



The Weaver's Bag

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah • February 2023 • Vol. 71, No. 2

February Guild Meeting

What: Amazing Lace, by Ellen Hess

When: Thursday, February 9, 2023, 6:30 p.m. (presentation begins at 6:30)

Where: Zoom meeting



Our February Guild meeting will be presented by Ellen Hess. Ellen is a longtime weaver and weaving teacher, who has taught for many years at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York City. Ellen said of our upcoming meeting:

“Lace is more than a fine, open fabric. We will journey through many historical types

of lace and lacemaking techniques and see how they relate to handwoven lace structures. Learn the real differences between Mock Leno, Huck Lace, Spot Bronson, and Swedish Lace so that you can choose the exact lace structure to suit your project. You will realize that for weavers, ‘Lace Is More.’”

The Zoom meeting will open at 6:15, and Ellen’s presentation will begin right at 6:30. Then Guild business and Show and Tell will follow the presentation.

Please send pictures of Show and Tell items to Carolyn Chen (carolyn.chen.slc@gmail.com) by Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. Please put “2/9 Guild” in the subject line.

Leslie Sieburth has sent the Zoom link to the Guild email list. We hope to see many of you on Thursday!

President's Message

Dear Weavers:

As I am writing this, it is February 1, and tomorrow is Groundhog Day. The forecasts that I have seen call for sunny conditions, so we will probably have six more weeks of winter. Hopefully there will be lots of snow, so the drought will be less severe. Looking at the year ahead, we have some really interesting meetings coming. I hope to see many of you on Zoom next week. Keep weaving, *Beth Myrer*

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. 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!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86161546028?pwd=WClMSm5WaVFSYWNwclVbTlZlbnBvUT09>

Meeting ID: 861 6154 6028

Passcode: 804658

Southwest Utah Weavers' Schedule

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 Threads That Bind Us: A Celebration of Textile Arts

Our Guild show will be held 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**.

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 so beautiful, and the textiles, which come from textile artists all over Utah, are hung beautifully. Please start preparing now for the show! The Call for Entries will be sent out very soon.



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Intermountain Weaver's Conference (IWC)



Workshop Registration Now Open

IWC just published a newsletter with everything you need to know to attend the 2023 conference. Registration for the conference opened on February 1. Register early so you can get the workshop that you want. You can access the newsletter at this link:

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

IWC will be held July 27–30, 2023, at Utah State University in Logan.

Volunteers Needed

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!

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! Contact Nancy Crowley (LudmillaLilly@outlook.com) with any questions. *Nancy Crowley*

January 12 Guild Meeting

Our first Guild meeting of 2023 on January 12th began with Show and Tell. Thirty-eight members were present – one of the most well-attended meetings we have had lately! Our members presented some beautiful items, some fun items, and all inspiring items. The sock-top rug was fun to see. Towels made using the huck lace weaving pattern from one of Tom’s Knisely’s books and the Color and Weave technique were very pretty and interesting. Sonja Campana’s rug was displayed against a large window at her new home looking out over some of their beautiful property. This also provided us the opportunity to meet Sonja’s new dog!

IWC had asked our Guild to make bookmarks for the upcoming IWC conference – something fun and made from fiber to share.” All help with this project will be welcomed and appreciated.



Kris Bruland, who started handweaving.net 17 years ago, was the presenter for this meeting. His wife wanted to get involved in learning to weave, so he bought her a loom for Christmas. A full year later the loom was still unused. When he asked to use it, she willingly gave her permission, and the rest is history.

By trade Kris is a computer programmer and decided that by using those skills he could improve drafting weaving patterns and make them easier to manipulate. One thing lead to another and he is still expanding and improving the website and its offerings. He demonstrated and explained many of the features the site offers. “Projects from Handweaving.net” is a Facebook group he suggested people look into. On the website, people can join Kris’s mailing list. *Margaret Hopkin*

Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Weaving Bags

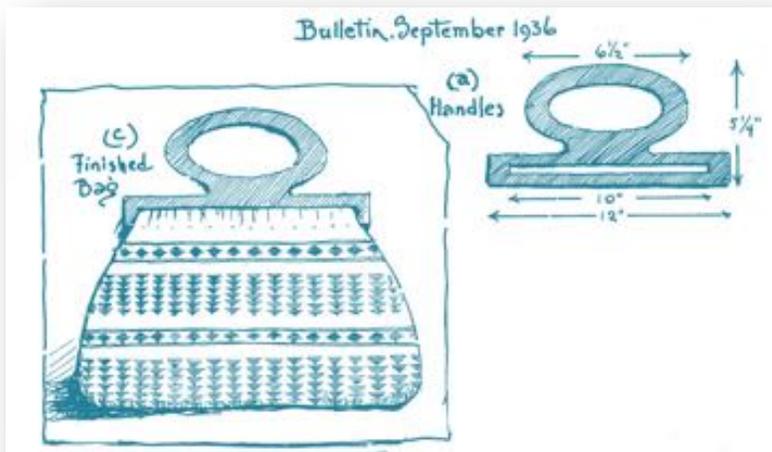
The Shuttle-Craft Bulletins covered in this article are from September 1936 and 1938. These Bulletins are on the Guild website (mmaawg.org) under the Bulletins Tab.

In September 1938 Mary Meigs Atwater wrote that weavers never seem to weary of making bags. Bags may change in shape and style, but never go out of fashion. She wrote of how to and how *not* to make a bag. Mary thought that nothing weavers make was more difficult to design and execute than a bag. As she wrote: "Anybody can weave a good coverlet or a good tweed fabric, or a nice honest rug – but a bag!"

Mary called a bag a "self-contained bit of art." She said that it should fit the personality of the owner and be perfect in finish and workmanship. Of particular concern was the fitting into a mounting, such as these purse frames found on Etsy, by CraftSurprise. It was something that she recommended hiring an expert to do or become an expert oneself.

A bag should also be interesting, with a touch of unusualness, and be beautiful and easy to carry.

In 1936, Mary referred to a bag that she had seen done by a Philippine weaver, attached to a wooden handle that she thought would be easier to work with than the metal mounting frames popular at the time. Her figure of the bag and handle are seen here. This project is also available in the *Recipe Book*, Series VI, No.8.



The threading, tie up, recommended yarns, as well as fabric design were provided. The bag was woven in fine natural cotton, set at 42 double ends per inch, but Mary recommended 20/2 cotton at 36 epi for the American weaver. The fabric was woven in pattern and tabby, with the pattern yarn a soft unmercerized cotton in black, coarser than the weft, and the tabby the same material as the warp. Mary wrote that to imitate the Philippine weave would require 8 shafts but included 4-shaft options: the Diamond threading from the Course,

birds-eye twill, or a small pattern from the Shuttle-Craft book. The effect of the bag fabric depends on the arrangement of the bands of pattern weaving, so they should be kept small for best effect.

These types of vintage wooden handles can still be acquired. Check out some sources on Etsy: ItsAllTreasureArt, Poolhausvintage, and maharanis to name a few.

Other weave options Mary mentioned were leno in carpet warp set at 10 epi with cellophane straw twist doubled as weft—jute could be substituted. She advised that any stiff weft material would work.

In 1938, Mary wrote about a similar bag style, repeating the concern that they were difficult, that she hated to tackle them, stating, “On the whole we are less successful with bags than with any other one product of our looms.”

In this issue, she wrote about patterns and materials not recommended for bag fabric. Coarse fibers should be avoided, as well as overshot weaving, unless it is a small pattern. A pattern giving the effect of weight at the bottom, such as the striped and border patterns from the Bulletin shown here were recommended.

The drafts, threading and treadling, are given for these and more, including a beautiful Guatemalan motif done in Finnweave, a double weave technique.

Mary described her own bag, woven in 20 singles linen, “her favorite warp” set at 36 epi, with tabby in old gold linen and pattern weft in black rayon. The weave was a point pattern in spot Bronson, which may be seen in the *Recipe Book* (see Series III No. 24).

For more bag ideas, there are several projects with illustrations in Series VI of the *Recipe Book*. Lavern Waddington, The Backstrap Weaver, just posted on her blog about weaving “the odd-shaped bag,” including a yurt shaped bag and a jaunty bag on her backstrap loom. see <https://backstrapweaving.wordpress.com/2023/02/03/backstrap-weaving-the-odd-shaped-bag/>. *Maureen Wilson*



The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group



The remainder of the 2022–2023 Guild year meeting schedule for the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin study group is presented below. The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 13, at 7:00 p.m. at Ann McKane’s home. The topic of discussion will be Weaving for Pleasure or Profit, from the November 1929 bulletin (file pages 73–79) and January 1930 bulletin (file pages 1–8).

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 13, 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 |

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Newsletter editor: Susan Hainsworth,
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published 10 times a year.

To join the Guild send \$30.00 (\$35.00 to
receive the newsletter by mail) to Barbara
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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

February 9

Ellen Hess: Amazing 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