

PENELOPE'S NEWS



April 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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It's been a long, icy winter for most of us. Many people have felt housebound, although some appreciate the time that winter affords us to stay inside and concentrate on projects. This is the time of year I love spinning wool and working with wools in general. As I weave, spin, and knit, I'm always imaging how cozy the person wearing this project will be.

But spring is now here. The days are getting longer and there's finally some warmth to the sun. As I write this, I'm seeing more and more pavement outside. Personally, I'm loving the fact that walking outside is easier: I'm lucky enough to live within walking distance of the guild and walking over has been much easier these past few weeks.

The change of seasons provides a wonderful time and space to think about new projects. Over the past two weekends, I took the egg-basket course with Laurie Harkin-Chiasson and am thrilled with the results. Just as I did with spinning and then weaving, I love the fact that I can make something that generations before us made and used every day. I am so aware that we at the guild are helping to nurture, hone, and pass on skills refined over millennia.

Spring is also the time for renewal at the guild. All executive and committee positions end early in May when we usher in a new slate of volunteers at our AGM. Volunteering is one of the best ways to meet people, contribute in a meaningful way, and learn new skills. If you've ever wanted to be more involved, please consider putting your name forward for one of our vacant positions.

Thanks to all our wonderful instructors and volunteers who help this guild run so smoothly. Without you we would not have the reach and success that we do. Heartfelt thanks.

And happy spring!

Moir White

Meeting Info

This month's meeting:

Monday, April 1st, at 7.30pm

Program: Inge Dam
presentation about ancient
tablet weaving

Next meeting:

Monday, May 6th, at 7.30pm

General announcements

April Meeting Program

Inge Dam will give a presentation about ancient tablet weaving.

There will be the usual show and tell after the break.

Announcements from Coordinators

Workshops

All continues relatively smoothly for workshops. As always, look at the calendar or the category listings to find something that appeals to you. Workshops with space that are coming up include:

- 1931 Summer and Winter with a Modern Twist
- 1929 Beautiful Wet Felted Flowers
- 1928 Short Draw to Long Draw – Drafting Woolen to Worsted for Spinners
- 1932 Weave a Beautiful Basket from Recycled Materials
- 1933 Spinning with a support spindle
- 1934 Plying
- 1937 Introduction to Fiberworks PCW (for Windows)
- 1938 Needle Felted Fairy Garden
- 1935 Weaving 1 – Intro to Table Loom

For more details on each workshop go to ovwsg.com and type the workshop number into the search box in the top right hand corner.

Meanwhile, able Assistant Kelly has reviewed and summarized the workshop evaluations for the last quarter. As always the responses have been overwhelmingly positive. The comments made have been useful feedback that instructors can use to improve their offerings. Please do take the time to fill out an evaluation after you take a workshop, we really do appreciate the feedback. Only Kelly sees the original forms, she provides summary data and all comments to the instructors.

Elizabeth Watt
Workshops Registrar

Membership

Membership Renewals:

Just a reminder that the majority of the membership has a membership renewal date of April 30. You will receive a reminder e-mail in early April, if your renewal is the end of April.

You can pay your renewal:

- **Online:** Go to www.ovwsg.com Then 'Membership' tab and follow the directions (for PayPal or credit card payments). Note: The option to pay by credit card is located at the bottom of the box to sign-in to PayPal.
- **Snail mail:** OVWSG, Heartwood House, 404 McArthur Ave., Ottawa, ON, K1K 1G8 Attention: Membership. Make cheques payable to OVWSG
- **In person,** at a meeting

Library

You have to be a member in good standing to take out library items. Please renew your memberships as soon as you can, (on line: <http://www.ovwsg.com/membership/membership-application/>) so you will be on the librarians' list of members!

Weather willing, on the meeting Monday, the library should be open for your perusal by **9am** and close at **7:15pm** to allow us to put away the library and not delay the meeting starting.

If you can't make the meeting please contact library@ovwsg.com. If you're book has not been requested by another member we will renew it for one month. If you forget the late fee is 1.50 per item per month.

Please remember to bring dry footwear for the meeting and in the studio. March can be very wet and sometimes muddy!

New this month: Magazines

Filzfun 19/2 #62: For those of us whose written German is a bit weak there is a helpful English supplement!



VAV 2019 #1



More updating and reorganizing of the library this time in the Magazine cabinet. Look how neat it is!

Top shelf: Shuttle, Spindle and Dye Pot (HGA)/ craft/ warp and weft/ OHS master weavers homework binders

2nd shelf: Handwoven & Handwoven index/Weavers Journal/ Weavers'

3rd shelf: Spin off /Wild Fibers/ ply/ index/Heddle/Weavers Craft/Fiber focus (OHS)

4th shelf: VAV/sample binders/French weaving mag/Wheel/ felt Filzfun/

5th shelf: storage/ Loom Music/ Threads/ Piecework

We have done a little reorganizing of the magazines this past month, so that Vav has space to expand. There are empty magazine holders for expansion of all periodicals that we are subscribing to, as you have likely notice handwoven, Spin off, shuttle spindle & die pot and Vav all go horizontally across the cabinets. This is to allow more than one person to look at handwoven or spin off at a time. There are labels on the inside of the door to help you find the magazines you're looking for. We are still working at putting on stickers with the year and edition or number in the top left corner to make the magazines easier to put away or to find when you're looking for them. The textile index which covers the older magazines (1950-87) is on one of the middle shelves to help you locate articles by topic or author. We also have a number of older magazines in PDF format in the DVD collection don't forget to check them out!

For those of you who missed the March meeting we had a display of books to match the meeting topic of fashion show. Weavers may want to look at the sewing section for information on sewing with handwovens, special techniques, and books about pattern and design in the 800's. Spinners may like to peruse the thread 680's and yarn 690's sections for options other than weaving (found in the 700's) for their spun fiber.



From the above photo, the books selected to inspire you for the March meeting were;

Fine Embellishment Techniques -Jane Conlon 850.CON

Saori - Saori Leaders Committee 860.SAO

Felting Fashion -Lizzi Houghton 550.HOU

Sweater Design in Plain English - Maggie Righetti 694.4RIG

(Front Row)

Planned and Unplanned creative handwoven clothing - Pat White 851.WHI

Fabulous Felt Hats - Chad Alice Hagen 560.HAG

Home Spun Hand Knit - Linda Ligon 692.6LIG

We will look forward to seeing you April 1 2019 before the Guild meeting.

Jan on behalf of the Librarians

Welcome New Members!

Margaret Gouin
Jenn Bruce
Sutapa Adelman
Isolda Rosas
Eve Parker
Jeanette Corlett-Black – FAMILY with Edward Black
Meagan Richardson

Returning after an absence

Brenda Bekkers

Book Review

Homespun Handknits – Review by Cathy Koenjer

Borrowed this book from our wonderful library after Jan Scott put it on display at our last meeting. I didn't find a project I wanted to knit, but found lots of little gems of information on working with handspun yarns. The book is a collection of small projects that are favourites of spinner/knitters. It is good for building your confidence in using your precious handspun yarns in a knitting project.

Events

CONGRÈS ANNUEL

Pour vous inscrire au congrès annuel,
visitez le site Web de l'ATQ et remplissez le formulaire
<http://www.lesstisserandsduquebec.com/wp/formulaires/>

Tarification: Inscriptions avant le 15 mars 2019 : 175 \$
Inscriptions après le 15 mars 2019 : 195 \$
Étudiants : 120 \$



From sheep to shawl!

Date: Saturday, April 6 from 10 to 2 pm

Location: Carriageway Studios, Almonte, Ontario

Hosts: L'atelier Weaving Studio Tissage and Turn weft and Spin too

It is an event where we will showcase amazing equipment available from the best manufacturers. There will be carding, spinning and weaving demonstrations to feature the products available. And we've invited very special guests to participate.

Kate Michalska, St. Isidore Farm, Yarker, Ontario

Durable and lustrous Lincoln Longwool! Kate will bring lovely fleeces, rovings, washed curls and yarns in their natural colours or naturally dyed. Learn about her process of organically raising this endangered breed of sheep that provides a unique fibre for local artists. More at stisidorefarm.net or on facebook.

Lori Law

Canadian dyer Lori Law has been hand-dyeing yarns and spinning fibres through Oceanwind Knits since 2005. New to the Ottawa area, her business began in BC, but she now works out of her home studio in Nepean and ships her yarns worldwide.

The Hilltop Fibreworker

Master Spinner, teacher, dyer and weaver Elizabeth Watt started The Hilltop Fibreworker to prevent being overrun by her fibre pursuits. Her range includes Fractal Tops - hand dyed top for spinners which, when spun as directed, creates a self-striping yarn; hand dyed warps for weaving in cotton and Tencel; kits and tutorials for Rigid Heddle weaving; and Spindle Spinning Starter Kits - everything you need to start spinning your own yarn.

Twist Scour / Savon Twist

Catherine Barrette from BIOGRADE, info@biograde.ca

Description: Biodegradable and non-toxic Fleece Cleaner / Nettoyant pour toisons brutes biodégradable et non-toxique

We hope you will be joining us for this very special event!

Marie-France, L'atelier Weaving Studio Tissage

Christine, Turn weft and Spin too

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

Tips & Tricks

Would you like to contribute your tips and tricks to your fellow OVWSG members? This is your opportunity. Send your suggestions to me at sunahara.ann@gmail.com and I will write them up for Penelope's News. I only weave, so I would especially like tips and tricks from the practitioners of other fibre arts: spinning, felting, braiding, basketry etc.

To get started, here are two of my tips and tricks for weavers.

1. Wonderclips:

These are metal and plastic clips originally designed for sewers to hold bias tape in place. They come in several styles and have many uses for weavers. (Thanks to Mandy Heggtveit for introducing me to them).



I have used them to hold back extra heddles that I don't need for my project but don't want to remove. Held back, they don't interfere with the warp in use.

And when removing heddles, they can be used to both corral the heddles that you want to retain and to stabilize the frame so none of the heddles fall off when adding or removing heddles or while you are removing or returning the frame to its slots in the castle.



And, if you are using a cartoon to guide your weaving, such as when weaving tapestry technique, the clips are perfect for holding the rolled up cartoon in place under your weaving surface so you can unwind it as your project advances:



2. Rubber Fingertips:

Leclerc's cherry shuttles are just the right size for a table loom but their beautiful finish can make them slippery and hard to grab — especially when doing a tapestry technique. The solution I use is to wear rubber fingertips normally used for counting money or paging through paper documents. And they are cheap too at Staples!



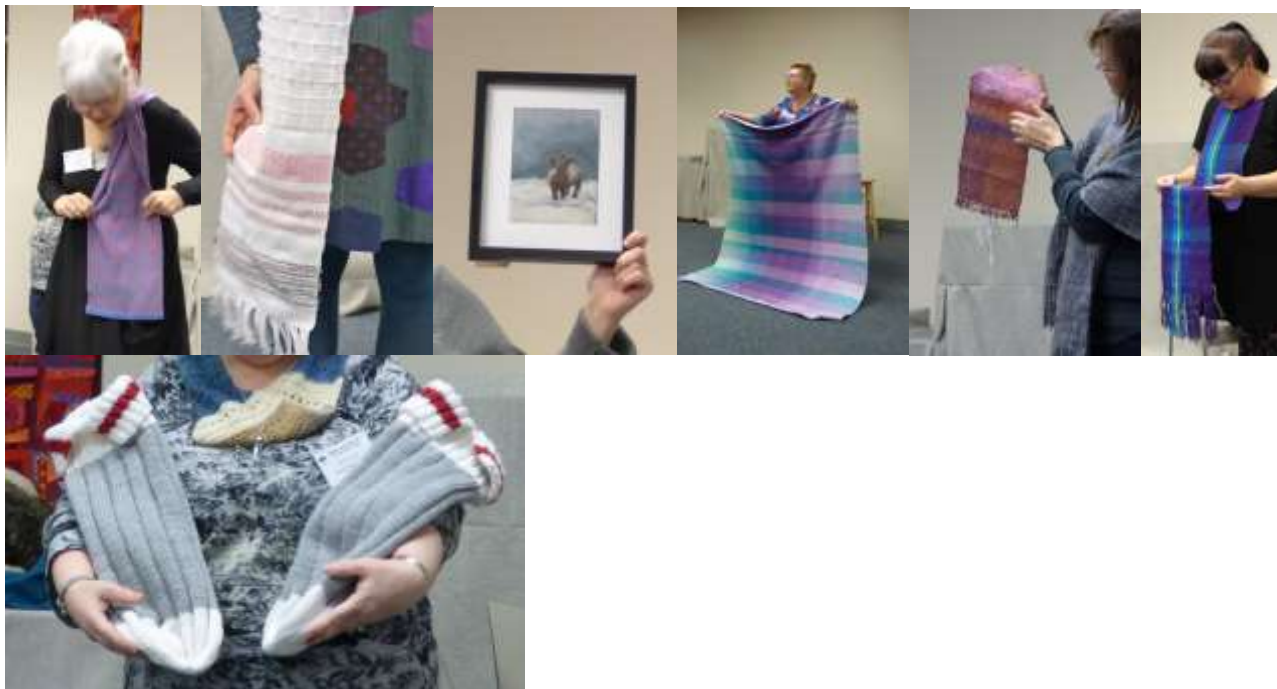
March program photos

The March program was a fashion show by our members.





Show & Tell



Farm Show Demo



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



For Sale: LeClerc Nilus 4-shaft Jack Floor Loom (45") with reed, lease sticks, raddle. \$350. IMPORTANT: Currently in storage, viewings between April 4-12 ONLY. Moving overseas. Questions? afimmers@yahoo.ca



Créations Christine
Représentante d'Ashford Dealer

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

l'atelier
weaving studio tissage

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, Airmont, 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@explornet.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

For Sale: Interested to buy loom from 24 to 100 inches? I have 6 of them. Bench, threads, accessories, stand, etc. My mother has stored this since last year in my shed since she is now in apt. She cannot keep it so looking for people interested to buy any of this stuff.

Please call
613-294-9748
Jackie Bernard

March 2019 Meeting Minutes

General Meeting Minutes

Monday March 4, 2019 • Unitarian Meeting Room, Heartwood House

Meeting 7:30 pm – approximately 40 attending

Chairs: Moira White / Natalie Shumovsky, President

Activity	Details
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Natalie introduced the executive and welcomed members
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Natalie announced that the grant proposal for the 100 inch loom has been approved and funds coming soonThe grant proposal for new flooring was also approvedEx and Sale announcement – Ann introduced her co-chair Kelly for the exhibition, and is looking for more volunteers. Jean Sharp offered to help. Contact Ann if you can also helpJulie also needs volunteers. She is still looking for guild positions such as equipment manager, someone to jury items, donations coordinator, demo coordinator, assistant for newsletter, as well as her own position to fill positions
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ruth has 2 “Weaving Bateman Blend” weaving books by Margaret Franklin left from the Ex and Sale.Elizabeth gave an update of available workshops and stressed that you should sign up on wait lists so she has an idea of what people want.Mandy’s color theory class has been moved to April.
Program	<p>Fashion Show Show-and-tell</p> <p>We brought our oldest, latest, favourite, most fabulous knit, woven or felted garments, scarves, hats, mittens and socks, wearable art.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Linda, Guatemalan blouse and hand woven scarfDiane, backpack, purseCarlene, sweater and shawlCathy, three shawls, hat, cowlRebecca, sock monkey snugglyChristine, knitted sweaterAmanda, crochet shawlAnn, nuno felt vest, jacket, scarfLiz, hooded long robeJan and Elizabeth, v shaped shawlsJoan, rigid heddle scarfLiz, fur vest

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alison, shawl wrap • Elizabeth, knitted dress • Laurie, three different shawls • Jean, handwoven sweater • Ruth, two scarves • Elizabeth, handspun poodle sweater • Judy, handspun sweater, finger woven sash • Wendy, handspun shawl, hat, and sweater • Anita, handspun and knit socks and scarf, woven scarf • Elizabeth, swing knit shawl with fractal yarns
Break	FIFTEEN Minute Refreshment Break & Visit , five minute break
Show & Tell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christine – Acadian weaving sample • Carlene – felted picture • Diane – woven blanket • Elizabeth – block weaving • Kelly – 1st weaving project
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjourned at 8:50 p.m. • Next meeting – Monday, April 1, 2019. 7:30 p.m.