

PENELOPE'S NEWS



February Edition 2023

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

[Moira White](#).....Chair
[Mandy Heggveit](#).....Vice- Chair
[Jean Sharp](#).....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."*

The guild gratefully acknowledges the funding that it receives from the City of Ottawa.

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President's Message

Greetings Guild Members!

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday season, well at least enjoyable. I enjoyed a house full of people and pets and am still cleaning up! Winter has definitely arrived in all its glory – don't strain yourself shoveling, it will all melt eventually. Besides there is yarn and fibre calling your name!

We have been very busy these last few months with Guild activities, both fun and not so much fun. In the "not so much fun" category, our Chair, Moira, with much appreciated help from members, compiled the Grant Report to the City. These funds are essential to rent our studio and classroom spaces and a further decrease will cause great hardship to the Guild. We put forward the incredible things the OVWSG is doing for the community and are hoping that they take them into consideration when assessing our next grant application. To name a few, the school-based weaving project piloted by Carmen Deschenes, the 100" loom project, support for Carl Stewart's participation in the [Tea and Textiles](#) event, put on by the Handweavers Guild of America (to be streamed on February 14, 2023), our support of Heartwood House's weekly Thrift and Gift store and demos at many of the area fairs and markets.

As many of you know, the OVWSG will be celebrating its 75th anniversary next year and we are hoping to do something very special to commemorate this incredible milestone. A committee will be formed to take this on, and we would be grateful for volunteers and suggestions of events. Please email me or Moira with your availability and/or suggestions.

Meeting Info

This month's hybrid meeting:
Monday, February 6, 2022, at
7:15 pm

Program: Hope MacLean,
Ph.D. Huichol yarn paintings

February Executive Meeting:
February 20, 2022 @ 7:00 pm

The next meeting: Monday, March
6, 2023. Guest: Sharon Kallis

Our Treasurer, Beth Briggs is stepping aside, and we are in immediate need of a new Treasurer. It is a legal obligation for our status as a non-profit organization to be maintained. There is support for the role, however, knowledge of budgets, Quickbooks and bookkeeping would be helpful. Please email me or Moira if you are interested.

Workshops are up and running and filling up fast – check out the schedule on the Website and if something interests you, sign up!

See you at the next Guild meeting – February 6, 2023, at 7:15.

Thank you,

Jean

Message from the Editor

The newsletter is released on the Monday prior to the general meeting nine times a year, breaking for the summer months of July and August and for the winter holiday season (no January edition). Submissions for the February newsletter are due no later than **February 24, 2023**, to newsletter@ovwsg.com.

The December Newsletter can be accessed at: <https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/December-2022-Newsletter.pdf>

General Announcements

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

Welcome to New Members

Chantal Richer	Mary Haller
Claire Breton-Pachla	Maureen Parry
Daniel Côté	Megan Richardson
Glenna Watts	Molly McCullough
Heidi Roukema	Myka Caluyong
Krystyna Dallaire	Natalie Archambault
Marion Caisse	Patricia Taylor

Updates from Program Coordinators

Programs

Hi everyone! We're very excited to have an in-person guest for our February meeting: **Hope MacLean, Ph.D.** is an anthropologist, and former tapestry-weaver and member of the Ottawa Weaver's Guild. She spent almost 20 years visiting the Huichol people of Mexico and is the author of *Yarn Paintings of the Huichol* (2005) and *The Shaman's Mirror: Visionary Art of the Huichol* (2012.) She teaches Anthropology at the University of Ottawa. She will be presenting to us on the topic of Huichol yarn paintings.

Huichol yarn paintings are one of the world's great Indigenous arts, sold around the world and advertised as authentic records of dreams and visions of the shamans. Using glowing, coloured yarns, the Huichol of Mexico paint the mystical symbols of their culture. Their arts include vivid beadwork, yarn paintings, and embroidered and woven textiles.

For this illustrated talk, Hope MacLean will bring a variety of Huichol arts and textiles from her collection. Many examples will be passed around for you to see and touch, to learn how textile arts can combine extraordinary colour sense with refined technique, and a deep cultural spirituality.

Our guest for March will be Sharon Kallis, an environmental artist, with an interest in linking traditional hand technologies to what we can grow, gather, and glean in our urban green spaces. Traditional textiles are at the core of the work, growing stinging nettle and flax for linen in city parks since 2012.

At the April meeting, our guest speaker will be Wendo Van Essen, fibre artist, amazing felter, and a member of our guild. It's always a great pleasure to be able to showcase the talent found within our own community!

All for now. We look forward to seeing you at the February meeting!
Your program team, Josee Cochrane and Joan Harrison

Library

Meeting Mondays are like Library days except they start earlier!

On the Monday of the meeting, I am usually in the studio (where the guild Library is) by 9:00am. I will post on our Face book group to confirm I am there. Please come in early and enjoy perusing the collection. We will be closing the library at 7:00 pm so the librarians can put away the library and enjoy the meeting too.

Who can use the library?

Members in good standing can borrow 4 items from one meeting to the next. If you cannot make the next meeting, books might be able to be renewed for 1 month if not requested by another member or books can be returned before the meeting to:

- 1- The **front desk at Heartwood House** (put in a bag labeled "OVWSG Library") any time the office is open.
- 2- Drop off at 2370 **Iris St**, between the side doors. use the library email to let us know you are dropping off items
- 3- South of Ottawa near **North Gower**, contact Ann at the Library Email for instructions.
- 4- Or mailed to the guild address: **OVWSG, 404 McArthur Ave., Ottawa, ON K1K 1G8**

In person selection of items:

Come in on the meeting Monday, between after 9am and before we close at 7:15pm to select from the

circulating collection up to 4 items. Go to the table with the librarian who will help you sign out your book. At the back of the book will be a card pocket. The card asks for the date due (for anything taken out at the September meeting the date due will be before the October meeting so "Oct.2022") it will also ask for your name. This is your FIRST name and last name, printed clearly. Please add your phone number. The book cards are filed by your FIRST name (because we all learn each other's first names first!). Remember to take good care of the library material, we want it to last for many years and be enjoyed by many members.

Requesting books to pick up:

We will be continuing the ongoing program of pulling items that are requested at (library@ovwsg.com). I will email back that you are on the list for that month and when I am in the studio will let you know if your request is out or missing.

On our web page under Library (<https://www.ovwsg.com/library/>) you will find the 2021 lists of **Subject, title, Author, Magazines, and Multi-harness**. These will help you select inspiration from our library. (I am adding more information to our database, which is taking longer than I had hoped. Once the new information has been added I will be making new updated lists.)

When you have decided on up to 4 items, we will need to know the ***call number, the title, the author***. (In that order makes it quicker for us to pull the books, Thanks!!)

Books can be picked up in the studio before 7:15pm or one of the 3 drop off locations (see above). When you email to request books let us know where you want to pick them up.

More info about the library:

Our **Guild library architecture** is a modified Dewey system for small collections. It is based on process (biography, law, guild/studio, fiber sources, fiber prep, felt, spin, post spinning, fine art/design, weaving, post weaving, history of textiles). There is a list of the main topics for each cabinet on the outside and a fuller list of topics on the inside of the cabinet doors to help you locate items.

The "**PER**" prefix indicates that the item is a Magazine. Most of the magazines are in the white cabinets. The magazines series run horizontally through the cabinets so more than one person can look at magazines like handwoven or spin off, at the same time.

The "**REF**" prefix indicates the item is in the Reference cabinets (cabinet 1 and the two upper cabinets). Reference books do not circulate but can be used in the studio any time the library is open. Reference books are rare, irreplaceable, or fragile.

We have a number of **video/"DVD"** items in the collection. We are aware that many new laptops do not have a DVD drive. We have come up with two options, if you have an external computer DVD drive the DVD should work with it. (Most of the DVD players that hook up to a TV do not have the correct codex to play them). Some of our files presently on DVD, can if requested, be reformatted to a thumb drive (USB/USB-micro/Type-C). these thumb drives are a bit more expensive but are compatible with a greater range of devices. If the DVD can be reformatted, we will need to have a bit of extra time to do this so please request well before the meeting.

Guild members who are taking the OHS master spinner or master weavers contact the librarians if you need help with information.

If you are new and want to get to know your library better, you are welcome to join us by volunteering to help with the book check. If you have any questions please ask your librarians or email

library@ovwsg.com.

Jan on behalf of the library team

Workshops

Due to some technical issues with the Website, a few of the offerings are still “under construction”, details and registration will be added once the problems are corrected.

As always, the schedule is on the website www.ovwsg.com. Please check it out often to avoid missing out on offerings.

The following upcoming workshops still have spots open:

- 2313 [Spinning for Fun and Relaxation](#) (4)
- 2317 [Colour Play/Spinning and Colour](#) (3)
- 2318 [Spinning 3 – Gaining Control](#) (1)
- 2320 [Flax Spinning](#) (2)
- 2314 [Weaving 1 – Intro to Table Loom](#) (1)
- 2319 [Weaving 1.5 Just Beyond Beginners](#) (5)

Elizabeth Watt
Workshops Registrar

Equipment Rentals

Studio Loom Rentals:

At this time, the 24” 8-shaft Jack loom, and the 2 12-shaft looms are occupied. The others are all empty and ready for weavers! If you are interested (in ANY of the looms), please contact the coordinator through rentals@ovwsg.com. Please note that there is a waiting list system to be used, when necessary, to ensure that weavers get fair access to looms that are in use. So if you want one of them you must contact the rental coordinator to get your name on the waiting list. All efforts will be made to accommodate weavers, by exploring all options and thus getting the best fit for each project in as timely a manner as possible.

Socials Update

Monday Socials

Monday Socials are now from 4-8pm in the studio. Socials Occur all Mondays there is not a regular meeting (first Monday of the month) Jan is usually in the studio by 9am working in the library. Everyone is encouraged to pop in and be social (spin, weave, felt, chat etc.) and use the library or equipment. Afternoons are frequently busy with people weaving and using equipment. Come and join us and get to know your fellow guild members.

Heartwood House

Heartwood Community Gift and Thrift Shop! Thursdays 12:00p.m. to 2:00p.m.

We are invited to put items for sale in the Shop as a fund raiser for the Guild or for personal sales (no commission will be taken off). There will be community weaving projects started in the studio for sale in the Shop.

Parking

1. Back parking lot:

- The parking area at the Moorvale entrance by the back door entrance and the parking area from the storage pods to the west fence are reserved for permit holders only from Monday to Friday from 8:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.
- Vehicles with no permits on the dashboard will be ticketed.
- There are no parking restrictions in the back lot after 4:00p.m. from Monday to Friday and on Saturday and Sunday.

2. Front lot:

- Visitors parked in the front lot must be registered on the front desk journal.
- A fee of \$1 is charged for parking in the front lot. Please pay at the Heartwood House front desk.
- Vehicles not registered in the visitor parking journal will be ticketed.
- Visitors who are popping in to drop off an item to a member are not required to pay a fee or register the vehicle.

3. UUFO entrance:

- The two spots in front of the Unitarian entrance are reserved for the Unitarian members.

4. Sunday Parking:

- Please park in front of the building or to the East of the Laundry in the rear parking lot (areas are marked in yellow below) to allow Unitarians access to their space on Sundays.



Guild Members in the Community

Thresholds

Exhibition Tour and Artist Talk with Carl Stewart

As part of the exhibition *Thresholds*, at the Karsh-Masson Gallery at Ottawa City Hall, Guild member Carl Stewart will be participating in a tour of the exhibition and artist talk on Sunday, February 12 at 2:00pm

Together with Sam Loewen and Christos Pantieras, *Thresholds* explores the search for queer intimacy and the consequences of finding it.

For his contribution, Carl is presenting *clò mòr*, a series of hand-woven and hand-dyed fabrics based on the national flags of the 67 countries around the world where homosexuality is criminalized and punishable by incarceration or death.

At the January 2023 guild meeting, Carl presented the talk, *The Great Cloth* about this work.

Thresholds continues to April 14 at the Karsh-Masson Gallery at Ottawa City Hall. The gallery is open every day, 9:00am to 5:00pm.



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 – raw wool fleece
- Sheepskin Rugs
- Two-ply mill spun, natural white yarn, fine, 100 gram skeins
- 2022 lamb – sold out – *Thank you!*

Contact Kelly MacGregor for details: KinnairdFarm@gmail.com



Kinnaird Farm
Kelly M MacGregor

83 La Rue Mills Rd
Mallorytown ON
K0E 1R0

613.659.4267
KellyMMacGregor@gmail.com

Créations Christine

Représentante d'Ashford Dealer

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

cgagne40@gmail.com

Christine Gagné



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613-219-0166

artisanoriginalsbysusan@gmail.com

Louet Dealer

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For Sale: 45-inch Leclerc Nilus jack type floor loom.



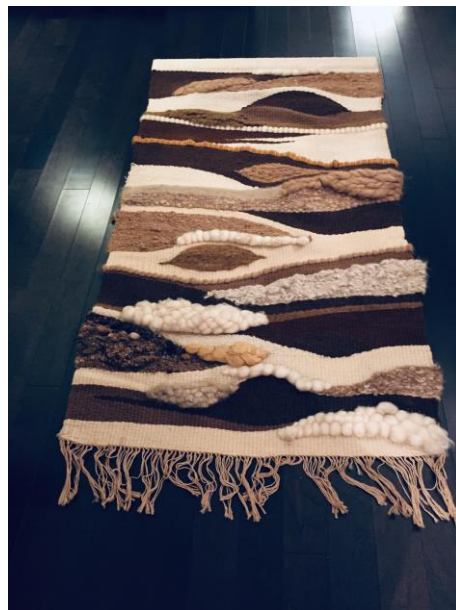
In excellent condition. Accessories included. Asking \$800.

Email: kathleentcarty@gmail.com Phone 613-859-3671

FOR SALE: CONTEMPORARY TEXTILE WALL ART

Two large pieces of contemporary textile wall art for sale. Both pieces were purchased from the Robertson Art Gallery which used to be on Laurier St. in Ottawa. All offers will be considered.

Contact: mornapaterson1@gmail.com for further information and/or to view.





Ply Studio is a creative arts studio located in New Edinburgh and founded and run by Guild member, Carmen Bohn. Carmen specializes in creating handspun yarn that she uses in her woven tapestries and freeform crocheted objects. The workshops at Ply Studio are offered by Carmen and a mix of other local artists in a variety of mediums. Join her email newsletter (pop-up on her website homepage) for all the latest offerings, promotions, and a sneak peek inside her studio.

<https://plystudio613.com/>

create@plystudio613.com

December Meeting Minutes

December 2022 Meeting

Monday December 5, 2022, at 19:30 via Zoom / In Person

- Welcome from President, Jean Sharp
- Introduction of the executive
- 45 members in attendance
- Welcome to 3 new members including Chris, Jackie, and Pat

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Heartwood House Mingle Jingle will be on December 20. This is a time for all Heartwood House members to gather. We have been asked to have a sale along with Victoria Quilts. If anyone has anything to sell, we will welcome the ability to showcase our Guild talent. These sales will take place bi-weekly going forward. A small studio loom will be warped to allow for demos to take place at the sales. Hours are 12 -2. HH will also accept donations for sale (e.g., winter clothing).
- January meeting has been moved to January 9, 2023.
- Next Executive meeting December 19, 2022, at 7:00 pm. Guild members are welcome to attend as observers. Email president@ovwsg.com for Zoom link. Executive meetings are every third Monday of the month.
- Programs is still looking for an additional person to join their team. Please contact Josee if you are interested.
- The executive is in talks with Diane Totten about a possible course on weaving crimped cloth. If arrangements can be made, it will likely occur in May 2023.

PROGRAM

Rosepath Auction (in-person)
Fibre Bingo (online)

NEXT MEETING

Monday January 9, 2023, Carl Stewart, on the Great Cloth.

January Meeting Minutes

January 2023 Meeting

Monday January 9, at 19:15 via Zoom / In Person

- Welcome from President, Jean Sharp
- Introduction of the executive
- 45 members in attendance
- Welcome to 3 new members including Glenda (spinning), Maureen Parry (spinning), Heidi (weaving and spinning).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our Treasurer needs to step down, so we will be looking to replace the Treasurer.
- Heartwood House Mingle Jingle will be on December 20. Moira and Jean represented the Guild and were able to sell a couple tea towel.
- Carmen's high school project. Brought a loom to the High school in Orleans with a 12-foot warp for students to weave on as a form of art therapy. Project was a great success and we're looking to continue the program with other schools. Great form of intergenerational outreach.
- February meeting on February 6, 2023, at 7:15 pm.
- Workshops update – website has been having migraines for the last week. If you can't register for a workshop, email workshops@ovwsg.com and Elizabeth will see what she can do.
- Rentals – updating list of items for rent, new items include a blending board, and a couple of e-spinners.
- New policy in place for rental of studio loom use will be coming out soon. There will be a nominal fee associated.
- Next Executive meeting January 23, 2023, at 7:00 pm. Guild members are welcome to attend as observers. Email president@ovwsg.com for Zoom link. Executive meetings are every third Monday of the month.

PROGRAM

- Carl Stewart, The Great Cloth
- Carl will be the guest speaker on the HGA Textile and Tea on February 14, 2023.

SHOW and TELL

- Deborah Newhook - Inkle Weaving Course Project. Scissor case.
- Dianne Dillon – e-wheel spun yarn, purple variegated wool.
- Cat Goodfellow – first weaving – houndstooth scarf from chain-plied cotton-linen.
- Robin Newhook – 6 months of spinning, started for tour de fleece and finished before Christmas, 2 lbs. of natural coloured merino, will probably become a vest.

NEXT MEETING

February 6, 2023, at 7:15 pm