

The Roving

November 2011



The Prez Sez,

Wow! Wasn't our Show & Sale spectacular?! I am amazed that it continues to get better year after year. And the weather was perfect. Many of our members put in a lot of hard work and long hours to make it a successful day, but there are three we need to recognize most of all: Denni Pearson and Nancy Reimer are a formidable team as co-chairs for Show & Sale. The other one whose work is mostly behind the scenes, is Betty Bluekle. As I write this, she is sorting out sales receipts and figuring out the finances. It's a huge job. When you see any of these ladies, be sure to let them know how much you appreciate their dedication to the guild. Be sure to check out the pictures on our Facebook page. It's ok to let people know how proud you are to be members of Handweavers of the Valley.

Nikki

This is what's happening! We will be dyeing fibers that grow on animals. This includes wool, alpaca, llama, silk, mohair, camel, and if you have it, cashmere; any combination of these as well. We will be exploring dyeing using the microwave and Lindsay's magic boiling kettle method. Please bring yarn, roving, or loose fibers. If you do bring loose fibers to toss into the dye pot or the microwave, have some way of containing them, such as a mesh bag. The Guild will provide rubber gloves, plastic bags and plastic wrap. Members, bring aprons to protect your clothing or dye-friendly clothes. If you are not a Guild member, there will be a \$5.00 materials fee.

A potluck is also part of this program, so bring your favorite lunch to share. The Guild will provide sodas, bottled water, coffee and tea.

In Sept., as part of "Wool Day" several members brought fleece for purchase as the Sept. To those members, will you please bring some fiber again?

Meeting Date: Nov. 12

Program
"It's Dyeing Time Again"

*A hands-on experience brought to
you by*

**DeeDee King
and
Lindsay Dion**

Meeting starts at 10 am

**Goodies and Chatting at 9:30
Last names A-F it's our turn to
bring the goodies.**

Board Mtg @ 8:30 @ Wildflower Café – all
welcome



Our dear friend and long-time member (since 1964!) Bertha Huber has passed away. There will be a memorial service for her Saturday Nov. 5 at 2pm at the Cornerstone Church, 2160 11th St., Reedley, CA 93654. Her first love was the Handweavers and a book in her honor will be purchased for the Guild Library. Her second love was her church, contributions would be welcomed by her church. She will be dearly missed by all of us.

Program info for the “Baskets and Gourds - Containers of our Culture” show is now available on line at: www.calgourd.com. There are two days of classes with 22 teachers. We are asking for donations for the Silent Auction. Last year I got thrums from the guild to add to the gift bags. Does anyone have other suggestions of what the guild might be able to give?

Membership dues are for 2012. It is \$20.00 for single membership; \$25.00 for family members in the same household; and an extra \$13.00 to have the newsletter sent by regular mail if you don't have email.

Congratulations again to our newly elected officers for the 2012-2013 term of office:

President: Susan Jackson
Secretary: Charlotte Pavelko

Vice President: Sandra Willey
Treasurer: Hope Overholt

Each of these ladies has been involved with our guild for some time and we will all benefit from their experience and guidance. Installation of officers will take place at the December meeting.

Squeekie Wheels meets twice a month, in Porterville on the first Wednesday at the Sierra Hills Retirement Center from 10-3ish, and in Exeter on the third Friday at Capella's Coffee House, 10-3ish.

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



For Sale

Large Loom For Sale: 60” Leclerc Nilus 4 Shaft, jack loom, low castle. Paid \$1,500 five years ago. Asking \$800. In very good condition. Bench \$30 extra. Call Kathy Morrison: 559-707-2099 in Hanford.

Judy Trimble needs donations of usable equipment in conjunction with her work at the Imaging Community Art Center at trimbleja@att.net

Merryann Bishop has an Ashford Traveler Wheel for sale. It is single treadle, scotch tension and double drive. In excellent shape, rarely used, I'm the second owner. Asking \$350





In Memoriam 1915-2011 Bertha Huber

Weaver, Spinner, and Past President

Our most senior member is a transplant from Pennsylvania. It was there in Amish country that Bertha's weaving career began. One of six farm family children, Bertha was about 10 when she learned to darn her brothers' socks. She was intrigued with the needle weaving and soon one of her brothers made her a weaving frame.

There were no plastic handle bags then so store packages were tied with cotton string. Recycling was part and parcel of farm life and soon that string wound up on an ever growing ball, Bertha's first fiber arts stash. It was her first weaving project and self-described as a "not-to-perfect" scarf for her dresser.

Years passed and as a young woman working as a Licensed Practical Nurse there was little time for crafts. Caring for new mothers and babies was her passion. In a break between private duty cases Bertha had the opportunity to work for a time in a psychiatric facility helping with O.T., Occupational Therapy, activities.

Although Bertha didn't realize it at the time this was a significant turn in her career path and would eventually lead her here to California and beyond. A position at Kings View Psychiatric Hospital in Reedley brought her to our area in 1951 for a year and returned again a year later. There she worked in the OT activities, and soon went on to pursue degrees in Occupational Therapy at San Jose State. While in the Master's program she met a student from Australia, it was a young lady. This student was responsible for connecting Bertha with an opportunity to work in Perth, Australia. So off she went to a job in a psychiatric hospital similar to the "State Hospitals" here.

On a weekend visit to coworker's family sheep farm, Bertha learned the rudiments of drop spindling. A friend of the family was traveling about the country side teaching the farm women to spin and just happened to stop by to visit while Bertha and her friend were there. Happily, this teacher lived close to where Bertha lived back in Perth so drop spindling soon gave way to Spinning on a wheel. This lovely friend knew a maker of wheels and the rest is history. She soon purchased her own wheel. Bertha watched as her beautiful wheel was carefully disassembled by its maker and packed for the return to California from "down under". He calmly reassured her "*it can't be put together incorrectly*". He was right; she put it back together herself!

In 1964, a women's auxiliary member at the Springville Hospital invited Bertha to a Hand Weaver's meeting in her home and that is how she came to us. Those women thoroughly corrupted her and soon she was the proud owner of a Lentz 4 harness floor loom. By the time the loom was passed on to Betty Bleukle it had expanded to eight harnesses and ten treadles.

In recent years a serious decline in her vision led her away from her many crafts, but she still enjoyed being part of our Guild. Charlotte Pavelko became her faithful driver so Bertha was able to attend meetings and our annual Christmas parties. A highlight of last year's Christmas gathering was reveling in the span of years represented by the "bookends" of our group, Emma Brower at 10 years and Bertha at 95 years.

Bless you Bertha, you leave a hole in our midst, but many memories of your gracious life with us.