

PENELOPE'S NEWS



March Edition 2021

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

Natalie ShumovskyBoard Chair
Mandy Heggteit.....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

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As I sit down to write this, we've just had some good news about limited opening of our facilities at Heartwood House. Starting this week, we can now have up to four people at a time in the Studio or Classroom, all of whom must respect current public health guidelines — wear a mask, maintain social distance, and stay home if you have any COVID-19 symptoms. While far from being back to normal, it does allow a few people at a time to take advantage of the library and our rentals, and weave or spin in our facilities.

Despite this, we will keep meeting virtually for our weekly socials, monthly members' meetings, and study groups for the time being (probably the rest of this year). This means that our usual roster of workshops is on hold while we pivot to online study groups. Our initial three — rug hooking, spinning, and felting — begin this week. If there's another one you'd like to see us offer please contact Elizabeth Watt (workshops@ovwsg.com) with your idea.

The executive now has the dual focus of planning activities for our current reality while keeping an eye on eventually reopening and reinstating our usual offerings. When that happens, depends on both vaccine rollout and the new Variants of Concern.

This extra work is happening while all of us are dealing with the prolonged lockdowns, the effects of COVID-19, and everything else going on personally and with our families. It's been a difficult year for the executive, to say the least. Many of you know that our chair, Natalie, is ill. In addition to being a past president and our chair, Natalie also edited our newsletter for many years. Mandy Heggteit, our vice chair, has taken over Natalie's duties as chair and Brenda Bekkers, our secretary, has taken over as newsletter editor. Our thanks to both of them. The entire guild sends Natalie their thoughts and best wishes.

Meeting Info

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

Program: Allan Brown, British Textile Artist working with forged materials and sustainable living.

The next Zoom meeting will be Monday, April 5, 2021.

We appreciate your patience with us during all the changes and transitions. We revel in the community we find at the guild and truly value all the hours our volunteers put in to make this community a wonderful place to belong to.

But we know we can always do better. If you are feeling left out because of our move to online meetings, please let me know. If you need to figure out how to access our in-person resources again, please contact me. And finally, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions about how we can improve access and communication, 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, March 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 release 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.

The February Newsletter can be accessed at:

<https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/February-2021-Newsletter.pdf>

General Announcements

February Meeting Program

Allan Brown – British Textile Artist working with foraged materials and sustainable living.

Founder of the [Nettles for Textiles Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/nettlesfortextiles) Group.

See also: <http://www.nettlesfortextiles.org.uk/wp/> for more information on Allan.

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
404 McArthur Ave.
Ottawa, ON K1K 1G8
ATTENTION: MEMBERSHIP

Library Update

We would like to give members the week to pick up to 4 items from the circulating section of the library. To assist you the New Updated 2021 Lists are now on the guild web page <https://www.ovwsg.com/library/>

List of Magazines

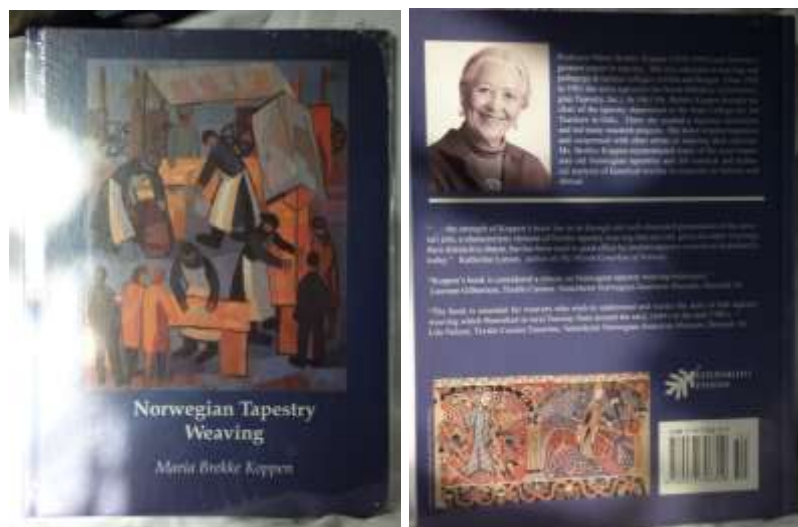
Call number, Title, then Author (this makes it easier for the librarians to pull all the books).

Print out your name in Large, readable letters on a piece of paper to bring with you. When you arrive outside the front of Heartwood house on Sunday the 7th of March between Noon to 5 pm, tap on the studio window and hold up your Name sign! We will read it through the window and collect your pre-pulled books. We will meet you at the Unitarian door, which is just west of the studio window.

Parking: there is street parking directly in front of the studio, there is handicapped parking in front of the Unitarian doors and in the mall parking lot. There is more regular parking in the mall parking and behind the building.



We have had a wonderful new donation from Margaret Cooper of **Norwegian Tapestry Weaving** by Maria Brekke Koppen. As soon as we can get into the library I will add it to the collection!



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

Workshops

Study Groups

There are still openings available in all the Study Groups, but you will need to register ASAP, as meetings start this week.

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 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 Heggteit, 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

Welcome to New Members

Due to technological difficulties the list of names of new members is unavailable for this edition of the newsletter.

We apologize for the omission and will return to normal reporting in the April edition.

Heartwood House news

Ottawa Public Health has shifted the city to orange COVID-19 restrictions as of February 16, 2021. This means that Heartwood House will return to its regular operating schedule:

The HH Regular Reception Desk schedule is:

Monday – 8:30a.m. to 6:00p.m.

Tuesday to Friday – 8:30a.m. to 5:00p.m.

Please remember to continue to follow these COVID-19 safety measures:

- Email Elizabeth Watt schedule@ovwsg.com before attending the studio or classroom at Heartwood House. Elizabeth will administer the COVID health questionnaire and supply HH with the list of visitors.
- Everyone must continue to wear a mask in the hallways and all common areas at all times.
- Visitors without appointments will be asked to wait in the front foyer until we can reach the member group to confirm the appointment. If we cannot reach you the visitor will be asked to leave.

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.

Help Wanted

The Guild is looking for a part-time accredited bookkeeper to assist the Treasurer.

Must be:

1. Available to assist with monthly reconciliations
2. Willing and available to answer questions from the Treasurer
3. Experienced in the use of Quickbooks

If you or someone you know meets the above requirements, please send your resume and an email to executive@ovwsg.com expressing your interest in the position.

For Interest

Upcoming External Event

The MidAtlantic Fibre Association Virtual Conference 2021 Brochures have been released. MAFA 2021 will be held on June 24-27, 2021. For more information, check out the website at:

<https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2021/>

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 Brenda at marketplace@ovwsg.com

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 Counterbalance 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: 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



February Meeting Minutes

February 2021 Meeting

Monday February 1, 2021 via Zoom

- Welcome given by President Moira White
- We welcomed three guests from the Kitchener-Waterloo Guild who introduced themselves.
- Jan mentioned that if anyone wants to take out a library book when HH reopens, they could contact the library email address with the name of the book and its number.

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. Anyone wishing to access the studio needs to contact Elizabeth Watt.
- 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.
- February library day will be cancelled due to COVID restrictions. If anyone wants to take out a library book when HH reopens, they could contact the library email address with the name of the book and its number.
- Next Executive meeting is February 18, 2021. Email president@ovwsg.com for Zoom link.

PROGRAM

- Ixchel Suarez, Tapestry Weaver and founder of the Canadian Tapestry and Texture Centre.

Below is a list of videos provide by Ixchel in the Zoom Chat.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDfx5Au3IW8>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tb0SJmAU0Dc>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z93Hz2qyEAM>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR2qXc7PhuK3mdJMxH8vtTh_O7R4VUQWXsrKJ1KgP4ZH5UwYb8dX0Zab4F0&v=OrX4ugq9Tcs&feature=youtu.be
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZB2kvRCqoql>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZB2kvRCqoql>
- <https://youtu.be/RI6WhnyKMPI>
-
- workshops on weaving and Natural Dyes weaving and colour blending.
- <https://youtu.be/2tvzbficVOA>
- <https://youtu.be/6YMFilLeN8X0>
- workshops on yarn painting
- <https://youtu.be/vuRsqqPpbo0>
- community tapestry
- <https://youtu.be/dem5LT2boWU>

SHOW AND TELL

- Diane Dillon – New knitting machine
- Anita Herber – WIP – clasped weft / handspun yarn, bar chart of climate information; comparison of temperature difference from 18th century average to current year
- Ann McElroy – 4” x 6” needle felted lighthouse.
- Terrie – Rainbow cords
- Elizabeth – Tea towels in cotton and cottolin woven on Mary Morrison’s Mira.
- Jan – forearms and hands of needle-felted Merman, based on form of Northern Pike.

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

