

The Roving

February 2013



From the President

HAPPY NEW YEAR! What a great start. Attendees of our first business meeting of 2013 were engaged and involved, and much was accomplished. Our program was also a great one to start the year. Sylvia DeGroot took us through all the steps (and there are quite a few) required to produce a quality alpaca fleece. Her presentation was very informative and engrossing, from the evaluation and selection of the pasture, to the carding of the fleece, one ounce at a time.

I am looking forward to the next meeting, when our presentation will be about sewing your handwoven fabric, by Sandy Willey.



February Meeting

*Sewing Handwoven Fabric
With Sandra Willey*

Date: Feb 9

Location: Veterans Mem. Bldg.,
Exeter

Time: 9:30 goodies and chatting
10:00 meeting

**Last names F-O, it's your turn to
bring the goodies!**

Please carpool.

Sandy says Sewing With Handwoven Fabric is not as difficult as it looks. She will be describing her method for cutting and stabilizing fabric edges to produce garments with sturdy finished seams. This method also reduces fabric stretch along the edges of cut pieces, making matching the pattern pieces together easier. She'll describe the tools and equipment that she finds helpful in garment construction. Bring your notebook so you can catch all the details. Sandy's clothing was on sale at Show and Sale and it is beautiful.

Sylvia DeGroot's, **Barn to Yarn - What Goes Into Producing High Quality Alpaca Fiber** presentation at the January meeting was fascinating. She explained how quality alpaca fiber starts in the pasture with nutrition and good husbandry. Then she went through the fiber's processing from shearing to end products. She talked to us about skirting a fleece to get the highest quality end products and the importance of a micron count. Washing, drying and carding fleece and finally spinning into a fine yarn. She brought several samples of the fiber in various stages of preparation. It was a lively presentation and the fibers she brought for sale and for demonstration were gorgeous.

Laura Vanderstool came to our Guild meeting in January with some yarn to sell. Her mother had bought out a yarn store in Porterville that closed years ago. Her mother has since passed away, and Laura would like to clear out her mother's "stash". She will be coming to the February meeting with more yarn. Her prices were about half the retail value. She has natural fibers and some quality acrylics also.

The Sharon Alderman workshop is on temporary hold. Sharon has had a serious accident and had to have surgery on her right arm. She needs time to heal. If we are able to finalize a workshop, it will not be until April at the earliest. Judy and I will keep you informed when we know something.



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.

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

Conference of Northern California Handweavers will be held May 31-June 2, 2013 in Olympic Valley, CA (www.cnch.org). Mark your calendars now sounds like some California fun!

Dues were due at the end of January - \$20/year single, \$25/year family. Membership cards will be issued for the new year. If you haven't paid yet, this is your friendly reminder. Please send your dues to Marlene Collins, Membership Chair, 543 West Cherry Ct. Visalia, CA 93277

The proposed annual budget follows.

Beginning Balance						\$4,774.58
Less prepaid dues						\$ 700.00
Total Income						\$4,074.58
Dues	92x20	\$1,840.00	6x25	\$150.00		\$1,990.00
2013 Show & Sale						\$1,500.00
Total Cash Available						\$7,564.58
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Expenses						
Arts Consortium of Tulare County						50.00
Business Expenses						
Bank						30.00
Gov. Fee	Annual SI		Form			20.00
Christmas Party						300.00
Door Prizes						200.00
Earthlink (Website)						239.00
Equipment purchases						500.00
Insurance						332.00
Library						500.00
Newsletter						35.00
Programs (Honoraria	\$75/presenter)					600.00
Redbud Festival						95.00
Rent						700.00
Supplies (hospitality, workahops & misc.)						300.00
Workshops (2@\$250 ea,)						500.00
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Totals	Expenses					\$4,401.00
Balance						\$3,163.58

For Sale

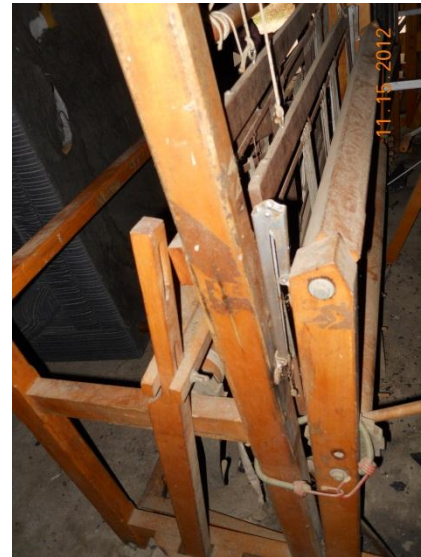


Counterbalance loom 40" weaving area \$300 obo *
Has been in storage so is dusty. Nikki Crain 561-4048



Nilus Leclerc loom 38" weaving area
\$850 obo. Has been in storage so is dusty
Nikki 561-4048

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This is a counterbalance loom that is collapsible to save space
\$300 obo Nikki 561-4048. Has been in storage so is dusty

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Nilus Leclerc table loom, approx. 20" weaving area. \$300 obo
Nikki 561-4048





34" wide with 24" weaving area, spring loaded treadles! Most likely red oak. Metal heddles included. Quite sturdy. \$300 obo Karen Dennis 561-4705



54" Walling loom, 46" weaving width. 4 harnesses, solid maple, custom-made by Bill Walling for Jan Hughes. 6 treadles and a bench. It's a sweet loom. Bench has damaged corner, but no rough edges. \$800 obo Karen Dennis 561-4705





Meet

Denni Pearson

Denni came to the guild through the back door in 2005, the year of the Visalia Conference. Having just returned to live near family in the Visalia area, her sisters, Shari Pratt and Chris Fischer, brought her along to help Ellen Henderson with the Fashion show décor and coordination. It was a lot of work, but a lot of fun too, and Denni made the plunge and became a guild member.

Denni was a Navy brat, born while her father was stationed in San Francisco, but before she was a year old they moved to Visalia. So for all intents and purposes she is a Valley Girl.

Her penchant for art and design seems to have come from her mom, a millenary and fashion arts major who taught her daughters not only to sew but also design patterns. This early training led her on to complete a double major in Art and Art History with a minor in psychology, earning a BA from the University of California at Irvine. She went on to later add a teaching credential at Fullerton and

Fresno State. Thus prepared began her teaching career in Laguna Beach finding her special niche in the Fourth Grade.

The 1970s brought marriage and eventually a son and daughter into her life. As a stay at home mom Denni was very busy, but did a lot of sewing for herself and children. She made many of her own patterns. A neighbor who knew of her pattern making skills asked her to make a pattern for stuffed Mallard ducks which were the rage at the time. Denni did, and it led to a pattern book that was published.

In the early 80s her husband's job transferred the family from Laguna Niguel to Bakersfield. In this new area Denni's primary focus was homemaking, but she made time to serve on the Rio Bravo Greeley School Board and helped out in her husband's civil engineering office. Helping in the office soon had Denni turning her hand to surveying and drafting. Not exactly what one would expect of an Art major, but why not?

Later, finding herself single again, Denni took a turn as a Museum Curator and as custom dress designer for a bridal shop while renewing her teaching credential. She returned to teaching primarily Fourth Grade, investing another 15 years in the Delano schools before returning to Visalia.

Since joining the guild, she has served as Show & Sale Co-Chair with Nancy Reimer for the last few years. She made the metal life size cut out people that were the focus of our guild booth at the last Southern California Handweavers Conference. Her gift for artful display has improved our Show & Sale sales floor giving it a much more professional appeal.

Denni says, "I have several hobbies. I'm not much of a weaver really, most of what I do is off-loom. I do spin with a supported spindle, sew, knit and do a bit of metal work (cutting and welding display items).

I recently joined a group called "Sisters on the Fly" who have planned group camp-outs. Their motto is 'We have more fun than anyone'."

Thank you Denni, for all your energy and hard work supporting our guild!