

The Weaver's Bag

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah • March 2013 • Vol. 58 No. 7

March Guild Meeting Needle Weaving and Drawn Thread Techniques

What: Needle Weaving and Drawn Thread Techniques,
by Beth Myrer

When: Thursday, March 14, 2013, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: South Valley Unitarian Church, Highland Drive

This month Beth Myrer will be leading a discussion and presentation about Needle Weaving and Drawn Thread techniques. According to Beth, Needle Weaving is a way to embellish fabric by simply weaving with the needle in the fabric to decorate fabric pieces. Drawn Threads is another embellishment technique, in which warp threads are removed and the weft threads are embellished. She will be demonstrating both techniques. It promises to be a most interesting meeting, with Beth presenting new techniques and ideas for our inspiration and use in our fiber work. Hope to see you all there!

Please also come to Show and Tell at 6:30 and bring your current projects. If you have anything that is embellished with Needle Weaving or Drawn Thread Techniques, bring it as well.

—Sonya Campana 



President's Message

February was a great month! Our Fiber Show came to an end with great reviews. Thank you to all the artists who participated and made the show possible. And we thank Mimi and her committee for the time and effort to make this a really fabulous show. It was a great time to celebrate Mary Meigs Atwater's birthday. We could never have found a better hostess for the party than ReNee Page. Great stories, ReNee! So, how are those scarves coming along for the Guild Challenge? We still have time, but start scanning the treasures in your stash. It will be a lot of fun to see what everyone weaves. I am looking forward to the Guild meeting in March. When I saw Beth's sampler at an earlier meeting, I knew this would be a meeting I could not miss.

Maureen Wilson, ReNee Page, and myself will form the nominating committee for next year's board. We would welcome suggestions and nominations from the membership. As ReNee so succinctly put it, "Serving on the board is such a wonderful experience and a way to build new friendships."

Two more reminders for all of you: you can register for workshops at IWC now, and IWC is looking for a couple of people from Utah to serve on their board.

—Happy Weaving, Jo 



The February Meeting Summary—Mary Meigs Atwater

The meeting was held on Valentine's Day, and Renee Page gave a program on Mary Meigs Atwater, whose 135th birthday occurred on February 28, 2013. Thirty one members and guests attended; a good turnout.

First, there were announcements: An Intermountain Weavers Conference board position is coming open, and our own Guild Board will have the regular yearly openings—if anyone is interested, please contact Jo Stollhand. Mimi Rodes, the Guild Show Chair, announced that Margaret Hunt, director of the Utah Arts Council, wrote a note to the Guild and stated that she loved the show. Sonya Campana, Guild VP, encouraged Guild members to get more involved with the Guild Board.

Sonya then introduced ReNee Page, her weaving mentor, who started her program on Mary Meigs Atwater by talking about her own personal introduction into weaving by Flossie Goodwin, who was a dear friend of Mary Atwater and one of the founding Guild members. ReNee first met Flossie when ReNee's husband began working for Flossie. In 1982, Flossie moved in with ReNee and her husband, and ReNee took a weaving workshop on leno with Flossie at the Intertwine store and thought that there might be something going on with this weaving that she needed to get into. Flossie told ReNee shortly before she passed away that it was her wish that she join the Weaving Guild. So in 1983, ReNee did, and we are so glad to have her as part of our community. ReNee was at that time focused on being a seamstress, and appropriately enough, the program of the first Guild meeting she went to was

presented by Sharon Alderman on fabrics for clothing.

ReNee helped her fellow Guild Member, Mary Jo Reiter, with the Guild library. Mary Jo became interested in Mary Meigs Atwater's life, and the two of them traveled through the West to interview the remaining living friends and family to bring together all the information that they could on Mary Meigs Atwater. They came home with her letters, weaving drafts, samples, and much of her writing. From these, Mary Jo wrote *Weaving a Life*, a biography of Mary Atwater. ReNee inherited supplies, equipment, and yarns from Flossie, who had bought them from Mary's estate. ReNee said that she never needed to buy anything to weave and was shocked at the price of weaving yarns today.

Mary Atwater published the *Shuttle Craft Bulletin* for a period of years (founded in 1922) to raise funds to support her family. Deanna Baugh has indexed and organized those published by Mary Atwater that are owned by the Guild.

ReNee displayed an impressive collection of Mary's writings, weaving samples, and textile collection, and we all had a chance to examine it up close after her presentation. She also gave a slide presentation on the area of Montana where Mary had lived and the equipment that she inherited from Flossie, including an inkle loom, Kessenich loom, great wheel, and two Macomber looms, among other pieces.

It was an amazing story; thanks so much, ReNee, for being a member and providing this great history. Happy Birthday to Mary Meigs Atwater and to the Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild. 🌿



Workshops, Challenges, and Conferences in 2013

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 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. ☒

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! ☒

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 applicant's 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. ☒

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 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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Website: Judie Eatough

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

Guild Calendar 2012-2013

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.