

THE WEAVER'S BAG



Mary Meigs Atwater
Weaver's Guild

FEBRUARY • 2026

What's Happening

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

FEBRUARY 14 : Guild library open house and magazine giveaway, Susan Hainsworth's home 2:00–4:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 21: Progressing in Weaving Study Group, Zoom, 2:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 26: Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group, 7:00 p.m., Phyllis Mandel's home

FEBRUARY 28: Zoom, 9:30 a.m. Magic in the Water, by Laura Fry

FEBRUARY 28: Rigid Heddle Study Group, Zoom, 2:00 p.m.

MARCH 7: Jazzy Junk Swap/Sale, 10:00 a.m.–noon

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 3-day workshop, by Beth Ross Johnson

MAY 14: Guild Challenge Reveal

JUNE 6: Indigo Dye Day, pavilion near Mimi Rodes's home 9 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

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

Thursday, February 12, 6:30 p.m., South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 6876 Highland Drive

The topic for our February 12 meeting is tips and tricks to improve your weaving. We will be sharing solutions to the mistakes we have made while weaving. This will be a group discussion led by Jill Dahle.

Come to the meeting prepared to share a problem you have had in weaving and how you solved it. Or if you have not solved a problem, you could share it and learn from the suggestions of others in the group. Some ideas include tension problems, fixing threading errors, making heddles, dealing with selvages and broken threads, and keeping track of a treadling sequence. We have many individuals in the Guild who have experience and knowledge about these topics, and it would be great for them to share their tips and tricks.

Show and Tell will begin at 6:30, so please bring the projects you have been working on.

Also, because Mary Atwater was born on February 28, 1878, we will celebrate her birthday with a birthday cake. The presentation this month is a great way to celebrate Mary Atwater's life. In her writings, she often referred to the "Weaver's Bag of Tricks," which is why our newsletter has always been called "The Weaver's Bag." At the February meeting, we can each add to our "Weaver's Bag of Tricks"!

—Jill Dahle and Mimi Rodes, Co-Vice Presidents



February Zoom Meeting—Magic in the Water, by Laura Fry

Saturday, February 28, 9:30 a.m.

Soon after I joined the Guild, a former member, Joanne Spotten, strongly suggested that I read a book in the Guild library on "wet finishing" called *Magic in the Water*, by Laura Fry. I had mentioned to Joanne that I had woven a chenille scarf years before that was so pretty, but too stiff to enjoy wearing. After working through the book, I pulled out my beautiful scarf, wet finished it, and the yarn just bloomed to become soft and luxurious! I became an instant believer!



Mimi Rodes's chenille scarf after wet finishing

I hope you all will enjoy and benefit from this wonderful opportunity to learn about the "Magic in the Water" from the expert!!!

About Laura Fry: Laura chose weaving as a career in 1975 and took weaving classes at every opportunity, studying at Banff School of Fine Arts in Alberta and the Varpapuu Summer Weaving School in Finland. She started her business in 1977 and, since 1980, has worked full-time as a professional handweaver. She teaches throughout Canada and the United States and has written a variety of textile publications, including *Magic in the Water*. After years of work and study, Laura was the 27th weaver to earn certification as one of Canada's Master Weavers.

Topic: This one-hour presentation will introduce the topic and explain why I use the term "wet finishing" instead of just "washing" to finish the woven web. Once removed from the loom, the web is just a collection of individual threads woven together. After being wet finished, the threads take their final place in the weave structure. This can increase the drape and shine and the development of weave structures that rely on the threads moving to the area of least resistance in the cloth. It can also address things like fugitive dye molecules and slight inconsistencies in beat.

During this process the weaver applies the processes appropriately in order to create the quality of cloth they desire. Some of those processes are more "extreme" than cleaning the cloth after use—hotter temperatures, more vigorous agitation, hard compression (cold or hot), and even the possibility of brushing up a nap—or not.

Participants are welcome to bring questions, and Laura will be happy to advise on what should be considered.

—Mimi Rodes, Co-Vice President

President's Message: The Subversive Nature of Craft Guilds

As American political discourse becomes ever more emotional and antagonistic, have you noticed the impacts rippling through our Guild interactions? What? No? Nothing?

The Guild's two new study groups—Progressing in Weaving and the Rigid Heddle group—both had lively, productive meetings this January. It was wonderful to listen to the enthusiastic discussions about all things weaving and to imagine the full range of political views we very likely represent. It's fascinating to me how much we have in common and how much we agree on when we can show up without political labels.

On the national stage, politicians, news organizations, talk shows, and podcasts are all working furiously to push us apart, to create differences and then to magnify them. Crises abound, as do a large range of responses. Without our permission, we are being divided into monolithic groups of "us" and "them." The nuance has evaporated from public discussion. Where the implications of these divisions were once frowns and headshakes, now the repercussions grow darker.

Nonetheless, we congregate a few times a month, and we talk about weaving. And we talk about our jobs, vacations, families, and food. All as if we got along really, really well. Funny, huh? Not just craft guilds, but any team, club, or group that promotes an interest that its members share helps to defy these forces of social division.

—Sarah Marsden, *President*

Guild Challenge—Discover a New Twill

I hope that everyone is thinking about and planning for the project they are going to do for the Guild Challenge. The May meeting will be here before you know it! Robyn Spady is giving a Zoom workshop through IWC titled "Totally Twill—Basics and Beyond," on March 7, 2026. This will be good inspiration!

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



Twill fabric woven by Mary Atwater

is at the top of the list of bulletins. Go to the entry "Twill" in the index to find interesting discussions.

Sashiko-ori Workshop, with Beth Johnson

The Sashiko-ori workshop with Beth Johnson on April 9–11 is now full. If you are still thinking about it and decide you would like to attend, we will maintain a waiting list. Send an email to beth.cobb@gmail.com to indicate that you are interested, and include your phone number. If there are any cancellations, we will get in touch with people on the waiting list.

—Beth Cobb, *workshop coordinator*



Summary of the January Guild Meeting

The January Guild meeting was held on January 15. It was a Zoom meeting titled Japanese Folk Textiles, by Beth Ross Johnson. Beth gave us an excellent overview of the folk textiles of Japan, showing how limitations of materials and techniques made possible resist-dye techniques and recycling techniques. She had many photographs of the textiles and her own experiences to share. She will teach our Guild meeting in April, as well as a three-day workshop in April on sashiko-ori.

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.

Progressing in Weaving Study Group

The Progressing in Weaving Study Group had its first meeting on Saturday, January 10, at 2:00 at Susan Hainsworth's home. About 20 people came, and we had a great discussion about resources that can help us learn about weaving. We also learned about the Guild library, and a number of books were checked out, and we had a lot of fun! The resources that were discussed will soon be added to the Guild's Resources page.

This study group will be meeting on the third Saturday of each month, so **the February meeting will be on February 21 at 2:00 p.m.**, and it will be a Zoom meeting. We will be discussing weaving resources at this meeting as well.

Each person can bring any ideas they have found for how to learn more about weaving—books, videos, websites, classes, people, etc. If people would like to ask questions about projects at the end of the meeting, they are welcome to send pictures to Susan Hainsworth, who will have the pictures ready to show (susanhainsworth@gmail.com).

—Susan Hainsworth

Rigid Heddle Study Group

Come join in the fun at our first meeting as a new Rigid Heddle Study Group, where all we talk about are all things rigid heddle! **The meeting will be on Zoom on Saturday, February 28, at 2:00 p.m.** This is a casual community, support, and inspirational group.

I will send the link to the meeting closer to the date. I hope to see you there. Please contact me directly if you have questions. My phone is 801-707-8356. My email is sonyacampana@gmail.com.

—Sonya Campana

Salt Lake Weaving Studio

The Salt Lake Weaving Studio has a special February class planned for members of MMAWG who want to participate in the Guild Challenge. The Twill Gamp Class will be an intense dive (four evenings in two weeks) into how different twill threadings interact with various treadlings. The end result will be a reference guide for weaving multiple twill patterns in the future, and the gamp doubles as a runner or dresser scarf. The class runs February 19, 20, 26, and 27 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Also in February:

Warping Back to Front: Monday, February 9, noon–3:00 p.m.

Make a . . . Kumihimo bracelet: February 14, noon–4:00.

Beginning Inkle Band Weaving: February 21, 10:00–4:00

Get details on all of these classes at our website: SLWeavingStudio.org

—Catherine and Deanna



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.

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, susanhainsworth@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 (801-205-1055, janeannpeters@comcast.net); Maureen Wilson (801-485-5241, SCstudygroup@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)

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, fibernbeads@gmail.com)

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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Great Basin Fiber Festival

The Great Basin Fiber Festival will be held on April 16, 17, and 18 at the Western Sports Park in Farmington. There are many fiber arts classes, including two basket classes taught by Connie Denton and three spinning classes taught by Jill Dahle—both members of our Guild! There is also a class on weft pile techniques by Dawn Ahlert. And there are two days of wonderful vendors. You can sign up now at the festival website: <https://www.gbfa.org/>

The Guild has a booth at the festival, where we share information about weaving and the Guild and do demonstrations. If you are interested in volunteering for a two- or four-hour shift, please contact Julie Guiney at outreach@mmawg.org.



Intermountain Weavers Conference News

The Intermountain Weavers Conference offers wonderful Zoom classes to members. It costs only \$25 for a two-year membership, so the classes are a bargain. On Saturday, March 7, at 2:00, Robyn Spady will present a presentation titled “Totally Twill—Basics and Beyond.” Robyn is an engaging and informative speaker. To register for the presentation, go to IntermountainWeavers.org.

When you join IWC, you also get information about the IWC conference, which will be held in Fort Collins, Colorado, on July 6–10, 2027.

—Ellen Klomps, IWC Representative



The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group

The remaining 2025–2026 Guild year schedule for the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group is presented below. The next meeting will be held on February 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., at Phyllis Mandel’s home. The topic of discussion will be coverlet weaving and the Italian fashion from the January 1932 and January 1934 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 (maureenwilson@yahoo.com).

Meeting Date	Topic	Bulletins
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



Guild Library Open House and Magazine Giveaway

There will be a Guild library open house on Saturday, February 14, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Susan Hainsworth’s home, 91 East 400 North, Centerville. Come and explore the wonderful books in the library.

Also, the Guild library has a lot of magazines that are not related to weaving, and we have decided to give these away. We have also decided to give away the Guild’s large collection of *Shuttle, Spindle, & Dyepot* (over 200 magazines) because these are seldom checked out and they take so much storage space. The magazines will be available at the open house, and you are also welcome to contact Susan and make an appointment to come and look at them (susanhainsworth@gmail.com). There are various issues of the following magazines:

- Surface Design*
- Surface*
- Fiber Arts*
- Piecework*
- Spin Off*
- American Craft*
- Threads*
- Vogue Knitting*
- The Knitter*
- Shuttle, Spindle, and Dyepot*



Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Shadow Weave



The Shuttle-Craft Bulletins covered in this article are from February 1942 and May 1943. These Bulletins are on the Guild website (mmawg.org) under the Bulletins Tab.

In February 1942, Mary continued discussing unusual or special weaves. She credited the Shuttle-Craft Weaving Guild through the bulletins for bringing these weaves to the weaving world. She listed over 20 of them—from crackle to Central and South American weaves and

more—as these unusual ones.

She mentioned the use of cotton yarns, as wool and linen were not as available during the war years. She said that cotton would be the best bet during the next few years and now was a good time to improve techniques with cotton.

The most recent special weave that Mary was experimenting with, using cotton, was what she called shadow weave. She called it a real novelty—one she had never seen before. She categorized it as a texture weave, one that could not be captured by drawing and had to be sampled to appreciate. Shadow weave was defined by Mary as essentially a plain weave, producing a firm and durable fabric, excellent for upholstery, bags, and similar articles.

Although shadow weave is a texture weave, Mary also wrote that color was essential. The warp and weft are made up of alternating dark and light yarns, with the same color in warp and weft, or not. A pronounced pattern is achieved if the values are strongly contrasting. A more subtle effect can be achieved if the two colors are not too far apart in value. Here is a draft from the 1943 Bulletin showing a typical shadow weave effect in black and white.

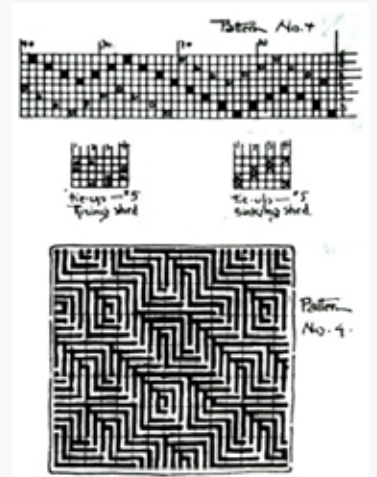
Mary thought that the weave was more effective woven in coarser yarns but would give a finer figure if woven with finer yarns set at 30 epi. She wove it with a Lily Yarn Co. cotton yarn available at the time, Frost-Tone, somewhat finer than a 5/2 perle cotton.

There are three shadow weave drafts in the 1942 bulletin: (a) a modernistic effect, (b) a more conventional pattern, and (c) a 4-shaft variation. Mary was working on developing more patterns. There is also a double weave draft in the dark-light pattern of the shadow weave that Mary considered a “stunt.” Mary had always espoused sharing weaving information and designs as much as possible, but with the shadow weave, at least in this article, she wrote that as shadow weave was quite novel and developed for the Guild, she would not publish it elsewhere, stating that even skilled weavers would find it a puzzle without directions.

In May 1943, Mary wrote that Guild members were having a hard time getting woven materials for exhibits. Mary found this to be disappointing and said that we should all dedicate ourselves to weaving an outstanding piece and exhibiting it at least once a year.

She continued to sample the shadow weave, using more Lily Yarn Co. cotton, this time with their Thrifty-Knit yarn, set at 10 or 12 epi. Mary wrote, as above, that 2 yarns in contrasting light and dark colors produce this weave’s effect. She also wrote that she liked to use 3 or 4 colors for a more pleasing result, with 2 light yarns and 1 dark in the warp and weft, or 2 different light hues, one in the warp and one in the weft and 2 different dark hues in the warp and weft. Here is a photo of a sample from the recent workshop with Rebecca Winter, using 3 colors, one dark and two of lighter value.

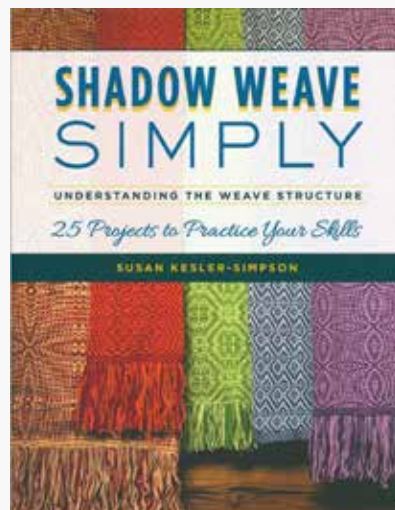
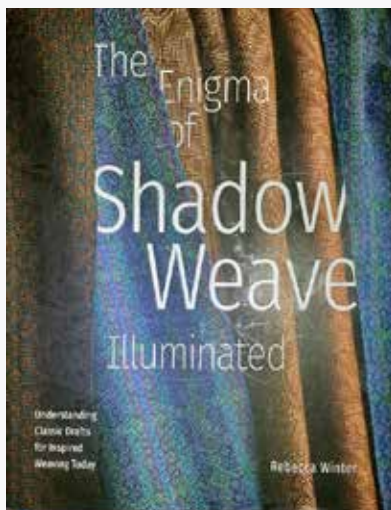
Mary called shadow weave one of the Guild’s “occult” weaves, not given to working out on paper and one that has to be seen to be believed. She provided 5 drafts with what she called “normal” treadling. They may be treadled in other ways. She also included a border draft to be used with them.



Shadow weave draft 4, May 1943 Bulletin, photo by M. Wilson.



Color shadow weave sample Photo by M Wilson



Marion Powell, in 1976, published a book of 1000+ patterns in shadow weave, using a different threading convention. This book is out of print but may still be found.

Rebecca Winter recently published *The Enigma of Shadow Weave Illuminated*. She uses the Powell threading for many drafts included in the book and provides a summary of the weave development. Also available is *Shadow Weave Simply: Understanding the Weave Structure: 25 Projects to Practice Your Skills*, by Susan Kesler-Simpson. Both books are in the Guild library.

—Maureen Wilson, Shuttle-Craft Bulletins Study Group Coordinator