



<http://www.mesafiberartsguild.org>

**March 2009**

**CALENDAR**

**March 4 - Guild Meeting:** at noon, First Presbyterian Church, 3940 27-1/2 Road, Grand Junction.

Program: Jim Selbe shares his knowledge about his Native American rug collection.

**March 7 - Weaving Group:** 9:30 AM – meeting place to be announced at the March 4 Guild meeting.

**March 11 - Knitting Group:** meet at Phyllis Simmons' house, 2688 Jentry Court, Grand Junction, at 9:30 AM; 254-1522.

**March 18 - Spinning Group:** meet at Nancy Jewell's house, 1550 P Road, Loma, at 9:30 AM; 858-0628.

**March 25 - Navajo Weaving and Tapestry Group:** meet at Carl Hochmuth's house, 2814 Grand View Drive, Grand Junction, at 9:30 AM; 245-9469.

**LOOKING FORWARD . . .**

**March 4:** Jim Selbe: Native American rugs

**April 1:** Annual Yarn Exchange

**May 6:** Fashion show and Guild Member of the Year

***Thrums from the President***

Since the Trading Post Tour has been postponed until Fall to coincide with the Taos Wool Festival, our March program will be about Navajo rugs. The speakers will be my own brother, Jim Selbe and his friend, Barry Petrie.

Jim is an artist from Durango who has collected rugs for many years. He knows a great deal about old rugs and their value as art. Barry's great grandfather was a Ute Indian agent, who collected Indian weavings and Indian arts and crafts. Much of his collection is now on display at the Eidlejorge Museum in Indianapolis, Indiana. They are both looking forward to sharing their knowledge and collections with us.

Be sure to mark your calendar for Mentor day on March 21st. It is always lots of fun, and Pat McVean has done a great job of providing a variety of demonstrations for us.

See you at the meeting in March.

*Anita*

2008/2009 Officers	
President .....	Anita Larson
Vice President .....	Donna Bergman
Secretary .....	Sue Smith
Treasurer .....	Ellen Higgins
Newsletter Editor ...	Paula O'Donnell

**\$\$\$ Budget Report \$\$\$**

Opening balance	\$ 2425.88
Credits	\$ 40.00
Expenses	\$ 3.79
Current balance	\$ 2462.09

Memberships: single 48 Family 4 Club 1

## February Program highlights . . .

Kathy Spoering presented a slide show of 184 entries submitted for the American Tapestry Alliance's summer exhibitions in San Jose, California, and Richmond, Indiana: "Connections: Small Tapestry International". Entries had to be 100 square inches or less in size and had to present weaving as the prominent art. The variety of entries was limited only by the creative processes of the many artists from around the world. Only 49 pieces were accepted for the show, but Guild members enjoyed seeing all of those wonderful works of art!



Guild members viewing one of the tapestries on screen. For more information on the exhibition, see: [www.americantapestryalliance.org](http://www.americantapestryalliance.org)

## More Events to Come . . .

### **MENTOR DAY**

March 21, 2009  
9am to 2pm  
First Presbyterian Church

For those of you who have been to Mentor Day, no explanation is necessary. For those of you who have not attended before, you are in for a fun-filled day! Mentor day is a day when some of the members agree to share with the group a special skill or technique they have mastered. This year there are nine members who will demonstrate on a wide variety of subjects. This year's instructors are:

**Kim Sutherland/ Carol Curtiss:** Loop Knitting - how to knit two socks on one circular needle

**Dean Minion / Jude Sirota:** Wool Combing and Wool carding

**Dolores Schroeder:** Personalizing a baby afgan and putting it together

**Pete Romot:** Knitting techniques on a round loom

**Carl Hochmuth:** Gourd Art

**Nancy Jewell:** Andean Plying

**Shirley Boyce:** Silk Ribbon Embroidery

**Gladys Miller:** Chinese Boxes

**Deborah Robinson:** Shawl/ Scarf Pin Construction

Demonstrations are from 9:30 to 11:30, followed by a pot luck luncheon. After lunch Deborah will show

anyone interested the art of making a shawl/ scarf pin. All instructions are free except for a small materials fee for the shawl/ scarf pin.

Come and have fun!

### **Navajo Weaving Workshop**

The Navajo Weaving group will hold a workshop with Caroline Spurgeon, for up to 10 people, on April 11, 2009, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Place: Sue Smith's home at 2216 Canyon Rim Drive.

Cost: \$30.00, payable to Gladys Miller to reserve a space in the workshop.

### **"Keep the Fleece" Fiber Contest**

This contest is designed to inspire fiber artists of every description (knitters, weavers, crocheters, felters, etc.) from all over the world to enjoy and understand the importance of natural fibers. There are a variety of wild categories focused on specific types of natural fibers, from exotic camelids to plant fibers. Contest finalists will be judged at the New York Sheep and Wool Festival in 2009. **The deadline for entering is Saturday, August 15.**

see: [www.keepthefleece.com](http://www.keepthefleece.com)

### **San Juan Weavers Guild Lacey Weaves Workshop with Susan Wilson**

May 16 & 17

9 am - 4 pm

At Meadowlark Apts in Montrose

Cost: +/- \$100 for 2 days (non-members)

Level : advanced beginner or intermediate

4- or 8-shaft loom required

Loom prep instructions will be sent upon registration with \$45 down payment, when received by :

Linda Verbiscar, 285 Greenwood Ave, Cedaredge, CO 81413. Registration/cancellation deadline: April 18,

2009. For more information contact Linda Brown at [lindaevansbrown@yahoo.com](mailto:lindaevansbrown@yahoo.com) or at 874-5478.

### **Intermountain Weavers Conference**

A Conference for Fiber Artists

July 30 - August 2, 2009

Fort Lewis College

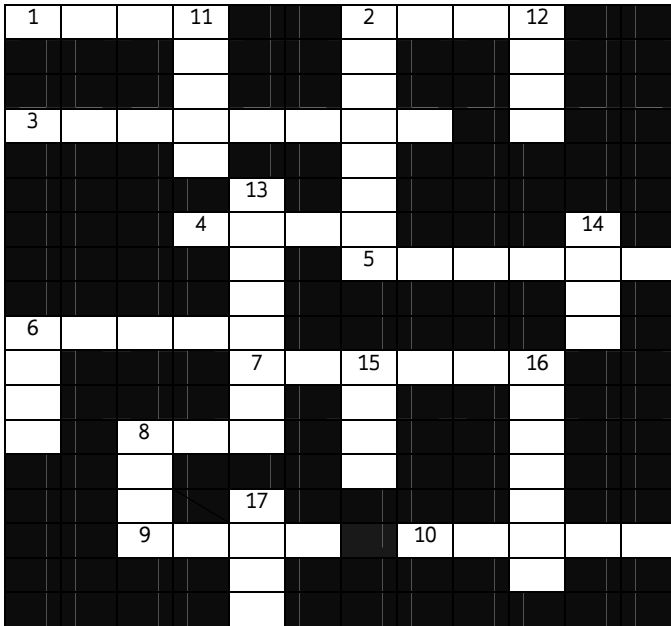
Durango, Colorado

3-day Workshops, Market, Juried and Non-Juried Exhibits. Nationally renowned instructors in weaving, dyeing, tapestry, felt, sewing, fiber jewelry, design, surface embellishments, knitting. For all levels.

Early Bird Registration is open NOW!

<http://www.intermountainweavers.org/>

## Fiber Fans Crossword



### Across

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Fiber Arts Guild
- 2 luxury fiber made from worm cocoons
- 3 making cloth using needles and yarn
- 4 spun and plied fibers commonly used for knitting
- 5 long time member and Navajo weaving instructor
- 6 the threads that run between the front and back of a loom
- 7 odds and ends of yarn left from weaving
- 8 term for the number of threads spun together to make a yarn
- 9 machine for weaving
- 10 our weaver who also maintains the guild website

### Down

- 2 the process of making thread or yarn from fibers
- 6 the threads that go back and forth across a woven piece
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ Larson, Guild President
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_ Aid, an easy dye to use on natural fibers
- 13 the art of weaving a picture with threads and yarns
- 14 chemicals used to color fibers
- 15 The Navajo are famous for their jewelry and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 16 The tool used to carry yarn across a piece of weaving
- 17 the fiber most commonly used by the Navajo
- 18 knitting stitch that is the opposite of a "knit" stitch

## ***MEMBERS' ITEMS***

### **Rusty Brouse – 3 Spinning Wheels for Sale:**

3 Majacraft Suzie Pro spinning wheels. Green wheel, double treadle, beautiful, smooth-spinning. New \$600, asking \$550 each. Will include 4 oz. alpaca wool roving. Also – looking for rug weaving looms to buy. Contact Rusty or Betty Brouse at (970) 245-6306 or 245-9108.

### **Kathy Stanko – Llama fiber & cashmere for sale.**

Award winning llama fiber, clean and ready to spin. Or, if you prefer to felt, I have lower quality fiber perfect for these projects. Cashmere is 99% free of guard hair and, at less than 16 microns, is very fine! Call Kathy Stanko at 970-256-7716 any day before 8:00 PM.

### **Jude Sirota - Sign up for the demos!**

... for the Grand Mesa Llama Club Show demonstration the 26th and 27th of April at the Mesa County Fairgrounds. The Club is looking for folks to demonstrate all and any forms of fiber arts that you can do with llama fiber. If we get enough interest we will probably be there both Saturday and Sunday. Please bring articles you have made with llama or other camelids. To sign up, call Jude Sirota at 256-1257 or come to the February or March meetings.

**Dean Minion – Spinning Lessons.** \$100 pays for wheel rental and all supplies. Call 243-3045.

**Lynn Jenks – The Jenks Family's *Fireside Country Store*** at 1203 – 23 Road in Grand Junction offers the following classes :

**Beginning Spinning** - \$130 + equipment rental, book, and 1 pound of washed fleece.

**Beginning 4-Harness Weaving** - \$225 + loom and equipment rental, book, and yarn for sampler.

**Navajo Weaving** - \$190 + loom and equipment rental, book, yarn, and supplies.

**Tapestry Weaving** - \$185 + loom purchase, book, yarn, and supplies.

All classes are 3-4 hours long. Private lessons are \$25 per hour. Contact Lynn at 263-9999 for details.

Minutes of the Mesa Fiber Arts Guild  
February 4, 2009

Anita called the meeting to order. Sandy Holloway, a guest, was introduced. She is a quilter and a knitter.

An article in the Free Press, regarding Jude Sirota, was shown. Ellen Higgins gave the treasurer's report. (See newsletter for details.) Minutes were approved as written.

**Presentation:**

Kathy Spoering, a Grand Junction resident and nationally renowned tapestry weaver gave the presentation. It was on tapestries presented to the American Tapestry Alliance for the show "Connections: Small Tapestry International." Their webpage can be viewed at:

<http://www.americantapestryalliance.com/>.

**Committee Reports:**

**Sunshine:** The Sunshine gift, a bead-knitted necklace, was made by Donna Bergman and won by Eleanor Himler. A thank you note was received from the Western Slopes Center for Children, for the bears that have been donated. Carl Hochmuth will make the gift for next month. Treats were made by Deborah Robinson and Linda Gregory. Well worth ignoring the new year's diet!

**Weavers:** Gladys reported that Carolyn Dorman is hosting the weavers at her house on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Knitters:** Dolores Schroeder reported that Anita is having the knitters meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Dolores still has four bears for the charity project. Dolores is baby sitting the bears until good homes can be found. The topic for the next meeting will be how to make button holes.

**Spinners:** This group will meet at Truly Oliver's house on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Navajo Weavers:** Gladys will host this group on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30. Natural dyeing on a warp will be discussed. Dates to actually do this will be discussed and scheduled to take place in March.

**Programs:** Jim Selbe will present the March program. He will be discussing Navajo rugs.

**Old Business:**

A check was sent to the Heifer Foundation. Donna Hochmuth talked about her workshops. Two color knitting was turning out to be a challenge. The group will continue meeting. Orders for embroidered shirts, bags, etc were on the table to be picked up.

A workshop on pine needle baskets was held by Carl Hochmuth. Much appreciation was felt for the Native American Indians who completed these without tapestry needles. Several people brought in their creations. Thanks to Carl for teaching this class!

A discussion was held regarding name tags. A motion was made and accepted that everyone should be responsible for their own name tag. If you forget to wear your name tag a fine of 25 cents will be levied. Carl Hochmuth will try to have replacement plastic holders by the next meeting.

Jude Sirota asked for volunteers to demonstrate on April 25-26 at the llama show. The show is from 10:00-2:00. Anita said how much fun it is to participate in various shows and recommended that you bring projects you have done with different animal fibers. Spinning, knitting, and other fiber projects are ideas of things to do. Two hour segments are suggested for demonstrations. On Saturday a walking fiber show will be held (which llama has the best coat) and there will be a llama fashion show. Judging will be on something made from llama fiber. A fashion show will be held for those to model what they made.

**Mentor day:** Pat McVean stated it is March 21<sup>st</sup>. It will be a potluck. Some of the presenters will be:

Deborah Robinson will show scarf/shawl pins.

Dolores Schroeder-Personal Life baby blankets

Carl- gourd art

Gladys- making boxes out of calendars; please bring calendars.

Nancy Jewel- Andean plying

Peter Romot-looms and more looms

Shirley Boyce-Silk ribbon embroidery and knitting an afghan/quilt starting with a square.

Dean Minion and Jude Sirota-combing and carding wool

Carol Curtiss and Kim Sutherland- using loop knitting needle to make two socks at one time.

**For the Good of the Order:**

The Rocky Mountain Weavers, in Denver, have meetings on the third Saturday of each month, September through May. If you ever wish to attend Anita has information on this guild or you can visit their website. <http://www.rmweaversguild.org/>.

**Show and Tell:** Once again the creativity of this group is amazing. Dolores Schroeder shared a baby afghan. Nancy Groenert shared a pine needle basket she made in Carl's workshop. Carl Hochmuth brought in llama fiber he spun. Betty Hebrew brought in three hand knit sweaters she made for her grand children. Pete Romot showed a new toy, a straight loom with pins. He is learning in a trial and error approach. He showed a beautiful scarf that he created using different stitches. Vaughan Drake showed a pouch that Anita made with the yarn she received at the Christmas exchange. Shirley Boyce talked about her involvement with two knitting programs, making hats for the homeless and baby clothes and blankets for new mothers who are in need. Debra Robinson had donated spare yarn which Shirley turned into a newborn outfit. Shirley Boyce asked that people donate any scraps of yarn they may have, that is washable, to be used in these projects.

**Wooly Thoughts,** a book published by Dover Publishing, was shared with everyone. It shows knitting a square from the corner. This technique can be used to make floor pads for babies.

Lori Hahn shared another pine needle basket. She left the basket unfinished as a "work of art." She also showed two scarves that contained dyed yarn. She has been creatively using her left over yarn.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Smith