



Ottawa Valley Weavers' & Spinners' Guild

December 2008 Newsletter

Message from your President

Well, it is hard to believe it is November already. The Guild Exhibition and Sale is now a memory and was a resounding success thanks to Nancy Ingram and her tireless committees. I was there Friday afternoon and was really impressed with the quality and variety of the work presented. Thanks too go to Ann Sunahara for taking on the Guild display and doing an excellent presentation of our members' work. This is an important event in our calendar - it is our chance to show Ottawa what we do.

Your Executive is working hard on a number of issues, the largest being the potential move to newer, brighter space. Although the details have not all been worked out yet, we will be moving at the end of January to the Live Work Play space on the penthouse floor of Heartwood House. This room will be a challenge in that we want to house all of our looms and library there and still leave room for conducting workshops. It is an ideal workshop space with lots of windows, lots of counter space, blackboards and water for dye, basketry, felting workshops.

To this end, it would be appreciated if members would come forth to assist in doing some decorating, painting, help pack up and unpack our stuff. More details will be forthcoming by special abbreviated email newsletter the beginning of January. Please offer to help us in this important move - it will be a fun experience. We are looking into hiring professional movers to actually move the looms, library and boxes so packers and unpackers would be welcome.

This year will be a challenging one for us. We have been advised that the City of Ottawa is contemplating reducing their support of local Arts organizations. This may affect our grant for 2009. It is felt by your Executive that even if we lose our grant from the City, we should still make the move to the new space.

With this in mind, I would urge you to suggest workshops that you would be willing to participate in and to support the guild by attending the workshops and classes that we already have scheduled. This studio space is for you to use - to learn something new or to

simply rent a loom to work on a special project. If there are free looms, they are available to all members.

I am excited to hear that the first 100" loom Overshot Coverlet is now completed. I know this group has encountered many problems - flooding, logistics on getting everyone together and loom/warp inconsistencies. They have dealt with all these challenges with determination and a great sense of humour. Please take the opportunity to stop in the "basement" studio at the next meeting and see the project in progress. It is hoped that the 100" loom can stay assembled in some form in the new studio so it can be used on a regular basis. Stay tuned for some project ideas.

If you can help with the move, please contact me at sbrowsky@sympatico.ca or 613-488-2898 and let me know when and what you can help with.

I hope the 60th Anniversary Challenge teams are hard at work creating memorable pieces in celebration of 60 years of weaving and spinning in Ottawa. It will be a treat to see all these entries in April and displayed in the Gallery in May.

I know it is early, but I want to wish all our fibre friends and guild members a very Merry Christmas and a very Fibre New Year!

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Next Meeting: Monday, Dec. 1st

The next OVWSG meeting is Monday, December 1st at 7:30 pm at the Gallery in Heartwood House at 153 Chapel Street, Ottawa.

We will have our traditional "Holiday Pot-Luck" so don't forget to bring something yummy to share! The kitchen across from the Gallery will be available for us. We also will have the de-stash table set up – you might just find the perfect gift!

Program

Elizabeth Piccolo will be giving the program on Japanese Shibori (Resist Dyeing). A short overview of Shibori in traditional Japanese textiles as well as its influence and use in contemporary fabric art will introduce participants to this art form. Four Shibori techniques – stitch resist (nui-shibori), pole wrapping (arashi shibori), hand pleating and binding (tesuji shibori), and clamping (itajime shibori) will be demonstrated. At the end, participants will have a chance to ask questions and discuss as a group how Shibori can be applied to weaving and working with wool.

With 15 years of experience as a silk artist across Canada, Elizabeth Piccolo studied Shibori with a Japanese artisan in Victoria BC and took the Advanced Textile Arts course at Capilano College in Vancouver. She has also been a professional teacher at technical and vocational colleges.

Please bring examples of your own shibori work to show the group at the end of the presentation.

The first OVWSG of the New Year will be Monday, January 5th, 2009. The program will be on photographing your fibre art from Laura Fauquier. Laura will discuss lighting techniques, set up, back drop, image quality, framing, composition, and using a tripod.

General Announcements

Hostess Needed for Guild Meetings

This is call for volunteers to act as hostess to the monthly Guild meetings on Monday nights. All that is required is to pick up some snacks and beverages to be made available for each meeting. Set up and take down time is minimal. Please contact Pat Trudel at patsy@ncf.ca for more details.

Please Put The Guild on Your Christmas List

Your Executive is working on a plan to move the Resource Centre out of the basement at Heartwood House into a bright, clean space on the second floor. This move would give us a Resource Centre that

- is ours alone,
- contains both the Library and the Studio,
- enables us to open the Library more often,
- gives us a kitchen with a microwave and refrigerator, and
- enables us to give workshops, like dyeing or basketry, that require access to water.

To do the best possible job we need to find or buy tables, chairs, bookcases and storage cabinets. A Christmas gift of \$10 or more from every member to our Resource Centre Fund would really help!

A donation box will be set out at the meeting on December 1st. Or mail your gift to our Treasurer, Judith Rygiel, 2 Bren Maur Rd., Ottawa ON, K2J 3Z7.

Congratulations to Thoma Ewen

Weaving and tapestry artist Thoma Ewen was awarded a prize of excellence from the Fondation pour les arts, les lettres, et le culture en Outaouais. The prize was awarded at the Culturiads ceremony at Maison de la Culture in Gatineau.

Basketry Tip:

Finding the "Good" side of a piece of flat reed

Gently bend the piece over one of your fingers into a U shape. Dry is best, but if too brittle then soak it just a bit till it is flexible. The "Bad" side will have little hairs/slivers stick up. Occasionally, you get a really good piece that will not do this, so it looks good on both sides, then you'll have to guess by look and feel. Good sides may be slightly shinier and feel smoother.

Resource Centre - Weaving Studio

For the rest of this year, Sue Quinn and I will be available to help at the Weaving Studio by appointment. Just call and arrange a time.

Mary Morrison, (613) 830-9992

mormmry@sympatico.ca

Open Studio Evenings

Once we are settled into the new fibre arts studio on the second floor (oooooh, lots of natural light) I am proposing that perhaps once a month, I will hold an "Open studio" evening, where members can come in to work on projects, try out some equipment or just socialize. We will probably be able to make it a library access evening as well. I have listened to many people's comments about daytime and weekends being hard to access (or there's a workshop going on). If the one evening a month idea catches on, then perhaps we can increase the number of evenings. I know, for myself, I would prefer to have someone to talk to when I go to the studio. The Wednesday weavers started this idea, but it was in the daytime, so that left a lot of working members out. In the evening there isn't a parking problem either. Does this sound like something that would appeal to you?

Samples to Try

There are 2 table looms set up for members to try new weaves in the Studio. Judith Rygiel has set up an 8 shaft advancing twill weave and Shirley Browsky set up a 4 shaft log cabin lace weave. These looms have their treadling and weaving directions and are available for any member to weave a sample. Please identify your sample and when all are completed, they will be cut apart and given to the participants complete with weaving records. If you have never woven, this is a great opportunity to try it. If you have never woven on an 8 shaft loom, now is the time. Please contact Mary Morrison for access. Have fun!

Weave on the 100 inch loom! Now is your chance to help weave a coverlet for the Guild. Spend an hour or two of working in tandem with an experienced weaver to create an overshot coverlet that the Guild can raffle off on its 60th Anniversary. Daytime, evenings or weekends. Contact Ann Sunahara 613-728-9691 or sunahara@magma.ca to learn more.

It's a Mystery! Black Plastic Bin Lids

When we recently went through the contents of our storeroom, we discovered three very large boxes of plastic lids for storage bins -- just the lids. If you know how these got there and why they are there, please inform Ann Sunahara, 613-728-9691 or sunahara@magma.ca.

Heartwell House News

Recycle your used ink cartridges!

Support the "Everybody Wins" program by giving your used inkjet & laser cartridges to the front desk at Heartwell House. You will be getting rid of something you don't need, improving your environment, and helping Heartwell raise a little bit of money. Contact Laurie Haskins-Chiasson for more details lauriehc@magma.ca.

Demonstrations

Again this year the members of the Guild demonstrated at the Exhibition and Sale and showed the public some of our skills. Our heartfelt thanks go out to:

Jan Scott -- Spinning and Inkle Loom

Anne Pichora -- Tapestry Weaving

Laurie Harkin-Chaisson -- Log cabin weave on the 15 inch loom

Anne Middleton -- Spinning

Merilyn Mulligan -- Spinning

Melanie Lukach -- Spinning -- Drop Spindle and Chakra Wheel

Cindy O'Gorman -- Spinning

Elizabeth Watt -- Spinning

For more information on participating in demonstrations contact Cindy O'Gorman cgo244@yahoo.ca.

Editor's Note

Melanie Overduin

I had a wonderful time at our More than Cloth Exhibition & Sale. The displays were breathtaking, the variety and beauty of the work inspiring, and the atmosphere wonderfully artistic. What an incredible job everyone did: from Nancy Ingram for spear heading the event to each exhibitor who wowed us with their fabulous fibre art to the volunteers who not only worked hard but had a lot of fun too! I took many wonderful pictures that I would like to share with you all. Therefore, I will be sending out a Newsletter Supplement in the next month that will feature our Ex & Sale. I warn you -- it will be very image heavy so some of you may have trouble viewing it. Not to worry -- I will bring extra printed copies to the January meeting. Congratulations on a wonderful Exhibition and Sale!

Exhibition & Sale

The Guild Exhibit

Ann Sunahara

If you missed the Guild Exhibit -- *More Than Cloth* -- at the 2008 Exhibition and Sale, you missed examples of excellent work. Topping the first stand there were 4 examples of hand-woven cloth; a superb blue wool by Mary Bowrin and three examples of Mandy Heggteit's work -- two of them from her book with Dina Moes, *No Common Thread: Woven Favorites*, and a linen and silk modern overshot suiting material. Below them were examples of several of the topics of our workshops: Laurie Harkin-Chiasson's Pine Needle Basket (to be taught November 16 and 23) and her egg basket (with handle details to be taught in her February 8th workshop); Anne Middleton's handspun, hand-dyed, hand-knitted, multicoloured scarf; Jan Scott's scissor's case made on an Inkle loom; Mary Bowrin's hand towels and baby's bib decorated with designs executed in a supplemental weft technique; one of Elizabeth Watt's spindle kits illustrating Beginning Spinning; Marilyn Mulligan's hand-carded, hand-spun, hand-knitted shawl and Judith Rygiel's superb afghan executed on a draw loom. Beginning weaving examples from Laurie Harkin-Chiasson and Ann Sunahara finished the "Workshop" display. Completing the stand at eye level were two of Anne Pichora's small, delicate tapestries.

Jack Lane's overshot coverlet was the centrepiece of the exhibit and was accompanied by Mary Morrison's

Friendship Vest -- a vest made from remnants of wool fabric woven by several weavers then sewn to a cotton base and finished with gros-grain ribbon and a lining.

Francesca Overend's woven and knitted turtle-necked poncho in lovely shades of purple and burgundy was displayed behind Jack's coverlet next to Anne Middleton's natural-coloured alpaca poncho.

The last stand was crowned by Anne McElroy's Viking Helmet à la Ikea (bright blue and yellow) and one of Jan Scott's clever felted hats. Below Mary Bowrin's pink and blue poncho was complimented by Cindy O'Gorman's "Ocean Splendour" Necklace made from seed pearls, wire and wool. Tuula Tavila's "Nemmie" (Sea Anemone) -- a tubular double-weave on a wire warp with its exposed warp ends covered with beads -- sat on Jan Scott's blue and grey shawl hand-spun from 100% alpaca and hand-woven in a broken twill pattern with

Viking origins. Beside it was the most handled item in the display: Anne Middleton's tactile white lace shawl, hand-spun of 100% kid mohair and hand-knit in a lace pattern that some visitors so loved they tried to figure out the pattern in the hope of replicating it. Completing the display were silk shawls and scarves by Anne Middleton, Francesca Overend (in her new Shibori weave) and Judith Rygiel.

On the glass wall behind the demonstrations were three masterpieces by Yvonne Szpakowicz -- sweaters that were hand-spun and hand-knit from exotic fibres like silk, qiviut, mohair, merino and alpaca. Mary Morrison's runner representing the wild rose -- the floral emblem of Alberta -- was displayed as if on a clothesline with Mary Bowrin's felted mits and Marilyn Mulligan's 100% wool hand-carded, hand-spun, hand-dyed and machine-knitted socks and mits. Anne Middleton's angora and wool hand-spun, hand-knit mauve sweater and a stunning black and white vest, designed and tailored by Francesca Overend and made by the Studio Three weavers rounded out the display.

The Guild owes a special thanks to Ann McElroy and Cindy O'Gorman for their manikins and to Jan Scott and Anne McElroy for the use of their heads.

Impressions of Guild Exhibition at the Exhibition & Sale

Laurie Harkin-Chiasson

Ann Sunahara's creativity shone through. The exhibit area was so professional looking. Her ingenuity in making display cases simply floored me. When I first saw them I just had to say "WOW" out loud. The quality of items that were submitted for the exhibit were also outstanding quality. It makes the display person's job so much easier when the items draw attention to themselves, on their own. The manequins definately presented a professional look to the wonderful clothing items, that adorned them. Ann even had the slide show (about the guild) from last year, playing continuously on an electronic photo displayer (not sure what you call them). There were items hung from a clothesline with colourful clothespins in one area and another area promoting all the upcoming workshops being offered at the Guild's Weaving and Spinning studio (a.k.a. Resource Centre). The guild information table was busy most of the time and in my estimation there was a LOT of interest in the guild and it's numerous activities. There were lots of demonstrations going on at various

times throughout the show. There were spinners of all sorts, on wheel, charka and drop spindle, tapestry weaving, weaving on a table top loom and needle felting. Friday night was supposed to be a replacement for the usual November meeting. Quite a few guild members attended and socialized with the various booth exhibitors as well as helping out at the guild information table.

It was a fun time and I would like to thank everyone who helped make the Exhibit fantastic. I ate well at the Pantry and got caught up with my socializing at the same time. I was even introduced to Dorothy Moore, who is one of the founding members of the guild...what an honour. Can't wait to see what next year's show will bring. Remember next year is our 60th anniversary.

SHOW BONUS: Sue Quinn had arranged for parking in the Corpus Christie school yard. What a delight to be able to park without worrying about a ticket or driving round and round looking for an appropriate spot. Many show patrons commented on the parking being a real improvement to the show. Hats off to Sue....THANK_YOU!

Wrap-up

Nancy Ingram

The Exhibition and Sale proved to be a great success, particularly gratifying in the context of Halloween falling on the Friday night and with all the concerns surrounding news about the economy.

The event was well attended and there were many positive comments about the displays, demos and the selection of items offered for sale. I personally felt that the show had an excellent "look" and offered more woven and handspun products than in past years along with very innovative fibre art works.

I offer my sincere thanks to each and everyone of you who helped by promoting the Exhibition and Sale, setting up displays, demonstrating your craft, displaying and offering your products for sale and generally participating in this event which is important to the Guild.

As you may have heard, I had a short "retirement" as I will be back on the Ex & Sale Committee for next year!

Look for applications in January for the 2009 60th Anniversary "More Than Cloth" Exhibition and Sale.

Workshops and Courses

The OVWSG offers courses and workshops in weaving, spinning, and dyeing, for very reasonable fees. Why not learn a new craft or improve your skill level? Below are some of the courses available this Fall to members (and non-members). For more information please check our website at

<http://www.ovwsg.com/ovwsg/classschedulefall2008.pdf>

Weaving

Beginning Weaving

This course is taught in 4 parts

Level: Beginner

Cost : \$180 members; \$220 non-members.

Materials fee: \$10

Fall 2008 Session

Instructor: Mary Morrison

Time: 10 am – 4 pm

Part 4: Sunday December 7, 2008

Winter 2009 Session

Instructor: Judith Rygiel

Time: 10 am – 4 pm

Part 1: Sunday, February 1, 2009

Part 2: Sunday, February 15, 2009

Part 3: Sunday, March 8, 2009

Part 4: Sunday, March 22, 2009

Inkle Weaving

Instructor: Jan Scott

Date: Saturday, January 10, 2009

Time: 10:30 am – 3:30 pm

Level: Beginner

Cost: \$40 members; \$50 non-members

Materials fee: \$3

Dyeing Complex Rainbows: Painting wool warps

Instructor: Judith Rygiel

Date: Sunday, February 22, 2009

Time: 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Level: Intermediate

Cost: \$50 members; \$60 non-members

Materials fee: TBD

Basketry

Pine Needle Basket

This course is taught in 2 parts

Instructor: Laurie Harkin-Chiasson

Part 2: Sunday, November 30, 2008

Time: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Level: Beginner

Cost: \$80 members, \$90 non-members

Materials fee: \$20

Japanese Braiding

Instructor: Laurie Harkin-Chiasson

Date: Sunday, February 8, 2009

Time: 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Level: Beginner

Cost: \$40 members; \$50 non-members

Materials fee: \$20

Basket Handles: Embellishment 6-strand. 3-D braid & more

Instructor: Laurie Harkin-Chiasson

Date: Sunday, March 1, 2009

Time: 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Level: Beginner

Cost: \$50 members; \$60 non-members

Materials fee: \$10 - \$15

Spinning

Wheel Spinning

Instructor: Elizabeth Watt

Saturday January, 17 2009

Time: 10:30 am - 3:30 pm

Level: Intermediate

Cost: \$40 members; \$50 non-members

Materials Fee: \$10

Gaining Control

Instructor: Elizabeth Watt

Saturday, February, 14 2009

Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Level: Intermediate

Cost: \$50 members; \$60 non-members

Materials Fee: \$10

Introduction to Spinning

Instructor: Elizabeth Watt

Saturday, February, 28 2009

Time: 10:30 am - 3:30 pm

Level: Beginner

Cost: \$50 members; \$60 non-members

Materials Fee: \$12

Sign up now! Space can be limited.

Please make cheques payable to "OVWSG"

Mail to: Elizabeth Watt, Registrar.,

c/o: 1118 West Ave, Manotick, ON K4M 1G6

Contact : 613-692-6115, elizabeth@wattfamily.ca

Please make a separate cheque for each course, Date the cheque for one (1) week before the course.

Materials Fees are payable to the instructor. Please do **not** include them in your cheque for the course.

Other Upcoming Events

First Annual Westport Christmas Show and Sale

(juried) - December 6 & 7 and December 13 & 14 at the beautiful Stepping Stone Inn in Westport. Call Loretta Moore 613-273-8347 or email lbmc@videotron.ca for more details

10 Reasons to Buy Yarn & Fibre

1. It insulates the cupboard where it is kept.
2. It keeps the economy moving. It is my patriotic duty to support wool farmers, textile mills, and yarn shops.
3. It is less expensive and more fun than psychiatric care.
4. I'm participating in a contest - the one who dies with the most yarn wins!
5. It keeps without refrigeration, you don't have to cook it to enjoy it, you never have to feed it, change it, wipe its nose or walk it.
6. Because I'm worth it.
7. Like dust, it's good for protecting previously unprotected spaces in the house, like the ironing board, the laundry basket, the dining room table
8. Its not immoral, illegal or fattening. It calms the nerves, ratifies the soul, and makes me feel good.
9. Because it is on sale. Because that is such a beautiful colour... I've never seen it before... I must have it.
10. Buy it now, before your husband retires and goes with you on all your shopping expeditions

Submitted by José Gélinas

Marketplace

FREE TO A GOOD HOME:



Jack Lane's handmade 45 inch eight shaft loom.

Includes: Fly Shuttle assembly,
sectional warping, extra reeds, bench.

For an appointment to view call Judith Rygiel 613-825-4155.

Loom for Sale



**Laclerc 45 inch, 8 harness,
Jack type loom with bench.** \$1500.00 Many extras.

Pictures on request.

613-489-3079

cedarstone@xplornet.com

Looms for Sale from OVWSG

Floor Looms:

- 45" Leclerc counter-balance, in working order but
needs some refurbishing: \$200 or best offer!

- 36" Leclerc jack-type: \$200

Table Looms:

- two Leclerc 15" "Dorothy" models: \$95 each

THESE LOOMS MAY BE VIEWED AT THE RESOURCE
CENTRE during meetings, or by appointment.

Contact Mary Morrison:

morrmy@sympatico.ca or 613 830-9992

FOR SALE

Nilus Leclerc Mira 45 inch Counter-Balanced Loom

With:

44 inch Bench

4 Reeds - 6, 10, 12, & 15 dents/inch

4 Lease sticks

1 Raddle

2 Boat shuttles

14 Bobbins

1 Flat shuttle, 14 inch

1 Flat shuttle, 18 inch

1 Hand bobbin winder

1 Loom crank

2 Reed hooks

\$ 450.00; 613-828-7833

Maple Nilus Leclerc 60" Jack type floor loom.

Accessories including warping frame,
two reeds and books. Best Offer.

Diane 613-738-4780

Marketplace Advertising Rates

Members can now advertise for free!

The Marketplace portion of the OVWSG Newsletter is used to promote and assist its members. Current members of the OVWSG can advertise at no charge. Some restrictions may apply as to space availability and file restrictions

Rates for Non-members:

\$15.00 for first 25 words or less; + \$0.28 for each additional word

Business Card Size: \$18.00/issue or \$150.00/year

¼ page: \$30/issue. ½ page: \$32/issue. Commercial: \$15.00 for 20 words, + \$0.45/additional words. Full page: \$32/issue

Contact Melanie Overduin; melanie_overduin45@hotmail.com

OVWSG Calender of Events

December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Guild Meeting 7:30 pm	2	3	4	5	6
7 Beginning Weaving Part 4	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	14	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Guild Meeting 7:30 pm	6	7	8	9	10 Inkle Weaving
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Wheel Spinning
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31