

2012 Navajo Weaving Class

Ojai, California – Meiners Oak Elementary School

Navajo Master Weavers, Barbara Teller Ornelas and Lynda Teller Pete



February 20 - 25, 2012, 10 am to 4 pm
Meiners Oak Elementary School
400 S. Lomita Avenue, Ojai, California 93023
303 561-1582

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According to Navajo oral tradition two holy people, Spider Woman and Spider Man, introduced weaving to the Navajo. Spider Man constructed the first loom, which was composed of sunshine, lightning, and rain; and Spider Woman taught the people how to weave on it. Spider Woman was discovered by the Holy Twins, the culture heroes of the Navajo Creation Story, in a small opening in the earth surrounded by an array of beautiful weavings. Entering her dwelling, the Holy Twins descended a ladder made of yarn, whereupon Spider Woman offered them knowledge of the world of weaving

Students will have the opportunity to learn the art of weaving from Award winning, Master Navajo Weavers, Barbara Teller Ornelas, originally from Two Grey Hills and Newcomb, New Mexico, now living in Tucson, AZ and her sister Lynda Teller Pete from Denver, CO. Barbara and Lynda have taught Navajo Weaving for over 14 years. While instructing and demonstrating, Barbara and Lynda will share personal stories and experiences, allowing students into family's 7 Generations of Navajo weaving. There are Navajo weaving songs and stories, however, all songs and stories vary from Navajo weaving families in different geographical areas. Students will learn the traditional method of Navajo weaving in the 5 days of class. The majority of the class will be spent designing and learning how to weave a 16.5" high X 12.5" wide rug on an upright Navajo Loom.

We look forward to sharing our weaving knowledge with you and we promise you will have a great time!! Thank you.

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Navajo Weaving Class Fee \$450

Beginning Students – Pre-Warped 12.5” wide X 16.5” high loom:

Fees are for basic weaving instructions. The loom will be fully warped and set up. This fee is also for the rental of the loom, tabletop attachment, clamps, heddle, and shed rods, preparation of warp and selvage cords and rental of all weaving tools for 1 week during the scheduled class time. **Total of \$450.00**

Intermediate Students – Pre-Warped 12.5” wide X 16.5” high loom:

Fees are for advanced weaving instructions and other advanced weaving techniques. The loom will be fully warped and set up. This fee is also for the rental of the loom, tabletop attachment, clamps, heddle, and shed rods, preparation of warp and selvage cords and rental of all weaving tools for 1 week during the scheduled class time. **Total of \$450.00**

\$100 Non-refundable deposit required by: February 15, 2012

Make check payable to:

Lynda Pete

2142 Irving Street
Denver, CO 80211

There will also be extra pre-warped rugs, looms, weaving tools and wool available for sale during class. Class room looms with attachment may be purchased for \$135.00. Other sizes of looms are also available for purchase.

The above fee includes preparation of warp, selvage cords and the use of the following materials:

Wool Warp, Wool Salvage cord, Nylon thread for Heddle dowel
String, scotch tape, graph paper, pencils, scissors, and rulers, sandpaper, emery boards
2 - 1” wood dowels for warping
3 - ½” wood dowels and 2 – ¼” wood dowels for the heddle and shed pulleys
Wire – 18 gauge, wire cutters, and pliers
Wood Batten and finishing batten, wire battens used during the finishing process
Comb and finishing comb
Sacking needle, long wire needle, medium and short wire needles
Weaving loom, tabletop attachments and clamps

You may bring a container from home to hold your wool and tools.

You may bring a pad for your chair, clamp on light to see your work better and a small clamp on fan to blow the wool fibers away as you work.

Reading about the different types and styles of Navajo weavings is encouraged to get a better understanding of Navajo Weaving. This Beginning Weaving Class will start with a Pre-warped loom. We will be using a Navajo upright vertical loom, fully warped and set up and students will receive individualized instruction. Navajo history, culture, spirituality and weaving taboos will also be discussed along the way.

Beginning students will learn how to weave a 12.5" X 16.5" rug. A striped pattern is highly recommended as beginning students need more time than the 5 days of class to master more complicated patterns. We will focus on weaving techniques. Beginning students will use worsted weight wool, 1 ply, preferably from the Brown Sheep wool company. You may take the loom home to weave. Upon completion of class, please return loom and weaving tools. **Please note, there may be some extra charges if a student requests a size larger than the 12.5" X 16.5" pre-warped rug.

We will show a short film, "A Loom with a View" and if time permits, we will do a short presentation of photos of our Weaving family.

Wool

We will bring Worsted Weight wool from the Brown Sheep Company. Students may purchase full skeins. We will have some of the wool in small balls for accent colors and you may exchange colors with other students so you do not waste a full skein of wool. It's easier to weave if you have the same weight of wool, so stick to all worsted weight (One Ply) for beginning students and do not mix the brands or weights of wool. Choose a combination of light and dark wool for best visual effects. If you plan on buying your own wool, please stick to one weight and one brand of wool. There will be a selection of wool in full skeins at \$7.50 each and small balls of wool for color accents, \$2, \$3, and \$4 each available in class.

Looms

Looms are built by Belvin Pete. Belvin is also from a Navajo weaving family from Dziłth-na-o-dith-hle, NM, Navajo Nation and was given the task of making weaving tools as a youth. Belvin is a Mechanical Engineer by trade and has designed some unique looms for Barbara, Lynda and the entire Teller weaving family. The basic classroom loom is designed for students to warp and weave on the same loom. Belvin has created a tabletop attachment so that students do not have to sit on the floor or adjust the height of their chairs. The loom can be adjusted to eye level and to alleviate back and neck pain. The attachment may be taken off and both pieces can then be easily transported or stored if there is a shortage of space in one's home. The loom and attachments are very versatile, portable, strong and durable but is still a traditional Navajo upright vertical loom. All warping and weaving dowels are included, and upon request, metal turnbuckles and clamps. The looms and attachments are available for purchase. Belvin does have a variety of easels, some with a detachable shelf for wool and weaving tools. Custom looms can be made in a variety of woods and finishes. Looms that can be disassembled for traveling may also be ordered.

There are many looms on the market, as always we recommend that when you purchase looms and weaving tools, that the crafts people have Navajo Weavers in their families so the items have been tested to ensure great quality and it works without us making adjustments to looms before you weave.

Warping Class Fee \$150

A one day Warping class is available for students that want to learn the intensive warping process. Warping may take 4 to 6 hours depending on the size. If there is enough interest to hold a warping class, it will be on February 25, 2012 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Warping Fees are \$150.00 to warp a 16.5 high by 12.5 wide rug using your loom that you purchased in class.

****If you are bringing your own loom, you may have to drill holes in the sides for the warping dowels.**

The fee includes warping instructions, preparation of warp, selvage cords and the use of the following materials:

String, scotch tape, graph paper, pencils, scissors, rulers, emery boards

2 - 1" wood dowels for warping, sharpie pen

2 - 1/2" wood dowels and 2 - 1/4" wood dowels for the heddle and shed pulleys, sandpaper to smooth wood dowels

4 bolts, 4 butterfly wing nuts, 4 conduits

1 metal tension rod, 2 or 3 metal turnbuckles

Wire – 18 gauge, wire cutters, and pliers

Nylon thread for the heddle dowel

1 warp ball to warp 16.5" X 12.5" rug (email if you are warping a project larger or smaller than this size, so I have the warp available)

Selvage cord