

# PENELOPE'S NEWS



April Edition 2024

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

[Moira White](#).....Chair  
[Carl Stewart](#).....Vice- Chair  
[Jean Sharp](#).....President  
[Louise Travill](#).....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.

## In this issue

President's Message.....	p.1
Socials update.....	p.1
General Announcements.....	p.2
Message from the Editor.....	p.2
Membership.....	p.2
Guild Coordinator announcements.....	p.2
Workshops.....	p.2
Programs.....	p.3
Library.....	p.3
Studio Loom Use announcement.....	p.4
Annual General Meeting.....	p.4
Reorganization Sale.....	p.5
Photos.....	p.5
75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary E-book.....	p.9
Marketplace.....	p.11
Meeting minutes.....	p.12
HH Parking Information.....	p.13

## Meeting Info

**This month's hybrid meeting:**  
Monday, April 8, 2024, at 7:15 pm

**Program:** Pauline Maracle

**February Executive Meeting:** April 22, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

**The next meeting:** Monday, May 6th, 2023

## President's Message

### Spring Greetings!

I hope everyone is enjoying this nice weather, well apart from the occasional cold snaps. Not much we can do about it so may as well enjoy it! The hot weather is coming soon.

Things are moving along as planned at the Guild. You may have noticed a flurry of activity in and around the studio and classroom as we tidy up and move along some things that have accumulated over the years. There will be a sale of excess equipment at the next meeting in April (more information follows in this newsletter) along with the de-stash tables at the start of the meeting.

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee is very happy to announce that we will be hosting our Open House/Party at Heartwood House on June 22<sup>nd</sup> from noon to 4pm. There will be lots of fun things to see and do so invite your friends and family! There will be hourly tours to see the 100" loom room, studio and classroom, demos, a make and take table, exhibits and cake! We will be asking members to contribute finger food and drinks closer to the event. Please let me know if you want to help out ([president@ovwsg.com](mailto:president@ovwsg.com)).

I hope everyone can attend the next meeting either in person or by Zoom!

## Socials Update

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. Come and join us and get to know your fellow guild members.

## General Announcements

### 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 May newsletter are due no later than **April 26, 2024**.

We welcome contributions from all members, so please feel free to submit photos, book reviews or stories of fibre related activities. The March Newsletter can be accessed at: <https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/March-2024-Newsletter.pdf>

### Membership

Membership renewals can be done through SECURE ONLINE PAYMENT at:  
<https://www.ovwsg.com/membership/membership-application/>

Follow the directions and fill in the forms. You may pay through a PayPal account or a Credit card.

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 Program Coordinators

### Workshops

Most workshops for April are full. If you are interested please put your name on the waiting list, sometimes a spot becomes available, but it also helps me gauge interest. Note that putting your name on the waiting list for a particular workshop session does not give you priority for subsequent sessions, nor can I individually let people know if and when I schedule it at a later date unless there is such a long list that my assistant, Beth, attempts to schedule a "By Request" session.

These workshops for April still have space:

Weaving 1.5 Just beyond Beginners

Saturdays May 25 – June 15 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

<https://www.ovwsg.com/events/event/2429-weaving-1-5-just-beyond-beginners/>

Luxurious Nuno Felt Scarf

Sunday April 7, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

<https://www.ovwsg.com/events/event/2423-luxurious-nuno-felt-scarf/>

Elizabeth Watt

Workshops Registrar

## Programs

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, our guest speaker Pauline Maracle is a Mohawk basket and bead weaver from Tyendinaga First Nations Reserve who now lives in Ottawa. She will share with us how her culture and way of life informs her art. She will be with us in person with a display of her work.

See you then.

Liane Thiry-Smith

## Library

Happy April! Which means for many of us it's time to renew your membership!! Remember you have to be a member to take out books from the circulating part of the guild library. So don't forget to check if you have remembered to renew for 2024-2025!

We still have a few members who have not replied to reminder of overdue books, I know Hotmail is scary, but I now have an outlook account so that should make it past the spam filters. Please be courteous and return your books on time so others may enjoy them too.

We have not had any magazines returned with coffee stains, so the request to take extra care with library items seems to be working!

The library is open on most Mondays, I will post in our face book group when I get in, or you can call the studio if you are not on face book. On meeting Mondays I try to have the library open by 9am but again this month Glenn's OT appointment is booked for Monday morning so I will be in by 10:30ish and will have the library open for you as soon as I can. Books can be dropped off on Mondays, in the studio drop off box or to the librarians. Books can also be dropped off at the front desk of Heartwood house any time the building is open (bagged and Labeled "OVWSG LIBRARY"). For other options contact Library at [ovwsg.com](http://ovwsg.com).

Did you know the library has Books, Magazines, DVD's, Thumb drives and other interesting things to check out? We have a fabulous collection to inspire, to educate and to distract you into other aspects of the fiber arts! Come in and peruse our guild Library!

All for now, Jan, on behalf of the library team.

## Sale and Exhibition

The annual Sale and Exhibition planning is well underway. We have added a few new booths this year and done a little rearranging so you will notice a few differences when you come to the Sale and Exhibition in November.

Booth sales are already going well, with returning vendors being able to reclaim their booth until April 16.

On April 17, all remaining booths will be available for anyone to apply. Information on becoming a vendor is available on the Guild website.

Ann and Jean (and the rest of the great committee)

## Studio Loom Use – IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please note that any loom that is in use at the Guild overnight or longer, **MUST** have a label indicating who is weaving on it, what they are weaving, and - if they are with a class - who the instructor is as well as the name of the class/workshop. **It is the users' responsibility to ensure that their work is traceable.**

There are labels available in an envelope on the wall of the classroom, and just a piece of paper attached to the loom is adequate, provided it has the required information.

Any unidentified project on a loom may result in that loom being vacated and put back into circulation.

## Annual General Meeting

June and with it our AGM, during which we will elect or confirm members to fill vacant Guild positions, is fast approaching.

Without our dedicated group of volunteers, the Guild would not be able to continue to provide all of the services to the fibre arts community that it currently does. Volunteers are responsible for many of key roles and provide a great service to our members. They are responsible for managing our library, editing our newsletter, coordinating our annual exhibition and sale, managing our studio and equipment rentals, coordinating our program meetings and guest speakers, and leading our socials, to name just a few.

In addition to our experienced volunteers, many of whom have been contributing for many years, we need new people to join and provide fresh insight and a passion for the work. To stay relevant to a new generation of weavers, spinners and felters, we need new volunteers to advocate for the future of the Guild.

In addition to helping define the future of the Guild, in my experience, volunteering is a great way to meet other Guild members and really get to know the community.

**Current Volunteers** – Expect to receive an email in the next week to confirm your continued interest in maintaining your volunteer position for another year. Please let the Guild know as soon as possible if you will be stepping down, so that we can look for a replacement.

**New volunteers** – We are always looking for help. If you have an interest in volunteering, please reach out to me at [newsletter@ovwsg.com](mailto:newsletter@ovwsg.com).

### **Two key positions are looking for volunteers for 2024-25:**

Corporate Secretary – as a member of the board, this position requires the member to attend all general and executive meetings, take minutes and record decisions. In addition, they are responsible for the AGM preparation (call out emails, soliciting volunteers, etc.). This position is filled by election at the AGM.

Membership Coordinator – responsible for maintaining the membership lists, following up for membership renewals, processing membership applications (including sending welcome emails).

**A full list of open positions will be published in the May edition of Penelope's News.**

## Reorganization Sale

The guild is undergoing a tidy and reorganization of its equipment resources because space is becoming so overcrowded as to be unmanageable. In the process it has become apparent that some of the equipment is in excess of our needs and a decision has been made to sell the surplus!

If you would like to purchase anything, individuals who attend the April meeting in person will be able to buy and pick up items on site. If you are not planning on attending the meeting in person, please email [bdnewhook@gmail.com](mailto:bdnewhook@gmail.com) and indicate your intention to purchase the item of your choice, so that it can be set aside for you. Please do not 'reserve' anything that you do not seriously intend to buy.

Note that transportation of all items purchased will need to be done with minimal delay and is the responsibility of the purchaser.

Descriptions and photographs of all sale items can be accessed at the following link.

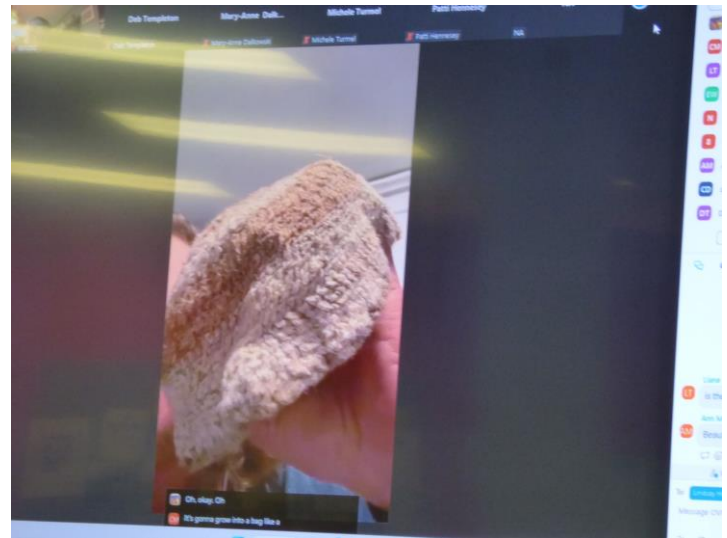
 [OVWSG Surplus Inventory List With photos Final copy.pdf](#)

Thank you, and happy shopping!

## March meeting



## March meeting continued



## Socials



# Socials



# OVWSG 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary E-book; meet our members & their work

*An overview of the guild in its 75<sup>th</sup> year with a history of the guild, who we are and what we have done. It will also allow members to get to know other members, putting names and faces together.*

Accessible to all guild members, in any medium, at any point in their fiber arts journey, can participate. This is for our members not the general public.

## **Part 1 History**

(we will need a team who would like to work on this, Carl is working on this topic for another project, Cindy has the guild archives, and I have the slide show history from the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary that I am presently updating so there is help available. But it would be nice to have someone else coordinating this section's information.) this section looks at where we came from and how we got here.

**Part 2 Scope of the guild** (*Weave (Basketry, tapestry, rugs), spin (post spinning), felt, dye, Fiber prep, animal husbandry*) -This section focuses on the diversity of different fiber arts practiced by guild members.

- Definitions/ explanations of each skill (not all of us do everything so let's introduce the skills we do, maybe it will inspire us to try new things.)

-A project for each topic?

## **Part 3 Who we are**

-Our People (the strength of a guild is in its participants, meet the members)

The questions for members

- ***Name of member***

-***when did you join the guild?***

-***guild participation (have you held guild jobs, official or unofficial in the guild)***

-***Fiber Bio – tell us about your fiber journey, favorite weave structure or fiber?***

-***Favorite Memories of the guild***

**3.1 Members work** – photographs of some of their favorite things they have made while they were in the guild. (Beginning works to more advanced.) this can be 1 or more pages per person.

-Brief description of work,

-technique (how did you make it) (this will suggest part 2 subsections)

-Did you get help from other guild members, was it part of a workshop, was it a guild challenge, Inspiration?

**3.2 in Memorium (Members we have lost)** this may be subcommittee

(Ann S expressed interest in this)

**Ann Middleton**

**Mary Morison,**

**Francesca Overend,**

**Mary Bowrin,**

**Natalie Shumovsky,**

**Kathleen Schwass,**

**Bo**

(There are many old members that were important to the guild, but if we are focusing on a snapshot of what the guild is like now we may want to focus on the more recent losses)

# OVWSG 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary E-book cont'd.

## **Part 4 The Future** (where are we going)

- Aspirations what we hope to accomplish in the future (fiber arts takes over the world....)
- A short statement of what we want to accomplish next
  - E.g., Online presence, international workshops, larger studio space, host spin in/fiber arts festival/ international conference.... Ask the members and the exec: What do we want to do? Maybe another survey?

We will need a team to help with different sections, and I know no one wants to have me in charge of spell checking, so we will need a final check team too.

I have put together some VERY draft layouts to give you an idea of Part 3.1, which I hope this can act as a starting point. One example is included on the next page and the remainder can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/OVWSG-75th-Anniversary-EBook-Member-page-examples.docx>

Please enjoy Miaka's story of her lost fibre masterwork.

While I have a few photos, everyone should select what they would like to share. This project is welcoming to all members whether you are just starting your fiber journey or have been at this so long there is no longer room in your house because the fiber has taken over.

**Remember each of you will be sending a selection of photos (16mp or better if possible / we can arrange a photo shoot opportunity if needed) and you are writing your answers to the questions, so you don't have to worry about me picking a really odd facial expression (ANN!!) or writing a really "interesting bio" for you.**

I know this is a big project, but it should also be lots of fun. We want to work on this through 2024 and hopefully have it ready for the Guild Sale and Ex or at least by the end of the year.

All for now Jan

# Miaka Scott-Martin

OVWSG



Joined the guild: 2014 as a family member

guild participation: inspired other family members to weave or felt for her. Assisted librarian with spell checking (more enthusiasm than actual spell checking, which consisted of body slamming the keyboard to provide all missing letters all at once.)

Fiber bio: She grew, harvested (shed), blended and felted her own fiber. she was making a felt installation piece on her Dining room chair. Unfortunately, her self felted instillation art-work was destroyed by a passing vacuum cleaner.

Favorite memory of the guild: Mom made me the best biggest fish cat cave at a guild workshop. It was the biggest cat cave in the class and perfectly suitable for the center of the universe. I also have found the library paper work was particularly comfortable as I have kept it warm and unable to escape by sitting on it.



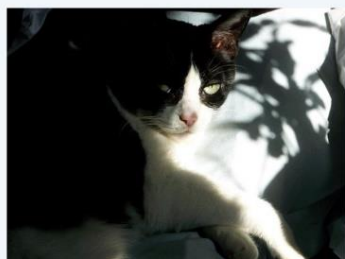
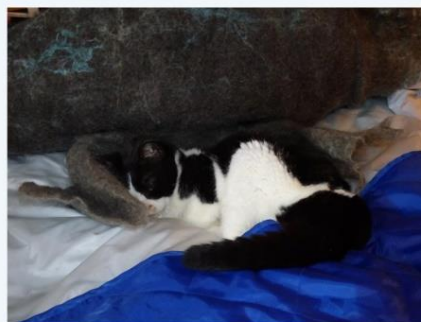
Cat cave Colicanth (large werd ancient fish)

Wet felted over a resist, fins felted and added afterwards. Wool is roving from a Finn sheep.

Pre felting size extended off two adjacent 6 foot tables.



Just short of her 20th birthday Miaka enjoys her new Fish Cat cave



Tragically, her greatest art work was lost to a horrific vacuum cleaner accident and was never memorialized in photographic form. She hopes you will be able to imagine her iconic piece in its representation of Self as Art. (literally, she shed the fiber then self felted it to a cohesive oval in shades of grey.)



# 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 – raw wool fleece, *shipped nationwide!*
- Sheepskin Rugs – white, brown, black, grey
- Two-ply mill spun, natural white yarn, fine, 100 gram skeins
- 2023 lamb – sold out – *Thank you! Accepting orders for 2024*

Contact Kelly MacGregor for details: [KinnairdFarm@gmail.com](mailto:KinnairdFarm@gmail.com)



**Kinnaird Farm**  
**Kelly M MacGregor**

83 La Rue Mills Rd  
Mallorytown ON  
K0E 1R0

613.659.4267



TAKE A WORKSHOP . BUY SUPPLIES . GET CREATIVE  
[www.plystudio613.com](http://www.plystudio613.com) [create@plystudio613.com](mailto:create@plystudio613.com)



**Mapi Créations**

*Laines et Arts textiles*

[www.mapicreations.ca](http://www.mapicreations.ca)



## Créations Christine

Représentante d'Ashford Dealer

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

[cgagne40@gmail.com](mailto:cgagne40@gmail.com)

Christine Gagné



ISABELLE PERDIGAL & JACQUES MORIN

**MOHAIR**

From Our Angoras Goats. Spun In Canada. Hand Dyed On The Farm.

De nos chèvres angoras. Filé au Canada. Teint à la main à la ferme.

Vankleek Hill, ON  
(613) 678-5690  
[bellesbouclettes.com](http://bellesbouclettes.com)  
[info@bellesbouclettes.com](mailto:info@bellesbouclettes.com)



*Artisan Originals by Susan*

*Weaver Felter Fibre Artist*

613-219-0166

[artisanoriginalsbysusan@gmail.com](mailto:artisanoriginalsbysusan@gmail.com)

*Louet Dealer*

*Ashford Dealer*



# February Meeting Minutes

## March 2024 Meeting

Monday March 4, 2024, at 19:15 in person and via Zoom

- Welcome from President, Jean Sharp, and Introduction of the Executive

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Corporate Secretary position is opening at the end of the fiscal year, please contact Jean Sharp or Moira White if you are interested.
- Next Executive March 18, 2024, at 7:00 am. Everyone is invited. If you wish to be included in the meeting, please contact Moira at [chair@ovwsg.com](mailto:chair@ovwsg.com)

### PROGRAM

#### Liz Spear

An award-winning fine art weaver & handwoven clothing designer will be joining us via Zoom from North Carolina. She is one of three invited artists for the fashion show at the Hand Weavers Guild of America "Convergence event in Wichita, Kansas this July. Her work is innovative and inspiring.

You can check out her website. <https://www.lizspearhandwoven.com/about-liz-spear-weaver-designer-fiber-artist>

### SHOW AND TELL

# Heartwood House Parking

## 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.

### 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.

