

PENELOPE'S NEWS



March 2019

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

Ruth Cooper.....*Board Chair*
Carl Stewart.....*Board Vice Chair*
Natalie Shumovsky.....*President*
Moirra 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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Over the past month, I've seen many of you posting how you're keeping busy spinning and weaving at home, especially on very cold or snowy days. It's great to see our members enthusiastic about their fiber-y activities. As workshops fill up, our members (and non-members) learn more about their craft or learn a new one altogether.

Learning a skill is a never-ending endeavour. There is always something new to be learned, no matter how long you have been practicing that skill. The same goes for the fibre arts. Our guild offers many classes, not just for beginners, but for advanced students. We have all of this knowledge in our guild, and to be able to learn from a master weaver or spinner is invaluable. Sometimes, just learning a technique of doing something differently can be eye-opening.

If you haven't yet taken a class, is it because your schedule doesn't allow it? Or did you want to take a class that isn't being offered this year? Did you know that you can request a class on a different date, provided you can find 3 other people who would like to take the class with you, space is available, and an instructor is available? Otherwise, make a suggestion to the workshop coordinator for a class to be scheduled next year.

Never stop learning!

This month's program is a fashion show (see the program details below). I look forward to seeing all of your fashion items, be they woven, felted or knitted.

Natalie

Meeting Info

This month's meeting:

Monday, March 4th, at 7.30pm

Program: Fashion Show

Next meeting:

Monday, April 1st, at 7.30pm

In Memoriam – Mary Morrison

The Guild has lost one of its longest serving and active members: Mary Morrison, a weaver, teacher and long-time board member died on Wednesday, February 20th, 2019. Her daughter, Jane, has asked for “anecdotes about my Mom that I could incorporate into an eventual eulogy”. Please send your memories to sunahara.ann@gmail.com.

Born in Alberta to an RCMP officer and his English wife, Mary spent a colourful childhood in Fort Chipewyan and Edmonton. In 1944, she moved with her family to Vancouver Island and trained there as a primary school teacher. Marriage to a serving military officer, John Morrison, ended her teaching career but led to further adventures in various locations as she raised her children.

Mary started weaving around 1968. She was an excellent weaver with a great love of vivid colour – especially red. Mary was a popular weaving instructor, teaching beginning and more advanced weaving classes. She especially enjoyed teaching classes on weaving rugs. She taught at Twin Willows, Valley Fibres and for both weaving guilds.

Mary also excelled in the many administrative functions she held in all the weaving organizations she belonged to over the years. At different times she was President of the Outaouais and the Ottawa Weavers’ and Spinners’ Guilds; twice in the case of the OVWSG! She was also President of Ontario Handweavers and Spinners. She was a joy to watch chairing meetings in strict adherence to Robert’s Rules of Order and with no patience for fools who did not observe them.

Please see the obituaries section of the Saturday Ottawa Citizen for the time and place of Mary’s funeral.



General announcements

March Meeting Program

For the March program we are hosting a Fashion Show-n-Tell so bring your oldest, your latest, your favourite, your most fabulous knit, woven or felted garments, scarves, hats, mittens and socks, wearable art... SURPRISE US! We want to see it all!

Model your own pieces or have one of our volunteers model it for you.

There will be the usual show and tell for non-wearable pieces after the break.

Help Wanted

The Guild's annual Sale and Exhibition Committee is looking for a Chair. We have a vendor who is willing to be co-chair. Vendors do most of the work on committees, but we want someone who is not a vendor. You do not need to be an expert event planner. We have an event plan already drafted. You just need to have a willingness to oversee tasks and help make this a great event. This Sale and Exhibition is our Guilds biggest annual event. It builds awareness of what we do and what we offer to the community. As added incentive this year we are providing an honorarium to the Chair.

Ann McElroy

Announcements from Coordinators

Workshops

Not much new to report, so here is a list of workshops coming in the next 6 weeks or so that have space:

1919 Jewelry Making with Felt Sat Mar 2 and 9. This is a new one where students use wet felting techniques to make beads and cords on the first day and turn those parts into jewelry on the 2nd day. Please register by Monday Feb 25 or I may have to cancel this one.

1920 Colour Theory 1. Sun Mar 10 and 17. This is an excellent workshop for artists in any medium, though Mandy leans it towards fibre.

1921 Egg Basket Sat Mar 16 and 23. Workshops with Laurie are always fun and educational.

1922 Custom Wet Felted Hat Sun Mar 17. This workshop often has repeat attendees. I think Jan has been more than 3 times!

1924 Wet Felted Chicks and Eggs Sat Mar 23. Learn to wet felt while making a fun Easter decoration.

1927 Warp Painting with Acid Dyes - The session April 6 is full, but I am working on arranging more sessions. If you want in, go to the listing and click "get on a waiting list". Fill in the form and I will add you to the list. May 11 is one possible date, if you can make that date, put a note in the comment box on the waitlist form.

1928 Short Draw to Long Draw Sun April 7. Excellent for spreading your spinning wings and trying new techniques

1929 Wet Felted Flowers Wed Apr 10. Fun, instant gratification wet felting.

To register type the number of the workshop in the search box on any page at ovwsg.com. That will take you first to a short blurb, then click on "continue reading" to go to the listing with the registration form. PayPal/credit card is much preferred and guarantees your spot. If you get there too late and there aren't any spots left please do fill in a waitlist form. When there is sufficient interest I do try to arrange more sessions. It also helps in planning for future years. A full workshop tells me there is good interest in the topic but a long waitlist tells me I ought to run more sessions next time!

Lastly, please remember to check your spam filters/junk email regularly. Several members have told me they have found messages from me or from the registration system in their spam boxes. This has happened even when the addresses are in the member's contact list and messages usually go through. Messages from the system come from ovwsg.com. Messages from me come from workshops@wattfamily.ca.

Elizabeth Watt
OVWSG Workshops Registrar

Library

A quick overview of the library

The librarians hope you are finding the new layout of the library easier to find books.

We now have almost all the magazines in the database. Now if we do a search by the catalog topic headings you will find magazines that fall best in that topic also listed. This would skew the total number of items in the topic if we count each magazine as one item so I have counted the magazine by titles separately.

We are primarily a weaving and spinning guild and have welcomed felters and basket makers. We have material in the library that supports the study of all these topics. We try to choose material that will expand the members' interest in a topic or give more information about a part of the topic. We also have topics that are beneficial to members in general: on principles of design, colour, dyeing, business, studios and guilds. Most weavers do not weave for the joy of the process of weaving and most spinners do not spin for the enjoyment of the process of spinning. So we try to have some books on topics about what to do with woven cloth after you have woven it as well as what do with yarn after you have spun it. We have information on embellishment which may be of interest to weavers, spinners, or felters and maybe even inspire the basket makers.

Not every book is in circulation each month or even each year. Many that sit patently on the shelf waiting for you are perused and consulted within the library then carefully returned to their shelf. We try to notice what is being perused as well as what is being taken out. The Library also uses the lists of interests from the registration data to help inform us which direction to expand the library. We also watch for new publications, which tend to vary from one year to another depending on the topic's level of interest and compare it to our holdings. With the consolidation of the library this will be much easier.

Here is another way to break down the library holdings:

Weaving 902 + 39 embellishment + 22 Weaving & Spinning + 68 Basketry + 104 common to all fiber artists	Spinning 229 + 47 Fiber /prep + 39 embellishment + 22 Weaving & Spinning + 104 common to all fiber artists	Felting 36 + 47 Fiber /prep + 39 embellishment + 104 common to all fiber artists	Basketry 68 + 104 common to all fiber artists	Fib. Prep/ Fiber source 47 + 104 common to all fiber artists
012. Biography (9)				
140.-142. Business (11)				
200.-249 Studio/health hazards/ pest control/ photograph your work (8)				
250. Guild (running, organization, Group projects, Challenges) (13)				
	300.-349 Sources of fiber, plant (10), animals (23)			300.-349 Sources of fiber, plant (10), animals (23)
	350 Fibre Prep (14)			350 Fibre Prep (14)
400. - 429. Colour (30)				
430. Dyeing General (11), 440. Natural Dyes (58), 450. Synthetic dyes (8), 460. Dyeing - Special Techniques (22)				
		500.-599. Felting (36) (1 PER)		
	600. Spinning (139) (3 PER)			
680. Thread (fine yarn)/ stitch/ Knott (39) (embellishment)				
	690. (After Spinning) Yarn-looped Fabrics (Naal, Knit, Crochet) (90)			
700 Fine and Decorative Arts (Exhibits) (19)				
701. Art Theory – Design (11)				
702. Weaving & Spinning - general works contains both. (22) (2 PER)				
703. Weaving (general 28) (16 PER)				
710. Weaving – Equipment (128)				
720. Weaving - Yarn /Warp or weft (13)				
730. Learn to weave (primers) (55) (1 PER) 730.1 Weaving Study Courses (6) 730.12 About Teaching weaving/ instructions for teachers (5) 730.17 Samples of learning to weave workshops (samples) (9) (TOTAL 75)				

After months of searching we have been able to upgrade the reference cabinet's locks from the snake lock (borrowed from my snow blower) to the much more visually appealing sliding locks. This will make locking the upper cabinets much quicker and should help keep us from being late to the meetings! (The source was Princess Auto)

730. Learn to weave (primers) (55) (1 PER) 730.1 Weaving Study Courses (6) 730.12 About Teaching weaving/ instructions for teachers (5) 730.17 Samples of learning to weave workshops (samples) (9) (TOTAL 75)				
732. Drafting (how to draft or read drafts) (67) (Including multi-harness (26)				
733. Weave Structures- General (17) specific weaves structures- (93)				
734 Weaving - Techniques/ Theory (24) (1 PER)				
735. Warping (18)				
736. helpful Tips tricks hints (1)				
738. Finishing/ Fulling (12)				
740. Weaving – Projects (26) Indexes (5) (7PER) 741. Projects - Clothing (12) 741.2 outerwear (13) 741.3 shirts/ Tops (2) 742. Projects -For the Home (20) 742.1 Table cloths, napkins, placemats (10) 743. Projects –Ecclesiastical (3) (total 91)				
760. Tapestry Weaving (48)				
770. Rugs (43)				
780. Basketry (68)			780. Basketry (68)	
790. History of Weaving - Historical/geographical (127)				
800. sewing (After weaving) (46) (2 PER) 880. Quilting (using weaving scraps) (7)				
900. Textiles – Finished cloth (36)				

The librarians hope you are enjoying the library and are finding some of the treasures we have waiting for you within the collection. Next month we will try to point out some of the hidden gems within the collection. Otherwise, the newsletter would be mostly library! We will hope to see you soon.

Jan, on behalf of the librarians

Events

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 (Etobicola 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

February photos



Diane Gonthier's Spinning Exotic Fibres Workshop



Chesterville Spin-in 2019



Recent Monday social



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
- NEW – just picked up from the Mill, two-ply spun natural white yarn; and, “Henrietta” llama fibre

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

Marie-France Gosselin

Louet, Ashford, Schacht Spindle Company, Harrisville & Mirrix.
Weaving supplies.

Fournitures pour le tissage à la main
Représentante de produits Louet,
Ashford, Schacht Spindle Company,
Harrisville & Mirrix.

Carriageway Studios, Almonte, Ontario
latelierweavingstudio@gmail.com
613 - 882 - 6893
[f/latelierweavingstudiotissage](https://www.facebook.com/latelierweavingstudiotissage)

Looking for a used 8 harness 36" or 45" loom with front hinged treadles. It must be in good to excellent good condition.

I live in Barry's Bay, 2 hours west of Ottawa. If you know of anyone who is selling what I am looking for please ask them to contact me by email or phone

shirleymurphy10@sympatico.ca

613-504-2993

Shirley

Hummingbird Weaving Studio

Gordon Moat will have a selection of used spinning, weaving and dyeing books available at the April and May guild meetings. If you would like to browse the list of available titles please send an email request to him at gordon.moat@xplornet.ca.



April 6 & 7 2019 9.30-4.30 each day

Uncomplicated Weaving Class at my newly renovated studio! Just outside of Chesterville, Ontario.

Every student will learn how to make a warp on a warping board and how to set up a floor loom.

Then they will weave a sampler or small project. Please let me know the kind of thing you wish to learn, and I will arrange a project for you. For example, think rugs, scarves, place mats, tea towels, etc. One student wanted to learn how to make horse blankets! There are a lot of possibilities.

Total cost for the 2 days is 200.00 (includes materials). Payment in full is due 2 weeks before the class (Mar.30). Payment by E-transfer, call me with your Visa or Mastercard number or mail me a cheque. More information is on my website, www.handweaving.ca, under Classes, although this one may not be showing on the site yet. Or phone me for more info 613-448-3733.

I look forward to a weekend spent weaving with you.

Janet Whittam

