



Ottawa Valley Weavers' & Spinners' Guild

May 2009 Newsletter

Message from your President

The year is now coming to a close, and your Executive has moved mountains (literally) and accomplished a lot in such a short time. The OVW&SG Constitution has been brought into the 21st century, we now have a unified space in which to work, we have completed our 60th Anniversary Challenge with 12 entries, we have Project Linus warps on-going in the studio, we have purged our extraneous equipment and books, we have demonstrated at 14 events in the area, brought in new members (we currently are around 125). The next thing we are tackling is the Guild insurance policy and fine tuning of the Studio. There is still lots ahead for us, but we can breathe easier in 2009 and it should be smooth sailing.

There are some key positions on the Executive to fill and if you feel that you have benefitted from being a member of the Guild and would like to give back, now is the time. Please see later in the newsletter the positions that need filling. We need to vote on acceptance of the 2008 AGM minutes that went out in the June 2008 newsletter. Please refer to the June 2008 newsletter that can be downloaded from the archived newsletters at <http://ovwsg.com/newsletter/archives.html>.

The Committees have sent in their reports on their various activities along with recommendations for the future. Due to time constraints, these will not be read at the meeting, but will be available in the Resource Centre for anyone to peruse.

For the menopausal mamas in our guild, check this out <http://www.thewiredones.com/fun.htm> and click on Dress Me.

Weavers know about drafting name drafts in overshot weave, and Fibonacci series for stripes, but how about this one? It is a barcode generator at www.barconding.com/upc - simply type in words

and it will generate a barcode that can be used to warp meaningful fabrics.

FIBRE ADVENTURES: A COLLABORATION OF TEXTILE ARTISTS - the judges, Peter Honeywell, Pat Harding and Ankaret Dean judged the twelve entries this week and selected the winners. These will be announced at the May meeting.

Linus Project Blankets - Those of you who are working at home on your Linus Project Blankets, please bring them in for the June meeting.

Well, I am off to the OHS Conference the May 1st weekend to delve into some new techniques, meet some old friends and make new ones. Just a reminder to register for St. Distaff Day, Saturday, June 6th 9 am. in the Winchester Arena. Contact Isabelle Perdige at info@bonnemine.ca for further information or check out the link on the OVW&SG website.

See you all at the AGM/Awards Night.

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Next Meeting: Monday, May 4th

The next OVWSG meeting is Monday, May 4th at 7:30 pm at the Gallery in Heartwood House at 153 Chapel Street, Ottawa.

Annual General Meeting

Nominating Committee Report (at time of writing)

We are still in need of volunteers for the following positions:

Vice President - assists President ; fills in, when absent

Secretary - takes minutes at regular and executive meetings, types up minutes and submits to Archives. Also submits the regular meeting minutes to newsletter for publishing

Programs Coordinator - program part of meeting - arranges dates, follow up before scheduled date & introduces guest

Programs Coordinator Assistant - Assists above
Demonstrations Coordinator(in the community)- matches dates of community events with demonstrator volunteers etc.

Exhibition & Sale Coordinator 2010 (to start in Jan.) - coordinates the sale, all the other Sale Sub-committees report to this coordinator

*** NOTE: If this position is not filled, the continuation of subsequent Sales, may be in jeopardy. If you have some organizational skills, please consider volunteering

Shepherdess - to show new members around and introduce them. "A friendly face in the crowd"

New Candidates presented:

Ann Sunahara - **Treasurer**

Mandy Heggteit - **Grants coordinator**

* All Executive Committee level positions must be voted in

Program:

There has been a change - seeing as we are all together on Monday, May 4th for the Annual General Meeting and the exhibition will be hung in the Heartwood House Gallery that day, it makes sense to celebrate our 60th anniversary by opening the exhibition at our meeting. Each team will describe their experience with their entry, awards

will be given out and refreshments will be served. Do plan to join us.

General Announcements

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 the 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

2009 International Back to Back Wool Challenge

A group of 7 spinners and knitters from the Ottawa, Larnark County and St. Lawrence Valley guilds known as the Woolly Wonders are competing as a team in the International *Back to Back Wool Challenge* where the objective is to shear a sheep, spin its yarn and knit a sweater in less than eight hours following strict rules and a set pattern. The Woolly Wonders will take a 3 minute penalty to accept previously sheared wool from the Carleton Co-Operative Wool Growers.

Upper Canada Village will be hosting this event on Sunday June 7th 2009 from 9 a.m to 5.p.m. Tickets on the finished sweater will be on sale for 99 cents each. Gertrude Thibeault will have tickets for sale at the May 4th meeting.

All the money raised from the sale of tickets will be given to the Lymphedema Association of Ontario, a debilitating fluid retention condition affecting both men and women which commonly occurs when the

lymph nodes are removed during cancer surgery. The team's goal is to raise \$1,000.

The team consisting of Debbie Etherington, Kay James, Betty Laakso, Nancy MacMillan, Sandy McManus, Kelly Plewes and Louise Rosch would like to thank their sponsors: Carleton Co-Operative Wool Growers, Upper Canada Village and Hewlett Construction.

For more information please visit the International Back to Back challenge website

www.ballaratweb.net/wdennis or contact Kay James amispin@ca.inter.net or Nancy MacMillan nancy.macmillan021@sympatico.ca

OHS Cards

Blank notecards featuring photos from the "Contained Images" show, will be available from Kay James (OHS Regional Rep.) at St. Distaff's Day in Winchester. They are available at the bargain price of \$2.00 for 8 cards with envelopes.

Spinning Seminar

June 12 - 14 in Kingston, Theme is "Wool"

Ontario Handweavers & Spinners Conference

May 1, 2, & 3, Alliston, ON (near Barrie)

St. Distaff's Day

June 6 in Winchester Arena, Winchester, ON
Themed Challenge "Well, Bowl me over"

Resource Centre Weaving Studio

The Guild Coverlet is Woven!

The team of Mandy Heggteit, Cindy O'Gorman, Mary Morrison, Ann Millar and Ann Sunahara finished weaving the overshot coverlet that the Guild will raffle in November at 4:23 PM on April 20th. The finished coverlet and tickets for the raffle will be at the June meeting. There is one more coverlet to weave before we can take the Guild's off the loom so, if you want the experience of weaving on the 100-inch loom, contact Ann Sunahara 613-728-9691 or sunahara@magma.ca

Access to Resource Centre/Studio - Plan a summer project with a friend !

REMINDER: If you are planning a project at the Resource Centre. There is now a lock box on the doorknob of the room, which has a key to the room in it. Therefore, you can access the building during regular Heartwood House hours (just sign in at front reception desk). Please contact Mary Morrison studiomanager@ovwsg.com to inform her of your project and use of room. She will then give you the code to get into the lock box. Remember to sign in and out, in the Guild Log book as well.

If you wish to access outside of Heartwood House hours, then you must borrow a set of keys (which lets you into the side door, facing Rideau) from one of the 12 key holders, listed on the reverse of the Executive List.

Note: the parking lot is reserved for the synagogue on Sat. mornings. Use street parking and you can then move into the lot, once their service is finished.

Key Holders (at time of writing)

Keys may be borrowed from these people, for "non Heartwood House hours" entry, for special projects etc.

Note: This list may change slightly after the May elections

Shirley Browsky

Laurie Harkin-Chiasson (Keys inventory person)

Judith Rygiel

Mary Morrison

Sue Quinn

Ann Sunahara

Elizabeth Watt

Jan Scott

Cindy O'Gorman

Anne Middleton

2 floater sets which may be signed out on a monthly basis, for special projects

Exhibition & Sale Update

The vendors' booths are now all sold and the proceeds will be available to fund the Exhibition and Sale. I need and expect a lot of labour and person power. Please take time to read the "Job Jar" as some of the work is scheduled for over the summer. Most however, is targeted for the fall.

There is a large Guild space which is being designed to include demonstrations, the Challenge Exhibition chaired by Ann Sunahara, and the Guild Information Table, chaired by Laurie Harkin - Chiasson, assisted by the chair persons for Workshops, Programs, the Newsletter, Membership and the Library, as well as a member from the Resource Centre. A priority at the Exhibition and Sale is fundraising for the Resource Centre. This year a raffle will be organized with the the Guild's 100" coverlet as the featured prize along with two other prizes. Guild members are encouraged to come out to work at the Exhibition and Sale, to help sell tickets, view the exhibits and demonstrations, as well as demonstrate, meet and greet the public – have fun.

The Exhibition and Sale is also an important event in the celebration of 60 years for the Ottawa Valley Weavers and Spinners Guild. We intend to invite past members of the Guild to join us in the celebration.

At the June meeting bookmarks and posters promoting the Exhibition and Sale will be available for distribution. Vendors should pick them up at the June meeting or arrange to pick them up from a member in your area. Sue Quinn will be the contact person if you require bookmarks over the summer.

Have a good summer and produce great quantities of work for your booth and the fundraisers! Nancy Ingram; ingram@rideau.net

Workshops and Courses

The Shibori workshop is now full. The basket workshop for April 25 was cancelled due to lack of registration. If there are not enough registrants for the last basketry workshop on May 9th by Saturday May 2nd it will also be cancelled.

Market Basket with John Toft "a square or rectangular bottom basket of flat reed".

Saturday May 9, 2009

9-4:30

Cost \$65 members/\$85 nonmembers

Materials fee TBD



Watch the guild website for the Fall schedule. If anyone has ideas for workshops or would like to be an instructor, please contact Elizabeth Watt, 613 692-6115 or elizabeth@wattfamily.ca

Internet Offerings

To all those interested in the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009:

You might like to look at the latest improvements to the website of the International Year of Natural Fibres:

1) See photomicrographs of 18 natural fibres, from abaca to yak wool, at magnifications up to 5000x. You can explore at very close range the characteristics of fibres as diverse as silk, coir, sisal and cotton.

The photomicrographs were kindly provided by the Institute of Macromolecular Studies in Biella, Italy.

<http://www.naturalfibres2009.org/en/fibres/gallery.html>

2) We have updated our profiles of natural fibres in the English section of the website, expanding information on alpaca, angora, camel, cashmere, mohair and ramie:

<http://www.naturalfibres2009.org/en/fibres/index.html>

3) Unfortunately due to lack of resources we are not able to pay for translations to make these updates to the website in Chinese, French and Spanish.

4) We plan to publish in April a new IYNF poster and assorted accessories (print designs for T-shirts and bags) which will be downloadable for local printing.

Events

Natural Fibres 09 – Conference in London 14-15 December 2009: The organizers, the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM3) have requested papers - please send an abstract by 30 June 2009 to Dawn Bonfield at

dawn.bonfield@iom3.org. For more information on guidelines on papers etc, please check the website or contact Dawn. IOM3 is also compiling a Register of Natural Fibres Stakeholders to facilitate contact between users, producers, researchers, educators and policy makers in the natural fibres industries in the UK. Please see the event website to register, www.iom3.org/events/fibres.

We can add your events to the calendar of events on the website if they are presented as events of the International Year of Natural Fibres – if you state this in your advertising, use the IYNF logo, display the poster, etc.

DVD / Video

We have been distributing the PAL version of the DVD. The NTSC one is coming soon. Send an [email](#) if you would like us to send you the DVD – but if you have already written we will still have your request.

Submitted by Mandy Heggteit

Weaving Techniques

My husband found this neat website that has short video clips of weaving techniques like warping and dressing the loom, plus lots of other how-to things.

<http://www.graspr.com/videos/Arts-Crafts/Weaving/?gclid=CKD8zemE4pkCFQoMDQodMI9hVw>

Laurie Harkin-Chiasson

Blogging from a Beginner's Perspective

By John Toft

On April the 4th I began my first blog on the instigation of Catherine Gutsche, a fine Ottawa artist and fellow Etsy shop designer. Blogs are websites where you report regularly on chosen topics. Daily reports are quite common. There is free access to your blog and people may sign up as “followers” to receive each updated blog report.

My blog site,

<http://johntoftbasketryatetsy.blogspot.com/>, is a compilation of reports on basket-making. One of my first reports was about dyeing cane. The next was a two-week series that followed the step-by-step process of making a custom order basket for my across-the-street neighbour, Wanda. That series concluded with a picture of a satisfied customer and her basket.

Creating and maintaining a blog is time consuming. It is, however, one more tool in marketing. My blog has direct access to my etsy shop. I also have three of Catherine Gutsche's paintings on my site, with access from these to her etsy shop too. Cross marketing is useful too since Catherine has three of my baskets pictured on her blog.

If you are interested in my blog do visit it. You will see that my early blogs were technically unsure. A steep learning curve led to better looking blogs. If you are interested in creating your own blog, it is easy to do, and it is free. Go to my blog. At the top of the first page is “Create a blog.” Click on that and follow the instructions. Happy blogging!

Go check out www.yarnmuseum.com

It's an online gallery of handspun yarn and anyone can contribute!

Schacht Spindle is having a contest "I made it on my Schacht". Go look at www.schachtspindle.com

DVD Review

Jacey Boggs at www.insubordiknit.com has produced a fabulous instructional DVD entitled "Sit and Spin - The spinner's guide to creating smart, sturdy, outrageous Art Yarns" (art yarns are what we used to call "novelty yarns"). It is the best how-to DVD I have ever seen on any topic. Jacey guides the viewer through 5 basic techniques, with variations on each. Each technique is shown at full speed and step by step. Looping excerpts are available to let you watch a particular technique in detail. As a bonus, each section is introduced by some really fun music courtesy of Jacey's husband and his band. Thanks to this DVD I now know the trick to producing "thick and thin" - who knew a flick of the wrist was all it took? Take note, however, this is not a beginner's DVD, it assumes at least the ability to produce an even, balanced yarn. That said, there were 3 of us watching it - an advanced beginner, an intermediate and an experienced spinner and we all learned something. A review of this DVD by Elizabeth Watt is available can be seen on www.weavezine.com

WeaveZine has gone weekly

Instead of publishing a full issue quarterly editor Syne Mitchell is trying something different. Every Friday she puts up another article at www.weavezine.com. Some are projects, some are features on technique, some are a bit of both, all are very well done. You can also access her podcast WeaveCast at the site.

Other Upcoming Events**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).

Westport Studio Tour

The annual Westport Area Dandelion Gardens Studio Tour is being held again on the May long weekend 16 - 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Our unique art includes magical photographic art, elegant flowing sculptures, traditional rughooking, gorgeous comfortable clothing, fused and stained glass, garden sculptures out of copper, glass and concrete, funky wire sculptures, unique decorative and functional pottery, vintage fabric throws and much more. This year we have added new and exciting artists and studios to our tour. Tour maps are available at a variety of area businesses and tourist information centers.

For more information contact Loretta Moore at 613-273-8347 or visit our website at:

http://artatwork.ca/westport_studiotours/index.html

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.

Hanging by a Thread

The Connections Fibre Artists, a group of Canadian
textile artists present an exhibit highlighting art
quilts, art pieces and 3-D works all in the theme of
‘Hanging by a Thread’.

Some of the many interests of the group include;
surface design, machine embroidery, art quilts,

mixed media, printing and felting. The group's
mandate for experimentation and widening the
boundaries of stitching and fibre art, results in an
array of diverse styles and techniques, pulled
together by a theme.

Come out to the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum
to experience this magnificent show, ‘Hanging by a
Thread’. May 16th to Sept 6th. Admission: \$5.00;
Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, 3 Rosamond St.
E, Almonte. Info: 613-256-3754 or mvtm@magma.ca www.textilemuseum.mississippimills.com

Guild Meeting Minutes - April 6th

Gallery, Heartwood House

(Written & Recorded by Marilyn Mulligan)

Meeting called to order at 7.30 P.M by Shirley
Browsky

In lieu of a regular meeting the guild held a
suppliers night for the members and those that
were unable to come missed seeing and purchasing
some very fine items.

Elizabeth Watts had some very nice hand spun
yarns. Ann Middleton was selling some very
attractive yarns. Shirley Browsky had a table full of
Pollworth yarns and other items. Hidden Touch
Natural Yarns had for sale some beautiful Alpaca
and Mohair. Rose Haven Farms brought in many
interesting fibres and exciting novelty yarns.

Meeting adjourned at 9: PM

Marketplace**Looking to Buy a Spinning Wheel**

Would like a small one for taking on courses, and
get together. If anyone has one they no longer use
and would like to sell, please contact me at
gcolbourne@rogers.com

Looking to Purchase a Used Drum Carder

(fine cloth if possible) Contact: Linda Tait
ragz@rogers.com 613.828.5546

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

OVWSG Calender of Events

May 2009

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					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 Shibor 9:30am- 4:30pm	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2009

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 Guild Meeting 7:30 pm	2	3	4	5	6 St Distaff Day
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Nominating Committee Report
as of April 18, 2009

(Brackets) = Yet to be confirmed

Executive Committee:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Agree to stay on</u>	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Needs to be elected</u>
President	Shirley Browsky		Y
Vice President		VACANT	Y
Treasurer		Ann Sunahara	Y
Secretary	Merilyn Mulligan (if no other candidates)		Y
Studio Manager	Mary Morrison (1 more year only)		Y
Past President & Nominating Committee	Laurie Harkin-Chiasson		N/A

Bookkeeper / Accountant (only <i>Reporting</i> to Exec. Comm.)	Exec agreed to hire professional, experienced in Grant financial forms requirements	VACANT
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Secondary Committees:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Agree to stay on</u>	<u>Candidate</u>
Membership	Laurie Harkin-Chiasson	
Newsletter	Melanie Overduin	
Library Coordinator	Jan Scott	
- Assistants	Mary Bowrin	
	Ann McElroy	

Library On-Line	(TUULA TALVILA)	
<u>Position</u>	<u>Agree to stay on</u>	<u>Candidate</u>
Programs		VACANT
-Assistant		VACANT
-Technical Assist.	Cheryle Canning	
Web Coordinator	Cindy Jackson	
Yahoo Coordinator	Rebecca Cairns	
Workshops Coordinator	Elizabeth Watt	
History/Archives	Cindy O=Gorman	

Other Committees:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Agree to stay on</u>	<u>Candidate</u>
Studio Manager=s Assistant	Sue Quinn (1 more year only)	
Exhibition & Sale Coordinator 09-10	Nancy Ingram (2009-10 will be last yr.)	
-Assistant (exhibit)	Ann Sunahara	
-Assistant (Public relations)	Melanie Overduin	
Demonstrations		VACANT
OHS Liaison	Sue Quinn	
Heartwood House Liaison	Laurie Harkin-Chiasson	
- HH/Studio Keys	Laurie Harkin-Chiasson	

& Parking Passes		
Fund Raising Coordinator	Ann Middleton	
Grants Coordinator		Mandy Heggveit
Publicity/Public Relations	Ann Jackson	
<u>Position</u>	<u>Agree to stay on</u>	<u>Candidate</u>
Constitution & By-laws	Ann Sunahara	
Shepherdess		VACANT
Hostess Coordinator	Merilyn Mulligan	
Standards - Weaving	Mandy Heggveit	
-Spinning	Elizabeth Watt	
-Other Fibre Arts	Ann McElroy	
- Newer member	Melanie Overduin	
Auditors:	Francesca Overend	
	Sue Quinn	

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:** _____