



# The Weaver's Bag

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah • September 2020 • Vol. 67, No. 9

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## September Guild Meeting

**What:** Guild Challenge Reveal and Show and Tell

**When:** September 19, 2020, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

**Where:** Susan Hainsworth's Family Park, 91 East 400 North, Centerville



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On Saturday, September 19th, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., all Guild members are invited to gather at Susan Hainsworth's Family Park for a chance to see each other in person.

Please bring your own chair and drink (chairs and water bottles will be available for those who need them). We will sit under the trees at a respectful distance. Please bring your Guild Challenge projects as well as any Show and Tell items. It will be wonderful to see each other!

We know that not everyone will feel comfortable gathering. We will miss those who can't come, but we will look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Zoom Guild meeting. Please see the Guild calendar on the last page for upcoming meetings.

To get to Susan's home, take the Centerville exit, which is Parrish Lane. Drive east about one mile to Main Street and then just one block further. Susan's home is on the corner of Parrish Lane (400 North) and 100 East, on the north side of the street. You can park on 100 East.

The family park has fewer trees than it did last week, and the remaining trees have fewer leaves, but there is still plenty of shade!

## **President's Message**

### **Greetings, Weavers!**

It is the start of a brand new Guild year!! I am excited about it because I know good things are headed our way.

Cathy Schutz and I are lining up some really excellent Guild programs for you. Except for this month and October, where we will be meeting at a responsible distance, we will conduct the remainder of our monthly Guild meetings on Zoom from the comfort of your home. Hopefully, we can have a Christmas party too.

The likely format of the future Zoom meetings:

In advance of the meeting, we will continue to send Mimi the pictures of our show and tell items, like we did this summer, so she can make a slide show.

We will start off the meeting after a majority have joined, with a few Guild business announcements.

Then we will have the show and tell portion, including discussion. Afterward there will be program introductions and a presenter for the evening. Then we will have some discussion and talk about plans for the future. Meeting closes.

With Zoom we can put together slide shows and power point presentations. There may be videos too. This could be potentially be a very productive way to hold meetings until we can return to regular physical meetings. Our Southwest branch members can also join in with us, and we can join them in the presentations they have planned for the Fall.

This month we will be meeting at Susan Hainsworth's family park, on Saturday, September 19, in Centerville, UT. We will share our Guild challenge items and enjoy the beautiful afternoon. In October we will be meeting at the pavilion by Mimi's home. There will be more meeting information to come in the near future.

I look forward to our September meeting!  
Hope to see you there, Sonya

### **Dues Are Due!**

Dues are due soon. They are a great deal! \$30 per year and \$35 per year if you get a paper newsletter mailed to you. You can pay them on the Guild website ([mmawg.org](http://mmawg.org)) or bring them to Ping Chang at the September meeting or send the dues to her at 7 Courtside Lane, Sandy, UT 84092.

## Show and Tell



Shahar Boyayan has made a small piece on her Mirrix loom.





Shahar has also been trying some dry felting on canvas.

For the rest of Show and Tell, please come to the September Guild meeting!

## Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Hand-Weaving as a Business

If you have been thinking of turning your hand weaving into a business, Mary Meigs Atwater has guidance for you in the April 1933 issue of the Shuttlecraft Bulletin. She provided serious recommendations on how to make a profit from the business of weaving, with the following considerations.

### *What to Weave*

Mary believed that if one is serious about making money from weaving, it is necessary to experiment and plan, to develop a “standardized specialty” and produce it in commercial quantities. Don’t rely on a one-off article or something done at the “dictates of fancy,” counting on luck. She wrote that it is only through the economy of scale, based on similar articles and repeat sales, that there is profit. With careful planning, it is possible to offer different articles made from the same warp and threading. She recommended that a weaver make at least six of each article and be prepared to produce more if sales are good.

*How to Sell:* Mary had strong opinions about selling on consignment. She was not supportive and recommended not trusting someone else to do the selling. Too many times, she stated, those articles would not sell, would be put on display and put away in boxes too many times. These days with online options, like Etsy or your own website for example, direct sales are much easier. Would Mary have had an Etsy site? Surely the Shuttlecraft Guild would have had a website, with a marketplace.

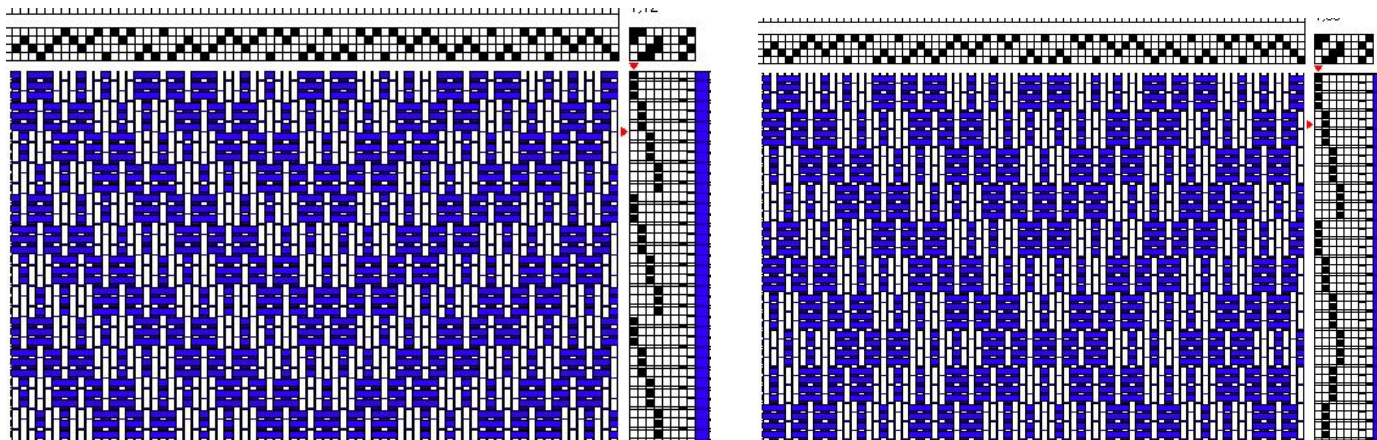
### *What Makes an Article Salable*

While there are no hard-and-fast rules for what sells, Mary had recommendations on what might improve the salability of a handwoven article. First was price. The article must promise the purchaser value. To do so, the article should be easily and quickly woven. A purchaser may not appreciate the difference between a more complicated threading that takes a longer time to complete and a simpler one done more quickly. Next was finish, which should be exact and professional. Then there was the novelty of the piece. I, for one, think that all handwoven items are novel, but a purchaser may not. This is a tricky one that probably only comes with experience. And last, she addressed color, which I personally find is a quality that more buyers are attracted to than anything else. At least this has been my experience with selling handwoven towels. Buyers often remark on the color of a piece when purchasing.

Other considerations were time of year and location. With 1933 being deep in the Depression, Mary commented that in those very hard times, sales had dropped off. But, she noted, some weavers were having success, and in each of those cases it was those who had developed a specialty and handled their own selling. Mary went on to recommend specific items that weavers should consider that might be of interest to perspective buyers: bags, pillow tops,



table covers or table sets, which might be woven from the same warp. She provided an example draft for these, as shown here in a herringbone (left) and diamond (right) treadlings, with tabby.



She wrote that although these notes were for a weaver who wanted to make a profit, they should be of interest to those who weave for pleasure as well. Here is a quote from her that I think is applicable to these coronavirus times:

*"We are so constructed that it is good for the soul to create beauty by the work of the hands. It helps us over the hard places in life to be able to concentrate on problems of color, design and texture – problems that are unaffected by the price of stocks, the weather, or man's ingratitude."*

*Keep Weaving. Maureen Wilson*

## Meetings of the Southwest Branch of Our Guild

The Southwest Branch of our Guild is having Zoom meetings in the fall and a towel exchange, and they would love to have everyone join them. Here is the information:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84298129208?pwd=bGdZWjBpYU55MXdQalVwWXRNOERHZz09>

Meeting ID: 842 9812 9208

Passcode: 075861

**Monday, 21 September 2020, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Ergonomics of Weaving and Spinning:** Dona will be leading a presentation and discussion on how to enjoy weaving and spinning without aches and pains. We will watch several short videos showing the best positions for spinning, warping your loom, and weaving. Dona welcomes everyone to share their tips - favorite chair or bench, lighting, reaching tools for warping, etc.

**Monday, 19 October 2020, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Turning a Draft into Cloth.** Ivy will lead this discussion on how you take a draft you find online or are given another way and determine how to use the draft to create the cloth you want. Come prepared to share how you have done this and what the result was, or come prepared to ask questions. E-mail images to Nancy.

**Monday, 16 November 2020, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. All about Blocks.** Nancy will lead a discussion about how to design using blocks and then how to turn that design into a weave structure. Share block designs you have done or tried. Send pictures of weaving done using block structures such as summer and winter, rep weave and overshot.

**Monday, 14 December 2020, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Towel Exchange.** We are going to do the towel exchange but with a little different format. Everyone that participates will e-mail a picture of their towel to Nancy. You only need to weave one towel for the exchange. The name of everyone that participates in the exchange will go into a hat. Nancy will draw names and will tell each participant who they need to mail their towel to. During the meeting we will discuss each of our towels including the structure, weaving process and lessons learned.

Here are the towel requirements: It needs to be suitable as a kitchen towel, and the materials must be cotton, linen, hemp or some mixture of these. Finished size should be:

- Width: between 14 and 20 inches
- Length: between 20 and 30 inches after hemming

Weave structure and color are the weaver's choice. The towels should be hemmed.

## The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group



When the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group meets again, the topics will be as shown below. If you are interested in joining the study group, let Maureen Wilson know ([maureenmwilson@yahoo.com](mailto: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>
<b>Bags and Pine bloom pattern</b>	February 1927, December 1928	TBD
<b>Neckties and scarves, Double bow knot and Double chariot wheel patterns</b>	June 1927, November 1927	TBD
<b>Lace weaves, blanket and shawls</b>	May 1927, February 1932	TBD



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

September 2020 • Vol. 67 No 9

**Newsletter editor:** Susan Hainsworth,  
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published 10 times a year.

To join the Guild send \$30.00 (\$35.00 to  
receive the newsletter by mail) to Ping Chang,  
7 Courtside Lane, Sandy, UT 84092

To join the Guild e-mail list, contact Susan  
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## Guild Calendar 2020–2021

### September 19, 2020

Guild Challenge Reveal  
In-Person Meeting at Susan Hainsworth's  
Family Park, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

### October 17, 2020

Inkle and Card Weaving,  
by Sonya Campana  
Mim's Pavilion, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

### November 12, 2020

Guild Challenge Introduction,  
by Juliette Lanvers  
Zoom Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

### December 2020

Christmas Party  
Time and Place TBD

### January 14, 2021

Tapestry Weaving in Florence, Italy  
by Deanna Baugh  
Zoom Meeting, 7:00 p.m.