

The Weaver's Bag

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah • November 2011 • Vol. 57 No. 3

November Guild Meeting

WHAT: Loom Chat

WHEN: Thursday, November 10, 2011, 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: South Valley Unitarian Church, 6876 Highland Drive

Come join us for an educational as well as entertaining evening filled with fun, as several of our Guild members give a lively presentation otherwise known as a Loom Chat. We will be discussing the various looms that the Guild members own. Each type of loom has its own personality, and one can't help but appreciate that fact when spending time at one's loom.

This evening promises to hold some good insights—especially for those new weavers out there.



Experienced weavers who haven't tried out every type of loom out there can benefit from this discussion too. There is always something new to discover in looms. It could be a new engineering design, the gorgeous glowing wood, or the ease with which that "Little Baby" treadles—there is so much to appreciate about weaving, with its simple tools.

As many are aware, the loom is one of the earliest tools that humankind developed in their challenge for survival, warmth, and beauty. It is cool to learn the many ways our predecessors created the things they needed. Today's looms reflect their ingenuity. They may seem complicated, but they really are good friends once you get to know them.

Remember to bring your latest fun fiber things to show and tell at 6:30. Hope to see you there, Sonya ❖



President's Message

My friend Inger left for her home in Stockholm yesterday after a two-week visit in Utah. While visiting her last spring, I bought a book in a secondhand store that was titled HELG OCH SÖCKEN: bilder ur svenska folkets liv och arbete. That translates as Holidays and Weekdays, Pictures from Swedish People's Lives and Work. The book was first printed in 1855 but had been edited and reprinted in 1973. Each chapter has a full-page reprint of a painting, followed by two or three pages of text about the scene depicted. Inger translated some of these chapters for me.

One of the scenes is of making linen in Hälsingland. Women in white blouses with red hats and vests, and green skirts with red ruffles at the bottom, are preparing the flax alongside a stream. A man also dressed in the traditional green, trimmed with red, is pulling a large bundle of flax from the stream to start the process of removing the outer layer of the stems. The linen from Hälsingland was the finest in Sweden, possibly because they left it soaking for a long period in the stream. In other areas of Sweden, the flax was just left on the ground to be soaked by the rain and dried by the sun until the outer fibers could be removed. In the background of the picture, you can see a small building built close to the stream so that a waterwheel could help power the work of preparing the flax.

A second picture is a dark one-room cottage in Västergötland, where women are spinning, weaving, and selling cloth to a peddler. The land was poor in this area, so farming was supplemented by cloth production. A pattern of striping was passed down from mother to daughter. In other parts of the country, weaving was done on farms for the family and workers on the farm. Some of the farm laborers' wages were paid in fabric or clothing made on the farm.

Today I am thinking of starting a new project. I will sit down with a catalogue or go to a store in the city to get fiber. I will weave with no time constraints or the necessity of producing something useful and durable and no responsibility to clothe and feed family with the products of my labor. It is a good life.

Happy weaving, Jo Stolhand ❖

Workshop: One Warp and Many Weave Structures

Judie Eatough will be teaching a **three-day workshop** at the Pioneer Craft House, 3271 South 500 East, on November 10, 11, and 12. For those of you who have registered, remember that the workshop will be from 9:00 to 4:00 each day, with a lunch break from noon to 1:00. You will need to bring a lunch or walk to a nearby eatery. Also remember to bring the remainder of your \$60 registration fee if you have not already paid it in full.

If you still haven't warped your loom, drafts are available on the Guild's website. If you have questions as you are warping your loom, e-mail Judie at judie@eatough.net. ❖

Summary of the October Meeting

On October 13, 2011, the Mary Atwater Weaver's **Guild met for another wonderful meeting**. We saw many people's beautiful projects during our Show and Tell time, and then we were able to hear from three Guild members who attended the Intermountain Weavers' Conference in Durango, Colorado, last summer.

Beth Myrer discussed her collapse weave workshop. **Mimi Rodes** had attended a Jason Collingwood rug weaving workshop, and she was able to teach us about shaft switching, a very useful technique for creating patterns in rugs. **Deanna Baugh** learned from Robyn Spady about textural weaving, including fabulous corduroy, velvet, and pleating. All of the samples we saw from these workshops were inspiring and

beautiful. We also had a discussion of ways to apply the techniques we learned from Sandra Sandberg at our September meeting. ❖

Get Ready for the Guild Christmas Party

Our December Guild meeting, which will be held on Thursday, December 8, at Mimi Rodes's home, will be our **annual Christmas party**. We will have a potluck dinner, with the turkey provided by the Guild. And we have our annual fiber gift exchange. Be thinking of a gift that you can bring. The gifts can be anything that is fiber related: small woven or knitted items, yarn, felted articles, a fiber tool or book, an ornament—anything that a fiber fanatic might enjoy. The gifts can be simple. The most important thing is that everyone comes to enjoy this wonderful evening. ❖

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 our Guild meeting 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!

Robin Bromley will be in charge of this challenge. ❖

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! ❖

**Mary Meigs Atwater
Weaver's Guild of Utah**

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Newsletter editors:

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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 Lorie Webb, 10077 Eden Ridge Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84095

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

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

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Guild Calendar, 2011-2011

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

Fancy Twills, by Jeanette Tregeagle

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

Huck Lace, by Charlene Lind

June 2012

Potluck Lunch and Guild Challenge Reveal