

# The Weaver's Bag

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah • March 2015 • Vol. 60 No. 7

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## March Guild Meeting

**What:** Sources of Inspirations for Tapestry Weaving, by Mimi Rodes

**When:** Thursday, March 12, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

**Where:** South Valley Unitarian Church, 6876 South Highland Drive



The March Guild meeting will focus on potential sources of inspiration for tapestry weaving. Mimi Rodes will share some of the artwork and photographs that have influenced her own work, and she will share some of the challenges she has faced in translating those “inspirations” into tapestry. She will also present some of the inspirational sources that have influenced other artists, such as James Kohler and Silvia Heyden. She will present and discuss tapestries from the Las Arañas Guild (New Mexico) “Alphabet Soup” exhibit. This evening will help all weavers find inspiration for the types of weaving that they enjoy.

When Mimi Rodes first learned to weave in the 1970s, she wanted to become a rug weaver (still one of her first loves!). However, she says that “those were financially challenging years and there were many times when I just didn’t have access to a floor loom. I could always build a cheap wooden frame or simple upright Navajo style loom, so tapestry worked! Today, a small, portable tapestry loom just fits my lifestyle, and it gives me great pleasure to be able to continue working on something even when we are traveling.”



Please bring your show and tell to share with everyone from 6:30 to 7:00. Also, please note the special anniversary dinner we will have before the meeting (see the following article). We will have an anniversary cake and celebration at the Guild meeting.



## Happy 60th Birthday Mary Meigs Atwater Weavers Guild!!

Last month our Guild celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Our Guild was founded in February of 1955 by Mary Meigs Atwater and other very special weavers. Let's mark the occasion by joining together before the March 12 Guild meeting and having dinner. To have time for dinner, plan on meeting early—4:30 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there)—at the Murray Red Lobster, 298 East Winchester Street, 801-288-2940, near Fashion Place Mall. We would love to see as many of you as possible! If you cannot make dinner, please come to the Guild meeting and join in on the celebration and cake. *∂ Sonya Campana*



## President's Message

Hello Weavers!

I hope everyone has a good strong warp, and their projects are sources of inspiration.

I have sure enjoyed serving the Guild these past four years, and have found an enormous source of support for the intellect as well as the creative inspiration to keep me very entertained. As a matter of fact I am probably the least bored person you could ever run into—so many projects and happiness!

I hope as members you find our programs entertaining and inspiring. I hope you find the workshops challenging yet fun. I and the Executive Committee have enjoyed making it happen.

My questions to you now, is do you see yourself wanting to be more involved in the Guild's programs in 2015–2016? All of our Board officers have served their office's limit of occupancy. We will need a new President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. We will need workshop Chairs & Helpers, as well as workshop ideas for the future. We need YOU!!! This is your guild.



I have appointed a Nominating Committee of dedicated members. Expect a call. See what you can do. Better yet, call or email Judie Eatough (801-375-5535) or Charlene Lind (801-375-7532), if you would like to join the party, and join us next year in planning and building our Guild. You are welcomed with open arms! *∂ Sonya Campana*

## Ten-Minute Weaving Challenge

I have spoken with several other weavers who are finding the Ten-Minute Weaving Challenge to be a great help this year. I would love to hear from any of you who have accepted the challenge. How has the challenge helped you? Would you please contact me and let me know? It would be fun to share our experiences with each other.

I have found that this challenge has been more helpful than I ever thought it could be. Because I work full-time and have very full evenings, my weaving time tends to be after 9:00 in the evening when I am tired. If the challenge were for more than ten minutes, I might not sit down for some fiber art. But I do sit down, and I have found that even the small amounts of time I spend keep my mind on my projects. Weaving is part of my life almost every day, and that is wonderful! Also, there are some days when the ten minutes grows to longer stretches of time.



I know that accepting this challenge has really made a difference in my weaving life. I hope that many of you will try this challenge, and I hope that you will share your experiences with me! *o Susan Hainsworth*

## Shuttlecraft Bulletin Study Group Report

The study group on Mary Atwater and her Shuttle-Craft Bulletins met February 12, at Sonya Campana's house. There were 9 of us there and we talked about what we would like to get out of the study group, how often to meet, what activities could be included.

We discussed Bulletin #1, published in 1924, from Cambridge Massachusetts, where Mary was living while her son Monty attended Harvard. This is the introductory issue, which addressed working in community, sharing ideas, and demanding high standards.

It was decided that we would meet every other month, and discuss 2 or more Bulletin issues, based on topic. The meeting location will vary among the participants and the next meeting will be held April 16, location to be confirmed soon. The topic to be discussed is Scottish Tartan Setts from the Bulletins #2 (October 1924) And March 1946. A record of the discussion and supporting documents may be found in the files section of the Guild Yahoo List if you'd like more information. Please join us! *o Maureen Wilson*

*"As an organization let us stand four-square for good work and for prices sufficient to make good work worth doing."*

Shuttlecraft Bulletin No. 1

## Fiber Arts Roundup

### WEFT MEETS WARP

March 9 through March 26  
Red Cliff Gallery St. George Commons  
229 N 200 East  
St. George, UT

### INTERWEAVE YARN FEST

April 16 to April 19, 2015  
Embassy Suites Loveland—Hotel, Spa &  
Conference Center  
4705 Clydesdale Pkwy  
Loveland, CO  
<http://www.interweaveyarnfest.com/>

∅ *Jill Dable* (To contribute to the “Fiber Arts Roundup,” send information to Jill Dahle [pjdahle@msn.com](mailto:pjdahle@msn.com).)

### SNAKE RIVER FIBER FAIR

May 15 to 17 2015  
Eastern Idaho Technical College  
Idaho Falls  
[http://srfiberartists.org/2015\\_snake\\_river\\_fiber\\_fest](http://srfiberartists.org/2015_snake_river_fiber_fest)

### BIG SKY FIBER ARTS FESTIVAL

June 12 to 14 2015  
Hamilton Montana  
<http://www.bigskyfiber.com/>

### INTERMOUNTAIN WEAVER'S CONFERENCE - Try Something New

July 23-26, 2015,  
Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO  
Registration begins February 1, 2015 for IWC  
members  
[www.intermountainweavers.org](http://www.intermountainweavers.org)

## The Shuttlecraft Bulletins - Weaving Bags

This month's Shuttlecraft Bulletin article on weaving bags is taken from the July 1926, February 1927 and June 1928 Bulletins. These bulletins cover the weaving for and construction of handbags. Mary Meigs Atwater wrote that making a better grade of bags is an excellent prospect for profit. Handbags of the time were becoming larger, more elaborate and beautiful, with a wide and shallow shape. An online search for vintage handbag of the period gave images of many beaded bags with art deco clasps, some very ornate (see the photo from the Metropolitan Museum of Art collection).

She recommended using fine materials like silk, many with metallics or wool in bright patterns on cream linen ground. They were set in metal tops or frames with clasps and slightly gathered at the tops. Flat square bags were still in use but the gathered bags were newer. Mary recommended that you make them up as perfectly as possible and charge a suitable price.

The weave structures that she thought would work included the 3 harness weave (like krokbragd), Bronsen, Monk's Belt, some of the smaller overshot patterns, like honeysuckle, Russian diaper-a small all over pattern in a diamond shape, and Summer and Winter. She also referred back to the doubleweave bag mentioned in the earlier 1924 (#4) Bulletin. This bag is a project included in the *Doubleweave* book by Jennifer Moore.

In designing the bags with clasps, Mary recommends bands of pattern with plainweave for a striking effect, with the selvages either at the side or top of the bag. Putting the selvages at the side of the purse



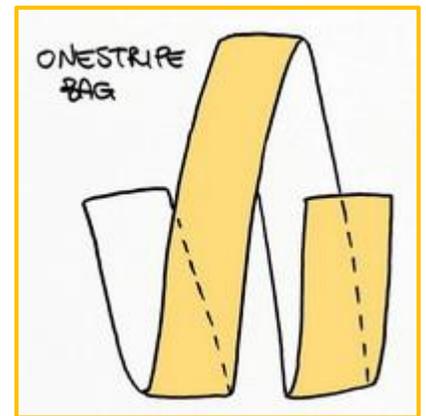
will give horizontal stripes or bands of patterns that are recommended to be placed near the bottom of the bag. The patterns will be vertical if the weaving selvages are at the top of the bag and in this case should be placed near the middle of the bag. Her weaving instructions were for a 14 inch wide warp, resulting in a 12 inch wide finished piece to give an indication of size. She stated that a 20 yard warp, 14 inches wide would make 30 bags. The favorite color in 1928 was old gold, which, she said harmonizes with many color combinations. Other color combinations given were blue and green or brown, orange and black, or grey black or brown warps.

The purse frames or hardware, with clasps are still available today. They are either sew on or glue in and can be purchased from Etsy purse supplies. See, for example: [www.etsy.com/shop/MeiMeiSupplies?ref=l2-shop-info-name](http://www.etsy.com/shop/MeiMeiSupplies?ref=l2-shop-info-name)

Mary also mentions a warp faced square bag of many brilliant colors, based on one she received from Italy. The resulting fabric would be stiff enough that the only finishing needed would be a pair of handles made from 2 inch strips of the weaving folded.

Handwoven bags of today are much less formal and tend to be larger, like totes and messenger bags. There is a tutorial for a bag made from a handwoven fabric strip on the blog: *Donis Delis* that you could try- see the diagram at right.

I think that Deanna has made this one and brought it to a guild meeting. This can be made from a handwoven scarf.



One bag that I'd like to make from handwoven material is called an Origami Market Bag, the tutorial for it can be found at this link:

<http://lolanovablog.blogspot.com/p/tutorials.html> See the red bag in the photo.

Bags can be made from small pieces of handwoven fabric, out of novelty yarns and many different weave structures. There are 2 projects in the Weaving Made Easy book by Liz Gipson, for rigid heddle. Handwoven bags is something in which a weaver can experiment. So, try one! *Maureen Wilson*

*2015 is the Year of the Ram, Sheep or Goat, all good fiber sources!*



**Mary Meigs Atwater**  
**Weaver's Guild of Utah**

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**Newsletter editors:**

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The newsletter is published 10 times a year. Any articles or information should be to the editor by the 5th of the month.

To join the Guild send \$30.00 (\$35.00 to receive the newsletter by mail) to Kira Masnica, 1042 Fort Union Blvd. #138, Midvale, UT 84047, kira.spins@gmail.com, 801-671-4496

To join the Guild e-mail list:  
MMAWG-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

**Guild web page:** www.mmawg.org

Guild meetings are generally held the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Unitarian Church 6876 South Highland Drive (2000 East)

**2014–2015 MMAWG Board**

**President:** Sonya Campana, 801-733-5888, sonyacampana@yahoo.com

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**Website:** Judie Eatough, 801-375-5535, judie@eatough.net

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## Guild Calendar 2014–2015

### March 12, 2015

Sources of Inspiration for  
Tapestry Weaving  
Mimi Rodes

### April 9, 2015

Triangle Weaving  
(Loom and Process)  
Julie Schwartz

### May 14, 2015

Triaxial Weaving  
Timmy Burton and  
Judie Eatough

### June 6, 2015

Park City Studio Tours  
Potluck Lunch