

PENELOPE'S NEWS



February Edition 2021

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

[Natalie Shumovsky](#) *Board Chair*
[Mandy Heggveit](#) *Board Vice Chair*
[Moira White](#) *President*
[Beth Briggs](#) *Treasurer*
[Brenda Bekkers](#) *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

In this issue

President's Message.....	p.1
Memorials.....	p.3
Message from the Editor.....	p.3
General Announcements.....	p.3
Memorials.....	p.4
Guild Coordinator announcements.....	p.5
Heartwood House updates.....	p.9
Welcome to new members.....	p.10
Events.....	p.10
Flax Study Group photos.....	p.11
Show & Tell photos.....	p.12
Marketplace.....	p.14
December meeting minutes.....	p.15

Happy New Year! I hope you all managed to find some peace and joy in the holidays and are now finding joy in your chosen craft and art. Although I am still working, I try to make time daily for either weaving or spinning. Both help me find a calm spot in the day, focus on long-term goals and projects, and let the trivial go.

The past ten months have been unusual — to say the least — and unsettling for many of us. The uncertainty of when we can resume normal operations makes planning difficult, and we're all learning to put contingency plans in place for contingency plans.

Like many other not-for-profit associations, the Guild has experienced a decline in membership since the start of the pandemic. Many people have joined us over the years to take advantage of reduced member pricing for workshops, and we have not been able to offer any since mid-March 2020. This, plus the fact that we have not been able to hold in-person meetings has led some to let their membership lapse until the pandemic is over.

But many others have renewed their memberships and we've even welcomed new members. Some have discovered the joys of ages-old crafts that take time and patience to perfect. Others have relocated to this area or are rekindling an interest they had years ago. Regardless of their reasons, we are delighted to have each one of you with us.

Many — as I do — find a community in the Guild. This has been harder to nurture this year, but as with every problem comes opportunity. Hosting meetings online means that members who live further away have been able to join us regularly. It means that we've been able to expand our roster of guest speakers to include

Meeting Info

This month's Zoom meeting:
Monday, February 1st, 2021.

Program: Ixchel Suarez,
tapestry weaver.

The next Zoom meeting will
be Monday, March 1, 2021.

those outside Ottawa. We've been able to continue (albeit in a reduced and different capacity) library loans and equipment rentals. All of this is possible only with the incredible volunteers we have.

We are excited to announce that we will begin offering online study groups next month. Mandy Heggveit will host one on rug weaving, Elizabeth Watt will host one for spinners, and Jan Scott will host one on felting armatures. These will be study groups rather than our traditional workshops. Preference will be given to members before we open registration to the public. For more information, please see the section on these study groups.

To facilitate these study groups and recent operational changes, we have updated our website. Please check it out!

At this point, we are still planning to hold our annual Exhibition and Sale in November. We have the space booked at the Glebe Community Centre for November 5–7, 2021, and are looking for a coordinator and team. Please contact me if you are interested in helping.

Thanks again to all our volunteers who've continued to meet, plan, and do, even when they knew that some of the plans would have to be redone as time went on. The real constant this past year has been the need to be able to pivot in an ever-changing environment. We truly have some incredible talent and dedicated members here at the Guild. We are all grateful for everything you do.

If anyone has any questions, comments, or suggestions, please forward them to me (president@ovwsg.com) or any other member of the executive (executive@ovwsg.com). Our next executive meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 18 via Zoom. All members are welcome to attend. Please let me know if you would like to sit in, and I will send you the Zoom link.

Moira White

Message from the Editor

The newsletter is released on the Monday prior to the general meeting every month. A reminder that submissions are due on the Thursday prior to release.

Unfortunately, due to the current physical distancing protocols in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the use of ZOOM for our virtual meetings we are unable to take photographs for the newsletter. If anyone wishes to include a photo of their show and tell from the general meeting or a ZOOM social, please send them to newsletter@ovwsg.com prior to the deadline.

General Announcements

February Meeting Program

Mexican – Canadian Tapestry weaver Ixchel Suarez from Oakville, Ontario who runs the Canadian Tapestry and Texture Centre.

Examples of her work can be found at: <https://www.ellenramseytapestry.art/blog/ixchel-suarez-and-the-canadian-tapestry-and-texture-centre>

Membership

Membership renewals can be done through SECURE ONLINE PAYMENT – go to www.ovwsg.com - Tab Membership – Click Join – Follow the directions and fill in the forms. You may pay through a PayPal account or a Credit card. When the PayPal 'sign-in' box appears, the option to pay by credit card is at the very bottom of that box. Cheque/Snail mail: Cheques should be made out to "OVWSG". Mail to:

OVWSG
Heartwood House

Updates from the Coordinators

Library Update

While we have been unable to visit the Guild library and enjoy the collection, I have been working on a couple of remote projects, primarily the Library lists. I have the two most difficult lists done, **Topic** and **Magazine**. This leaves the much easier **Author** and **Title** lists to do. I may have them ready before the newsletter is out if not, slightly there after!

Although we have had lists on the website since before 2016, the 2021 edition has become much more important due to restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 virus. So, I have added some new features (part of why it took a bit longer this year to do).

NEW FEATURES OF THE SUBJECT/TOPICS LIST

1	INDEX of the Guild Library Architecture	This gives you a table of with the order of topics in the library and what page number you should check to find that topic. This may be of help to find what you want quickly, since the list is now 45 pages long!
2	COLOUR CODED!!!	Each type of media has a colour to help you identify it. <i>DVD= in DVD boxes, (green background)</i> <i>PER= Magazine in white cabinets, (purple background)</i> <i>REF= Reference in cabinet #1 and upper cabinets (Not Circulating) (light red background)</i>
3	MAGAZINES BY TITLE ONLY IN THIS LIST	This list indicated we have at least one of each magazine in the collection, referring to the magazine list will give you're the full list of the holdings.

NEW FEATURES IN THE MAGAZINE LIST

I have broken the information into 3 sections with page numbers to make it easier to navigate.

Page	Section	Description of List
1-2	Part 1	Magazine Titles - Sorted Alphabetically (with page references)
2-3	Part 2	Magazine Titles - Sorted by topic This list allows you to see all magazines that fall in the same category. This may give you more options for your search.
4- 40	Part 3	Magazine Titles - Sorted Alphabetically Listing each issue we have in our collection.

LIBRARY USE:

Now that you have an up-to-date listing of the collection, I am saddened to report we are yet unsure when we can return to curbside pickup for the library. We will send out an E-Blast as soon as we have any notification. In the meantime, keep enjoying the Books, Magazines and DVD's you have out and keep an eye out for any missing stray library books you come across while stuck at home.

On behalf of the library team, we hope to see all of you soon!

Jan and the Librarians

Workshops

Study Groups

With the continuing restrictions on gathering during the pandemic we have put a lot of thought into how we can reasonably continue the education portion of our mandate. Online workshops for Spinning and Weaving abound, and many are of excellent quality. We wanted to do something different. As a Guild we have wanted to explore Study Groups for some time, now seems the perfect moment.

Note that a Study Group is not a workshop. The Group Leader is not an instructor, rather the Leader sets out an organized exploration of a topic and facilitates group discussion, research, sampling and sharing. OVWSG Study Groups will meet via Zoom (a virtual meeting service) and converse between sessions via Discord. Discord is a VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol (internet telephone)), instant messaging and digital distribution platform designed for creating communities.

Users communicate with voice calls, video calls, text messaging, media, and files in private chats or as part of communities called "servers." Servers are a collection of persistent chat rooms and voice chat channels. Discord runs on Windows, macOS, Android, iOS, iPadOS, Linux, and in web browsers.

At the start of each group the Leader will provide some background on the topic, a start on a resource list and a suggested outline of what will be explored each meeting. Groups may vary in number of scheduled meetings; they may also vary in how often they meet.

For all group's participants will:

- source their own equipment and materials as specified by the Group Leader.
- have the minimum level of experience required by the Group Leader (study groups are not appropriate for new beginners)
- be available at the specified times and dates for group meetings via Zoom.
- be expected to complete work (research, sampling) outside the meeting time and share experiences during the meetings.
- the use of a private Discord server will be available for participants to share/chat/ask questions between meetings, use of this service will be optional.

As this is a new venture for the OVWSG we are starting small with 3 Study groups, 1 each in weaving, spinning and needle felting which will start at the end of February 2021. Members will have first crack at registration from January 27 to February 3, 2021. Non-members will be able to register as of February 3. For more detailed information and to register please go to:

<https://www.ovwsg.com/study-groups/>

2100 The Spinner's Book of Yarn Design Study Group, led by Elizabeth Watt, will explore a chapter of the book each week and, as a group, attempt to spin and record all of the yarns detailed in the book. This group will run Tuesday evenings, beginning February 23, 2021, for 10 weeks. Member fee is \$50 inclusive of HST.

2101 Rug Weaving Study Group, led by Mandy Heggveit, will explore a variety of rug weaving techniques in 8 sessions held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings of each month beginning Feb 25, 2021. Participants will weave a sampler wall hanging in the process. Suitable for floor, table, and rigid heddle looms. Member fee is \$40 inclusive of HST.

2102 Wire Armature Gauge Investigation for Needle-felted Sculpture Study Group, led by Jan Scott, will sample different types and gauges of wire for their appropriateness for various sculpture sizes. Participants will produce sample appendages. This group will be held Wednesday evenings for 4 weeks beginning Feb 24, 2021. Member fee is \$20 inclusive of HST.

Once these 3 groups are underway and running smoothly we will start soliciting ideas for more groups and group leaders, likely via a form on the webpage.

Elizabeth Watt
Workshops Registrar
OVWSG

workshops@ovwsg.com, workshops@wattfamily.ca

Heartwood House news

Only essential services are permitted to continue operations at Heartwood House. So, in addition to Heartwood, the following Members are permitted to work at Heartwood during the lockdown: ACORN, ALSO Cares, Benss Health, CLC, MHI and Options Bytown. Visits will continue to be by appointment only. Please send me your visitor list as no one will be permitted entry unless the person is on the list.

Members may need to pick up work materials, mail etc. during the lockdown. Can you please contact me to let me know when you are coming to the House? Please don't hesitate to let me know if you would like your mail placed in your space for pickup.

As of Monday January 4th, Heartwood's lockdown schedule are: Monday to Friday- 8:30a.m. - 2:00p.m.

If you visit Heartwood House through the front entrance, use the intercom to alert staff that you have arrived. Press the black arrow then 100 and wait for reception to pick up, state your name and your purpose, and proceed when the door is unlocked. Note that you will not be allowed to enter if you are not on the list (contact Elizabeth Watt at schedule@ovwsg.com to arrange a date/time).

Important Elevator Instructions -It is important to NEVER hold the elevator door open. This can cause damage to the door and it is expensive to fix it. Please simply push the door open button if you need to keep the door open.

Welcome to new members

Janis Goad
Alice Hackman

Debra Bertrand
Tanika Eng

****Returning after an absence****

Eleanor Anderson
Barb Ryan

Events

SPRANG - Interested in learning how to do this very versatile and almost lost technique? As the instructor describes, it is "an ancient textile method, worked on a set of threads that have been arranged on a frame. Every row of work yields two rows of cloth." You can make socks, hats, vests, baby bonnets, leggings, gloves, scarves, bags and even tablecloths from this. Basically, anything you can knit or crochet. (Ancient Egyptian socks were made using this method)

A beginning sprang class of **3 sessions will show you 1: the basic stitch, 2: a finishing technique, making a small bag or tuque, and 3: how to set up from scratch.**

The frames will be mailed to us. 3 sessions of 3 hours each (9 hours) of lessons and frames, the class will be **\$144.00 / person**. The frames will already be warped, and include shed sticks, safety strings & materials for a 2nd warp. It will be a hands-on workshop taught virtually via ZOOM.

Taught by an expert in sprang and finger weaving, Carol James, of Manitoba, has her work in the Canadian Museum of History. She teaches all over the world.

<http://www.spranglady.com/sprang.html>

Limit is 8 people for this workshop. Classes are: Thursdays, March 11, 18, 25. 2021. 6:30 – 9:30 pm EST

(Different from the Sprang-along in that it is a much smaller group, and she makes us the frames and will send them to us set-up and the last class will teach us to set them up ourselves for other projects. She also has patterns that will be available.)

If interested, please email me (recooper424@gmail.com) as soon as possible. Spaces are limited.



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

Kinnaird Farm – www.KinnairdFarm.ca

- Ready to spin roving in various natural colours, wool and wool-alpaca blends
- Fleece, unwashed, white (sold out for 2020)
- Sheepskin Rugs – variations of white and only two “grizzly” coloured left; new arrivals expected from the tannery soon
- two-ply mill spun, natural white yarn, fine, 100 gram skeins
- Newborn lambs expected in late April; Shearing will be in early May
- Visitors welcome by appointment – let me know when you would like to visit

Contact Kelly MacGregor for details: KinnairdFarm@gmail.com



Créations Christine

Représentante d'Ashford Dealer

Pour plus d'information – For inquiries: 819-405-2007

cgagne40@gmail.com

Christine Gagné



For Sale: Leclerc 36" 4 Harness Counter Balance Loom for Sale. Good Condition. Reed and some accessories included \$150.00. Bench not included

Contact: Laurie Harkin-Chiasson lauriehc@magma.ca



For Sale: Four-shaft Glimakra Counterbalance Floor Loom with Horses: \$1,750

Beautiful Glimakra counterbalance floor loom for sale. This loom has been well cared for! Made from Swedish pine, this loom easily comes apart to move or store. According to the website, it is "built to last generations" and "is a wonderful investment for any weaver. [It] provides endless weaving possibilities, from hand towels and scarves to rag rugs and luxurious upholstery material. It is strong enough to handle any task, and the open side frame design allows easy access for threading and tying up. The Standard's versatility makes it a great choice for everyone, whether you have years of experience or are just starting out."

Specs:

Weaving width: 47 inches
Height: 69 inches
Depth x Width: 63 x 59 inches
Weight: 275 pounds



Brand new, this unit sells for US\$6,456.50. Available for immediate pick-up (already disassembled), this loom is selling for Canadian \$1,750. It comes with a reed, bench, and sheepskin covering for the bench.

Serious inquiries only. For more information or to arrange to buy, contact Moira White:

moira.white@gmail.com

For sale: Ashford 16-shaft table loom with stand: \$2,100

Selling a brand new 16-shaft Ashford table loom and stand. This is an incredible buy. Sold separately, they would cost more than \$2,500 Canadian. Still in their boxes!

Here's the website description: Popular because it is easy to use and so versatile, the Ashford 16 shaft table loom is in demand with both beginner and experienced weavers.

Convenient 61cm (24ins) weaving width. The overhead beater, with automatic bounce back, gives a wonderful shed and even beating. Levers are within easy reach for comfortable weaving. Each shaft can be lifted simply and quickly and is independent, enabling a wide variety of patterns to be woven. The solid Silver Beech hard wood is lacquered for long-lasting good looks. Non-slip rubber feet give extra stability. Swedish stainless steel reed and 1280 lightweight Texsolv heddles are included. Plus, a wide range of options and accessories are available.



Serious inquiries only. For more information or to arrange to purchase the loom and stand, contact Moira White: moira.white@gmail.com

For Sale: Assorted fibre for felting and needle felting: \$20 per group.



Assorted fibre for felting.

For more information or to arrange to buy, contact Moira White: moira.white@gmail.com

For Sale: One metre wide Normalo 4-harness counterbalance (sinking shed) folding loom birch/maple from Finland. Comes with 3 reeds, raddle, and bench. More photos and information available. **Must be sold. \$200 OBO.**

llaberge@gmail.com



January Meeting Minutes

January Meeting

Monday January 4, 2021 via Zoom

- Welcome given by President Moira White
- 43 participants

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Heartwood House is closed except for essentials services due to municipal and provincial restrictions in place to restrict the transmission of COVID-19 virus.
- Update from Membership coordinator: Current membership stands at 189. Anyone who did not receive the Holiday Newsletter, please contact Laurie at Membership@ovwsg.com and she will update the distribution list.
- Update from Program coordinator; February program will feature a tapestry weaver with her own educational studio. Programs are now planned until September 2021. March will feature Allan Brown on Nettles for Textiles, April is Mary Underwood from Michigan, USA; May is the AGM and Fibre Poker draw and June will feature Carol Jones from Winnipeg, MB on Sprang.
- Update from Workshops coordinator; 3 tentative pilot study groups to run virtually beginning in February / March 2021. One in rug weaving, one in spinning and one in felting.
- Library Update: remote work continues on the asset lists. Subject list is completed and will be sent to the membership. January library day will be cancelled due to COVID restrictions.
- Newsletter editor: Deadline for submissions for February Newsletter are January 21, 2021.
- Rentals update: Guild has several new items. 3 spinning wheels; Ashford e-spinner, a Louet Victoria and an Ashford Kiwi. For rental requests, email rentals@ovwsg.com
- Next Executive meeting is January 21, 2021. Email president@ovwsg.com for Zoom link.

PROGRAM

- Jenna Carter, Basket weaver from Manitoulin Island. Presentation was recorded and will be available for viewing until January 31, 2021.

SHOW AND TELL

- Diane Dillon – 3 ply skein Cheviot / California Red/ 2/8 Cotton
- Nancy Moynihan – Willow Basket woven at course with Lianne Rasmussen at Mera.
- Anita Herber – WIP – clasped weft / handspun yarn, bar chart of climate information; comparison of temperature difference from 18th century average to current year
- Alison – knit cowl from 1 year old Romney fleece her daughter spun.
- Ann McElroy – needle felted landscape.
- Jan – Roger Hawkins combs
- Alex Nunn – Christmas tree tea towels with inlay Christmas trees
- Natalie – 100% cotton woven napkin

NEXT MEETING - Monday February 1, 2021 at 7:30 via ZOOM