



Ottawa Valley Weavers' & Spinners' Guild

April 2009 Newsletter

Message from your President

For those of you who were unable to attend our Grand Opening of our new Studio, it was a huge success. Many people, members and non-members, dropped in to chat, watch the demonstrations and re-connect with members they lost touch with. I hope that you will avail yourself of the space by signing up for a workshop or using one of the looms for a project.

We have been advised by the City of Ottawa that the OVWSG will be receiving their support again for the coming year. Many thanks to Laurie Harkin-Chiasson for her hard work in completing the grant application.

It is that time of year again. Winter is almost over, the new hopes for Spring abound, lambs are appearing in barns, shearing is scheduled and it is almost the AGM of the Ottawa Valley Weavers & Spinners Guild.

When I took on the President's position last year, I paraphrased John F. Kennedy in challenging you to "ask not what your Guild can do for you, but ask what you can do for your Guild". It is time to replace some members of the executive and committees who are stepping down and now is your time to "do for your Guild". Please seriously think about what position you would feel suited to and when Laurie Harkin-Chiasson calls to ask for your support, be ready to say "YES!" An organization is only as good as its members and its leaders. It has been demonstrated this winter that we are a viable, lively bunch who came together to realize a dream. Now we need people to help oversee this dream, feed it and keep it alive. We need new blood, new ideas, new energies.

So please consider stepping forward for the May meeting's AGM and filling a supportive position on the Executive or Committees. More information on which positions require filling will be in the next

Newsletter. If you want more information about a position you might be interested in, please contact Laurie at lauriehc@magma.ca or myself. Shirley Browsey, sbrowsky@sympatico.ca

Inside this Issue ...

- 1 President's Message**
- 1 Next Meeting**
- 2 60th Anniversary Challenge**
- 2 General Announcements**
- 2 Resource Centre – Weaving Studio & Library**
- 3 Heartwell House News**
- 3 Exhibition & Sale**
- 3 Workshops & Courses**
- 4 Internet Offerings**
- 5 Other Upcoming Events**
- 9 Meeting Minutes February 2009**
- 10 Marketplace**
- 11 Calendar of Events**
- 13 Membership Renewal Form**

Next Meeting: Monday, Mar. 2nd

The next OVWSG meeting is Monday, April 6th at 7:30 pm at the Gallery in Heartwood House at 153 Chapel Street, Ottawa.

60th Anniversary Project submission deadline!

Program:

Suppliers nite at the guild. Here is a chance to obtain high quality fibre and yarns by just attending our regular meeting! We have a number of confirmed vendors including: Hidden Touch Natural Yarns (Alpaca and Mohair), Rose Haven Farms (Exotic yarns and fibres) and Knitknackers here in Ottawa. More have been invited! If you have sold spinning and weaving supplies at the Ex and Sale please contact me so that I can arrange space. The May meeting will be reserved for a 'destash' night (Garage sale) along with the AGM. See you there!

Anne Middleton- Program Coordinator

Anne.Middleton@inspection.gc.ca

60th Anniversary Challenge

Fibre Adventures: A Collaboration of Textile Artists AKA The 60th Anniversary Challenge

The deadline for submission of articles is the April 6th meeting. By now, you have all received the submission form to be completed and submitted with your entry. If not, please contact me. Please bring your entries to Judith Rygiel or Francesca Overend in the Resource Centre between 5pm and 7 pm. The Jurying date has changed, due to a scheduling conflict of one of the jurors, to April 21st.

General Announcements

Welcome New & Returning Members!

Neviana Filipova Gardanovska
 Julia Mackenzie
 Joy & Danica Olders (Family)
 Ana Watts
 Ray Loomer
 Amanda Carrigan (Family with Jenny Carrigan)
 Alison James (returning)

Membership Renewals

I am accepting membership renewals for the 2009-2010; memberships expire on April 30.

NEW RATE: Individual membership = \$40.00

Family membership (defined as: at same address) = \$55.00

Please fill out the membership form included at the end of the March newsletter. Bring it to meeting or mail to address on top of form.

Laurie Harkin-Chiasson,

Knitwear Fashion Show

Wabi-sabi and the online knitting magazine Twist Collective is having a fashion show featuring contemporary knitwear on May 2nd from 6 to 9pm. The guest speaker will be designer Kate Gilbert. Wabi-sabi, 1078 Wellington Street, Ottawa 613-725-5648, www.wabi-sabi.ca

Wanted - Local Artisans & Craftspeople for Ottawa's famous ByWard Market

Have you wanted the opportunity and experience of selling your hand-made crafts at Canada's largest outdoor Market? Now's your chance - the City of Ottawa's new vision for the ByWard Market includes local farmers, artists and craftpersons. If you would like to explore the possibilities call **Renée at 613-244-4410** today. An information session is being planned for late March. Get your application in by April 7 and start selling in May! Be part of this exciting change!

COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS IN OTTAWA

Arts Court, 2 Daly Avenue
 Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6E2
 613-569-1387
council@arts-ottawa.on.ca
www.arts-ottawa.on.ca

Resource Centre Weaving Studio Help Weave the Guild Coverlet!

We start weaving the 60th Anniversary Guild coverlet on April 1st on the 100-inch 2-weaver loom! To volunteer, see the calendar below and contact one of the persons listed for the date that you are available. If you can only help on a Monday or Saturday or in the evening, contact Ann Sunahara. We will raffle this blue and yellow coverlet in November. This is your chance to help your Guild while enjoying a unique weaving experience!

Resource Centre Library

Please bring back your Library books at the beginning of the meeting, or drop in after 5pm to peruse the library longer! If you can't make it to the meeting please call (613-828-3256) or email (jsrmt@hotmail.com) to renew your book to next month's meeting (otherwise you get to contribute to the library new book fund!). There are new books! Come welcome them to their new home! See you soon! Jan

Heartwood House News

The parking lot will be busy on the following dates and times. The parking lot will not be closed but you may be inconvenienced by the increased cars in the lot during these time periods.

Pickup of pre-purchased food from Kosher Caterer
Sunday April 5th - noon to 5p.m.

Monday April 6th - 10a.m. to 5p.m.

Tuesday April 7th - 10a.m. to 8p.m.

Holy Thursday - April 9th - 6p.m. to 9p.m. - special service

Easter Monday - April 13th - 5p.m. to 9pm. - dinner

Thursday April 16th - 8:30am. to 1p.m. - Memorial service

Exhibition & Sale Update

The Annual Exhibition and Sale will once again be held at the Glebe Community Centre, 175 Third Ave. The theme of the event is "More Than Cloth" which reflects the diversity of the items offered for sale and those exhibited in the Guild's 60th Anniversary Challenge which is the featured juried exhibition.

I am pleased to announce that all of the vendor booth spaces have been sold and now it is time to focus on the planning and organizing of the event. Cindy Jackson is currently updating the Guild website, adding a new introductory paragraph, inserting photos and biographies for our four new participants and revising material as required for past booth holders. Melanie Overduin and I will be designing new bookmarks, flyers and business card size ads – we hope to have the bookmarks and flyers printed by early May. New press releases will be written by Heather Sherratt when we have gathered all the inputs needed for this promotional material.

A long, detailed "Job Jar" document will be sent to those who will be involved in organizing the exhibitions and participating as vendors. It will be sent out prior to the April monthly meeting. It

takes many committed people to stage a successful event and if each person performs these assigned tasks, I am confident that we will have an outstanding Exhibition and Sale and contribute to the celebration of the Guild's 60th Anniversary in style.

Nancy Ingram, ingram@rideau.net

Workshops and Courses

For the most part workshops this session are going very well. Unfortunately, I've had to disappoint a few people who called too late. Please sign up early, instructors often need a few weeks to organize materials etc. I've also had to cancel the following workshops because not enough people signed up in time:

Wool Basket

Silk Weaving

We still have the following workshops scheduled and as of my writing they all have spaces:

Beginning Weaving 2 (Sundays, April 5, 19 and 26)
2 spots

Painting Roving for Predictable Yarns (Saturday April 18) 2 spots

Rib Basket (Saturday April 25) 5 spots

Market Basket (Saturday May 9) 5 spots

Loom Controlled Shibori (Fri eve, May 22 to Sun May 24) 3 spots

Contact Elizabeth Watt, 613 692-6115

elizabeth@wattfamily.ca

Basket-Making Classes.

Guild members know the work and teaching style of Laurie Harkin-Chiasson. At last year's Guild Show and Exhibition, one of her works was exhibited in the show case. John Toft, a basket-maker new to the Guild, is offering basket-making classes that complement Laurie's work. The April 25th workshop features a class in making a rib basket, fanny style, often referred to as a bum basket. The May 9th class features the classic Market Basket. For these classes, beginners are welcome/

John has been making baskets for around ten years now. He is a retired high school teacher who taught a three-person class basket-making class in his studio at Kanata. The return home of his eldest son makes that venue unavailable.

At the time of writing this article, John's classes still had vacancies. Register now and get your fingers ready!

Internet Offerings

I have received a lot of great links to various websites that would of interest to many of our members. Check out some of the following:

Sheep Herding

You have to see it. Men with too much time on their hands – Highly recommended viewing!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2FX9rviEhw>

Submitted by Ann McElroy & Jan Scott

Sock Knitting Machines

Jan Scott found these very interesting links to how sock knitting machines work.

http://blog.craftzine.com/archive/2008/12/antique_sock_knitting_machines.html

http://blog.craftzine.com/archive/2007/03/antique_sock_knitting_machine.html

Felt Exhibits

Ann McElroy found these amazing sites on art exhibits in New York featuring Felting:

Smithsonian Institution exhibit on felt:

<http://exhibitions.cooperhewitt.org/Fashioning-Felt/>

Slide show of the JA Felt fantasy Yurt:

<http://jafelt.com/jaFrameSet.html>

Creative Scene Photography for Inspiration:

Another interesting site Jan Scott found about Magdalena Bors, a photographer who has some incredible images that feature knitting as well as other compositional pieces.

<http://www.magdalenabors.com/index.html>

Heaven to Betsy! Look at Etsy!

Recently I received this email from Catherine Gutsche of the West Carleton Arts Society:

Hi! I'd like to invite you to check out a great website that I know about called Etsy (<http://www.etsy.com>). Etsy is an online marketplace for buying and selling all things handmade. You'll find a creative community of independent artists and designers and the very best in handmade goods, craft supplies and vintage. It's an excellent place to find one of a kind items, to give as gifts - or as gifts for yourself! Since you're buying directly from artists on Etsy, you have the special opportunity to form personal connections with the people who create your treasures.

I checked out the site. I reviewed "wicker baskets" and found that serious basket makers were listed there. The prices for items similar to mine were comparable to mine. There were also some tremendous items I would give my eye teeth for if I had the ability to make them.

I then checked out the prices for listing items for sale on this site. It costs 20 cents to list an item, and Etsy takes a 3.5% commission on sales. Paypal is also available for sales. I then registered at the site, an easy process, and within minutes I received a confirmation email so I could then place items for sale. I placed one item on the site, a sewing basket. It appeared within a few hours and stands out for a day or so among the newly listed items when one searches for "wicker baskets." I plan to place several other items on the site as soon as I can take a collection of photographs of them.

I recommend that Guild members explore this site, place selected items on it and let Guild members know of their success levels in using this alternative method of marketing.
John Toft, basket maker.

Other Upcoming Events

Alpaca Fibre Fantasy

You are invited to enter the 2nd Annual Alpaca Ontario Juried Fibre Arts & Yarn Competition 2009 Juried Fibre Arts & Yarn Competition Judging April 17, 2009 - awards April 18, 2009 Categories include handspinning, handweaving, handknitting or crocheting and felting Blends must contain at least 50% Alpaca Fibre Mailed or couriered entries must be received no later than April 4th, 2009. Rules & details of entry as well as entry forms are available at www.alpacaontario.ca/fibreart.html

MERA Award for Excellence in Fine Arts & Crafts

MERA (McDonald's Corners/Elphin Recreation & Arts) is a charitable corporation which operates out of a 19th century schoolhouse in the hamlet of McDonald's Corners, Ontario - approx. 40 km north west of Perth. Two donors gave an amount to the Perth and District Community Fund to fund an annual or biennial award which they asked that MERA administer.

This is a juried award open to nominees living in the area roughly contiguous with the area covered by the PDCF, namely, the town of Perth and the Townships of Lanark Highlands, Tay Valley, Drummond/North Elmsley, North Frontenac and Central Frontenac.

The MERA Award will be given on the basis of a single work proposed by the nominator (and artist) supported by three to five additional works. The MERA Award will be publicly short listed with the winner receiving a \$1000. prize.

Nominations close April 20, 2009. Presentation of the AMERA award will be made at the Schoolhouse on June 20, 2009.

More information is available at MERA's website: www.meraschoolhouse.org. Contact: Deborah M. Duffy, deborahduffy@rogers.com, 613-860-0178.

Ruth Mills Felt Hat Workshop

April 25-26 9:00-4:00

Learn the basics of how to make and trim a felt hat. Over two days, you will experience blocking fur felt over a wooden form, cutting, wiring, stiffening, and trimming a hat. You will learn trade 'secrets' that will give your own creations that professional touch.

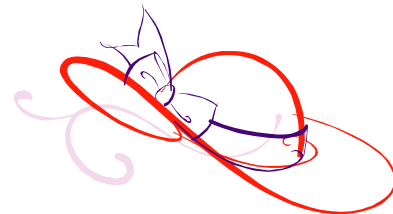
You will make samples for your notebook as well as your own hat to take away with you. At the end of the two days, you may not have your hat completely finished but it will be nearly done. The fee includes basic materials including a select colour choice of felts, plus the wire, thread, needles, stiffener, etc to complete your first hat and the use of workshop blocks and equipment. A selection of trimmings will be available for purchase to decorate your creation.

There will be a maximum of 3 students to allow for individual attention. Instruction and workshop time is at least 6 hours a day. Lunch will be provided.

If you need suggestions for accommodation, we would be happy to make some recommendations. Student kit, address and directions will be provided upon registration.

Cost: \$300 +GST 50% deposit is required to reserve a spot, which will be non-refundable 1 week before the workshop. You may pay by VISA, cheque or Paypal.

Contact Ruth for further registration details. ruthmills@ruthmills.com



West Carleton Fibre Guild Invitation

It's our 20th Anniversary and to celebrate the West Carleton Fibre Guild welcomes you to a presentation by renowned fibre artist Andrea Graham, "Explorations in Felt Making : Techniques & Traditions", at the Mississippi Textile Museum 3 Rosemond E., Almonte, on May 11th at 7:30pm. Admission is \$10 and includes a reception after the presentation. This event is a fund raiser for the Guild and Museum. For more information contact the Mississippi Textile Museum 613-256-3754 mvtm@magma.ca.
www.textilemuseum.mississippimills.com.

Weaving History Conference

May 9 – 10. 2009

Pre-conference Workshops May 8.

Handweaving Museum and Art Centre

314 John Street

Clayton, NY

www.hm-ac.org

(Clayton is in N.Y. State across the St. Lawrence from Gananoque and within a 2-hour drive distance).

Loyalist Summer Arts Program – Belleville, ON

Check out the brochure for the Loyalist Summer Arts program at the following link:

<https://www.loyalistbanner.ca:4444/cweb/doc/SummerArts2009.pdf>

I note that there are several offerings for weavers and (like myself) basketweavers. There are workshops on shibori, spinning, and rug hooking. Tim Schobert

Art on the Farm

Friends of the Farm – Central Experiment Farm- August 15, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Artists working in various formats will display and sell their original works under the trees in the Arboretum, C.E.F. Free admission and parking. Rain date August 16. Registration form will be available at the next guild meeting or contact Marsha Gutierrez info@friendsofthefarm.ca

WH Baskets Visits Winchester

On June 6th, Wanda from WH Baskets of Port Rowan, Ontario, will be in Winchester at the Distaff Days celebration to exhibit and sell her basket-making products.

Among the products she has for sale is a "Lash buddy." At the March Guild meeting, Laurie Harkin-Chiasson and John Toft extolled to each other the virtues of this basket-makers tool. The lash buddy is a simple tool used to make easy the application of the lashing to the rim of Appalachian style baskets. Both Laurie and John are considering adding "lash buddies" to their inventories of equipment supplied to class members in their workshops.

Guild Meeting Minutes – Mar. 2nd

Gallery, Heartwood House

(Written & Recorded by Marilyn Mulligan)

Meeting called to order at 7.35 P.M by Shirley Browsky

Four new members introduced themselves, Joy, Allison, Anna and Raymond, Open House March 1 (for members and the general public) and March 2 (for Heartwood House) was a success. Judith Rygiel wove one Linus blanket during the open house

Show and Tell

Mary Bowring had a finished Linus blanket, knitted squares and sewn together, and had the finished yarn she had painted during the last yarn painting class as well as a knitted baby alpaca shawl Ruth Mills showed her first completed skein of yarn spun on a drop spindle. Elizabeth Watts presented another Linus Blanket. Mandy brought in her coverlet made on the 100" loom, (yellow and white) Shirley Browsky had 2 woven Linus blankets one with squares, one with lines Jan Scott showed us some samples of Inkle weaving for the next intermediate class.

Announcements

Elizabeth Watts reported we have made \$ 512.00 on our workshops and there are still some spaces available for some of the upcoming classes.

Nancy Ingram advised that we have sufficient vendors booked to hold our next Exhibition and Sale and has asked for more vendors.

Ann Sunahara advised that when we reassembled the 100" loom the peddles were put back on backwards

John Toft announced that he had leaflets for the Pakenham Maple Run Tour being held on March 28 and 29. St Distaff day will be held in Winchester this year.

Ann Middleton announced that the program next month will host suppliers and if we have anything to sell to please let her know so that tables can be set up.

Program: Ruth Mills

She has 30 years experience, is a graduate of University of Alberta and has worked for Museums in research and reproduction

Ruth's presentation was on "Foul Weather Headgear"

Protection from any weather uncomfortable from the heat, cold or Sand

We saw several types of accordion collapsible bonnets; some padded, quilted, crocheted, and knitted. Some not collapsible, quilted, which were referred to as Storm Hoods. Ruth has recreated (reproduced) hats and bonnets for Canal Celebrations, Government House in Regina and for such celebrities as Laura Secord, Sir Isaac Brock and Duke of Richmond.

We saw several very fragile items from her collection dating back to the 1920's and 1930's
Meeting adjourned at 9:pm

Marketplace**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

For sale: Leclerc 60" 4-harness jack-type loom with bench and accessories.

Price: \$200, negotiable. Please contact Christina at 613-835-2293 or pleizier@primus.ca

LOOMS for SALE

36" Leclerc jack loom with bench, shuttles, bobbinwinder, warping board etc. \$300 or best offer.

Also selling: Leclerc portable tapestry loom and antique child's loom. Ottawa delivery possible.
Ellen: efraser@storm.ca Perth 613 264-8707

Wanted to borrow - 30+" rigid heddle loom:

It's probably a bit obvious that I'm rather taken with my rigid heddle loom, but at 20" it's a little narrow. Does anyone have a 30 or 32" rigid heddle loom that is not being used? I would like to borrow it to see if I can handle the wider width. I promise to take very good care of it, make a nice Linus blanket with it and to return it promptly.

Elizabeth Watt elizabeth@wattfamily.ca 613 692-6115

For Sale - Working Antique Walking Wheel

\$200 contact Shirley Browsey at sbrowsky@sympatico.ca for more information.

OVWSG Calender of Events

April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Coverlet Cindy O'G	2 Coverlet Mary & Mandy	3 Coverlet Cindy O'G	4 Coverlet Ann M & Ann S
5 Beginner Weaving II Part 1 11am – 4pm	6 Guild Meeting 7:30 pm 60 th Project Due	7 Coverlet Ann S & Mandy	8 Coverlet Cindy O'G	9 Coverlet Ann S & Mandy	10 Coverlet Cindy O'G Good Friday	11 Coverlet Ann S & Mary M
12 EASTER	13 Easter Monday	14 Coverlet Ann S & Mandy	15 Coverlet Mary M & Cindy O'G	16 Coverlet Ann S & Mandy	17 Coverlet Mary M & Cindy O'G	18 Painting Roving 9:30am-4:30pm
19 Beginner Weaving II Part 2 11am – 4pm	20	21 Jury of Guild Challenge	22 Coverlet Mary M & Cindy O'G	23 Coverlet Ann S & Mandy	24 Coverlet Mary M & Cindy O'G	25 Rib Basket 9am-4:30pm
26 Beginner Weaving II Part 3 11am – 4pm	27	28 Coverlet Ann S & Mandy	29 Coverlet Cindy O'G	30 Coverlet Ann S & Mandy		

Ann S: 613-728-9691, sunahara@magma.ca; Mandy: 613-722-0539, heggteit@rogers.com;

Mary M: 613-830-9992, mmormry@sympatico.ca; Cindy O'G: 613-832-9316; cgo244@yahoo.ca;

Ann M: home 613-269-4438, work 613-773-6061, cell 613-230-4195

May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Wabi-Sabi Fashion Show 6pm-9pm
3	4 Guild Meeting 7:30 pm AGM	5	6	7	8	9 Market Basket 9:00am– 4:30pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Loom Shibori 7pm– 9pm	23 Loom Shibori 9:30am– 4:30pm
24 Loom Shibori 9:30am– 4:30pm	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild
Heartwood House, 153 Chapel St., Ottawa, ON K1N 1H5
Web: <http://www.ovwsg.com> General E-Mail: info@ovwsg.com
Membership: membership@ovwsg.com

ANNUAL FEE: Individual **\$40.00** Family (same address) **\$55.00**

The Membership period is from May 1 to April 30.

New Members who join from February-April, the fee remains the same as above. However, the membership expiry is extended to April 30, of the following year.(i.e. receive a few extra months)

Renewals are Payable at the April or May meeting or by mail. (Non-renewals by the June meeting, we will assume no intent to renew, with subsequent removal from membership list/newsletter etc.)

Please make **cheques payable to:** Ottawa Valley Weavers' & Spinners' Guild (or OVWSG)

Membership Application / Renewal Form

Please Print Clearly:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ PROVINCE: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____ TELEPHONE: (____) _____

EMAIL: _____ FAX: (____) _____

(Please differentiate "zeros from the letter "O", ones from small letter "I" & CAPITAL/small)

Are you a: New Member _____ Renewal membership _____ Returning member _____
 In what year did you first join the Guild? _____ (after an absence)

What do you participate in (or learning): Spinning _____ Weaving _____ Dyeing _____
 Knitting _____ Felting _____ Basketry _____ Other _____ Specify _____

Are you interested in learning more about:

Spinning _____ Weaving _____ Dyeing _____ Knitting _____ Felting _____ Basketry _____
 Other _____ Specify _____

Are you willing to help in any of the following areas?

Programs _____ Newsletter _____ Library _____ Hostess _____ Executive _____
 Community Demonstrations/Display _____ Membership _____ Annual Exhibition and Sale _____
 Resource Centre/Studio _____ Workshops _____ Equipment _____ Tech. Equipment _____ Yarns _____
 Workshop instructing (paid) _____ Monthly meeting program presenter _____

Do you have any ideas for Workshops, Meeting Programs or any additional Comments?

Date: _____ **Signed:** _____