

# The Roving

**April 2012**



## From the Vice-President:

I took weaving in college as a required course in my Occupational Therapy major. Knowing nothing about it, I was inclined to experiment. My first project seemed to take forever to warp. It was a pair of wall hangings, one flat, one tubular, made from crochet cotton warp with a weft of acrylic yarn and wire, and decorated with beads, those little white adhesive circles used to reinforce the holes in notebook paper, and paperclips (all free and easily available materials. Free was important as I was financially challenged at the time). I threaded it in twill, and managed to work in a couple of different twill patterns. I added an inlay of a sailboat (very simple) for good measure. I still have those hangings, now showing their age a little. After that class, it was twenty-two years before my friend Susan encouraged me to join Handweavers of the Valley, and I wove again.

I'm sorry I waited so long. I still don't like warping, but the interaction of color, texture and pattern more than makes up for the time spent in the obsessive activities of warp winding, threading, winding on and tensioning. In the time between learning to weave and returning to weaving, I learned other hand work skills. And I find that no matter what skills I learn, they all play well with weaving. I recently completed a project which combined dying, weaving, hand sewing, beading and macramé. What fun!

So, never turn down the chance to explore a new skill. And while you're learning, watch for opportunities to combine it with weaving. Currently I'm wondering what nuno felting would look like on a loosely woven plain weave scarf, and I'm looking forward to the bobbin lace demonstration coming up. Bobbin lace edging on a nuno felted plain weave scarf? Why not?  
Sandy



Altar Linens woven by Sandy



Cathy showing her nuno felted silk scarves

## Meeting Date

**Saturday April 14**

**Exeter Memorial Bldg.**

Program: Bobbin Lace  
Vanda MacArthur

Meeting starts at 10:00

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

**Please carpool.**



Early bobbin lace in gold and silver thread, circa 1570



Bobbin lace in progress



Mechlin lace

## Bobbin Lace

Bobbin lace is a lace textile made by braiding and twisting lengths of thread, which are wound on bobbins to manage them. As the work progresses, the weaving is held in place with pins set in a lace pillow, the placement of the pins usually determined by a pattern or pricking pinned on the pillow.

Bobbin lace is also known as pillow lace and bone lace, because early bobbins were made of bone or ivory. Bobbin lace is one of the two major categories of hand-made laces, the other being needlelace, derived from earlier cutwork and reticella.

Many styles of lace were made in the heyday of lacemaking (approximately the 16th-18th centuries) before machine-made lace became available. Some well-known types of bobbin lace are:

- Honiton - A very fine English lace with many flowers
- Torchon - Well-known for its variety of beautiful, often geometric grounds
- Cluny - Flowers, braids and picots (tiny loops of thread) make this light and delicate
- Bedfordshire lace (*Beds*) - this has flowing lines and picots (to foil the machines)
- Bucks point Buckinghamshire lace - very "lacy" with characteristic hexagon ground and often with a gimp thread (a heavier thread worked through for emphasis)
- Mechlin, a fine, transparent Flemish lace known for its floral patterns, fine twisted-and-plaited, hexagonal ground, and outlined designs
- Valenciennes, a French bobbin lace with a net-like background originating in the 18th century

Vanda McArthur will speak about the history of the lace and how it developed. She will share with us some antique laces from her collection, a book or two, and a few other "bits" having to do with making the lace. Vanda will also demonstrate for us the actual process used to make the lace.



Guild Programs for 2012:



**May-** Redbud Festival Three Rivers: *no meeting*

**June-** DeeDee King- Spin-In at Camp Nelson

**July-** Lynda Bass- Silk Painting (\$40 for workshop)

**August-** DeeDee King- Rep Weave Symposium

**September-** Wool Day and Show and Sale last notes

**October-** Show and Sale October **27-** *no meeting*

**November** Lindsay Dion & DeeDee King Wool Dye Day

**December-** Guild Christmas Party at Capella's in Exeter



The Guild has funds specifically set aside for workshops outside of the guild meetings, so let's get thinking. A place for ideas might be to look at the Convergence workshops ([www.weavespindye.org](http://www.weavespindye.org)) or see what's happening at [www.interweave.com](http://www.interweave.com). It takes some time to pull a workshop all together, but they sure are fun!

**Upcoming Events:**

**Best of the Valley Annual Quilt and Doll Show:** Lindsay, April 1-6. A juried and judged quilt show, accompanied by a display of handcrafted art dolls, plus a large Vendor Mall. The Featured Artist is Judie Fleming of Visalia, Hoffman Quilts, Hoffman Dolls, Quilt Appraisals and more. \$10/one day pass, \$15/3-day pass.

**Baskets and Gourds – Containers of Our Culture:**, April 21 – 22 Elks Lodge, 3100 W. Main, Visalia  
The Gourd Society has graciously offered the Guild 2 sales booths at the show, so come and bring your handwovens to sell(sign up necessary)! Saturday Classes are from 9 – 3. The Vendors Booths open 9 – 4. There will be a no- host bar and buffet dinner from 6:00 – 8:30. Don Weeke, the keynote speaker, will share his art during dinner. Silent Auction – all day; ending at 6:30 p.m., winners to be announced during dinner. Sunday, April 22, 2012 Classes 9 – 3. Class fees are \$65.00 and there also may be a materials fee. Visit [www.calgourds.org](http://www.calgourds.org) for details or contact Toni Best [capineneedles@sbcglobal.net](mailto:capineneedles@sbcglobal.net).

**Convergence 2012:** Handweavers Guild of America's biannual conference is being held in Long Beach July 15-20. Their website is; [www.weavespindye.org](http://www.weavespindye.org).

Check out [www.knittersreview.com](http://www.knittersreview.com) then click events in the header bar, for a list of every fiber conference scheduled for 2012 – it's by month and there's a lot!

**Squeekie Wheels** – the spinning group, meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month in Porterville at Sierra Hills Retirement Community, 2500 W. Henderson Ave from 10 – 3, bring your lunch or get it there (\$7). They also meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



**For Sale**



Saxony spinning wheel - \$250 obo Sharon Warren 561-3805 or [sharwarren@att.net](mailto:sharwarren@att.net)

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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

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Sophie Britten has a large warping board to sell for \$25.00 - 561-4265

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Schacht Spindle vertical warping reel. Great for winding long warps  
Asking \$250. (New price \$337)

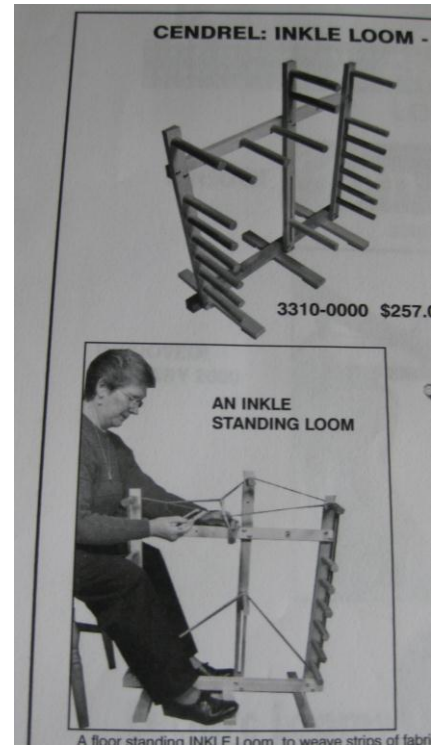
LeClerc Inkle Cendrel loom/warping board  
Floor standing model.  
Asking \$100 (New price \$257)

16" wide 15 dent reed \$25

22<sup>1/2</sup>" wide 12 dent reed \$35

22<sup>1/2</sup>" wide 10 dent reed \$35

If interested in any of these items, contact Silvia Leidig,  
805-644-0678, or [saleidig@yahoo.com](mailto:saleidig@yahoo.com)



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



Meet  
Kathleen Cone

Kathleen is another south valley girl and like her older sister (Nancy Register) the stork dropped her off at Miss Frieze's Maternity home in Bakersfield. This south valley town was "home" during her growing up years, but as a young adult she did venture off briefly to Portland, Oregon and later spent a couple of years in L.A. However being part of a close family was and is a significant part of life for Kathleen so after the brief sojourn away she returned to her Bakersfield roots. And a good thing for us, as she is the witty, blonder half of the dynamic duo that tends our Guild Library.

Injuries from car accident interrupted the normal flow of life and did not allow her to work for a year. During this hiatus she began business classes at BC, Bakersfield College. The skills gained there led to a job as school secretary when she again entered the work force. She and Nancy continued to take classes and eventually Kathleen earned her BA and teaching credential at Cal State Bakersfield. She went on to teach Kindergarten and First Grade classes for the most part and earned designation as a National Board Certified Teacher.

Kathleen says "I'm happy as long as my hands are busy!" She has dabbled in many crafts: she crochets, "pretend knits", spins, weaves, and has even tried her hand at silver smithing and stained glass too. Which is her favorite craft? I don't know I haven't found it yet! Having grown up in a family filled with creative people this seems a natural

heritage. Her maternal grandmother was an artist who worked in oils, pastels and pencil. Sewing and embroidery were her mom's creative media and these skills she passed on to her daughters. That aptitudes, attitudes and ambitions have genetic roots is true, but a creative environment is needed to inspire and allow them to develop. It appears the close relationship that Kathleen and Nancy share has provided impetus to both of them in crafting. While at BC taking art classes they discovered a loom and set to work together on learning to weave.

In the 1980's they had fun making things and participated in Craft Fairs with their off loom weavings, wall hangings and other items. By the 1990's, working full time and the demands of family, making things to sell became a hassle. Kathleen says, "It was more satisfying to make things for gifting than making things to sell." We also learned it was more fun to attend craft fairs and eat the good food and see all the neat stuff than being a vendor.

Bored with the blah look of the outside of her classroom Kathleen decided one summer to get creative. She and Nancy grabbed some sponges and paint and went to work beautifying the wall. They painted a mural of, a stream filled with gold fish, bordered by flowers and shaded by a tree. Each of the fish has the initials of one of the students on its fin. What a fun teacher, too bad she retired last June.

During the early years Kathleen participated in a small Guild Group in Bakersfield. This group came to a couple of potlucks at or very near the end of the "Loom Room" in Three Rivers. The fellowship and inspiration provided by getting together and sharing in the Show & Tell is what drew and continues to draw her to the Guild.

Did you realize sharing our ideas, dilemmas, successes and flubs helps us all learn and keeps the creative juices flowing? Without inspiration our looms and needles often grow silent. Getting together sets off sparks that keep us inspired and challenged. Thank you Kathleen for that reminder.

Kathleen has two looms one is warped for rugs the other with chenille for scarves and she plans to get busy. Don't forget to ask her how its going. In the mean time she serves us as Library Committee supporting Nancy, our librarian. She has in the past served as one of our representatives to the ASCH, Association of Southern California Handweavers that is now in the process of reinventing itself. She also continues to participate

in the Bakersfield group who has a booth in the Kern County Fair and Pioneer Days events.

This is the outside of Kathleen's classroom that she and Nancy decorated several years ago in the heat of a Bakersfield summer. Good job girls!

