

# PENELOPE'S NEWS



April Edition 2021

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

Mandy Heggveit.....Acting 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."*

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## Meeting Info

This month's Zoom meeting:  
Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**Program:** Mary Underwood - spinner, weaver, historian and owner of Front Porch Textiles in Ann Arbor, Michigan on Oscar Bériau project.

The next Zoom meeting will be Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.

## President's Message

As I am writing this it is still cool outside, but the sun is shining and getting stronger every day, it is no longer dark at 4:00 PM and soon we'll be complaining that it is too hot. I usually don't like to start a message by talking about the weather, but I think that experiencing this particular Spring reflects our hope that there is light at the end of the tunnel and that we will eventually beat the plague that often made our lives rather challenging over the past year.

Starting today, Ottawa is back in the Red zone again, but fortunately Red zone regulations have no effect on the Guild's activities. Publications can still be borrowed from Jan Scott and her team; equipment rental is available through Anita Hiebert and Debra Newhook and the Monday night networking get-togethers are going strong via Zoom. In addition, up to four members can work in the Studio, safely distanced and masked. As well, one of the surprising benefits of COVID-19 has been our ability to invite artists from just about anywhere in the world to give presentations at our monthly Zoom meetings. Not only that, but members who do live outside of town can attend monthly meeting from their homes. Liane Thiery-Smith and her team are doing a great job to keep the topics of the presentations varied and informative. How else could we have Allan Brown, a fibre artist from Great Britain, speak about spinning and weaving Nettles in March or, coming up in April, Mary Underwood from Ann Arbor, Michigan, talk about the Oscar Bériau project. Lastly, the Guild, under the leadership of Elizabeth Watt, coordinated three study groups that are currently going strong. The only activities still on hold are workshops but we will resume offering them as soon as it is safe again.

I am mentioning our COVID-19 restricted Guild's activities to remind everyone, and especially members whose membership comes due in April, that the OVWSG is almost back to normal and it is up to every member to take advantage of everything the Guild has to offer. I look forward to seeing you all at the April meeting.

Mandy Heggteit

Acting Chair

## Message from the Editor

The newsletter is released on the Monday prior to the general meeting every month. A reminder that submissions are due by the end of the Friday 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](mailto:newsletter@ovwsg.com) prior to the deadline.

The March Newsletter can be accessed at: <https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/March-2021-Newsletter.pdf>

## General Announcements

### Upcoming Meeting Programs

#### **May 2021**

Annual General Meeting and draws for the next fibre poker challenge.

#### **June 2021**

Carol James, on Sprang

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

<https://www.facebook.com/Carol-James-fingerweaver-sprang-artist-245302248842412/>

## Membership

Membership renewals can be done through SECURE ONLINE PAYMENT – go to [www.ovwsg.com](http://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

## In Memoriam

### Natalie Shumovsky



It is with great sorrow that we inform you that our Natalie Shumovsky passed away, February 28, 2021. Having been diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer just before Christmas, she faced her rapidly progressing illness with great courage and resolve.

Natalie joined the Guild as a novice weaver in 2013, having taken to the craft like a fish to water. In no time at all she became one of the Guild's sought-after vendors at the Exhibition and Sale, selling her fine shawls, table linens and beautifully dyed yarns to loyal customers who looked for her year after year. As well as that, she freely gave of her time to produce the Guild's monthly newsletter for the past seven years, served for two years as Co-President and since May 2020, was Chair of the Board of Directors.

As well, Natalie was a regular participant in the Guild's Tuesday Open Studio Days, sharing her enthusiasm for looms, information about resources for reasonably priced yarns and her tales of scuba diving in the St. Lawrence or Caribbean and working in the Armed Forces.

Natalie's untimely passing will leave a big void in the weaving community and in our lives. She will be greatly missed.

A link to her memorial page is below. The family will hold a memorial service when COVID restrictions permit.

<https://www.hpmcgarry.ca/memorials/Natalie-Shumovsky/4535864/index.php?FILogin=1>

## 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](mailto:executive@ovwsg.com) expressing your interest in the position.

# Updates from the Coordinators

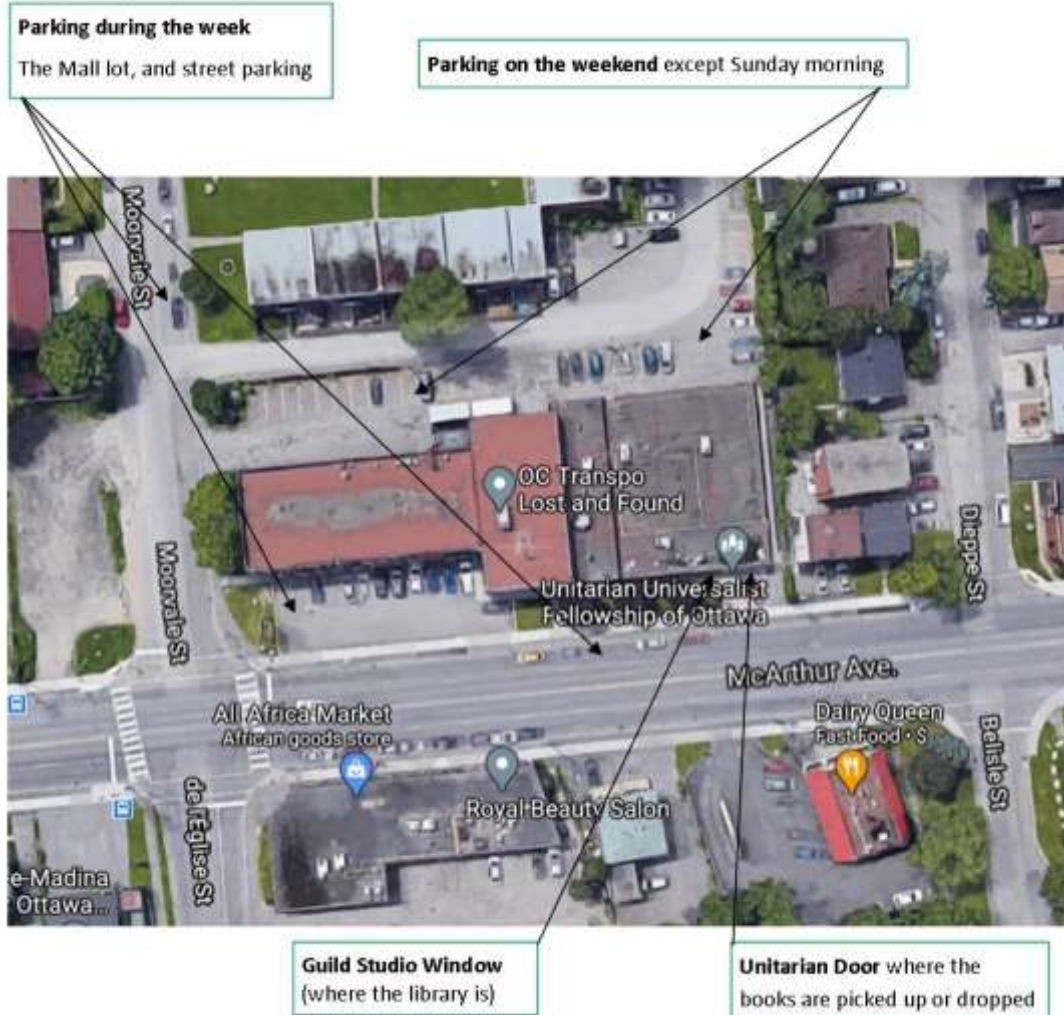
## Library

**Dear Guild! Re: OVWSG Library Day Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 -Noon till 5pm**

**Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup> is Library day**, which is fast approaching! If you are a member of the guild and in good standing, you can select up to four items. Books will be **due back Saturday May 8th**. Ann will be back to the Farmers market in Barrhaven starting later in May. Members that are using the library please let us know if a Weekday or a Sunday would be better for you?

### Today:

Please make your selections today from the lists on our guild web site <https://www.ovwsg.com/library/> (formatted Call number /title /author) and then email them to [library@ovwsg.com](mailto:library@ovwsg.com). This address insures it arrives at Ann's computer, as well as mine, so we hopefully will not miss your requests. If we find the item you have requested is missing or still out, we will try to contact you for an alternate selection. Sometimes we can offer an alternative option!





We are looking forward to seeing you on **Saturday!**  
Jan on behalf of the Librarians

## Workshops

### Wire Armature Study Group Update:

We had 4 meetings looking at various gauges of wire that we had been able to assemble. We sampled bare wire, as well we made small appendages as samples covered in wool (mostly legs with feet). We are still working on finishing samples and working on an annotated bibliography of books and web reference. We will have one last meeting to sum-up our findings and exchange information.

This was a lot of fun and I hope others will be able to try the online study groups as the guild start the next offerings shortly.

### Workshops and Study Groups

We have made a good start with the initial 3 study groups and are now ready to expand our offerings. Now we need more ideas and leaders! Please share your ideas and your willingness to lead a group with me at [workshops@wattfamily.ca](mailto:workshops@wattfamily.ca). Leaders should have a good grasp of the topic to be studied but need not be experts.

Our next planned study group will be 2103 Wet Felted Fibre Study Group led by Ann McElroy. This group will study the felt-ability and usability of different breeds of wool in felting. It will explore the ease with which different breeds can be made into felt and what uses they may have. Variables such as layout, density, and felting methods will be explored. Other animal fibres may be assessed and possibly the mixing of wool and other non-felting fibres such as silk, cotton, and nylon. The group will run on Zoom every other Wednesday starting 21 April 2021 for a total of 5 sessions. For further information see:

<https://www.ovwsg.com/events/event/2103-wet-felted-fibre-study-group>

Tickets for members will go on sale 9:00 am Wednesday March 31 and for non-members on Wednesday April 7.

Elizabeth Watt  
Workshops Registrar, OVWSG

## 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 May 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](mailto: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.

## Show and Tell

Jan Scott –  
needle felted  
hedgehog soap  
scrubber



Rebecca Cairns  
– hat  
experiments



# 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](mailto:marketplace@ovwsg.com)

## Kinnaird Farm – [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 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](mailto:KinnairdFarm@gmail.com)



## Créations Christine

Représentante d'Ashford Dealer

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

[cgagne40@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:lauriehc@magma.ca)



**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](mailto:llaberge@gmail.com)



## Commission requests - Spinners

### Interested in a commission?

About one year ago, Natalie Shumovsky accepted a commission from me to weave a small throw or blanket. Sadly, she was unable to even begin the work. The yarn involved was wool that had belonged to my late mother, which she used to repair moth-eaten oriental rugs that she had at home in England. I decided to keep the remaining yarn and make some artworks with it, which I did. But there was quite a lot left so I thought a woven small blanket or throw might be in order that spoke to my mother's intentions for it by perhaps hinting at the Persian patterns she loved. If anyone is interested in creating such a piece, please contact me, Laura Brandon, at [laura@laurabrandon.ca](mailto:laura@laurabrandon.ca). Thank you.

\*\*

I have collected a few bags of cuttings over the past several years from our Great White Pyrenees. The hair/fur from these dogs is inherently self-cleaning, water shedding, and very soft (not like course dog hair at all).

So, over the years I have collected enough to hand over to an experienced and dedicated person to work and convert the raw, cut material into a yarn suitable for knitting.

Please feel free to ask me at [Alexander Davidson](#) for any questions, if at all interested. Located in Manotick.



# March Meeting Minutes

## March 2021 Meeting Monday March 1, 2021 via Zoom

- Welcome and introduction of executive given by President Moira White

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Heartwood House is open to up to 4 people in the classroom and studio with COVID protocols maintained (masks, physical distancing). Anyone wishing to access the studio needs to contact Elizabeth Watt.
- Announcement of passing of Natalie Shumovsky, Board Chair and Newsletter Editor from 2013 - 2020. Mandy Heggtveit will be taking over as acting Chair until the June AGM.
- Current Newsletter editor announced the release of the February newsletter and requested photos from anyone participating in show and tell to be included in the Newsletter.
- Update from Workshops coordinator; 3 study groups began in late February 2021. One in rug weaving, one in spinning and one in felting. Please submit ideas for further workshops to [workshops@ovwsg.com](mailto:workshops@ovwsg.com).
- Next library day will take place on Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup>, noon to 5:00 pm. If anyone wants to take out a library book, contact the library email address with the name of the book and its number no later than the morning of Friday March 5.
- Rentals are still ongoing. Contact [rentals@ovwsg.com](mailto:rentals@ovwsg.com) to borrow equipment.
- Next Executive meeting is March 18, 2021. Email [president@ovwsg.com](mailto:president@ovwsg.com) for Zoom link.
- Guild is looking for a part-time bookkeeper. If you know anyone, please provide their information to the executive.

### PROGRAM

Allan Brown, Spinning fibre from Nettles.

For more information on Allan and his work with Nettles, see the links below:

<http://www.nettlesfortextiles.org.uk/wp/about-us/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1648679398499874/>

### DOOR PRIZES

- Carmen Deschenes – pattern from Australia – generously donated by **Kelly Kassnova**, international weaver, and creative Rigid Heddle teacher from Australia.

### SHOW AND TELL

- Carlene Paquette – Shawl with colour changing weft; first project on new loom.
- Jan – needle-felted Hedgehog soap scrubber; Valentines present for Glen.
- Judy Kavanaugh – support spindles; removable and fixed whorl
- Patti – mystery wood frame; request for information
- Rebecca Cairn – knitted hat experiments wool gifted to her by Allison James.

- Terrie Nelson – Spun and plied wool unknown type; 12 skeins.
- Diane Dillon – Felted ballerina witch (Serafina’s pattern); wet felted top; needle felted bottom.

**NEXT MEETING** - Monday April 5, 2021 at 7:30 via ZOOM