The Weaver's Bag Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah • December 2012 • Vol. 58 No. 4

December Guild Meeting

What: Guild Christmas Party and Fiber Gift Exchange

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

Where: Mimi Rodes's Home, 9 Courtside Lane, Sandy, Utah

Our December Christmas meeting is our Annual Christmas Party. We will have a potluck dinner, with the turkey provided by the Guild. Bring a dish to share. This meal is a culinary event that you won't want to miss.

And we will have our annual fiber gift exchange. Bring a wrapped gift that can be exchanged with another Guild member. Gifts can be anything that is fiber related—small woven or knitted items, yarn, felted articles, a special tool—anything that a fiber fanatic might enjoy. Gifts can be simple—the most important thing is to come and share in the fun!

Note from Mimi: "It was so magical to have my house filled with such wonderful ladies, so much energy, creativity and friendship! The gift exchange was so much fun—each little bag or box was a delightful surprise and gift! **Directions to Mimi's home:** 9 Courtside Lane, Sandy, UT 84092, 801-619-6888

Exit Interstate 15 at 10600 South and travel east until



the road ends at a "T" with a stop sign, which is 2000 East. Turn right on 2000 East, and then turn left on the first road on your left, which is Pepperwood Drive. Travel up the hill until you come to the guard gate. Stay in the left lane and tell the guard that you are a guest of Mimi Rodes. Proceed 7 tenths of mile on Pepperwood Drive. The street will go downhill, then curve left while going uphill. At the top of the hill, you will see tennis courts and a swimming pool complex on your right. When you see these, turn left on Wanderwood, then immediately left on Courtside. Mimi's home, 9 Courtside Lane, is the first home on your left.

Note: Don't turn left onto Wanderwood until you have driven 7 tenths of a mile. If you do find that you have turned onto the first entrance of Wanderwood, proceed to the top of Wanderwood and turn right onto Courtside Lane just before the road dead-ends. Mimi's house is on the corner. ❖

President's Message

It's that wonderful time of the year—the time for parties, gift giving, and projects weaving their way off the loom.

Many of us just finished the "Stripes, Stripes, Stripes" workshop with Sharon Alderman and we learned about more than stripes, such as turning a draft and calculating sett. It was inspiring to trail in the creative genius of Sharon's designs.

Our Christmas potluck and gift exchange is December 13 at Mimi Rodes's home. I sincerely hope that all of you can attend. It is such a fun evening of visiting and laughing with friends from the Guild.

The Guild Show opens on January 10 and we

hope everyone has something they would like to display, but even if you do not, please come to the opening, which is the evening of our usual January Guild meeting. The workshop with Nadine Sanders has filled up, but often things change at the last minute so put yourself on the waiting list if you really have a desire to be there.

And don't forget about that scarf that is supposed to come from your creativeness and the bits and pieces of your fiber stash.

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year to each of you, Jo

—Io Stolhand ❖

Wild About Fiber Arts: A Celebration of Utah Fiber Art

The 22nd Biennial MMAWG Guild Show will be January 10 through February 27, 2013, at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center, at 1355 West 3100 South. We are so luck to be able to have our show in this beautiful venue!

Each participant may submit three pieces for the show. The pieces should be brought to the center on Thursday, January 3rd. All registration information is on the Guild website at mmawg.org. The entry fee is \$15, and each piece should have an identification tag attached (found in the registration materials).

We invite everyone to participate and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to share your creations and the wonder of fiver art with the community through this show.

The opening reception will be January 10th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. There will be a lovely reception with music, appetizers, and a short program by nationally known weaver, Nadine Sanders, "The Singing Weaver."

Nadine's program is titled "Entangled Web: A Weaver's Approach to Creative Focus." People who love to make things with fiber can lose motivation, be overwhelmed by our "stashes" and supplies (sound familiar??), and need to find ways to unblocked and let those creative energies flow again. Be sure to invite your friends and family to enjoy the show and reception.

Many thanks to all of you who provided Mimi with a wealth of beautiful materials and tools for the show announcement postcard. Postcards will be available at the Guild Christmas party, and you can take them to give to your family members and friends.

Mimi Rodes

Chairwoman,

Wild About Fiber Arts *





Summary of the November Guild Meeting With Sharon Alderman

Our November Meeting featured Sharon Alderman, who presented "It's Not in the Book"— designing fabric from an idea. We had 34 members attending! In the show-and-tell portion of the meeting, we saw textiles from Thailand, ikat from Okinawa, examples of summer and winter, honeycomb, houndstooth, triangular woven shawls, sashiko, and a woven wool

roving bag. Kathleen McMaster reminded us of the Guild challenge: a woven scarf using those bitty ends in your stash.

Sharon introduced her presentation by saying that it is ironic that she wrote a book on structures as she does not approach her weaving that way, by structure that is. She imagines a cloth, thinks about what she wants it to feel like, how it will drape, where

she wants floats and where she does not, and then uses one of three ways to take that idea to the cloth. The three approaches she discussed are:

- Based on a fabric she's seen, for example, a jacket fabric, which was a basket weave with a dornick twill. She knew the basket weave would require 2 shafts and that the twill would take 4, so at first she thought the combination would require 6 shafts. But when she was home and graphed out the weave and analyzed it, using the standard drafting convention, she found that she could weave it on 4 shafts. Dornick twill has a clean break between directions, which avoids floats over 3 ends. It is used in menswear to make the cloth as strong as possible. This is a classic pattern and Sharon showed a sample using a heathered woolen single.
- In the second method, she starts with a straight draw and straight treadling. In this set up, the tieup mirrors what is in the cloth (see figure below). She has used an actual mirror to pivot the tieup to see what can be done in

4						o	o
	3				o	o	
		2		0	o		
			1	0			o
				X			
					Х		
						Х	
							Х

the weave. Expanding this format to more than 4 shafts, she started inventing things. With doubling the diagonal line to emphasize it and adding a pivot, she got diamonds. She recommends thinking of the design in terms of 1 quadrant by adding

stitching points in the area, for example, additional diagonal lines. Consider options in other quadrants, such as plain weave, or concentric diamonds.

However, she found that a 2/2 basket weave would not fit or work; rather she could work in a 3/3 basket based on the location of the pivots. She showed several samples—see the photos below taken by Kira Masnica.





The 3rd technique is the one that Sharon uses most, to go from an idea to cloth. She moves from a color or a specific yarn to a structure. She told us of a yarn she had with a luster that she wanted to exhibit in a woven cloth. Based on light reflection, if you want to damp down a yarn's luster, weave plain weave—to display the luster, a long float would work better. So, in her example she worked in areas of longer floats. For the design: 1. Start with an idea, Sharon says: "Don't criticize it, it is a gift, welcome it." 2. Make a

SHARON'S DESIGN PROCESS—FROM IDEA TO CLOTH

- **1. Start with an idea,** "Don't criticize it, it is a gift, welcome it."
- 2. Make a sketch of the idea.

It does not have to be elaborate, don't try to be precise, that may kill the idea before it develops.

- 3. Draft it out.
- 4. Define the sheds needed.
- 5. Do it!

sketch of the idea. It does not have to be elaborate, don't try to be precise, that may kill the idea before it develops. 3. Using the standardized drafting arrangement, assign weaving shafts to the idea to make it happen; and break down the treadling into parts. 4. Define the sheds needed. 5. Do it!

Then she showed several samples of fabric that she developed using this process. In one example she used a brushed mohair yarn on one side: small amount for a big effect. She designed a cloth with vertical tubes, with the mohair yarn on one side of the tubes.

Sharon's presentation was motivating, especially now in time for those weaving for the Guild show in January. It is so great that she is here in Utah and we can take advantage of her vast weaving experience. Her book, Mastering Weave Structures, Transforming Ideas into Great Cloth is one of my go-to weaving references.

Sharon also had news that the fabric swatch collection is being reinstated in Handwoven magazine! She gave us a preview of what to expect in the Jan/Feb edition. ❖

Intermountain Weaver's Conference July 2013

Intermountain Weaver's Conference will be held again in Durango, Colorado, at Fort Lewis College. (IWC is a regional weaver's conference that is offered every other year.) It is scheduled for July 25-28, 2013, and the IWC board has been busy planning every detail to make this conference, the 30th anniversary, the best ever. IWC offers three-day in-depth workshops. Please visit the website, intermountainweavers.org, for the workshop list, the new non-jured show "Celebration of Fiber," and membership information.

IWC has a limited number of scholarships available for anyone interested in attending the conference. The scholarship will cover the registration fee for the class of the applicants choice. The deadline for scholarship applications is January 10, 2013. More information about the scholarship and application are available on our website www.intermountainweavers.org. .*

2012–13 Guild Challenge

Kathleen McMaster is spearheading the Guild Challenge this year. The Guild Challenge was so much fun last year—we got fabulous placemats, mug rugs, etc. This year we are doing scarves, always a favorite fashion item, especially for weavers. We would like you to use at least 50 percent of the materials for your scarf from your yarn stash.

Do you have skein of novelty yarn that you just couldn't resist at that yarn store you visited on your last vacation? Do you have a cone or two that have just two or three yards left on them? Maybe there's a cone of yarn you purchased so long ago that you've forgotten what the project was you got it for. These are the things

we want to challenge you to use in designing your one-of-a-kind scarf.

Be creative, and dive deep into your stash. Then we will all reveal our

beautiful creations at the June Guild meeting. (Your scarves can be entered into the Guild show as well.) Have fun weaving! ❖

Two BIG workshops coming up in 2013!

Nadine Sanders

January 11, 12, 13, 2013 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday)

Nadine Sanders, a nationally known weaver, will present a three-day workshop for our Guild on the three days following the opening of the Guild show on Thursday, January 10. Nadine will also present the program at the show opening.

Nadine is an expert on the Theo Moorman technique, and the work—shop, "Weaving That Sings," will teach us how to use either yarn or fabric strips to create pictorial images using this technique. Visit Nadine's website to learn why Nadine is called the "Singing Weaver" and to learn why we are so excited about having her visit our Guild—www.singingweaver.com. This workshop is full.

2. Jason Collingwood

November 9, 10, 11, 2013 (Saturday, Sunday, and Monday)

Imagine! A workshop with Jason Collingwood! Jason is the son of renowned rug weaver Peter Collingwood, and he has carried on the tradition of innovative and excellent rug weaving and teaching. Jason will be traveling in the United States from England in 2013 and teaching at various guilds including the Mary Atwater Guild. Information on the topic of the workshop will be available soon.

Start planning now for this not-to-be-missed chance to learn with a master. The workshop will cost somewhat more than our regular three-day workshops, but because it's being presented locally, the workshop will still be a great deal.

Wild About Fiber Arts: A Celebration of Utab Fiber Art

22nd Biennial Show of the Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild

January 10 through
February 26, 2013
at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center

For further information and for show entry forms, see the Guild website

Rebecca Raybould's Very Cool Cocoon Coat





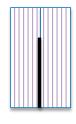
I brought my cocoon coat to Sharon Alderman's "Stripes" workshop and several people requested details about how I made it. My coat is based on instructions Carol Fults shared at a Guild meeting in March 1990. Carol rejoined the guild recently and also attended the "Stripes" workshop. As an intermittent Guild member myself, I am constantly amazed at how all our lives interweave, creating various points of contact. Thanks again to Carol for providing me with the initial instructions.



Here are the details about the coat I wove 22 years ago!

Fiber: 10/2 unmercerized cotton, 24 epi, plain weave I used three colors for warp stripes and one color for weft. Dimensions prior to washing: $24.5" \times 136"$ Dimensions after washing: $23.5" \times 127"$ Cut the cloth in half to create two rectangles, $23.5" \times 63.5"$

With right sides together, stitch the back seam, leaving 17" unstitched at one end.



This is an exaggerated drawing; the black is the stitched back seam with 17" unstitched at the top.

If you make a ½" seam, the piece is now 46" x 63.5"

With right sides together, fold the piece in half lengthwise, so it is 46" x 31.5" approximately. Starting 7" down from the fold, stitch the side seams.

Hem the bottom raw edge. That's it.

Back view of the folded piece:



The side seams start 7" down from the fold. The back seam runs from the bottom edge up and around the fold.

<<< bottom edge

Front view of the folded piece:



The side seams start 7" down from the fold. The back seam is a continuation from the other side, up over the fold and then down to the 17" unstitched.

<<< bottom edge

When you slip the coat on, the top of the back seam will be at the nape of your neck. That's also the shoulder line; it is forward from the fold line in the diagrams. The 17" unstitched will fall open into a loose lapel. The back of the coat is longer than the front.

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 Maureen Wilson, 1883 Texas St., Salt Lake City, UT 84108

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

2012-2013 MMAWG Board

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Guild Calendar 2012-2013

December 13, 2012

Christmas party at Mimi Rodes's house

January 10, 2013

Opening of Guild Show (January Guild meeting), with presentation by Nadine Sanders

January 11-13, 2013

Three-day workshop by Nadine Sanders

February 14, 2013

Life and weaving of Mary Meigs Atwater, by ReNee Page

March 14, 2013

Needle weaving and pulled thread techniques, by Beth Myrer

April 11, 2013

Hand-manipulated lace weaves, by Kathleen McMaster

May 9, 2013

Pickup and inlay techniques, by Judie Eatough

June 2013

Date (Saturday) to be determined.

Studio tour, potluck picnic, and show and tell
at Diane Haueter's beautiful home and farm in Heber.