

# THE WEAVER'S BAG



Mary Meigs Atwater  
Weaver's Guild

MARCH • 2025

## What's Happening

**MARCH 13:** Weaving for Clothing

**MARCH 15:** Guild Library Open House,  
Susan Hainsworth's home

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

**JUNE 28:** Bundle Dyeing and Potluck  
(10:00 to 2:00, pavilion near Mimi  
Rodes's home)

**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.

## March Guild Meeting—Weaving for Clothing

Thursday, March 13, 6:30 p.m., South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 6876  
Highland Drive

Our March Guild meeting is in person! We are so excited to be focusing on our Guild Challenge—Weaving for Clothing. Deanna Baugh will be sharing information on how to calculate the perfect weight of fabric so you don't end up with fabric too stiff for a blouse or too soft for a coat. Sarah Marsden will be sharing her journey through weaving yardage for the amazing clothing she has created (see the accompanying photos). This will truly be a wonderful night!

We will start the night with Show and Tell, so please bring something you have been working on to share! We will also be celebrating Mary

Atwater's birthday with a birthday cake, as we do every year. Mary was born on February 28, 1878 and died in 1956, a year after our Guild was organized.



Remember that we will have a Fashion Evening and Guild Challenge Reveal on May 8, where we can see everything that you have been working on for the Guild Challenge. We are hoping that many of you will wear hand-made clothing to the evening.  
—Sunny Cate, Vice President



## President's Message

It's hard to believe it is already March and Spring is really coming! I am so looking forward to our March program on Weaving for Clothing, our first in-person meeting of the year, and everyone's Show and Tell of what we all have been doing!!

We were so lucky to have the opportunity to get a glimpse into the world of costume creation and tricks through our February speaker, Jeffrey Lieder, and I so want to thank Gale Grover for making this possible! It was also fun to see what you all have been working on via the Show and Tell slideshow!

With Spring on its way, it's time to start working on nominations to replace retiring Board Members. In accordance with the Guild By-Laws, elected officers generally serve two consecutive one-year terms. Nominations are to be presented to Guild members at the April meeting and voted on at the May or June meeting. Accordingly, the following elected officers will be completing their second term in June and need to be replaced: President, Vice President, and Recording Secretary. Ann McKane and Phyllis Mandel will be continuing in their roles as Membership Secretary and Treasurer for the next year.

This year we have had an AWESOME Board! It has been so much fun working together to present monthly programs and workshops, which we hope you all have enjoyed! Traditionally, incoming and outgoing Board members meet in late June to brainstorm potential program options. As a Board member, you will also have the opportunity to get to know other members and shape the Guild's future!

I have asked Susan Hainsworth to form a nominating committee to work on potential replacement candidates. If you would like to volunteer for any of these positions, or volunteer your skills and services to the Guild in any other capacity, please contact Susan and let her know. (Cell: 801-860-6483, email: susanhainsworth@gmail.com)

—Mimi Rodes, 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!

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.

## Summary of February Guild Meeting

On February 13, we had the wonderful opportunity of hearing Jeffery Lieder from the Utah Shakespeare Festival costume department. Jeff discussed methods for costume construction at the Festival, including design interpretation, fabric dyeing, and garment finishing techniques.

We saw pictures of the wonderful costumes that have been designed over the years and learned about the tremendous expertise and effort required to create these beautiful costumes. Many thanks to Gale Grover for arranging this meeting for us.

—Beth Myrer, Recording Secretary



## 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

## Salt Lake Weaving Studio Classes

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

**Warping Techniques:** Back to front, March 5; Sectional and tie on, March 12; Front to back, March 19. All classes from 6:00 to 8:00. \$70 for one class; \$190 for all three

**Make A... Kumihimo Bracelet.** No need to register, just drop in on Saturday, March 8, between noon and 4:00. \$5

**Rigid Heddle 2.0:** Saturday, March 15, noon to 4:00. \$80 plus \$15 for loom

**Technique Series Saturday:** Pinwheels on a rigid heddle loom. Saturday, March 29, noon to 4:00. \$45

## 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>

**March Meeting:** Our Guild meeting is on Saturday, March 8, at 10:00 a.m. at the Washington City Library. For the first 45 minutes, we will have 2D Needle Felting Exploration. We will have needles, roving, fabric, and some felting mats to try embellishing fabric with needle felting. (If you have a needle felting mat, please bring it and your handwoven piece to embellish.) Also feel free to bring your looms to work on. Around 11:00 a.m., we will have Show and Tell, so bring your projects to share.

**Rigid Heddle—Little Looms:** This group will meet on March 12 (second Wednesday), 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Washington City Library. Bring your looms, share your work, or come to watch and learn. Dona Fisher, [fisher-donann@gmail.com](mailto:fisher-donann@gmail.com)

**Spinners of Southwest Utah:** The focus of this group is on fiber, spinning, and dyeing, and we work on projects while we share our learning. Anyone is welcome to observe and learn more. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month, and our next meeting is March 19, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Washington City Library, Community Room. Contact [donipack@gmail.com](mailto:donipack@gmail.com)

—Nancy Crowley

## 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, March 15, 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.

## Member Profile—Deborah Briggs

This month we travel overseas to meet one of our international members, Deborah Briggs. Deborah is a retired virologist specializing in human rabies prevention. Before she retired, Deborah served as the CEO of a global foundation, which resulted in a significant amount of travel. While traveling she was exposed to a variety of exquisite handmade textiles. Currently Deborah lives in the Shetland Islands, in the far north of Scotland. While she is retired, she continues to teach global public health to graduate students at Kansas State University.

Deborah started weaving close to twenty years ago. She has always had a passion for textiles, starting with knitting, quilting, and crochet. In 2005 she decided to take a beginning weaving course and instantly fell in love with the craft. Subsequently she was able to take a two-year Master Weaving Design course from Janet Phillips, who is a Master Weaver in Somerset, England. When Deborah moved to Shetland six years ago, she set up her own weaving studio and became a member of the Shetland Arts and Craft trail.

Deborah joined our Guild two years ago. One of her weaving heroines has always been Mary Meigs Atwater. When searching for more information about Mary's techniques, she stumbled upon our Guild and made the decision to join. While she lives far away from Utah, she enjoys reading the Guild newsletter each month and hopes to one day be able to join a Guild meeting in person.

Creating pure color and weaving with natural fibers are some of the things Deborah enjoys most when working on projects. For the past three years she has had the opportunity to create weavings to be displayed on the walls of a restaurant in Shetland. Her next installation of three woven pieces is set to be installed in April. Currently she has one of the three pieces completed and is about a third of a way through the second.



As she has a strong interest in color, Deborah has been working with another designer in Shetland to further her knowledge of dyeing techniques. She hopes to be able to develop her own color palette for wool and silk fibers in the next few years.

If you plan to visit the United Kingdom in the future, Deborah encourages Guild members to reach out if their travels will take them to Shetland. Two of our Guild members attended Shetland Wool Week last year and participated in a class Deborah taught on weaving. She would be delighted to meet more of our members in person.

—Nicole Lohman

*Deborah in her studio*

## 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))

**Vice President:** Sunny Cate (801-589-3393, [vicepresident@mmawg.org](mailto:vicepresident@mmawg.org))

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

**Recording Secretary:** Beth Myrer (801-602-8612, [secretary@mmawg.org](mailto:secretary@mmawg.org))

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

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

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

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

**Newsletter:** Susan Hainsworth (801-860-6483, [susanhainsworth@gmail.com](mailto:susanhainsworth@gmail.com)); Maureen Wilson (801-485-5241, [SCstudygroup@mmawg.org](mailto:SCstudygroup@mmawg.org)); Nicole Lohman (715-491-1893, [nicolelohman@gmail.com](mailto:nicolelohman@gmail.com))

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

**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))

## 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. 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

## 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](mailto:susanhainsworth@gmail.com).

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

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## Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Weaving Upholstery Fabric

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletins covered in this article are from June 1940 and March 1947. These Bulletins are on the Guild website ([mmawg.org](http://mmawg.org)) under the Bulletins Tab.

Mary Meigs Atwater wrote about weaving for upholstery in the 20s, 30s, and again in the 1940s. She repeated the same characteristics of good upholstery fabric: it should have beauty, charm, and durability.

She wrote that these considerations limit the material and weave structure. The yarns should be strong, smooth, and hard-wearing. The weave structure should combine the warp and weft closely. This, she wrote, would eliminate the 4-shaft over-shot as a good choice. Her choices for the best upholstery weave structures were rep weave, tapes-try, block twills, damask, summer and winter, and crackle. She wrote that of these, rep weave was probably the most frequently used, due to its excellent firmness and wearing qualities.



Figure 1: Rep weave upholstered chair, photo from Kelly Marshall's website [kellymarshall.com](http://kellymarshall.com). Used with permission.

See this example of a rep weave upholstered chair from Kelly Marshall of *Custom Woven Interiors*. For more beautiful examples of her work in rep, see her website: <https://kellymarshall.com/gallery>.

I also recommend her book, *Custom Woven Interiors*, available from Kelly Marshall's website as well.

Mary provided three rep weave drafts in the newsletter, from Scandinavian (a and b) and Peruvian pieces (c). She wrote about the use of pattern in upholstery fabric, advising the use of small patterns for large pieces, such as a couch, and as large as you like for smaller pieces.

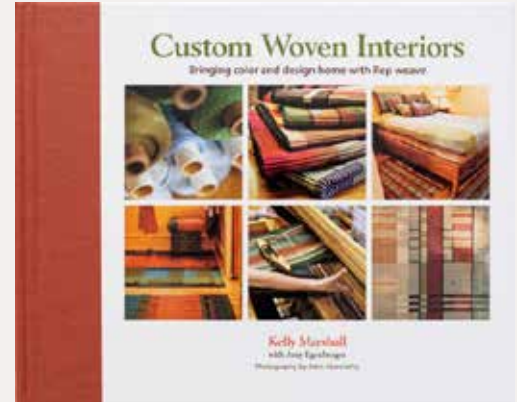


Figure 2: *Custom Woven Interiors* by Kelly Marshall, available on her website.

She provided a draft for a Summer and Winter weave (d), noting to repeat the threading 47–92 only. I tried to reproduce the hand-drawn figure on the draft page and could only do so with the threading and treadling shown. It is the full threading of Summer and Winter (d) and the treadling from the 2nd column, starting with treadle 2, repeated 2x, with tabby. So, if you are going to use this draft, sampling is recommended.

Mary included a dozen more Summer and Winter drafts from the *Shuttle-Craft Book of American Hand-Weaving and the Recipe Book*.

In the 1947 Bulletin, Mary repeated her requirements for a good upholstery fabric—materials of firm construction and of suitable weaves, such as crackle, summer and winter, twills, damask, double weave, and rep. She also mentioned Maori Taniko, which is a New Zealand Maori technique like twining. She called this a specialized “fancy” weave.

Mary repeated some of the rep weave drafts from the 1940 issue and referred to Peruvian, Bolivian, and Guatemalan patterns that could be adapted to rep weave for colorful fabrics.

She added two Bronson spot weave drafts in rep to the mix, an 8-shaft draft, and profile drafts for rep weave, using the same tie-up for all. Treadling options were given as well.

Mary ended the issue with a discussion of how the style of upholstery fabric should match the furniture style. The color or colors should be carefully considered for the furniture style and other pieces in the room. She wrote that (color) harmony is a subtle playing together of many forms and shades, and monotony is never harmony. Mary recommended adding a few accents of very strong color and designs as fantastic as possible to a room, calling it “fun!”

—Maureen Wilson, *Shuttle-Craft Bulletins Study Group Coordinator*

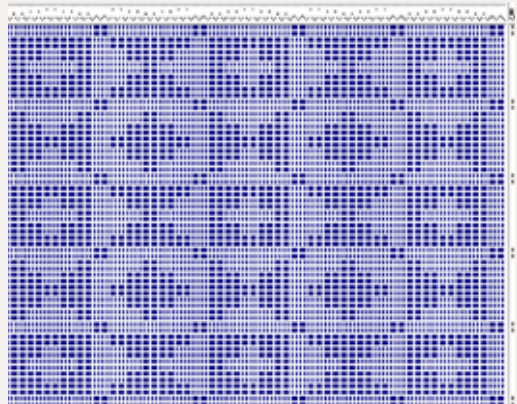


Figure 3 Drawdown for Summer and Winter draft, July 1940 Bulletin, by M Wilson

## The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group

The schedule for the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study group is presented below. The next meeting will be held in April at Maureen Wilson's home, date to be announced. The topic of discussion will be Crackle and Broken and Dornick Twills from the June 1931 and April 1941 issues.

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
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



## Mimi Rodes—Textiles from India

Dear Friends,

We just returned from a month in India and Bhutan, and I want to share some of what I saw with you all. Both countries are a weaver and “fiber addict’s” dream, with strong and colorful textile traditions!

In Bhutan, our trip leader struck up a conversation with a villager who ended up inviting us into her home. I saw a backstrap loom frame and inquired if she wove. The next thing I knew, she was dressing me in her traditional clothing and the skirt she had woven! At the Textile Museum in Paro, there were so many beautiful examples of Bhutanese weavings, but how in the world do you do such fine and intricate pickup designs on a backstrap loom!!!!

In India, the two top highlights for me were the Taj Mahal and the wonderful, colorful clothing and textiles. The



Taj is even more beautiful than it appears in the movies and pictures. And when you get up close to the marble blocks it is made of, the natural design and sense of movement in the marble are AWESOME!

The hand printed textiles are so remarkable!!! After watching several demonstrations of block printing techniques, I finally understand, technically, how those gorgeous, intricate hand-printed textiles are made, but I am ever so much in awe of the skill, time, and technique that it takes to make them! In Varanasi we visited a silk factory and found many Jacquard looms still being used to weave GORGEOUS silk brocades and handwoven silk saris!



I was so grateful to have seen Deanna’s presentation on Jacquard looms a year or so ago. It helped me appreciate the technology and weaver’s skills so much more! I will be bringing several Jacquard woven pieces to Show and Tell in March!

The beautiful saris and the woven and decorated clothing we saw were just amazing! These two young couples were having their wedding pictures taken at an ancient fort in Jaipur and graciously allowed us to take their pictures. The designs, colors, embroidery, and beadwork were so beautiful! I can’t imagine the hours and artistry that went into these gorgeous wedding outfits! Just amazing!



But this photo of a group of women waiting to enter a temple is the best! It captures the amazing variety of colorful saris and other clothing women wear in India. If they are not wearing a sari, then they are wearing a “koti,” a long top worn over pants, further adorned with beautiful colorful scarves or shawls.

—Mimi Rodes

