

# PPWG Newsletter

October 2008



PIKES PEAK WEAVERS GUILD -- COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

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# President's Message by Linda Shaffer

At our September program, "Directions", members met in group to answer questions about guild activities. The questions and responses are below so everyone can see the results. These are the opinions of the people at the meeting. I have tried to include all responses in a shortened version because there was much duplication.

After going through all of the questions, several things stand out to me. Networking, learning, and communication seem to be very important. Business meetings are not important. I try to keep the meetings as short as possible. Usually the business meeting last thirty minutes, I don't know that it can be shortened too much more or people will not have an opportunity to present information to others or have any input. Other answers seem to contradict having shorter business meeting because people want more information from meetings. We are interested in better communication to all members. For our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary people have ideas about reviewing historical information, publicity, and celebrations. Louise Conner is reviewing old newsletters and putting interesting items in our current newsletters. Sandy Hutton will be working on scanning old newsletters so they can be on our website. As a group we seemed to be interested in doing more shows, but not immediately.

It is my hope that we can all look at this information to see what we can each do to make our guild a welcoming group and that we come up with plan for our future.

If anyone wants to see the complete and unedited list of responses, please email me at [lindshaffer@msn.com](mailto:lindshaffer@msn.com) and I will send them to you.

1. Please list what is most important to you as guild members: **Networking and friendships with other weavers. Being informed about the work of others with Show and Tell. Learning and exposure to new things with good programs, workshops, the library, study groups and networking. Encouraging and supporting new weavers.**
2. Please list what is least important to you as guild members. **The items of least importance were refreshments, demonstration, samples, and business meetings.**

3. Everyone's perceptions of events are different. One person may think everything is great the way it is and another may wonder why certain things are done the way they are. Do you have any suggestions for changes/improvements in conducting our business meetings, Show and Tell, etc.? Business meetings need to be shorter, people presenting at business meetings need to be brief, members need to sit in the first 5 rows so we can hear and see, we all need to communicate responsibly by returning phone calls and answering email, we need to communicate with others about events we are involved with by writing articles for the newsletter, introduce yourself and stand at the front when speaking, everyone introduce themselves at the first meeting of the year, have experienced weavers available to answer questions for new weavers, feature each study group at some time during the year, include new members in show and tell, more background of events—do not assume that everyone knows what is going on, more workshops related to spinning and dyeing, introduce officers by full name incase new members want to contact someone, specific information about special funds and scholarships available to members.

4. Our 50<sup>th</sup> Pikes Weavers Guild anniversary is February 2009. Please list your creative ideas for celebrating this event: A public library display of our guild activities, show our historian's books of past years, notice in SS&D, commemorative T-shirt, review old newsletters and publish interesting items, a grand gold show and tell, honor oldest members of the guild, a golden festival—possibly a luncheon conducive to mingling, make a new banner or pin.

5. For the last six years we have had many guild events. The last year was particularly busy. Currently, we do not have anything planned. Please describe events/projects that you visualize our guild planning for the next four years: Another Living Beauty Show, another Commonwheel show, demonstrations at a mall during weaving and spinning week, yearly raffles, yearly challenges, support Intermountain Weavers' Conference, evening workshop, evening meetings some months, workshops geared to new weavers.



## October Program

Presenter: Gail Necker

Gail's very first basketry class was a local park district offering. Since then she has traveled around the country studying and taking classes from many successful fiber artists learning about techniques, materials, and design. As she branched out, her interests took her to complementary techniques – beading, silversmithing, mosaics, kumihimo – knowing that someday it would all come together.

Upon discovering gourds, she realized they were the perfect foundation - they can become almost anything. They can stand alone or be married with almost any other kind of fiber - reed, vines, rattan, yarn, twine, even old sweaters. Staining, dyeing, and painting gourds allow them to explode with color - a vital element of her work which is all about colors and textures. Unique embellishments add the final focal point.

Join us at the October meeting for "The Ins and Outs of Gourds: Past, Present & Future of Gourd Art" as Gail tells us about gourd history, how they have been used traditionally, and how they are used today. And signup for the workshop after lunch to learn hands-on how to weave on top of a gourd to create your own, unique vessel.

### October Mini-Workshop

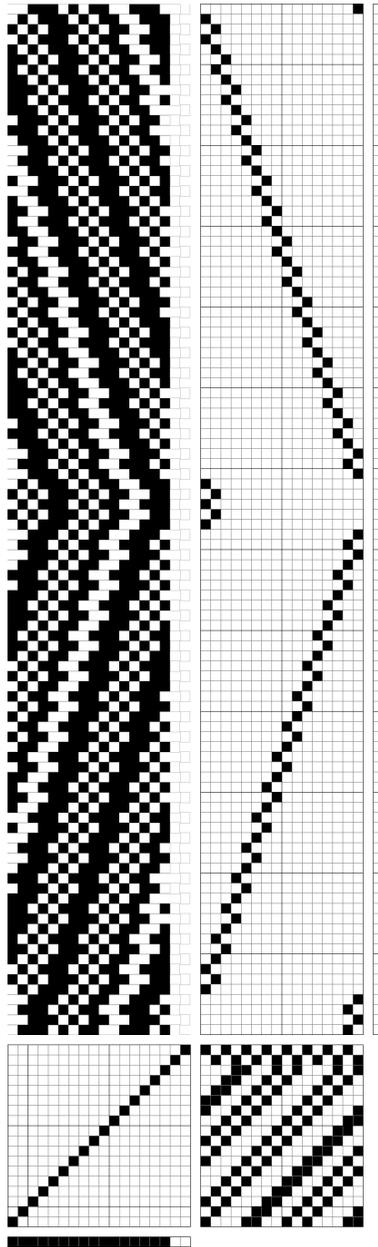
After the October meeting, there will be a Gourd Workshop. We will learn how to twine on top of a gourd and then finish our gourd vessel with a rolled border and embellishments. Gourds will be prepared ahead of time at Gail's house by those in the class who want to learn the actual prep work involved in gourd artistry - cleaning, cutting, scraping, drilling, and dyeing. Students should bring an old towel, scissors, an awl or small flat-head screwdriver, and a few wooden clip clothespins to class. And please wear old clothes or a work apron. If you are participating in the prep day, please wear old clothes and bring disposable gloves and grip-style gloves, if you have them.

Cost of the workshop is \$30; this includes materials, a pattern, and a page of examples for inspiration. There is no additional charge to learn the prep aspect prior to the workshop.

The workshop is open to the first 15 participants to sign up; there are just a few more openings, so don't delay. Call Gail at 719.687.6391

# October Weaving Sample

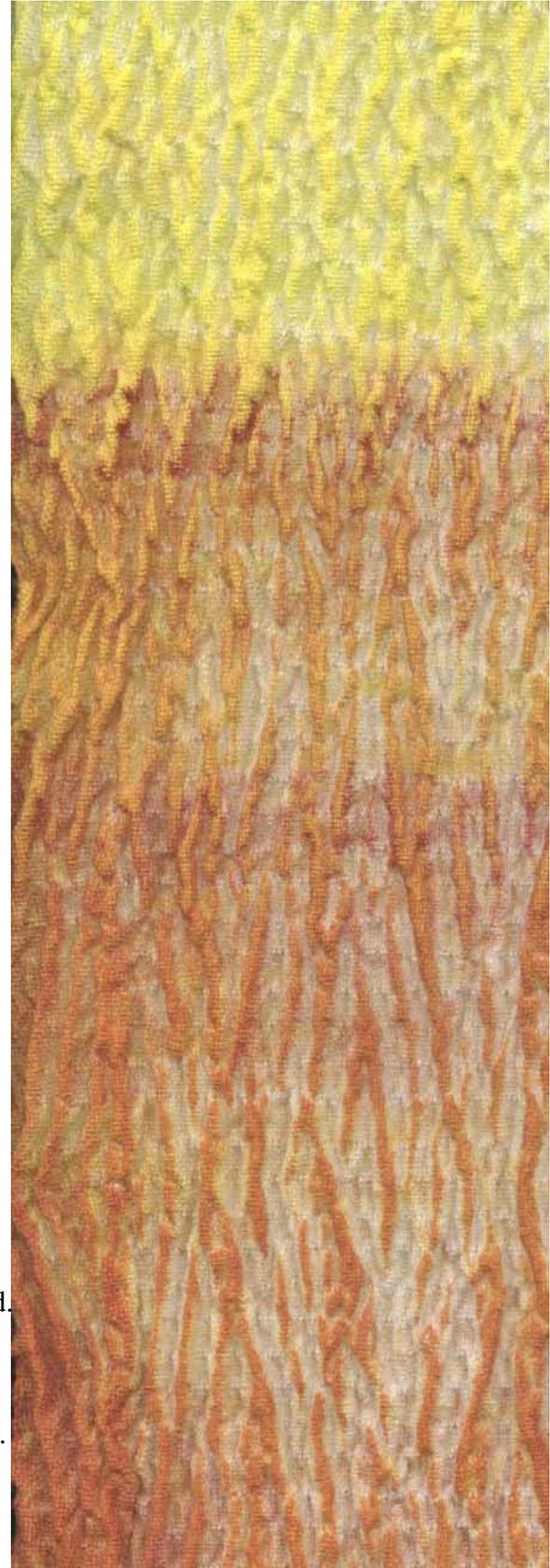
By Doreen McLaughlin



The More Than 4 study group is finishing up their study of woven shibori. My sample was woven using unmarked mill-end yarn (my guess is 16/2 cotton) for the warp and plain weave weft, and Sears #30 crochet cotton for the pattern weft. The sett was 32epi, sleyed two to a dent in a 16dpi reed, woven on my 16-shaft AVL CompuDobby. The number of plain weave picks between pattern weft is up to the weaver. I used 8 picks of plain weave (not shown) between pattern picks. The pattern picks were single shots, with 3 inches of weft left “hanging out” on each side of the web. I put on 12 yards of warp and wove 4 scarves 72 inches long and a sample piece.

After weaving, I pulled the pattern warp strings to pleat the fabric, knotting 3 strings together once the fabric was scrunched.

Judy Arndt sponsored a vat dyeing day at her home on Sep. 19th. I dyed the scarves blue, red, yellow/green, and yellow/red. The scarves dried over the weekend and on Sunday night I cut the knots and pulled out the pattern weft.



# Guild Business

## September Minutes & Committee Reports

*Submitted by Emily Jones, Recording Secretary*

### Board Meeting September 12, 2008

Linda Shaffer called the board meeting to order at 9:10 am. Dottie Weir, Diane Fabeck, Doreen McLaughlin, Catie Kiley, Louise Conner, Judy Gearhart and Emily Jones were present. The minutes from August 7, 2008 were approved. Dottie presented the new brochures to the board. It will be requested for all demonstrators at guild events to be responsible for having the brochures. Doreen now has the software downloaded into her computer for the October newsletter. The deadline for any information from members will be the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Louise has placed guild meeting information on [www.peakradar.com](http://www.peakradar.com) and in the "Fifty Plus" newspaper. Dottie has put membership brochures at the C.S. Senior Center. Diane confirmed the presenter and topic for the February workshop. The guild policy for snow day is not to cancel meetings; therefore Dottie Weir will have an extra key to the church in case of emergencies. Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 am. **Editor's note:** There will not be a board meeting in October.

### Regular Meeting

Linda Shaffer called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. The minutes from the May 9, 2008 meeting were approved and kudos were celebrated. Linda announced that W.W. Walker received a scholarship of \$150.00 to attend the Campbell Folk Art School for a tartan weaving workshop. W.W. will present highlights from this workshop at the December 12, 2008 guild program. Linda explained that today's program will be small breakout groups to discuss five questions regarding our guild. The end of the program will be used to discuss the answers as a group. Emily Jones reported the financial summary: Balance Forward: \$19,699.34; Income Expense: \$2,179.00; Closing Balance \$14,432.56; and the Vanguard Account: \$4,389.00. Dottie Weir reminded members to pay their annual dues and introduced three new members. She presented the new guild membership brochures with reminders for everyone to discard the old ones. Kathleen Orr reported that \$800.00 has been received for advertising this year for the guild. Catie Kiley passed around a sign-up sheet for hospitality. Beverly Weaver discussed the notebooks to be donated to the library along with the Living with Beauty show catalog that will be available for members to check out of the library. Doreen McLaughlin announced that any information, samples, or photos from members will need to be submitted to her by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month in order to get the information into the upcoming newsletter. Samples will include dyeing, weaving or spinning. The printing of the newsletter will be in black and white and cost each member who wants a printed version mailed to them \$15.00 annually. Diane Fabeck announced that Cindy Ruesink will present the guild workshop on February 10, 11, and 12, 2009 on three shaft weaving. Cindy Ruesink will present the Friday, February 13, 2009 guild program on narrow woven bands. The cost for the workshop will be approximately \$130.00 conducted as a round robin and will accommodate 20 weavers. This includes lunch but not materials. Linda announced that items to be added to the directory will be the Memorial fund, Fund for Excellence in Fiber Arts and the scholarship application. Beverly Weaver presented to the members the board's approval to buy a laptop computer for \$600.00, to make a donation to Mountain View Church of Christ for \$200.00, and the remaining \$2600.00 to go to the Fund for Excellence in Fiber Arts. The motion was made by Ellen Alderson, seconded by Edna Devai and unanimously approved. Announcements: Sandy Hutton will be our guild representative for the Federation of Colorado Weavers. Susan Bowman announced that Carol Wilkinson's Church will sponsor the Alternative Craft Fair on Saturday, October 25, 2008. Connie Franz discussed the web site for the Colorado Weaving Guild connections. Gail Necker announced that there will be a mini-workshop after the October 9, 2008 meeting, working with gourds. A sign-up sheet was sent around with the price of \$30.00 for the workshop. Sandy Hutton will give Doreen information regarding Elizabeth Barber's talk on mummies that will be at the Unity Church in Denver for the October newsletter. Sandy also announced the Sandra Rude's Living with Beauty award winner's Notebook Story of Weaving will be on the website. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

## Announcements

### **Alternative Gift Fair and Bake Sale**

When: **Saturday, October 25, 2008 --- 9:30 am–4:30 pm**

Where: **Broadmoor Community Church , 315 Lake Ave., Colorado Springs, CO.** Directions to the Fair: take Exit 138 (Circle Drive) west from I-25. Circle Drive becomes Lake Ave. The Broadmoor Community Church is less than 2 miles on the left.

The **Alternative Gift Fair** brings unique handmade gifts from all over the world by 25 different non-profit organizations helping to alleviate hunger, poverty, and disease in developing countries and here in Colorado. The crafts are made by indigenous people working their way to a better life through skilled hands. Visiting the Fair is like traveling the world for gifts—African crafts, traditional Tibetan arts, Peruvian alpaca sweaters, Guatemalan woven textiles and coffee, jewelry from Ethiopia and Uganda, silks from Laos and southeast Asia, cards from Rwanda, and one-of-a-kind crafts and food from Colorado.

For information or questions, contact Carol Wilkinson at 719-576-4530.

### **The Mummies of Chinese Turkestan**

Speaker: **Dr. Elizabeth Wayland Barber**

When: **Thursday, November 13, 2008 --- 7:00 pm**

Where: **Unity Church, 2855 Folsom, Boulder, CO** (southwest corner of Folsom & Valmont)

Local archaeologists working in Chinese Turkestan uncovered numerous naturally mummified and spectacularly clothed bodies of Caucasians dating to the Bronze Age, 3000-4000 years ago. Since little besides clothing was put into the graves, Dr. Elizabeth Barber, an expert on prehistoric textiles, was invited to accompany an expedition from the University of Pennsylvania to Western China to help determine facts about these displaced Westerners. Why, when, and from where did these folk enter the Tarim Basin with their flocks of woolly sheep to become the area's first permanent inhabitants, more than 1500 years before the Chinese established the famed Silk Road from the east? Dr. Barber's talk is richly illustrated with her photographs of the often-magnificent textiles and other artifacts discovered in this remote desert region.

## Announcements

### ***Designing Women 'Art and the Modern Interior' from Postwar Britain***

When and Where: Opening on Sept. 20 at the **Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center**. This exhibition of works by three influential female artists will be displayed in the El Pomar Gallery through Jan. 25, 2009. The Opening Celebration for this exhibition with music, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar is Saturday, Sept. 27, from 5-8 p.m. and is open to the public. Admission is \$7.50 for FAC Members and \$12 for non-members.

The art of textile design radically changed after World War II. Three women artists working in England in the 1950s were pivotal in this artistic revolution. The drab days of the War were suddenly washed with the light of the fresh, progressive designs by Lucienne Day, Marian Mahler and Jacqueline Groag. Original artist designs with bold abstract patterns inspired by Modern artists like Alexander Calder and Joan Miró, as well as the use of dramatic saturated color marked a dramatic departure from England's conventional notions of interior fabric design. Designing Women showcases the stunning geometric and abstract designs of the three leaders with furnishing fabrics, hand-towels, and dishware in varied sizes and colors.

### **Wild Wild Wool**

When: October 9 - November 8, 2008.

Where: TACTile Textile Arts Center, Tamarac Square, 7777 East Hampden Ave, Suite 114, Denver, CO.

Hours: 11am - 6pm, Tues. - Sat. [www.tactilearts.org](http://www.tactilearts.org) 720-524-8886.

Nationally recognized Rocky Mountain fiber artists will show handspun, handwoven, knitted, felted and hand-dyed Wool used in all its glorious forms. Original wool, alpaca and buffalo garments, fashion and home accessories and wall art created from these processes will be featured.



# Pikes Peak Weaver's Guild's Golden Anniversary

## **How Far We've Come as a Guild! by Louise Conner**

Even though the Guild was formed in February 1959, the first newsletter was not printed until September, 1972, 36 years ago. In our first newsletter, president Ann Reichel reviewed changes already made: a printed newsletter, more officers and committees, and an organized program/workshop time.

In addition, the Guild had several goals in 1972: to form one or more study groups that would pass on their experiences to the whole Guild, appoint a committee to find a permanent meeting place complete with nursery, establish a show/sale possibly in conjunction with the Colorado Springs Art Guild shows, and to attract new members. In 1973 membership dues were \$2.00 per year.

The October 1972 Guild meeting and program was held at Mildred Donley's home. The program was a workshop on macrame conducted by Evelyn Burnett, Ardis Jordahl and Clarice Rupp using Aunt Lyda-type, jute or heavy twine, followed by Show and Tell, sack lunch, and the business meeting. The Guild's roster listed 29 members. The Guild's 16", 4-harness floor loom rented for \$5 per month.

## **PPWG Library News – October, 2008 by Beverly Weaver**

Special thanks go to Sandy Hutton for donating *Fingerweaving Untangled* by Carol James.

Also, thanks to the members of the 'more than four' study group for donating the following CD: *Digital Archive of Weaving Documents, Volume I* from [www.Handweaving.net](http://www.Handweaving.net). The CD has many, many books in PDF format.

There are two new notebooks in the library that can be checked out. One has the weaving sheets and samples for the items woven for the coverlet interpretations exhibit at the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum. The other has information about planning the juried exhibit, *Living with Beauty: Handwoven Textiles for the Home*, including copies of the postcards, prospectus, catalog, sample letters, and a CD with some of the computer files that were used for budgeting, publicity, etc as well as photos of the accepted entries. We hope this notebook will assist in planning any future juried shows that PPWG may decide to sponsor. There is also a separate CD that can be checked out that has just the photos of all of the artwork and the handwoven award ribbons.

# Hospitality

Everyone appreciates a delicious treat with the coffee/tea break. PPWG needs at least two, preferably three volunteers each month who will bring refreshments. Please call Catie Kiley at 719-685-4967 to sign up. The Guild thanks you!

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| October  | Judy Gearhart, WW Walker, Heidi Boitros |
| November | Barb Byerly, Donna Schilling            |
| December | Holiday Potluck                         |
| January  | Kathleen Orr and Dottie Weir            |
| February | Linda Shafer, Emily Jones               |
| March    | Jane Rock Costanza, WW Walker           |
| April    | Catie Kiley, Ellen Alderson             |
| May      |   |

# Major Workshop

**When:** February 10-12, 2009

**Where:** Penrose House

**Presenter:** Cindy Ruesink

**Topic:** Three-shaft weaving

**Cost:** Approximately \$130.00. This includes lunch for all 3 days, but not materials.

**Maximum number of participants:** 20

This is going to be a round-robin workshop, so if you've been planning to whip your workshop loom into shape, now would be a good time to start.

To prepare for the class, you may want to explore these three-shaft weaves:

Crackle ([http://www.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/webdocs/gre\\_crk1.pdf](http://www.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/webdocs/gre_crk1.pdf))

Krokbragd (The Techniques of Rug Weaving, Peter Collingwood, Watson-Guptill Publications, New York, p 267-268)

Bronson lace (Handwoven May 2000)

# PPWG Calendar

## Meetings and Events for 2008-2009

The Pikes Peak Weavers' Guild meets the second Friday of each month from September through May at the [Mountain View Church of Christ](#), 1080 E. LaSalle St at Paseo in Colorado Springs, CO. Come for coffee, socializing and library time at 9:00 am.

The business meeting starts at 9:30 and the program begins at 11 AM.

**04-10 Oct 2008 - *Spinning and Weaving Week***

**10 Oct 2008 - *Nature's Beauty: Combining Gourds with Weaving***. Gail Necker

**14 Nov 2008 - *Taking Stock: Looms, Equipment, Collections, and Stashes***. Jane Rock

**12 Dec 2008 - *John C. Campbell Folkschool: Scholarship Report***. WW Walker

*Holiday Pot Luck Celebration*

**9 Jan 2009 - TBA**

**13 Feb 2009 - *Woven Bands and Ribbons***. Cindy Ruesink

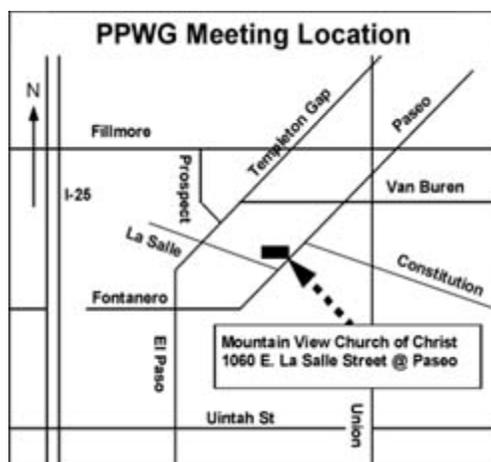
**13 Mar 2009 - *50th Anniversary Celebration***

**10 Apr 2009 - *African Textiles***. Judi Arndt

**08 May 2009 - *Basics of Rug Making***. Sally Kuhn

*End of year luncheon*

**01 July 2009 - PPWG Scholarship Applications due for 2009-2010**



# Samples

We need volunteers for weaving, dyeing, and spinning samples for the newsletter for the months below. At the August Board meeting, the board decided to also add dyeing samples for the newsletter. Hopefully we will always have a weaving sample and/or spinning/dyeing sample for each newsletter. To sign-up, please email ([lindalshaffer@msn.com](mailto:lindalshaffer@msn.com)) or call (719/684-2212) Linda Shaffer. We need one more weaving sample and seven spinning/dyeing samples.

For weaving, we need (2) samples (6" x 6" minimum, 8" x 10.5" maximum). For spinning we need (2) samples which need to be butterflies approximately 4 yards long. Dyeing samples may be on fiber or handwoven cloth. So the size of the sample will depend on the media.

Doreen McLaughlin will be scanning the samples for the newsletter. These need to be delivered to her by the 20th of the month before they are to appear in the newsletter. After scanning, she will bring the samples to the guild meeting to be placed in the sample notebooks in the library.

Your weaving, dyeing, spinning descriptions need to be mailed or emailed ([doreen@divide.net](mailto:doreen@divide.net)) to the newsletter editor, Doreen McLaughlin. Linda will print the descriptions from the newsletter for the sample notebooks in the library. If you have other information for the sample notebooks, please give it to Linda at a meeting.

| <b>Sample Month</b> | <b>Month Due</b> | <b>Weaving</b> | <b>Spinning/Dyeing</b> |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| November            | October          | Susan Bowman   |                        |
| December            | November         |                | Peggy Bowman           |
| January             | December         | Jane Rock      |                        |
| February            | January          | Linda Shaffer  |                        |
| March               | February         | Jan Seltman    |                        |
| April               | March            | Emily Jones    |                        |
| May                 | April            | Sandy Hutton   |                        |
| June                | May              | Karen Currier  | Judy Gearhart          |

**Officers:**

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| President            | Linda Shaffer  |
| Vice President       | Weldon Walker  |
| Recording Secretary  | Emily Jones    |
| Treasurer            | Barb Byerly    |
| Membership Secretary | Dottie Weir    |
| Past President       | Debbi Holdeman |

**Standing Committee Chairpersons:**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Advertising    | Kathleen Orr                                   |
| Demonstrations | Beth Garrison                                  |
| Historian      | Judy Gearhart                                  |
| Hospitality    | Catie Kiley                                    |
| Library        | Sandra Hutton,<br>Beverly Weaver,<br>Jane Rock |
| Workshop       | Diane Fabeck                                   |
| Newsletter     | Doreen McLaughlin                              |
| Publicity      | Louise Conner                                  |
| Website        | Jane Rock                                      |
| Yearbook       | Marisa McMillen                                |



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## Dazzler's Fiber Arts School

### 2008 Fall Class Schedule

#### October 4 & 5 Rigid Heddle Weaving

Learn the basics of 2 shaft weaving on the rigid heddle loom. The rigid heddle loom is a light, compact, versatile loom for beginners and advanced weavers.

#### October 11 & 12 Beginner Spinning

Join us for a weekend of beginner level spinning.

#### October 18 Note Cards

Use colorful alpaca fiber, stamps and ink to create 4 different style note cards. Once you learn the technique, you can create your own cards for birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, and special days.



Allie Neas

Eye Dazzler Alpacas

719-371-4519

Visit: <http://www.eyedazzleralpacas.com/fiberschool.html> for complete class descriptions and instructor bios.

# Knitter's Kove

**SUPPLIES & CLASSES**

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Deadline For October Issue:

20 October 2008

The PPWG newsletter is published on the website from September through June. To place an ad in the newsletter, we must receive your check by mail (P.O. Box 8104 Colorado Springs CO 80933-8104) and your ad in digital or electronic format (PPWGuild@aol.com) on or before the 15th of the month preceding the month in which you want your ad to appear.

Business Card (2"x3-1/2") \$10.00

1/4 page (3"x4") \$15.00

1/2 Page (5"x7") \$20.00

Full Page (7"x10") \$30.00

Classified: \$5.00 for 25 words.\$0.25 each additional word.

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.pikespeakweavers.org](http://www.pikespeakweavers.org)

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