

PENELOPE'S NEWS



February 2019

The newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild

Ruth Cooper.....*Board Chair*
Carl Stewart.....*Board Vice Chair*
Natalie Shumovsky.....*President*
Moir White.....*President*
Susan Allen.....*Treasurer*
Liz Bivens..... *Corporate Secretary*
Laurie Harkin-Chiasson...*Studio Manager*

The Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild (OVWSG) is a non-profit, incorporated organization, whose mandate is *"to encourage its membership to achieve a high aesthetic standard and technical expertise and to promote and foster the knowledge of, interest in, and appreciation for historic and contemporary weaving, spinning, and their related fibre arts."*

President's Message

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As the snow piles up outside, I've been having a wonderful time cocooning in my studio on days when I'm not at work. Although I spin and weave year-round, there's something special about playing with fibre and weaving when I can imagine that new scarf or shawl keeping me warm.

And speaking of warm, Jean Sharp and Lise Horth-Susin cut the latest round of finished coverlets off the 100-inch loom last week, unfurling coverlets made by Jean, Janet Lefebvre, Mary-Anne Dalkowski, and me. The first coverlet on that warp was woven by guild members for Kathleen Schwass after she became ill and was unable to finish her own. The 100-inch loom lives in our upstairs classroom and is so wide that it requires two weavers to operate it at a time. I've helped others weave on the big loom before, but this is the first time I've made something for myself. I love the finished product, and I also loved the experience of getting to know others better as we wove together hour after hour.

This brings me to some great news. As I announced at the last meeting, the guild has heard in early January that our grant application to the City of Ottawa for new flooring in the classroom was successful. Then this week, we learned that our grant application to the New Horizons for Seniors Program for a new 100-inch loom was successful! We plan to install both in the quieter summer months. Stay tuned for more information and for the great reveal in late summer. We will talk more about our weaving program on the 100-inch loom and about "wish lists" for future grants later this year.

And finally, when I was writing our report to the City of Ottawa for the operational funding it gives us, I was struck once again by how

Meeting Info

This month's meeting:

Monday, February 4th, at
7.30pm

Program: Diane Gonthier, OHS
Master Spinner Program

Next meeting:

Monday, March 4th, at 7.30pm

many volunteers we have at the guild. Thanks to each of you, we are able to offer incredible programming, workshops, and networking opportunities.

Moir White



General announcements

February Meeting Program

Diane Gonthier will be giving a presentation on the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Master Spinning Program.

Resource Centre Display

Hello Everyone,

The display of clothing we have featured in the RC is coming to an end with the February meeting. It was really great to see the variety of clothing we were able to show, and the many techniques and/or weave structures used in the samples on display.

Our next theme involves handwoven blankets, be they small or large, cotton, wool or baby, we hope to display them all. Please bring yours to the next Guild Meeting or leave in the RC addressed to me.

With thanks, Francesca Overend.

Help Wanted

After another successful Exhibition and Sale - Simply Unique 2018, we are looking for someone to step into the General Coordinator's role. This is a two year minimum commitment and comes with lots of help!

The main tasks will be to convene and chair regular meetings with the vendor committee, organizing the payment for the venue and parking (which includes being the point person), overseeing the various sub-committees (e.g., Exhibition, demos, Co-op Booth, Guild Booth, Booth sales, and promotion), troubleshooting and other various surprises!

The person taking on this task need not be a Guild member and there will be an honorarium given in acknowledgement of the work involved.

If you have any questions regarding the duties and/or other lovely things, please contact Jean Sharp at gambissara@yahoo.ca

Welcome New Members!

Margaret Killey and Kate Killey (Family)

Ellie Anderson

Nancy Verspoor

Cecile Gagnon (Family with Diane Dillon)

Nancy Kearnan

Lucie Lacelle

Erin Malette

Louise Gilbert (Family with Kim Dallaire and Zoe Underwood)

Anne-Marie Binet

Returning after an absence:

Andrea Dixon

Mariela Wong

Announcements from Coordinators

Workshops

Workshops has started 2019 with flourish. Many workshops are full and have significant waiting lists, for which I appear to have Kelly Ellis and her wonderful Facebook advertising to thank. I'm doing my best to accommodate those waiting lists by adding extra sessions where I can so, if you see that a workshop you were interested in is full, do fill out a waitlist form.

We unfortunately had to cancel Pine Needle Basket on January 20th due to the significant snowstorm. When inclement weather happens the instructor has the last word on whether to cancel. Students will be informed by email first and asked to reply to confirm receipt. If we don't get a reply we will telephone. If a workshop is cancelled for this or any other reason we will do our best to reschedule to suit as many students as we can. If a student is unable to attend the new date a full refund would be issued. If there is inclement weather and the workshop is not cancelled but you feel it is not safe for you to make the journey to attend we will arrange a credit for you.

Because of the cancelled Pine Needle Basket and the very long waitlist for Dye the Colour Wheel you may have noticed new sessions of these workshops on the website. These workshops have RESERVED tickets which means they are intended for particular individuals from the waitlist or cancelled class. Sometimes, if a student has to cancel their spot, a RESERVED ticket might appear on a regular workshop to allow a person from the waitlist to register and replace the cancelled class. If you have to cancel and I can replace you from the waitlist I am able to fully refund you. Please do not register for a workshop using a reserved ticket unless I have specifically directed you to do so. If you are directed to use one please watch carefully. They will often be set up as RESERVED Members and RESERVED Non-Members, so choose the one that applies to you.

Meanwhile there are plenty of workshops with room in them. Go, look, and register with abandon. And, if you are on Facebook, please share our workshop events with your friends outside the Guild. I did and netted the instructor's Mum (Jan's, not mine)!

Elizabeth Watt
OVWSG Workshops Registrar

Library

Weather permitting, the library will be open by 9am the Monday of the meeting. (I will post on Facebook as soon as I am in.) We will be closing at 7:15pm to allow the librarians to attend the meeting on time. Please try to come in as early as you can to drop off your library items and choose new ones. If you can't make the meeting please remember to contact the library, and if your item has not been requested by another member it can be renewed for a month. If you forget, the donation to the new book fund is \$1.50 per item per month. Anything taken out at the February meeting will be due at the March meeting.

We had a few interesting donations to the library, a number of "en bref" ass. des Tisserands d'Lci. They are a very nicely done French weaving magazine most have samples.



We have a new Vav #42018, Filzfun 19#1, the Wheel 2018 (which went out last meeting)



I won at the December meeting 2 new Reference items!!

Helen Waddell's **Handspinning Kid Mohair for Knitted Cloth, 1989** this is her OHS Master Spinners thesis (In-depth study) it is very cool and amazing to have it join our library. You can find it at REF642.41WAD.



The seminar notes from **Convergence 86**. Look here to find it REF702.03ASS. The Convergence conference was sponsored by the Handweavers Guild of America, and hosted by the Ontario crafts council and Ontario Handweavers and Spinners (OHS). There were 124 seminars on spinning, weaving history and basketry.



Jan

Events

The 20th Annual Chesterville Spin-in is happening Saturday Feb 2nd from 9 am to 4 pm. The cost is \$5 at the door. The location is the Chesterville Legion, 167 Queen St W, Chesterville, Ontario, K0C 1H0. There will be a number of local vendors on site.

Theme for Show and Tell this year is items made with Jacob, Rideau Arcott and/or Cheviot rare breed fleece.

Non-alcoholic beverages supplied by the legion. Bring lunch or visit one of the restaurants in town.

For additional info contact Nancy MacMillan at 613-448-1411 or macmillannancy2019@gmail.com.

25th Annual Weaving History Conference

May 16-17, 2019 | Clayton, NY

We are pleased to invite you to the 2019 Weaving History Conference (WHC) hosted by the Thousand Islands Arts Center (TIAC). Held at the beautiful 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel in Clayton, this conference brings together textile and fiber enthusiasts from around the country to celebrate, promote, and share ideas related to fiber arts. What began as the Historic Manuscripts Conference in 1994 has evolved to encompass not only academic weaving presentations, but information on all the fiber arts. The two-day WHC has now become a gathering for textile and fiber academics and admirers to showcase their talents, network with peers, and hear speakers present on a wide variety of topics.

This year we celebrate our 25th anniversary and there are new and exciting plans in store!

- First, we invite you to submit your finest woven wearables to our spring textile exhibition Weave It, Wear It. This show will be up through the WHC and be accompanied by the fashions of featured weaver Barbara Decker. All are invited to join us at the reception Wednesday, May 15, from 4—5:30pm!
- We are excited to include a workshop opportunity following the conference this year. Join instructor Karen Pardee and learn the Japanese weaving technique known as saori.
- Once again, you are invited to bring your wares and to buy, sell, barter, and/or trade with other attendees at the Conference Marketplace! It will be open throughout the conference. Please let us know if you'll need space and how many six-foot tables you would like.
- Bring a cherished textile or item reflecting where your interest lies for our special Show & Tell session. Please keep presentation to three minutes.
- We're also looking for photographs of past conferences to include in a slideshow. If you have any to share, please send them to marina@tiartscenter.org.

As always, we look forward to another informative, fun and rewarding conference and hope to see you there!

For all conference inquiries please contact:

Marina Loew at Marina@TIArtsCenter.org or (315) 686-4123 ext. 204 or visit our Weaving History Conference page at TIArtsCenter.org/whc.php for regular updates.

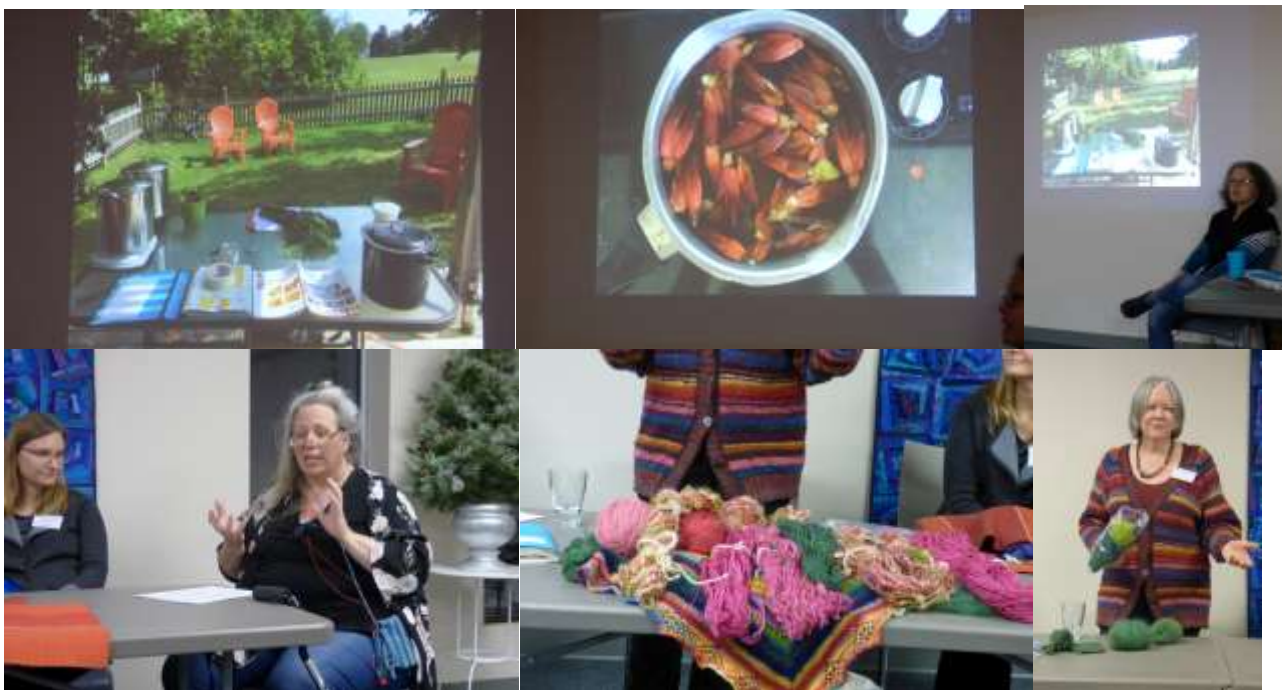
The rate for the full conference includes presentations, full breakfasts and lunches.

Rates do not include overnight accommodations. Rooms at the 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel are held under Thousand Islands Arts Center starting at \$129 a night until May 1. Please call the hotel directly at 315.686.1100 to reserve a room or for hotel inquiries.

2019 Presenters

- Philis Alvic: Eliza Calvert Hall, "The Handwoven Coverlet Book," and Collecting Coverlets in the Early Twentieth Century
- Abbey Cash: Introduction to Fans: Fans Throughout History
- Nancy Cloutier: History of Weaving in Hartland, Michigan during 1930-1940
- Sally Eyring: 3D Weaving - the World Isn't Flat
- John Kreifeldt: Weaving and the Loom of Taiwan's Atayal People
- Penny Lacroix: Revitalizing an Old Loom
- Susan McAdoo: J and R Bronson and The Domestic Manufacturer's Assistant
- Joan McKenzie: The 50-Mile Coat: Celebrating 50 Years of our Guild (Etobicoke Handweavers & Spinners)
- Dennis Mills: Sifting and Sorting: Assessing the Significance of Handwoven Textiles
- Gordon Moat: An Early Canadian Patent
- Radhana Raheja: The Ansari Family: Revival of Traditional Mughal Handloom Velvet Weaving Technique by Brocade Weavers of Benaras, India
- Sandra Rux: The Essential Reed: Reeds and Reed Making in the Northern United States, 1700-1830
- Judith Rygiel: Practical Philanthropy: Patronesses of Acadian Weavers in Louisiana, 1884-1893
- Carl Stewart: The Great Cloth: Heritage Fabrics and Contemporary Textile Art

January Program – Creative Process Panel





Show & Tell



Marketplace

The Marketplace portion of the newsletter is used to promote and assist its members. Some restrictions may apply as to space availability and file restrictions. Contact Natalie at marketplace@ovwsg.com or newsletter@ovwsg.com

Kinnaird Farm - come for a visual tour at www.KinnairdFarm.ca

- Ready to spin roving in various natural colours, wool and wool-alpaca blends
- Fleece, unwashed, white with some select coloured fleeces
- Sheepskin Rugs - new product has just arrived, white and "grizzly bear" colour variations

Contact Kelly MacGregor for details: KinnairdFarm@gmail.com



Loom for Sale: 36" Weavebird, 16 shaft Computer-Dobby loom in superb condition and includes:

- Interface Box
- 2 warp beams, of which beam 1 is a sectional warp beam with extensions (sectional beam and extensions are removable)
- Aprons and rods
- 12 dent stainless steel reed
- Inserted Eye Heddles
- 500 Additional Heddles
- 2 Lease Sticks
- 12 Pirns
- 1 Reed Hook

The loom as is, new, costs \$11,020 taxes included. Asking \$7,500. For further information contact heggteit@rogers.com or 613-722-5039.



Créations Christine
Représentante d'Ashford Dealer

Pour plus d'information –
For inquiries: 819-405-2007
cgagne40@gmail.com
Christine Gagné



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Wheels On Fire

Wheels On Fire



December Meeting Minutes

General Meeting Agenda

Monday December 3rd, 2018 7:30 in Unitarian Meeting Room

Chairs: Moira White / Natalie Shumovsky, President

- Natalie welcomed all in attendance - 72 members
- She introduced executive members, along with three new members wanting to learn to weave and spin.

BUSINESS

- Workshop updates – Elizabeth reported that the new schedule of workshops was filling quickly so make sure to check all workshops as brand new ones are not filling as quickly. There are several ways to access workshops but you must register through the website.
- Ex & Sale update – Jean said we had a great sale. She thanked the all helpers and volunteers. The vendors gave feedback with high satisfaction and suggestions for next year. Seemed like a record crowd.
- Community Booth at the Ex & Sale – Ruth had 8 vendors, broke even on booth price but smaller items sold better and Anita Hebert donated sales from her silk jewelry to go for new spinning wheel. Gord asked if the guild has insurance policy to cover during demos and questions how member or non members are identified on website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Announcement from Moe: Parking – you can park in the back lot on weekdays only after 4pm
- Andrea taking care of equipment and yarns on auction, items had been posted on Facebook previously,

PROGRAM

Andrea helped do the Equipment Auction of Weaving and spinning equipment and various smaller items that came from Kathleen Schwass.

BREAK

- The Rosepath Auction took place with many items finding new homes.

Next meeting – **Monday, January 7th, 2019.** 7:30 pm.

January Meeting Minutes

General Meeting Agenda

Monday January 7, 2019 • Unitarian Meeting Room, Heartwood House

Meeting 7:30 pm – approximately 40 attending (snow storm pending)

Chairs: Moira White / Natalie Shumovsky, President

Moira introduced the executive and welcomed members including 2 new, a mother and daughter
Business:

- Workshop updates: Elizabeth said advertising doing well for workshops. There is a new rigid loom class teaching a new warping method, fur weaving at the end of January and Jan teaching inkle weaving. Wait lists are getting long so she will find space to create new classes
- Library: Jan Scott has posted the new books on Facebook and mentioned that a student doing research in Algonquin college was impressed with our library.

Announcements:

- Ruth: OHS Conference in Woodstock, October 17-20 Jane Stafford and Amy Tyler will be speakers and more info of the OHS conference is in Fibre Focus and our library.
- Moira: Reported that our full grant requested came in for new flooring upstairs

Program:

Creative Process Panel members -

Deborah Margo, Natalie Shumovsky, Jan Scott, Jean Sharp

Deborah gathers herbs and flowers of all kinds to find what color dyes she can get. She gets inspired by those fibres and colors.

Natalie looks at the colors of her yarns to decide on projects, uses fibreworks to try patterns, gets ideas on Ravelry and also gets inspired by other Weavers. She uses spare minutes to create ideas and saves them in a folder on Ravelry.

Jan says her creativity is in problem solving, thinking outside of the box, brainstorming, thumb nail ideas, thinking of the parameters, deciding on type - weave, spin, felt and using multiple things on the go, draw ideas down for later, save files, photos, books, and just trying things

Jean says whatever comes to her from her stash gives her ideas of her project. With knitting she takes a color and sees other colors in stash to add in. Doesn't calculate anything, inspired by color

From Questions,

Deborah says experimenting really helps and ideas come with intuition

Natalie says having a really nice silk or color, doesn't make that material more precious to use

Jean says her process is less vigorous than when younger and loves the creativity she has with what she sees in her stash.

It's a trap to feel something or certain fibres are more precious.

Creating is a journey

Use every hour or minutes of time to be creative. You will be that hour ahead in getting something done

Break of 5 minutes

Show and Tell:

- Elizabeth, spun skeins for wheels on fire.
 - Julie Anne, scarves from rigid heddle course.
 - Cole, harvests milkweed, and spins.
 - Gordon, textile fibre books -he has a list
 - Natalie, 2 scarves.
 - Terry, woven samples of color and weave effects
- Cathy, first weaving project
 - Ann McElroy, pots felted in a pot
 - Ruth, wove warps for 2 scarves
 - Erin Mallett, Weaving course, Table runner
 - Jan, tablet weaving books and cards with patterns

Adjournment: 9:25 pm

Next meeting – **Monday, February 4, 2019 7:30 p.m.** Diane Gonthier- The OHS Master Spinning Program