required.



### **Intro to Spinning**

Learn how to turn fiber into yarn on a drop spindle and begin to spin your own yarn. The one and half hour class is \$25.00 and includes supplies. Ages: 13 years – adult.

### **Needlefelt Classes**

Both 2D and 3D Needlefelt classes are offered throughout the year. Classes are typically 2 hours and you can expect to create a 5"x5" felt picture or small 3D sculpture. Cost and age appropriateness varies based on the project.



**Kroger Community Rewards** You can help support The Little Loomhouse through the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Just visit [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards). Sign in to your account or create an account using your Kroger Plus card. Find and select our organization - The Little Loomhouse/ The Lou Tate Foundation. You'll start earning rewards for us right away on qualifying purchases made using your Kroger Plus Card. Thank you for your support.

**Amazon Smile** Another easy (and FREE!) way to support the Little Loomhouse is to shop through Amazon Smile. Amazon Smile shopping site is the same as the Amazon site but automatically donates a small portion of your purchase to our organization. To participate just use this link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/61-0961553> to make your Amazon purchases. Thank you for time and consideration.

# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Friends,

Last year, I joined the Little Loomhouse Board of Directors because Lou Tate Foundation's mission combines many of my favorite subject matters. In this edition, I will be focusing on two: history and notable women.

I continue to be blown away by the genius that is Ada Dietz and Ruth Foster's work in their writing and publishing of *Algebraic Expressions in Handwoven Textiles*. What an incredible partnership between artists and a mathematician, demonstrating the efforts of women helping women succeed! As a young woman, I loved history but stories about women were few and far between. I am excited by the chance to show my own nieces the March Exhibition in the Lou Tate Gallery. I am energized by this opportunity to share how Ada and Ruth used STEM fields to document their historic findings. Most of all, I am eager to meet the members of the Cross Country Weavers Guild and learn more about the impact and legacy of *Algebraic Expressions*.

I have come to know truth in statements like history is made from those who tell it and history's value lies in lessons we learn from it. We should all want to uplift the work of the researchers, writers, editors, and publishers who are committed to the tedious and time-consuming work of fact checking our history and making a conscious effort to uncover the stories we have not yet heard. For example, on sale now is our *The Little Loomhouse: A Brief History* by Alice S. Davidson, 1997. Revised 2021. Louisville Author and Historian Michael L. Jones' research and writings allowed for the revised version to have a more robust and comprehensive understanding of the Happy Birthday song, supporting how Mildred Hill tried to "preserve Black Louisville music." If you are planning a visit to the Little Loomhouse, be sure to ask our staff about our historical tour offerings which are now available in Spanish.

Our board is committed to ensuring sustainability of the Little Loomhouse, including a continued emphasis on preservation. This year our board will be addressing how we can place more focus on our educational efforts in our mission while focusing internally on creating practices that inspire a welcoming place for all. Together we can learn from our history, commit to learning more stories, and be intentional as we strive to make history in the lives of the individuals our work touches every day.

Rachel



## The Little Loomhouse would like to thank the following partners:

### Founders (GOLD level \$10,000 and more)

Dr. I. E. Bronner  
The Norton Foundation  
Fund for the Arts

### Founders (SILVER level \$5,000-\$9,999)

John Wakely Purple

### Founders (BRONZE level \$1,000-\$4,999)

Gill Holland  
Mary Hoog  
Joel Schwartz

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Carolyn Kupper  
Chance & Tricia Le Meur  
Louisville Area Fiber & Textile Artists (LAFTA)  
Pam & Patrick Michael  
Ann Ramser  
Rachel G Roarx  
Ruth Goodhart Fans!  
Virginia "Ginny" Vaughn  
Melanie & Sean Wachsman  
Vicki Welch  
Barbara West  
Susan Wilburn

### Memorial Gifts:

Bill Bousman membership in  
memory of his Aunt Lou Tate  
Bousman

Susan Wilburn in honor  
of Stephanie Rae Buzan &  
Rosemary Hauck McCandless

Mary Kitchen in honor of  
Melissa Amos-Jones

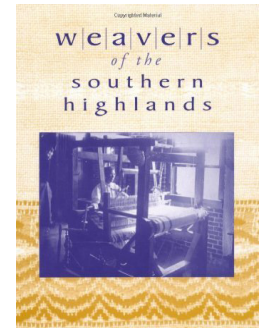


**NORTON**  
FOUNDATION

# COINCIDENCE LEADS TO PARTNERSHIP

## Coincidence leads to New and Renewed Partnerships

By Michelle Amos



Using Philis Alvic's book, *Weavers of the Southern Highlands*, as a guide, my sister and I embarked on a six-day weaving tour from North Carolina through Tennessee, Virginia, and Eastern Kentucky. The entire trip had been a bit of a coincidence. In September, I had been reading Alvic's book when Gill Holland visited the Loomhouse to talk about his development work in Harlan County, an area significant to both Alvic's book and the Little Loomhouse. Holland had partnered with Geoff Marietta to create Harlan County Beer Company located in downtown Harlan. He was interested in attractions moving into the area to support growing tourism. Simultaneously my sister had called about taking a vacation, and we decided to turn our trip into a weaving tour, visiting sites significant to Alvic's book including an overnight stay in Harlan County at Pine Mountain Settlement School. Just days before the October trip, Philis Alvic emailed to report she was presenting on the Little Loomhouse for the Weaving History Conference, in Clayton, NY (held virtual this year). I responded to the message talking about our trip based on her book and she extended an invitation to her home studio. My sister and I concluded our weaving tour doing a two-hour interview with Alvic at her Lexington, KY studio.

The Loomhouse connection to Harlan County dates back to founder Tate's textile research, and the early 1970's influence of former Pine Mountain Settlement School student, teacher and Harlan Co. resident, Sarah Bailey, who, in part, inspired the Loomhouse development of a public education fiber and spinning program. While visiting the settlement school we learned they had been hit hard by the COVID outbreak and resulting closures. They were in the process of rebuilding and expanding their offerings, including building out their fiber arts department, and hiring a new Cultural Educator, Misty Hall. Additionally, they had re-introduced sheep back to their property. It made sense this was a good time to renew our connection to benefit both communities, and build a bigger network around weaving, its history, and resources. With the support of Harlan Beer Company, the Little Loomhouse has completed the first of four planned 3-day Artist Residencies at PMSS as a part of a Rural-Urban Exchange. In November, PMSS Program Director, Jason Brashear, and PMSS Cultural Educator, Misty Hall, visited the Loomhouse for some hands-on learning about our programs. In December, LLH Studio Manager, Ruth Goodhart, visited PMSS where Goodhart helped to standardize their weaving studio and learned about the history and programs at Pine Mountain Settlement School.

### About Pine Mountain Settlement School

The Pine Mountain Settlement School is a historic cultural and education institution in rural Harlan County, KY. Founded in 1913 as a settlement school near Bledsoe, it now focuses on classes related to the culture of Appalachia and environmental education. To learn more or book your trip visit:

<https://www.pinemountainsettlementschool.com/>

### About Harlan Beer Company

Harlan County Beer Company's vision is to bring people together to celebrate historic Harlan County's past and future by brewing high-quality beer and serving delicious locally inspired food in a beautifully restored 100-year old historic building in downtown Harlan, KY. To learn more or sign up for their newsletter visit: <https://harlancountybeer.com/>





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## The Little Loomhouse 2021 Membership & Donations

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

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### Membership Level

- |                                          |                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$250 (family membership plus \$200 donation)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$50     | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$500 (family membership plus \$450 donation)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$100  | <input type="checkbox"/> Founder \$1,000 (family membership plus \$950 donation) |

- ☐ Check here to receive a printed copy of The Little Loomhouse/Kentucky Weaver newsletter.  
Otherwise, we'll email you an interactive copy.

- ☐ I would like to make an additional donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I do not wish to be a member. Enclosed is my donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*If you prefer to pay by credit card, please call us and we'll arrange for a secure transaction.*

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Go to [www.littleloomhouse.org](http://www.littleloomhouse.org)  
click on "Participate" then  
"Become a Member"*

### WE OFFER MANY ADULT WORKSHOPS TOO!

For more information on tours,  
upcoming shows, and class  
schedules, visit [littleloomhouse.org](http://littleloomhouse.org)  
or [facebook.com/littleloomhouse](https://facebook.com/littleloomhouse).

## How do your donations help The Little Loomhouse?

\$35 Covers the cost of  
supplies for community  
events and classes

\$100 Helps put an  
artist in a school  
or community center

\$250 Pays for our  
participation  
in a community event

\$1,000 Helps pay an artist  
residency in a school/community  
center for 1 semester