

THE WEAVER'S BAG



Mary Meigs Atwater
Weaver's Guild

March • 2024

March Guild Meeting—All about Overshot! by Deanna Baugh and Jeanette Tregeagle

Thursday, March 14, 6:30 p.m.
South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society,
6876 Highland Drive

We are so excited to have our very own Deanna Baugh and Jeanette Tregeagle spend an evening with us discussing overshot. They will teach about the structure of overshot and how you can best weave it. They will also share various things you can make and do with overshot. Please bring whatever overshot weavings you might have to share.

We will start the evening with show and tell at 6:30, so please bring all those projects you have been working on during these long winter months. We will also celebrate Mary Atwater's birthday on February 28 by having a birthday cake. We can't wait to see everyone!
—Sunny Cate, Vice President



What's Happening

MARCH 14: All about Overshot! by Jeanette Tregeagle and Deanna Baugh

MARCH 16: Guild Library open house at Susan Hainsworth's home, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

MARCH 23: Paint Two, Beam One: Painting with Two Warps and Beaming Them as One, by Denise Kovnat (Zoom one-day workshop)

APRIL 11: Preparation for June Dye Day

MAY 2 (FIRST THURSDAY): Color, Pattern, Shape, by Karen Donde

JUNE: Dye Day, Guild Challenge Reveal, and Potluck, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Sunny Cate's home

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

Library Open House, Saturday, March 16

There will be a library open house Saturday, March 16, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Susan Hainsworth's home, 91 East 400 North, Centerville. Bring your fiber projects to work on while you sit and visit with other fiber artists or browse the books.

President's Message

I am excited for our upcoming March meeting. It feels like a long time since we had our Christmas party. Everyone has been missed!

One of the joys of the Guild meetings is the chance to get together and visit. It is a chance to laugh, ask questions, show off our work, and enjoy each other's company. Show and Tell inspires the creative mind. As we share our latest weaving projects, we also challenge each other to explore different colors, patterns, and designs. Frequently I look at something made by one of our members and think, I need to make that, or WOW!!, I would have never put those colors together, but it works! I take pictures to remember combinations or patterns for future projects. It makes me happy to gather with Like-Minded Creators.

Our upcoming March meeting will be about the weave structure overshot. At a previous Guild meeting about coverlets, multiple blankets were brought in by different members of the Guild to show off and enjoy. It was fun and beautiful. Regret was expressed by some of our members who were not able to attend that meeting, that they had missed seeing rare treasures. They could get a second chance to see these coverlets made by past and present weavers, if you are willing to break them out of your cedar chest and bring them to the March meeting. It would also be great if you could bring samples of overshot weaving to share.



Jeanette's dog helping her sew her coverlet

"Paint Two, Beam One" workshop is still a go if anyone else wants to join in. So all is not lost!

A group of us are working on a backup plan, so **Save These Dates**—May 10 and 11. This is all tentative, but hopefully we can make a "Gathering" happen. The plan is a two-day escape to weave color, visit, and enjoy. All looms welcomed. The plan is to bring your own loom, in your own color and structure—laughter and fun required. More information to follow.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on March 14 at the church!

—Jeanette Tregeagle, Co-President

Guild Challenge

We introduced this year's Guild Challenge at our October meeting, and we are so excited about it! It's all about COLOR!

To participate in the challenge, create a project (or two or more!) that challenges you to create with color. You may interpret this challenge however you want. It is fully self-directed. At our June Guild meeting, we will all share what we have done.

To help us with this challenge, several of our Guild meetings will be focused in some way on color and weaving. Please join us in this challenge, and get ready to have fun! We can't wait to see what you create!

—Sunny Cate and Beth Myrer

February Guild Meetings

If you missed the Zoom meetings earlier in February, you missed a wealth of inspiration and some uplifting experiences. On February 8, we had a program about James Koehler presented by Rebecca Mezoff. She had many examples of James's tapestries and use of color. Then on February 17, Mary Zicafoose presented a talk titled "The Power of Cloth." It followed the history and power that comes from the making and wearing of cloth.

And then there was the ease of being able to attend from the comfort of your home, from your favorite chair, while eating a snack, or even from your bed if you wished. I hope to see you on March 14 at an in-person meeting.

—Beth Myrer, Recording Secretary

Zoom Meetings Offered by IWC

Intermountain Weavers Conference is pleased to announce a new virtual series of programs. You must be a member of IWC to attend, but you can definitely join in order to take advantage of these great programs. Here is the next Zoom program:

"Contemporary Tapestry Scene: Trends and Traditions," by Molly Elkind, Saturday, March 23, 2024, 6:00 p.m. Cost: \$35

Description: Tapestry today is incredibly diverse. Whether you weave tapestry or just enjoy looking at it, it's good to be aware of what is being done, here in the U.S. and around the world. Join me for a slide tour of tapestry today that will make you a more informed viewer and/or designer of tapestry art. Focusing on solo artist-weavers from traditionalists to experimentalists and everyone in between, we'll look at it all. You'll leave with a deeper appreciation of this wide, deep, and still-evolving art form.

To sign up for a class, go to www.intermountainweavers.org. Click on the blue box with the icon of a person that is in the upper right corner of the web page. If it is your first time to log in or you have forgotten your password, click on "Reset your Password." Go to the "Register" page.

To join IWC, click on **Join Us**

Meetings of the Guild's Southern Utah Branch

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm—Slide show of "The Threads That Bind Us," the recent MMAWG fiber show, at St. George Library

MONDAY, 8 APRIL 2024: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm—Card and inkle weaving, taught by Isabell Lee, at the St. George Library

MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm—Stash busting—bring items you would like to give away, at the St. George Library

Updated Membership List Available

Thank you all for your dues! I will have hard copies of the updated membership list available at the Guild meeting in March. Anyone who isn't able to attend the meeting but would like an email copy of the list can contact me at barbaraallenster@gmail.com and I will send one to you. With your support we will be able to have another wonderful year ahead!

—Barbara Allen, Membership Secretary

2023–2024 MMAWG Board

President: Mimi Rodes (801-619-6888, mimirodes@comcast.net); Jeanette Tregeagle (801-568-9645, knitweave@yahoo.com)

Vice President: Sunny Cate (801-589-3393, sunny.cate@aquacate.com)

Membership Secretary: Barbara Allen (801-618-7397, bold ladybug@gmail.com)

Recording Secretary: Beth Myrer (801-602-8612, betsyboo100@hotmail.com)

Treasurer: Margaret Hopkin, (801-624-8060, gmasfel@msn.com)

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

Hospitality: Karen Gregory (801-916-9849, klgregory12@gmail.com)

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

Newsletter: Susan Hainsworth (801-860-6483, susanhainsworth@gmail.com); Maureen Wilson (801-485-5241, maureenwilson@yahoo.com); Nicole Lohman (715-491-1893, nicolelohman@gmail.com)

Webmaster: Nancy Crowley (505-480-8079, ludmillalilly@outlook.com)

IWC Representative: Nancy Crowley (505-480-8079, ludmillalilly@outlook.com)

Shuttle-Craft Guild Study Group Coordinator: Maureen Wilson

Guild Challenge Coordinator: Beth Myrer

Guild Sale Coordinator: Catherine Marchant (801-216-4722, fibernbeads@gmail.com)

Outreach Coordinator: Julie Guiney (435-640-2965, jamg57@msn.com)

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah

To join the Guild, send \$30.00 (\$35.00 to receive the newsletter by mail) to Barbara Allen, 524 North 100 East, Centerville, UT 84014, or go to the Guild website, where you can join using Paypal.

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

Guild website: mmawg.org

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Member Profile: Carolyn Chen



Carolyn Chen

Carolyn joined our Guild in the fall of 2022 upon encouragement from members of other fiber and sewing Guilds in the Salt Lake Valley. Her involvement with other Guilds has allowed her to pursue interests in spinning, dyeing, and weaving, as well as managing the Great Basin Fiber Arts Fair. I'm sure we have all appreciated how well organized the fair has been over the past several years! Carolyn uses her Industrial Engineering skills to lay out the sales floorplan according to vendor requirements, taking into account a variety of factors, including personalities.



Carolyn's "learning" inkle bands for pebble weave and Krokbragd

Carolyn has a variety of projects she is working on. A class with Deanna Baugh resulted in a faux ikat warp, which she is currently working on sewing a garment from. She's also sampling on her rigid heddle loom. Some of her favorite projects are made on her smaller looms due to their portability, and sewing bags hold a special place in her heart.

At our next in-person meeting, make sure to say hello to Carolyn! She is a great resource if you would like to branch out from weaving towels, scarves, and linens and start sewing garments. She would like us to remember that everyone has different talents to share and should never feel like they are not good enough. The purpose of the Guild is to welcome our members at all levels and share knowledge!

—Nicole Lohman, Newsletter Writer

This month we are featuring one of our newer members, Carolyn Chen. Some of you may remember Carolyn from her fantastic presentation at last November's Guild meeting, where she showed us a variety of methods to fashion and sew items from our handwovens.

Carolyn retired from a successful career in the Pharmaceutical and Medical Device industry in 2012, where she was responsible for aspects of manufacturing and quality assurance. This scientific and engineering background influenced Carolyn's approach to crafting. After retiring she relocated from her home in Queens, New York, to Salt Lake City.

Carolyn started weaving in elementary school with a potholder loom. Initially her mother helped with finishing the edges of her potholders. It was great accomplishment when she learned how to remove and finish the edges herself. Her interest in this craft led her parents to purchase a plastic rigid-heddle-style loom for her to use, which they helped her warp each time she wanted to work on a project. A very fond memory from her childhood is when late in the 1970s her grandfather purchased miniature heddle looms for all the women in her family. The looms made 4" squares, and by that time Carolyn was able to warp on her own.

Over the next 40 years Carolyn focused on other fiber-related hobbies, such as crocheting, knitting, macrame, and sewing. In 2012 her husband received a job transfer to our lovely city of Salt Lake, which prompted her retirement. Her retirement allowed Carolyn to meet fiber and fabric artists associated with the variety of Guilds in the area. As is wont to happen when you spend time with fiber artists, Carolyn soon acquired a variety of equipment, including eight looms. These looms include pin, peg, inkle, and an Ashford rigid heddle, which was a gift from her parents.

Carolyn was initially reluctant to join our Guild as she didn't think she was a skilled enough weaver. It took some time and her taking her own advice before she joined. We are all beginners at some point, and almost all of us Guild folk love to share our knowledge and skills. I encourage our newer members or those thinking of joining to take those first steps.

As mentioned earlier, Carolyn provided an excellent program last November on sewing with handwovens to Guild members in Salt Lake. She appreciates how the knowledge from different textile arts can cross over and how some techniques need to be modified for handwovens. I can say we all learned quite a bit from her presentation! We all also learned how giving she is as Carolyn shared that she teaches beginning sewing to refugees through the Utah Refugee Center. She shared that the language barrier can be very daunting, which is why she creates physical work in progress samples for students to visually see the steps. Those of us at her presentation also benefitted greatly from her visual aids.

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Scarf made as part of the 2022 Shave 'Em to Save 'Em program

Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Finger Weaving

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletins covered in this article are from August and December 1938. These Bulletins are on the Guild website (mmawg.org) under the Bulletins Tab.

In the August and December 1938 issues of the Shuttle-Craft Bulletins, Mary Meigs Atwater wrote about the off-loom technique of finger weaving. She wrote in her book *Byways in Handweaving* that she thought finger weaving a rather silly term as all hand weaving is done with the fingers. The Osage and Mexican and finger weaving techniques had been taught at institutes she held that year. Belts, sashes, bags, and other items are woven using these techniques.

The Osage belts or girdles are made in broad bands of color that form chevrons. The warp Mary recommended was made up of 66 ends of 3 colors: white, red, and black, 22 ends of each, with white in the middle and the two colors split between the two sides. This warp was tied to a small stick, called a spreader, which is attached to a solid support. You would begin braiding by crossing the threads from the center of the warp, then taking the left-hand thread over and under all the threads from the center to the right edge. You would then pick up the opposite shed with your fingers, hold it open with your hands and turn the work over. Then you would weave the other thread from the center over and under all the threads as above. As Mary wrote, it would be easier to show than describe. There are a number of videos online on this technique, with the best provided by the Osage culture website: Osage finger weaving video: <https://www.osageculture.com/culture/multimedia-collections/fingerweaving>

fingerweaving

Mary advised you not to lose the shed, that if you had to leave the work, tie a string through the shed to hold it in place. The belts were finished with braided fringe and when made of a tightly spun fiber, formed a firm fabric.

The Mexican girdle was different in texture and technique. It was loosely woven, wide, and soft. Mary described it as more of a sash and preferred to work it in a soft cotton yarn. She included instructions on weaving this technique as well. In the December issue, she wrote that this method could more easily be done using a frame, not unlike sprang, working from either end to the middle, where a shot of weft holds the twist in the fabric. She recommended the technique for bags and cautioned to allow for take-up in the final piece.

There is an example of a Mexican 2-2 plait in the Guild's collection of Mary Atwater's woven samples; see the figure here.

For further exploration, Mary dedicated a chapter to braiding or plaiting and knotting in her book *Byways in Handweaving: An Illustrated Guide to Rare Weaving Techniques*, with many of her hand-drawn illustrations of the technique and photos of the pieces.

—Maureen Wilson, Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group Coordinator



The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group

The meeting schedule for the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study group is presented below. The next meeting will be held in April at Maureen Wilson's home, at a date yet to be determined. The topics will be pickup, Monk's Belt, and Sugarloaf patterns.

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).

Date	Topic	Bulletins
April 2024	Pick-up; Monks Belt and Sugarloaf Patterns	September 1930; November 1938
June 2024	Krokbragd	November 1930; November 1937
August 2024	Linen Weaving	December 1930; March 1932

