

# THE WEAVER'S BAG



Mary Meigs Atwater  
Weaver's Guild

MAY • 2024

## What's Happening

**MAY 2:** (First Thursday) Color, Pattern, Shape: From Inspiration to Design, by Karen Donde

**MAY 10–11:** The Gathering of Weavers, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day—bring your loom to the Unitarian church and spend time weaving with your friends

**MAY 18:** Guild library open house at Susan Hainsworth's home, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**JUNE 15:** (Saturday)—Dye Day, Guild Challenge Reveal, and Potluck, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Sunny Cate's home

**JULY 23–AUGUST 13:** Tuesday mornings—Tapestry Weaving Workshop

**JULY 27:** (extra Zoom meeting)  
John Marshall

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

## May Guild Meeting—Color, Pattern, Shape: From Inspiration to Design, by Karen Donde

Thursday, May 2, 6:30 p.m.

South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 6876 Highland Drive

Karen Donde, a nationally known weaver who is visiting in the Salt Lake area, will be teaching us at our May meeting. This is a great opportunity! Here is what she said about her presentation:

“Do you ever get stuck trying to decide what to weave, knit, dye, or felt next? This lecture is designed to rev up your design engine and organize the many options available to you for creating cloth or the objects you make with it. **Bring a stack of interesting pictures cut from magazines or old calendars, collecting whatever catches your eye.** We will sort these by various design parameters and analyze your favorites. I'll then offer a few simple design tips and tools to help you formulate them into a design for your next project. This is told from a weaver's perspective, but can be applied to your favorite fiber technique.”



A garment woven by Karen Donde

Karen Donde weaves garments, fashion accessories, and home textiles for sale. She teaches beginning and advanced weaving classes and workshops for guilds and conferences, including HGA's Convergence. She is a juried member of the Southern Highland Craft Guild and graduated in May 2013 from Haywood Community College's Professional Crafts-Fiber program. An experienced and award-winning writer with a bachelor of journalism degree from the University of Missouri, she now writes for and about weavers. She is a contributor to *Handwoven* magazine and other publications.

For more information about Karen, go to her website: <https://karendondehandwovens.com/home.html>

We will start the evening with Show and Tell at 6:30, so please bring what you have been working on. Can't wait to see everyone!

—Sunny Cate, Vice President

## Great Basin Fiber Arts Fair

The Great Basin Fiber Arts Fair is coming April 26 and 27 to the Western Sports Park, 151 South 1100 West, Farmington, Utah. The center is directly south of the big Station Park Mall. There will be vendors, classes, fiber demonstrations, and Guilds there.

Our Guild will host a table, and we are requesting volunteers to be at the table to respond to questions about the Mary Atwater Weaver's Guild and weaving in general. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Maureen Wilson ([maureenwilson@yahoo.com](mailto:maureenwilson@yahoo.com)) or Susan Hainsworth ([susanhainsworth@gmail.com](mailto:susanhainsworth@gmail.com)).

For more information about the Fair, see their website: [GBFAF.org](http://GBFAF.org)





## Guild Challenge—Color!

To participate in the Guild's Challenge on color, 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. 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

## Meetings of the Guild's Southern Utah Branch

**MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024:** 1:00 pm—Stash busting at Grace Episcopal Church, 1072 E 900 S, St. George

**TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024:** 6:00 pm MT—IWC Zoom Class, The Fundamentals of Overshot, Robyn Spady, <https://www.intermountainweavers.org/>

After the May meeting, we are on break until September.

## Library Open House, Saturday, May 18

There will be a Guild library open house on Saturday, May 18, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Susan Hainsworth's home, 91 East 400 North, Centerville, UT. Bring your fiber projects to work on while you sit and visit with other weavers and browse the wonderful books in our Guild library.

## Updated Membership List

If you would like an email copy of the updated Guild membership list, you can contact me at [barbaraallenster@gmail.com](mailto: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



Newsletter background: Detail of Sailors Take Warning Shawl, by Karen Donde

## Tapestry Weaving Workshop, with Deanna Baugh and Mimi Rodes

This workshop will be held on Tuesday mornings from July 23–August 13, 2024. It is open to both beginning weavers and more experienced weavers who want to refresh their knowledge and skills in tapestry weaving. Participants will learn how to dress a loom and basic tapestry techniques such as hatching, soumak, shading, twining, and curves. We will also look at a number of finished tapestries and discuss the different techniques that were used to achieve a variety of effects. The workshop flyer and registration instructions will be send out shortly.



## You are Invited to Join The Gathering of Weavers!

According to [collectivenounslist.com](http://collectivenounslist.com), a "Loom of Weavers" refers to a gathering or group of skilled craftspeople who practice the traditional art form of weaving. On May 10 and 11 (Friday and Saturday) we will gather for a "Loom of Weavers" at the South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. We will gather to weave and share what we are working on.

This event was prompted by the cancellation of a three-day workshop for weaving the painted warps dyed with Denise Kovnat's recent Zoom class. All weaving or other fiber-related projects are welcome, and you don't need a painted warp to participate.

As we will be assembling with our looms in the space where we hold our meetings, we do not have unlimited space, so the group will be limited to 25 and a fee of \$20 will be charged to cover the cost of the room and the fee for our guest speaker Ivy DeHart. If you are planning on coming, please complete the sign-up sheet and send it to Maureen Wilson (address on the sheet). The fee will be collected at the Gathering. Lunch plans are under development.

Ivy DeHart, from the Guild's Southern Utah Branch, will speak to us on Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. Ivy started experimenting with dyeing warps and at one point helped lead the Delightful Dyers group of the Boise Weaver's Guild. She will be talking about her process of designing a weaving around a painted warp and finding the weaving structure that works best for that warp. Her work is just breathtaking! And not only that, she is a delightful person, too! We will be so happy to hear from her and spend some time with her.



"Shades of Night" by Ivy DeHart



## President's Message: Connections, Laughter, and Joy

As we emerge from the cold, white, and gray of winter to the beautiful greens, yellows, and pinks of spring, we can meet in person and enjoy each other's company. Laughter required!! I love in-person meetings.

May will be a busy month. We are excited that Weaver Extraordinaire, Karen Donde, will be here on May 2 to present her vision of Color, Pattern, and Shape. I liked her introduction about self. Learning to weave cloth on a handloom satisfies your soul, engages your mind, and unleashes your creativity. I am looking forward to this Guild meeting! Hopefully everyone can attend.



A happy memory from our Guild Christmas party

A Gathering of Weavers is happening May 10 and 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Church. Bring your loom, knitting, or spinning and prepare to have fun! We also will have the privilege of a Saturday morning presentation by Ivy DeHart. Ivy is a member of our Guild. She has been busy putting together her workshop for Complex Weavers this summer but was kind enough to say yes when we asked her to talk about color and how she designs and dyes her beautiful painted warp creations. We know that this was a change from the expected workshop with Denise Kovnat, but the choice was to do nothing or plan a fun weaverly time together.

Hopefully you will be able to attend and enjoy!

June marks the end of this year's Guild Color Challenge. We are ending on a big COLORFUL Note. A dye day will be held at Sunny Cate's home in June. Last month we got a chance to learn about fiber prep thanks to Sunny and Maureen. It's going to be a lot of fun!

Remember you must bring a prepared warp or yarn if you are planning on dyeing—cellulose fiber only if you want to dye something. If you don't want to dye but just enjoy the fun and fellowship—totally OK!! A big thanks to both Sunny and Maureen for all the work prepping for our dye day.

There are only two months until the end of our Guild Color Challenge. It is going to be fun to see everyone's finished projects. Over the years I have watched Guild members put together colors I would never imagine would work, and I have watched with amazement as the colors sing! I am a structure person, so colors intimidate me.

Our Weaving Guild exists only because of the support and involvement of everyone. You have the power to influence the direction of tomorrow's Guild. Do you have a weaving structure or topic you want to learn more about? Is there a Guild Challenge you think everyone would Love? It's time to get involved.

Thanks everyone!

—Jeanette Tregeagle, Co-President

## Summary of April Guild Meeting

The April 11 meeting was great for anyone interested in learning about dyeing, and especially informative for those planning on attending the Guild's dye day on June 15. Sunny Cate and Maureen Wilson presented information about how to tie warps and wefts (make sure the ties are not so tight that they act as resists), to washing the fibers (they aren't clean when you buy them), to making sure you wear clothing (including shoes) that can get dye on. I hope you are planning on attending our dye day.

—Beth Myrer, Recording Secretary



Items woven with dyed warps

## 2023–2024 MMAWG Board

**President:** Mimi Rodes (801-619-6888, president@mmawg.org); 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, boldladybug@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, ludmillailly@outlook.com)

**IWC Representative:** Nancy Crowley (505-480-8079, ludmillailly@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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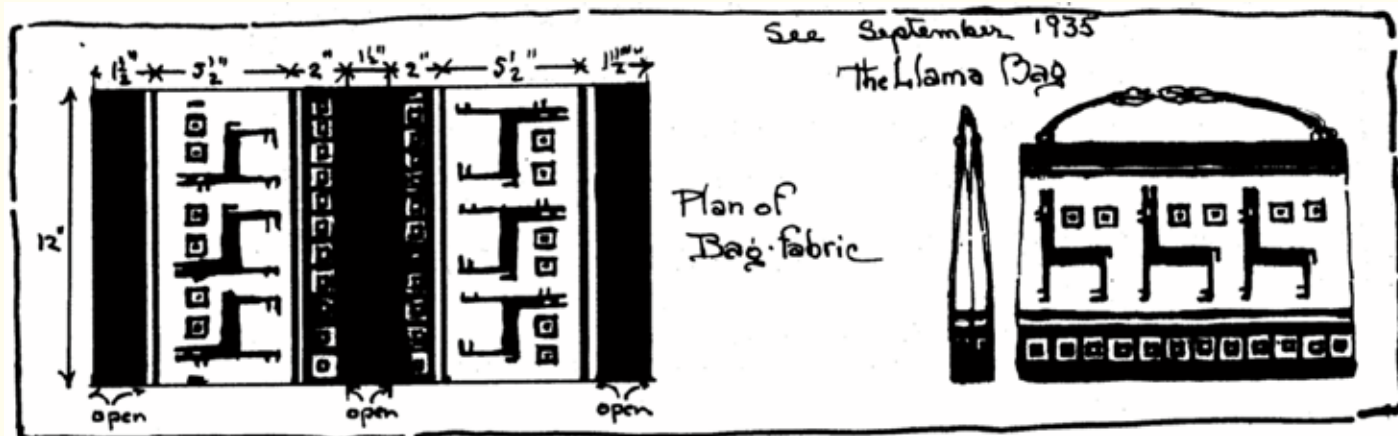


## Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Weaving for Bags

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletins covered in this article are from May 1939 and October 1942. These Bulletins are on the Guild website ([mmaawg.org](http://mmaawg.org)) under the Bulletins Tab.

Mary Meigs Atwater wrote in the May 1939 bulletin that weavers found bags interesting. She wrote, "We like to weave them and we like to use them."

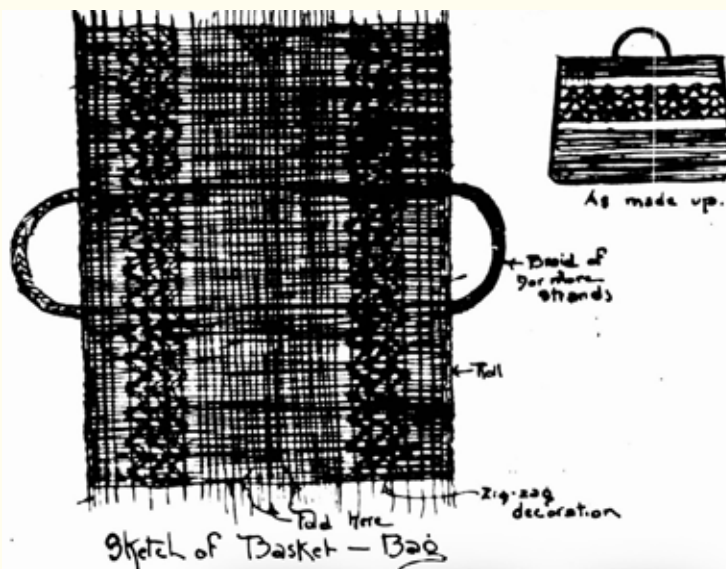
She did a bit of experimenting with bags to find an alternative to the poorly fitted mounted bags that she saw. Being poorly fitted into the closures available at the time made the bags a failure in her eyes. One of the fitting types is shown here, from the Etsy vendor Light Wave Shop. Instead, Mary recommended weaving a fabric in Finnweave, a variation of double weave pickup that gives smooth edges to the figures. She did this with open selvages to allow for the insertion of strips of lath for a firm foundation to the bottom and the top edges of the bag. She wove this in a 5/2 perle cotton warp set closely (30 epi) and woven in the ancient Peruvian design she called "bubble-blowing llamas" with a strand cotton; see figure.



She used an "amusing trick" of padding the llama figures as she wove them, giving the cloth a quilted effect. She did this on one side of the bag and wrote that it gave the bag a "very spirited effect." Cotton waste was used for the padding. Other weaves might be used for a similar effect, but Mary liked the Finnweave, calling it "easy to do." She noted that the padding was an idea of her own and said that it was fun to do. She provided an ancient Mexican pattern for this technique as well.

In 1942, it was during the war effort, and materials were scarcer. Mary included a bag pattern among the Christmas weaving ideas in the October issue. This pattern was made up of unusual materials that she had been experimenting with. She called it a "basket bag," woven in an 8-shaft double Leno for a pairing effect she found in Māori weaving. It was woven using a coarse cotton warp, or a 3/2 perle cotton would work. It was woven with the selvages forming the top of the bags, and the handle made of nine or more braided strands was woven in the fabric on the loom. To make up the bag, it was folded lengthwise inside out, and the warp ends were tied together. It could be lined. Mary's illustration is included here.

—Maureen Wilson, Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group Coordinator



## The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group

The remaining Guild year meetings of the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study group are presented below. The next meeting will be in June, date and place to be determined. The topic will be Krokbragd.

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](mailto:maureenmwilson@yahoo.com)).

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
June 2024	Krokbragd
August 2024	Linen Weaving

**Bulletins**  
November 1930; November 1937  
December 1930; March 1932

