



The Weaver's Bag

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah • June 2018 • Vol. 64 No. 6

June Guild Meeting

What: Tote Basket Weaving Workshop with Connie Denton and Potluck Lunch

When: Saturday, June 16, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Potluck lunch about noon.

Where: Mimi Rodes's home, 9 Courtside Lane, Sandy UT 84092



At our Saturday basket workshop, Connie Denton will help us use splint or plaited basket weaving to create an easy-to-weave tote basket. A variety of different sizes and colors of naturally dyed reed will be available for your choosing. This basket starts with a solid hardwood base and ends with the attachment of either leather or Shaker tape handles. It measures approximately 12" x 5" at the base and 10" tall.

Those who will be making a basket should already have let

Mimi Rodes know so that the necessary materials can be provided. If you are making a basket, there be a materials fee: \$20 for the Shaker Tape Handle and \$25 for the Leather Handle.

If you are not planning to weave a basket, come to the Potluck Lunch and the Show and Tell! Lunch will start around noon, but come early to visit. (The Guild will provide drinks and utensils for the lunch.) Be sure to bring your wonderful items for Show and Tell – including the samples you made in the Fiber Festival and the Tom Knisely workshop! If you have questions, please call Mimi Rodes at 801-619-6888.

President's Message



Have any of you recently needed to add another fiber form to your life? I certainly didn't need to—I can't get to all the projects I already have! But there I was, at the Guild table at the Great Basin Fiber Festival with all those tempting vendors around, and I succumbed to a lovely punch needle rug kit! I got started and found that this particular fiber form actually moves along—unlike weaving and knitting, it doesn't take hours and hours to complete. So I've been having fun with this.

And to add to all the fibery things in my life, I have just received my new Hansen mini-spinner so that I can return to spinning a bit more. My bad back has made it hard to treadle my Louet wheel for any length of time. So here I am with new and wonderful fiber projects in my life—what can I say? Our fiber world is full of such wonderful and beautiful things, and my experiences with the Guild are constantly opening my eyes to new possibilities. Don't hold your breath for a handspun project from me soon, but you can be sure that all of my projects are bringing me happiness, no matter how much time I actually have for them. Happy fiber-ing with all your wonderful projects! *Susan Hainsworth*

Woven Shibori Workshop Coming in October!

Barbara Cabrol, a one-time member of the Mary Atwater Weaver's Guild, is returning to Salt Lake City on October 11, 12 and 13 to teach a Woven Shibori workshop.

This will be a modified round robin workshop, starting with pre-warped looms. Participants will explore the use of various weave structures to produce resist patterns on the woven fabric once the supplemental weft or warp threads have been gathered and secured. Samples will be cut off at regular intervals to gather the supplemental threads and dye. The fun is the final untying.

Beginning to expert weavers will enjoy this workshop. Looms can include two-harness with pick-up, as well as 4 and 8 harness looms. Suggested drafts for 4 and 8 shaft looms will be supplied in advance.

The workshop will be held at the Pioneer Craft House and will be limited to 15 participants. Watch for registration forms, which will be sent out soon. *Jo Stolhand*

May Meeting: Spring Fiber Festival

May was our Biennial Guild Fiber Festival with workshops, speakers and good times.

We started off with a three-day workshop on Krokbragd led by Tom Knisely of Red Stone Glen, York Haven, Pennsylvania. Krokbragd is a three-shaft boundweave technique from Scandinavia, often used in rugs. It offers an opportunity for beautiful colorwork, as seen by the many samples woven in the class. I am hopeful that we will see many of them at future show and tell events. One of the samples Tom brought is shown here.

Then on Friday evening, Tom give a presentation on his collection of American and Historic Textiles. He told us about his introduction to early vintage textiles through his parent's antique collecting and the first spinning wheel he bought when he was 14 years old! He had many examples to share, with a couple of them shown here.

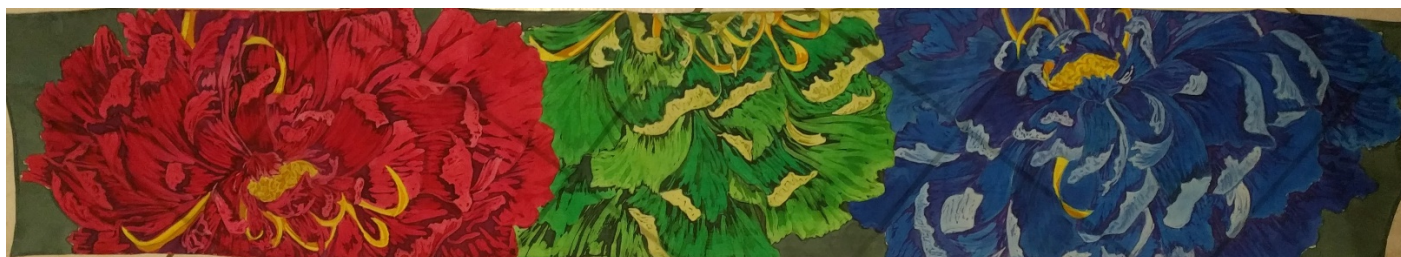


On Saturday morning, Tom kicked off the day with a presentation on Antique Japanese Rural Textiles, again with several samples of Sakiori (rag weaving), Sashiko (stitching) Zanshi (tied leftover threads) and Boro (mended) textiles. Nothing is wasted and the textiles were reused in a beautiful manner.



We finished the day with three concurrent workshops: Fun Felted Scarves by Beth Myers, Colorful Coiled Rope Bowls by Juliette Lanvers, and Silk Painting on Silk Hoopes by Debbie Sigg. All participants came away with beautiful items that I hope we see in person. The workshop and festival was very well organized thanks to the work of Karen Elrod and her team: Carol Fults and Eileen Barry.

Thanks also to Sonya Campana and the others who organized the Jazzy Junk Jubilee. Lots of beautiful fiber changed homes! Well done! *Maureen Wilson*



Guild Sale in November!

The big news is that the Board has voted to hold a Guild Holiday Sale! We have reserved the Unitarian church where we usually meet, so mark your calendars for **November 16th and 17th**. We will be setting up on Friday afternoon, and having a preview reception Friday evening and the sale will be all day, Saturday. This is what we need from you.

- First, as you set up your looms, put on extra warp to weave items for the sale. Some of us weave a lot and will have many items, some weave few items a year. No matter, if everyone has just a couple of items for the sale, we will have plenty.
- Second, think about how you can help with the sale. We will need people to work on publicity, set up, reception and sales. If you would like to help, please contact me at 801-216-4722, fiernbeads@gmail.com.

I know that a sale in November seems like a long time away, but it will creep up on us. One way that I save on last-minute preparation is to tag things as I finish them. By law, we need to label clothing and household linens with fiber content and washing instructions. I write this on the back of a business card and pin it to each item. I also try to keep track of the cost of materials in my projects notebook so I can decide on prices somewhat intelligently. More to come. HAPPY weaving, *Catherine Marchant*

Our Guild at the Great Basin Fiber Arts Fair

Our Guild had an important presence at the Great Basin Fiber Arts Fair, which was held this year on May 11 and 12 at the Legacy Events Center in Farmington, Utah.

Our Guild rented a table and displayed small looms and woven items. This was a wonderful opportunity for community outreach to educate the public about the existence of our Guild and encourage their participation in the fiber arts. Many people – up to about 50 – stopped at the table and said that they had encountered weaving in their lives at some distant time. We were able to distribute information about our Guild and about weaving, and many people said they would think about picking up weaving again!

Karen Elrod had a booth right next to the Guild table, where she had three Saori looms that were busy every minute of the two days! Between the two weaving displays, many fiber folks left the fair knowing more about weaving. Thanks to everyone who helped! *Susan Hainsworth*

Intermountain Weavers Conference

The next Intermountain Weavers Conference (IWC) will be held July 25–28, 2019 at Fort Lewis College in Durang, Colorado. To be notified of the latest information about the conference, become a member of IWC by going to intermountainweavers.org.

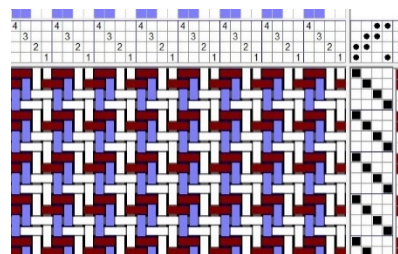
Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Weaving Dress Fabrics

In 1931 (March Issue) and 1937 (April), Mary Meigs Atwater wrote on weaving dress fabrics. She stated that dress fabrics are not difficult to weave, and should rely on color and texture more than pattern. In 1931, she recommended that they be woven in plain or twill weave structures. In terms of materials, a combination of linen warp and wool weft, known as linsey-woolsey or all wool yarns should be used. These yarns are called for fabrics for dresses, coats, light suiting, scarves, and even summer dresses. She wrote that a weaver should have a flair for style, a good color-sense and a partnership with a skilled seamstress. She advised that the weaver should not be timid with color and experiment. For plain weave, one color is recommended for warp, and a different color or shade of the same color for weft to give the best effect. Stripes of different colors in the warp, or plaids were also given as an option. Ten drafts are shown at the end of the 1931 issue that include twills, open work and Bronson weave dots. These are described in detail in the issue. You can see a 1931 dress pattern here for the style of the day.



In 1937, Mary stated that plaids, stripes and bordered fabrics were the newest thing for dress fabrics. Scotch tartan plaids were described as perennials woven in twill or plain weave for a lighter weight fabric. In terms of color, grey was to be used, in all shades from a rose taupe to a cold bluish shade.

Here is a 2/2 twill draft for one of the samples she described in the issue:



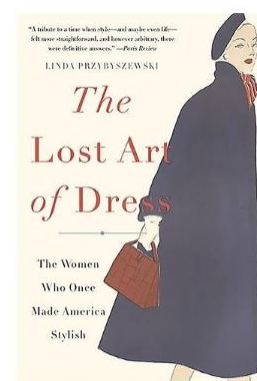
In 1937, Mary has moved away from the linen wool combination and used either an all wool or all cotton fabric. For weave structure, she again recommended plain weave, twill, Bronson weave, leno with plain weave, basket weave or crackle. Warp and weft yarns should be the same or at least similar in kind and grist. Here is another example of a dress pattern of that time.



While looking for examples of dress design of the 1930s, I found a couple of vintage clothing blogs that may be of interest. Check them out at these links: <http://blog.royalvintageshoes.com/> and <https://witness2fashion.wordpress.com/>

The whole topic of weaving dress-fabrics brought to my mind that many of us no longer wear dresses regularly. While searching

online, I found this book on that topic, which looked interesting: *The Lost Art of Dress: The Women Who Once Made America Stylish*, 2014 By Linda



Przybyszewski. Professor Pski, as she is also known, is a University of Notre Dame Professor of history who practices the crafts of dressmaking and millinery, both vintage and modern.

From the publisher on the book: "In the first half of the twentieth century, a remarkable group of women – the so-called Dress Doctors – taught American women that knowledge, not money, was key to a beautiful wardrobe. They empowered women to design, make, and choose clothing for both the workplace and the home. Armed with the Dress Doctors' simple design principles – harmony, proportion, balance, rhythm, emphasis – modern American women from all classes learned to dress for all occasions in ways that made them confident, engaged members of society."

Her blog on the topic may be found here: <http://professorpski.tumblr.com/> and more about her and her thoughts on modern dress may be found here: <http://www.professorpski.com/awards-.html>
One last note: In the 1931 Bulletin, Mary introduced the *Recipe Book*, with description of the sections and the materials to be covered in each.

The Slate of 2018–2019 Guild Officers

The following Guild members have agreed to serve as elected officers for the 2018–2019 Guild year. Guild members will vote on these officers at the June meeting. Other Guild positions are appointed, rather than elected, and they will be announced later. We are very grateful to all those who are willing to serve as officers in the Guild.

President: Susan Hainsworth

Co-Vice-Presidents: Mimi Rodes and Alecia Suazo

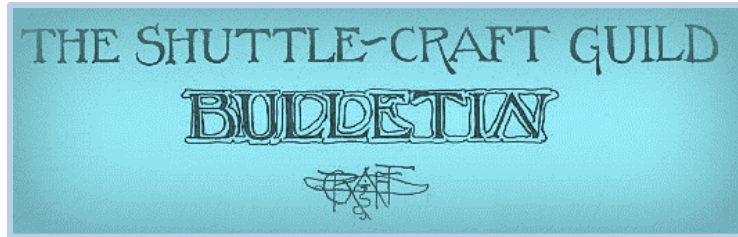
Membership Secretary: Catherine Marchant

Recording Secretary: Maureen Wilson

Treasurer: Sara Lee Neill

Grants Officer: Leslie Sieburth

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group



The next meeting of the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin study group is scheduled for **June 21, 2018**. The meeting location will be Catherine Marchant's house, and the topic of discussion will be handwoven curtains, from the April 1926 and February 1929 issues. If you are interested in joining the discussion, let Maureen Wilson (maureenmwilson@yahoo.com) know.

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletins study group meets to discuss Mary Atwater's work from the Shuttle-Craft Bulletins. This is a very informal group—if you have not participated, try a meeting and see if you want to join. The meetings may start with a reading from Mary Meigs Atwater's biography.

The topics, Bulletins, and tentative schedule for the Guild year are listed below:

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Bulletins</i>	<i>Meeting Dates</i>
Curtains	April 1926, Feb 1929	June 21, 2018
Clothing/Coat Fabric	June 1926, Aug 1927	August 2018



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

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The newsletter is published 10 times a year.

To join the Guild send \$30.00 (\$35.00 to receive the newsletter by mail) to Catherine Marchant, 554 Lakeview Dr., Alpine, UT 84004

To join the Guild e-mail list:

MMAWG-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Guild website: www.mmawg.org

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

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IWC representative: Nancy Crowley

Guild Calendar 2017–2018

Saturday, June 16, 2018

Basket Weaving, by Connie Denton

October 11–13, 2018

Woven Shibori Workshop
by Barbara Cabrol

November 16–17, 2018

Guild Sale
Utah Cultural Celebration Center