

# THE WEAVER'S BAG



Mary Meigs Atwater  
Weaver's Guild

FEBRUARY • 2025

## What's Happening

### FEBRUARY 13 (ZOOM MEETING):

Costumes and Fabric Modification  
at the Utah Shakespeare Festival,  
by Jeffrey Lieder

**FEBRUARY 22:** Guild Library Open  
House, Susan Hainsworth's home

**MARCH 13:** Weaving for Clothing

**APRIL 3:** Lost in Translation—Why  
Color Theories Don't Guarantee  
Good Cloth, by Ruby Leslie

**APRIL 3–5:** There Must be 50 Ways  
to Weave Your Color Workshop,  
by Ruby Leslie

**MAY 8:** Fashion Evening and Guild  
Challenge Reveal

**JUNE:** TBD

**JUNE 17–21:** Intermountain Weavers  
Conference in Albuquerque, New  
Mexico

**SEPTEMBER 5–OCTOBER 22:** Guild  
Show—"Slow Cloth: A Celebration  
of One Thread at a Time"

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

## February Guild Meeting—Costumes and Fabric Modification at the Utah Shakespeare Festival

Thursday, February 13, 6:00 p.m., Zoom meeting

It is our treat to have Jeffrey Lieder from the Utah Shakespeare Festival costume department speak to us at our February meeting. He will discuss methods for costume construction at the Tony Award winning Utah Shakespeare Festival, including design interpretation, fabric dyeing, and garment finishing techniques.

Jeffrey Lieder has supervised more than 275 productions at the Utah Shakespeare Festival, where he has been costume director since 1986. He is Professor Emeritus of Theater at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he designed costumes and taught classes in tailoring, fabric painting and dyeing, and millinery and costume crafts for 30 years.

He has designed costumes, headpieces, and hats for regional theaters and ballet companies across America, including a PBS production of Peter Pan, produced by the Milwaukee Ballet.

We will  
send the link to  
everyone a few  
days before the  
meeting.

—Sunny Cate,  
Vice President



Photos from last year's  
production of Henry VIII



## President's Message

Brrrr, it's cold outside. It's a great time to hide from the world and weave.

If you feel frustrated or angry, it's time to weave a rug. It's fun to pound the yarn in place—much better than a punching bag, and you get a great rug to keep your feet warm. If you are feeling sad or fragile, it's time to do some lace weaving with fine threads. As you gently place the yarn in its space without breaking, the world feels a little more forgiving. Finally, if you don't want to think about anything but weaving, try some Snowflake Twills or Echo and Jin. A pattern that doesn't repeat itself for forty or more throws of the shuttle will keep your thoughts lost in patterns rather than the cold outside.

The Weaver's Guild has a lot of things coming up in the next few months.

We have the Ruby Leslie workshop on color on April 3–5. You must sign up through Sonya Campana by February 20. This will be a Round Robin workshop, with lots of fun and always laughter.

The Guild Towel exchange is coming up at our May 8 Guild meeting. Contact Sunny Cate if you have any questions. It might be time to panic because time is slipping by. I have not started, but towels are fun to share.

The Guild Challenge for this year is Weaving for Clothing. Remember that you can weave something as simple as a scarf, or something more challenging that requires sewing. The choice is yours. No pressure.

The Intermountain Weaver's Conference (IWC) is this year, and registration is open now. It will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico. IWC is always a lot of fun.

The Guild show will run from September 5 through October 22. The show's theme is "Slow Cloth: A Celebration of One Thread at a Time."

Stay safe and warm,  
—Jeanette Tregagle, Co-President

## Guild Challenge—Weaving for Clothing

This year's Guild Challenge—"Weaving for Clothing"—was introduced at the October meeting, and we are really looking forward to it!

Those who are interested in participating will weave cloth that can be used for clothing. Weavers can also explore the use of color in cloth as they do this. This clothing can be simple scarves or shawls or yardage, or it can be clothing that is constructed in some way. We hope that this challenge will allow all of us to learn more about weaving for clothing.

At the May 8 Guild meeting, we will have a Fashion Evening, as well as the Guild Challenge Reveal. Those who have participated in the Guild Challenge will display their clothing (or wear it) and talk to the Guild about their experience. We will also ask any Guild members who have handwoven clothing to bring or wear it, so we can have an evening of handwoven fashion!



Ruana woven by Judith Shangold, from "Designing Handwoven Garments on the Loom You Have," *Handwoven* newsletter, May 11, 2022

Daryl Lancaster's recent Zoom meeting, titled "Great Garments for Handwoven Cloth," introduced us to the many resources on her website that can be used for creating handwoven clothing. You can find a number of her patterns specially designed for handwoven cloth at this link: <https://www.weaversew.com/shop/sewing-patterns.html>

Throughout the year, we will be sharing clothing items that Guild members have already made so that we can be inspired in our own work. If you have items of handwoven clothing that you would like to share, please let Susan Hainsworth know ([susanhainsworth@gmail.com](mailto:susanhainsworth@gmail.com)). Also please contact Susan if you have any questions.

## Meetings of the Southern Utah Branch

The Southern Utah Branch of our Guild now has a monthly newsletter, which is posted on our Guild website at this link: <https://mmawg.org/newsletters/202502SUWNewsletter.pdf>

The next meeting of the Southern Utah Branch of Weavers is Saturday, February 8, at 10:00 am at Washington City Library. Bring portable projects for the first hour of working together, then bring your completed projects for Show and Tell.

The March meeting is Saturday, March 8, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm.

**Rigid Heddle—Little Looms:** February 12, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Washington City Library, Community Room. Bring your fiber projects to work together.

**Spinners of Southwest Utah:** Our next meeting is February 19, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Washington City Library, Community Room. The focus is on fiber, spinning, and dyeing, and we work on projects while we share our learning.

—Nancy Crowley

## Kitchen Tea Towel Exchange

It's so much fun to exchange tea towels, especially with friends! The Guild is sponsoring a Kitchen Tea Towel Exchange this year. To participate, weave one to four towels to exchange at the Guild meeting on May 8. Please contact Sunny Cate with any questions. Here are the suggested guidelines:

1. Cotton, linen, hemp, or any combination of these fibers make great towels.
2. Finished size is to be approximately 18" x 25". Please plan ahead to address shrinkage and draw-in.
3. Finish the towels with a hem, either hand-sewn or machine-sewn.
4. Weave one to four towels. They can all be the same or can be different. You will exchange as many as you bring—if you bring one towel, you will go home with one towel. If you bring three, you will go home with three.

If you are not going to be able to come to the exchange, we can work something out to have your towels exchanged. Just talk to Sunny.



Tracy Kaestner's Happy Towels from March/April 2011 *Handwoven*

## Weaving Classes at Great Basin

There are two weaving classes taught by Dawn Ahlert on the schedule for the Great Basin Fiber Arts Fair, held on April 25 and 26, 2025. More details can be found at [www.gbfa.org](http://www.gbfa.org), click on the 2025 Classes tab.

**Friday, April 25:** Taniko—2 and 3-Color Weft Twining, based on the Maori, New Zealand, craft. On a frame or tapestry loom, \$100

**Saturday, April 26:** Supplemental Weft Inlay. On a rigid heddle or 2- or 4-harness table/floor loom, \$90

## Guild Library Open House

On Saturday, February 22, from 2:00 to 4:00, come and visit our wonderful Guild library and visit with weaving friends. The library is at Susan Hainsworth's home, 91 East 400 North, Centerville.

## Salt Lake Weaving Studio Classes

Here are some upcoming classes at the Salt Lake Weaving Studio:

**Theo Moorman Techniques:** Deanna reveals all about this fascinating structure. Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00—January 28, February 3 and 11. \$120

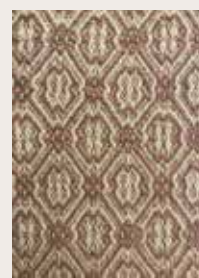
**The Make A . . .** for February is needle felted conversation hearts. No need to register, just drop in on Saturday, February 8, between noon and 4:00. \$5

Deanna starts a new **Beginning Weaving Class** on Saturday, February 15, and continues on Tuesdays until March 18. This is the foundational class for beginners! \$390

**Technique Series** Saturday will be all about linen. Join us on February 22 from noon to 4:00. \$45

## Background photo

This month's newsletter background photo is a detail of a wool twill blanket purchased at the Salt Lake Arts Festival.





### Three-Day Workshop with Ruby Leslie

For a complete description of the workshop and registration information, see the registration package on the Guild's website, [mmawg.org](http://mmawg.org), under "Workshops." Registrations must be submitted by **February 20**.

**When:** April 3–5, 2025, South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

**Title:** "There Must Be Fifty Ways to Weave Your Color" (With apologies to Paul Simon, in this workshop, we'll go beyond white and blue, Sue, and do more than red, Fred!)

**Description:** Weavers seduced by gorgeous yarns often fail to use them successfully. The usual approach to this problem is to learn color theory—a huge and daunting undertaking. Learning terminology is NOT the equivalent of learning to use color well. What is needed is a method to translate color theory, terminology, and yarn wrappings into actual weaving. You don't need to master color theory to use color masterfully.

Using one color palette and a myriad of weave structures, we will take a layman's approach to color theory and use principles of optical blending for a facilitated, semi-scientific investigation of color design. Weaving in round-robin format on pre-warped looms (with custom-wound warps provided by Ruby), participants will explore the effects that different fibers, yarn grists, and structures have upon a single colorway. By weaving a color sampler at each loom, everyone will produce the equivalent of a case study in color and weave structure—a reference tool for weavers to successfully integrate color and design into their cloth-making experience.

### Summary of January Guild Meeting

On January 9, we had a Zoom meeting taught by Ruby Leslie on the benefits of sampling and how it can help in making decisions on what and how to weave our next projects.

Ruby has done a lot of sampling over her weaving career, and she shared wonderful insights about how to make samples as useful as possible. She talked about weaving samples that provide the maximum amount of information about color, fiber, and pattern and spent quite a bit of time discussing the value of gamps. She gave many very helpful insights and techniques. She will be teaching our April Zoom meeting and our spring workshop on color.

I know sampling helped me to figure out that something I wanted to try wouldn't work the way I planned, and I was able to change the structure to make a better project.

—Beth Myrer, Recording Secretary



### Registration for IWC Is Open

Registration for the 2025 Intermountain Weaver's Conference is now open. The conference will be held from June 17–21 in Albuquerque.

For information about the wonderful classes that are offered, see this web page:

<https://www.intermountainweavers.org/workshops.html>

The classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. If the class you want is filled when you register, sign up for your second-place choice at that time. You will be able to sign up for the waiting list for other classes starting on March 1, 2025, but if you wait until that time, you are not guaranteed to get either into the class you are on the waiting list for or your alternate class choice.

Sign up before February 26 if possible. We will decide which classes are a go and which need to be cancelled due to low enrollment at that time. If you try to sign up after that date, you may find the class you wanted was cancelled.

All signups are done online at [intermountainweavers.org](http://intermountainweavers.org) on the Register web page. You must be logged into the website to register for a class.

Anyone can sign up for meals and purchase the IWC 2025 shirts—no membership needed. Lunches are offered each day, and there is a dinner on Thursday night. There are a variety of shirt styles and colors to choose from. Go to the Register web page to purchase meals and shirts.

To get more information about what Albuquerque has to offer, go to the Albuquerque web page on the IWC website.

Please support your regional weaving conference while learning and having fun!

—Nancy Crowley

### 2024–2025 MMAWG Board

**President:** Mimi Rodes (801-619-6888, [president@mmawg.org](mailto:president@mmawg.org)); Jeanette Tregeagle (801-568-9645, [copresident@mmawg.org](mailto:copresident@mmawg.org))

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**IWC Representative:** Nancy Crowley (505-480-8079, [webmaster@mmawg.org](mailto:webmaster@mmawg.org))

**Shuttle-Craft Guild Study Group Coordinator:** Maureen Wilson ([SCstudygroup@mmawg.org](mailto:SCstudygroup@mmawg.org))

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

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

**To join the Guild e-mail list:** contact Susan Hainsworth, [susanhainsworth@gmail.com](mailto:susanhainsworth@gmail.com).

**Guild website:** [mmawg.org](http://mmawg.org)

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## Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Plaiting and Braiding

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletins covered in this article are from September 1939 and February 1944. These Bulletins are on the Guild website ([mmawg.org](http://mmawg.org)) under the Bulletins Tab.

In September 1939, Mary Meigs Atwater had once again returned home to Basin, Montana, from a summer of weaving conferences. She mentioned a three-week conference attended by 60 weavers in Hartland, Michigan. She listed several weave structures that were available to weave and mentioned some “new weaves” that attendants were able to try. These were the Peruvian and Mexican pickup, plaiting techniques, and Guatemalan weaves.

She wrote about the use of two back beams to allow for differential warp take-up between the background and pattern warp threads in the pickup technique. If two beams were not available, she suggested a method of using a stick or dowel between the two warps moved to the bottom of the warp beam and weighted to keep the pattern warp at a desired tension.

But she focused more on plaiting. Plaited scarves, belt's and bags were popular, she noted. For bags, she described using a wooden bag handle as the starting point of the warp, using a warp 2 1/2 times longer than the desired bag depth. The bag handle could be supported by stick shuttles or other firm support as shown by her diagram in the Bulletin. Mary described the plaiting method, something easier to show than describe. She suggested using sticks or knitting needles to secure the sheds and using a double strand of coarse weft yarn. Working from both ends, she recommended a tabby shot in the middle of the work to secure the plait work. The plaiting technique can be found in Mary's book: *Byways in Handweaving: An Illustrated Guide to Rare Weaving Techniques*. The Guild has Mary's sample of the Mexican 2 x 2 plait that is shown here.

Mary suggested a lining of firm material, either for the whole bag or just the bag bottom. A bag may also be plaited from loopers, either singly or linked together depending on the desired size.

Scarves could be plaited in knitting yarn, plaiting from both ends to the center of the warp or in one direction from one end. Mary preferred the latter method to avoid a tabby shot in the middle that might be seen as an error.

In February 1944, Mary wrote of the work she had put into figuring out the ancient Canadian “Ceinture Fléchée,” also known as the Assomption Sash and Arrowhead Belt. This sash was braided in firmly twisted, brightly colored wool and was originally used to keep wool coats closed.



Illustration No. 21

Figure 2: Arrowhead Belt, from *Byways in Handweaving*, photo by M Wilson

The sashes were 8 to 10 inches wide and up to 3 yards in length, with long fringes finished in small braids of 3 or 4 strands. Mary wrote that the craft was of Indian origin, but this seems to be contested in other sources listed below. The technique is like the Osage braiding described by Mary in *Byways in Handweaving*, part IV, “Braiding and Knotting.” This gives more support to the Indian origin theory. Illustration 21, shown here as Figure 2, shows a black-and-white photo of the arrowhead belt.

Braiding instructions were provided, with the following recommendations:

- Use a firmly twisted yarn.
- Rather than use lease sticks to begin the braiding at the center, use a twining tie across the center with two warp ends in each twist.
- Keep a firm hold on the shed, using a loop of cord through the shed on each side of center.

For color photos and more on the French Canadian Assomption or Arrowhead Sash, see

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/arrowhead-sash> and [http://www.ameriquefrancaise.org/en/article-477/Assomption\\_Sash.html](http://www.ameriquefrancaise.org/en/article-477/Assomption_Sash.html).

See also the YouTube video that shows how the braid is made: “Ceinture Fléchée—Finger Weaving in French Canada with Fanshawe Pioneer Village.”

—Maureen Wilson, Shuttle-Craft Bulletins Study Group Coordinator



Figure 1: Mexican Plait sample from the Mary Meigs Atwater sample collection. Photo by M Wilson

## The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group

The schedule for the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study group is presented below. The next meeting will be held on February 24 at 7:00 p.m. at Phyllis Mandel's home. The topic of discussion will be weaving blankets from the May 1931 and February 1936 issues. Contact Maureen Wilson for meeting details.

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)).

Date	Topic	Bulletins
February 24, 2025	Weaving Blankets	May 1931; February 1936
April 2025	Crackle, Broken and Dornick Twills	June 1931; April 1941
June 2025	Handbags	July 1931; December 1931
August 2025	Speck Book and Landes Book Patterns	August 1931; January 1934

