



# ***Ottawa Valley Weavers' & Spinners' Guild***

## *March 2010 Newsletter*

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### **Message from your President**

Well, I was a little hesitant about the reception of the Fibre Poker Game I proposed for the last meeting. Little did I know how much you would dive into this. The spinners group was certainly the more raucous, the weavers a bit more subdued. The purpose of the game is to produce, by chance, unexpected combinations of technique, weave, colour, finishing, etc. and to create a problem-solving attitude to design challenges. It is to be a mind-stretching experience enjoyed by spinners and weavers of all abilities. Even an idea that at first seems ridiculous may turn out to be an idea that could become a discovery. Each card in the decks contained a design element found in a woven cloth or spun yarn. There are 52 elements in each deck and two decks were used for each – spinners' and weavers' decks. Each player was dealt 5 cards and one card was discarded and one drawn. The dealt hand is to be used to launch your creativity; you must use all the elements on your cards in your design; you may use as many colours as you wish as long as you incorporate the colours from your cards.

These projects can be as small or as large as you want – just a sample will do. No prizes will be awarded, just the sharing of new-found skills and techniques.

Bring the results of the poker game along with the cards to become the show and tell at the AGM in May.

On Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 51 spinners gathered for the annual Chesterville Spin-In. It was amazing to see the variety of wheels, re-acquaint with spinners I had not seen in a while and just sit and spin without any guilt at what other things I should be doing. Did I mention the shopping? The Yarn Source, Elizabeth's Llamas, and Debbie Etherington were there to keep us motivated. Many thanks to member Margot Dixon for heading this up and I hope to see more OVWSG members there next year. BTW, the OVWSG members who

were there cleaned up in the door prizes with seconds going to the Twistle Guild.

Many of the longstanding members will remember with fondness Elsie Groves who was a member for many years in the 70s and 80s. She wove the most amazing fine linen tableware. How proud I was when I saw her in the audience last night while her daughter Kristina received her silver medal for speedskating. Our congratulations go out to her for a job well done in the nurturing of this remarkable athlete in our midst.

*Shirley Browsky*

### **Inside this Issue ...**

- 1 President's Message**
- 2 Next Meeting**
- 2 General Announcements**
- 2 Resource Centre - Library**
- 2 Exhibition & Sale**
- 3 Anthem for Weavers & Spinners**
- 3 Upcoming Events**
- 4 Meeting Minutes : Feb. 1st, 2009**
- 5 Marketplace**



***Chesterville Spin In Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010***

*Members of various guilds spinning and chatting. Our president Shirley shopping at the Yarn Source booth in the background.*

## **Next Meeting: Monday, Mar. 1st**

Come and join us for the next Guild Meeting on Monday, March 1st at 730pm at Heartwood House at 153 Chapel Street in Ottawa.

### **Program: Making History with Edwina Sutherland**

When she is not making felt, Edwina is a professional dressmaker, specializing in creating reproduction clothing for Historic sites and museums. Edwina will bring some of these costumes to share with us and take us back in time to 19th century Ontario. There may even be an opportunity to try on some of the corsets and gowns Edwina will present!

#### Coming Up:

Embellishment Night, AGM, Rug Hooking

**Our next meeting is Monday, April 5th!**

## **General Announcements**

### **Keep the Torch Burning!**

Olympic fever is here and *Quilt of Belonging* is an important part of the 2010 Olympic Games and Para Olympics in Vancouver, being seen by thousands of visitors and receiving rave reviews. Canada is showing its best to the world and the *Quilt* has proven to be one of the best. It is recognized nationally and internationally. As the *Quilt's* official Patron, Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean Governor General of Canada shares our vision of a world with "A Place for All".

The *Quilt* has been enjoyed by over 1.3 million people while on tour across Canada and the United States and the race is not yet finished. More outstanding opportunities are under way for this year.

Our popular bilingual website [www.quiltofbelonging.ca](http://www.quiltofbelonging.ca) has had over a half a million visitors. *Quilt of Belonging's* book is in its third printing and the French version is also in demand. The *Quilt* is in school textbooks across Canada and is part of other educational efforts around the world.

## **Resource Centre - Library**

### **Library Night**

There will no longer be a library night, mid month, due to lack of interest. A monthly library night was attempted, starting in October. IDS requests, will have to return to an "on request" system. Contact Laurie Harkin-Chiasson or Sue Quinn.

## **Exhibition & Sale Update**

### **2010 Exhibition and Sale – Call to Vendors**

Salutations one and all!

I hope everyone is hibernating well, and accomplishing all those well intentioned tasks you had planned back in the fall. I know I haven't! So many projects; so little time...

Though slow to start, I would like to begin with the organizing of the vendors for this year's Ex & Sale. The first Vendors meeting is scheduled for:

**Date:** Saturday March 20, 2010

**Time:** 1:00 pm

**Location:** Resource Center @ Heartwood House, 153 Chapel St., Ottawa

Should the meeting be cancelled due to weather conditions, it shall be re-scheduled to the following Saturday, March 27 at 1:00p; Heartwood House.

The intent of the meeting is to serve as an introduction and to discuss issues from the previous year. Seeing as I am new to this process, I will be relying heavily on all of your expertise.

All vendors are welcome to attend – even those guild members that are not sure if they will be participating in this year's Sale. If you are thinking about becoming a vendor – come learn.

See you in March!

Debra Turnbull

2010 Ex & Sale Co-ordinator

## **Anthem for Weavers & Spinners**

*Submitted by John Toft*

Hymn #623 in the hymnary of the United Church of Canada (Voices United) is titled, "*Dear weaver of our lives design.*" It is a favourite of mine and would serve well as an anthem for weavers and spinners as well as many others. The words follow:

Dear weaver of our lives design whose pattern all obey,  
With skillful fingers gently guide the sturdy threads that will survive  
The tangle of our days, the tangle of our days.

Take up the fabric of our lives with hands that gently hold;  
Bind in the ragged edge that care would sunder and that pain would tear,  
And mend our raveling souls, and mend our raveling souls.

Let eyes that in the plainest cloth a hidden beauty see  
Discern in us our richest hues, show us the patterns we may use  
To set our spirits free, to set our spirits free.

Words by Nancy C. Dorian, copyright 1992,  
Unitarian Universalist Association.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Local Lacemakers invite you to their 22<sup>nd</sup> Lace Day**

The Ottawa Guild of Lacemakers is holding its 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Lace Day at the RA Center, Clark Room, 2451 Riverside Drive Ottawa Ontario, on March 28<sup>th</sup> 2010 from noon to 4 pm. Entrance fee is \$3.00 for adults and free for children under 12.

Guild members will display some of their work, experienced lacemakers will be on hand to evaluate heirloom and antique lace and vendors from Canada and the US will have merchandise for bobbin lacemaking, tatting and needle lace enthusiasts. This family event will be a great opportunity to learn the art of lacemaking as children and adults will be able to try their hand at the art of bobbin lace.

Every year the Guild challenges its members to create something according to a defined theme. This year, lacemakers made hats using lace or hats embellished with lace. This exhibit will be set up at the Canadian Booth at the 14th OI DFA World Lace Congress in Japan in July 2010. Visitors will be able to vote on the hat competition.

The Ottawa Guild of Lacemakers, comprised of lacemakers from the Ottawa and surrounding areas including the Outaouais is a non profit organization whose purpose is to promote the art of bobbin lace and other types of lacemaking. It meets on the second Thursday of the month at 31 Main Street and the third Saturday for a day of lacemaking. The Guild promotes the exchange of ideas, techniques and news among its members, offers workshops by local and foreign teachers, and maintains a library. For further information, please contact G.

Thibeault, [g.thibeault@rogers.com](mailto:g.thibeault@rogers.com)

### **Westboro Marketplace: Artisan & Community Garage Sale**

Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> (9 am to 1 pm)

Hilson Avenue Public School (407 Hilson Avenue)

This annual community sale brings together artisans and community members to sell art, crafts and basement treasures. There will be a café/BBQ, children's activities and a silent auction. All proceeds will support Hilson elementary students.

To rent a table (1 table for \$25 or 2 tables for \$40), please contact Valerie at: [bvlines84@rogers.com](mailto:bvlines84@rogers.com) or 613.722.3614

### **Weaving a Different View**

May 5 to August 8, 2010, at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, 3 Rosamond Str. E., Almonte, Ontario, Canada; 613-256-3754;

[www.textilemuseum.mississippimills.com](http://www.textilemuseum.mississippimills.com).

We are twelve "Weavers Unlimited" who love to explore structure and complex designs and like to present these concepts in innovative approaches to weaving.

Our exhibition is meant to stretch the boundaries of weaving through a series of garments and wearable art, all using handwoven fabric. What we are aiming for is to weave with a different view, which we chose as the title of our exhibition.

### **Guild Meeting Minutes - Feb. 1st**

Gallery, Heartwood House

Monthly Guild Meeting February 1st, 2009, Gallery

Heartwood House

(Written and Recorded by Merilyn Mulligan)

Meeting called to order by Shirley Browsky at

7:30pm

#### **Announcements:**

Elizabeth Watt advised that Space is available in

Mandy's Workshop

Mary Morrison advised Weavers are needed in the RC.

Looms are available for anyone to weave, looms have

been set up with tea towels and a linus blanket and experienced weavers are available to answer questions. Jan Scott reminded everyone about completing the library cards properly

Mary Bowing moved anyone working in the studio and committee members coming in during the day be reimbursed for parking, seconded by Alison James 17 agreed, the eyes have it.

Gordon Moat has the lendrum wheel and the drum carder and will mend them if required.

#### **Show and Tell**

-Judy Kavanagh made a bag and belt with her back strap loom.

-Jan Scott – several scissor holders created on her Inkle loom

-Ann McElroy – felt picture with needle felted starfish and snail

-Brown Shall

-Elizabeth Watt – book on complex colour

-Finished skein of yarn plied with one thick and one thin

-Aurora showed pair of knit sox's

- skeins of roving painted in Elizabeth's class on Saturday.

#### **Program**

Shirley Browsky handed out fibre poker cards; the purpose requires members to create something from the hand of cards they pulled with fibre, colour, weave, spin, and design problems.

8:45 Break

9:00 resume

Judy Kavanagh spinning off the point with some very small spindles and with a Babe wheel, PCB Construction Cindy O'Gorman demonstrated the preparation of silk (very long fibre) from removing the fibre from the cocoon off the worm to creating the silk hankies and spinning into yarn.

Elizabeth Watts Demonstrated Navaho plying

Ann Middleton demonstrated the blending of fibres to match the colours and fibres of yarns to mend holes in sweaters.

Adjourned 9.30

## Marketplace

### 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.

**Do you know** any artists working with metal strips or wire to create 3D sculpture using techniques such as weaving, braiding, or basketry? Please contact Elizabeth at [yksolutions@yahoo.ca](mailto:yksolutions@yahoo.ca).

**Wanted:** 3 lbs. each clean **raw** border leicester and Corriedale fleeces. Needed by May 31 for Handspinning Seminar. If you have some in your stash or know where I can get these please let me know. Shirley Browsky [sbrowsky@sympatico.ca](mailto:sbrowsky@sympatico.ca)

**Spinning Lessons near Kemptville**  
Anyone interested in giving spinning lessons in the Kemptville area, please contact Heather at [heather@ottawavalleyfiberarts.ca](mailto:heather@ottawavalleyfiberarts.ca)

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POLWARTH FLEECES, SHEEP, YARNS &  
KITS, WORKSHOPS, LESSONS, CLINICS,  
HANDWOVEN FABRICS  
VISIT BY CHANCE OR APPOINTMENT

### Ottawa Valley Fiber Arts' Canadian Fiber Box Club

Looking for Canadian fibre producers and artisans to feature each month.

Contact Heather at

[heather@ottawavalleyfiberarts.ca](mailto:heather@ottawavalleyfiberarts.ca)