

The Weaver's Bag

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah • September 2011 • Vol. 57 No. 1

September Guild Meeting

WHAT: Weaving with Natural Materials,
by Sandra Sandberg

WHEN: Saturday, September 10, from
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Mimi Rodes's home

Our opening Guild meeting will be a wonderful opportunity to see all your fiber friends and learn how to weave with natural materials. Sandra Sandberg, who has done a lot of this weaving, creates pieces for the wall and freestanding pieces, and she will share with us her approach, materials, methods, and inspiration. We will also have a potluck lunch.

Before the September meeting, consider what natural materials you might use for your own weaving. Look around your own place and see what you can "trim." Sandra use grapevines, tamarisk trimmings, and redbud or other tree trimmings. Some reeds and grasses work well, as well as flower stalks that are sturdy and won't crush when you close the shed. (Jo Stolhand recently showed our Guild how well lavender stalks work for weaving.) Look for something that you see along the road or in a field (use caution). Find something that appeals to you or that you want to experiment with, and bring it to the September meeting.

For those of you who would like to try weaving during the meeting, please bring a loom warped at about 6 epi. The warp can be between 4 and 6 inches wide, or wider if you would like. Sandra often uses carpet warp because it is sturdy. Then also bring several variations of yarn types and fiber content for the weft. Bring a variety of odds and ends that have different colors and characters.

If you would like, you can warp a small tapestry loom. You can even bring a sturdy picture frame that has a continuous warp on it.

Sandra will demonstrate how to use wire in your weaving so that you can create freestanding pieces. The



Guild will provide wire at the workshop that you can include as supplemental warp.

Sandra asks all of us to "bring a smile, a notebook, and your imagination." Please be sure to also bring a dish for the potluck lunch.

Please RSVP for this meeting by Wednesday, September 7, so we will have an idea of how many chairs, tables, and shade canopies to set up. RSVP to Mimi at

mimirodes@comcast.net, 801-619-6888; or Sonya at sonyacampana@yahoo.com, 801-733-5888.

Directions to Mimi's House, 9 Courtside Lane, Sandy, Utah 84092, 801-619-6888

From I-15: Exit I-15 at 10600 South and turn left (east). Stay on 10600 South until it ends at a "T" with a stop sign, which is 2000 East. Turn right at 2000 East. Then turn left, which is uphill, at the first street (Pepperwood Drive). At the guard gate, say that you are a guest of Mimi Rodes and Lee Walker and give him our address. Proceed 0.7 of a mile on Pepperwood Drive. The street will go downhill, then curve left uphill. At the top of the hill, you will see tennis courts and a swimming pool complex on your right.

Turn left on Wanderwood, then make an immediate left on Courtside. Our home is 9 Courtside Lane, the first home on your left. The home is on the corner of Pepperwood, Wanderwood, and Courtside. *Note:* The other end of Wanderwood is 2 or 3 blocks from the guard gate. Don't turn left off Pepperwood Drive until you have driven 0.7 of a mile.

From Wasatch Blvd: Take Wasatch Blvd. to Pepperwood Drive (there is an LDS church building and parking lot next to the guard house.) At the guard gate, say that you are a guest of Mimi Rodes and Lee Walker and give him our address. Proceed on Pepperwood until you reach Wanderwood—it is across the street from the tennis courts and swimming pool.

Turn right on Wanderwood, then make an immediate left onto Courtside Lane, and we are the first house on the corner.

President's Message

As the new Guild president I thought I might start by telling you a little bit about myself. I was born and raised in Oregon but have lived in Utah for about 40 some years. I retired from a career as a microbiologist after over 30 years at Intermountain Health Care. Presently I continue in that profession part-time every other weekend and to fill in for maternity leave, vacations, etc. I started weaving in about 1978 with a class at the Pioneer Craft House and then later bought a used floor loom and took classes at the Weaver's Store. However, I am neither a proficient nor productive weaver. Every project is a learning experience.

September is almost here and it is not too early to

be thinking about our annual Christmas party. As a new member to the Guild, I found the exchange of presents a very daunting task. Be thinking of something that is fiber related: woven, knit, spun yarn, or felted articles made by hand or yarn, a new tool or book. The gifts I have received are very treasured—the first year, hand-towels with tatted designs, which a friend of mine was recently lusting after, and last year a pair of very warm felted gloves, made from recycled sweaters, that I wore all winter.

The board has some very exciting plans for the new year, and we hope that you will enjoy the meetings and events that are scheduled. —*Jo Stolhand*❖

Guild Challenge

The Guild board made a decision to issue a challenge to the Guild for the upcoming year. We would like each member to participate by weaving a placemat or mug rug, and we will have a showing at one of our meetings late in the spring, probably a potluck luncheon in June. Further, we are asking experienced weavers to design something new, and those of us with less experience to use a structure we have not tried before. It was suggested that we could use our product at the lunch—so whether you design a mug rug or a placemat might be dependent on whether you want to eat from a mug or a plate! Our new treasurer, Lori Webb, thought that with the wonderful foods that we have at our potlucks, she might make a tablecloth! ❖

HGA Convergence 2012 to be held in Long Beach, California

HGA's Convergence® 2012 Long Beach will be held at the Long Beach Convention Center, July 15–21, 2012. The Convergence conference is outstanding for everyone who loves and works in fiber. It is the biennial, international conference sponsored and organized by the Handweavers Guild of America, Inc. (HGA), with the help of many dedicated fiber enthusiasts.

Convergence features special lectures, workshops, one-day studio classes, super seminars, exhibits, tours, special events, and a commercial vendor hall full of fibers, fiber-related equipment, and an artist market. The classes include novice to advanced instruction in a variety of fiber techniques, including weaving, spinning, dyeing, basketry, feltmaking, knitting, garment construction, sewing with handwovens, and more! ❖

Pioneer Craft House

by Bhakti Banning

Pioneer Craft House will be looking for a new Core Teacher in the Weaving Department. I am moving to Auburn, CA in June 2012. I've always known that I would have to move back to be near family at some point, and that time has come. I'm leaving behind a wonderful opportunity for someone who wants a part-time job and desires to spread "the weaving virus" to other people.

Pioneer Craft House is—*Us*—the fiber, pottery, silversmithing, art communities. There is no *They*. The *they* is *us*. We and you are the creators of the Pioneer Craft House School. If you feel the school is valuable and useful to the community, then it is important to participate in these formative years.

PCH, as a non-profit (501c3) school, is operated by a small group of dedicated volunteers who pay rent to South Salt Lake City for use of the facilities.

ZAP and other grant funding helps with the operations. Five buildings on two acres were purchased in 2008 by Salt Lake County and South Salt Lake City. As with any startup organization, there is always far more work than people to fill the tasks; there are also many, many benefits. We are becoming known as an oasis for adults to learn art, and we are gaining community enthusiasm as people find out about us. Diverse classes and teachers are added all the time. Our Board of Directors serve one- to three-year terms and meet once a month. Several teachers are on the board. They handle budget, grants, and larger issues. Core teachers and teachers serve other functions as follows.

Core Teachers and Teachers:

1. As a Core Teacher, you are on the ground floor in making decisions about what is wanted and needed for building a top notch Art and Craft School. Core teachers handle the day-to-day operations.
2. You can supplement your art business, retirement, other part-time work with being the new Weaving/Fiber Department Core Teacher. (Class fees provide income to you.)
3. Core Teachers teach and donate extra time—one day a week as build-ings supervisor, attend bi-monthly meetings with other core teachers, and whatever else you choose to do at PCH

Tribute to Mary Jo Reiter

by ReNee Page

Mary Jo Reiter, a longtime member of our Guild and the author of Weaving a Life, the biography of Mary Atwater, recently passed away. For many years, the Guild held their Christmas parties in her beautiful home.

Mary Jo Reiter joined the Mary Atwater Weaver's Guild in the late 1980s. Before that she had been in the Navy and was among the first group of WAVES to go into Hawaii after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in World War II. Later, Mary Jo studied "body mechanics" and then taught skiing at the University of Utah.

Her goal upon retiring was to learn to weave. Right about that time, Ruth Ohlsen opened the Weaver's Store on 3300 South. Ruth was asked if the Guild could move its library into the back room of the store, and she agreed. Mary Jo volunteered to help move the books from the Pioneer Trail State Park, where they were then kept. During this backbreaking job, Mary Jo discovered some of the interesting library materials and a light went off in her head. She read some of the *Shuttle Craft Bulletins* and found some other interesting signals that Mary Meigs Atwater was truly a brilliant and talented woman.

Mary Jo was a person of quiet, strong perseverance, curiosity, and

fortitude. She was a woman with a quest. Who was this woman Mary Meigs Atwater? Did she have a family? Are there any persons still living who could shed more light on her life? These are questions that she asked herself.

In 1989 Mary Jo went to Montana to meet Betty Biehl, Mary Atwater's daughter. It was at that visit that Betty gave to Mary Jo a large box containing all of the letters that Mary Atwater had saved throughout her life. Betty told Mary Jo that *SHE* was the person for whom Betty had been waiting for years to give the letters to.

Mary Jo traveled and met all the people who were still living who could enlighten her further about this mysterious woman. For three years Mary Jo worked intensively on compiling the letters and finding photographs of Mary Atwater's life. In 1992 *Weaving a Life*, the biography of Mary Atwater, became a reality. The story of Mary Atwater's



life was finally in written form—a story that had been waiting to be told, a story of our heritage as women and as weavers.

Mary Jo was also an avid gardener. She volunteered at Red Butte Gardens for 23 years. A beautiful tree was planted there in her honor.

Thank you, Mary Jo! You brought a spirit of strength and perseverance to all of us. May we all be able to follow your guidance and live up to your teachings. You wove up to your 90th year. Onward!

Mary is survived by her loving brother Burt and a beautiful family. ❖

Pioneer Craft House continued

to build the programs. You get a master key to all facilities plus free studio time and use of any equipment. As a bonus you can collaborate with other artists and you can learn their craft. I am making a Native American flute, for example. You set your own hours. All students, refugees, and teachers can sell their products in the Gallery Store.

Weaving/Fiber Department:

I have seen my job as growing a

fine Weaving/Fiber Department, where adults can learn all things fiber, including floor loom weaving. I have endeavored to have a variety of top-notch equipment that adults can use and become familiar with before purchasing their own equipment. (We don't have the AVL yet, but we do have 1 Macomber, 2 Gilmore, 2 HD, and 2 Hammett, 3 8-shaft and 1 double back beam, plus 8 Schacht table looms.) We have a wonderful studio

space, for those who do not have large looms or space at home for making their art. We are developing a dyeing space for messy work. We have classes in several forms of weaving, spinning, felting, batik and both chemical and vegetable dyeing.

Please call me (Bhakti Banning) directly with any questions: 801-671-3911 or 801-323-1742. ❖

One Warp, Several Structures

Workshop by Judie Eatough

November 10, 11, 12, 2011

Pioneer Craft House

In this three-day workshop taught by Judie Eatough, participants will have a chance to explore many weaving techniques. Weavers will thread a 4- or 8-shaft loom and weave several structures—plain, basket, twill, lace, overshot, summer and winter, and double weave—all on one warp. Participants will also learn how to change the tie-up and/or treadling to produce different structures and a different look for several projects on a single warp.

Each participant should provide a 4- or 8-shaft loom (the Guild has some to rent) and weaving supplies. Drafts and further workshop instructions will be available at the September meeting and/or as a PDF file by e-mail. You will be working on your own loom. This is not a round robin workshop. Each participant will receive all of the threading drafts and can choose which one/ones to thread.

Judie Eatough has taught weaving seminars and workshops widely throughout the country and has had many articles on weaving published. She uses computers to explore structure and design ideas. Creating drafts for weaving—from 4-shaft to drawloom—is her passion. Employing the tools of virtual weaving and real samples, she finds that every warp is a new challenge in weaving good cloth. She creates drafts for projects of all kinds—inkle looms, tablet weaving, 4- to 24-shaft looms, and a drawloom.

Please provide the following information:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please mail this form and a check for \$25 (deposit) or \$60 (full workshop fee) to Lorie Webb, Guild Treasurer, at 10077 Eden Ridge Drive, SLC, UT 84095. Registrations should be mailed by October 14, 2011. Sara Lee Neill is coordinating the workshop, and she will distribute weaving drafts and further information to those who register. You may contact her with questions at sneill@xmission.com.

Please note that because we are privileged to have Judie Eatough as a member of our Guild and do not need to pay travel fees, this three-day workshop is available at the amazingly low price of \$60.

Mary Meigs Atwater
Weaver's Guild of Utah

September 2011 • Vol. 57 No. 1

Newsletter editors:

Susan Hainsworth, susanhainsworth@gmail.com; Jane Ann Peters, janeannpeters@comcast.net

The newsletter is published 10 times a year. Any articles or information should be to the editor by the 20th of the month.

To join the Guild send \$30.00 (\$35.00 to receive the newsletter by mail) to Lorie Webb, 10077 Eden Ridge Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84095

To join the Guild e-mail list:
MMAWG-subscribe@yahoo.com

Guild web page: www.mmawg.org

Guild meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Unitarian Church 6876 South Highland Drive (2000 East)

2011-2012 MMAWG Board

President: Jo Stolhand, 801-521-0069, jstolhand@q.com

Vice President: Sonya Campana, 801-733-5888, sonyacampana@yahoo.com

Secretary: Maureen Wilson, 1883 Texas Stree, SLC, UT 84108, maureenwilson@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Lorie Webb, 10077 Eden Ridge Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84095, lwebb@q.com

Hospitality: Beth Myrer, 801-373-3840, betsyboo100@hotmail.com

Library and Equipment: Joanne Spotten, 487-9133, joanne@the.computer.com

Fiber Festival Chair: Mimi Rodes, 9 Courtside Lane, Sandy, UT, mimirodes@comcast.net

Newsletter: Susan Hainsworth, 801-292-1169, susanhainsworth@gmail.com; Jane Ann Peters, 801-446-8923, janeannpeters@comcast.net

Website: Judie Eatough

HGA representative: Sara Lee Neill, 801-829-3703, slneill@xmission.com

Guild Calendar, 2011-2011

September Meeting, Saturday September 10, 2011

Weaving with Natural Materials, by Sandra Sandberg
Mimi Rodes's Home, with Potluck Lunch

October 13, 2011

Intermountain Weaver's Guild Show and Tell

November 10, 2011

Introduction to Types of Looms

November 10-12, 2011

Weaving One Warp and Many Weave Structures
Workshop by Judie Eatough
Pioneer Craft House

December 8, 2011

Guild Christmas Party
Mimi Rodes's home

January 12, 2012

Sectional Warping and Using an AVL Warping Reel,
by Deanna Baugh

February 9, 2012

Exciting Meeting to Be Announced

March 8, 2012

Felted Easter Eggs, by Beth Myrer

April 12, 2012

Joanne Tallarovic
Guest Fiber Artist for the Utah Fiber Arts Festival

May 10, 2012

Exciting Meeting to Be Announced

June 2012

Exciting Meeting to Be Announced