

THE WEAVER'S BAG



Mary Meigs Atwater
Weaver's Guild

MARCH • 2026

What's Happening

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

MARCH 12: Rigid Heddle Weaving and
Faux Ikat, by Connie Denton

MARCH 21: 2:00 p.m. Progressing in
Weaving Study Group, Sonya
Campana's home

MARCH 28: 2:00–4:00 p.m. Rigid
Heddle Study Group on Zoom

MARCH 28: 2:00–4:00 p.m. Guild
Library Open House, Susan
Hainsworth's home

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

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

March Guild Meeting—Rigid Heddle Weaving and Faux Ikat, by Connie Denton

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

For our March 7 meeting, Connie Denton will be demonstrating how to warp and weave faux ikat on a rigid heddle loom. Connie explained, "Making these scarves has given me much pleasure and I've been learning something new with every scarf I make. It's a good technique for understanding how yarn colors interact with one another in the warp and weft."

Connie will demonstrate how you can take a hand-painted skein of yarn, including palindromic-painted yarn, and warp it so that you control where the colors end up on the warp. (In palindromic-painted yarns, the colors are in the same order from either end—for example, blue-green-red-green-blue.) Connie will demonstrate direct and indirect warping.



Scarves woven by Connie Denton

The use of a rigid heddle loom really opens up when you warp from front to back.

Connie would like this to be a hands-on program. Members can bring a skein of hand-painted yarn

(including palindromic-painted yarn) and a warping board or pegs, and she will show how to warp the yarns for color control.



Palindromic Yarns

Show and Tell will begin at 6:30, so bring all the projects you have been working on to share with us.

—Jill Dahle and Mimi Rodes, Co-Vice Presidents

President's Message—Sheep and Trousers and Twills

One reason that Guild leadership chose "Discover a New Twill" as our Guild Challenge this year is because weavers at almost any level can learn something new about twill. It's one of three fundamental weave structures, along with plain weave and satin.

Being reminded that twill is fundamental to weaving, I started to wonder about the origin of twill as a weave structure. Humankind has been weaving since the stone age. However, time and the elements are not kind to fabric, and archaeologists are more likely to turn up textile tools than the textiles themselves.

Nonetheless, I was able to dig up some interesting clues:

From an ancient graveyard in northwest China (Turpan, between Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan), a pair of woolen trousers was excavated and radiocarbon dated to between 1,200 and 1,000 BCE. Not only are these the earliest known pair of pants,



but they incorporate several different weaving techniques, suggesting that weaving study groups had already been meeting for some time. The crotch is woven in a striped twill, suggesting that our ancestors understood twill to be a more dense and flexible structure than the plain weave that makes up much of this garment. Interestingly, a much denser tapestry-style piece of fabric circles each knee, adding durability to a friction point.

The location where these britches were found is also interesting. This is the edge of the Eurasian Steppe, where long-distance trading eventually defined the Silk Road network of trade routes connecting the Mediterranean to China. Horses and horsemanship were an integral part of sheepherding life on these vast, not very fertile grasslands. The garment and its location suggest that horseback riding created the need for two-legged trousers, and the trading route suggests that the weaver in question had lots of information about textiles passing multiple villages along their route.

You'll have some cool-to-you twill piece to share at the May meeting, right??

—Sarah Marsden, President

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 by offering surplus yarns, fabrics, weaving tools, and other supplies to fellow weavers; and discovering 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.

Salt Lake Weaving Studio

Here's the news from the Salt Lake Weaving Studio:

Make A . . . Mug Rug: Saturday, March 14, noon–4:00 p.m. Drop in for an hour or two and weave a tiny rag rug for your favorite mug.

Double Weave: Thursdays, March 19 to April 2, 6:00–9:00 p.m. All the ins and outs of double weave with Deanna.

Rigid Heddle 2.0: Wednesdays, March 18 and 25, 6:00–9:00 p.m. Lace weaves and finger-manipulated techniques.

Gradient Dyeing: Saturday, March 28, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Begin with two colors and end up with 16!

In April, Deanna is teaching **Rigid Heddle Color-and-Weave Placemats** for U of U Lifelong Learning. Sign up here: <https://continue.utah.edu/lifelong/calendar>

To sign up for classes, visit our website: SLWeavingStudio.org or email: slweavestudio@gmail.com. We are located at 2875 South West Temple, South Salt Lake.

—Catherine Marchant and Deanna Baugh

Guild Challenge—Discover a New Twill

I hope that everyone is thinking about, planning, and weaving for the project they are going to do for the Guild Challenge. The May meeting will be here before you know it!

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!



Twill fabric woven by Mary Atwater

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 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



Guild Library Open House

There will be a Guild library open house on Saturday, March 28, 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.

Rigid Heddle Study Group

Next meeting: March 28, 2:00 p.m. on Zoom

The Rigid Heddle Study Group will plan to meeting on Saturday, March 28, at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom. More information will come out soon.

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.

Summary of the February 12 Guild Meeting

The following items were covered in the business portion of the meeting:

- Phyllis Mandel presented the Guild's current financial position. The year is proceeding without surprises, fiscally, and we have a solid cash position to support our programs and projects.
- Lynnette DiRaddo reminded the group of our Jazzy Junk Swap Meet on March 7, at SVUUS. Setup begins at 9:00 a.m., with swapping and sales from 10:00 a.m. to noon.
- Susan Hainsworth reminded us of the Library Open House on February 14, which will include a giveaway of magazines no longer being kept in the library. Please contact Susan if you want to see the magazines at another time.
- Sarah Marsden gave an impassioned pitch for members to volunteer to help with Guild projects, the Guild board, or record-keeping work. Our Guild cannot run effectively without the help of many volunteers.

For the evening's presentation, Jill Dahle led a discussion of weaving tips and tricks. Many people shared ideas about how to create good selvages, fix broken threads, take care of knots during warping, solve tension issues, use tarp clips as temples, and many other weaving problems. Everyone learned a great deal from the discussion.

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. Julie will also pass around a signup sheet at the March Guild meeting.



Intermountain Weavers Conference News

The Intermountain Weavers Conference offers wonderful Zoom classes to members. 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. This presentation is a follow-up to Robyn's very popular Tips and Tricks Zoom lecture given earlier. To register for the presentation, go to IntermountainWeavers.org. The Zoom recording will be available for a week or two after the presentation if you are planning to participate in the Guild Swap/Sale event that day. Each class costs \$35 (after the \$25 IWC registration fee, which lasts for two years).

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. The slate of workshops and leaders will be announced soon. Vendor applications are now open.

—Ellen Klomps, IWC Representative



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, nicolelohman@gmail.com)

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

IWC Representative: 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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Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Curtains

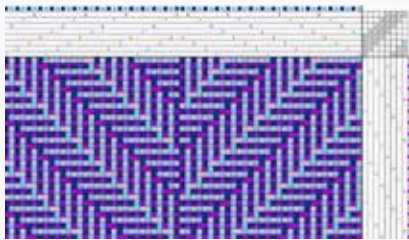
The Shuttle-Craft Bulletins covered in this article are from April 1942 and July 1944. These Bulletins are on the Guild website (mmawg.org) under the Bulletins Tab.

In April 1942, Mary Meigs Atwater wrote about weaving curtain fabric. Mary often wrote about weaving curtains, particularly in the Spring, when the days were getting longer and more light was coming into a weaver's life. For the period of 1924 through 1937, Mary wrote about curtains in 17 Bulletin issues. Of these, 10 were published in the Spring months of March, April, and May.

Mary wrote that curtains could tone down or harmonize a room, they could dignify or give formal treatment, they could stylize a period room, and most important to Mary, they could lend a touch of cheerfulness.

For a lightweight, lacy weave to let the light in, Mary suggested using leno weave. She recommended weaving bands of plain weave, interspersed with bands of leno. A more elaborate effect could be had with the addition of patterns over the leno in tapestry, as done by ancient Peruvian weavers.

Mary included 7 drafts for curtain fabrics in the 1942 Bulletin. These were a lacy weave that she wove up in what she called a "frill cotton," a combination of fine and coarse material, in a threading that produced lengthwise stripes in relief, sometimes used for counterpanes; a twill arrangement; a Bronson draft that may also be woven as summer and winter; and 3 arrangements of shadow weave in a Dornick twill (see draft). For these last three drafts, she recommended a firm and smooth material sett to produce a firm fabric.



Draft e, April 1942 Shuttle-Craft Bulletin

improved and there would not be an unsightly "wrong" side. For modern patterns, she listed crackle, summer and winter, and double weave.

There are 5 drafts included in this Bulletin. The first was a bold curtain done in carpet warp and a coarse weft, woven in bands of plain weave and pattern in several colors. This would produce a heavy fabric, much heavier than most modern window coverings. The rest included a colorful Spanish weft-faced fabric, a weave with 3-thread skips, and 2 drafts from Caroline Halvorsen's *Haandbok I Vevning*, 1914. The Bulletin draft d is shown here.

Mary wrote in closing that there are so many other interesting ways to weave curtain fabrics—so many that it is difficult to make a choice. For additional ideas there are several projects in the *Recipe Book*, Series III.

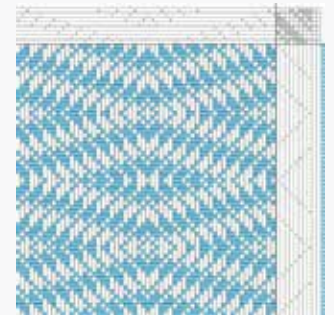
—Maureen Wilson, Shuttle-Craft Bulletins Study Group Coordinator



Handwoven curtains, photo by M Wilson

In the July 1944 Bulletin, Mary reviewed the planning process for window or doorway coverings. The room should determine the style, as the drapery should be becoming to the room and make it more becoming and agreeable. She discussed the effect of a patterned fabric on the room occupants and had specific recommendations on what would work best. Overall, she was not enamored of the overshot wheel patterns for window coverings, and thought they were best used in coverlets.

She thought overshot could work, but only in small patterns, such as Monk's Belt, a diamond pattern, or "the poor dear overworked Honeysuckle." For heavy doorway curtains, she even included Krokbragd but recommended using a tabby so the drape would be



Draft d, July 1944 Bulletin

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 in April, date and place to be announced. The topic of discussion will be weaving linen and Bronson lace from the April 1932 and 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 (maureenmwilson@yahoo.com).

Meeting Date	Topic	Bulletins
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



Progressing in Weaving Study Group

Next meeting: March 21, 2:00 p.m., in person

The Progressing in Weaving Study Group had its second meeting on Saturday, February 21, at 2:00 on Zoom. We had a great discussion about resources that can help us learn about weaving. We learned so much and had a lot of fun! The resources that were discussed will soon be added to the Guild's Resources page.

The study group will be meeting on the third Saturday of each month, so the March meeting will be on March 21 at 2:00 p.m. at Sonya Campana's home. We will be discussing how to take a project from an idea to the loom—how to take a yarn or a weaving pattern or a project made by another weaver and figure out everything needed to get that project on the loom. Each person can come prepared to talk about their process in going from an idea to the loom, and they can bring ideas and techniques that have been helpful to them. People can also bring questions about problems they have encountered so that we can all share solutions.

Please contact Susan Hainsworth with any questions (susan-hainsworth@gmail.com).

—Susan Hainsworth