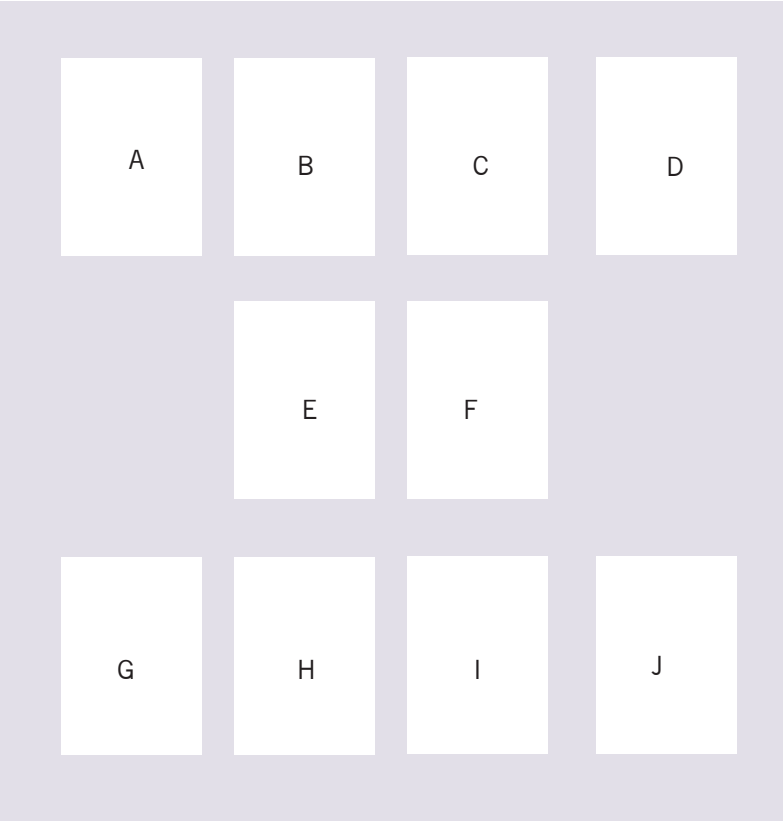


# The Moroccan Amazigh Quilt



Peace Fellow Laura McAdams (far left) helped the weavers from the Ain Leuh cooperative to produce their panels.



The weavers of Ain Leuh are famous for their traditional Berber designs.



The Moroccan Amazigh Quilt panels were assembled by Kathy Springer (above), in Indianapolis.



A. **Mehma Behous** joined the Ain Leuh cooperative in 2010, when she already knew how to weave. She says she doesn't remember who taught her the skill and that she must have been born knowing how to weave!



B. **Naima Mameri** began weaving at 10, when she fashioned a loom and tried to copy the work of her neighbor. Young Naima would dream of a pattern for a piece and wake up in the middle of the night to begin weaving. She was unable to finish elementary school, and has instead pursued weaving as a way to earn money for her family.



C. **Khadija Rachidi**, born in 1988, is the youngest member of the cooperative. She began as an apprentice in 2006 at the cooperative after finishing elementary school, and has now been a full-fledged member of the cooperative since 2008. She hopes to enter the annual national traditional arts competition in the fall.



D. **Mouna Sadiqui** began learning how to weave from her mother when she was 10 years old. She never finished elementary school, and is unable to read and write. She joined the cooperative in 2006 after her son Asu was born to help pay for the increased household expenses.



E. **Rachida Ghanim** is the only one of her four sisters who learned how to weave from their mother and grandmother. She began learning when she was 16 years old in Am Ghas, a small village outside of Ain Leuh.



F. **Khadija Ouchkak** is the heart and soul of the cooperative. A shooting accident during her childhood has made walking difficult for Khadija, and she began weaving at 11 years old when she was unable to make the daily walk to school. Khadija now serves as project manager, teacher of apprentices, marketing director, volunteer coordinator, cooperative spokeswoman, and of course, master weaver.



G. **Fatima Aberau** learned how to weave from her mother at home at the age of 14. She joined the cooperative in 2009 because she wanted to learn how to create more detailed pieces.



H. **Jamila Rachidi** began working at the cooperative in 2006 as an apprentice with her younger sister Khadija. Although she also knows how to create the detailed hanbels, or flat weavings, she prefers to make the thick blankets woven on horizontal looms because they can be finished in a matter of weeks.



I. **Hashmia Dwerie** began learning how to weave at the cooperative when she was 12 years old. She likes to incorporate as many traditional motifs in her weavings as possible, and encourages other women to do so as well. She says that the traditional motifs are not only beautiful, but a way to preserve the culture of her ancestors.



J. **Drisia Heyeni**, the cooperative's expert on natural dyes, hopes the cooperative can someday dye all their wool themselves using her techniques.