



The Weaver's Bag

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah • November 2021 • Vol. 69, No. 9

November Guild Meeting

What: Use Up Your Weaving Scraps: Making Greeting Cards, by Catherine Marchant

When: Thursday, November 11, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Where: South Valley Unitarian Church, 6876 South Highland Drive (2000 East)

Our November Guild meeting will be a make-and-take evening. We will be making greeting cards using leftover scraps and samples of handwoven fabric. All of the materials needed will be provided.

If you have fabric you want to use, great! If not, we will have fabric you can use. Also, if you have stamps or markers you want to use, bring them. If not, there will be stamps for everyone to share. It would be helpful if several people could bring cloth scissors. Be prepared to have fun and get prepared for Christmas! Show and Tell will begin at 6:30; the presentation will begin at 7:00.



Guild Sale

Our Guild sale will be held on November 19 and 20. We will be setting up Friday afternoon, and the sale runs from 5:00–8:00 and again on Saturday from 10:00–5:00. Cleanup is from 5:00–7:00 on Saturday. We need more help for all the time slots. If you haven't signed up to help, call Catherine Marchant to get on the schedule (801-216-4722).

Also, if you will be bringing items for sale, don't forget to tag each item with your initials and inventory number, and bring a copy of your inventory sheet when you check in. See more information later in this newsletter.

President's Message

Dear Weavers: This will be short as I am on my iPad. My husband, Bill, is redoing the office and we haven't had internet for over a week. So, hello, I hope you are having a good Fall, and I hope to see you at the meeting on Thursday. *Beth Myrer, Guild President*

Mary Atwater Weaver's Guild Holiday Sale



This year the Mary Meigs Atwater Weavers Guild is having a Holiday Sale. This will be an opportunity for Guild members to sell things they make. The Guild has had two previous holiday sales, and lots of things have sold. Here are the particulars of this year's sale.

Dates: Friday, November 19, 2021 5:00-8:00
Saturday, November 20, 2021 10:00-5:00

Place: South Valley Unitarian Church

Members will be able to sell anything handmade by them, except food. Examples include handwoven, knitted, or crocheted clothing, table linens, wall art, Christmas ornaments, jewelry, or rugs.

The Guild will collect 20% of the selling price as commission. The Guild will pay for postcards and signs for advertising and FaceBook advertising, bank costs for credit cards, bags, receipt books.

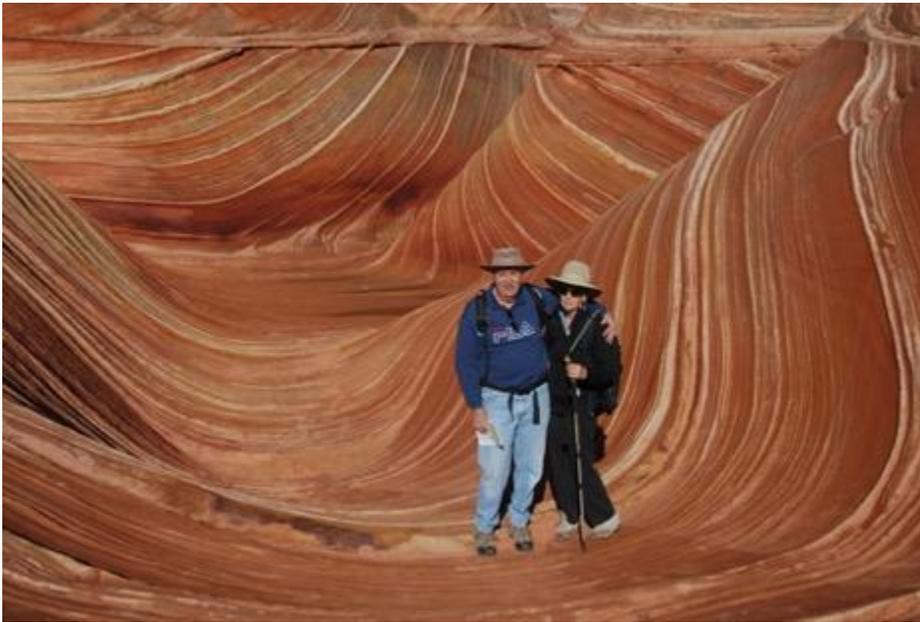
Guild members will need to provide props: mannequins, hat stands, racks, an artificial Christmas tree, black tablecloths or sheets, lights, or any item that would make an interesting display.

Each item for sale will need to have an inventory tag with the maker's initials, price, and inventory number. This tag will be removed when the item is sold. Sellers must provide the Guild with an inventory sheet listing a description of each item for sale, along with its price and inventory number.

We are working on assembling an e-mail list for advertising. I would appreciate each member sending me names with e-mail addresses so that we can grow our list. Also, cards will be available at the November meeting so members can mail them themselves, if they want.

Questions and suggestions are welcome. Call or e-mail me: Catherine Marchant, 801.216.4722 (don't text) or fibernbeads@gmail.com

Getting to Know Mimi Rodes



“Oh, the places you’ll go.” And “go” is the word I would use to introduce someone who has been helping to keep the MMAWG going for over 10 years, Mimi Rodes. From traveling the world for work to weaving at her home in Sandy, Mimi is a “Girl on the Go.” Her career in International Marketing in Laboratory Diagnostic and Health Care Products allowed her to make connections with

others around the world and to use her language skills as she speaks five languages in varying degrees: English, Spanish, German, French, and some Portuguese. Mimi moved from the San Francisco Bay area to Utah and, fortunately for us, found her way to the Guild. It was the first “volunteer only” organization that she has ever been a part of, and her efforts have helped the Guild to thrive.

Mimi started weaving when she attended a summer camp at the age of 10 years old. She later inherited a basic loom from her grandmother. She fell in love with weaving in Boston during the 70s but had to turn in her loom when she began traveling so much for work. “I always loved it. I hoped when I had time, I would love it again.” And she did! She felt like she was “dipping her toes in” when she ventured into that first MMAWG meeting. There she found a community of like-minded people who were caring and so willing to share. The friends that you make and the things you learn are “a wonderful treasure to have.”

Mimi started out as a rug weaver, and that easily led to tapestry weaving. It is easier to weave small tapestries while traveling. She even had a custom tapestry loom built to fit on her lap and reach the dashboard so she could weave on car trips. You may have seen some of her tapestry work at the latest fiber arts show in October 2021. She knows that one of her tapestries took over 56 hours to complete because she was listening to a book on CD while weaving, and it took 56 hours to listen to it!

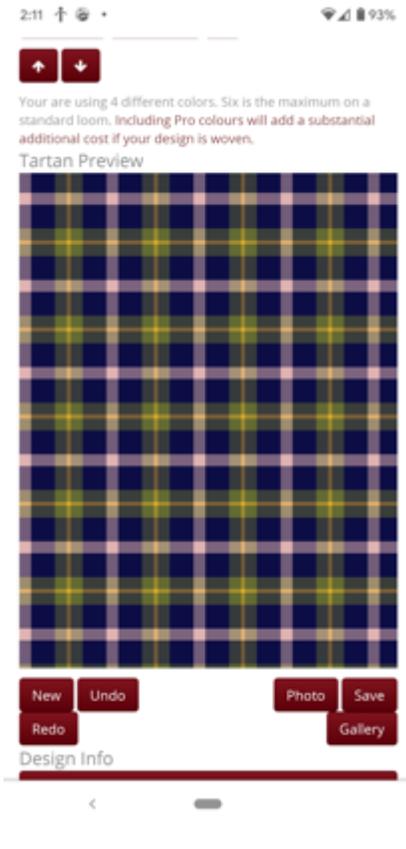


Mimi loves to take classes and she mentioned some of the teachers she has learned from and refined her techniques. She attended a two-week workshop with Maximo Laura, a Peruvian tapestry artist. She took several tapestry classes from both Rebecca Mezoff and Elizabeth Buckley here in the US. “I’ve also taken a number of wonderful non-tapestry workshops at IWC (Intermountain Weavers Guild) and with our Guild.”

It was inspiring to hear the international connections that Mimi has made in the weaving world as she has traveled. Mimi was enjoying a weaving trip in Guatemala when Covid hit. She hopes to return there someday and finish that educational tour. She has a deep concern for the weavers in other countries who depend on tourism and have had to deal with such huge losses in their craft due to Covid.

If Mimi is not weaving or meeting with friends, you might find her out in her garden or “playing” in the kitchen. But you might not find her at home as she has five international trips planned in the next year and a half. On the itinerary: Egypt, Jordan, Sicily, France, the Arctic Circle, and Japan! There she goes!! *Rosemarie Deppe*

Guild Challenge



This year our Guild Challenge is to weave a plaid. By plaid we mean a cloth where warp and weft repeat in the same order. The plaid can be as simple as a gingham or as complex as a tartan. We have not specified a fiber for this challenge but have recommended either a heathered wool, blend of wool and silk, or cotton.



We are asking members to try out some online tartan simulators to play and create their designs. Share with us your digital creation!

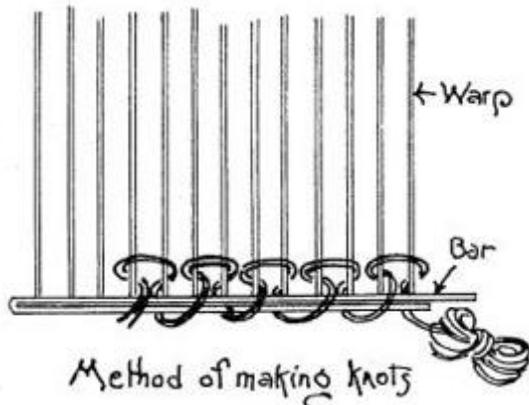
Here are a few tartans that I created with a simulator using some unusual color combinations.

- www.tartandesigner.com
- www.tartanmaker.com
- www.plaidmaker.com

Shuttle-Craft Bulletin: Weaving Pile Rugs

In the November 1934 and June 1945 issues of the Bulletin, Mary Meigs Atwater wrote about weaving pile rugs (*you can find these issues on the Guild website*). Members of the Shuttle-Craft Guild saw pile rugs (flossa weave) at the 1933–34 World’s Fair Swedish Exhibit in Chicago

and wrote to Mary, asking how they were woven. She turned the question over to a guild member, Mrs. Gregory, who had experience with the weave. Swedish pile rugs are knotted, like Oriental knotted rugs, though the knots are more coarsely set. The process is slow,



but the knots produce a firm and durable product. The technique requires some specialized equipment, a double metal rod and a small sharp knife with a shield to cut the pile, working in the groove between the metal rods. The knotting process is described, and the figure showing it is included here. The rod lay on top of the warp, and the weft was looped around it and knotted on the warp. The warp used was a heavy linen and the weft was a heavy wool yarn, not as coarse as what was used in the “ordinary” rugs of the day. The knotted rows were bordered by plain weave rows. The weft was doubled for the knots and single for the plain weave rows. The process is described in the 1934 Bulletin. It was recommended that the weaver beat “very heavily” so that the fabric was firm and solid. The pile is formed by cutting the loops formed in the knotted row. One of the easiest designs for this method is geometric shapes as Mary wrote. Here is an example from the online auction house Bukowskis (<https://www.bukowskis.com/sv/auctions/616/187-barbro-nilsson-matta-rodingen-flossa-ca-316-5-x-255-cm-signerad-ab-mmfbn>).

Ulla Cyrus-Zetterstrom wrote in the *Manual of Swedish Handweaving* that “a ‘flossa’ rug has a close, upright and relatively short pile, while a ‘rya’ rug has a more spaced and longer pile which lies flat over the background weave. There are also variations, and it is a matter of opinion whether they are wider spaces ‘flossa’ or close ‘rya.’ ” To learn more about the difference between rya and flossa techniques, see the link for the Norwegian Textile Letter: <http://norwegiantextileletter.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/rya11-correct.pdf>

Or the history of rya rugs: <https://www.dorisleslieblau.com/the-history-of-rya-rugs/>

There are great photos and write-ups with additional references of the equipment and the knotting technique on the blog entry *Figuring Out Flossa* on the Fibraquarelle blog: https://blog.fibraquarelle.com/2020/06/25/figuring-out-flossa.html?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=post&utm_campaign=general

Another Shuttle-Craft Guild member wrote in 1934 that he had woven rugs in double-weave, 8-shafts, using carpet warp set at 24 epi and a chenille weft, using a threading of alternating six-inch squares, or double weave blocks as described by Jennifer Moore in her book *Doubleweave*. These rugs were described as thick, soft bathmats.

In the 1945 issue, Mary wrote about “shag” rugs woven by a guild member in California. These were made using a different, faster technique than the knotted pile rugs. They were based on floats woven into the fabric and then cut later to form the shag. The warp used is cotton carpet warp and the weft, a rug yarn. The issue was published when World War II was coming to an end, and Mary wrote that the rug could be made of all cotton as “in these days when wool rug yarns are practically non-existent (sic).”

Mary described an 8-shaft threading with different sized float units. The float rows were bordered by plain weave again. The weft was doubled for the float rows and single for plain

weave. Once again, the weaver is advised to beat firmly. Mary also gave a 4-shaft version, but it required the use of pickup.

Also included in this issue is the design for what Mary called a “template” or temple by Edward Doughty. The diagram given shows that it looks very much like our modern-day wooden temples, lacking the pins and using a clamp at the ends instead. Mary wrote that a “template” may be of help with weaves where the take-up is very great. She said, “In special cases, therefore, a template is useful, though it would be unwise to get into the habit of using one for everything.” *Maureen Wilson*

Meetings of the Southwest Utah Weaving Branch

Monday, 8 Nov 2021, 5:30 pm, St George Library

A round robin discussion of loom maintenance, and weaving/spinning tips and tricks.

Monday, 13 Dec 2021, 5:30 pm, Member Residence

Holiday get together and sale. You can bring any weaving and spinning items that you would like to sell or give away.

Monday, 10 Jan 2022, 5:30 pm, St George Library

TBD

Monday, 14 Feb 2022, 5:30 pm, St George Library

Theo Moorman technique, Linda Murie. We are looking at designing a cartoon for tapestry, Theo Moorman technique, a program on spinning, and one or more dyeing mini-workshops.

Guild Dues—Don't Forget!

You can pay dues at the Guild meeting, on the Guild website, or by sending the dues to Ping Chang. It's a bargain at \$30 a year!

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group



The 2021–2022 Guild year meeting schedule for the Shuttle–Craft Bulletin Study group is presented below. The next meeting will be on December 1 at Mimi Rodes’s home. The topic of discussion will be Christmas weaving from the October 1928 and 1929 bulletins, with a handmade ornament exchange.

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin study group meets to discuss Mary Atwater’s work from the Shuttle-Craft Bulletins. This is an informal group – if you have not participated, try a meeting. The meetings often begin with a reading from Mary Meigs Atwater’s biography.

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Bulletins</i>	<i>Meeting Date</i>
Christmas weaving	Oct 1928 Oct 1929	Dec 2021
Selling handwoven Crackle weave	Nov 1928 June 1930 May 1929	Feb 2022*
Twill	April 1929 Oct 1936	Apr 2022
Camp weaving Portable Weaving	June 1929 June 1936	June 2022
Modern art & weaving Design	July 1929 August 1946	Aug 2022

*Zoom meeting planned

Guild Calendar 2021-2022

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah

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Newsletter editor: Susan Hainsworth, susanhainsworth@gmail.com. The newsletter is published 10 times a year.

To join the Guild send \$30.00 (\$35.00 to receive the newsletter by mail) to Ping Chang, 7 Courtside Lane, Sandy, UT 84092

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

Guild website: mmawg.org

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November 11

Use Up Your Weaving Scraps:
Making Greeting Cards
by Catherine Marchant

December 9

Christmas Party
Mimi Rodes's Home

January 13, 2022 (Zoom)

Anni Albers: Life and Legacy
by Cameron Taylor-Brown

February 10, 2022 (Zoom)

Suzie Ballenger, HGA President

March 10, 2022

Complementary Plain Weave
by Ann Edington Adams

April 14, 2022

Bow Weaving
by Catherine Marchant

May 12, 2022

Challenge Reveal and ReNee's Rugs
by Juliette Lanvers and ReNee Page

June 11, 2022

Potluck and Dye Vat
by Maureen Wilson and Jill Dahle