



# The Weaver's Bag

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah • May 2016 • Vol. 62 No. 5

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## May Guild Meeting

**What:** Weaving Families in the Americas, by Karen Elrod

**When:** Thursday, May 12, 6:30 p.m.

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



*Karen Elrod said about our May meeting:*

“Over the past few years, I have had the amazing opportunity to travel and weave with the indigenous peoples of Latin America. It is an experience that I would love to share with our Guild. May's Guild meeting will take a comparative look at weavers in Mexico, Guatemala, and Peru. We will explore how weavers work within families, co-ops, and guilds to produce and sell their handwoven goods. What are the benefits and disadvantages to local communities and to the weavers? How do these groups compare to the Mary Atwater Weaver's Guild? *If you have weaving from Latin America, bring it to Show and Tell at 6:30.*

*A little information about Karen:*

Karen has been a member of our Guild since the eighties (taking many years out to raise her son). Her lifetime mission is to study historical cultures. She is particularly interested in those that are involved in weaving, knitting, and spinning. For the past few years, Karen has acted as guide and assistant guide for various fiber arts tours around the world.



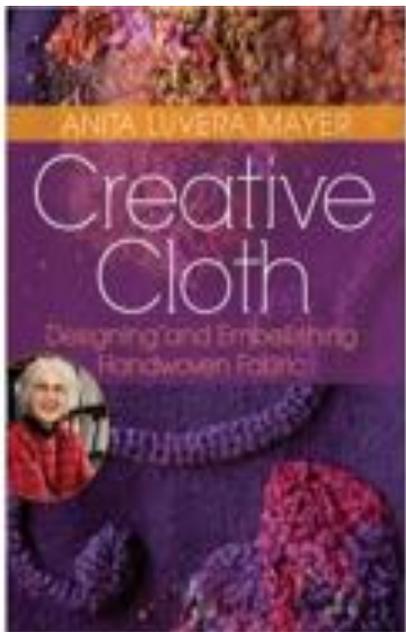
## President's Message

Dear All:

First and foremost I would like to thank Sonya Campana and her team for organizing another fun Fiber Festival! Sonya spent a lot of time and thought during the year before this event reserving meeting space, speakers and caterers in order to make this happen! THANK YOU, Sonya! – I haven't heard the final numbers for the Jazzy Junk Jubilee, but a lot of yarn disappeared during the sale! Thanks to all of you Jazzy Junk workers for keeping the books straight!

I would also like to recognize our treasurer, Jo Stolhand, and Ping Chang. It takes a lot of time to track all of the participant's incoming checks and outgoing expenses. So THANK YOU, Jo!! And thank you, Ping, for organizing our refreshments for the workshop and the Festival morning – plus everyone who brought such yummy contributions! Together we make a great team!

I think we all enjoyed and learned so much from Robyn Spady! Wow, is she ever organized! She got us all through 16 different warps during the workshop, then shared an even more amazing fountain of knowledge and experience with us during the Festival. I know that many of you have taken classes from Robyn in the past, but this was my first opportunity. What a treat!



I am so sorry that I will miss the May program. Karen Elrod is going to share some of her observations and learnings from meeting weavers around the world during her personal travels and travels as trip leader for Loom Dancer. Having had the privilege of participating in a Loom Dancer weaving trip to Oaxaca with Karen last October, I know that she will have many wonderful experiences to share with you all!

*See you all in June! Cheers and Happy Weaving! ☀️ Mimi Rodes*

P.S. As most of you know, the Anita Mayer workshop will be held this coming November 3-5, 2016. We will be opening up registration for the workshop at the May meeting. I will be sending out a description of the workshop and registration forms via e-mail prior to the May meeting and have asked Deanna to introduce the workshop at the meeting. The workshop is limited to 20 participants, so I wanted to give you all a “heads up” in advance.

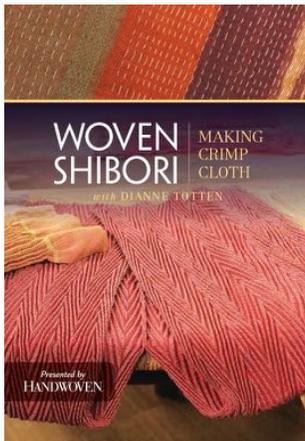
## 2015–2016 Weaving Exchange: Christmas Ornaments



*If you haven't already begun your Christmas ornament, now is the time!*  
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 Tregeagle*

## A DVD Recently Added to Our Library



As your librarian, I am not only dusting off the books and looms, I am actively acquiring books and DVDs for our Guild. So, to introduce you to a recent purchase, I am going to repeat the information on the cover of the DVD:

### ***WOVEN SHIBORI: Making Crimp Cloth, with Dianne Totten***

“Imagine handwoven garments and accessories that flatter every body shape and size and change color as you move. Imagine cloth where the woven pattern is just a starting point for a subtle interplay of texture, light, and shadow. Imagine great-looking handwoven garments and scarves that can travel with you anywhere and never wrinkle! The secret is woven shibori, cloth that collapses or crimps after weaving. In this video, Dianne Totten teaches how to create her version of woven shibori, called “crimp cloth,” which uses heat-reactive fibers to create flexibility and visual excitement. You’ll learn:

- How to weave crimp cloth in weft or warp
- How to design drafts for crimp cloth
- How to process and care for the woven cloth
- How color and crimp interact to create fascinating patterns and effects
- Ideas for using your stash in crimp cloth projects

“Along with Dianne’s video workshop, this video gives you a printable booklet with tips and tricks, fiber facts, drafts, record sheets for your own designs, and more.”

After watching this DVD, I think it is a very ‘do-able’ technique for all members of our Guild to try and experiment on. ✨*Sonya Campana, librarian*

## Fabulous Fiber Festival 2016 Summary



First off, thank you to all who chipped in and helped to make light work of the whole event. Everyone in our Guild is so supportive, and I appreciate you – one and all.

Robyn Spady had a great time with our Guild both at the Fiber Festival and in the preceding three-day workshop – “Pictures, Piles and Perplexing Curiosities.” It was amazing to see the different and yet similar weave structures that Robyn introduced us to. Velvet ended up being the rock star weave structure – if you could weave it, you were a rock star!! For the velvet weavers, I found some of the exact same brass strips Robyn used at an Ace Hardware store by the metal and wood rods. I think they are pretty commonly stocked. Good news!

After “working” so hard for three days, it was nice to relax and be entertained by Robyn yet again on Friday night. She gave her humorous speech entitled “The Irrevocable Truth About Learning New Things,” and she proceeded to take us on her creative and lifetime journey.

Saturday was the busy day: “The Devil Is in the Details: or Weaving TNT,” was Robyn’s program in the morning. I think there were more than one person in the audience having an “aha moment.”

There also was the well attended Jazzy Junk Jubilee during the day for all our stash reallocation needs. The Guild made a nice sum of money too. Thank you all for participating and making it a success. Big thanks go out to the intrepid ladies who braved the storm and worked the sale.



The Versatility of Advancing Twills  
Unleash the potential

Robyn Spady has launched a new weaving magazine. Go to [heddecraft.com](http://heddecraft.com) for more information.

In the afternoon, we all split up into small groups to learn about jewelry making for the fiber artist, kumihimo braiding, and the fine art of spinning beautiful silk. All of our brains grew ten times larger with all that concentrated learning. I had to lay down for a couple of days afterwards to let it all sink in.

I came away, inspired, to try new things. I hope that is the common take away for the whole group.

Weave on with Wonder!

✿ Sonya Campana, 2016 Spring Workshop and Fiber Festival Chairwoman

## The Shuttle-Craft Bulletins Study Group



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 next meeting of the Shuttle-Craft Study group is scheduled for May 19, 2016 at Mimi Rodes's home. The topic of discussion will be weaving twills, from the June 1925 and April 1929 issues. If you are interested in joining the discussion, please let Maureen Wilson ([maureenmwilson@yahoo.com](mailto:maureenmwilson@yahoo.com)) know. Details on time and directions to Mimi's home will be provided. 🌻 *Maureen Wilson*

The topics, Bulletins, and meeting dates for this year are as follows:

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Bulletins</i>	<i>Meeting Date</i>
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

## Shuttle-Craft Bulletin, December 1926 The “Sesqui” Number—or Travels and Textiles

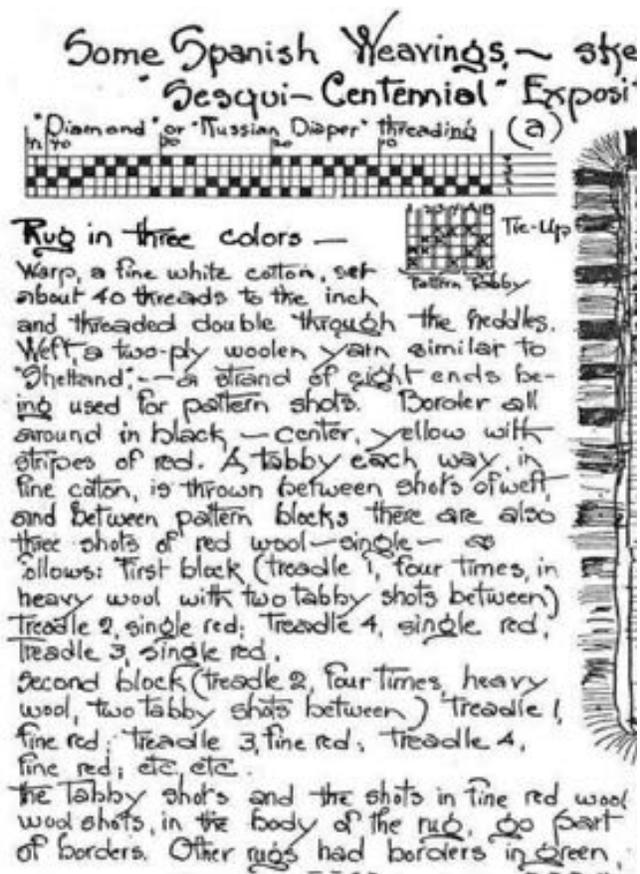
Mary Meigs Atwater traveled to the Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition in 1926 and wrote up a Bulletin about the trip and the handwoven pieces that she saw there. The Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition was a world's fair in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the United States Declaration of Independence. The critics called the event the “flop heard round the world; the fair drew a smaller crowd than expected and was not able to cover its expenses.

Mary reported that a short street with replicas of famous ancient houses was the most attractive part of the exhibit. One of the houses, the “Washington” house had examples of handwoven fabrics, including coverlets, rugs, and chairs upholstered in handwoven fabric. Not taken with the upholstery fabric, calling it too modern, she writes about the rugs. One of them woven in Summer & Winter on opposites in two colors, an example of something like it is shown here from the *Weaving for Fun* blog. The rug was done in a cotton roving-like a cotton mop yarn, but Mary recommended a woolen rug yarn for a better effect.

The Spanish exhibit had rugs that also caught her attention, including those woven in a diamond or Russian diaper pattern, with a warp of fine cotton, like a 20/2, set at 40 epi and threaded double. The weft was a wool similar to the weight of Shetland woven in strands of 8 ends. The rug fabric was soft and beautiful, but heavy enough for a good

rug. They were woven with color borders by weaving the top and bottom borders all the way across and weaving the middle section, using three shuttles, one for each border and a third for the center portion. The yarns were dovetailed along the edges of the center and borders. Mary describes this technique in Lesson 3 of the weaving course. These rugs were done in vivid colors of green, red and yellow, or navy blue and purple and red. She drew up these and several other pieces she saw at the exhibit in a beautiful fashion for guild members-see below for one.





All of this reminds me of travels and weaving exhibits. Often I see on the email lists that I subscribe to a request from a member stating "I'm traveling to ....., are there any fiber-related exhibits or things to see there?" When I travel, I look for what the local weaving guild is doing for meetings or shows to see in the area. This last spring trip we took to southern California, where I found that the Getty Center (<http://www.getty.edu/>) had an exhibit, "Woven Gold, Tapestries of Louis XIV", with a weaver demonstrating the technique on the day we could be there. The tapestries were large enough to cover an entire wall, woven at the Gobelins manufactory or other tapestry centers in Paris in wool, silk and gilt metal and silver wrapped threads, and hung in dimly lit rooms. They were woven from the back, in a sideways direction and rotated to hang. The

weaver demonstrating was Yadin Larochette, the daughter of the tapestry weaver, Jean Peirre Larochette (<http://americantapestryalliance.org/exhibitions/textata/jean-pierre-larochette-yael-lurie-a-study-in-national-treasures/artist-statement/>). She had been weaving since the age of 5. She demonstrated the technique on a student loom built by her father. So, as you travel this summer, look for weavings and textiles, it will make the trip more memorable and inspiring.

☀ Maureen Wilson

## Upcoming Fiber Events

*Snake River Fiber Arts Festival*  
 Idaho Falls, Idaho  
 May 20, 21 and 22

*Fiber Train Wool Festival*  
 Nampa, Idaho  
 May 29 to May 30

☀ Jill Dahle

**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.

To join the Guild send \$30.00 (\$35.00 to receive the newsletter by mail) to Jo Stolhand, 264 Williams Avenue, SLC, UT 84111

To join the Guild e-mail list:  
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

**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