



The **NATIONAL MUSEUM** of the **AMERICAN COVERLET**, Inc.

322 South Juliana Street  
Bedford, Pennsylvania 15522

814.623.1588  
info@coverletmuseum.org  
www.coverletmuseum.org

**Coverlet College 2019**

**Friday Afternoon - September 20**

12:00 – 5:00

**(Optional) Field Trip by 29-Passenger Bus – Ligonier, PA**  
**Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art (SAMA) - Coverlet & Hooked Rug Exhibition**  
*Field trip, box lunch and guided tour of this unique exhibition pairing historic coverlets from the NMAC collection with contemporary primitive hooked rugs, all designed from coverlet motifs! See details and menu choices – pages 5-6*

**Friday Evening - September 20**

**Coverlets 108 – Keynote Address and Day 1 Sessions**

Hand-Outs of Summary Information and a Bibliography will be provided.

6:30 – 7:00

**Registration**

***New-to-Coverlets Attendees Register Coverlets for the Discovery Session***

7:00 – 7:45

**Keynote Address**

**The LaTourette Family Weavers: Celebrated Weavers of the Year**

Ron Walter

*Learn about three LaTourette brothers born in New Jersey, who wove fancy coverlets. David and Henry in New York and John in Indiana, as did John's daughter, Sarah, and son, Henry.*

7:45 – 8:30

**Reception**

*Meet our presenters and other attendees.*

**Saturday Morning - September 21**

8:30

Registration and Continental Breakfast (fruit, Danish, coffee and juices)

9:00

**Opening Remarks and Introduction of Attendees**

Melinda Zongor

9:20

**#1 – A Brief History of Fibers Used in Coverlet Weaving**

Edward Maeder

*An explanation of the uses of wool, cotton, and linen in early textiles that later were used in weaving American coverlets.*

9:40

**Short Break**

9:50

**#2 – The Story of Bates Mills (Lewiston, Maine)**

Jacqueline Field

**“The original of this spread was fashioned by the fingers of some Colonial dame gifted beyond most. In the same spirit Bates has faithfully reproduced this treasured heirloom.”**  
*Many individuals of the post WW II generation know Bates bedspreads, and more than likely slept under one. But they don't know, nor do others, about Bates impressive record of patented loom innovations, earned in the course of solving technical problems to mechanically weave patterns simulating colonial and other handwoven textiles. With previously unpublished images and information from the Bates archive, Museum L-A (Lewiston-Auburn) Maine, this presentation discusses Bates “colonial” fabrics focusing on the company's reproductions of original mid-nineteenth century hand woven jacquard coverlets made in collaboration with major museums.*

10:30

Long Break (fruit, yogurt, granola and juices)

10:45

**#3 – Scraps to Warm the Heart**

Keith Kemmer

*Amazing folk art in the form of hand hooked rugs was created from scraps and pieces of fabrics. Woven goods were valued in the 1800s and nothing was thrown out. Instead they became something new in the form of rugs. Today many of these hooked rugs have become collectibles, with some selling for big dollars. Learn how woven scraps were transformed into rugs that decorated homes and warmed hearts.*

11:25

**Short Break**

11:35	<b>#4 – Exploring Recent Donations #1: Rawson Collection</b> <i>Nancy Rawson, a Charter NMAC member, was a longtime coverlet collector and researcher. This presentation will explore and discuss some of the highlights of that collection, as recently gifted to NMAC by Nancy's daughter Holly Weik.</i>	Gay McGeary
12:15	Catered Lunch	
1:15	<b>#5 – Tour of the Exhibition “Still Colorful After All These Years” – Part 1</b> <i>Hear stories about the coverlets and how they were chosen for this exhibition.</i>	Melinda Zongor & Ron Walter
1:55	Short Break	
2:05	<b>#6 – Colonial Revival Tastemakers: Romanticizing and Promoting Hand Weaving and Coverlets, 1893-1943</b> <i>An overview of the authors who wrote magazine articles and books about weaving aimed at the upper-middle class. Their efforts helped a new generation to revive interest in hand weaving and in collecting handwoven coverlets.</i>	Virginia Gunn
2:45	Long Break (fruit, cookies and drinks)	
3:00	<b>#7 – American Fancy – Exuberance in the Arts 1790-1840</b> <i>Between 1790 and 1840, millions of middle-class Americans throughout the nation encountered "Fancy": they rode in a Fancy sleigh, dressed up in Fancy clothes, blew their noses in Fancy handkerchiefs, bought goods at Fancy shops, ate at Fancy tables on Fancy dishes, and slept under Fancy coverlets. Not just fancy but Fancy: an early nineteenth-century cultural phenomenon born out of new and enlightened ways of seeing, understanding, and responding to the surrounding world. Fancy expressed itself in just about everything that pleased the senses; generally colorful and boldly patterned, it elicited delight, awe, surprise, whim, and caprice. Whether experienced in the form of painted surfaces, kaleidoscopic quilts, or imaginary landscapes, Fancy engaged the emotions and expanded the imagination, expressing the core of human fancy. American Fancy offers an appropriately fantastic experience of this uniquely American sensibility.</i>	Sumpter Priddy
3:40	Short Break	
3:50	<b>#8 – Discovery Session for Coverlets brought by Attendees New to Coverlets</b> <i>Learn information about coverlets brought in by attendees new to coverlets.</i>	all
4:30	<b>Closing Remarks and Graduation</b>	Melinda Zongor
4:45	Break	
5:30	<b>Dinner with Other Attendees (optional)</b>	Melinda & Laszlo Zongor

### **Saturday Evening - September 21**

7:00 – 9:00	<b>Combined Coverlet Show and Tell for Day 1 and Day 2</b> <i>Bring one or two of your favorite coverlets to show and discuss.</i>	all
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### **Coverlets 208 – Day 2 Sessions**

Hand-Outs of Summary Information and a Bibliography will be provided.

### **Sunday Morning - September 22**

8:30	Registration and Continental Breakfast (fruit, Danish, coffee and juices)	
9:00	<b>Opening Remarks and Introduction of Attendees</b>	Melinda Zongor
9:15	<b>#1 – The Fashion In Color Its Impact on Clothing and Domestic Textiles, From Early Sources to 1900</b> <i>Color, either natural or imposed has been a major component in textiles for at least 10,000 years or more. How this search to improve the aesthetics of all forms of textiles spanned continents and became an important factor in international trade from China to Mexico, Lebanon to Iceland will be the subject of this talk.</i>	Edward Maeder
9:55	Short Break	

10:05	<b>#2 – Exploring the “Ark Factory” Coverlet Weavers of Asbury, New Jersey, 1820s-1840s</b>	Virginia Gunn
	<i>This presentation will identify some of the known coverlet weavers who worked at Asbury’s “woolen factory,” built after the land was sold in 1812 and used until it finally burned down in 1881.</i>	
10:45	Long Break (fruit, yogurt, granola and juices)	
11:00	<b>#3 – Exploring Recent Donations #2: Strickler Collection</b>	Gay McGeary
	<i>Carol Strickler was a well-known author, researcher, collector and weaver. Her entire collection was recently gifted to NMAC by Carol’s daughter, Janet. This presentation will explore and discuss some of the highlights of that collection.</i>	
11:40	Short Break	
11:50	<b>#4 - Great Grandmother, how did you get that color?</b>	Cassie Dickson
	<i>The old time spinners and weavers used their knowledge of plant dyes to create beautiful, lasting colors. They knew what time of year to gather, what pot to use, and what mordant to add. A look back at the recipes of the masters. (Cassie is preparing a card for each person with probably more than 40 samples of dyed wool.)</i>	
12:30	Catered Lunch	
1:30	<b>#5 – Tour of the Exhibition “Still Colorful After All These Years” – Part 2</b>	Melinda Zongor & Ron Walter
	<i>Hear stories about the coverlets and how they were chosen for this exhibition.</i>	
2:10	Short Break	
2:20	<b>#6 – Bedford, Blair and Somerset County Fancy Coverlet Weavers</b>	Ron Walter
	<i>Learn about the fancy coverlets woven in the counties near NMAC and their weavers. Several of their coverlets are included in the current exhibition.</i>	
3:00	<b>Closing Remarks and Graduation</b>	Melinda Zongor

***Class Schedule Subject To Change.***

**Cassie Dickson** of Whittier, NC, is a member of the Southern Highland Craft Guild and a traditional pattern weaver who specializes in the weaving of coverlets and the processing of the flax plant to linen cloth. She has been spinning, weaving, and natural dyeing for over 40 years. She has raised silk worms for the past 28 years and processes silk cocoons to silk fabric. Cassie presents to museums, colleges, guilds, and regional fiber events.

**Virginia Gunn** of Wooster, OH, is a retired professor of clothing, textiles, and interiors at the University of Akron in Ohio and taught courses on the history of costume and fashion and the history of interior design. Her research and collecting focus on material culture, especially quilts, coverlets, costume, and photographs. In 2017 she was inducted into the Quilters Hall of Fame for her dedication to education within the field of quilt and textile history.

**Keith Kemmer** of Waterford, MI, has been hooking rugs for over 20 years, but his fiber fascination started long before that. From an early age he had a link to fibers. Keith's grandfather was a tailor in Chicago and Keith fondly remembers his grandpa hand hemming pieces, and the tool bench in the basement with the huge scissors and the iron you couldn't pick up. Before hooking rugs, Keith spent years weaving, with a focus on traditional weaving and a love for overshot coverlets, along with reproduction Shaker towels and rag rugs. Currently Keith teaches primitive rug hooking along with designing traditional hooked rug patterns. His day job is as an Art Director of marketing materials for national clients. Keith has a BFA from the Center for Creative Studies in Design, and his retirement plans include volunteer work for the Henry Ford/Greenfield Village, where he hopes to learn and weave on their jacquard loom.

**Edward Maeder** of Greenfield, MA, is NMAC Board of Directors President, and enjoys a long career as a textile historian and museum professional. Since his retirement 9 years ago he continues to lecture on a variety of subjects across the country. His most recent books include ***American Style and Spirit***, on a multi-generational family collection of clothing and ***Walk This Way***, on footwear from the Stuart Weitzman collection of historic shoes (most of which Edward personally restored).

**Gay McGeary** of Carlisle, PA, has been weaving, collecting, and researching early coverlet patterns, weave structures and fringe techniques for over twenty five years. While her weaving is inspired by her research, her research is enhanced by her weaving explorations of the early craftsmen.

**Sumpter Priddy III** of Alexandria, VA, holds a BA in Architectural History from the University of Virginia and an MA from Winterthur. He served as Tutor for Historic Deerfield's Summer Fellowship Program, and as Teaching Curator for Colonial Williamsburg. He and his research team focus principally upon southern artisans and artifacts as routes to understand that culture, and to place culturally laden regional objects with collectors and institutions, principally in the South, and to identify and articulate the layered complexities of southern culture. His current work focuses upon the ways various southern cultures imbue their objects with religious, emotional, and other cultural guideposts—with a strong focus upon English and Scottish societies, and the ways that their roots and traditions shape both the dialogue and life of modern America. His book and exhibition ***American Fancy: Exuberance in the Arts*** (Milwaukee: Chipstone Foundation and Milwaukee Art Museum, 2004) won the Historic The New England Book Prize for its “valuable contribution to the study of American and New England Culture,” and was cited in a Winterthur survey of American Curators presented at Winterthur's 2012 Conference as “the sole paradigm shift in our field.

**Jacqueline Field** of Portland, ME, author of the forthcoming book, ***Textiles and Designs 1930-1990 from Bates Mills***, was born and educated in Scotland. A long time U.S. resident, she is retired from her college career teaching design, textile and dress related subjects, and now devotes most of her time to scholarship, writing about textiles with numerous articles including, *From Agriculture to Industry: Silk Production in Maine*, “A 1916 Silk Ensemble: Linking Local and House Museum History,” and the co-authored book, ***American Silk 1830-1930***.

**Ron Walter** of Hilltown, PA, is a respected coverlet historian with broad experience in early textile tools and techniques. He researches American textiles and textile related tools used in the home and on the farm from about 1750 to 1875. His special interests are fiber processing tools including decorated and dated hetchels and their makers, spinning wheels and their makers, and coverlets both geometric and fancy as well as the weavers who produced them. He is also an NMAC Board member, president of the CCGA (Colonial Coverlet Guild of America) and editor of the CCGA Newsletter.

**Melinda Zongor** of Bedford PA, NMAC Director/Curator, has been “hanging around” coverlets for nearly 40 years. As a former collector, weaver and antiques dealer specializing in coverlets, she has authored books on the subject and has worked with collectors, the antiques trade, the feature film industry, print media and a variety of groups, large and small. She and her husband Laszlo are co-founders of the Museum.

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FOR INFORMATION ON (OPTIONAL) FRIDAY FIELD TRIP  
AND REGISTRATION FORM



### **OPTIONAL FIELD TRIP**

**SPECIAL EXHIBITION IN CONJUNCTION WITH COVERLET COLLEGE 2019**  
Friday, September 20, 2019  
Ligonier, Pennsylvania

#### **A CELEBRATION OF TEXTURE AND PATTERN: HOOKED RUGS & HISTORIC COVERLETS**

Barb Carroll, a much loved and respected teacher of primitive hooked rugs, is a well-known figure in Ligonier. People come from around the country and the world to study with her. She is a longtime friend and fan of the Coverlet Museum. As her way of raising awareness, Barb has designed a popular series of hooked rug patterns *based on coverlet motifs*.

Coverlets and hooked rugs are organically and historically connected. Color, texture and artistry – paired for display, it is easy to see that, like coverlets, these rugs are works of art!

Join us on Friday, September 20, 2019 for a fun field trip to the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art (SAMA) in Ligonier, Pennsylvania to see and tour this special exhibition. The trip (about 1-1/2 hours driving time) will include a tasty box lunch on the bus, admission to SAMA and a guided tour of hooked rugs and coverlets. We promise a good time will be had by all!

The 29-passenger bus will leave Bedford at 12 noon and be back home by 5:00, leaving enough time for you to catch dinner on your own and return to the Museum in time for the Friday night reception and keynote address by Ron Walter, who will discuss the LaTourette family of weavers.

Your menu choices are listed below. Make your selection(s) and let us know asap. Food choice **MUST** be made by no later than September 16 so we can inform the caterer. Keep in mind that space for this tour is strictly limited with accommodations on a first-come basis.

Background info: NMAC and Barb have partnered before, with much popular success. In 2014 our coverlets were the featured display, along with a selection of related hooked rugs, at the Sauder Village (Archbold, Ohio) Rug Week.



Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art  
Ligonier, PA  
an authentic log cabin design housing a modern art gallery

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2019**

**FIELD TRIP**

**MENU SELECTION**

circle your choice(s) and return w/registration form

“Mister Ray” – half sandwich of roasted turkey w/chipotle lime mayo, applewood bacon, avocado spread, smoked gouda, crisp romaine lettuce, on a French baguette with side of chorizo potato salad, cold drink & a bite of chocolate

“Boss Lady” – half sandwich of black forest ham, creamy brie, green apple chutney, on a Tribeca Oven baguette with side of chorizo potato salad with cold drink & a bite of chocolate

“Pitt Street” – full sandwich of Nick’s famous chicken salad: herb grilled chicken, fresh red grapes, toasted pistachios, marinated greens, on rosemary focaccia with cold drink a bite of chocolate

“Carnegie” – full sandwich of pastrami reuben with stone ground mustard, beer braised sauerkraut, Russian dressing, baby swiss, on marble rye with cold drink & a bite of chocolate

“Magnolia” – full sandwich of basil pesto mayo, house made mozzarella, roma tomatoes, arugula, on rosemary focaccia with side of house made pickle with cold drink & a bite of chocolate

**The National Museum of the American Coverlet  
Coverlet College 2019**

**Sign-Up Sheet – Print / Complete and Mail To**  
The National Museum of the American Coverlet  
322 South Juliana Street, Bedford, PA 15522  
(814) 623-1588

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone home / work /cell (circle one): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restriction: \_\_\_\_\_

**Experience with Coverlets:**

**New to Coverlets:** \_\_\_ and **Yes / No** (circle one) I have a coverlet to learn more about in the Day 1 Special Coverlet Discovery Session. Note: The first 16 qualified applicants based on order of registration date must bring their coverlet to the Museum before the Friday Night Keynote Address and their coverlets will be returned to them during the Saturday Discovery Session.

**Collector of Coverlets:** \_\_\_ for \_\_\_ years

**Other Coverlet Interest:** \_\_\_ identify \_\_\_\_\_

**Fees**

Course	Museum Member	Museum Non-Member	Number Attending	Total Fee
<b>Friday September 20, 2019 Field Trip</b> (optional) Join us on a 29-passenger bus and enjoy a tasty box lunch as we travel to Ligonier, PA to see a special exhibition of coverlets and hooked rugs – bus, lunch, admission and guided tour included.	\$50	\$50	___	_____
<b>Friday Keynote Address &amp; Reception plus Saturday Presentations September 21 &amp; 22, 2019 Coverlets 108*</b>	\$120	\$145	___	_____
<b>Saturday September 21, 2019 Saturday Dinner</b> (optional)	\$20	\$20	___	_____
<b>Sunday September 22, 2019 Coverlets 208*</b>	\$80	\$95	___	_____
<b>Friday, Saturday &amp; Sunday Sept 20-21-22, 2019 Coverlets 108* &amp; 208* (excl. Fri. field trip)</b>	\$175	\$215	___	_____
<b>NMAC Dues</b> (circle one) <b>Individual</b> <b>Family</b>	New / Renewal \$40 \$50		___ ___	_____
<b>Donation to NMAC Scholarship Fund</b>				_____
<b>Donation to NMAC General Fund</b>				_____
* Coverlets 108 and 208 fees include lunch and snacks.			<b>Total =</b>	_____

Please find my check payable to **NMAC** in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ registrations.

To use your credit card, please call the Museum at (814) 623-1588.  
For PayPal, send to info@coverletmuseum.org.

# The Richard Jeryan Memorial Coverlet College Scholarship 2019

In celebration of the life of Richard Jeryan, an anonymous donor is offering two scholarships for attendees of Coverlet College 2019 at The National Museum of the American Coverlet.

Richard Jeryan (1945-2015) was a major contributor to the survival and success of The Coverlet Museum. As board members for many years, Richard and his wife Chris travelled often from Michigan to be part of the NMAC team. Together with fellow board member Ron Walter, they took co-founder Laszlo Zongor's original concept for Coverlet College and helped make it what it is today. Richard's unbounded energy and expertise, along with Chris' joy in all things relating to coverlets, have been an inspiration for Museum organizers as well as the hundreds of folks who have participated in the previous Coverlet College events.

The two scholarships in Richard's honor are open to people of any age who have a passion for the subject of American Coverlets and wish to further their learning experience through study and exposure.

Coverlet College 2019 will take place September 20, 21 and 22 at the Museum. Scholarships will cover the registration fee, including the Friday field trip, all the Saturday and Sunday program sessions and a one-year Museum membership. In return we might ask for your assistance with some behind-the-scenes tasks like moving chairs, helping set out meals on the buffet tables, etc. – but we promise you won't miss any programming!

For applicants, the only requirement is a short written essay, about a page in length, outlining one's background and interests and why he or she should be awarded this scholarship.

Topics to be included should be:

- How did you become interested in textiles and coverlets in particular?
- What is your background in textiles?
- What do you expect to gain from this experience?
- How will you use this knowledge in the future?
- Any other reasons why YOU should be chosen?

Essay applications can be submitted to the Scholarship Committee in the form of an email document to [info@coverletmuseum.org](mailto:info@coverletmuseum.org). Be sure to include your contact information!

**Deadline for applications is August 24, 2019.** Applications by "snail mail" will be accepted but must arrive by August 24, 2019. Send to The National Museum of the American Coverlet, 322 S Juliana Street, Bedford, PA 15522.

**Final selection and notice of awards will be made on August 31, 2019.** *The Museum cannot be responsible for applications received late or not at all. All applications will be acknowledged. If you receive no acknowledgement, we don't have your application!*

## The Kitty Bell Walter Memorial Coverlet College Scholarship 2019

In celebration of the life of Kitty Bell Walter (1944-2018), an anonymous donor is offering a scholarship for an attendee of Coverlet College 2019 at The National Museum of the American Coverlet.

Kitty Bell Walter's volunteer work was invaluable to the ongoing success of the Coverlet Museum. She unselfishly supported the Museum with her husband, Ron Walter. While Kitty Bell preferred to work behind the scenes, supporting Ron in all his endeavors, her contributions were every bit as significant. No matter what the task, she was always ready and willing to help get the job done.

Each year at Coverlet College she arranged coverlets and other items on tables in the rear of the event room as required for each presentation, and each year she demonstrated the use of the microscope to identify the fibers used in weaving a coverlet. She helped restore twenty-five tables bought for use during Coverlet College and other events at the Museum. Kitty Bell worked alongside her husband Ron in the fabrication and installation of a large coverlet display rack that is temporarily installed in the event room during Coverlet College, as well as a second large permanent rack in one of the exhibition spaces.

She played an essential role in planning and setting up the *Stay at Home and Use Me Well - Flax & Fleece: Fiber to Fabric* exhibition of the collection of Kitty Bell and Ron Walter. Among other things, her work included assistance with the construction of display platforms and production of the exhibition catalog.

When hundreds of items from an important estate were donated to the Coverlet Museum, Kitty Bell helped pack the items, transport them to be freeze processed at the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV, and bring them to NMAC for final inspection, cleaning, photography and documentation.

Kitty Bell even created handmade items to be sold in the NMAC gift shop. Her projects included dozens of button "blanks" wrapped with our coverlet-patterned quilt fabrics, little pins made by knitting small swatches with tooth pick needles, and colorful hand dyed wool samples for needle felting. Her skill and imagination were limitless.

This scholarship in Kitty Bell's honor is open to people of any age who have a passion for the subject of American Coverlets and wish to further their learning experience through study and exposure.

Coverlet College 2019 will take place September 20, 21 and 22 at the Museum. This scholarship will cover the registration fee, the Friday field trip, all the Saturday and Sunday program sessions and a one-year Museum membership. In return we might ask for assistance with some behind-the-scenes tasks like moving chairs, helping set out meals on the buffet tables, etc. – but we promise you won't miss any programming!

As an applicant, your only requirement is a short written essay, about a page in length, outlining your background and interests and why you should be awarded this scholarship.

Topics to be included should be:

- How did you become interested in textiles and coverlets in particular?
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