

# PENELOPE'S NEWS



June 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, June 7th, 2021.

**Program:** AGM and Fibre  
Poker

The next Zoom meeting will  
be Monday, September 13,  
2021.

## President's Message

June at the Guild means that it's now time to wrap up one year and begin another.

The year we're leaving behind has been one of our slowest in decades as we were in various forms of lockdown throughout the time. We managed to find new ways to serve our members, and many of us learned new skills to do so. We were able to offer equipment rentals (with distanced pickup/dropoff), library rentals (again, distanced pickup/dropoff), Monday night social (via Zoom), and three study groups: Rug Weaving led by Mandy Heggveit, The Spinners Book of Yarn Design led by Elizabeth Watt, and Wire Armature Gauge Investigation for Needle Felting led by Jan Scott. Unfortunately, we had to cancel all our scheduled in-person classes and our annual Exhibition and Sale.

The year ahead, however, holds great promise for renewal. Thanks to grants from the New Horizons for Senior Program, we have a new 100-loom almost set up and ready to go. We have two new studio looms (a Louet Spring and a Schact Baby Wolf), four new spinning wheels (Ashford Victoria, Ashford Kiwi 3, Ashford e-spinner, and Hansen e-spinner), one new rigid heddle loom, a blending board, carders, electric bobbin winders (one for the Studio, one for the Classroom), and an electric ball winder. We are really looking forward to welcoming our members to Heartwood House as soon as possible.

We are planning to reopen gradually while also planning to adjust quickly for any possible changes. We will keep everything online through the summer months and evaluate when we can begin to

meet in person and hold workshops in person again. We will start back slowly and may continue to offer some things online in the future. We welcome any of your feedback on this.

I'd like to thank our many volunteers this year who kept the guild going even when we didn't know what that "going" would look like! This has resulted in numerous Zoom meetings and emails as we figured things out.

Happy spinning, weaving, felting, and creating this summer. We will keep you up to date on Guild activities and look forward to seeing you all again in the fall.

## 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 May Newsletter can be accessed at: <https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/May-2021-Newsletter.pdf>

## General Announcements

### Upcoming Meeting Programs

#### **June 2021**

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

General Meetings will take their traditional break for the summer months, but we look forward to seeing the work that everyone has done for our September 2021 show and tell.

## 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

## Updates from the Coordinators

### Library

Tonight, as I write this, we are still in lock down but there is hope it will be lifted in the next few weeks. As soon as we can get into the studio and access the library we will let you know and set up the next Library Day.

To help you prepare for the long awaited return of the guild library day, please view our Library page on the guild web site at <https://www.ovwsg.com/library/>. The lists will help you select your inspirational summer reading or help with your summer guild poker challenge in spinning, weaving and now felting!

You will find the January 2021 PDF lists of the collection:

- by Subject
- by Title
- by Author
- Magazines (look here to see which editions of each magazine are in the collection)
- Breakdown of topics by interests
- Multi-Harness Weaving Books (list of books that have sections on multi-harness weaving)

We wanted to remind you that on the same web page, just below the library lists, you will find the link to a form to suggest a book or other media for our library.

We are look forward to seeing you shortly,

Jan on behalf of the Librarians

### Member Book Reviews

Learning to Weave by Deborah Chandler (1994) (Guild Library Call no: 4730.CHA)

This is another excellent book with a very wide-ranging scope; although I would not recommend it as a very first book, as it assumes a multi-shaft floor loom. Fully one half of the volume explains beautifully, in clear detail the theory and practice of weaving, including an explanation of looms, and tools; how interlacing creates fabric; warp and weft, etc. It then explains planning a project, calculation warp and weft and record-keeping. For someone who has never woven at all this is an excellent introduction. But after this, the author progresses to drafts with tie-up. There is not intermediate step such as plain weave with only one shaft (which would explain and demonstrate drafting) and not no draft o plain weave either. The first discussion of drafts includes tie-ups, threading and treadling with no clear explanation of what each of those are and how they are integrated. Further along, this volume also explores more complicated weaves, and more complicated concepts. If the reader is familiar with these, then the rest of the volume has loads to offer. Otherwise, other reference material will be required.

The Ashford Book of Rigid Heddle Weaving, by Rowena Hart (2014) (Guild Library Call no: 6714.1HAR)

This is an excellent starting book; clear, easy to understand instructions and accompanying photos and illustrations. It has a huge variety of project ideas, including one chapter on 2 heddle weaving, with a project suggestion. Detailed table of contents.

## Workshops

We had a successful run of the pilot Study Groups, with the Rug Weaving Group just finishing up. The 3 groups were all different in style, participants of all three groups reported that the groups met their expectations and worked well and gave us feedback to make improvements. Now what we need are more ideas and leaders. My group (spinning focus) had a few ideas but suggested that we wait until Fall to try them. Meanwhile a small group of instructors have met to discuss other possible online offerings such as workshops, “ask the expert” drop-in sessions, or private tutoring/mentoring. Input from the broader guild is welcome. What ideas do you have that we could try? When we are permitted to offer in person workshops, would you still want to see some programming online? What kinds? Why? Share your thoughts with me at [workshops@wattfamily.ca](mailto:workshops@wattfamily.ca).

Elizabeth Watt  
Workshops Registrar, Education Chair

## Heartwood House news

Please take note of the following changes in response to the stay-at-home conditions:

The HH Reception Desk schedule is:

1. Effective tomorrow April 8<sup>th</sup> and until Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup> - the Heartwood House reception desk will be open from 8:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.
2. *Member groups* are asked to adhere to stay-at-home conditions and pick up materials as needed.

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.

Please don't use the front entrance unless it is necessary to transport materials into the building. If you are transporting materials into the building and you meet a visitor at the front door, please assist the person to use the intercom to call the front desk.

A clear sign that Heartwood is closed is reduced lighting in the front foyer and the reception office window is closed.

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

Carlene Paquette  
tea towels woven on a  
rigid heddle loom



Carlene Paquette  
knitted dish cloths



Sets





# 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)

- **Product photos can be viewed on website**
- Ready to spin roving in various natural colours, wool and wool-alpaca blends
- Fleece – will be available mid-May; contact to reserve yours
- Sheepskin Rugs
- Two-ply mill spun, natural white yarn, fine, 100 gram skeins
- **Now accepting 2021 lamb orders and again we expect to sell out early**

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



## Books and Fibres for sale:

All books are in 'very good' condition.

Jillian Moreno, *Yarn.i.tec.ture* - \$20

Håkonadóttir/Johnston/Juuhl, *The Warp-Weighted Loom* - \$75.00

Sue Blacker, *Pure Wool: a knitter's guide to using single-breed yarns* - \$20.00



Fibres are clean and have been stored carefully.

*Silk throwster's waste* (above in photo), de-gummed, bleached (bright white): \$20/100g (minimum order 50g/\$10.00). Total amount available: 900g

*Silk noil* (below in photo), unbleached (off-white), cottony, contains bits of crushed silk pupa; \$12.00/100g (minimum order 50g/\$6.00). Total amount available: 900g

Contact: [marin.gouin@hotmail.com](mailto:marin.gouin@hotmail.com)

Paypal only, all sales final. Curbside pickup in Sandy Hill area of Ottawa.

ONTARIO HANDWEAVERS AND SPINNERS CONFERENCE 2021: October 21-24

# FIBRES? NATURALLY!



Featuring

*Robyn Spady*

Robyn is the founder and editor of Heddlecraft® magazine along with being a weaver, teacher and fibre enthusiast. Robyn offers a wide variety of workshops, programs, and seminars. She is committed to turning the weaving world on to double-faced fabrics, four-shaft weaves, uncommon and advanced weave structures, and passementerie techniques. Join Robyn on the opening day of the conference with her workshops and keynote address, "Lessons I've Learned from my Loom".

## JURIED SHOW



Entries will reflect Natural Fibres, using all natural fibres and embracing their luxurious warmth, feel and drape, resisting the lure to synthetics. The Juried Show is open to all members of the OHS, including those residing outside Ontario, the OHS Board of Directors, and its Committees.

Open to all textile media including basketry, beading, braiding, felting, lace, paper making, spinning and weaving. Knitting and/or crocheting must be of at least 60% handspun yarn. Full details are posted on the OHS Conference website. More info: [reinouw@outlook.com](mailto:reinouw@outlook.com).

CONFERENCE WEBSITE: <https://pheedloop.com/ohsconference2021/site/>

## JOIN US FOR THE VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

### Other topics include .....

- Introduction to Sprang
- Intermediate Spindle Spinning
- Bark Basketry
- Complex Looms & Multi Shaft Weaving
- Needle Felting
- Lace Weaving
- Photographing Textiles
- Simple Bark Basketry

### Conference Features .....

- Juried Show
- Virtual tours
- Evening Meet N'Greets
- Vendor Market
- Webinars
- Pre-conference OHS Weaving Certification: Unit 11

### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Opened on May 1st, and will directly be done through the conference website.

Registration deadline is September 20th.

Check out the conference website periodically, for ongoing updates.



## Commission requests – Weavers

I live in Ottawa but my hometown in Nova Scotia recently had a tartan registered with the Scottish Tartan Register. I am hoping you can help me to find a weaver who does commission blankets who can make a tartan blanket in the same colours. Picture below for reference.

I understand this will be pricey and that handmade objects cost money. I would probably ask for an estimate up front to make sure I want to spend what is fair to the weaver to get the blanket made. I am a knitter and a sewing hobbyist and know the amount of work that goes into handmade items.

The tartan is the Judique Spirit Tartan.

Contact: [zhindra@gmail.com](mailto:zhindra@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.



# May Meeting Minutes

**May 2021 Meeting**  
Monday May 3, 2021 via Zoom

- Welcome and introduction of executive.
- Welcome to guest Pria Ranganath

## **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.
- Member news: April reminders have gone out to members for renewals. Laurie is stepping down as membership coordinator after June and is looking for a volunteer to replace her.
- Update from Workshops coordinator; study groups have been going well. The workshop coordinator is looking for additional suggestions for further spinning study groups. Please submit ideas or your interest in volunteering to lead a study group to [workshops@ovwsg.com](mailto:workshops@ovwsg.com).
- No library day will take place in May due to lockdown restrictions in place.
- Program year is coming to a close; Rebecca will be leading the fibre poker and she will be sending out an email blast to members wishing to participate. Rebecca will be stepping down in June and the program team is looking for a volunteer to replace her.
- Rentals are still ongoing for wheels. Anita has several available for contactless pickup (Louet, Ashford Kiwi and a Victoria once assembly is complete).
- OHS conference is coming up in October. Registration for workshops is limited, it is best to sign up early to avoid missing out.
- Anne Newlands is looking for someone to knit or weave a memory throw from her mother's wool stash. Wool is currently with Moira. Contact Anne for further information, if interested.
- Next Executive meeting is May 20, 2021. Email [president@ovwsg.com](mailto:president@ovwsg.com) for Zoom link.

## **PROGRAM**

Carol James, aka The Sprang Lady

## **DOOR PRIZES**

- Sandy Jager – seedlings of dye plants from Joan's stash.

## **SHOW AND TELL**

- Carlene Paquette: tea towels woven on a rigid heddle loom, and knitted dish cloths (photos forwarded to you by separate email)
- Moira White:
  - ° 2020 Fibre Poker (woven item: twill/red/plastic/square),
  - ° woven scarf with colour changes,
  - ° sprang frame and samples from Carol James' class

- Alison James: dish cloths woven from leftover cotton (stash reduction)
- Jan Scott: book - Making Needle-Felted Animals
- Ann Sunahara: crib blankets (playing with colour combos, input suggestions from Mandy) on Baby Wolf 8-Harness loom.

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