THE WEAVER'S BAG

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild

DECEMBER • 2025

What's Happening

DECEMBER 11: Guild Christmas Party, Potluck Dinner, and Gift Exchange, Mimi Rodes's home

JANUARY 15: Zoom Meeting: Japanese Folk Textiles and Intro to Sashiko Ori Workshop, by Beth Ross Johnson

FEBRUARY 12: Weaving Tips and Tricks or Sharing Things We Have Learned from Our Mistakes, by Jill Dahle

FEBRUARY 28: Zoom Meeting: Wet Finishing, by Laura Fry

MARCH 7: Jazzy Junk Swap/Sale

MARCH 12: Rigid Heddle Weaving and Faux Ikat, by Connie Denton

APRIL 9: Catching Fire: Flammé Ikat Textiles from France and Spain, by Beth Ross Johnson

APRIL 9–11: Sashiko Ori Weaving three-day workshop, by Beth Ross Johnson

MAY 14: Guild Challenge Reveal

JUNE: Indigo Dye Day, date TBD

All regular Guild meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. at the South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 6876 Highland Drive, unless otherwise indicated.

December Guild Meeting—Christmas Party, Potluck Dinner, and Gift Exchange

Thursday, December 11, 6:30 p.m., Mimi Rodes's home in Sandy

Our annual Guild Christmas party will be held on Thursday, December 11, at 6:30 at Mimi Rodes's home. We will meet for a potluck dinner, fiber gift exchange, and the chance to enjoy the spirit of the season with our friends. This evening is always a treasured experience for those who attend.

Please plan to bring a potluck dish for our dinner. Turkey, gravy, and drinks will be provided, so please bring anything that will contribute to our holiday dinner.

Also please bring a wrapped fiber-related gift ($20 or less, or something you have made or found) that you want to share with another Guild member. This can be anything that another fiber person would enjoy or find useful. It's always fun to spend a Christmas evening with each other!

Diamonds in Winter Runner, by Susan Porter, from *Handwoven,* Sept./Oct. 2015

Mimi has sent out an email to the Guild asking for RSVPs because she lives in a gated community and needs to put everyone who is coming on her guest list for the guard house check-in point. She will send her address to everyone who responds.

We are looking forward to this Christmas evening with our wonderful friends!

—Jill Dahle and Mimi Rodes, Co-Vice Presidents

President's Message

Handweaving.net constitutes an amazing resource at a reasonable price. For $35 a year, this website offers an almost endless number of weaving drafts and tools that can take a weaver from the beginning to the end of a career.

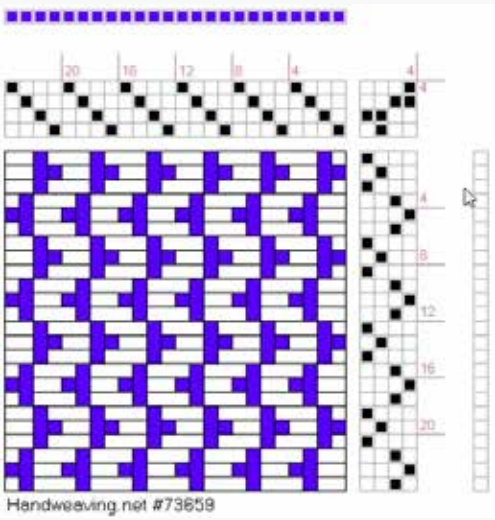
Without a subscription, you can visit the site to see the thousands of patterns available. Use the search function to specify a type of pattern ("twill," for example) and then on the page of results, use filters to constrain the results to the specifics of your loom. If you see drafts you like, a membership will reveal the full draft. The search for "twill" pulls up 10,288 different drafts, from modern to traditional. You can weave 1,170 of them on a 4-shaft loom.

With a subscription, software tools to modify or design your own drafts become available. Play with simple color substitutions, or explore advanced topics like profile drafts and amalgamations. YouTube tutorials support these fancier maneuvers. Print or export your new draft, and you're ready to warp!

This is just one of the many resources listed on our new Guild website Resources page, https://www.mmawg.org/resources.html.

Happy Weaving!

—Sarah Marsden, President



Handweaving.net #73659

Summary of the November Guild Meeting

Mary Atwater Weaver's Guild Meeting, held November 13, 2025, at South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society.

Show and Tell: As always, Show and Tell was so inspirational and AWESOME!! Sunny Cate shared her amazing twill gamps, Adam Horrocks has been "playing on his own" with split shed for red winged blackbirds, Valerie Burnett shared her handspun fractional yarn colored scarf and double knit hat, Julie Guiney showed us her thrums weaving and "the Carrot Rug," and so many more beautiful things were shared!!! We are such an AWESOME talented group of weavers and fiber artists!!!

After Show and Tell, Connie Denton treated us to a preview of the March program she will be presenting on the rigid heddle loom and weaving with palindromic yarns. Connie showed us some gorgeous examples of palindromic yarns and her weavings and talked a bit about why she likes the rigid heddle format. Her yarns were beautiful and she talked about ways to "stretch" and showcase expensive yarns by pairing them with quieter yarns. Connie is inviting members to bring palindromic dyed yarns to warp up in faux ikat style during the March meeting (more to come).

Guild Business: Ann McKane gave a brief report on the successful October Guild sale. Susan Hainsworth sent a message that the first Zoom discussion of a Beginning Weaving study group was very constructive. Phyllis Mandel, on behalf of the board, thanked and recognized Jeanette Tregeagle for chairing the September Fiber Exhibit and Ann McKane and Catherine Marchant for chairing the October Guild sale.

Program: Deanna Baugh led us on an amazing tour of the possibilities of twills—and the structure's unlimited possibilities! Balanced, unbalanced, dornick twills, advancing, undulating broken and fancy twills—so many unlimited possibilities!!! Deanna, of course, being Deanna, had so many wonderful, colorful samples and knowledge to share.

Guild Challenge: We hope that everyone was inspired by Deanna's beautiful woven twill pieces and is excited to participate in this year's Guild Challenge to try a new twill. We certainly were!

—Mimi Rodes and Jill Dahle, Co-Vice Presidents

Guild Challenge—Discover a New Twill

Next to plain and satin weaves, twills are the oldest and most common weave structures. Twills create diagonal patterns in the fabric. There are straight twills, point twills, extended twills, broken twills, fancy twills, irregular twills, advancing twills and network twills, plaited twills, parallel twills, double diagonal twills, and manifold or corkscrew twills (interlocking two or more twills). Twills can also be used in block weaves. They can be woven on three or more harnesses—Krokbragd is considered a 3-harness twill. Twill fabrics can have a greater drape than plain weave fabrics and can be shaped more easily; thus they are good for clothing.

Twills are found everywhere—rugs (such as Navajo or Krokbragd), scarves, table runners, tablecloths, towels, jeans, tapestries (found in ancient Central China as well as modern tapestries), and fabric for clothing. Just about every *Handwoven* magazine has a pattern for weaving a twill.

Even if you have woven a twill, challenge yourself to try something new. There is so much to choose from!

Pieces should be ready for our May meeting.

Mary Atwater often wrote about twills in her Shuttle-Craft Bulletins. These bulletins are all found under the "Atwater" tab on the Guild website, mmawg.org. Maureen Wilson is gradually compiling a complete index to the bulletins, which is a great service. The link to the index is at the top of the list of bulletins. Go to the entry "Twill" in the index to find interesting discussions.

Twill fabric woven by Mary Atwater

December at the Salt Lake Weaving Studio

There will be two fun classes and a party at the Studio in December.

Tiny Holiday Tapestry Class: Saturday, December 6, Noon–4:00. Weave a tiny tapestry on a 2.5" x 5.5" loom that stays with the weaving so you can display your masterpiece at home.

Weave on a CD: Thursday, December 11, 10 AM–2:00 PM. Recycle an old CD into an intriguing circular weaving. Hang it on a wall, or use it as a coaster. Note that this class is during the daytime.

PARTY TIME!! Saturday, December 27, 2:00–5:00 PM. Celebrate the past year of weaving and the possibilities of the next. Food will be served!

New Resources Tab on Guild Website

There is a new tab on the Guild website (MMAWG.org) called RESOURCES. Under that tab, you will find a list of resources, compiled by Phyllis Mandel, and posted to the website by our wonderful webmaster, Nancy Crowley. The list includes suggestions for books, stores, live and online learning, and many other useful tips. Check it out!

—Phyllis Mandel

It's Time to Pay Dues!

If you haven't already paid your Guild dues, now is the time to do it. Send $30.00 ($35.00 to receive the newsletter by mail) to Phyllis Mandel, 3721 East Blue Jay Lane, Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121, or go to the Guild website, where you can join using Paypal. Checks should be made out to MMAWG.

Updated Guild Membership Lists

Any member of the Guild can get an updated copy of the Guild membership list from Ann McKane, our membership secretary, by emailing her and asking for a list (membership@mmawg.org). She will email the latest list to you.

STUDY GROUPS

Progressing in Weaving Study Group

The Guild is starting a new study group. It was originally called the Beginning Weaving Study Group, but it is now called the Progressing in Weaving Study Group because weavers of all experience levels are interested in learning more.

The study group will meet each month—one month in person and the next month on Zoom. The same topic will be addressed at two consecutive meetings. The first meeting will be held at Susan Hainsworth's home because the Guild library is there. We will be discussing Weaving Resources. The meeting will be on Saturday, January 10, at 2:00 p.m. Later meeting dates will be announced after the January meeting.

Each person can bring any ideas they have found for how to learn more about weaving—books, videos, websites, classes, people, etc. We will also have time at the end of the meeting for project sharing. If you have yarn or a weaving draft and would like help in getting started, or if you working on a project and want to share something about it, please bring it along and we will talk about it.

—*Susan Hainsworth*

Rigid Heddle Study Group

Something new is coming to the Guild starting in January 2026! I have heard many members of the Guild express their interest in rigid heddle looms and weaving on them. A rigid heddle was my first loom and the one I learned on 20 years ago at an Alpaca ranch in Kamas. I was so enchanted by the direct, understandable process. I was also excited to potentially weave up all the knitting yarns, alpaca roving, woolen locks, dried flowers, etc., that I had been actively collecting prior to falling into the rabbit hole of weaving.

The rigid heddle is much gentler on fibers than a multi-harness loom and beater! The rigid heddle is a versatile weaving instrument, and it lends itself to using wefts of all different types. Best of all, it shows off the beautiful yarns we love. It is quickly warped, and simple weave structures lend themselves to beautiful fabrics, wall hangings, and anything weaverly that you can dream up.

So I propose that we start up a new group to study the looms and the many techniques and tricks of rigid heddle weaving! Also, I propose that we meet in person and on Zoom alternatively. Any and all who are interested, please contact me directly. My phone is 801-707-8356. My email is sonyaccampana@gmail.com.

I will set a date to meet after hearing back from those who are interested. Perhaps we could set up an initial Zoom meeting to get further organized before we meet in person so everyone can have a chance to chime in. Looking forward to hearing back from you!

—*Sonya Campana*

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group

The 2025–2026 Guild year schedule for the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group is presented below. The next meeting will be held on December 8 at 7:00 p.m. at Ann McKane's home. The topic of discussion will be crackle patterns and block drafts from the November 1931 and May 1933 issues. Contact Maureen Wilson for directions.

The study group meets to discuss Mary Atwater's work from the Shuttle-Craft Bulletins. This is an informal group, and if you have not participated, try a meeting. The meetings often begin with a reading from Mary Meigs Atwater's biography. If you are interested in attending, email Maureen Wilson (maureenmwilson@yahoo.com).

Meeting Date	Topic	Bulletins
December 8, 2025	Crackle, Pine Tree pattern, and block drafts	November 1931, May 1933
February 2026	Coverlet weaving, Italian fashion	January 1932; January 1934
April 2026	Weaving linen, Bronson lace	April 1932; April 1934
June 2026	Drapes and curtains	May 1932; May 1933
August 2026	Christmas weaving, long warps, and Crackle drafts	October 1930; October 1931

2025–2026 MMAWG Board

President: Sarah Marsden (president@mmawg.org)

Vice President: Jill Dahle (801-541-3986, vicepresident@mmawg.org; Mimi Rodes (801-619-6888; vicepresident@mmawg.org)

Membership Secretary: Ann McKane (206-371-5814, membership@mmawg.org)

Recording Secretary: Susan George-Rydberg (818-347-9976, secretary@mmawg.org)

Treasurer: Phyllis Mandel (914-806-3478, treasurer@mmawg.org)

Librarian and Equipment Coordinator: Susan Hainsworth (801-860-6483, susan hainsworth@gmail.com)

Hospitality: Joni Moerman (801-824-0515, jmoer@hotmail.com)

Grants Officer: Mimi Rodes (801-619-6888, grants@mmawg.org)

Newsletter: Susan Hainsworth (801-860-6483, susanhainsworth@gmail.com); Jane Ann Peters (janeannpeters@comcast.net); Maureen Wilson (801-485-5241, SCstudy group@mmawg.org); Nicole Lohman (715-491-1893, nicoleelohman@gmail.com)

Webmaster: Nancy Crowley (505-480-8079, webmaster@mmawg.org)

IWC Representatives: Ellen Klomps (435-213-6100, stringweaver@gmail.com); Pamela Done (801-809-9101, p.biz@donefamily.org)

Shuttle-Craft Guild Study Group Coordinator: Maureen Wilson (801-485-5241, SCstudygroup@mmawg.org)

Guild Sale Coordinator: Ann McKane (206-371-5814, membership@mmawg.org); Catherine Marchant (801-216-4722, fibern beads@gmail.com)

Guild Exhibit Coordinator: Jeanette Tregeagle

Outreach Coordinator: Julie Guiney (435-640-2965, outreach@mmawg.org

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah

To join the Guild: send $30.00 ($35.00 to receive the newsletter by mail) to Phyllis Mandel, 3721 East Blue Jay Lane, Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121, or go to the Guild website, where you can join using Paypal. Checks should be made out to MMAWG.

To join the Guild e-mail list: contact Susan Hainsworth, susanhainsworth@gmail.com.

Guild website: mmawg.org

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Vol. 73 No. 10

Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Crackle

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletins covered in this article are from August 1941 and April 1947. These Bulletins are on the Guild website (mmawg.org) under the Bulletins Tab.

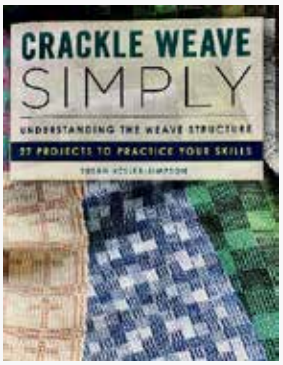
In August 1941 Mary Meigs Atwater wrote that questions from weavers about the crackle weave continued for some 16 years after she first came across the weave. She stated that of all the weave structures introduced to the Shuttle-Craft Guild, crackle gained a wider acceptance than any other and that it was familiar to most weavers who passed what she called the "honeysuckle" stage of development.

Mary thought that the main reason for Crackle's popularity was the close combined fabric produced by large, even repeats of the blocks. The fabric would have no long floats in this case like one would have with overshot. The structure was suitable for upholstery and other uses that get friction and wear. Another reason for its popularity was that it could be used for more modern designs, where overshot could not, mainly those designs using large plain figures as stated above.

Mary continued with a discussion of the four blocks (A-D) possible on four shafts and the transition threads, now called "incidentals," needed between blocks to maintain the odd-even threading for the weave. The blocks overlap in an inevitable order, but one could design a three-block pattern using two overlapping blocks and one detached one. There are several patterns in the *Recipe Book* that were designed in this manner. The block threadings have been modified since Mary first wrote about the weave. Susan Wilson in her book *Weave Classic Crackle and More* gives a thorough history on the development of crackle design.

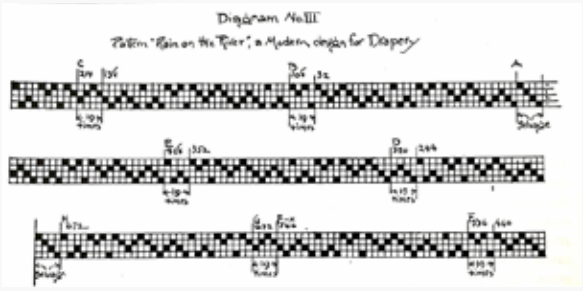
Mary liked to write crackle drafts in what she called the "short" form, or in profile format, but stated that it is not safe to thread from this form due to the transitions and inconsistencies. It would be necessary to expand the draft to a thread-by-thread version as she did in the August 1941 Bulletin in the two drafts given: Colonial pattern and a Modern arrangement.

Mary described three ways of weaving crackle that would give different effects. These are: (1) Woven as overshot, using a single pattern shot alternating with a tabby in the same material as the warp. (2) Woven as summer and winter—that is alternating each two pattern sheds for each block with a tabby in the warp material. For example, block A could be treadled as 1, tabby, 2, tabby, and repeat, while block B would be treadle 3, tabby, 4, tabby, and repeat. This would give a more subtle effect and would work for upholstery fabric. And (3), woven in the Italian manner, which is done without a tabby and using three colors—for example, one for pattern and two for background. This method would give a softer heavier fabric than the other two options and would work for draperies.



Mary admitted that the weave appears quite complicated from her description and that she could not make it simpler. However, there is a new book on crackle: *Crackle Weave Simply: Understanding the Weave Structure, 27 Projects to Practice Your Skills,* by Susan Kesler-Simpson, and it is in the Guild library. The author gives a basic understanding of the four-thread point twill structure in a straightforward manner. She includes 27 patterns, both 4- and 8-shaft to try. It looks to be a great introduction to the weave.

Harriet Tidball wrote in the 1947 Bulletin about crackle and its use for draperies. By this time Mary had sold the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin to Harriet, but she continued to write articles occasionally. Harriet listed three patterns suitable for drapes: "Drifting Shadows," *Recipe Book* Series II, No. 9; "Three Twills," *Recipe Book* Series VII, No. 2; and "Rain on the River" from the *Lily Mills Crackle Weave* pamphlet. The draft for the last is shown here.



Rain on the river crackle draft from Lily pamphlet on Crackle.

Harriet included two more crackle drafts for drapes, one giving a horizontal and vertical line with a simple geometric pattern and the other with texture effects and a gentle movement of line. Listed also are size, color combinations, and drape placement at windows. She recommended the book *Art in Everyday Life,* by Harriet and Vetta Goldstein (Macmillan NY 1954), for the use of handwoven textiles in the home, including designing draperies.

—Maureen Wilson, Shuttle-Craft Bulletins Study Group Coordinator

Jazzy Junk Swap/Sale

Saturday, March 7, 10:00 a.m.—noon; Set up: 9:00–10:00 a.m.
South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 6876 Highland Drive

On Saturday, March 7, the Guild will host a Jazzy Junk Swap/Sale at the South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society. This informal gathering will provide an opportunity for Guild members to declutter their craft spaces; offer surplus yarns, fabrics, weaving tools, and other supplies to fellow weavers; and discover new materials that could inspire fresh projects while promoting sustainable crafting practices. Items may be sold, swapped, or given away for free. Each participant will be responsible for managing their own sales/swap/free transactions.

Participants may begin to set up at 9:00 a.m., with the actual sale event starting at 10:00 a.m. No transactions should take place before 10:00 a.m. to allow equal opportunity for all participants. Please make sure your items are clearly priced and labeled prior to the start of the sale. The event will end at noon, and participants will need to take down their tables and ensure the space is cleared and left in good condition before we leave.

Background Photo

The background photo for the December issue is a detail of Susan Hainsworth's cotton overshot runner that appeared in the recent guild show.