

THE WEAVER'S BAG



Mary Meigs Atwater
Weaver's Guild

SEPTEMBER • 2024

What's Happening

SEPTEMBER 12: Symbols,
by Mary Zicafoose

SEPTEMBER 12-14: Shifted Warp Ikat
Scarf Workshop, by Mary Zicafoose

SEPTEMBER 21: Guild Library
Open House, 2:00-4:00 p.m.,
Susan Hainsworth's home

OCTOBER 10: Thread-Wrapped
Buttons, by Beth Meyers

NOVEMBER 14: Textile Studies in
Japan, by Sonya Campana

DECEMBER 19: Christmas Party,
Mimi Rodes's home

JANUARY 9 (ZOOM MEETING):
Presentation by Ruby Leslie

FEBRUARY 13 (ZOOM MEETING):
Presentation by Laura Fry

MARCH 13: Krokbragd

APRIL 3: Lost in Translation—Why
Color Theories Don't Guarantee
Good Cloth, by Ruby Leslie

APRIL 3-5: There Must be 50 Ways
to Weave Your Color Workshop,
by Ruby Leslie

MAY 8: TBD

JUNE: TBD

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

September Guild Meeting—Symbols, by Mary Zicafoose

Thursday, September 12, 6:30 p.m.

South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 6876 Highland Drive

We have the awesome pleasure of having internationally known weaver Mary Zicafoose as our guest at our September meeting. Note that because Mary will be in Salt Lake City to teach a three-day workshop, we have asked her to speak to the entire Guild at our September meeting. This will be a regular evening meeting, rather than a Saturday meeting. Here is Mary's description of her presentation:

Symbols

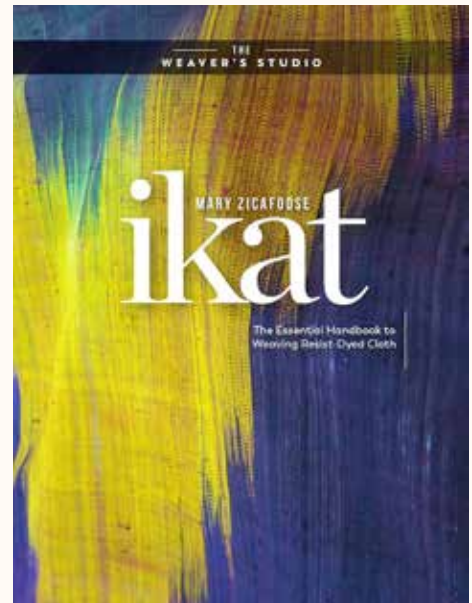
"Man has always been drawn to and spoken through symbols. They are profound expressions of human nature and occur in all cultures at all times, surfacing and repeating themselves again and again. Each epoch discovers the sun anew and stitches its brilliance into their cloth. This inspirational seminar traces the use of familiar archetypal symbols found in handwork over the ages, investigating their voice and impact on the world. Outstanding examples of textiles from many cultures and many hands reinforce the importance of personal symbols in our life and creative work."

Mary Zicafoose is the author of *Ikat: The Essential Handbook to Weaving Resist-Dyed Cloth*. (This book is in our library.) Her tapestries and rugs span the globe from large-scale public installations to the private collections of the United States Embassies on three continents. Her woven pieces blend cultural icons and symbols with a contemporary hand, creating powerful visual statements in fiber. Mary said of her work:

"I am an ikat tapestry weaver. My fascination with pattern and indigenous cloth began as a child, with a scrap of Indonesian fabric given to me by a traveling aunt. After many formative years of art schooling and teaching, I somewhat surprisingly found myself behind a loom. I have spent the last three decades in pursuit of visual surprise on the flat woven 'rug' surface, through dye processes, tapestry techniques, and intriguing color play. Weaving is a personal vernacular that speaks about my unabashed use of color and the power of symbols."

Our September meeting will start with Show and Tell. Please bring all the items you have been working on while we have been apart.

—Sunny Cate, Vice President



President's Message

I hope everyone has had a lovely and productive summer! It sure has been a hot one, with lots of opportunity for dyeing outside and retreating to the air conditioning to weave! Can't wait to see what you all have been creating! September Show and Tell will be great!

Mary Zicafoose will be our speaker at the September meeting and will also be teaching a workshop on Ikat. I so enjoyed Mary's Zoom presentation on the "Power of Cloth" in February, and I am really looking forward to meeting in her person. I bought Mary's *Ikat* book a year or so ago and dyed and wove several scarves (see photo below).

We had a wonderful Zoom presentation on Japanese Textiles with John Marshall. Thanks to so many of you for your great comments and appreciation! With John's help I was able to record the presentation so those of you who were not able to attend could still enjoy it. John



is such a treasure trove of knowledge and so generous to share it with us!

Sunny Cate, as our vice-president and program chair, has a wonderful array of programs planned for the coming year, and in April, Ruby Leslie will present a workshop "There Must be 50 Ways to Weave Your Color." So, we can all look forward to another exciting year!

Happy end of Summer!

—Mimi Rodes, Co-President

Guild Library Open House

There will be a Guild library open house on Saturday, September 21, from 2:00 to 4:00, at Susan Hainsworth's home, 91 East 400 North, Centerville. The library has over 600 wonderful books. Come and spend time with them and take some home with you!

It's Time for Guild Dues

Annual Guild dues are \$30 and are due in September. If you want a paper copy of the newsletter mailed to you, add \$5. To pay by credit card, go to the Guild website at <http://mmawg.org/membership.htm>. When you pay on the Guild website, a \$2 service fee will be added. You can also bring your dues to a Guild meeting (make out checks to MMAWG). Or you can mail your payment to the Guild treasurer—Phyllis Mandel, 3721 East Blue Jay Lane, Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121.
—Ann McKane, Membership Secretary

Guild Challenge—Color and Clothing

This year's Guild Challenge will be introduced at the October meeting, but here is a sneak peek!

Those who are interested in participating will weave cloth that can be used for clothing and explore the use of color as they do. This clothing can be simple scarves or shawls, or it can be clothing that is constructed in some way. We hope that this challenge will allow us to continue exploring color and also learn more about weaving for clothing.

Throughout the year, we will be sharing clothing items that Guild members have already made so that we can be inspired in our own work. If you have items of handwoven clothing that you would like to share, please let Susan Hainsworth know (susanhainsworth@gmail.com).



Handwoven apron, by Barbara Mitchell, from *Handwoven Magazine*, Sept./Oct. 2022

Guild Holiday Sale

I hope that you all have been gearing up for our annual Guild Holiday Sale. It will be here before we know it. The sale will be the weekend before Thanksgiving—November 22 and 23. You can sell anything you have made (except food). There will be more later about how to tag your items and make your inventory sheets, but for now, just get making!

If you are interested in working on the sales committee, let me know at fibernbeads@gmail.com

—Catherine Marchant, Guild Sale Coordinator



Gnome by Anne McKane and scarf by Catherine Marchant from previous Guild Holiday sales.

Meetings of the Southern Utah Branch

The next meeting of the Southern Utah Branch Weaving Guild will be held on September 9, 1:00 pm, at the Grace Episcopal Church, located at 1072 E 900 S, St George. Please bring lots of "show n tell" to share. We will also be updating our meeting events, topics, and schedule. Nancy will discuss her meeting with Ian Hallagan, the Folk Arts Coordinator for the Utah Division of Arts & Museums (formerly the Utah Arts Council).

—Nancy Crowley

The Salt Lake Weaving Studio

The Salt Lake Weaving Studio is up and running! Here are some activities you may be interested in:

Saturday, September 7: Continuing our Techniques Series is a class on Profile Drafts, taught by Deanna. Email us to get registration information: SLWeaveStudio@gmail.com.

Saturday, September 28: Our Grand Opening Open House. Drop in for a tour and a nosh: Noon to 4:00 at the Salt Lake Weaving Studio, 2875 South West Temple, South Salt Lake City. We would love you all to come and help us celebrate!

Questions? Email us at SLWeaveStudio@gmail.com

—Deanna Baugh and Catherine Marchant

This month's background photo:



Member Profile: Nancy Crowley

This month we are traveling south to learn about the founder of the Southern Utah branch of our Guild, Nancy Crowley. Nancy, who lives in Hurricane, holds a Ph.D in computer science and is retired from a 20-year career as an officer in the Air Force. Not only is she the founder of our Southern Utah branch, but she serves at the Guild's webmaster. She also serves on the Intermountain Weaver's Conference board.

After retiring from the Air Force and spending some time in private industry, Nancy moved to Hurricane about 10 years ago. When she moved, she started looking for a Guild but wasn't able to find one in the area. She considered having to start her own, but she knew that process would be quite involved. Someone suggested contacting the Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild, and a partnership was formed to create the Southern Utah branch of the Guild. Nancy works with the members in the south to organize their own events and meetings in addition to those offered in Salt Lake.

When she is not weaving, Nancy is involved in a variety of activities. She enjoys getting out in her RV, participates in competitive shooting events, sings in her local choir, and is an accomplished violinist. She often plays with orchestras in the greater St. George area.

Nancy began weaving during her last assignment with the Air Force, while stationed near Albuquerque, New Mexico. During her time there, she would attend the New Mexico State Fair. Each year she would watch a group complete a "Sheep to Shawl," which she found incredibly interesting. Eventually she decided she needed to get involved and decided to rent a loom, check out some books, and take weaving classes. She never stopped and has been weaving now for over 20 years.

While she initially started on a 4-shaft loom, Nancy quickly progressed up to 8 shafts, and she now prefers to work with 16 shafts on a compu-dobby loom. She loves how the computer makes it easy to manipulate the shafts in complex patterns without her having to worry about the treadling with her feet. Nancy finds that these types of looms allow her to complete a lot of fun and interesting projects. Her focus in weaving with so many shafts is to explore complex patterns, but she is working to expand her versatility with color.

When she isn't working on the 16-shaft loom, Nancy also works on her 8-shaft loom and enjoys kumihimo, and band and card weaving. She's not a big fan of hand-manipulated weaving such as tapestry and would much rather weave with loom-controlled structures.

Nancy's favorite things to weave are kitchen towels. She enjoys that they are a great way to practice pattern work while also creating a practical, useful item. Her preferred fiber is cotton as it is both soft and easy to work with. If you have attended any of our Guild sales, you may have seen or purchased some of her work. In fact, a few years ago one of her towels, woven in echo and jin, was the door prize. She's currently working on towels with a graduated color warp and learning how to design her own 16-shaft drafts with a straight draw. She's also working on some overshot towels on her 8-shaft loom.

Like many of our members, Nancy enjoys the social aspect of being in a Guild and the sharing of everyone's knowledge. She has learned so much from the members in the Southern Branch—in particular she mentioned Ivy Dehart, who is a master of a 32-shaft loom! Nancy hopes to see more intensive online workshops in the future as they allow more members to participate and they do not require everyone to transport their looms and supplies.

Nancy reminds us that it is our responsibility to keep this art alive and be good ambassadors of both the Guild and the art form by participating in Guild activities and outreach events. Next time you are in the St. George area, stop by one of the Southern Branch's meetings!

—Nicole Lohman



2023–2024 MMAWG Board

President: Mimi Rodes (801-619-6888, president@mmawg.org); Jeanette Tregeagle (801-568-9645, copresident@mmawg.org)

Vice President: Sunny Cate (801-589-3393, vicepresident@mmawg.org)

Membership Secretary: Ann McKane (801-618-7397, membership@mmawg.org)

Recording Secretary: Beth Myrer (801-602-8612, secretary@mmawg.org)

Treasurer: Phyllis Mandel (914-806-3478, treasurer@mmawg.org)

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, SCstudygroup@mmawg.org); Nicole Lohman (715-491-1893, nicolelohman@gmail.com)

Webmaster: Nancy Crowley (505-480-8079, webmaster@mmawg.org)

IWC Representative: Nancy Crowley (505-480-8079, webmaster@mmawg.org)

Shuttle-Craft Guild Study Group Coordinator: Maureen Wilson (SCstudygroup@mmawg.org)

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

Outreach Coordinator: Julie Guiney (435-640-2965, outreach@mmawg.org)

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah

To join the Guild: send \$30.00 (\$35.00 to receive the newsletter by mail) to Phyllis Mandel, 3721 East Blue Jay Lane, Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121, 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

The Weaver's Bag, September 2024
Vol. 72 No. 8

Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Color and Weave for Clothing

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletins covered in this article are from June 1944 and February 1947. These Bulletins are on the Guild website (mmawg.org) under the Bulletins Tab.

The topic of the June 1944 and February 1947 issues of the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin was weaving color and weave drafts for clothing material. In June 1944, Mary Meigs Atwater wrote that weavers were not weaving dress fabrics because attractive machine woven cottons were plentiful and low in price.

However, she added that handwoven cottons differ from the machine-made product in texture, and some weavers enjoy the “ordered monotony” of the big job of yardage. She wrote, “There is relief to strained nerves and an anxious heart in such work.”

Although Mary referred to weaving yardage as monotony, she warned that plain tabby weaving, or plain weave, was not “easy.” She wrote that it was far more difficult to produce a good plain weave fabric than an elaborate patterned one. She advised that plain weave was the best weave for cotton dress fabrics as it produces the most firm, lightest fabric possible. She continued to say that to make a fabric light enough for clothing, the material should be finer than the cottons weavers know.

Mary referred to the two locations where much of this type of weaving, cotton dress fabrics, is found: Guatemala and Sweden. For the Guatemalan fabrics, the foundation of the weave was a close plain weave of fine cotton and included tie-dyed, ikat, jaspé, and leno effects. Plain weave from Sweden was typically plaid at the time. Mary did not care to weave these as the figures needed to be square, which is difficult to do in fine cotton. She suggested that anyone who did want to weave these, do so with 20/2 cotton set at 40 ends per inch, a dense sett for this yarn. Mary supplied five drafts, with several treadling options. Two of these, she referred to as Swedish and three Shadow weaves. I've included three of them here:



Figure 1-Shadow Weave draft d, 1st treadling Figure 2-Shadow Weave draft c, 3rd treadling Figure 3-Swedish Herringbone and tabby

Mary wrote that the Shadow Weave is actually a tabby weave and well adapted to weaving in cotton, although the tie-up is twill. The weave depends on color for its effect, and the two colors used should be of sufficient contrast to show the pattern. When woven in fine cotton yarns, it makes a firm fabric that should have excellent wear. Mary recommended that for suiting

materials, the color effect should be subdued, or it may appear too striking. She preferred the brown and tan combination.

The February 1947 issue was produced by Harriet Tidball Douglas, as Mary had sold the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin to her in 1946, though Mary continued to write for it. Harriet wrote that fancy twills that showed stripes and checks were popular at the time for suit material. She also stated that twills are an unlimited subject and referred to a Twill series published in the Bulletin during the 1940s. She also provided seven drafts, with several different treadlings for each, producing 20 different patterns. There are a few plain weave, but most of them are twills, for 4 and 8 shafts, done on a standard tie-up. Harriet wrote that the change in pattern is due to the arrangement of colors in the warp and the order of weft colors.

Harriet also referenced the book *Textile Design and Color*, by William Watson (Longmans Green and Company, London and New York), as an exhaustive study of color and weave stripes and checks. This publication is available on Handweaving.net, under the draft collections menu and contains 309 drafts. Here is one of them:

Both issues of the Bulletin provide weaving drafts that are considered suitable for clothing fabric, with the focus on color and weave effects. This seems particularly appropriate considering this year's Guild Challenge, which is on color and clothing. Neither bulletin addresses the issues related to using handwoven fabric for clothing. For information on this, see Daryl Lancaster's website, *The Weaver Sews*: <https://www.weaversew.com/shop/sewing-patterns.html>, where she has patterns and supplies for sewing garments using handwoven fabrics.

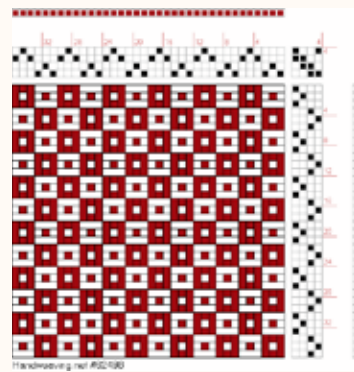


Figure 4-Handweaving.net draft from William Watson collection.

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group

The 2024–2025 Guild year meeting schedule for the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study group is presented below. The next meeting will be held in October, date and location to be determined. The topic of discussion will be Weaver's Ideas and Suggestions from the February 1931 and September 1944 issues.

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 (maureenwilson@yahoo.com).

Date	Topic	Bulletins
October 2024	Weaver's Ideas and Suggestions	February 1931; September 1944
December 2024	Handwoven Dress Fabrics	March 1931; February 1933
February 2025	Weaving Blankets	May 1931; February 1936
April 2025	Crackle, Broken and Dornick Twills	June 1931; April 1941
June 2025	Handbags	July 1931; December 1931
August 2025	Speck Book and Landes Book Patterns	August 1931; January 1934

