THE WEAVER'S BAG

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild

OCTOBER • 2026

What's Happening

OCTOBER 8: Sculptural Tapestries, by Rebecca Smith
OCTOBER 8–10: Transparency Weaving: Exploring Light and Shadow, 3-day workshop by Rebecca Smith
OCTOBER 10: Guild Library Open House, Susan Hainsworth's home 2:00–4:00 p.m.
OCTOBER 17: Zoom Weaving Progress Study Group 2:00–4:00
OCTOBER 23–24: Guild Holiday Sale, Millcreek Common
OCTOBER 26–FEBRUARY 8: Zoom Fiber Works Study Group, with Robyn Spady, Mondays at 7:00 p.m.
NOVEMBER 5: Guild Challenge Intro., by Libby Ellis and Connie Denton
DECEMBER 17: Guild Christmas Party at Mimi Rodes's home
JANUARY 14: Zoom African Textiles, by Cael Chappel
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.

October Guild Meeting—Sculptural Tapestries, by Rebecca Smith

Thursday, October 8, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 6876 South Highland Drive

For our October meeting, we have invited Rebecca Smith to introduce us to the art of Sculptural Tapestry. We enjoyed a wonderful Zoom presentation in January by Rebecca on Transparent Tapestry, and she will be teaching a transparency workshop to our Guild on October 8–10.

Farewell to Summer

Fantasia

I find Rebecca's beautiful work with sculpted tapestry fascinating and something I personally would like to explore. We have invited her to share her experiences with this woven technique while she is here. To quote from her website:

"My sculpted tapestries are woven with wire, allowing for undulating surfaces and textural contrasts. Transparent seed beads allow light to pass through when a light source is behind the piece."

The two photos provided here are from her website with her permission. To see them and learn more, visit Rebecca's website, rebeccasmithtapestry.com, and click on the Sculptural Tapestries tab.

—Jill Dahle and Mimi Rodes, Co-Vice Presidents

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're planning 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. **The blank spreadsheet templates need to be filled out and sent back to us by October 12.**

Price Tags: 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).

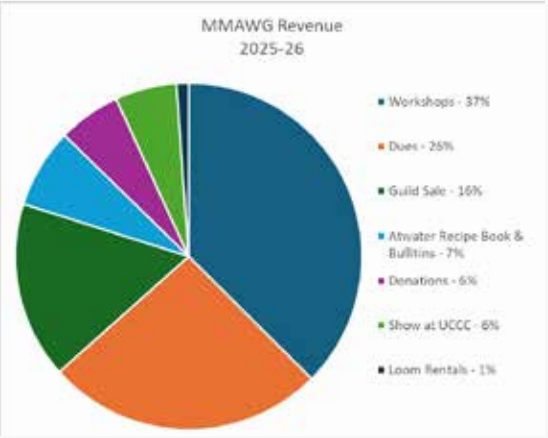
Vendor Layout: Instead of having first-come, first-served space selection, we will assign areas based on the needs of your inventory sheets. Some sellers have a little to sell, and some have a lot. Carolyn is experienced in organizing vendor spaces at the Great Basin Fiber Arts Fair and is already thinking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

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

To ask questions or volunteer, contact Lynnette DiRaddo (ldiraddo@coloradocollege.edu) or Carolyn Chen (carolyn.chen.slc@gmail.com).

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

When I was stumping for President many months ago, I responded affirmatively to someone's request for more Board transparency. So here's some of that:

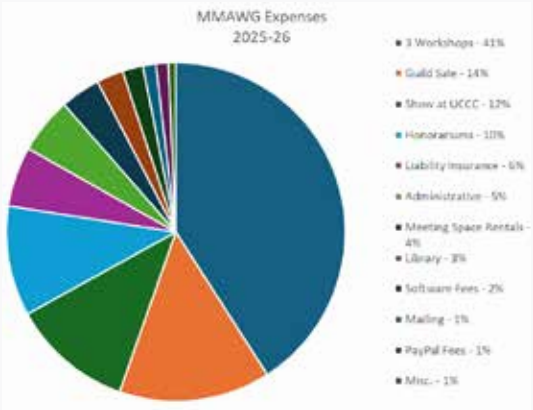


Financials, Last Year

As the charts show, much of our money last year came and went over the course of the three workshops we organized. Dues are also a large source of revenue, covering a lot of our monthly program expenses. Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild material sales are a gift that keeps on giving and helps to make ends meet. Our activities last year cost us $12,016.27, about $300 more than came in as revenue. Fortunately, we have a healthy bank balance of a little more than $30,000 for extra program expenses, inflation, and rainy days.

Financials, Next Year

While we haven't traditionally developed a whole-year budget, I expect our 2026–27 year to be a little more expensive than last year. We're planning three workshops, plus meetings and newsletters. We are using bits of our extra cash to support the Intermountain Weavers' Conference and the Salt Lake Weaving Studio, and we are also using it for our new MembershipWorks website software. Prices continue to rise. Beth Cobb can share the full financial statement with you, if you wish.



Board Meetings

Board meetings are open to paid members. They happen on the first Saturday of even numbered months, usually at 10:00 a.m. at the Whitmore Library, Meeting Room A. If you'd like to attend, check with any board member to confirm these details, and come join us.

Any questions? Drop me a line at President@MMAWG.org.

—Sarah Marsden, President

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. 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 website: mmawg.org

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 May. 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, October 10, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., at Susan Hainsworth's home, 91 East 400 North, Centerville. Come and see the wonderful books in the Guild library!

Buddy System

We are pleased to announce a new system that we hope will help new members discover and keep track of the many wonderful programs and services the Guild has to offer. The Buddy System will connect newer members directly with a more experienced Guild member. It will also provide newer members with a friendly face at Guild meetings—someone they can reach out to with questions. The buddy can act as a mentor for around six months, or as long as you both want.

If you are interested in being a buddy and have been a member of the Guild for at least two years, or if you are a relatively new member and wish to have a buddy, please contact Phyllis Mandel directly at pmandel51@gmail.com. Please include your phone number.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

—Phyllis Mandel

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

In case you missed the September newsletter, this year's challenge is S T R I P E S. For those new to the Guild, this means that from now until May of 2027, we incorporate stripes into one or more weaving projects. May's meeting will be the time to "unveil" our weavings.

While it may sound like a rather basic idea, stripes take many shapes, forms, textures, patterns, and colors. When you contemplate your next project, from where do you gather your inspiration? From *Handwoven* articles? From *Weft* magazine articles? From each other at Guild meeting show-and-tells? From Marguerite Davison's pattern book? I find myself taking snapshots of stripes everywhere I go these days—whether in line at the grocery store, out in nature, or in a friend's home (while drooling over their linens).

Connie Denton and I will be sharing ideas for you to consider at the November 12th Guild meeting. Meanwhile, be on the lookout for gorgeous stripes, plaids, and tartans. They are all around you. It's not too early to get going.

Because, it's the year of S T R I P E S.

—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)

Hospitality: Joni Moerman (801-824-0515, jmoer@hotmail.com)

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)

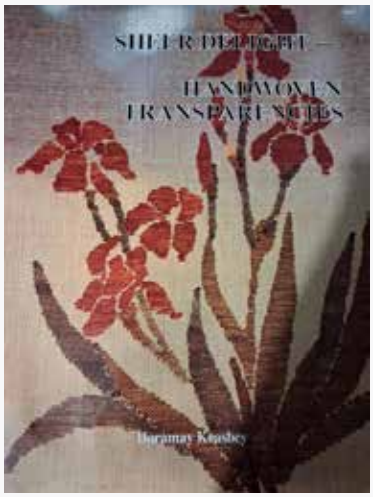
Guild Exhibit Coordinator: Sunny Cate (801-589-3393, sunny.cate@aquacate.com)

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

Outreach Coordinator:

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)

Book Review: *Sheer Delight: Handwoven Transparencies,* by Doramay Keasbey



Sheer Delight: Handwoven Transparencies, by Doramay Keasbey is this month's review topic. It was highly recommended to us by Rebecca Smith, who taught a recent Zoom meeting and will be teaching an upcoming workshop on transparencies.

The book is such a delight and inspiration. The greater part of the book is a gallery tour of works by great transparency weavers. The works include depictions of landscapes, botanicals, portraits, and geometric shapes.

The author's introduction describes transparency weaving as "the gentle art of fine threads." I have never thought of transparencies in that light, but the description is very apt. There is a fragility in a transparency when it is placed near other weavings. Doramay explains that transparencies are works of sheer but stable plain weave. When a transparency is illuminated from behind, there is a constant interaction of light, with a play between positive and negative imagery.

The first chapter explains the technical aspects of inlaying the fine weft threads using plain weave, twill (also called Greek or French inlays), and summer and winter (also called Ryssvav or Russian weaves) to vary the effects of the inlay.

While the author acknowledges that any fiber can be used, her recommendation is to use linen warp because it has the weight and stiffness that gives a transparency the stability to hang properly when used as a room divider, window cover, or perhaps a Japanese noren.

Then the gallery tour begins, and it is inspirational indeed. (See the samples below.)

The final chapter covers expert tips and advice. Teresa Ridgeway said that when designing a transparency, we should remember how fragile the work is and keep it simple. We should try to distill our subject to its very basic outline.

Doramay then gives the reader a simulated workshop with all the handouts and tips and tricks. She has thought of everything and generously shares it all. The workshop covers selecting and editing the subject, making and attaching the cartoon, weaving in the inlay fiber, and finishing and displaying the transparency.

This book is truly a complete manual on the subject. The only thing missing is Doramay physically standing before you.

—Cindy Schafer

"Lastegeist," by Ulricke Beck

Navajo-inspired bird by Lee Smith

Review of the September 10 Guild Meeting

Show and Tell

Members launched the new Guild year with introductions and a lively Show and Tell:

Libby Ellis—Two indigo-dyed cotton scarves with an ikat-style warp; *Virginia Burgess*—Spiral and circular weavings worked from mixed reclaimed fibers; *Beth Cobb*—Twill towels using variations from Carol Strickler's book and Sashiko-embellished pieces. *Susan Hainsworth*—A traditional Acadian brown cotton blanket from Convergence in New Orleans.

Jill Dahle and Phyllis Mandel—Botanical print scarves from a workshop with Diane Allen, using leaves on silk and cotton; *Ellen Klomps*—Wet-felted panels from a new Cache Valley group, to be cut into autumn leaf spirals that hang outdoors; *Erin Burdick*—Her first knitted sweater, featuring a not-so-easy lace pattern; *Mimi Rodes*—Gel-plate paper prints with botanical imagery for card and gift-making papers; *Marcus Nielsen*—Tablet weaving on a warp-weighted loom, including a dog leash and a goat-head pattern.

Guild Business

Lynnette DiRaddo and Carolyn Chen reviewed the details of the upcoming Holiday Sale on October 23 and 24. Jill Dahle has compiled the twill challenge photos and descriptions for email distribution. They will also be posted on the Guild website, and additional entries can still be added. Joni Moerman said she is accepting signups for Guild meeting refreshments. Libby Ellis introduced the new Guild Challenge theme: Stripes. The Challenge runs from November to May and will be the topic of the November Guild meeting.

Flax Fusion Workshop

Debbie Sigg led a hands-on Flax Fusion session. Using flax fibers instead of silk, participants built light, strong sheets for vessels or flat panels. They created "sandwiches" of layered flax and embellishments, then saturated the sandwich with 50/50 PVA glue and water, then shaped it over a form.

Members created beautiful flex vessels, and we had a great time in this workshop. We also enjoyed sharing and reuniting after the summer.

—Kimberly Davis

Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Weaving for Gifts

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin covered in this article is from October 1945. These Bulletins are on the Guild website (mmawg.org) under the Bulletins Tab.

Since 1928, Mary Atwater had dedicated the October issue of the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin to weaving gifts for Christmas—think also Guild sale items. In 1945, she wrote her last one of these bulletins. Mary sold the Bulletin to Harriet Douglas in 1946.

In the 1945 issue, Mary again gave the list of suitable gift items, and many were repeats: scarves, baby blankets, ski hoods or belts, bags, table linens, pillowtops, and aprons. These were old standards and Mary thought that it would be hard to improve on them. She felt that this was a time of year not to be too original as these gifts were sentiments of goodwill and friendship that do not find their expression in something unusual.

Mary noted that a popular item at the time, which she considered a trifle, was the placemat. This is funny as she had identified the luncheon set as an appropriate gift in previous years, and I'm not sure that there is much of a difference. She called the placemat a little oblong scrap of fabric that would be an "amiable futility of the weaving art." She attributed her attitude toward the placemat to the fact that she had lived in the mountains, where "ladies' luncheons, afternoon "tea fights"(!) and coctail (sic) parties" were things one reads about. I'd like to see an afternoon "tea fight!"

She wrote that the gift recipient's tastes should be considered in the design of the placemats. They should be planned as a unit based on their purpose so that they do not just look like a piece of fabric that was cut off and hemmed.

The size recommended at the time was 16 by 12 inches. Placemats could be woven on a 12- or a 16-inch-wide warp, though Mary preferred that the hem edges be at the sides, not the top and bottom, which she considered "unpleasant." Here is one that I wove in 5/2 cotton with a finished size of 14 by 20 inches.

Placemat, woven in crackle. Photo by M. Wilson

For materials, Mary preferred linen and reported that as it was peacetime, weavers were able to obtain it once more. Cotton was also acceptable, and she added two designs in brightly colored cotton with Guatemalan twill borders.

Another gift option listed was bags. She described a seamless bag woven using double weave and provided a tie-up. (There is a project for one in Jennifer Moore's book *Doubleweave: Revised & Expanded.*) Mary provided a diagram and instructions for a Philippine bag, woven in double weave, with one side open. Two halves are woven, with a length of unwoven warp between the sections, and a tabby at the beginning and the end to close the bottom. The two half bags are turned right side out, sewn together at the selvedges, and the unwoven warps are coxcombed (see frayedknotarts.com/tutorials/coxcombing/coxcombing.html for a description) or wrapped for a strong handle.

She described another "stunt" of weaving a double weave tube, inserting a cushion, then weaving a tabby to close the end and have a pillow complete, without sewing.

—Maureen Wilson, Shuttle-Craft Bulletins Study Group Coordinator

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group

The 2026–2027 Guild year meeting schedule and details for the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group are presented below. The next meeting will be held on October 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Mimi Rodes's home. Please contact Maureen Wilson if you need her address. The topic of discussion will be lace weaves and the 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 13, 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

On the Cover

Alpaca shawl from Peru. (Collection of Jane Ann Peters)

Rigid Heddle Study Group

Next meeting: November TBA on Zoom

We will meet again in November on Zoom. I will let you know when. These meetings are a great time to share questions, tips, and pictures of our work and inspirations.

—Sonya Campana, Rigid Heddle Study Group Coordinator

Weaving Progress Study Group

Next meeting: Saturday, October 17, 2:00–4:00 p.m., on Zoom

Watch for more information about the topic. These meetings are always informative and inspiring.

—Susan Hainsworth, Weaving Progress Study Group Coordinator