



## *Contemporary Handweavers of Texas*

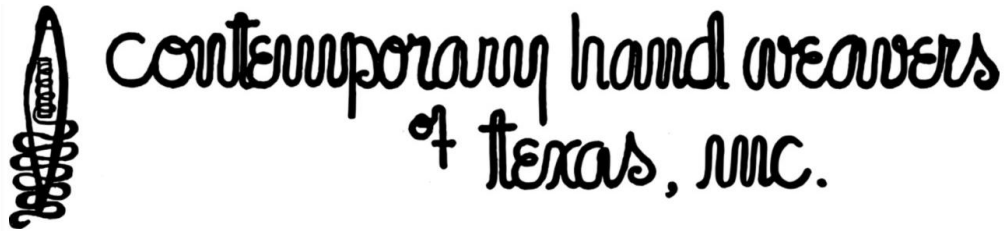
~ Established in 1949 ~

### ***Life Members***

Charlotte Lindsay Allison  
Patricia Ashton  
Phyllis Murray  
Eileen Thompson

### ***In Memoriam***

Carva Beidler  
Helen Bourgeois  
Grace Burr  
Jennie Faye Ellis  
Dorthea Engelman  
Prof. Rudolph Fuchs  
Julia Johnson  
Dr. Mabel Maxcy  
Martha Morse  
Margaret Sheppard  
Rhoda C Williamson  
C. Lee Wood  
William Teegarden



*The following framed paragraphs are copied from the CHT 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet. Full credit goes to DeeDee Woodbury for compiling our history, 1949-1999.*

## **CONTEMPORARY HANDWEAVERS OF TEXAS**

1949 – 1999

There is a special connection among weavers in Texas. CHT's founding mothers and fathers had a vision for the weavers in this state and it is thrilling to be a part of an organization that is so viable. Our Guild has always looked forward, but as we celebrate our fiftieth anniversary, let us look back to our beginning. The charter members forged a guild, which has endured and flourished for fifty years. It has been my pleasure to look to our past and put together a brief history of the Contemporary Handweavers of Texas. Most of the information has come from the newsletters and through conversations with members.

DeeDee Woodbury

## **HOUSTON WEAVERS FORM STATE ORGANIZATION**

On November 9, 1949 Mr. Thurman Hewitt of Houston called together all handweavers interested in forming a statewide organization. Prior to the meeting Mr. Hewitt, Mr. Herbert Wells, Mrs. Lyle Sheppard, Mrs. Saul Bargman and Mrs. Charles Mercer had drawn up Articles of Organization and a complete set of by-laws. Some twenty weavers attended the meeting and most everyone joined and paid dues that night.

### ***From the first newsletter dated December 9, 1949:***

"The Contemporary Handweavers of Texas is a non-profit organization; it was begun to stimulate interest in hand weaving, and to provide a common meeting ground for isolated weavers throughout the state. While the association had its beginnings among weavers in the Houston area, it is to be statewide in scope and will be incorporated as a non-profit organization in the state of Texas. A monthly newsletter will be sent to all members – this being the first edition. A yearly meeting of members throughout the State will be held in the spring of next year and every year (at a date and place to be announced later) at which time an exhibition of member's work will be shown. At this time, also, an election of officers and will held and everyone will get to meet fellow members from all parts of the State; participation in the election of officers, at these meetings, will be statewide. Dues for the Contemporary Handweavers of Texas have been set at 3.00 and application blanks will be included with this newsletter."

## Founding Members

### Mr. Thurman Hewitt

Thurman Hewitt owned and operated Houston House, a design studio located 2413 Driscoll in Houston. He taught weaving classes there and it is there that CHT was founded. Mr. Hewitt traveled extensively in Mexico and Central America leading Textile tour groups. He ultimately moved to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

### Mr. Herbert Wells

Born in Winthrop, Massachusetts, Herbert moved to Houston in 1949. He learned to weave from Thurman Hewitt and also took summer weaving courses at Cranbrook Academy in Michigan. He was there for the planning stages of the Guild. Mr. Wells is a prominent designer in Houston, he continues to work out of his studio, Well Design, on San Felipe Blvd.

### Mrs. Lyle Sheppard

Margaret began weaving in 1942 through correspondence with Mary Meigs Atwater. After helping found CHT, she served as editor and secretary for the guild. She taught workshops and was the juror for many exhibits here. She remained an active member of CHT and CHH until her death in 1997. Her daughter, Ann Schrader, carries on the tradition of weaving in Arlington, Texas.

### Mrs. Saul Bargman

Claire was an enthusiastic weaver when she came to Houston from El Paso. Like many of us she came because of her husband's business. Saul and Claire were there for the organization of the weavers guild. Stout Supporters!! Claire collaborated with Herbert Wells on weaving projects including upholstery fabric for Mrs. Henry Stude, of Houston.

### Mrs. Charles Mercer

Thelma Mercer, of Mercer Arboretum fame, was learning to weave at Houston House and helped lay the ground work for CHT. Both Mr. and Mrs. Mercer were strong supporters of our guild.



*Left to Right: Margaret Sheppard, C. Lee Wood, Mildred Racca and Thurman Hewitt*

## CHARTER MEMBERS

Though CHT had its beginning in Houston, there was an interest statewide from the start. "Any person joining Contemporary Handweavers of Texas before May 1, 1950 will be considered a charter member". *As noted in the December 1949 CHT Newsletter.*

Mr. Thurman Hewitt\*

Mrs. Saul Bargman\*

Mrs. Charles Mercer\*

Mr. Herbert Wells\*

Mrs. Lyle Sheppard\*

Mr. C. Lee Wood

Miss Ruth Laird

Miss Mildred Racca

Mrs. Jack Marletta

Miss Lois Sampson

Mrs. Paul Kaiser

Miss Alice Ketchum

Mrs. Arthur Noodleman

Mrs. William Heickman

Mrs. O. P. Fullerson

Mrs. L. W. Peay

Mrs. Jean Brooks

Beatrice C. Winkler

Mrs. Rhea Down

Marjorie Hamilton

Mrs. Ruby Lane

Barbara M. Bobbit

Mrs. J. E. Kendall

Mrs. Mae Claire Bodart

Mrs. W. F. Adams

Mrs. J.H.Hawley

Garcia Schoolfield

Marjori Graham

Mrs. Rae Downen

Mrs. Blanch Hardt

Marjori Hamilton

Mrs. Kay Maxham

Mrs. Wm. A Turner

Mrs. Perry Donop

Mrs. Ken McClure

Mr. J.C. Bills, Jr.

*\*Founding Members*