

The Weaver's Bag

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah • February 2013 • Vol. 58 No. 6

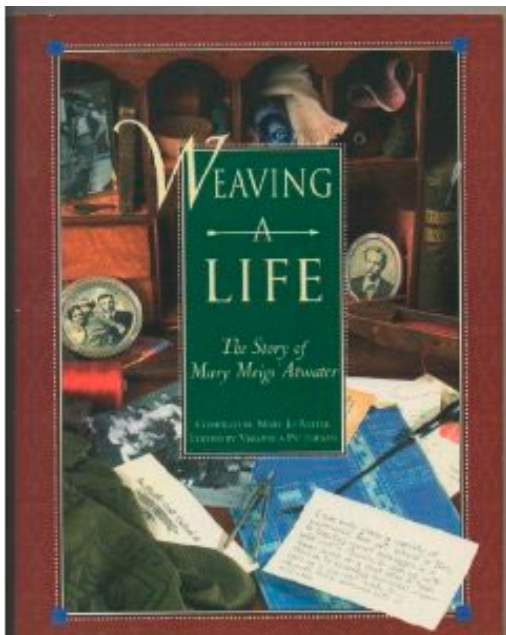
February Guild Meeting Happy Birthday Mary Atwater!

What: The Life and Weaving of Mary Meigs Atwater,
by ReNee Page

When: Thursday, February 14, 2013, 6:30 to 8:30

Where: Utah Cultural Celebration Center, 1355 West
3100 South, rooms 104–105

♥Happy Birthday to Mary Atwater♥ See the guild show♥ Learn about our guild namesake♥ This February Guild meeting is a very special celebration! Mary Meigs Atwater, the nationally known weaver who founded our Guild, was born in February, and we will be celebrating her birthday. ReNee Page will be leading a presentation about Mary, her life, and her weaving.



ReNee will explain how she became so close to Mary Meigs Atwater's memory, and how and why she ended up housing part of the Atwater collection. She will bring many of Mary Atwater's actual weaving samples and books. ReNee will also bring some of the samples woven by Flossie Goodwin, who was a dear friend of Mary Atwater and one of the founding members of our

Guild. Flossie purchased items from the Atwater estate. ReNee has been so lucky to have had all of this left to her to use and to learn from.

Mary Jo Reiter, a former Guild member and author of Mary Atwater's biography, brought ReNee even closer to Mary Meigs Atwater. We will learn more about that at the meeting. ReNee is very happy for us to share and learn from these great woman.

We will be holding this special meeting at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center so that we can see the Guild's show, as well as learn about Mary Atwater. Many Guild members were not able to come to the show opening because of the snowstorm that evening, and we want everyone to be able to see how beautiful this show is! This meeting will be open to the public, and members are encouraged to bring a friend.

We will have a birthday cake in honor of Mary Atwater and have some time to socialize and see the show from 6:30 to 7:00. Please save your show-and-tell items for the March meeting so that we will all have time to look at the Guild show. Then we will meet in rooms 104–105 of the center to hear ReNee's presentation. Plan to spend an evening being delighted and inspired!

—Sonya Campana ♥

Picking Up Your Fiber Pieces from the Guild Show

Be sure to pick up your show entries on Wednesday, February 27, at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. If you have any problem picking up your pieces, please contact a member of the Guild board. We can certainly arrange to pick up your piece for you. ♥

President's Message

It is February and it feels like some of the pressure is off. The Fiber Show is still in progress, but workshops and weaving for holidays are a thing of the past. The workshop was too much fun, so I found the weaving went much better at home where I had few distractions. I sat at the same table as Margareth and her complex weaving of a moose attracted a lot of attention, but there were also many other beautiful samples in the group. I really like Celtic and bluegrass music, so it was very enjoyable to listen to Nadine sing and play her violin.

Every time I dig through my stash of yarn, I am reminded that it is time to plan a scarf for the Guild challenge. I don't have a large stash of yarn that I would use for a scarf, so I have hit up a couple of friends (crocheters) for yarn from their stash. Maybe we should have had a stash exchange.

Another reminder: our February 14th meeting will be held at the West Valley Cultural Celebration Center. We will visit the gallery and then turn the time over to ReNee Page for a celebration of Mary Meigs Atwater's birthday. Save your show-and-tell items for the March meeting.

We will soon be calling a nominating committee to seek new officers for the board for the 2013–2014 Guild year. If you have an interest in working on the board with some other fine people, please let me know. If you are bashful about nominating yourself, get a friend to do it. If you know someone you would like to see be on the board, turn their name in to us, and we might be able to get you a reward like an extra cookie at the next meeting.

See you on Valentine's Day, Jo ♥

Wild About FiberArts: A Celebration of Utah Fiber Arts

Utah Cultural Celebration Center—January 10 through February 26, 2013

Well, that darn weather just did not cooperate for the show opening! Wow, what a storm—especially for those of you north of Salt Lake City. For those who were able to get there, thank you for braving the elements! We had a wonderful evening but missed all who could not make it.

Be sure to go and see the show, several times if you can. There are so many wonderful things to see—every time I go I see something else. The Cultural Celebration Center is open 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday or by calling 801-965-5108 for an appointment. The Center has

generously offered to let us have our February meeting there, so many of you will be able to see the show that evening.

I am delighted to report that the Guild has received a grant from the Utah Arts and Museums Council in support of the Guild show and workshop! The Guild received a note from the Director of the Arts Council complimenting us on the show and telling us to "Keep up the good work!" We are so grateful!

I would especially like to thank the team of Guild volunteers who made the show happen and all of you who brought so many wonderful things to show.

- Charlene applied for and organized all of the awards, the intake and the outtake. She had arranged for Sharon Alderman to judge the show, but Sharon had an unfortunate accident and broke her arm so she was unable to do so. Judie Eatough came to our rescue and

did a wonderful job of judging the show.

- Charlene has also organized a wonderful resource binder that has a to-do list and copies of everything related to previous shows. What a wonderful resource for newbie chairwoman like me!
- Susan, Sonya, Jo, and so many others offered support and advice.
- Judie dropped everything at the last minute to judge our show.
- And of course, Michael Christiensen and his team at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center hosted the show and did such a beautiful job of hanging it.
- Karan and Magareth did a great job in organizing the workshop.

Reminder: Be sure to pick up your show entries on Wednesday, February 27, between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Hope everyone is enjoying the show!

Mimi Rodes

Chairwoman, Wild About Fiber Arts ♥

Summary of the Guild Show Opening

On the evening of January 10, 2013, with those Guild members and their guests who braved the snowy roads, Mimi Rodes, the Guild show chair, introduced the 22nd Biennial Guild Show at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center. Mimi did an excellent job in organizing the show, with help from Charlene Lind and many others. Thanks to Mimi and all who helped.

Mimi thanked the Center and Michael Christensen, Ross Olsen, and Susan Klinker, who did the heavy work of hanging the pieces and publicity for the show. The show is made up of pieces from the Weaver's Guild, Surface Design and Lace Guilds, Tatters' Guild, Embroidery Guild, and others. The show was judged by Judie Eatough, as Sharon Alderman was not able to due to an injury; our best wishes for a speedy recovery, Sharon. The show will be open until February 26,

so if you have not seen it, it is worth the trip to the Center. Awards were announced at the opening, except for the People's Choice Award, which will be given at the closing of the show, on February 26. Don't forget to vote for that award.

The evening's program was then presented by Nadine Sanders, the Singing Weaver. Nadine is known for her work with Theo Moorman technique and her music with the group "Straw into Gold." She started the evening out with a song: "Weaving and Quilting," which celebrates and illustrates the work of the two cultures—Native American basketry and Pioneer quilts, brought west with them along the Oregon trail.

She then gave her program on "Creative Focus," stating that everyone is creative; we design our look for the day every morning. She described creativity as a habit and asked questions to get us all thinking about our own habits: What aids your creative habit? It

is a habit that needs to be cultivated. What makes up your creative self?

She gave several examples from people known for their creativity: for example, Walt Disney, who thought confidence is important for creativity, as seen in his quote on the 4 Cs of creativeness: "This special secret, it seems to me, can be summarized in four C's. They are Curiosity, Confidence, Courage, and Constancy and the greatest of these is Confidence." Twyla Tharp in her book *The Creative Habit: Learn It and Use It for Life*, examines the usefulness of limits in creativity: limits are a secret blessing and bounty can be a curse. Time is not the enemy of creativity.

Nadine then showed us several examples of what inspires her in her work. She is most often inspired by nature and takes photos on hikes. She stressed the importance of paying attention to one's environment for inspiration and referenced the poet Mary Oliver quote: "To pay attention, this is our endless and proper work." She discussed the powers of observing, and gave examples of photos of Will Steger, the polar explorer. She also gave other examples of inspiration from State Fair exhibits from Iowa and Minnesota.

She also encouraged us to try something new if you are stuck in your creativity, rather than avoiding new crafts. She described a teacher of wet felting in Scotland, Ewa Kuncizak, at Felt Head to Toe, as the most creative teacher that she has met. Check out her website at this link: <http://www.feltheadtoe.co.uk/>

Nadine gave this advice: Share what you have learned when you are learning something new and are excited about it. Observe, pay attention to your passions, develop habit, practice, inventory. Ask yourself: what journeys of learning or creating have you been on in the past year? From this list, which one gave you the most delight, satisfaction and energy? What creative journey do you want to take that you have not taken yet? What is preventing you from taking it right now? ♥

22nd Biennial Mary Meigs Atwater Weavers Guild Show Awards

LORNA TAYLOR AWARD:

Kathleen McMaster for the Baby Blessing Dress

HGA AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE:

Sandra Sandberg for her Weaving the Woods, metal piece

SURFACE DESIGN ASSOCIATION AWARD:

Beverly Hart for a Walk in the Woods piece

COMPLEX WEAVERS AWARD:

Maureen Wilson for Handspun Twill Strip Scarf

HANDWOVEN MAGAZINE'S WEAVING FOR THE HOME:

Susan Hainsworth and Deanna Baugh for the Sunshine Kitchen Apron

FUNCTIONAL WEAVING:

1st place, Deanna Baugh for her Copper River Scarf

2nd place, Jeanette Tregeagle, Log Cabin Scarf

3rd place, Lori Webb, Table Runner

NONFUNCTIONAL WEAVING:

1st place, Beth Myrer, Needle Felted Hummingbird

2nd place, Diane Haueter for Leaves on Water

JUDGES CHOICE:

Susan Dawson for her embroidered piece Kay's Garden.

Summary of the Nadine Sanders Theo Moorman Workshop

This workshop was taught by Nadine Sanders, the Singer Weaver. It was held on January 11–13 at the Pioneer Craft House. Nadine started each morning session with a song. Every student chose a warp for working with either cloth weft or yarns, so there were several different applications of the technique in the class. Nadine provided instruction in warping, applying the technique to artwork such as wall hangings and functional pieces such as bags, pillow covers, and clothing. She showed several examples of all of these. She also taught basic design techniques and encouraged all to put time in the design process for a successful end product. Thanks to the excellent job done by our workshop coordinators: Karan Swanger and Margareth Laurer. ♥



Workshops, Challenges, and Conferences in 2013

Navajo Basket Weaving with Anderson Black

March 2–3, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Registration Fee: \$120

Register online at www.nhmu.utah.edu

Coiling is an ancient basket making technique used by modern Navajo weavers to create both traditional ceremonial baskets and the spectacular works of contemporary art featured in NHMU's Weaving a Revolution exhibition. In this workshop, you'll learn the basics of coiling with sumac from talented Navajo weaver Anderson Black. Split sumac in preparation for weaving, make a basket start, and begin coiling with guidance from Anderson. You'll also learn about the dyeing process and see a demonstration of the traditional Navajo herringbone rim finish. Leave the workshop with enough sumac to complete a four-inch basket on your own.

Participants need to bring their own basket weaving tools, including

an awl, pocket knife, and rag. Details will be provided in your registration confirmation.

Anderson Black is the youngest of basket-weaving matriarch Mary Holiday Black's eleven children. He learned to weave from his mother and sisters. Anderson moved to Salt Lake City to work, but has recently taken leave to focus on his weaving. He gathers sumac for his baskets locally, so his baskets "come from your Valley" he says with a smile. Anderson finds weaving a contemplative process which allows him time to reflect on Navajo sacred stories. ♥

Jason Collingwood

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

Jason is the son of renowned rug weaver Peter Collingwood, and he has carried on the tradition of innovative and excellent rug weav-

ing 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. ♥

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-juried 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! ♥

**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)

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Guild Calendar 2012-2013

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.