

THE WEAVER'S BAG



Mary Meigs Atwater
Weaver's Guild

January • 2024

What's happening

JANUARY 13: Color Theory for Weavers and Fiber Artists, by Deb Essen (Zoom meeting, 9:00 a.m. to noon)

JANUARY 27: Library open house, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Susan Hainsworth's home

FEBRUARY 8: Presentation about James Koehler, Tapestry Weaver, by Rebecca Mezoff (Zoom meeting, 6:30 p.m.)

FEBRUARY 17: The Power of Cloth, by Mary Zicafoose (Extra Zoom meeting, 9:30 a.m.)

MARCH 7: All about Overshot! by Jeanette Tregeagle and Deanna Baugh

MARCH 23: Paint Two, Beam One: Painting with Two Warps and Beaming Them as One, by Denise Kovnat (Zoom one-day workshop)

APRIL 11: The Power of Craft: A Weaver's Perspective, by Denise Kovnat

APRIL 11, 12, 13: Echo and Jin: Variations on a Theme, by Denise Kovnat (three-day in-person workshop)

MAY 2 (FIRST THURSDAY): Color, Pattern, Shape, by Karen Donde

JUNE: Saturday Dye Day and Potluck (date TBA)

All regular Guild meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. at the South Valley Unitarian Church, 6876 Highland Drive, unless otherwise indicated.

January Guild Meeting—Color Theory for Weavers and Fiber Artists, by Deb Essen

Saturday, January 13, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Zoom meeting (link will be sent out)

Happy New Year! I am so excited for the meetings we have planned this year! Starting off in January, instead of our evening Guild meeting, we have the wonderful opportunity to participate in a half-day Zoom class on color with Deb Essen. I am looking forward to it, especially with our Guild Challenge on color!

This class is an introduction to color theory for weavers and fiber artists. We will discuss color theory, working with different color combinations, and how color value affects your projects—from knitting to spinning to weaving.

Deb Essen is the author of *Easy Weaving with Supplemental Warps* (Schiffer Publishing, 2022). She is a frequent contributor to *Handwoven* magazine and has recorded several DVDs on supplemental warps, pile weaves with supplemental warps, unlocking profile drafts, and pin loom projects through *Handwoven*. She has been weaving for over 30 years and teaches at local, regional and national conferences, guilds and shops.

This is her website (she has some videos and resources there, too) <http://www.djehandwovens.com/home.html>
—Sunny Cate, Vice President



President's Message

I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas, and I wish you all a very HAPPY NEW YEAR! With all of the color-filled Guild programs we have planned for the coming year, there will be so much opportunity to learn and challenge ourselves in our weaving, dyeing, and color knowledge!

As many of you know, I tend to gravitate toward bright Southwest sunset colors and indigo in my tapestries and rugs. However, when we were in Italy last fall (with our COLOR challenge in mind), we visited churches with wonderful pastel-colored marble decorations that were so beautiful. I think of marble as lustrous and white, but nature has created this lovely stone in many beautiful colors! My husband obligingly took a number of photos for me to use as inspiration for a pastel shawl or scarf (see stone photos below). When the latest version of *Handwoven* came (see photo below), I was so surprised to see these very colors in a shawl on the cover!!! Drats, someone beat me to it!!! I love to use photos of the things around us to study color and as a source of color inspiration for my weaving.

Please note several changes to our normal meeting times:

1. In January, we will have a Zoom workshop with Deb Essen on Saturday, January 13, from 9:00 am to noon in lieu of our normal Thursday meeting. This will be a wonderful opportunity to explore colors and weaving with an expert!!
2. Our May meeting will be Thursday evening, May 2, a week earlier than usual. We have moved the meeting to this time so that Karen Donde can speak in person at our meeting, as she will be visiting in Salt Lake that week. Several of you took her class at IWC and she comes highly recommended. So be sure to mark your calendars!!!
Happy New Year and see you all on Zoom on January 13!

—Mimi Rodes, Co-President



Guild Challenge

We introduced this year's Guild Challenge at our October meeting, and we are so excited about it! It's all about COLOR!

To participate in the challenge, create a project (or two or more!) that challenges you to create with color. You may interpret this challenge however you want. It is fully self-directed. At our May Guild meeting, we will all share what we have done.

To help us with this challenge, several of our Guild meetings will be focused in some way on color and weaving. Please join us in this challenge, and get ready to have fun! We can't wait to see what you create!

—Sunny Cate and Beth Myrer

December Guild Meeting

For those who weren't able to attend the Christmas gathering, you missed a very enjoyable event. The food looked good (I can't speak to that), but those in attendance seemed to enjoy it. The variety of gifts in the exchange was amazing and wonderful. The friendships we share within the Guild are uplifting and inspiring.

—Beth Myrer, Recording Secretary

The Power of Cloth, by Mary Zicafoose

On Saturday, February 17, the Guild will host an extra Zoom meeting. Mary Zicafoose, ikat tapestry weaver and author of *Ikat: The Essential Guide to Weaving Resist-Dyed Cloth* (Penguin Random House, 2020), will give a one-hour talk titled "The Power of Cloth" at 9:30 a.m.

Mary works from her fiber studio called Pahuk, which is along the Platte River in Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska. She is to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award for Visual Arts from the Omaha Entertainment and Arts Awards at the 18th annual ceremony.

Here is Mary's description of her presentation: "In this inspirational lecture Mary Zicafoose will share a selection of her favorite stories tracing the impact of textiles on her life. Recounting her experience of a life-changing meeting with a symbol shaman in Peru, Mary discusses her mission as an artist to unravel and evolve the visual codes of archetypal symbols through the creation of transformative textiles. Over time her carpets and their symbolically driven stories



have gradually migrated up the wall, and today these contemporary tapestries are collected and exhibited worldwide. She is proudly one of a handful of contemporary weft-ikat weavers whose distinct voice has demystified intricate textile processes, stimulating new directions in the field of contemporary tapestry."

The figure here, used with permission, is *Mountain for the Buddha: Luma*, weft face ikat tapestry, diptych, 55" w x 62" l, wrapped, and woven silk/bamboo on linen warp, 2017.

For more information on Mary and her work, see her website: <https://www.maryzicafoose.com/index.php>

—Maureen Wilson, Workshop Coordinator

Meetings of the Guild's Southern Utah Branch

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm—Clasped warp and weft on rigid heddle, taught by Dona Fisher at her home

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm—Slide show of "The Threads That Bind Us," the recent MMAWG fiber show, at St. George Library

MONDAY, 8 APRIL 2024: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm—Card and inkle weaving, taught by Isabell Lee, at the St. George Library

MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm—Stash busting—bring items you would like to give away, at the St. George Library

Zoom Meetings Offered by IWC

Intermountain Weavers Conference is pleased to announce a new virtual series of programs beginning in January 2024. You must be a member of IWC to attend, but you can definitely join in order to take advantage of these great programs. The first program was held on January 3 with Robyn Spady. Here is the next Zoom program:

"Tied and Untied Weaves on 8 Shafts," by Marcy Petrini, Saturday, February 24, 2024, 10:00 am to 1:00 p.m. Cost: \$50

Description: Tied unit weaves have some interesting characteristics that allow flexibility in designing. We will explore and contrast these structures with other block weaves. Drawdowns and photos of samples will be shared. We will also discuss the suitability of these weaving structures for various uses.

To sign up for a class, go to www.intermountainweavers.org. Click on the blue box with the icon of a person that is in the upper right corner of the web page. If it is your first time to log in or you have forgotten your password, click on "Reset your Password." Go to the "Register" page.

To join IWC, click on **Join Us**

Library Open House, Saturday, January 27

There will be a library open house Saturday, January 27, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Susan Hainsworth's home, 91 East 400 North, Centerville. Bring your fiber projects to work on while you sit and visit with other fiber artists or browse the books.

Guild Dues Are Due!

Many of our dedicated members have not paid their dues yet, and I'm sure we can blame it on the busy Christmas season—wink, wink! Now that Christmas is over, would you all please check and see if you have paid or not and let me know? We will have a new members' list to distribute in January and I'd love to see you all on it! If you have questions, you can email me at boldladybug@gmail.com or call/text me at 801-618-7397.

Dues are a mere \$30 for the entire year, and they provide our wonderful Guild with a place to meet and the ability to bring in many interesting and inspiring speakers and guests. You can pay by check made out to MMAWG, or with PayPal through the Guild's website link. Thanks so much! Happy New Year!!

—Barbara Allen, Membership Secretary

Member Profile: Barbara Ackerman

This month we travel to the southwestern portion of the state to feature one of our intrepid Guild members, Barbara Ackerman, who hails from Cedar City. Barbara was been with the Guild for around 15 years after relocating to Utah from the Las Vegas area. Barbara is a retired art teacher, who spent 24 years teaching in Las Vegas. Upon retiring she and her husband moved to Cedar City, as it was halfway between family members in Salt Lake and Las Vegas.

Barbara's interest in fiber arts started at a young age as her grandmother was a weaver. Barbara was one of the only grandchildren who showed an interest in her grandmother's work, and she inherited a unique table loom that her grandfather crafted for her grandmother. In the 1970s, while in graduate school, she started weaving more in earnest after obtaining a paperback weaving book. From the book she was able to have a lumber company assist her with the construction of her own loom. From there she took lessons in Indiana, was involved in Guilds in Indiana, Florida, and Nevada, and continued weaving on and off until her retirement. In 2008 Barbara met members of the Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild at Convergence and also took classes with some of our members, past and present.

After retiring Barbara started weaving more and more. Upon moving to Cedar City, Barbara received a note on her car while shopping from a woman who noticed that Barbara was a weaver. The note was from Beverly Vincent, a fellow transplant to Cedar City from Santa Barbara. The two women met and decided to form a Guild in Cedar City focused on fiber arts, called Sagebrush Fiber Artisans. Their local guild has 35 members, of which 12 are weavers and spinners.

If you are ever in Cedar City on a Wednesday, stop by the Sagebrush group's WOW (Weaving on Wednesdays) gathering. The group also volunteers on Thursdays and Fridays at the Frontier Homestead State Park demonstrating spinning and weaving.



Barbara's Irish Poncho

Barbara enjoys the sense of community that comes with being part of Guilds. She appreciates being able to talk to people in the same language and troubleshoot problems and answer questions with others with the same interests. Being part of a Guild has also helped her make new friends and is a great way to socialize with similar people.

Barbara recently took a class with Jennifer Moore on rainbow double weave and is working on a double weave project. She also has been working on creating yardage for a tabard. Like many of us, she also has interests in other fiber arts and has been knitting a number of projects as well.

One of Barbara's favorite projects was designing a draft for an Irish poncho she saw in a catalog last year. She wanted the poncho but decided it was something she could probably make. She was able to design and weave a broken twill fabric very similar to that from her inspiration picture, which she sewed into a hooded poncho. The poncho was featured in the fashion show at the Intermountain Weaver's Conference.

If you are ever in Cedar City, stop by and say hello to our fellow weavers and fiber artists in the Sagebrush Fiber Artisans Guild. They have many events and meetings and would love to have you join them.



Barbara wearing a sweater she crocheted.

2023-2024 MMAWG Board

President: Mimi Rodes (801-619-6888, mimirodes@comcast.net); Jeanette Tregeagle (801-568-9645, knitweave@yahoo.com)

Vice President: Sunny Cate (801-589-3393, sunny.cate@aquacate.com)

Membership Secretary: Barbara Allen (801-618-7397, bold ladybug@gmail.com)

Recording Secretary: Beth Myrer (801-602-8612, betsyboo100@hotmail.com)

Treasurer: Margaret Hopkin, (801-624-8060, gmasfgel@msn.com)

Librarian and Equipment Coordinator: Susan Hainsworth (801-860-6483, susanhainsworth@gmail.com)

Hospitality: Karen Gregory (801-916-9849, klgregory12@gmail.com)

Grants Officer: Mimi Rodes (801-619-6888, grants@mmawg.org)

Newsletter: Susan Hainsworth (801-860-6483, susanhainsworth@gmail.com); Maureen Wilson (801-485-5241, maureenwilson@yahoo.com); Nicole Lohman (715-491-1893, nicolelohman@gmail.com)

Webmaster: Nancy Crowley (505-480-8079, ludmillalilly@outlook.com)

IWC Representative: Nancy Crowley (505-480-8079, ludmillalilly@outlook.com)

Shuttle-Craft Guild Study Group Coordinator: Maureen Wilson

Guild Challenge Coordinator: Beth Myrer

Guild Sale Coordinator: Catherine Marchant (801-216-4722, fibernbeads@gmail.com)

Outreach Coordinator: Julie Guiney (435-640-2965, jamg57@msn.com)

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah

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 join using Paypal.

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

Guild website: mmawg.org

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Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Coverlet Weaving

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletins covered in this article are from January 1941 and 1942. These Bulletins are on the Guild website (mmawg.org) under the Bulletins Tab.

Happy New Year! It is once again the time of year that Mary Meigs Atwater designated for coverlet weaving. In 1941, Mary wrote that the question was not whether to weave a coverlet, but instead just how to make one of surpassing beauty.

She started as always with the design considerations: that is, where will the coverlet be used? What is the décor of the room—colonial, Spanish, or a room where neither design will work?

For colonial décor, Mary included a traditional colonial pattern (Number 29) from the Speck book, a source she researched in the Philadelphia Museum of Fine Arts. This pattern, done in two colors, was something Mary had not seen woven. She reviewed a three-block Summer and Winter weave for 8 shafts. She mentioned that there are several coverlet patterns like this in the *Recipe Book*, including 3 more from the Speck Book (see Series I, Numbers 1–20).

She also included options for 10, 5, and 4 shafts, the last of which would be done in overshot. She wrote up the draft and treadling for this, as well as profile drafts for the summer and winter options.

For a more Spanish décor, Mary recommended coverlets based on a Navajo blanket design, with bold geometric patterns. Done in fine materials, she recommended using a pattern and background weave, such as Summer and Winter, rather than plain weave. She thought that this blanket might work well in an informal room or summer camps. She wrote that the treadling for the figures was so obvious that it would waste space to write it out in detail but did include profile drafts (d) and (e).

For the last case she developed a new design from a piece of German linen weaving using a Finnish technique found in the December 1940 Bulletin. This technique uses an inlay method that could be used to make any figure, as in the tulip shown here. We have the sample referenced in December 1940, woven by Mary Atwater, in our library collection. It is shown here in 20/2 red linen warp set at 18 ends per inch, 10/1 natural linen background weft, and a 3/2 black perle cotton inlay.

The third coverlet example included a draft, tie-up and description of the inlay technique. She recommended drawing out the figure full size on the stretched-out warp or attaching the drawing under the warp, much like a tapestry method.

In January 1942, Mary took a very different tone in her writing, as it was the Bulletin published after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. She wrote of the importance of weaving in troubled times and the lack of some materials due to the “present emergency” and how it was a time when weavers could use cotton as cleverly as they might. She reminded the Guild members that the January Bulletin for the 18 years or so was devoted to coverlets, and weaving one is a fine large job for winter days at the loom. Just how to do it was the question.

Two patterns were included in this issue. The first one is called 1500 Snowballs, composed of a square block and several rose or snowball figures. Mary wrote that the pattern lent itself to rearrangement of the figures to any size, including a crib coverlet as requested by Guild members, and could be done in two colors for an attractive “young” effect.

The second one was a Summer and Winter coverlet called the “Holly Wreath,” taken from a double weave pattern published by the Chicago Coverlet Guild. This Guild began in 1924 and is now known as the Colonial Coverlet Guild of America. *Heirlooms from Old Looms: A Catalog of Coverlets Owned by The Colonial Coverlet Guild of America and its Members* was published in 1940 and 1955 by the Guild. You can see many beautiful examples of coverlets on their website—<https://coverletguildofamerica.org/history.htm>

Mary again referenced the *Recipe Book* for modern-style coverlet patterns done in different weave structures. She also wrote of a bed covering in the “mission” style she saw in California done in coarse cotton in plain weave with varied figures of birds, beasts, flowers, men, and women and geometric figures done in inlay, as written about in 1941.

—Maureen Wilson, Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group Coordinator



The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group

The meeting schedule for the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study group is presented below. The next meeting will be in February, date and location to be determined. The topics will be the crackle weave and knots for tie-ups. If you want to know more about it, email Maureen Wilson (maureenmwilson@yahoo.com).

The study group meets to discuss Mary Atwater’s work from the Shuttle-Craft Bulletins. This is an informal group, and if you have not participated, try a meeting. The meetings often begin with a reading from Mary Meigs Atwater’s biography. If you are interested in attending, email Maureen Wilson (maureenmwilson@yahoo.com).

Date	Topic	Bulletins
February 2024	Crackle Weave Patterns; Knots for Tie-ups	August 1930; October 1930
April 2024	Pick-up; Monks Belt and Sugarloaf Patterns	September 1930; November 1938
June 2024	Krokbragd	November 1930; November 1937
August 2024	Linen Weaving	December 1930; March 1932

