

# PENELOPE'S NEWS



September 2019

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

Ruth Cooper.....*Board Chair*  
Mandy Heggveit.....*Board Vice Chair*  
Natalie Shumovsky.....*President*  
Moir White.....*President*  
Beth Briggs.....*Treasurer*  
Liz Bivens.....*Corporate Secretary*  
Laurie Harkin-Chiasson..*Studio Manager*  
Elizabeth Watt.....*Workshop Coordinator*

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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September! That time of year that feels like the real new year with endless possibilities. The cooler weather makes me gravitate toward indoor projects and I begin planning Christmas presents in earnest. I love the coziness of hunkering down with wools and lovely fibres to decide what I'm going to make next.

This summer it's been anything but quiet at the guild. A lot's been going on behind the scenes in preparation for another full year. Here are some of the ways you can find out what's new and get the most out of your membership in the months ahead:

- Check out the new floor in our upstairs classroom. Ann Sunahara quietly and oh, so ably project managed its installation in record time with Gaston from Heartwood House and her team of willing volunteers.
- Plan to attend our awesome monthly programs. Carl Stewart, Liane Thiry-Smith, and Rebecca Cairns have put together a full year of programming that balances education, fun, and networking.
- Get ready for the Ex and Sale. Ann McElroy, Kelly Ellis, and Jean Sharp have been working behind the scenes to prepare for the first weekend in November when we showcase and sell our weaving, spinning, fibre, and fibre arts, among other things. The committee works most of the year to ensure that this two-day event is a success.
- Learn a new skill or refine one you already know. Elizabeth Watt and Beth Briggs prepared a full complement of workshops for 2020. These will be unveiled at the Ex and Sale in November.
- Participate in one of our demos. Klara Konya has done a great job coordinating requests for demos this summer, but the season is not quite over. Watch for her emails.

## Meeting Info

### ***This month's meeting:***

Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7.30pm

***Program:*** Fibre Poker results and Extended Show and Tell

### ***Next meeting:***

Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7.30pm

- Hang out with like-minded fibre people at our Monday evenings socials or with our weavers on Tuesdays during the day.
- Borrow a book or two. Librarians Jan Scott, Terry Nelson, Ann McElroy, Allison James, and Lynda Beaudoin will help you locate one of our many books, magazines, or DVDs.

As always, none of this could happen without our legion of volunteers, such as Judy Kavanagh who keeps our website up to date, Linda Arsenault who handles donations, Beth Briggs who looks after our finances, and Laurie Harkin-Chiasson who keeps the studio and membership running. Every volunteer contributes to keeping the goals, objectives, and spirit of our guild alive. I haven't been able to name everyone, but be assured that your contribution is noted and appreciated.

The Executive also met at the beginning and end of the summer to oversee the organization of the guild, its policies, and its finances. Following some comments from members about perceived board secrecy, we will include a note in the newsletter with highlights from the board meetings. We'd also like to remind you that any member can attend board meetings, which we hold monthly from August through to June (dates are in the calendar on our website). Only board members are allowed by law to vote. If you have any concerns or issues you'd like to raise, please bring them to Natalie or me.

Moira White

## General announcements

### September Meeting Program

Fibre Poker results and Extended Show and Tell

## 2019-2020 OVWSG Monthly Program List

September: Fibre Poker Summer Challenge Show-n-Tell

October: Gordon Moat - Row Spinning Wheels and Their Makers from the 1800s

November: Farmer Panel

December: Rosepath Auction

January: Online resources for weavers, knitters and felters – Guild members will share their favourite and most useful online resources

February: Gillian King - natural dyeing and eco-printing

March: Workshops and Conferences Panel– Guild members will share their experiences at national and international workshops and conferences.

April: Judith Rygiel - All that Glitters: buttons as an economic marker in early 19th century New Brunswick

May: AGM

June: Speed Dating Summer Challenge

## Calling All OVWSG Farmers

Because I enjoy buying local and building community, I've been thinking that a list of our farmers would be a useful resource. I usually learn of what's available by chance through word of mouth. Having such a reference would make it easier to learn who our farmers are and what they offer.

I'm also organizing a farmer's panel for our November program. So, if you are a farmer, I'd like to hear from you. Let me know if you'd like to be part of the panel or just be included on the list. Either way, I'll need your contact info, your farm's name and location and what products you offer. (produce, meat, eggs, fibre, etc.)

[liane.ts@rogers.com](mailto:liane.ts@rogers.com)

613-875-1427

Liane Thiry-Smith

## New Floor in the Classroom

Now we can weave, spin and felt in our renewed, easy-to-clean Classroom with its shiny new vinyl interlock floor. The project was done in August in 3 days thanks to:

- One super grant writer (Moir)
- One excellent contractor (Gaston)
- One compulsive organizer (Ann)
- One cooperative Heartwood Charity that let us use their space to store our stuff while the floor was being laid (PWC — People, Words & Change that provides one-on-one adult literacy and essential skills tutoring)
- Four strong women to move stuff out of and back into the Classroom (Ruth, Moira, Christine and Louise)
- Three compliant husbands (David Sunahara, Les White and John Cooper)
- One move-supervisor (Mandy)
- One Great Wheel technical advisor and photographer (Jan)
- And a special thank you to Laurie who had to rearrange many of the looms because the organizer forgot to take a photo of the shelving before it was emptied!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!





## August 2019 Executive Meeting Brief

Executive members of the OVWSG met on August 22, 2019. The official minutes are approved at the next meeting and are then available for all members to see in the Studio. In the meantime, here are the meeting highlights, in brief:

Ann Sunahara explained the **corporate structure** of the guild and how it was arrived at to comply with Canada's Not-for-Profit Corporation Act. The Chair and Vice-Chair oversee the policy and procedures of the guild; the co-presidents oversee the operations of the guild.

Mandy Heggteit will work on revitalizing our **strategic plan**. Expect to hear more about this during the coming year.

Beth Briggs presented the **year-to-date financials**. She is working with the auditor to finalize the accounts from last year.

Moira White and Jan Scott will prepare a list of **library** acquisitions and deaccessions. They will also look for a secure, locked space for the donated sample books.

### Studio and guild reports and items:

- The new floor has been installed in the upstairs classroom! We need new wheels on the chairs to protect the floor.
- The new 100-inch loom should arrive in the next month to six weeks. The delay is due to Leclerc being behind in orders.

We applied for a New Horizons for Seniors Grant in the spring to replace two studio looms and buy four new spinning wheels. We will hear back about this grant in the new year.

- The demo box cannot contain any raw fleece for fear of contaminating supplies and books. The boxes need to be wiped down and checked before being returned.
- We need to find a new space for donated equipment until the Rosepath auction. Donated looms take up a lot of space and should not be kept in either the demo room or equipment room.
- The key box outside the Studio cannot be moved higher as it would contravene the Ontario accessibility requirements. A member who has trouble accessing it will be given a key.

### Programming and workshops:

- Elizabeth Watt presented the set of workshops for the upcoming year. With some minor tweaking, the executive approved it. The workshops will be unveiled during the Ex and Sale.
- Carl Stewart sent in the list of speakers for the coming year's monthly meetings. The executive reviewed and approved it.

### Approval of new purchases:

- Cordless drill
- New projector.
- Possible consideration: a microphone (would help all members hear the speakers at meetings)

**Member communication:**

- Moira White will write executive meeting briefs following each executive meeting to let members know what was discussed.
- Meeting dates will be posted in the calendar on the website.

## Announcements from Coordinators

### Sale and Exhibition

The OVWSG Annual Sale and Exhibition is Nov 2 and 3 this year. We still have a couple of spots left for vendors. The sale is for supplies as well as finished items. You can be juried for the sale most Monday evenings or at another time if necessary. The application form is here:

<https://www.ovwsg.com/sale/exandsaleapplication/>

There are links to all the information you will need.

If you don't have enough items to fill a whole booth, you might like to consider sharing a booth with someone or putting your items in the Co-op Booth. If you have questions you can contact us at: [guildsale@ovwsg.com](mailto:guildsale@ovwsg.com)

Ann McElroy and Kelly Ellis, Co-Chairs for the OVWSG Annual Sale and Exhibition

### Exhibition

As I mentioned at the last Guild meeting, the theme of the exhibition part of the Sale and Exhibition will be wearables - we are still working on the official title. As long as you can wear it and it's either handwoven, made from handspun, or felted - it is admissible. Please submit your pieces to me at the September meeting - or the October meeting (last chance). We are looking for items that you have had in your closet since forever or just took off the loom, needles or felting frame.

When submitting your piece(s) please provide the following information:

1. Your name
2. Your email address (for my records only)
3. The name of the piece (e.g., handwoven wool skirt, felted hat)
4. Year it was created (approximate is fine)
5. Materials used
6. Techniques involved in its creation (e.g., handspun, hand dyed, handwoven in a broken twill pattern)
7. Something interesting about its life (e.g., I made this to wear to my daughter's wedding, this was a fibre challenge entry (plus details), I love working with dog hair and this is my first attempt at making a hat...)

Please let me know if you have any questions! [gambissara@yahoo.ca](mailto:gambissara@yahoo.ca)

Thanks and see you in September!

Jean Sharp

# Library

## September 2019 Library report

Remember to bring back your library books!

The September meeting is a very busy Pre-Meeting for the library since everyone who had books out over the summer will be bringing them back and **picking up their deposit check**. Please come early so you don't have to wait and we can all attend the meeting on time.

On the meeting Monday, the library should be open by **9am and will close at 7:15pm**. You are always welcome to come in early and enjoy the resources of the Guild library. The library is also open on most Mondays of the socials. Check the Facebook group page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/OttawaValleyWeaversandSpinnersGuild/>. One of the Librarians will post as soon as we are in or call the Studio and see if we are there. The Library may be closed if the social needs more space to spin in so come in early!

If you cannot make the meeting and you have books due back, contact the librarians at **library@ovwsg.com** and let us know so we can renew your items if they have not been requested, or make other arrangements.

Members who do not have any overdue items may take out 4 items which will be due the next meeting. (Teachers and OHS students may take out more than 4).

If you have overdue items the fine is \$1.50 per item per month. The fines go towards the new book fund.

## Update on the Library

Over the summer I have had the opportunity to explain the new organizational architecture to members and guests before the socials. All have been very impressed with our collection and the new layout of topics. This was a huge job but with the help of the other Librarians we have almost reached adding the last magazine! Last week I had found a couple more books that had slipped passed us while they were circulating so will have them renumbered before you read this. All this work will be worth it since it will make the library more organized.

As I type there is only a tiny bit left to do on the library migration. I have the rest of the older copies of Fiber Focus to enter into the data base. (Unfortunately this involves a lot of ladder work which has not been an option part of this summer.) I have already gone through and pulled the donated copies we were missing in preparation of also adding them in as I enter into the database the ones we already have.

I have some physical shelf-high-adjusting and other work in the reference section while I'm up on the ladder and there are a small number of books I'm still tracking down, but Fiber Focus should be the last of the items to enter. I plan to have this done by the end of the long weekend social. That also means I start the data extracting and reformatting for the long awaited *Subject*, *Title* and *Author* lists!!! I will start with the Subject list since it is heaviest on post extraction reformatting and it is really handy to have.



**DONATIONS:** a few more reasons to come into the library early.



[Lilianne Proulx](#) dropped off her Magazines to the library. There is a mixed group which I sorted by title. Amongst them was a copy of "Ply#2". Our original copy had been lost in a fire. I have added it to our collection!

Thank you again for such a wonderful gift to the library!! We will find new homes for those that don't go into the collection.



"The Magic of Linen, Flaxseed to Woven Cloth" 370.12 HEI. This is a very exciting donation to the guild library! We had a copy quite a few years ago but it disappeared from the collection. I had been watching for a second hand copy through a number of booksellers. It is a comprehensive book covering for seed and planting to finishing the woven cloth. There is also information on history and how to clean and keep old linen cloth.

This gives us the list of secondary topics of:

302. (Growing/ collecting) Plants, 370.1 FP Plants,  
440. 2 Dyeing- Cellulose fibers (plants- cotton silk etc.), 450. 2 - Cellulose fibers (plants-cotton/silk etc),  
641.12 Spinning - Flax (stem),  
702.15 Weaving & Spinning Technique, 721.12 weaving with- Linen (Flax) yarn, 738. (Fabric) Finishing/ Fulling how to do, 790. History of Weaving - Historical / geographical

Originally it would have been in spinning (our new 641.12) but after consulting / chatting with [Cathy Louise Koenjer](#), she suggested fiber prep under plant with the subsection linen would be the best spot. That would put it at **370.12 (fiber prep) - Flax (stem)**.



Magazine "The Wheel 2015 Issue 27" PER702.06ASH. Topics include Cowls, blending board magic, and supper rug.

Magazine "The Wheel 2016 Issue 28". PER702.06ASH. topics include Weaving with handspun, woven stained glass, vari dent reed, natural dyeing, bolero jacket & krokbragd on the rigid heddle.



"Weaver's Delight from VavMagasinet", 740JOH. Topics are mostly house hold project but a few clothing and scarves. i spotted a couple projects while i was trying to place this within our collection that looked quite interesting. If you can read a draft you should enjoy this book. If you cannot read a draft then this may inspire you to want to read one!

There are a few more that have not yet been added but should be ready for the meeting so come in and welcome them to their new home.

All for now, Jan.

## Events



**24<sup>th</sup> Annual Fibrefest**  
 Saturday, September 7 10am -5pm  
 &  
 Sunday, September 8 10am -4pm  
 A full two-day festival of fibre arts at the  
 Mississippi Valley Textile Museum  
 & the Almonte Community Centre!

Catering by  
**NORTH MARKET CATERING**  
 Workshops  
**THURSDAY to SUNDAY**  
 almontefibrefest.ca

80+  
fibre art  
vendors

ADMISSION  
\$6/day

20+  
workshops

ENTRÉE  
6 \$/jour

**LAMB SPIN**  
 Sponsored Manx



**la 24<sup>e</sup> édition annuelle du Fibrefest**  
 Samedi le 7 septembre 10:00-17:00  
 et  
 Dimanche le 8 septembre 10:00-16:00

Venez explorer et apprécier  
 le monde des arts du textile  
 Musée du textile de la Vallée du Mississippi  
 et au Centre Communautaire d'Almonte!

Service traiteur  
**North Market Catering**  
 Ateliers offerts du  
 jeudi au dimanche  
 almontefibrefest.ca

80+  
commerçants  
d'art textile

ENTRÉE  
6 \$/jour

20+  
Ateliers

Participer au tirage pour des prix à gagner  
 Tirage de moutonnets parrainé par Manx

 **Ontario Handweavers & Spinners**  
presents their Biennial Conference

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MAKE  
OVER

IMPROVE RESHAPE REFASHION REBUILD

OCTOBER 17-20, 2019

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MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE

\* Up-to-date information \* Printable Juried Show Form \*  
 \* Printable & Online Conference Registration Forms \*

www.ohs.on.ca



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### Festival Twist retreats

FALL RETREAT  
 2019 NOVEMBER 8-9-10

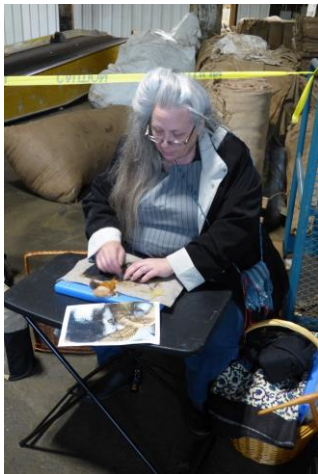
SPRING RETREAT  
 2020 MAY 1-2-3

<https://festivaltwist.org/en/our-next-retreats/>

## Summer Activities/Demos









# June Program

Jean Sharp gave a slide presentation about her travels in India, then Carl introduced Fibre Poker.





# 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](mailto:marketplace@ovwsg.com) or [newsletter@ovwsg.com](mailto:newsletter@ovwsg.com)

Kinnaird Farm – come for a visual tour at [www.KinnairdFarm.ca](http://www.KinnairdFarm.ca)

- Ready to spin roving in various natural colours, wool and wool-alpaca blends
- Fleece, unwashed, white SOLD OUT of select coloured fleeces
- Sheepskin Rugs – variations of white and now SOLD OUT of “grizzly bear” colour variations
- two-ply spun natural white yarn, fine, 100 gram skeins
- FLEECE, FLEECE and more FLEECE

Contact Kelly MacGregor for details: [KinnairdFarm@gmail.com](mailto:KinnairdFarm@gmail.com)



**Kinnaird Farm**  
**Kelly M MacGregor**

83 La Rue Mills Rd  
Mallorytown ON  
K0E 1R0

613.659.4267

[KellyMMacGregor@gmail.com](mailto:KellyMMacGregor@gmail.com)



ISABELLE PERDIGAL & JACQUES MORIN

### MOHAIR

From Our Angoras Goats. Spun In Canada. Hand Dyed On The Farm.

De nos chèvres angoras. Filé au Canada. Teint à la main à la ferme.

Vankleek Hill, ON  
(613) 678-5690  
[bellesbouclettes.com](http://bellesbouclettes.com)  
[info@bellesbouclettes.com](mailto:info@bellesbouclettes.com)



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](mailto:latelierweavingstudio@gmail.com)  
613 - 882 - 6893  
[f/latelierweavingstudiotissage](https://www.facebook.com/latelierweavingstudiotissage)



We at Carriageway Studios are feeling a bit cramped. The materials we bought too much of or never used, the paintings, the pottery we just don't have space for are all weighing us down. So, we are hosting a Creative DeClutter. This unique shopping experience cannot be missed!

## Creative DeClutter

Saturday, September 14th, 2019 from 1-3 pm.

Carriageway Studios

65 Mill Street, Almonte (by the Barley Mow)

Parking on Mill St or behind the Bank of Montreal

Art pieces, art supplies, weaving supplies, yarn, fibres, pottery, fresh juice, ice lollies and much more.

**Créations Christine**

Représentante d'Ashford Dealer

Pour plus d'information – For inquiries: 819-405-2007 [cgagne40@gmail.com](mailto:cgagne40@gmail.com)

Christine Gagné

## June Meeting Minutes

### General Meeting

Monday, June 3, 2019 Unitarian Meeting Room

7 pm - Pre-meeting sale of donated items in guild.

Meeting 7:30 pm

Chair: Moira White / Natalie Shumovsky, President

Welcome was given by Moira White to approximately 50 members before she introduced the executive members. Thanks to all volunteers and committee members. One new person interested in weaving was in attendance.

### Business

Elizabeth reminded members to check the website for workshops. June workshops need a few more participants. She put a call out for instructors in the June newsletter.

Membership news by Laurie was that there are a few people still needing to pay their membership and she will send reminders.

Library: Summer rentals were already done.

### Announcements

Exhibition of Ex & Sale – Ann McElroy states that sales booths at the Ex and sale is open to everybody. Two small booths for new vendors only. No bookmarks this year but there are business cards for everyone to hand out. All guild info is included on them.

Co-op booth at Ex and sale is being run by Jan's husband, Glenn Martin.

Cathy Louise Koenjer said the Flax project is under way. Weeds are also needing to be pulled. She is asking for more members to join in for \$7. Last chance.

Moira spoke of a new Horizons Senior program grant and we will apply for spinning wheels. Summer will be the time to do the new floor upstairs and the new loom coming will come soon.

Next door Indian restaurant is closing next month.

Allison – a member has a friend who is a photographer who would like to come during social weaving to take photos. Contact her if you'd like to be part of his photography show.



In studio is a small Leclerc loom for community projects. Email Ruth if you want to weave on it during the summer.

## **Program**

Carl introduced Jean Sharp who gave a slide presentation about her travels in India. She travelled with 3 other women to India. Each person decided on what to do during their trip. First in foothills of Himalayan mountains. She showed some shawls she bought there. Other communities with weaving and pottery. Flew to far eastern area of India.

She showed wool clothing the men wore for their new year. They take yak fur and spin it with linen. Next stop in the midwest area. Visited Gandhi's home town. Jean did some spinning cotton there. Then visited Kutch craftswomen of different tribes. Looms were made of tree branches. She showed slides of their work. They recycle bags and cassette tapes. Jean purchased many fabrics, shawls, stoles, rugs, hangings and embroidered items.

## **Poker Challenge**

Pick one card from 4 piles. Those ideas will be the summer challenge. One challenge for weaving and one for spinning. Carl encouraged everyone to think outside of the box when making their finished product.

**Break** - FIFTEEN Minute Refreshment Break & Visit

## **Show and tell**

Liz showed a Japanese fabric called furoshiki. In Japan they use fabrics to wrap presents or turn into bags for carting groceries or clothes. She also showed her piece from Inge Dam workshop.

Marie France spoke of her class at Vavstuga, showing her woven samples that she sewed into pillows.

Linda Perrier showed her color gamp tea towel samples.

Mary-Anne Dalkowski had purchased Ikat warp segments and wove scarves with that yarn from Guatemala

Deborah, new weaver made dish towels and samples with lace weave.

Terri Nelson showed an Ikea tapestry loom, a book on ergonomics for knitters and 3-D printed spindles (2 Turkish and one Scottish)

Elizabeth Watt showed her diversified plain weave T-towels

Nancy showed some knitted textiles from Peru

Liane Thiry-Smith showed her shopping therapy - her Grandmother's woven blanket, fibre, spindle, and scarf purchases she made in Portland and online

Glenn Martin Used his blacksmithing to make textile implements such as a slaying hook for weaving and a new design for an orifice hook.

Jan Scott showed another new wheel. It's a Rook by Lendrum made in the 1980's.

Adjourned at 9:50 pm.

**Next meeting** – Monday, September 9, 2019. 7:30 pm. Week after Labour Day Monday