



The Weaver's Bag

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah • January 2023 • Vol. 71, No. 1

January Guild Meeting

What: Learning about Handweaving.net, by Kris Bruland

When: Thursday, January 12, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Zoom meeting



Our January program will be a Zoom meeting with Kris Bruland, the founder of [handweaving.net](https://www.handweaving.net). This website is a repository of thousands of weaving drafts, both new and old. Recently, Kris has added a color tool and an amalgamation tool, making the program a great source for designing. You don't have to have a subscription to look at weave designs on [handweaving.net](https://www.handweaving.net), so take some time to get acquainted with it before the program on Thursday. A good place to start is with this link: <https://www.handweaving.net/about>

The Zoom meeting will open at 6:45. Then the Show and Tell will begin at 7:00, with the program beginning at 7:30. Please send pictures of any items for Show and Tell to Mimi Rodes (mimirodes@comcast.net) by the end of day on Wednesday, January 11. Please also send a brief description of the piece.

Watch for the Zoom link that Leslie Sieburth will send to everyone on the Guild email list. It is a real privilege for us to be able to hear from Kris Bruland. We hope to see many of you on Thursday!

President's Message

Dear Weavers:

I hope that everyone had a good Christmas and safe New Year. It was good seeing many of you at the Christmas Party. Because the weather is iffy for January and February, we planned on doing Zoom meetings for those months. Looking at the snow, I think it is a good plan. I hope you will be able to log on, and I will look forward to seeing you. *Beth Myrer, Guild President*

Zoom Meeting with Daryl Lancaster on March 13, 2023

The Southwest Branch of our Guild is hosting a Zoom meeting presented by Daryl Lancaster on Monday, March 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. All Guild members are invited! Daryl Lancaster is a well-known weaver and teacher, who has extensive experience with creating beautiful clothing out of handwoven fabric. The Zoom link will be sent out closer to the date. Here is the information:

Color and Inspiration

Build color confidence no matter what your favorite fiber technique. In this presentation, we will start with the basics of color and discuss inspiration from color forecasts and online color tools. These can help stretch the imagination of anyone who is color challenged. PowerPoint slides will illustrate a series of fun exercises to create easy color references using yarn, photos, and Color-aid papers. And for the handweavers, we will learn what to do when introducing a weft! Lots of inspiration!

Southwest Utah Weaver's Schedule

Monday, January 9, 2023, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Topic: My IWC Project, Dona Fisher

Location: St. George library

Monday, February 13, 2023, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Topic: My IWC Project, Judy Harlin

Location: St. George library

Monday, March 13, 2023, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Topic: Daryl Lancaster, Color and Inspiration

Location: Zoom

The Guild Show Is Coming in September!

We are so fortunate to be able to hold our Guild shows at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center every other year. The gallery there is very beautiful, and the textiles, which come from many textile artists, are hung beautifully. You can start preparing now for the show we will have next year.

The exhibit will hang from **September 7** through **October 18, 2023**. The drop-off date for artwork will be **September 2**, and the pickup date will be **October 19**.



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Intermountain Weaver's Conference (IWC)



IWC just published a newsletter with everything you need to know to attend the 2023 conference. You can access the newsletter at this link:

<https://www.intermountainweavers.org/resources/Documents/202301IWCNewsletter.pdf>

The Intermountain Weaver's Conference is fast approaching! IWC will be held July 27–30, 2023, at Utah State University in Logan. Registration will start on February 1, 2023.

The IWC board is looking for volunteers to help us during the day on Wednesday, July 26, and Thursday, July 27. We will need help setting up the classrooms and getting the registration packets ready for everyone. If you can help on one or both days, even for a few hours, please contact Nancy at registration@intermountainweavers.org. We would really appreciate your help – we want to make this a great conference!

There will be a newsletter emails in January that will contain all the information about the conference. The email will be sent out to all IWC members, so please join us! Keep in mind that you need to be an IWC member to sign up for the classes. All memberships end on January 1 of the year. Many of your memberships will expire at the end of 2022. You should receive an email reminding you to renew. In order to join us, use this web page: <https://www.intermountainweavers.org/join-us>

IWC Bookmarks

Join the Southwest Branch of our Guild in weaving bookmarks to give out at IWC! You can use inkle looms, card looms, regular looms, kumihimo – whatever! Ivy DeHart will provide more information about this project at the January Zoom meeting.

Nancy Crowley

Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Coverlets and Counterpanes

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletins covered in this article are from January 1939 and 1940. These Bulletins are on the Guild website under the Bulletins Tab.

It is the new year, and to the Shuttle-Craft Weaving Guild this meant that it was the time to weave a coverlet. This was a project described by Mary Meigs Atwater as taking no more than a week to complete. In the January 1939 issue, Mary provided a draft from a coverlet she saw at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. It had no name, but given the similarity to one in *The Shuttle-Craft Book of American Handweaving* (figure on page 11, 1973 printing), Mary referred to it as “probably Indian War.” She noted in the book that it was a favorite pattern of Weaver Rose. The Henry Ford Museum website contains images of 40 beautiful coverlets in its collection but unfortunately, not this one. See them at this link:

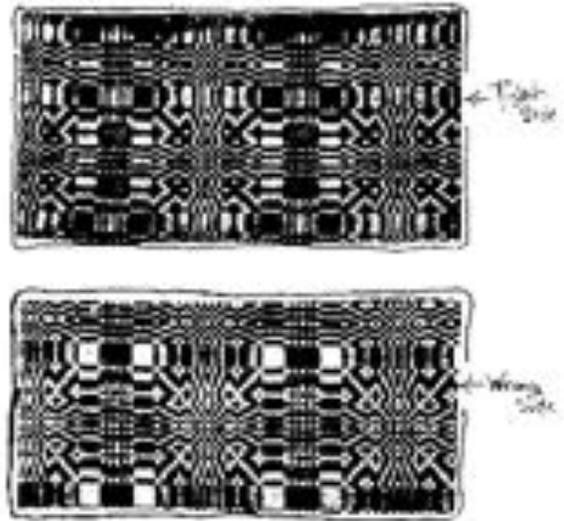
<https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/>.

The 1939 bulletin provides the draft, treadling instructions, recommended yarns, and three different threadings for a pillow top (600 ends), a 36½-inch-wide strip for a coverlet approximately 73 inches wide before finishing (1,094 ends), and a 42 2/3-inch-wide strip for a coverlet approximately 85 inches wide before finishing (1,280 ends). You can see the draft for the similar one in her book (draft #22) on page 154, where it is noted that it is also known as “Rose of Sharon.”

Mary did not like to write out the treadlings in the manner provided, but she did include them, stating, “I hope nobody will follow them in weaving, but will weave freely and happily along the diagonal.” She explained that the pattern is woven as drawn in, that the written treadlings are misleading, rarely correct, and entirely unnecessary. She proposed a weaver’s New Year’s resolution of “Avaunt the treadlings” (that is, “go away”).

For the yarns, the museum coverlet was woven in the traditional colonial style, with a natural cotton warp and tabby weft and a traditional indigo blue wool pattern weft. I think that this pattern would lend itself well to a two-or-more-color pattern as well. For ideas on this, I’d recommend Helene Bress’s book *The Coverlet Book: Early American Handwoven Coverlets*. It is in the Guild Library and is a valuable resource.

Mary noted that there were other coverlet patterns in the *Recipe Book*, see Series I. She also mentioned the use of the “Botanical Garden” in a coverlet. This is found in the *Recipe Book* Series V, Number 11, as a runner. Mary described how she wove it up by including a narrow



1. Four-shaft Overshot Coverlet pattern from January 1939 Bulletin

border in stripes and making each block twice as large as shown in the *Recipe Book* figure, done in the Summer and Winter structure.

In January 1940, Mary wrote about counterpanes. These are white cotton bed coverings from the US South. Drafts for them are provided in the *Shuttle-Craft Book of American Handweaving*, in Chapter 12: "Additional Four-Harness Weaves." These are in dimity, honeycomb, and huck weave structures. Ms and Os and spot weaves are also used. For more information on the weave structures used for counterpanes and on counterpanes in general, see Gay McCreary's website: <http://www.southerncounterpane.com/what-is-a-southern-counterpane.html>.

The counterpane draft that Mary included in the 1940 Bulletin was from a fragment woven in handspun cotton, sent to her by a Guild member. The dimity weave in the pattern is of wide and narrow stripes, separated by stripes of huck. It is done in long oval blocks. Mary recommended that weavers use 20/2 cotton with a sett of 32 to 34 epi and beat "very close." The fabric has a distinct right and wrong side.



2. Southern Counterpane from Gay McCreary, coverletweaver.com, showing fringe on three sides. Used with permission.

Mary wrote that the same threading may be woven in honeycomb and recommended two wefts of different grist, one fine and the other a coarse soft weft for the best honeycomb effect. There is an excellent photo of the honeycomb weave on the Southern Counterpane website under the Weave Structures tab. Mary recommended that the warp sett for honeycomb should be a little more open than the dimity weave. She described the effect as a "raised lace like tracery over a dimpled under pattern."

The counterpanes were finished with elaborate fringes, knotted in patterns and some with little tassels, all done in cotton. These were, as a rule, on three sides of the counterpane, with the top edge finished with a hem as seen in the photo.

Mary described the adjustment needed to achieve a good shed on a counter-balance loom to weave the dimity and honeycomb weaves, using a "false tie" on the pattern treadles. Weaving them on a jack loom would be easy enough.

Year after year, Mary published the January issue as the "coverlet" Bulletin, stating that in the old days, a coverlet was the crowning achievement of the home weaver and was in Mary's time, still considered a "major adventure." Whether it takes a week, or more, consider starting a coverlet or counterpane this month. *Maureen Wilson*

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group



The 2022–2023 Guild year meeting schedule for the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin study group is presented below. The next meeting will be held in February, with date and time to be announced. The topic of discussion will be Weaving for Pleasure or Profit, from the November 1929 and January 1930 bulletins.

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>
Weaving for Pleasure Weaving for Profit	November 1929 January 1930	Feb 2023
Color and Color Combinations	December 1929	Apr 2023
Coverlets	February 1930 January 1931	Jun 2023
Pile and Velvet Weaving	March 1930 April 1930	Aug 2023

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah

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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 Barbara
Allen, 524 North 100 East, Centerville, UT 84014,
or go to the Guild website, where you can pay
using Paypal.

To join the Guild e-mail list, contact Susan
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Guild Calendar 2022–2023

January 12

Kris Bruland: Handweaving.net
(Zoom meeting)

February 9

Ellen Hess: Weaving Lace
(Zoom meeting)

March 9

Weaving and Equipment of Mary Atwater
and Flossie Goodwin; Mary Atwater's
Birthday Party
by ReNee Page and Susan Hainsworth

April 13

Finishing Weaving
by Mimi Rodes, Deanna Baugh, Jeanette
Tregeagle

May 11

Challenge Exchange: Finished Weaving
and Drafts