



The Weaver's Bag

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah • May 2020 • Vol. 67, No. 5

May Guild Meeting

What: Show and Tell, by All of Us

When: May 14, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Everyone's Homes (Zoom Meeting)



Yes, we are having a May Guild meeting! We will be meeting as a Guild this coming Thursday night, May 14, at 7:00 p.m., on the Zoom platform, hosted by Leslie Sieburth (we are very grateful to her).

We can virtually share what we have been working on. It will be so good to see everyone again! You can download the Zoom app for free and use the information below to sign in to the meeting.

Please join with us. Please have any recent weaving on hand to show the rest of us, including the weaving you have included in recent newsletters. We hope to see what you have been doing and hear your stories. *Sonya Campana*

invitation:

topic: May Guild Meeting

time: May 14, 2020, 07:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://utah.zoom.us/j/93763290007>

Meeting ID: 937 I 6329 0007

President's Message

Hi Weavers!



How is everyone doing? I hope safe and well. Please join us this coming Thursday night for our virtual Guild meeting. We can virtually share what we have been working on. It will be so good to see everyone again!

I have attached a couple of pictures from my projects that I have been working on. There is a picture of the Rio Grande rug I am weaving for my son's wedding in October. So far I have just a few inches done, but I am excited about how it is turning out!



I also included a picture from my Glimakra Ideal loom, which has the warp that I dyed for a baby blanket on it. Now all I have to do is get the horses, lamms, and treadles tied up. Wish me luck!



Then there's a picture of the silk mess that I am detangling to use in my Challenge project. I hope I get it done in time! The chew marks on the bobbin give you a hint as to the perpetrator of the silk mess.

Happy Spring, everyone, and keep on keeping on!

And Now It's the Inspiring Work of the Guild!



Catherine Marchant has been weaving dishtowels!



And we get to see the beautiful mountains behind them.



Sam Kievit has mixed warp scarves in process.



(Left) Sam's rugs are almost ready to be taken off the Union loom – she might be able to get one more off the warp or not. She's not really sure how many rugs are on there – lots of finishing to be done.

(Below) Sam is also experimenting with tea towels on her 16-harness loom (the pattern is from Handweaving.net.)



Ann McKane makes the most beautiful baskets!





Juliette Lanvers shared this inspiring story: During the quarantine, spring and sometime summer days have moved in and I have had time to reflect that this year we might not have the opportunity to travel away from the hot nights even for a few days. As a result, I decided to give linen sheets a try and after much internet surfing realized that new sheets and a new linen blanket might be a bit much! The same internet research revealed that at least for king-sized bed a lot of the blankets are pieced (three pieces), much like a handwoven coverlet. Fabric-store.com is a fantastic source of very affordable linen fabric (their medium weight is fabulous) and they carry a “heavy weight” cloth in many colors. I ordered six yards for this project in heavy weight (7.1 oz) and two yards in medium weight (5.3 oz) for the pillow cases.

The blanket is sewn in three panels — the central panel is the full width and three yards long, while the side panels are three yards cut down the middle. I created flat seams that are self enclosed and wide mitered corners. When I sew with linen, I do not iron anything but instead use my hands and many pins. I have found that ironing really distorts the fabric.



After what seemed like 20 hours of sewing but was probably closer to 5–6 hours, the blanket and pillows were finished. In that raw state they were nice but not soft or drapey. I decided to wash them twice (note the photo of the color catchers and how much color came out of the fabric) and dry them on a no-heat setting with dryer balls made of felt.



It took many hours for the blanket to dry but I am over the moon with the final result. Lots of lint came out of the filter (also pictured) and I have to guess that it is how linen gets softer. The results have incredible hand and a nice fade (see picture of the unmade bed). I would love to make another set soon when my hands and shoulders have recovered. If you would like to make your own summer blanket don't hesitate to reach out to me with questions.



Alice Bradford has recently finished these lovely wool selvedge rugs.

Lorraine Sanders shared her recent weaving adventures: The first image is a sampler I wove in preparation for a table runner project. I haven't done many overshot projects, so I thought I should practice a bit before I finalized and warped everything. I'm sure glad I did!! No matter how carefully I plan, things just never turn out in real life like they do in your mind! I had to do three versions before I found the right combination is sett, thread, and beat. If I had just jumped into the project, I would have been frustrated by what came out.



The second photo is of the desert in bloom, and it just reminds me to look outside my comfort zone. I'm not very good with color selection so I tend to make the same (safe) choices over and over. Here's Mother Nature combining hot pink, yellow, and orange and doesn't it look great??! I may even try a weave with that 😊.

The third picture is the finished towels I was weaving last month—finally off the loom, hemmed and wet-finished!





Cynthia Gray shared a photo of back to front dressing “with crap tension! Only one of many reasons to drink with this project!!!

Shahar Boyayan has been learning how to do tapestry weaving. So far she is loving it!



Juliette Lanvers shared: My weaving has come to a creep. It’s only a couple of days a week that I find the motivation to sit and throw the shuttle for a few minutes. Jeanette Tregagle always says that fibers are patient. I dearly hope she is correct as right now I feel deflated. The possible reason for this unproductive period, besides the trauma of the forced covid-19 isolation and economic panic, is the minimalist nature of the project: a two-shuttle Monk’s Belt weave that repeats three picks endlessly but will I believe look clean and simple when it is done. I was inspired by a towel I wove on the same warp (draped on the loom).



Sherry Marsh, a member of our Guild who now lives in the East but loves to follow what we are doing, says: Following the Guild got me so motivated that I recently found myself weaving again!!!! The project was an easy weave scarf woven on a rigid heddle loom. It was made of fibers called Tempo and Ripple. Tempo is a cotton-blend yarn that combines three strands – a multicolored print, a contrasting thick-&-thin, and a nubby tweed. Ripple is a thick-and-thin worsted cotton yarn. I have also included a picture of the yarn on a 10 dent rigid heddle loom.



Once I finished weaving the scarf, I wanted to be more creative and turned it into a scarf with no ends! It was my first attempt to create an infinity scarf. I was amazed at how easy the infinity technique was, and very pleased with how it turned out!

Besides weaving I am still sewing masks for friends with some really fun and adorable kitty and sunflower material that has brought smiles on many faces.





Maureen Wilson said: Here is scarf sample #2 for my 2020 Guild Challenge Project in double weave. The yarns used were a combination of lace weight knitting yarns in my stash and 3/26 wool from Colourmart. It is a lighter weight scarf, but still substantial. Going even lighter for the final run!



I've continued plying in the mornings before teleworking and spinning during the evening news. I now have approximately two pounds of wool handspun yarns! The wools are from a Border Leicester cross, Shetland, Gotland, and Wenslydale breeds; as well as an unidentified wool and a Restos, a blend of unknown wools left at the end of a carding run. Most of the yarns are worsted weights and will probably be used to weave blankets.

Here is the final run for the Guild challenge: a double weave scarf in 30/2 fine merino wool from Colourmart in this color combination. It is still on the loom, but the weight of this one is closer to what I wanted. This challenge was just that for me. I have not done any doubleweave other than workshop projects. I'm getting much more comfortable with it and love the color work options it provides.



2019–2020 Guild Challenge: A Design Journey Inspired by the Cards You Were Dealt!

For this year's Guild Challenge, drawing your hand is just the starting point. Four different sets of cards were prepared. Yellow cards specify a weave structure; blue cards specify types of fiber; orange cards specify color; and finally, green cards specify design. Each of us will use our four cards as our guides as we find inspiration and design and weave . . . something! The final woven product can be anything you would like, but please keep track of your inspirations, how you faced your challenge, what was tricky, and what was easy. The final woven pieces will be displayed at the next Guild meeting we are able to have. Keep weaving!

If you want to participate in the Guild Challenge and haven't drawn your cards, please contact Leslie Sieburth or Juliette Lanvers.

Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Weaving during Coronavirus

Since our March Guild meeting, the coronavirus has affected so many lives and livelihoods. It has been compared to a nationwide 9/11 or Pearl Harbor. In the January 1942 Shuttle-Craft Bulletin, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and declarations of war, Mary Meigs Atwater wrote:

"I feel that weaving will prove a resource to us in these troubled times, and that now more than ever we should value and preserve what we have of beauty in our daily lives. Our great great grandmothers plied their shuttles through the war of the Revolution and through the exceeding bitter days of our Civil War. We, I believe, have as much courage and good sense as they, and can do likewise."

She wrote that she would keep the Bulletin going unless she could not get print paper and as long as weaving yarns could still be had. So, keep weaving, if you can. As the *Craftsmanship Quarterly Magazine* is currently exploring through a community survey, Making Matters, More than Ever.



Source: *Craftsman Quarterly Magazine*, <https://craftsmanship.net/>

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group



The remainder of the 2019–2020 Guild year meeting schedule for the Shuttle–Craft Bulletin Study group is presented below. The next meeting will be announced. The topics of discussion will be bags from handwoven fabric and the Pine Bloom pattern, from the February 1927 and December 1928 issues. If you are interested in joining the discussion, let Maureen Wilson know (maureenmwilson@yahoo.com).

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 usually start with a reading from Mary Meigs Atwater’s biography.

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Bulletins</i>	<i>Meeting Date</i>
Bags and Pine bloom pattern	February 1927, December 1928	TBD
Neckties and scarves, Double bow knot and Double chariot wheel patterns	June 1927, November 1927	June 2020
Lace weaves, blanket and shawls	May 1927, February 1932	August 2020

Mary Meigs Atwater
Weaver's Guild of Utah

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published 10 times a year.

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Guild Calendar 2019–2020

May 14, 2020

Show and Tell

Zoom Meeting

Summer 2020

To Be Announced!