THE WEAVER'S BAG

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild

SEPTEMBER • 2026

Joining the Guild

To join the Guild, send $30.00 ($35.00 to receive the newsletter by mail) to Beth Cobb, 3157 South 2850 East, Millcreek, UT 84109, or go to the Guild website, where you can join using a debit or debit card ($2 surcharge). Checks should be made out to MMAWG. Please include a completed membership form available at mmawg.org/uploads/1/5/2/1/152161974/2026mmawgmembershipform.pdf.

To join the Guild e-mail list, contact Susan Hainsworth, susanhainsworth@gmail.com.

Guild Hospitality

Thank you to all the Guild members who have provided refreshments for our monthly Guild meetings. It's a new season and I'm looking for volunteers to bring refreshments for the Guild meetings in October and November 2026 and for any month except January and February in 2027. Please email me at jmoer@hotmail.com if you would like to volunteer. I'll coordinate with you before your month, and thank you for your participation.

—Joni Moerman, Hospitality Coordinator

Guild Library Open House

There will be a Guild library open house on Saturday, September 12, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., at Susan Hainsworth's home, 91 East 400 North, Centerville.

September Guild Meeting—Flax Fusion Vessels, by Debbi Sigg

Thursday, September 10, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 6876 South Highland Drive

For our September meeting on Thursday, September 10, Debbi Sigg will be teaching us how to create flax fusion vessels. We will start with Show and Tell at 6:30, and then we will learn how to make the flax fusion vessels. As you can see from the photo, Debbi has made some wonderfully gorgeous pieces using this technique! It will be a lot of fun to learn something new and share summer adventures and our weaving experiments and accomplishments!

Flax fusion is like silk fusion except we will be using flax as the fiber instead of silk. We will lay the flax fibers onto a screen in layers and use a type of glue to fuse the fibers into a cloth. We will drape the cloth over a form to create a vessel that we can then shape in many ways.

We will meet in our regular meeting place—the Social Hall of the South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society. Wear casual clothes because we will be working with glue and flax fibers.

What you need to bring:

- A container or form (examples include a dish, a box, a vase, a plastic tube)
- A dressmaker measuring tape
- Two old towels
- A box, bucket, or dishpan to put your wet creation in to dry and take home

Please also bring materials for embellishment. Don't bring very much—one shiny thread goes a long way. Materials could include:

- Silk recycled threads (sari silk waste)
- Silk fiber
- Silk hankie
- Skeleton leaves/dried leaves
- Small silk scraps
- Random scrap threads
- Wires

—Jill Dahle and Mimi Rodes, Co-Vice Presidents

Flax Fusion Vessels by Debbi Sigg

It's Membership Renewal Time

You may have recently received an email about renewing your MMAWG membership. This year, we are introducing a new online membership system through the Guild website.

Your existing membership information has already been transferred into the new system—you do not need to register again or start over. The renewal email contains instructions for signing in and renewing online using a credit or debit card. If you prefer to renew by check, you can still do that too.

Once you sign in, you can review the contact information we have for you and make any corrections. You can also, if you wish, tell us a little about your weaving interests, add a photo of yourself, and share photos of your weaving. The new Members Only area also includes a Membership Directory, where we can learn a little more about one another.

Would you like someone to walk you through it?

We will have a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, September 9, at 7:00 p.m. to walk through the membership website and renewal process together. Please feel welcome to join whether you have questions or would simply like to see how everything works.

And please don't hesitate to ask for help. If your renewal email didn't arrive, something in your membership information doesn't look right, or you have any difficulty signing in or renewing, contact me at membership@mmawg.org. I am happy to help you through the process in whatever way you need.

We hope the new system will make managing your membership more convenient while also giving us another way to know and connect with one another as a Guild.

—Adam Horrocks, Membership Secretary

President's Message: Welcome to Weaving Guild Year 26–27!

There have been some exciting technical changes lately. The board voted to begin using MembershipWorks behind the scenes on our mmawg.org website. It securely and efficiently does all sorts of nifty things. Here's the rundown:

- *Online Calendar.* It is now a bit more comprehensive. Check it out at mmawg.org/calendar.html. Click on the individual workshops for more information. Soon, registering for workshops will be an option through these event links.
- *Online Membership Directory.* Yep, we've now got one. Check it out at mmawg.org/member-directory.html. To use it, you will request a password, if you've not done so yet, and log in.
- *Online Membership Renewal.* Yep, we've got that too! You can renew at mmawg.org/sign-in.html. This is your tool to maintain accurate contact information and tell other members about your weaving. The more we are each willing to share, the more useful the Directory will become.

Why the big changes? Several reasons:

1. *Improved accuracy.* Each member will be able to enter, edit, and correct their own information.
2. *Secure payment processing.* The FBI reports increasing mail theft and fraud, and MembershipWorks includes safe credit and debit card handling without storing your payment information.
3. *Easy access* to the latest MMAWG membership directory information.
4. *Less email fraud.* This new software can send emails to the membership, or subgroups, with lower risk that individual Gmail and Hotmail accounts will be hacked. If you use the online directory to find someone's email address, you'll be asked to use the website to send your initial email. This is weird, but it protects the sender and recipient from email interception leading to phishing. Since this is a problem we're all fighting, let's try this for a while, and see how it works? Phone numbers are listed in the directory, so calling is always an option.
5. *More community.* We're still working on this, but ultimately, if we complete the profile questions, members needing help will be able to search the directory for people who might have the answers.

We hate change! I know. I get it. Me too. Just ask my husband.

- If you still want to pay by check, you can.
- We will still use GoogleGroups for a lot of (almost all) Guild-wide communication.
- If you really don't want a website login, Directory access is the only thing (for now) that will still take an email or phone call to request.

As you try out these new features, please share your feedback. If you have a struggle, contact Adam Horrocks (membership@mmawg.org) or myself (president@mmawg.org), and we'll find a way through.

—Sarah Marsden, President

Handwoven Entries at the State Fair

We heard exciting news from the State Fair about opportunities for weavers this September. Guild members are encouraged to enter handwoven work into the State Fair, which runs from September 10–20.

Competitive categories include small household textiles, large household textiles, garments (including shawls and scarves), and decorative and other woven items.

A number of Guild members have entered in the past and have had positive experiences. To enter items in the fair, go to utahstatefair.com/p/thefair/compete1/comp-arts/fiberarts.

What's Happening

SEPTEMBER 8: Rigid Heddle Study Group, 7:00 p.m., Zoom

SEPTEMBER 9: New Membership Website and Renewal Process, by Adam Horrocks, 7:00 p.m., Zoom

SEPTEMBER 10: Flax Fusion with Debbi Sigg, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Unitarian Church

SEPTEMBER 12: Guild Library Open House, 2:00–4:00 p.m., Susan Hainsworth's home

SEPTEMBER 26: Weaving Progress Study Group, 2:00–4:00 p.m., Libby Ellis's home,

OCTOBER 8: Sculptural Tapestries, by Rebecca Smith

OCTOBER 8–10: Transparency Weaving: Exploring Light and Shadow, 3-day workshop by Rebecca Smith

OCTOBER 23–24: Guild Holiday Sale, Millcreek Common

OCTOBER 26–FEBRUARY 8: Fiber Works Study Group, with Robyn Spady, Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 5: Guild Challenge Introduction, by Libby Ellis and Connie Denton

DECEMBER 17: Guild Christmas Party at Mimi Rodes's home

JANUARY 14: African Textiles, by Cael Chappel, Zoom

FEBRUARY 11: Presentation on Mary Atwater, by Maureen Wilson and Susan Hainsworth

FEBRUARY: Bonus Zoom Meeting, TBD

MARCH 11: Creative Process Discussion Panel

APRIL 8: Weaving by Design, by Kelly Marshall

MAY 13: Guild Challenge Reveal

JUNE: meeting TBD

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

Intermountain Weavers Conference News

2027 IWC Conference on July 6–10, 2027

The workshops for the 2027 Intermountain Weavers Conference have been announced! The conference will be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on July 6–10, 2027. Check the list of workshops at intermountainweavers.org/workshops.html and start planning your choices. There will be three-day classes on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and a blend of half-day and one-day classes offered on Saturday.

As a board member I won't be able to take classes, which is a slight relief to me as I don't believe I'd be able to narrow my choices to just one!

Marketplace vendor applications are being taken now. The applications close on November 30, 2026. Also, sponsorships are being sought. See the Sponsors tab on the home page.

When you join IWC, you also get information about the IWC conference, so it is worth joining now!

IWC Zoom Classes

IWC has four wonderful Zoom classes scheduled and open for registration. There are two new classes by Robyn Spady in December 2026 and January 2027. Be sure to sign up early for the classes to reserve your slot. All of the classes will be recorded, and a link to the recording will be sent out to the registrants about two days after the class. The link will be valid for two weeks after the class.

Paper Weaving, by Molly Elkind—November 7 and 14, 2026, 2:00–4:00 p.m.
Edge Finishing Techniques, by Deborah Jarchow—November 18, 2026, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
Creative Closure Ideas for Garments without Invasive Buttonholes, by Robyn Spady—December 16, 2026, 7:00–8:30 p.m.
Great Weaves for Color and Texture, by Robyn Spady—January 13, 2027, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

You must be a member of IWC to register. Register on-line at intermountainweavers.org. Class sizes are limited.

—Ellen Klomps, IWC Representative

Guild Challenge—Stripes

What do sergeants, the Grand Canyon, woodpeckers, race cars, bar codes, and Adidas shoes all have in common? Hmmm. This list seems rather disparate, doesn't it? And what does this have to do with weaving anyway? Well, each of these items has stripes.

Stripes. If you look around you in nature, in fabrics, and on the face staring back at you in the mirror, you will see stripes. Stripes range from subtle to intricate, from loud to soothing, and everywhere in between. They are especially prevalent in fabric.

People from nearly every culture have, and still do, incorporate stripes into their cloth. Today, woven stripes take the shape of pinstripes, shadow stripes, serpentine stripes, Bengal stripes, multi-layer stripes, plaids, tartans, and so much more.

This year, as the challenge for the 2026–2027 Guild year, we've chosen the topic of stripes, thanks to their abundance in nature and throughout history and their ability to be woven by beginners and experts alike. Stay tuned for an idea-sharing presentation by Libby Ellis and Connie Denton at our November 12th meeting.

With all the creative minds in this group, we are certain this year's challenge will result in astoundingly beautiful pieces. Please have your pieces finished for the May meeting. Have a ball.

—Libby Ellis, Guild Challenge Coordinator

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah

Follow us online:
Mary Meigs Atwater Weavers Guild
mmawg_utah
Guild website: mmawg.org

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2026–2027 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: Adam Horrocks (801-520-1521, membership@mmawg.org)

Recording Secretary: Susan George-Rydberg (818-347-9976, secretary@mmawg.org)

Treasurer: Beth Cobb (801-381-4425, treasurer@mmawg.org)

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

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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)

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

IWC Representative: Ellen Klomps (435-213-6100, stringweaver@gmail.com)

Guild Challenge: Libby Ellis (801-541-3722, libbytellis@gmail.com)

Guild Sale Coordinators: Lynette DiRaddo (719-651-8899, ldiraddo@coloradocollege.edu); Carolyn Chen (646-479-5343, carolyn.chen.slc@gmail.com)

Guild Exhibit Coordinator: Sunny Cate (801-589-3393, sunny.cate@aquacate.com)

New Member Support: Phyllis Mandel (914-806-3478, pmandel51@gmail.com)

Outreach Coordinator: Julie Guiney (435-640-2965, outreach@mmawg.org)

Study Group Coordinators:
Shuttle-Craft Guild Bulletins: Maureen Wilson (801-485-5241, SCstudygroup@mmawg.org)
Rigid Heddle: Sonya Campana (801-707-8356, sonyaccampana@gmail.com)
Weaving Progress: Susan Hainsworth (801-860-6483, susanhainsworth@gmail.com)

Planning for the Guild Holiday Sale

The Guild Holiday Sale will be held on October 23–24, 2026, at Millcreek Common. Carolyn Chen and Lynnette DiRaddo are the new coordinators of the sale, and they want to give us a heads-up on how they're planning on managing the event to ensure accuracy of your sale proceeds and optimize the checkout process.

Inventory Sheet: An electronic spreadsheet template will be provided. It is mandatory for the list to be typed for readability. Same info as before: Your name on every page, a unique item code (suggest incorporating your initials with a number), brief description with colors, and price. This will be used by the cashier, event managers, and treasurer. If you are not comfortable or unable to type using a computer, we will help. Just let us know so we can arrange times to work with you. We will send out blank spreadsheet templates via email by September 14. **They need to be filled out and sent back to us by October 12.**

Price Tags: At the September Guild meeting, we will have small tags available. Every item must have a tag with a code that ties back to you and the price. At checkout, this tag will be taped to your inventory sheet for record keeping.

Checkout Process: We're hoping to have cashier stations by the two entrances. Each station will have a book of the inventory sheets, alphabetical by the seller's code letters. Sold items will be checked off on the sheet, with the tag attached to the seller's section. We prefer cashless checkout using a credit card.

Venue: Millcreek Public Market at the Millcreek Common (1354 East Chambers and Highland).

Vendor Layout: Instead of having first-come, first-served space selection, we will assign areas based on the needs of your inventory sheets. Some sellers have a little to sell, and some have a lot. Carolyn is experienced in organizing vendor spaces at the Great Basin Fiber Arts Fair and is already thinking about the optimal layout.

Volunteers: We will be asking for volunteers to serve as greeters, cashiers, checkout assistants, and general floor walkers.

More details will be provided as the date gets closer.

Background Photo

One of the highlights of the recent Handweaver's Guild of America Convergence was seeing the regional Acadian textiles woven from natural brown short-staple cotton which is novel to the Louisiana area. The background photo (right) is of a cotton throw woven of Acadian brown cotton with natural white cotton and indigo-dyed stripes. The stripe pattern is taken from historical Arcadian textiles. The cotton and the throw come from the farm of Jerry and Mary Alice Hale of Breaux Bridge, Louisiana.

Acadian textiles from the Louisiana Textile Collection Archives

Weaving Progress Study Group

Next meeting: Saturday, September 26, 2:00–4:00 p.m., Libby Ellis's home

We have really enjoyed having participants bring one or more weaving projects they are currently preparing for, working on, or recently finished. So we are going to do that again. We learn so much from each project. Each person can talk about how the project is going, what they have learned, and what questions they have. You can bring drafts, yarns, samples, or woven pieces—whatever will help us see what you are doing. We hope that by sharing our projects, we can all learn more about yarns, patterns, and processes.

If you are interested in attending this meeting, please email Libby and she will send you her address (libbytellis@gmail.com). Please contact Susan Hainsworth with any questions (susanhainsworth@gmail.com).

—Susan Hainsworth, Weaving Progress Study Group Coordinator

Rigid Heddle Study Group

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 8, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

We left off holding the meetings of the Rigid Heddle Study Group over the summer, and now we're on the brink of being back! On Tuesday, September 8, at 7:00 p.m., we will once again share and talk about our latest interests and projects we have been involved with. We will meet on Zoom. It's a great time to share questions, tips, and pictures of our work and inspirations.

Also, I have a surprise to share at our next meeting. I'm not telling what it is other than you will need a rigid heddle loom. All will be revealed at the next meeting!

I will get the Zoom invite out one week prior to the meeting. Looking forward to seeing everybody again, and catching up!

—Sonya Campana, Rigid Heddle Study Group Coordinator

Screen shot from Little Looms website

Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Weaving Rugs

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

In July 1942, Mary Atwater wrote that when she was asked about weaving with "waste materials," she advised "Don't." She thought that putting hours into something that would be of very little value seemed a pity. Mary said that cutting up waste materials such as old underwear or stockings, then sewing, dyeing, and weaving them into something would be far from satisfactory. She argued that one's time was of more value and that one would be cheating oneself by weaving with less than high-quality materials.

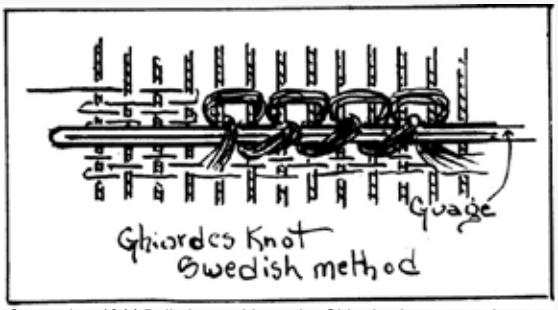
She did recommend weaving rag rugs (she called them a time-honored American tradition) out of new fabric cut into strips several yards long. To save costs, these could be cut from mill ends, remnants, or long selvedges. She instructed the weaver to cut the strips, unless she wanted fuzzy edges. If the strips were long enough, they would not require sewing—the ends could be tapered and overlaid in the warp. The strip width could vary with the fabric weight. Here is a rag rug on the loom, made from cotton fabric that is cut into ¾-inch strips, and woven in halvdrall, a simple overshot structure.

Mary suggested weaving the twice woven rug, which is made by weaving a chenille-type fabric and then using it for weft in a pile rug. She added a rep weave option using fabric as the thick weft. In this case, rags could be used as they would not show on the surface. She also suggested a tufted rug, in which tufts would be picked up. She thought, however, that wool rug yarn would work better than fabric strips. She provided instructions on how to do this using a cotton rug warp and described it as suitable as a bathmat. Mary thought that the best option for rag rugs was the two-warp weave she had published in an earlier bulletin. This weave may be woven on a two-block pattern using four shafts in taqueté, using two back beams. An example of this is an article in the May/June 2000 *Handwoven* by Michael Rohde titled "Block Weave Rugs."

In 1944, Mary reported that a weaver had put on a warp for a doubleweave rug at a sett so close that she could not open a shed. Mary thought doubleweave an unsuitable structure for a rug, particularly if woven so that the two fabrics lie over the other and are not interwoven, which would allow a block of any size to become baggy and become a tripping hazard. She also thought that overshot was not the best weave for rugs, particularly when woven using coarse cotton roving.

Weave structures that Mary recommended were summer and winter and crackle. Either of these will produce a firmer fabric without loose floats—more appropriate for rugs.

Other rugs Mary described were woven using the Navajo saddle-blanket, tapestry, pile, and tufted weaves. She described a knotted pile option, known as "Flossa," to produce a durable rug. The pile weft is woven using a long strand that is taken around a gauge bar between knots as shown. The gauge bar has a groove in it where a knife is run through to cut the pile after the loops are woven. Plain weave would be woven between the rows of knots, with the number of shots varying depending on the pattern. She recommended that the pile yarn be a combination of several ends in a fine yarn.



September 1944 Bulletin graphic on the Ghiordes knot gauge bar. Screen shot by M. Wilson

Mary also included rug weaving she had been experimenting with—using Spanish lace in the design made with jute or a material called Mexican maguey (fiber from the agave plant). She incorporated the Spanish lace motifs in the border or in a large figure in the center.

—Maureen Wilson, Shuttle-Craft Bulletins Study Group Coordinator

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group

The remaining 2026–2027 Guild year meeting schedule for the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group is presented below. The next meeting will be held in October, date and place to be determined. The topic of discussion will be lace weaves and Spanish weave alphabet from the June and July 1932 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
October 2026	Lace weaves; Spanish weave alphabet	June 1932; July 1932
December 2026	Drafting from Egyptian and African weavings	August 1932; February 1934
February 2027	Pillows	September 1932
April 2027	Weft-faced and other rugs	November 1932; August 1934
June 2027	Loom setup and adjustments; Yarn setts	May 1932; May 1933
August 2027	Business of weaving	April 1933