

THE WEAVER'S BAG



Mary Meigs Atwater
Weaver's Guild

JANUARY • 2025

What's Happening

JANUARY 9, 6 P.M. (ZOOM MEETING):

Sampling Is Not a Dirty Word, by
Ruby Leslie

JANUARY 10: Online registration
opens for Intermountain Weavers
Conference (June 17–21 in
Albuquerque)

JANUARY 18: Guild library open house,
Susan Hainsworth's home

FEBRUARY 13 (ZOOM MEETING):
Costumes and Fabric Modification
at the Utah Shakespeare Festival,
by Jeffrey Lieder

MARCH 13: Weaving for Clothing

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: Fashion Evening and Guild
Challenge Reveal

JUNE: TBD

JUNE 17–21: Intermountain Weavers
Conference in Albuquerque, New
Mexico

SEPTEMBER 5–OCTOBER 22: Guild
Show—"Slow Cloth: A Celebration
of One Thread at a Time"

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

January Guild Meeting

Thursday, January 9, 6:00 p.m., Zoom meeting

Our January Zoom Guild meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9, at 6:00 p.m. It will be presented by Ruby "Charuby" Leslie, titled "Sampling Is Not a Dirty Word."

Ruby said of her presentation: "Are you a member of that illustrious 'full-sized sample' club, feeling guilty that you should have sampled first—but there wasn't enough time, yarn, or money available, and you were sure your weaving software would figure out everything for you? Listen UP! The aim of sampling is to acquire information, not cause guilt or pain! Stop treating sampling as a dreaded disease—sampling IS weaving and can significantly improve your textiles."

An inveterate sampler, Ruby has always tried to extract as much information as possible from each warp. After years of being a closet sampler, she wants to dismantle the negative ideas that the word "sampling" invokes and turn it into an easy habit to embrace. Sampling is more than weaving or not weaving a sample at the loom before embarking on a project. It is a design tool—an easily acquired way of thinking about how to weave and create cloth. There are techniques and strategies for how to extract a maximum amount of information from a surprisingly small investment of time, money and/or yarn. The lecture covers techniques for sampling color, fiber, and/or pattern in both weft AND warp.

Ruby Leslie maintains a full-time handweaving and teaching studio in northern Vermont, where she designs her own line of handwovens as Ruby Charuby Weavings. Boundless enthusiasm for sampling and experimenting—especially with color and its interaction with structure—has guided Ruby's creative endeavors in her 37-year weaving career. She is a nationally known weaving teacher and has published extensively on weaving. To learn more about her, go to her website, rubyleslie.com.
—Sunny Cate, Vice President



Registration for IWC opens January 10

Registration for the 2025 Intermountain Weaver's Conference opens January 10, 2025, at 7:00 a.m. The conference will be held June 17–21 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. If the class you want is filled when you register, sign up for your second-place choice at that time. You will be able to sign up for the waiting list for other classes starting on March 1, 2025, but if you wait until that time, you are not guaranteed to get either into the class you are on the waiting list for or your alternate class choice.

Sign up before February 26 if possible. We will decide which classes are a go and which need to be cancelled due to low enrollment at that time. If you try to sign up after that date, you may find the class you wanted was cancelled.

All signups are done online at intermountainweavers.org on the Register web page. You must be logged into the website to register for a class. Before January 10, go to the website and make sure you can log in successfully.

Starting on January 10 at 7:00 am, you can also sign up for meals and purchase the IWC 2025 shirts. Lunches are offered each day, and there is a dinner on Thursday night. There are a variety of shirt styles and colors to choose from. Go to the Register web page to purchase meals and shirts.

Albuquerque has a unique blend of rich cultural heritage and vibrant urban neighborhoods. The city is home to various types of outdoor recreation, delicious cuisine, a thriving arts scene, and immersive historic traditions. Consider coming early or staying after the conference to experience everything that is uniquely Albuquerque!

To get more information about what Albuquerque has to offer, go to the Albuquerque web page on the IWC website.

More details about the conference can be found in the December IWC newsletter.

—Nancy Crowley

President's Message

I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas, and I and wish you all a Healthy and Weaverly New Year! Our Christmas Party was such a fun and happy evening of GOOD CHEER!! It is so wonderful to be surrounded by friends, and as always, the gifts everyone brought to share were so fun and creative!

During the holidays I got to thinking about how grateful I am to be a part of our wonderful Guild! I was especially thinking with appreciation of each of our board member's contributions to another Great Year!!!! As they say, "It takes a village," and we have a wonderful Village of weavers!

- **Sunny Cate**, Vice President for the past two years, has done an amazing job of finding and organizing so many exciting monthly programs. She has so much energy and creativity! Our June dye day was a blast!!
- **Susan Hainsworth** and **Jane Ann Peters** publish our wonderful and colorful newsletter! Susan also manages the library and is always ready to take on whatever needs to be done.
- **Maureen Wilson**, **Sunny Cate**, and **Jeanette Tregeagle** organized "The Gathering" last spring. It was such a fun, open, and personable few days of fiber play!!
- **Nancy Crowley** manages the Guild website, our PayPal account, and sends out flash drive copies of the *Mary Atwater Recipe Book* and Shuttle Craft Bulletins. As you may know, people can order copies for a nominal fee on our website. While most of the orders come from individuals in the US, we do get orders from Canada and several countries in Europe as well! We are so grateful for Nancy's generous service!
- **Beth Myrer** is our Guild Secretary, and I so appreciate the minutes she takes for our Board meetings!! Beth is an amazing fiber artist, as you all know! In October she gave us a wonderful hands-on program on making Dorset buttons. Her buttons are gorgeous!!!!
- **Phyllis Mandel** is doing a wonderful job of managing Guild finances and is great to work with. After the Guild sale, she was kept very busy writing all of those checks to all of you happy sellers!! So very appreciated!
- **Ann McKane** is our Membership Secretary and keeps our Guild directory up to date. I am also so very glad to have another tapestry weaver in the Guild, in addition to the gorgeous baskets she makes!!
- While **Catherine Marchant** and **Sonya Campana** are not official board members, I so appreciate all they do to support the Guild. Thank you, Catherine, for organizing the Guild annual sale—that's a BIG job! And thank you, Sonya, for taking charge of our upcoming workshop with Ruby Leslie!
- **Nicole Lohman** writes such interesting interviews about our members, and I appreciate **Julie Guiney's** contributions too! And **Karen Gregory** has organized such delicious goodies at our meetings.
- **Jeanette Tregeagle** has been my co-presidential partner in everything and is always so ready to take over when I need help or when I am out of town. It continues to be a total pleasure to work and weave together!

It has been a wonderful year working with such a fantastic and fun Board! We have so much going on in the coming year!! So very many thanks to each of you!

— *Mimi Rodes, Co-President*

Meetings of the Southern Utah Branch

Our January meeting is on Saturday, January 11, at 10:00 am in the Washington City Library Community Room.

—*Nancy Crowley*

Weaving Classes at Great Basin

There are two weaving classes taught by Dawn Ahlert on the schedule for the Great Basin Fiber Arts Fair, held on April 25 and 26, 2025. More details can be found at www.gbfa.org, click on the 2025 Classes tab.

Friday, April 25: Taniko—2 and 3-Color Weft Twining, based on the Maori, New Zealand, craft. On a frame or tapestry loom, \$100

Saturday, April 26: Supplemental Weft Inlay. On a rigid heddle or 2- or 4-harness table/floor loom, \$90

December Guild Meeting

Our Guild Christmas party was a wonderful experience for everyone who attended. We are so grateful to Mimi Rodes for hosting the party in her beautiful home. We had such good food—thanks to Ping Chang for donating the turkey and to Mimi for cooking it and to everyone who brought dishes to share.

The gifts that Guild members brought were beautiful and inspiring, and it was wonderful to spend a Christmas evening together!

Background photo

This month's newsletter background photo is from the collection of Ruby Leslie. See rubyleslie.com.



Kitchen Tea Towel Exchange

It's so much fun to exchange tea towels, especially with friends! The Guild is sponsoring a Kitchen Tea Towel Exchange this year. To participate, weave one to four towels to exchange at the Guild meeting on May 8. Please contact Sunny Cate with any questions. Here are the suggested guidelines:

1. Cotton, linen, hemp, or any combination of these fibers make great towels.
2. Finished size is to be approximately 18" x 25". Please plan ahead to address shrinkage and draw-in.
3. Finish the towels with a hem, either hand-sewn or machine-sewn.
4. Weave one to four towels. They can all be the same or can be different. You will exchange as many as you bring—if you bring one towel, you will go home with one towel. If you bring three, you will go home with three.

If you are not going to be able to come to the exchange, we can work something out to have your towels exchanged. Just talk to Sunny.

Tracy Kaestner's Happy Towels
from March/April 2011 *Handwoven*



Three-Day Workshop with Ruby Leslie

For a complete description of the workshop and registration information, see the registration package on the Guild's website, mmawg.org, under "Workshops." Registrations must be submitted by February 13.

When: April 3–5, 2025, South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

Title: There Must Be Fifty Ways to Weave Your Color" (With apologies to Paul Simon, in this workshop, we'll go beyond white and blue, Sue, and do more than red, Fred!)

Description: Weavers seduced by gorgeous yarns often fail to use them successfully. The usual approach to this problem is to learn color theory—a huge and daunting undertaking.



Learning terminology is NOT the equivalent of learning to use color well. What is needed is a method to translate color theory, terminology, and yarn wrappings into actual weaving. You don't need to master color theory to use color masterfully.

Using one color palette and a myriad of weave structures, we will take a layman's approach to color theory and use principles of optical blending for a facilitated, semi-scientific investigation of color

design. Weaving in round-robin format on pre-warped looms (with custom-wound warps provided by Ruby), participants will explore the effects that different fibers, yarn grists, and structures have upon a single colorway. By weaving a color sampler at each loom, everyone will produce the equivalent of a case study in color and weave structure—a reference tool for weavers to successfully integrate color and design into their cloth-making experience.

Guild Challenge—Weaving for Clothing

This year's Guild Challenge—"Weaving for Clothing"—was introduced at the October meeting, and we are really looking forward to it!

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

At the May 8 Guild meeting, we will have a Fashion Evening, as well as the Guild Challenge Reveal. Those who have participated in the Guild Challenge will display their clothing (or wear it) and talk to the Guild about their experience. We will also ask any Guild members who have handwoven clothing to bring or wear it, so we can have an evening of handwoven fashion!

Daryl Lancaster's recent Zoom meeting, titled "Great Garments for Handwoven Cloth," introduced us to the many resources on her website that can be used for creating handwoven clothing.

You can find a number of her patterns specially designed for handwoven cloth at this link: <https://www.weaversew.com/shop/sewing-patterns.html>

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). Also please contact Susan if you have any questions.



Ruana woven by Judith Shangold, from "Designing Handwoven Garments on the Loom You Have," *Handwoven* newsletter, May 11, 2022

2024–2025 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 (206-371-5814, 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

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Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Overshot, in the Italian Manner, or Not

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletins covered in this article are from February and September 1940. These Bulletins are on the Guild website (mmawg.org) under the Bulletins Tab.

Mary Meigs Atwater planned to write about a hand-manipulated lace technique in linen for the February 1940 Bulletin. However, as Europe was at war at the time and linen was hard to get, she focused on cotton instead. She noted that with cotton, one could have sheen and softness. But she warned that it, as with other materials, should be used in accordance with its qualities and limitations. Mary advised her readers to find the weaving that is suited to cotton and no other material, such as linen or wool.

Mary then referred to a fad for imported Italian cotton towels. She referred to these as “Perugian pieces,” with broad borders done in free style, featuring animal and plant forms and being particularly handsome. These were most likely done on draw looms, and there is a site online with works like these: <https://www.brozzetti.com/storia/>. Take a look at the beautiful damask work done there.

Mary thought that a simpler form of cotton toweling, similar to the towels from Italy, could be woven on a 4-shaft loom in overshot without a tabby in what she called a “special method of treadling.” Mary had referred to pieces woven in the “Italian manner” before, but in this Bulletin issue, she goes into detail on how to treadle the overshot pattern. She noted that the pieces are woven entirely in pattern, with natural or white and with colors used in the borders. Overshot weaves with short skips work best, with fine cotton warps (such as 20/2 set at 30 epi) and stranded cotton yarn for weft.

She defined the Italian method of treadling as weaving the pattern shed as usual, but rather than weaving a tabby or plain weave before and after the pattern, weaving alternate adjacent pattern blocks as background. For example, with the standard overshot tie-up that uses four treadles (1-2 on treadle 1 and 2-3 on treadle 2, etc.), you would weave the 1-2 pattern block by pressing treadles 1, 2, 1, 4. (The tie-up shown is from the Bulletin, and it is for a sinking shed. To use it for a rising shed, tie up the opposite shafts.)

One could use a coarser weft yarn or a different color for the 1-2 pattern shed than for the background pattern blocks, or not. Or one might try two different colors for the two adjacent background blocks for some color work. Any of these warrant some sampling. I think this weave would produce a thick, thirsty towel.

Mary noted that this method of treadling could also be beautifully applied to the Crackle weave, but she could not say what the Swedish weavers would make of it. She provided several border patterns for Swedish Cotton Towels with treadling, noting “no tabby” in the plain parts.

In the September 1940 Bulletin issue, Mary wrote of the many summer “Institutes” that she attended, from Minneapolis to Duluth, Minnesota; Hartland, Michigan; and Olds, Alberta to Vancouver BC. She packed in quite a few miles that summer. Of note was the Hartland Michigan Institute, with a weaving-star-studded attendance, including Mrs. Osmia Gallinger (of Gallinger looms and author of many books), Miss Bertha Hayes (a Shuttle-Craft Guild member whose designs may be seen in the books *Weaving Designs* by Bertha Gray Hayes, *Miniature Overshot Patterns* by Norma Smayda, and others), Mr. Peters of the Penland School of Craft, and Miss Josephine Estes (author of many miniature overshot patterns, *Original Miniature Patterns for Hand Weaving*, available on Handweaving.net). These and other attendees brought samples and woven works to share. It must have been quite an experience. Mary mentioned there was an interest in Rep weave and they set up a loom in a simple Bronson (presumably spot weave) that they wove as Rep.

Mary included another 4-shaft overshot draft of the “Jitterbug” pattern supplied to her by Bertha Hayes for publication in the Bulletin. Mary called it modernistic and found it highly effective for bags or upholstery. Mary herself owned a large bag in this pattern, woven by Miss Hayes. In the draft weaving instructions, Mary noted that it would be woven with a tabby, but that it may also be woven in the Italian manner—without a tabby.

—Maureen Wilson, Shuttle-Craft Bulletins Study Group Coordinator

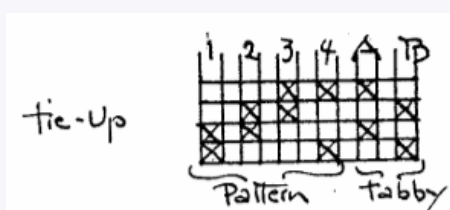


Figure 1 Standard sinking shed tie up for 4 shaft overshot, from February 1940 Bulletin

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group

The schedule for the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study group is presented below. The next meeting will be held in February, date and location to be determined. The topic of discussion will be weaving blankets from the May 1931 and February 1936 issues. Contact Maureen Wilson for meeting details.

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 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

