

January 2012 Program

The Power of Block Design Presented by Rosalie Neilson

"I have always been fascinated with color. My earliest childhood memory is peering into the throats of tulips, marveling at the satin-sheen of red, yellow, and black. My color sense comes from being raised in Oregon. During the majority of the year, nature appears in shades of green, blue, and grey. In this softly lit environment of neutrals, bright colors stand out in sharp contrast. What attracted me to weaving was the color I found in west-faced and warp-faced block weaves. Being part Scandinavian, I gravitated to the Swedish technique of warp rep, and began to explore how geometric designs were created by the interchange of two layers of color. Using a sixteen shaft loom with computer assisted treadling, I enjoy producing a series of different designs within one threading system. One series leads to the next. After weaving rep for twenty-five years, I am still amazed at the potential of this technique for creating abstract color designs."

Pioneers Museum Demonstration

So when was the last time you were excited about weaving on a loom with no heddles, or looking at bugs that give you red, or touching dirty wool? Children and parents of all ages came to the Pioneers Museum for their annual children's holiday extravaganza and did just that!

The Pikes Weavers Guild had three tables and a bench set up with woven items, meat tray looms, fibers, dyes, spindles, books, and handspun/ hand-dyed yarn for touching. Our volunteers demonstrated spinning and helped children with their meat tray looms. This year almost all of the activities were moved up to the second floor into individual rooms which cut down greatly on the noise level and traffic jams. We were able to spread out at the top of the stairs, setting up a spinning area that people could enter into and get up close and personal with the wheels.



Many thanks to our volunteers - you make the day possible! Meat tray weavers - take a bow: Judi Arndt, Katie Kiley, with additional help from Betsy Hackbarth, and former member Sylvia Hudgens.



Spinners and their wheels make the world go 'round: Judy Gearhart, Betsy Hackbarth, and former members Sylvia Hudgens and Bobbie Bradford, and friends.

It is always a delight to watch the wonder in children's eyes, but if you look at the pictures, I think the volunteers may have had the most fun!

