

PENELOPE'S NEWS



March Edition 2023

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

[Moir 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

Dear Guild Members,

We have all been through a lot over the past few years with COVID, life altering illnesses, personal losses, and transitions. One of the strengths of our Guild is that we bring to it varied experiences and perspectives from our personal and professional lives. Lately, I have found that there have been some unprovoked angry/derisive outbursts from members, and I would like to address this unfortunate situation.

Angry words and tone can hurt others, even if they are not directed at them. Please think how your message may be interpreted and communicate it with kindness and respect as your first thought. We are all volunteers and doing the very best we can for the Guild. If mistakes or misunderstandings arise, try not to jump to conclusions of a negative motive and instead use it as an opportunity to gather information and to educate your colleagues, not use it to put them down or attack them.

When communicating with members, either in person, virtually or in writing, please think of how your words and tone could be hurtful, insulting or misinterpreted. If you are unable to do that, perhaps having someone speak on your behalf would be a better way to express your message.

We have lost members over this, and my wish is that, moving forward, we have safe, respectful, and nurturing relationships within the Guild. I would appreciate any feedback on this or any topic, with complete privacy.

Take care,
Jean

Meeting Info

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

Program: Sharon Kallis

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

The next meeting: Monday, April 3,
2023. Guest: Wendo van Essen

Zoom link for Monday's Guild meeting starting at 7:15pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89249318762?pwd=QmlYaEtFV0JTT1RLZkISUENram44QT09>

Meeting ID: 892 4931 8762

Passcode: 101593

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 **March 24, 2023**, to newsletter@ovwsg.com.

The February Newsletter can be accessed at: <https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/February-2023-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

Website Update

Our links page on the website is woefully out of date. I would like to update the members' portion and also add other useful links.

To that end, please send me the links to your fibre sites/blogs/Etsy etc. with a short (very short) description and the associated categories (more than one is ok) to which your work belongs (i.e., Weaving, Spinning, Felting, Fibre, and equipment). If you think I need to add another category, please let me know.

I would also like to list links to other guilds and fibre festivals/sales and information sites. So please forward those as well and include where they are located.

Please send the information to shepherdessann@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Ann

Updates from Program Coordinators

Programs

Our guest speaker for the March meeting, Sharon Kallis, is a community engaged environmental artist and committed life-long learner. At home on the west coast of Canada, she is the founding executive director of EarthHand Gleaners Society. Sharon has worked extensively with the Vancouver Park Board since 2008 and is the primary steward for two urban learning gardens where materials for creative production are grown.

Learning while teaching – Sharon partners with ecologists, gardeners, and makers 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.

Sharon is doing her own cultural work through cloth and is working to be a better ancestor while living as an uninvited guest on the unceded land of the Skwxwú7mesh, Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm nations. The title of her presentation is: “An artist’s quest for the home-grown ‘power suit’.”

At the April meeting, our guest speaker will be Wendo van Essen, fibre artist, amazing felter, and a member of our guild. We’re very excited to have Wendo present to us!

Information on the May and June meetings will be provided in the next newsletter so be sure to look for it in your inbox next month. We look forward to seeing you at the March meeting!

Your Program Team, Joan Harrison and Josee Cochrane

Library

WHEN: March 6 will be our next meeting and the library will be open from 9am to 15 minutes before the meeting starts. (This allows the librarians to get the library closed up and attend the meeting with the rest of the guild.)

We have a few members who have not brought back their books. If you cannot make the meeting or drop them off at a social, please put them in a bag labeled “OVWSG Library” and drop them off at one of 3 locations.

- 1) During working hours, to the front desk of Heartwood house and we will pick them up.
- 2) 2370 Iris street side door (3 houses west of the Iris transit way stop.)
- 3) South of Ottawa near North Gower, Contact Ann McElroy for instructions.

WHO: Members in good standing can take out 4 items from the circulating section of our library. (Those Members taking the OHS Master Spinners or Master Weavers course can take out more for their homework (see the librarians)). Books taken out March 6th will be due back before the next meeting on April 3rd, 2023.

WHERE: The library is located in the studio at Heartwood house. It is available on the Monday of the meeting. It will also be open when the librarians are in the studio (most Mondays) we will post in our Facebook Group when we arrive.

WHAT: The 2021 lists of Library holdings are located on our web site. (Some of the questions I receive suggest not all of you have found this spot: <https://www.ovwsg.com/library/>)

The lists are broken down into topics to make it easier to find items

Listings by Subject <https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-SUBJECT-LIST-01-22-21-updated.pdf> (this is the most frequently helpful list)

Listings by Title <https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-TITLE-LIST-01-23-21-updated.pdf>

Listings by Author <https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-AUTHOR-LIST-01-23-21-Updated.pdf>

Magazines <https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-OVWSG-Library-Magazine-List-01-23-21-updated.pdf> (this gives a full list of all editions of a magazine we should have)

Breakdown of topics by interests <https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2019-OVWSG-Library-Topics.pdf>

Multi-Harness Weaving Books <https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2019-OVWSG-Library-Multi-Harness-Weaving-Books.pdf> (this is helpful because many books have information on Multi-harness weaving but that is not the focus of the book so it's somewhere else in the library not the multi-harness section.)

After the Book count is complete, I will be working on making new updated lists. This seems to be taking longer than anticipated so we appreciate your patients while we work.

As you browse through the above lists, you may notice the depth and scope of our library is impressive. We have one of the best guild libraries in the country. Non-Members are welcome to come in and read or do research with us but are not allowed to take out books.

WHY: The Library is a source of Inspiration and education. Whether you want to deeply research the history of the overshot coverlet or brows at pictures in one of the magazines, the library is here to help you in your fiber journey. I started as a weaver, got distracted into spinning, tried, and enjoyed Basketry then wound up discovering not all felting is wet! You may not wonder quite so much through the topics but if you do, the library is waiting to enlighten you. For an overview of the topics covered in our library please look at: <https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2019-OVWSG-Library-Topics.pdf> The chart will give you the main topics in bold and some of the subtopics within the categories that may be of interest.

To get in touch with the librarians, please use the library email: library@ovwsg.com

We look forward to seeing you soon. Don't forget to take good care of the books you borrow and then bring them back! We want all our members to be able to enjoy the collection for many years to come.

All for now Jan on behalf of the librarians.

Equipment Rentals

Inkle Weaving

Have you ever tried weaving on an inkle loom? This unusual loom is specifically intended to use in the making of bands – long bands, short bands, skinny bands, and wide bands. You can make bag straps, guitar straps, belts, cat collars!! and more. It is fascinating to watch the huge variety of patterns that one can create, enhanced with delightful colour play.

The Guild has two charming inklettes (among other inkle looms) that are available for rent. They are small enough to comfortably use on your lap, in the car, or while visiting (think knitting, and then think again...). The library has perhaps a dozen books that explore inkle weaving to get you started. Contact rentals@ovwsg.com for more information or to arrange a rental.

Workshops

Workshops are going well, with most currently scheduled workshops full or nearly full. We had to remove some “under construction” workshops because construction was delayed but I am hopeful they will return in some form soon. Please keep your ideas for workshops coming, but remember that our focus is spinning, weaving, and felting. We do some workshops in related fields like basketry and dyeing, but generally we don’t go into areas like knitting, crochet, lacemaking nor embroidery unless it is specifically for application to handspun or handwoven materials.

The team is about to embark on the next scheduling round. We will continue with scheduling in smaller chunks for the rest of this year. The next round will cover May through August. We are always open to new teachers. We do have a policy and procedure in place for vetting new instructors, we look at teaching experience (not necessarily in fibre arts, but experience in teaching adults is an asset) and level of expertise in the topic you wish to present. If you have expertise in a topic, but lack teaching experience we can help you with that, you can shadow a current instructor of a similar topic or we can find you a mentor to help with lesson planning (some days I reach out for that still as I tend to bite off more than I can chew (ask about my rather disastrous attempt at shoving 4 advanced topics into a 2 day rigid heddle workshop...)). If you are interested, or even just curious, please email me at: workshops@wattfamily.ca

The address workshops@ovwsg.com will get to me, but this is an alias which sometimes causes problems when I reply, and your system does not recognize the email I am replying from.

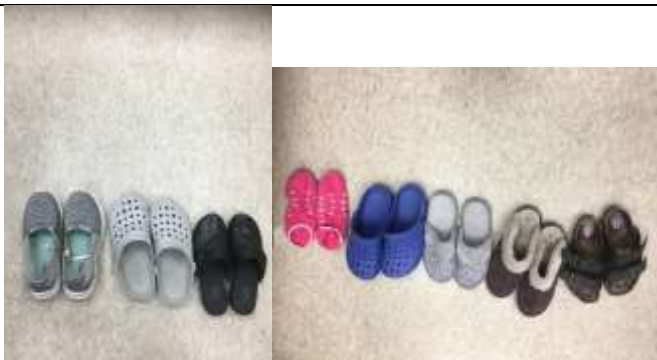
I am hopeful we will see the May June schedule at least by the beginning of April.

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.

Studio Update



PLEASE CLAIM YOUR SHOES:

Hi everyone,

These shoes have been in the studio since before the start of the pandemic. Since some members have left since then, we would appreciate it if you could identify any shoes that belong to you by sending an email to the studio manager at: studiomanager@ovwsg.com and include either a description of the shoes or say 2nd from left, in photo with 5 shoes. If they aren’t claimed by March 30, they will be removed. Thank you.

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:

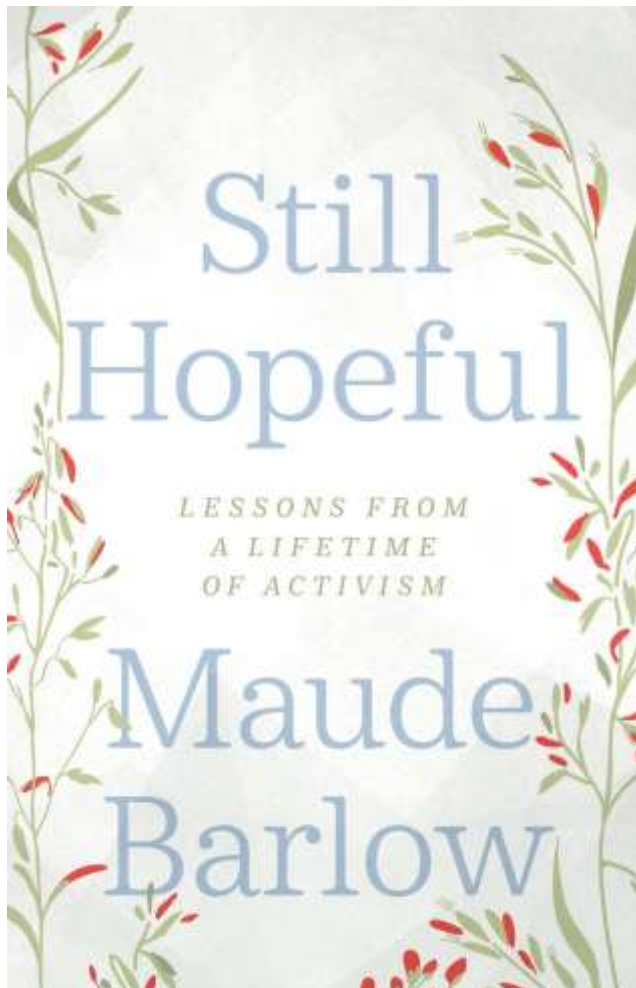
- Please park in front of the building or to the East of the Laundry in the rear parking lot (areas are marked in yellow below) to allow Unitarians access to their space on Sundays.



Heartwood House continued

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.



Hello Heartwooders,

Occasionally we have guest speakers at the Unitarian Fellowship that we think would be of interest to many of you. Please share with anyone you think would be interested:

Sunday, March 5th 10:30am, at UUFO and on Zoom:

Still Hopeful – Lessons from a Lifetime of Activism

Maude Barlow has dedicated her life to activism, as a feminist, a founding member of the Council of Canadians, an opponent of exploitative economic globalization and an outspoken advocate for water justice, among many other roles. She continues to be an inspiration for people of all generations in the fight for a more equitable and just world. She will join our celebration of International Women's Day honouring past, present and future feminist leadership.

Please reply to me if you would like the Zoom link to join online. All are welcome to join us on Sunday mornings.

Sarah Baxter (she/her)

hhcommunity@googlegroups.com

Programs and Administration Coordinator
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ottawa

Guild Members in the Community

Thresholds

Reminder:

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.

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.



Canvassing for Interest

Are you interested in macraweave and fibre art?

Carol Macpherson would like to arrange a meet up if there is interest within the guild members. Please contact her at: carollmacpherson@gmail.com, if you would like to participate.



Member Book Reviews

The Cotton Commentary

Spinning Cotton, with Stephanie Gaustad – DVD 641.31GAU

This DVD from our library collection is awesome – if you are into cotton spinning. I will simply quote the insert that accompanies the DVD, as that is concise and complete:

Cotton was perhaps the most important fiber of the ancient world, clothing more people throughout history than any other. It remains one of the most important fibers today – think underwear and bluejeans! Sheets and towels! Yet cotton has been largely neglected by contemporary spinners in the developed world. Stephanie Gaustad aims to change all that. In this engaging video, you'll learn: How to prepare cotton, from boll to batt; how to spin cotton with ease and efficiency on a wide range of tools, from tahkli to flyer wheel; how to boil off and set twist in preparation for weaving, knitting, or what have you. Along the way, you'll be treated to fascinating historical asides, to inventive tricks for devising and adapting tools, and to an array of splendid made goods from socks to smock to household cloths. This is an excellent DVD.

If The History of Cotton is more your thing, there is a collection of videos Titled, “The Rise and Fall of King Cotton”. King cotton was the label given to American cotton during the heyday of the cotton industry, and this thumb drive contains several videos that focus on that.

A third volume that I have checked out is labelled “Assorted Hand-spinning Cotton. This includes instructional spinning from a variety of cultures, making it an interesting accompaniment to Gaustad's DVD.

And one other thing that I should mention: the guild has a Charkha available for rental. If you are interested, send an email to rentals@ovwsg.com!

Valentine's Door

Many thanks to Jan for creating our Valentine's Day Door display at Heartwood House. The Hearts were made from felt.



Chesterville Spin In



February Pre-Meeting



Felted Landscape Workshop



Studio and Socials



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



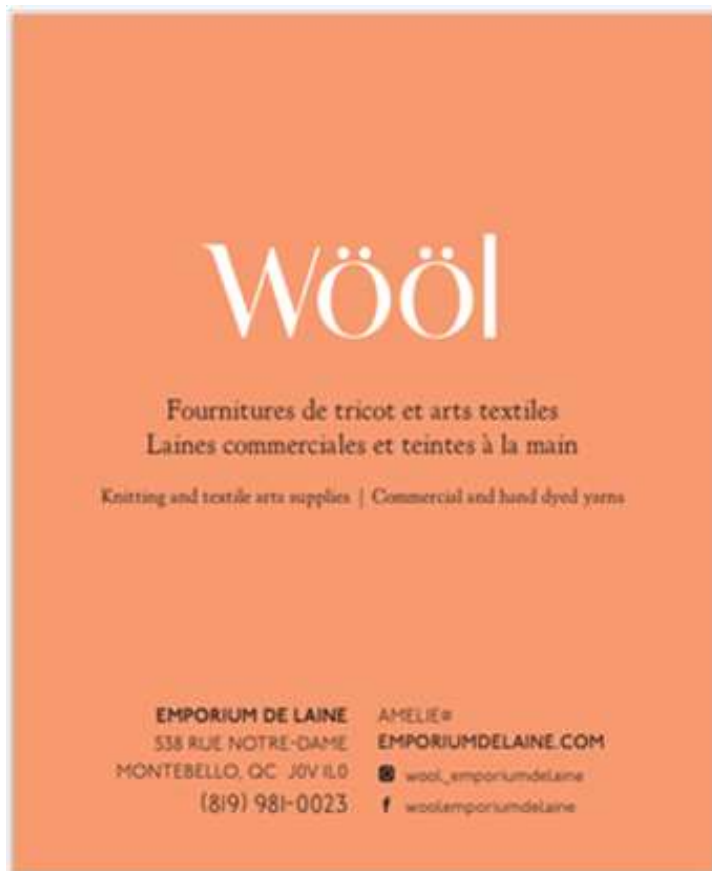
Créations Christine

Représentante d'Ashford Dealer

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

cgagne40@gmail.com

Christine Gagné



February Meeting Minutes

February 2023 Meeting

Monday February 6, at 19:15 via Zoom / In Person

- Welcome from President, Jean Sharp
- Introduction of the executive
- 43 members in attendance
- Welcome to new members Doreen (weaving / spinning), Tammy (weaving)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our Treasurer needs to step down, so we will be looking to replace the Treasurer.
- Heartwood house rent increase will be 2% for next year.
- Library is underway with the book count. If you want to volunteer, the library would love your help counting books.
- Workshops update – will be working on May and June schedule. Weaving for sewing has been postponed until the autumn term.
- Diane Totten can come for our May meeting, there will be further information forthcoming.
- Carl Stewart will be a guest speaker on the Handweavers Guild of America Tea and Textiles on February 14th, 2023. Thank you to the guild for sponsoring my talk.
- Carl Stewart and two other artists will be giving an artist's talk on February 12th, 2023, at 2:00 pm at the City Hall Karsh gallery.
- Carl Stewart has an article coming out in the next issue of 'Shuttle, Spindle and Dye Pot' based on the Great Cloth talk that he gave at the January meeting.
- Next Executive meeting February 20, 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.
- Next meeting will be March 6, 2023, at 7:15 pm
- Next year will be our 75th Anniversary. If anyone is interested in participating on a small committee to develop a program for the celebration, please contact Moira at chair@ovwsg.com.

PROGRAM

- Hope MacLean, Ph.D. Huichol yarn paintings

SHOW and TELL

- Carmen – woven banner from High School Project (Art Therapy). Starting project #2 for students still wanting to weave.
- Liane – Photos of skeins from Dye course with Amanda Carrigan
- Jocelyn – Banner made with handspun, hand-stitching, machine stitching.
- Joan – Rattle (from Indigenous workshop with the Thunderbird sisters)
- Robin – Rainbow gradient spun skein and cake

NEXT MEETING

March 6, 2023, at 7:15 pm