



The Weaver's Bag

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah • April 2023 • Vol. 71, No. 4

April Guild Meeting

What: Finishing Weaving, by Mimi Rodes, Deanna Baugh, and Jeanette Tregeagle

When: Thursday, April 13, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

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



Our April Guild program is all about how to finish and present weaving. It will be presented by talented Guild members Mimi Rodes, Deanna Baugh, and Jeanette Tregeagle. Deanna will teach us about the importance of **wet finishing our weaving**, Jeanette will show us different ways to **finish the edges**, and Mimi will help us determine the best way to **display our work**. All of this will be helpful as we prepare our weaving for the Guild show next fall.

Show and Tell will begin at 6:30. Please bring the things you have been working on.

At the April meeting, there will be printed copies of the **Guild library catalog**, as well as printed copies of the

Guild's updated membership list. Barbara Allen, our membership secretary, will also email a copy of the membership list to each Guild member. (This list is not made public on the Guild website. It is reserved for Guild members.)

Upcoming Guild Events

Saturday, April 22, 2:00–4:00

Library open house (Susan Hainsworth's home)

Thursday, May 11, 6:30 p.m.

Challenge Exchange: Finished Weaving and Drafts

Saturday, June 3, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Visit to Pear Tree Llama Farm in Midway and Potluck Lunch

September 7–October 18

Guild Show: The Threads That Bind Us (Utah Cultural Celebration Center)

September 7, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Guild Show Opening (this will be the September Guild meeting)

September 7–9

Three-day workshop by Rebecca Winter—Shadow Weave: A Multifaceted Structure

President's Message

As I am writing this, it is April 1, and hopefully no one got taken in by an April Fool's joke. However, I think the weather has been doing a number on everyone. The weather app on my phone indicates that another storm is coming in Sunday night. I know we need the moisture, but when is it enough?

The only positive is I can't really get outside to do much yard work, so I can just continue weaving and working on other projects. Keep weaving, and I look forward to seeing everyone on April 13. Hopefully it won't be snowing! **Beth Myrer**

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 is now available on the Guild website.

2023–2024 Guild Board

We are so grateful to those who are willing to serve on our Guild board. The elected board members shown here will be voted on at the May 11 Guild meeting. Many other Guild members serve as appointed board members, but according to the Guild bylaws, we do not vote for them.

Co-Presidents:	Mimi Rodes and Jeanette Tregeagle
Vice President:	Sunny Cate
Membership Secretary:	Barbara Allen
Recording Secretary:	Beth Myrer
Treasurer:	Margaret Hopkin

Guild Library Open House



The Guild has recently released an updated library catalog, which is available on the Guild's website (under "Resources"). The Guild's library contains over **600 wonderful books**, and the catalog lists the books in categories so you can scan to find books on the subjects you are interested in. Please let Susan Hainsworth know if you would like any books.

The library is at Susan's home, and she will be hosting **monthly library open houses**. There will be treats, and you can come and bring your knitting and hang out, as well as spending time with the wonderful books.

The first open house will be on **Saturday, April 22, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** Susan lives at 91 East 400 North, Centerville.

Intermountain Weaver's Conference (IWC)



Workshop Registration

Intermountain Weaver's Conference is a wonderful way to learn from other weavers, take workshops from nationally known weavers, and see impressive textile exhibits. This time the conference is being held in Logan, Utah, so it is very easy for us to attend!

IWC has 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>

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**

Great Basin Fiber Arts Fair

The Great Basin Fiber Arts Fair is coming up quickly on April 28 and 29. Class signups are open now and filling quickly. There will be three-hour and all-day classes on Friday and Saturday with amazing teachers. There are many vendors who are selling fibers, yarns, and equipment, plus demonstrations, Guilds, a tea garden, and more. Go to www.gbfaf.org for all the details.

Volunteers are needed to help with setup on Thursday, April 27, as well as on April 28 and 29. Please go to <https://signup.com/go/TzjGRRs> to sign up to volunteer with the GBFAF committee. Fibery treats will be given to all who volunteer!



Pictures from the March Guild Meeting



Our March meeting highlighted ReNee Page and Deanna Baugh sharing with us many of the wonderful weavings done by Mary Atwater and Flossie Goodwin. These women were true artists, who experimented with techniques and pushed the boundaries of their art. It is a great privilege – and very inspiring – to see and study these weavings in person.

It is also a great privilege to have our Guild named after Mary Atwater and to have equipment and weavings from her and her friend Flossie Goodwin. Many thanks to ReNee and Deanna for sharing with us.



Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Warping

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletins covered in this article are from December 1936 and 1944. These Bulletins are on the Guild website (mmawg.org) under the Bulletins Tab.

December issue of the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin became known as the equipment or technique issue, with a focus on the technical and practical matters of weaving. Mary Meigs Atwater wrote in December 1944, "We need to remember, at least once a year, that weaving is not all art, and that unless we are good workmen—in the completely practical sense—we cannot be good craftsmen." So, the December issues from 1936 and 1944 are about the warping technique.

Mary found that warping is the least interesting part of the textile process. But, she continued, good weaving depends on correct warping and it is useless to try to weave on a poor warp.

She presented three methods of warping. The first—using a prepared warp, not so available these days, unless you go with the Saori weaving method. Prepared warps were available on spools, usually in 20-yard lengths, but were limited to only a few kinds. The second method and the one she called the most laborious is using a warping board and chaining the warp. This is probably the most common technique used by weavers I know. Mary thought that this method was a waste of time and difficult to do without a team to assist. She did allow for exceptions: using a short narrow warp, especially if it is a "fancy" warp with many colors. The third method and the one she noted as the most economical and practical is sectional warping. She thought that this method allowed beaming a long warp the full width of the loom by yourself and in 2 hours (!).

She described the sectional warp beams available at the time and techniques for converting a conventional warp beam to a sectional one. She also reviewed additional equipment needed to warp sectionally: a spool rack or creel, spools of different types and where to get them, a yarn swift and some kind of winding device. She recommended an electric winder or a used sewing machine motor fitted to a tapered shank that could take shuttle bobbins, and warp spools. The last piece of equipment recommended was a guide through which the warp yarns are taken in from the spool rack to avoid tangling, usually a flat piece of metal punched with holes. She wrote that the only difficulty in sectional warping is keeping an even tension across the warp.

A Guild member developed a tension box type tool and described its construction and use. In 1944, Mary repeated that warping, while uninteresting and troublesome, is a matter of prime importance for good weaving. Single loose threads may be corrected, but Mary wrote that if a group of threads are loose, there is no cure but rebeaming. She continued to advocate sectional warping but did allow that alternative methods may be better in special cases. She thought the sectional warping was most economical in terms of time, and far easier on the warp material. This method does require a sectional warp beam which she thought impractical for a small loom.

Mary repeated the list of equipment: a spool rack with at least 60 spools, made of wood rather than cardboard as it was longer lasting, a tensioner, as mentioned in 1936 as pictured in her sketch included here:

Mary wrote about the issue of the lack of a "lease" or cross in sectional warping.

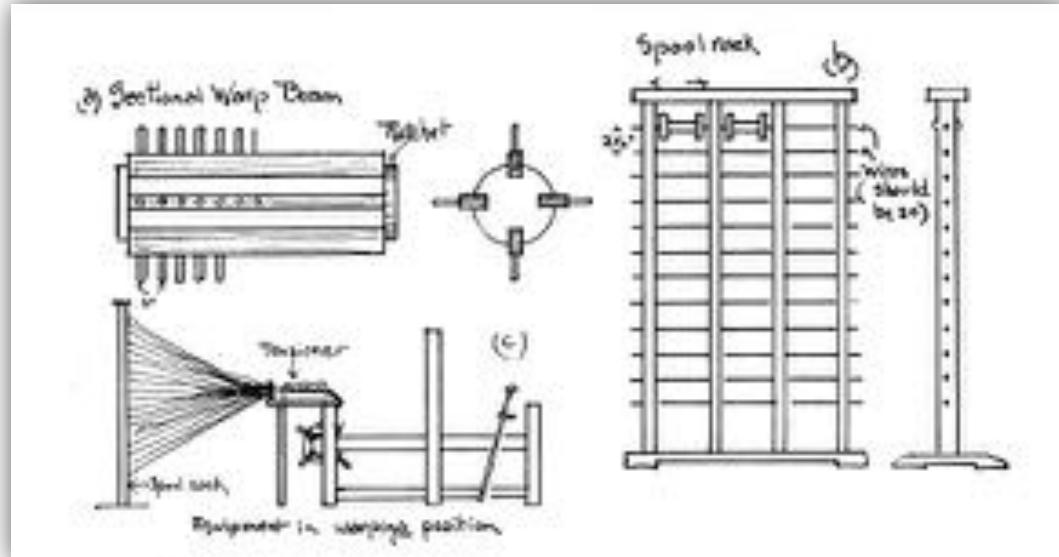
Some weavers felt that it

was right to always have one. Mary thought that it was completely unnecessary, but wrote that an attachment could be added to the tensioner if it made the weaver happier.

Mary did agree that using a warping board made more sense for a short and narrow warp. She admonished that winding the warp too tight should be avoided, as it led to wasting warp material and difficulty in beaming.

She went on to discuss beaming, describing either using a raddle, or sleying it through the reed, not identifying one as better than the other. She preferred to use paper as a warp packing material, even newspaper for lightweight warps.

While we do have some new tools now, such as a warping wheel, it appears that the problems of warping well have been with weavers for a long time.



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 April 18, at 7:00 p.m. at Catherine Marchant's home. The topic of discussion will be Color and Color Combinations from the December 1929 Bulletin (PDF pages 80–87).

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>
Color and Color Combinations	December 1929	April 18, 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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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 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
Hainsworth, susanhainsworth@gmail.com.

Guild website: mmawg.org

2022–2023 MMAWG Board

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Guild Challenge Coordinator: Judie Eatough,
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