

The Roving

JANUARY 2012



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The New President's message:

Whew! It's here at last (2012) and I have to be finally "up and running". I am new at the writing of a message, so please bear with me.

The Christmas party was a joyous time, and enjoyed by all who attended. The gift exchange was exciting, all the items were oohed over, and some even "involuntarily" exchanged. The food was delicious, and plentiful. We all give thanks to the Hendersons for being such wonderful hosts, and especially for doing it three years in a row! They have been extremely generous to the guild in allowing us to hold our party in their beautiful home. Thank you again.

Susan

P.S. This was the last time the Henderson's will host. Next year we will have to seek another site for our Holiday party. Keep this in mind if you feel like welcoming a crowd into your home next December or know of a good location.

Meeting Date

**Saturday January 14
Exeter Memorial Bldg.**

Program: Carol Dulitz –
New Ideas In Yarn Use
Knitter and traveler, Carol will talk about the fascinating uses for yarns and fiber she has seen on her journeys.
She'll have samples and items for sale

Meeting starts at 10:00

Coffee & Goodies 9:30- 10:00 (last names A–G, please bring a goodie)

Please carpool.

And from the Hendersons - - - - Thank You Handweavers of the Valley Guild.

Rich & I would like to thank you for making the Christmas Gift Exchange Party be so fun, special & wonderful. We enjoyed having all of you to our home so much. It was a day of fun and friendship for all of us.

Special thank you to Marlene, Ann, Denni & Clada for adding their help & special talents Friday the day before; Ann greeting & giving everyone their bells at the door; Charlotte playing the Christmas songs on the piano; **Chris's 2011 Show & Sale DVD highlighting everyone's talents**; everyone for bringing the wonderful **brunch goodies, appetizers, salads & dessert**; Marlene's husband, Jim, helping Rich in the kitchen; Heidi, our daughter, helping to meet everyone's needs; Nikki's ingenious presentation of installation of officers; the fun & silly gift exchange....OHHHHHH Tom...we will never think of you the same; AND Nancy with her sleigh bells leading everyone singing Jingle Bells.

Thank you to everyone who came. It was amazing & so special to have our guild so unified.

Thank you so much for all the wonderful Christmas memories.

Love, Ellen & Rich

Our new Program Chair is **Sylvia DeGroot**. Please feel free to offer her suggestions for topics, and speakers/teachers you would like to hear. The following is a tentative list of the meeting topics for the 2012:

January- Carol Dulitz- New Ideas in Yarn Use

February- Susan Jackson- Beginning Tablet (card) Weaving

March- Cathy Proctor- Nuno Felting

April- Vanda MacArthur- Bobbin Lace

May- Redbud Festival Three Rivers: no meeting

June- DeeDee King- Spin-In at Camp Nelson

July- Lynda Bass- Silk Painting

August- DeeDee King- Rep Weave Symposium

September- Wool Day and Show and Sale last notes

October- Show and Sale- No regular meeting

November Lindsay Dion and DeeDee King Wool Dye Day

December- Guild Christmas Party. We will have to need another site for our Holiday party. Keep this in mind if you feel like welcoming a crowd into your home next December or know of a good location.



Be sure to check out our Facebook page. If you have pictures you would like to add, send them to Judy Trimble. She's our Facebook Administrator.

Squeekie Wheels – the spinning group of Guild members meets the 1st Wednesday of each month in Porterville at Sierra Hills Retirement Community located at 2500 W. Henderson Ave from 10am-3pm, bring your lunch or get it there (\$7). They also meet on the 3rd Friday of each month in Exeter at the at Capella's Coffee House, 10-3ish.

Kaweah Konnection meets on the second Wednesday in Three Rivers at the Presbyterian Church.

Convergence will be held July 15 to 22, 2012 in Long Beach (www.weavespindye.org). Mark your calendars now because going to Convergence is an event you will never forget!

CNCH 2012 conference at Oakland Convention Center - Tradition / Innovation - the 60th annual conference of the Conference of Northern California Handweavers. Our theme celebrates the traditions our crafts are built on and the innovations that fiber artisans are exploring. What brings us together is the tradition of craft that we enjoy, but it is what we make of that tradition that is the innovation. Our galleries and fashion show provide us with a showcase for our own innovation. We celebrate new fibers, and make use of new techniques including computer software that allows us to take our textile arts to new and exciting levels. The dates are May 18-20, 2012 and the location is the Oakland Convention Center.

www.cnch.org

Guild dues need to be paid by January 31st if you wish to be included in the next year's membership list.

Annual Membership is \$20.00 for single, and \$25.00 for family (living at the same address).

Membership cards will be issued for the new year.

For Sale

Harrisville loom - 4 harness, top gadget tray, warping board. Good condition. \$400 obo
sarahschachter@sequoiahistory.org

Saxony spinning wheel - \$250 obo Sharon Warren 561-3805 or sharwarren@att.net

8H, 45" maple, sturdy, McComber parts. Sectional back beam. Maple, completely refurbished. All new "wide eye" heddles, 10 treadle; one reed 10 dent; \$500. Call
Donna Hilligas 782-1229



Meet Karen Dennis

I have been weaving fabric more or less for 29 years. About two years after moving to Three Rivers. I got to be friends Jan Hughes who encouraged me to come out to the loom room. So I did and what fun it was! My very first project was a vest with bright pink warp and denim weft with a bright red shot between each denim strip – and no I didn't save it – a young girlfriend thought it was great so away it went.

Born in Pomona and raised in Riverside, I learned to crochet and knit (sorta) by watching my grandmother (you had to stand behind her and watch to understand what she was trying to tell you). My mother taught me to sew at an early age. Camping was an annual summer family event and weaving a "basket" from found materials became a way to remember those trips. Sewing was an early passion, winning me honorable mention in the Seventeen Magazine sewing contest and helping meet college expenses, so fabric has always been a part of my life. One day at college I opened my double door closet and just admired all that beautiful fabric stacked floor to ceiling. It wasn't until 1978 that I first saw a loom at a friend's house in Santa Barbara it was folded flat against the wall. She told me how it worked and I remember thinking that weaving might be a fun thing to try someday.

Well that someday was in early 1983, the year the Loom Room closed, I was one of the last beginners they let start. Jan, Peg and all the women weaving were so sharing, caring, and giving with their knowledge, I soaked it up. Kaweah Konnection formed after the Loom Room and the second Wednesday of every month became sacred. I even worked my job at Sequoia Park around it! My most memorable project was 10 yards of space dyed rayon fabric designed to resemble stained glass windows and it was commissioned by my sister none the less! Thankfully the weaving goddesses were on my side for that one!

At one of the early weavers' conferences, I took a silk spinning class, and that got me hooked as well. I spun everything I could, then put it away as life calls you another way. My little spinning wheel kept singing to me in its dusty corner and so finally I pulled it out and started spinning again. I re-discovered the relaxation of spinning.

So between dying, spinning, weaving, sewing, crocheting, knitting, knotting, beading and braiding, experimenting comes naturally, and I have fun figuring out how to make it all work so it will come out like the picture in my head!!

Items for the newsletter need to be received by Karen Dennis by the 25th of each month. E-mail is knjdenni@att.net or phone 559-561-4705 (please leave message or call back number).