

# The Weaver's Bag

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah • March 2016 • Vol. 62 No. 3

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## March Guild Meeting

**What:** Designing Rag Rugs, by ReNee Page and Susan Hainsworth

**When:** Thursday, March 10, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

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



This isn't a great photo, but this is a close-up of one of ReNee's rag rugs, owned by lucky Susan Hainsworth!

Our March Guild meeting will be taught by ReNee Page, who for many years has been collecting old rag rugs and designing gorgeous new rag rugs, all the time solving various weaving problems in innovative ways. For some months, Susan Hainsworth has been working with ReNee to write a book about her important collection – *ReNee's Rag Rugs*.

ReNee said this about the upcoming meeting:

“Susan and I are really happy to share with all of you. I started weaving and collecting rag rugs in 1986. It became an absolute passion for many years.

I found rugs in thrift stores and garage sales, even one in an orchard. They became an inspiration to learn from both in design and appreciation for weavers who came before me. Some of the collection will be at the meeting for you to see.

“Susan has been coming to my home every Saturday for many months. With her understanding of the English language and also her love for rag rugs, we have reviewed and interviewed this rug collection. I really am grateful to Susan for helping me. Hopefully, a book will be written soon about these rugs. But at the meeting you will be able to see many of the rugs I have collected and created and also receive some of the articles that have been completed about them. Hope to see you at the meeting!”

Bring rag rugs to Show and Tell as well as your other recent projects! ☀️ *ReNee Page and Susan Hainsworth*

## President's Message

I would like to encourage everyone to sign up for the Fiber Festival as soon as possible. Sonya has organized a wonderful program and it is always fun to get together to visit and learn! We have also extended invitations to other fiber-related guilds (spinners, USDG, etc.). We also still have a few openings left for the Robyn Spady workshop.

What a fun and informative Inkle program Juliette and Jo shared with us in February! Thank you, ladies! I am so looking forward to learning about “Designing Rag Rugs” from ReNee and Susan this

month! It promises to be another inspiring program! We all need to say "Thank You!" to Deanna and Margareth for organizing such great programs for our monthly meetings!

I received this poem in a communication from the American Tapestry Alliance and wanted to share it with you! It speaks so beautifully to the joy and fulfillment of weaving, whether tapestry, rugs, or fabric! Happy Weaving! ☀️ *Mimi Rodes*

### **Weaving from the HeART**

**Source: American Tapestry Alliance communication, 2/14/16**

You are a dreamer, a weaver  
your fingers and visions at play,  
blending colors on bobbin and shuttle,  
making tapestry magic each day.

You are a maker, a weaver  
of cloth both striking and fine.  
No image is too difficult,  
you devote your precious time.

You are creative, a weaver  
of tapestries large and small.  
No idea is too demanding,  
you give each one your all.

You are patient, a weaver  
a breed both rare and true.  
You carry the bright torch proudly  
as others before did too.

You are treasured, a weaver,  
full of ambition and drive.  
Because of your generosity  
our work in tapestry will thrive.

## **2015–2016 Weaving Exchange: Christmas Ornaments**



The June Guild meeting will be when we exchange our Christmas ornaments. We hope that many of you will participate in the Guild's weaving exchange, which focuses on Christmas ornaments. We will have Christmas in June! If you make five ornaments, you can exchange for five. If you make three ornaments, then you will get three back. The goal is to see how creative you can be and how much fun we can have.

Please start thinking now about any type of fun fiber-y Christmas ornament you can make. It can be made with weaving, knitting, basketry, etc. We look forward to seeing all the inspiring ornaments that you create. They will inspire all of us for the Christmas season of 2016. ✨ *Jeanette Tregagle*

## Summary of February 11 Guild Meeting



Mimi Rodes opened the meeting and announced that Judie Eatough would be forming a nominating committee for the next board (2017/2018 Guild year). She called on members to volunteer.

Sonya Campana gave a Fiber Festival update: still space in the workshops, including Robyn Spady's workshop. Anyone who wants to thread more than one draft for Robyn's workshop is welcome. Sonya asked members to sign up for the Friday night dinner and to bring family and friends. She asked for volunteers to help decorate on Friday afternoon and to help with the Jazzy Junk Jubilee on Saturday.

Judie explained the grant system for Handweavers Guild of America (HGA), urging members who want to attend Convergence this summer to take advantage of the chance of some financial subsidy.



*Presentation:* Juliette Lanvers spoke about inkle weaving, discussing the geographical spread of the technique, the types of looms used, and the yarns most commonly used. She illustrated her talk with a handout, several books, and some examples of inkle weaving. In particular, she showed the group the beautiful band that won her an award at the Guild Fiber show last spring. She also spoke about the construction of inkle drafts and how to read them.

Jo Stolhand and Margareth Laurer presented card-weaving, with Jo providing an explanation of the method while Margareth demonstrated the process of affixing a harness to herself to provide warp tension, and also the rotation of cards to produce sheds. In this traditionally warp-faced technique, patterns are determined by color and rotation. Jo has woven some extremely fine pieces of metallic accented brocades. She discussed the materials required, in particular, the fine metallic threads. ✨Jane Roos

## Fiber Fair 2016

Our Guild's Fiber Fair is coming up in April 2016! For those not familiar with the Fiber Fair, it is a two-day event. On Friday night, Robyn Spady will give an inspirational and no-doubt entertaining speech! This talk will be accompanied by a catered dinner. Saturday will be a full day of morning and afternoon workshops. There will be one main workshop in the morning taught by Robyn and a catered lunch, followed by several small group seminars. Other teachers in addition to Robyn will be announced in the near future.



Save the dates: The Fiber Fair will be held on Friday, April 1, and Saturday, April 2, at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center! We are very excited to have our fair there. It is a lovely place. The sign-up information for the Fiber Fair is available on the MMAWG yahoo groups list and the website.

To get to know Robyn, check out her website and her blog. Both are very much worth reading, and Robyn is funny as well as a wonderful weaver!

<http://spadystudios.com/>  
<https://spadystudios.wordpress.com/>

✧Sonya Campana, Fiber Festival Chair

## Spring Workshop with Robyn Spady

From March 30 to April 1, at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center, our Guild will be sponsoring Robyn Spady to teach a workshop titled "Pictures, Piles, and Perplexing Curiosities." There is still room in the workshop!

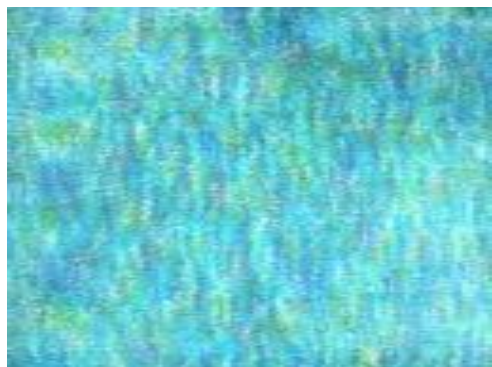
This is a workshop designed for intermediate-to-advanced weavers (and adventure-seeking beginners) who want to learn new weave structures. In this round-robin workshop, participants will expand their knowledge and experience in weave structures they may have heard of but, may not have woven – a surefire weaving adventure and challenging journey of warp and weft. Structures covered include multi-block swivel and bead leno, corduroy, velvet, samitum, corkscrew twills, lampas and Beiderwand. This workshop is a combination of four-to-eight shaft looms.

At this time, a deposit of \$50.00 will secure your space for this amazing workshop. There is a sign up form for this workshop on the Guild's website.



*A little more information about Robyn:* Weaving has always been a part of my life. It started with my baby blanket handwoven by my great-grandmother. While growing up, it helped instill in me a sense of creativity and confidence at a time when my self-esteem was developing. During my years while working, in what I like to call "Corporate America," weaving helped give me sanity and feel a sense of productivity, which was very important while working on long-term projects when day-to-day progress was not evident.

In 2001, changes in my life provided me the opportunity to dedicate myself to weaving full time. One of the earliest undertakings, which has had a huge impact on my life and my weaving, was tackling the Handweavers Guild of America's (HGA) Certificate of Excellence in Handweaving (COE-W). In October 2002, I successfully completed Level II: Master in Handweaving with the specialized study Loom-controlled Stitched Double Cloth.



Velvet Cloth Woven by Robyn Spady

I am fascinated by the infinite possibilities of crossing threads and love coming up with new ideas to create fabric and transform it into something that has never existed before. My intrigue with stitched double cloth encouraged me to explore the many ways to weave double-faced fabrics as a way to create versatile fabrics that are reversible, self-lined, etc.

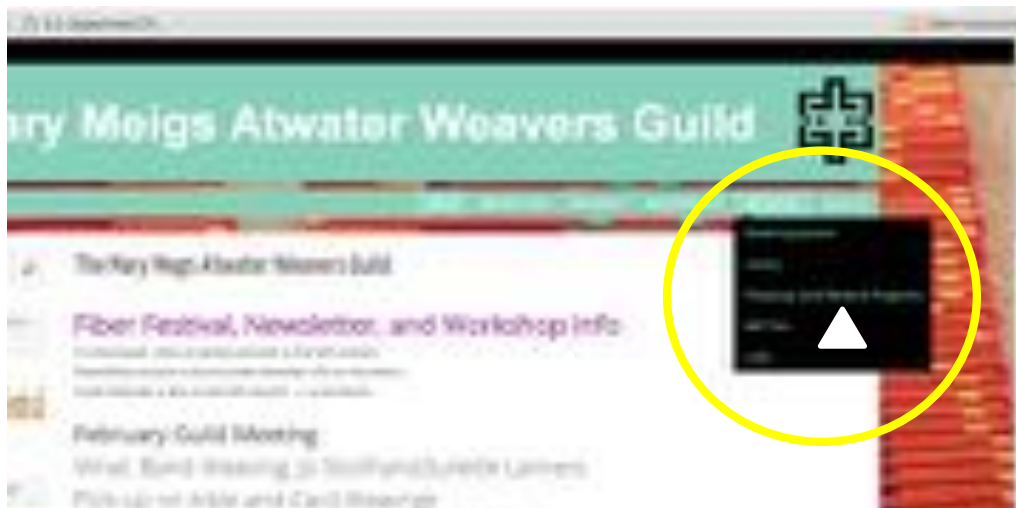
In addition to double-faced fabrics, I love to discover uncommon and unusual weave structures, especially if they can be woven on only four-shafts. Recently, I've also been studying how elaborate trims can be woven on narrow warp weaves. For many of us, weaving is a type of circle of life. The

loom my great-grandmother used to weave my baby blanket on over 45 years ago is in use on a daily basis helping me transfer my inspirations into new fabrics and inspiring new generations of weavers.

✧Sonya Campana and Karan Swanger, 2016 Spring Workshop and Fiber Festival Chairwomen

## Participating Guild Status at the Woolery and Halcyon Yarns

As Mimi has mentioned, the Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild has become a participating Guild with both the Woolery in Frankfort, Kentucky, and Halcyon Yarns in Bath, Maine. This means that if you order supplies from these vendors as a member of the Guild, we will receive a percentage of the sales. To do this, go to our Guild website at [www.mmawg.org](http://www.mmawg.org), and click on the Resources tab in the upper left. The drop-down menu includes the shopping: Guild Rewards Program, as shown below.



Click on the link that is provided, and on the next page, you will see instructions on how to take advantage of the rewards program, as shown below:



## The Shuttle-Craft Bulletins Study Group, March 2016



The Shuttle-Craft Bulletins study group meets to discuss Mary Atwater's work as described in the Shuttle-Craft Bulletins. We meet every other month at one of the study group member's homes, discuss the topic, and share samples and experiences. The meetings start with a section from Mary Meigs Atwater's biography. The topics, Bulletins, and

meeting dates for the next year are as follows:

Topic	Bulletins	Meeting Date
Baby Blankets	March 1925, May 1949	January 2016
Bronson Weave	April and May 1925	March 2016
Twill	June 1925, April 1929	May 2016
Philippine Bag	July 1925, September 1936	July 2016
Dress Fabric	August 1925, June 1944	September 2016

The next meeting of the Shuttle-Craft Study group is scheduled for March 15, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at Maureen Wilson's home. The topic of discussion will be the Bronson Weave, from the April and May, 1925 issues. These will be emailed out in advance of the meeting. If you are interested in joining the discussion, please let Maureen Wilson ([maureenmwilson@yahoo.com](mailto:maureenmwilson@yahoo.com)) know. Directions to Maureen's house: 1883 Texas St. (2380 East), Salt Lake City.

From I-15, take the 2100 South exit, heading east to 2300 East, turn left (north) and take the 2nd right (east) on Redondo Street (1980 South) take the 2nd left (north) on Texas St. My house is the 2nd to the last house on the right (east) side of the street. It is red brick with light green house numbers on the front and a fire hydrant in the parking strip.



From 215, Eastbound, take the Parley's Way exit (exit 1), head west on Parley's Way to 2300 South, there is a Rite Aid drugstore and McDonald's on the right, turn right (North) and take the 2nd right (east) on Redondo Street (1980 South) take the 2nd left (north) on Texas St. My house is the 2nd to the last house on the right (east) side of the street. It is red brick with light green house numbers on the front and a fire hydrant in the parking strip.

The next meeting will be in May 2016, and details will be in the next newsletter. ☀Maureen Wilson

## Shuttlecraft Bulletins on Color and Color Combinations

Mary Meigs Atwater writes in the December 1929 Shuttlecraft Bulletin that members are asking about what color or color combinations to use in their weaving. She responds that there is no rule about color – there is nothing to go by but taste and the fashion of the moment. She says that some people love color while others have no feeling for color, though she suspects that most of us are in the middle ground, not color blind, but a little afraid of color and tend to select them with our minds rather than by eye. She has written before that one should try a combination out and if you like it, use it. She recommends a woven sample of at least 20 inches square that is wet finished to really see what you are working with. Hang it where you can see it and look at it for a day or two. The time you take doing this is time saved with a finished handwoven piece you will be pleased with.

She goes on to write that any two colors may be combined if the proportions are right.

In her July 1928 issue, she writes on colors for baby coverlets and at this time, she was very willing to give color combination recommendations. She recommends choosing a color scheme (such as pink, blue, yellow or green combined with white) that coordinates with the baby's room. She mentions that harmonious color associations will prove of value to the child right from the beginning. She goes on to discuss the effects of different colors: red excites, while blue calms. Pink is a color of affection, yellow for cheerful talk and play. Green is a color of hope and promise.



For weaving a coverlet, she recommends two shades of the same color with one color assigned to the 1-2 and 2-3 shots, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> color is assigned to the 3-4 and 1-4 shots. She mentions a blue-green and yellow-green combination.



Have you seen the website: Design Seeds? (link: <http://designseeds.com/>) It is a website that celebrates color and design, founded by Jessica Colaluca. Design Seeds are created to inspire. You are welcome to use the color combinations in your designs and color palettes.

For color combination recommendation examples, you can see <http://brightside.me/article/the-ultimate-color-combinations-cheat-sheet-92405/> : For example:

White: combines with everything, especially blue, red and black.

Beige: combines with blue, brown, emerald, black, red, white.

Gray: combines with fuchsia, red, violet, pink, blue.

Pink: combines with brown, white, mint green, olive, gray, turquoise, light blue.

Red: combines with yellow, white, fulvous (beige), green, blue, black.

Brown: combines with bright-cyan, cream, pink, fawn, green, beige.

Orange: combines with cyan, blue, lilac, violet, white, black.

Golden yellow: combines with gray, brown, azure, red, black.

Green: combines with golden-brown, orange, salad green, yellow, brown, gray, cream, black, creamy-white.

Turquoise: combines with fuchsia, cherry-red, yellow, brown, cream, dark-violet.

Cyan: combines with red, gray, brown, orange, pink, white, yellow.

Dark-violet: combines with golden-brown, pale-yellow, gray, turquoise, mint green, light-orange.

Black is a universal colour – it looks elegant in any combination, especially with orange, pink, salad green, white, red, mauvish, or yellow

These are just a few and the color names may mean different colors to different readers, but they do provide a starting point. A thread wrapping is an effective tool to select color combinations and well worth the time they take.



So experiment, look through the websites, through weaving magazines-at the projects that are included there-and look outside for some color inspiration. Keep records on what works for you.

From the Ultimate color combinations cheat sheet:





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

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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.

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[MMAWG-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MMAWG-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

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

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## Guild Calendar, 2015–2016

**March 10, 2016**

Designing Rag Rugs  
By ReNee Page and  
Susan Hainsworth

**March 29–April 1, 2016**  
Three-day Workshop with  
Robyn Spady

**April 1–2, 2016**  
Guild Fiber Fair, with Robyn Spady

**May 12, 2016**  
Weaving Families in the Americas,  
By Karen Elrod

**June 11, 2016**  
Visit to the home of Catherine  
Marchant, Alpine, Utah,  
Potluck lunch and collection of  
Navajo rugs