

The Weaver's Bag

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah ❖ March 2008 ❖ Vol. 53 No. 7

*Next month is the Utah Fiber Arts Conference!
If you haven't received your registration packet you can find a copy
on the Guild website: www.MMAWG.org.*

March Guild Meeting

When: Thursday, March 13, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Unitarian Church, 6876 South Highland

What: Analysis of Historical Finnish Textiles

Instructor: Charlene Lind and Judie Eatough

You may not be familiar with the name "Anna Hartikainen Mutonen." You may never have heard of Joensuu, Finland. But after our upcoming Guild meeting, you will be a great fan of Anna Hartikainen Mutonen, and you will be very grateful you had the opportunity to see her weaving.

Anna is the grandmother of Raija Hansen, who was born in Finland but now lives in Salt Lake City. She has many of her grandmother's textiles, and she has graciously allowed the Guild to spend an evening analyzing (and touching) these textiles. Anna grew her own flax, prepared the flax for spinning, spun the linen thread, dyed the thread, and then wove many amazing textiles that she used in her home. These include bed coverings, rugs, and tablecloths, woven in many different weave structures. The yarn is often very fine, and the weaving of these textiles is superb. The textiles allow us to see many types of structures, use of dyes, and excellent weaving techniques.

These textiles are truly worthy of being displayed in a museum, and it is an unusual opportunity we will have to see them closely and learn from them. Raija will spend the evening with us and help us get acquainted with her grandmother. This is an evening you won't want to miss.

Charlene Lind and Judie Eatough will discuss each textile and explain how it was created, helping us understand the structures and techniques involved. After the textile analysis, they will talk about how we can look at historical textiles and use these ideas in our weaving.

Please remember to bring your projects for our show and tell from 6:30 to 7:00. Besides your current projects, feel free to bring any historical or Scandinavian textiles you might have. ❖

President's Message



I am so happy that we will all be able to see the beautiful textiles woven by Anna Hartikainen Mutonen, and I am delighted to say that I am the proud owner of her loom. The loom is a Varpapuu, a brand of Scandinavian loom that is no longer made. It is made of slow-growing Scandinavian pine, a much harder wood than our pine, and very beautiful. Last week I had several of our Guild members, who are much smarter than me, come to my home and begin putting the loom together. The experience turned out to be something of a treasure hunt, for among all the loom pieces was a long homemade tube that had old pieces of wood sticking out of the top. It looked like maybe the whole thing needed to be thrown away. But as we dug down into the tube, we

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found that the old pieces of wood were just supports, and inside were rug shuttles, boat shuttles with wheels and brass reinforcements at the ends, and a lovely bobbin winder, much better than the one I have now.

We also found that the people who had shipped the loom from Finland had bought new linen fabric to be used for the loom apron. This fabric is such beautiful linen, unlike anything I have seen (and I will bring it to the Guild meeting show and tell so you can see it). As my brilliant friends worked to put the loom pieces together, we found such ingenious construction

that it was a joy to be part of such a lovely tradition—the centuries-old, marvelous tradition of weaving.

This whole experience made me very grateful for the associations we have in the Guild. Without my friends in the Guild, I would never have had a hope of putting those random pieces of wood together into a beautiful loom. As I think about my life without the Weaver's Guild, I find that so much beauty and friendship and wisdom would be missing. Thanks to all of you for the beauty and friendship you share as we associate together. I look forward to our next meeting and to all the wonderful opportunities that are upcoming. ❖

Guild Challenge

Hopefully many of you have begun working on your piece for the Guild Challenge. If you haven't already picked up a picture to use as inspiration, you can get one at the February Guild meeting. Remember that you are to use your existing stash of yarns to create a fiber piece, of any type, based on the inspiration you get from your picture. If your stash is minimal, you are allowed to purchase fibers, but it would be great to have as many people as possible to work with what they already have at home.

All the finished pieces will be shown at the June meeting. ❖

2009 Guild Show

The 2009 Guild show will be on display from January 16 through March 11 of 2009 at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center. The theme will be "Fiber Arts: From the Past to the Present." Please start thinking now about the fiber art pieces you will create for this show. More than 2,500 people viewed the Guild show at the same location in 2007, so this is wonderful opportunity to share our beautiful art form with the public. All forms of fiber art will be accepted. ❖

Report on the March Guild Meeting

Some of the items brought in for the show and tell part of the meeting were treasures from home—handwoven items from a trip to Greece, handspun/knitted sweaters brought out to view; and recent pieces of work shared for all to see. Deanna's piece was washed this time for us to see how the fabric's character was enhanced—cool! Can you tell I love this part of the meeting? I'll try to take better notes in the future because all the pieces brought in have so much to offer us as artisans.

Next were announcements of March's meeting. We will be having a special guest from Finland, and her lifelong collection of woven pieces. Not to be missed!

Also, there was a review of seminars and conferences, both available and filled, for the upcoming Utah Fiber Arts Conference in April. Another event to plan to attend!

The guest speaker for the evening was Joanne Spotten presenting "Weaving Mixed Warps." She covered the basics of choosing various yarns for your warp. Wrapping them together as they would appear in the warp,

around an index card, gives the weaver an idea how they will appear in the finished piece. Pick a main color, wind it on the card, and try a different color and see if you like it. Also, remember that different yarns will behave differently together. To avoid unevenness, mix yarns up; put multiple thin yarns together. Sample to save on your novelty yarns. Loom mechanics were also discussed, such as using your reed as a rattle when winding the warp.

Joanne had some lovely items already woven by our talented Guild members. These were passed around for all to study and admire. Julie Caldwell gave us some pointers on her mixed warp piece. She used yarns of similar thickness in the warp and weft to create a lovely wrap. We then went and played with some sample yarns, creating our own ideas of mixed warps on index cards. Thank you, Joanne for sharing your knowledge with us! ❖

Loom For Sale

Mary Megs Atwater Loom, 52 inch beam, 4 harness, 6 treddle, restored and in very good condition.

Call Lisa 919-545-0368 or e-mail inharmony6@embarqmail.com

MARY M. ATWATER WEAVER'S GUILD PRESENTS UTAH FIBER ARTS CONFERENCE 2008

All of you should have received your registration packet for the Utah Fiber Arts Conference. (If you have not, please contact Susan Hainsworth or you can find a copy on the Guild web site.) This conference is a marvelous opportunity to learn from expert presenters at a cost that is very minimal, compared to what you would pay if you traveled to a similar type of conference. The conference also will

provide many types of inspiration, from the fashion show to the chance to spend time with fiber artists from other fiber Guilds and other parts of the state.

Send in your registration materials as soon as possible to ensure that you get to take the workshops that are most interesting to you, although they all sound so intriguing that making decisions may be difficult!

Also, because of some cancellations, there are a few openings in the two workshops being taught by Daryl Lancaster. She is teaching a two-day workshop on closures before the conference, and a three-day workshop on constructing a jacket after the conference. Further details are in the registration packet, or you can contact Patti Pitts or Teri Jo Mauch. ♦

WHEN

April 11 and 12, 2008

WHERE

Pioneer Craft House
3271 South 500 East

SCHEDULE

Friday, April 11

Jazzy Junque Jubilee: 12:00 noon, ending on Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

Registration: 12:00 noon to 6:45 p.m.

Catered Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Keynote Address: *A Sewer's Perspective: An Instructional Tour of the Juried Fashion Show*, by Daryl Lancaster

Saturday, April 12

Morning Seminars: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

- *Closures*, with Daryl Lancaster
- *Nuno Felted Scarf*, with Kathleen Deneris
- *Tapestry Weaving*, with Kristine Bullock

Catered Lunch: 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.

End of Jazzy Junque Jubilee: 1:30 p.m.

Afternoon Seminars: 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- *Photographing Your Artwork*, with Daryl Lancaster
- *Basket Making: Random Weave Bowl*, with Connie Denton
- *Spinning Buffalo*, with Elizabeth Dailey

Fashion Show and Hors d'oeuvres Reception: 7:00 p.m.

Daryl Lancaster Workshops

Two workshops will be held with Daryl Lancaster in connection with the Utah Fiber Arts Conference. These workshops are already full. To place your name on the waiting list contact Patti Pitts at 582-0271:

- *Garment Construction and Finishing for Handweavers and Other Fiber Artists*, Thursday and Friday, April 10-11, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day
- *Handwoven Clothing: The Daryl Jacket*, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, April 13-15, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day

VISITING ARTIST

Daryl Lancaster, nationally known artist, teacher, handweaver, writer, and professional dressmaker and designer, explains: "Between the sewing machine and the loom, my journey in the fiber arts has taken over 40 years. From an alterations business at 15, to production handwoven clothing, to custom art-to-wear, my work has covered, adorned, and embellished the female body for as long as I can remember. . . .

"In my artwork, I use clothing as a canvas; it is the covering for our body which is the covering for our soul. Instead of using clothing to hide figure flaws and perceived defects, we should be using clothing to celebrate the soul within, to sing, to decorate, to embellish; and what better vehicle than something that has come from our own hands."

Daryl teaches workshops on weaving and sewing. She is the Contributing Features Editor for *Handwoven Magazine* and has written extensively for many publications.

SATURDAY SEMINARS

Closures, with Daryl Lancaster

Do you avoid jackets because you don't know how to close them? There is nothing like a beautifully done, bound buttonhole to set your garment apart from the rest. Standard and triangular bound buttonholes will be covered. Also demonstrated will be machine and handworked buttonholes, buttonhole facings, fabric cords for loop and button closures, ideas for buttons, and other suggestions for closing up those jacket fronts. *Note:* If you are taking Daryl Lancaster's *Garment Construction and Finishing* workshop, all of the material in this seminar is covered in the workshop.

Nuno Felted Scarf, with Kathleen Deneris

Each participant will complete a nuno felted scarf in this seminar. Fiber will be applied to a pre-dyed silk scarf using one and three needle punches. Needle felting machines will also be available to test.

There is a limit of 12 participants.
Materials fee: \$20.00.

Tapestry Weaving, with Kristine Bullock

This course explores the techniques and tools used in tapestry weaving. Students will learn to warp the loom, twine the edge, then weave slits, locked wefts, dovetails, diagonals, and circles, followed by options for finishing their piece. They will also learn the effects of using different yarns and the things to consider when making a pictorial weaving. We will view and discuss various ways to use tapestry-woven pieces.

There is a limit of 6-7 participants.
Materials Fee: \$30. Fee includes tapestry loom, warp and weft yarns, and needles. Students should bring a fork, scissors, and any single-ply yarns they would like. If you have a tapestry loom, bring it, and the cost of the loom will be removed from the materials fee.

Photographing Your Artwork, with Daryl Lancaster

Often handweavers are rejected from exhibits because they provide poor quality images of their pieces. Find out what works and what doesn't. Even if you use a professional photographer, knowing what jurors are looking for will help improve the quality of your final presentation. Using Power Point, the basics of photography—both film and digital—will be discussed, as well as composition and lighting and basic digital image manipulation, using Photoshop Elements 4.0. There will be lots of images illustrating what NOT to do.

Basket Making: Random Weave Bowl, with Connie Denton

Random weave is a nontraditional weaving style where the materials become both the warp and weft. Using a combination of reed, natural materials, paper, and metals, you will weave free-form fashion over a framework until the walls of the basket are strong, layered, and textured. The shape of the basket is not predetermined; the basket maker allows the basket to establish its own shape and form as the weaving proceeds. This is a good exercise in allowing your creativity to "go with the flow." All materials are provided by the instructor, and you can bring anything weave-worthy you have at home and experiment!

Materials fee: \$5.00.

Spinning Buffalo, with Elizabeth Dailey

Learn the intricacies of spinning buffalo (the fiber is provided by Judith McKenzie) on a drop spindle supplied by Elizabeth Dailey.

There is a limit of 12 participants.
Materials fee: \$20.00

This conference is made possible by a generous grant from the Utah Arts Council.

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah

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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 Sonya Campana, 8407 Dynasty Way, Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121

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

Guild web page: www.mawg.org

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

2007–2008 MMAWG Board

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2007–2008 Calendar

March 13

Charlene Lind and Judie Eatough,
“Analysis of Historical Finnish Textiles”

April 11 and 12

Utah Fiber Arts Conference at the
Pioneer Craft House, with Daryl Lancaster.
Lecture and dinner,
fashion show, and seminars.

April 11–12 and 13–15

Workshops with Daryl Lancaster:
“Garment Construction and
Techniques” and “Handwoven
Clothing 101—the Daryl Jacket”

May 8

Visits to the weaving studios of Teri Jo Mauch,
Patti Pitts, and Karna Petuskey

June 14

Deanna Baugh, “Painted Warps.”
We will also have a potluck lunch and
share projects from the Guild Challenge.

Coming in 2008–2009

September 11

Opening meeting of the 2008–2009 Guild year
with presentation by Linda Lugenbill

September 11–13

Basket weaving workshop with
Linda Lugenbill

January 16–March 11, 2009

“Fiber Arts: From the Past to the Present.”
2009 Guild show at the
Utah Cultural Events Center