



Ottawa Valley Weavers' & Spinners' Guild

April 2011 Newsletter

Message from your President

Mandy Heggveit

The Guild recently received a donation from the family of Joyce Shearer, who was a prolific weaver throughout the 70's and 80's but who now lives in a long-term care facility. The donation we received consists of a 45" 4-shaft Clement loom, yarns, books, workshop notes and copious records for Joyce's projects. Those of us who were at the Resource Centre at the time of the delivery, started going through the various items to determine what was useful for the membership and what was redundant. While doing this it was Joyce's notes and records that reminded me of just how unique her weaving practice was. Joyce's specialty was custom weaving for family, friends and repeat customers. She wove placemats to match China patterns, guest towels to work with the colours and design of the wall colour or wall paper or upholstery to coordinate with a room's décor. For this reason Joyce included with the records she kept pieces of wallpaper, several woven samples for clients to choose the pattern and colours and, of course, drafts as well as warp and weft information.

Hours later and thinking of Joyce's weaving it occurred to me how much our approach to creating new work has changed over the past decades. I still remember a time when, for example, buying clothing off the rack was the last resort. We had things made exactly the way we wanted them and not rely on what was offered to us in some store. That's not only how things were done but also that's how potters, jewellers, weavers or furniture makers made their living. They worked with their customers and took pride in the client's satisfaction. Only seldom did artisans make anything on speculation in the hope that someone would come along and just fall in love with what they had made. And this – by the way – is exactly what we as weavers, spinners, basket makers or felters are doing right now.

Custom orders, today, are considered by us free spirits to be stifling the imagination but I don't agree with this conjecture. To the contrary, anyone who has ever done commissions knows that they present challenges that encourage research and innovation. Thinking about all this I quickly realized that the essence of custom orders is, in a quirky way, identical to what we are trying to achieve by working within the parameters of our guild challenges. Just as a client sets the framework for a commission, the guild challenges make us create something, hopefully successfully, according to the constraints of set limitations. What goes around

On another note I wanted to let you know that representatives from Eastern Ontario Weaving Guilds will be meeting on Sunday, April 10, in the gallery of Heartwood House 1:00 – 4:00 PM to begin preparations for the 2013 OHS Conference. You are all invited to join the group and to contribute to the planning process.

In the meantime I am looking forward to seeing you on April 4th.

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Next Meeting: Monday, April 4th, 2011

Come and join us for the next Guild Meeting on Monday, April 4th at 7:30pm at Heartwood House at 153 Chapel Street in Ottawa.

Program:

Louisiana Blues: Acadian hand-weaving, weavers and promoters

The April 4 program will be a presentation by Judith Rygiel, a member of OVWSG, based on five research trips she has made to southern Louisiana in the last three years in search of late 19th and early 20th century textiles. She will tell us of the people who helped her discover the rich cultural heritage of Acadian handweaving and some of the stories behind the cloth. Judith Rygiel, PhD, is a Master Weaver who is noted for her hand painted hand woven silk scarves. She is also a textile historian specializing in 19th and early 20th century handwoven textiles. Her primary research area is Acadian weaving in both Maritime Canada and in Louisiana. She has worked as a textile consultant to large heritage organizations such as Parks Canada and the Canadian Museum of Civilization and to smaller community museums in New Brunswick. Recently she taught Canadian textile history classes at the St James Textile Museum in Dorchester, NB and in the Learning in Retirement Program at Carleton University. She has been a weaver and a weaving teacher for more than 40 years.

Our next meeting is Monday, May 9th, 2011!

The election date is May 2nd so the next meeting will be postponed to the following Monday – exercise your right to choose your government and vote!

General Announcements

10th Annual St. Distaff's Day Celebration

Hosted by the West Carleton Fibre Guild. Join us in the Agricultural Hall at the Almonte Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 4, 2011, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

This year's workshops:

All day: A Most Useful Basket

Morning:

1. Spin, spin, spin
2. Discussion on Tartans
3. Homemade Buttons
4. Domino Knitting
5. Kumihimo Braiding
6. Woven Necklace
7. Micro Mini Rag Basket
8. Pine Needle Coaster
9. Needlefelt and Embroider a Small Picture

Afternoon:

10. Triaxial Weaving
11. Wheel Spinning and Novelty Plying
12. Hooking With Yarns to Create a Sheep
13. Needle-felted Critters
14. Braided Rag Rugs
15. Beaded Knitted Necklace
16. Crocheted Holder for Hooks and Needles
17. Mini Weaving for Non-weavers
18. So Many Ways to Cast On and Off
19. Make a Dragon Boat Ornament

Stash Swap Table

Bring an item or two from your stash which you would like to send to a new home. Check the table for something you might like to take home for yourself.

"Sheep Thrills" Challenge

The theme for this year's challenge is, "Sheep Thrills". Bring your interpretation, or idea – one entry per person. Original entries will be judged and prizes awarded in several categories. Let your creativity soar!

Lunch

Lunch will be included in the price of your \$20 registration fee and provided by the ladies of the Almonte Fair Home Craft group. Coffee, tea, muffins and sweets will be provided for morning and afternoon breaks. Please bring your own mug.

Anniversary Display

In honour of this special 10th Anniversary, we encourage you to bring a few of your favourite items made at previous St. Distaff's Days. We will have a table to display these items. Please label your items so you can collect them at the end of the day.

Vendors

A number of vendors will be present for your fibre self-indulgence. Their stalls will be open all day except during workshops.

Demonstrations**OVQG Quilt Show, The Festival of Quilts**

May 6-8. Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. set up 9 a.m. all three days. *This Demo needs at least one Multi-harness weaver and a spinner per day.* For this audience we really needs the multi-harness weavers to participate, the guild has a multi-harness table loom which will work out perfectly! (I have been told its already threaded and ready to go!).

We will need more help for this demo. Francesca has volunteered to do some of the weaving but can not lift the loom so we will need a loom porter/spinner, and more multi-harness weavers please! I will remind you about the other upcoming demos as they get closer! Let me know if you can help.

jsrmt@hotmail.com. See all of you at the meeting!

Jan

Resource Centre: Studio**Weaving in the Resource Centre**

There are three projects on the go in our Studio right now: two looms with tea towels in progress, one "Linus" Blanket, which any member may weave on. A group of us meet and weave every Thursday. Anyone is welcome to join us.

If you are inspired to weave on a studio floor loom, contact Mary Morrison to reserve a loom.

613 830-9992 or mormmry@rogers.com

Inventory of Studio Equipment

An up-to-date inventory is needed before the Annual Meeting in May. Sue Quinn and Mary Morrison are planning to do it again, but would welcome some helpers in checking and counting the guild's equipment. Here's your chance to see what is hiding in all those drawers and bins. You get to know members by working with them.

Our plan is to carry this out during the week of April 18th. Please contact Mary for a convenient time. 613 830-9992 mormmry@rogers.com

Resource Centre: Library

The Guild library will be open for the Open Studio and Spin-In on April 2nd.

The library will be open at 5pm to 7:15pm on the Monday of the meeting, if you need to arrange another time, again please contact the librarians. If the Class Teachers let us know which books you will need for your course we will have them ready for you too. Please remember to bring your library material back for the meeting. If you can't make the meeting, contact the librarians (jsrmt@hotmail.com or 613-828-3256) and we will renew your material for one month. Remember to print your name clearly and the date the item will be due (the next months meeting which will be

April 2011). If you forget to bring it back next month we will happily accept the donation to the new book fund of \$1.50 per item per month late fee!

Membership

Membership Renewal Time

All memberships are due Apr.30, 2011 (except those who joined in 2011 already). Membership renewals will be accepted starting with the March 7 guild meeting. Please fill out the attached membership application form. Make all cheques payable to Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild (OVWSG is acceptable as well)

Guild Exhibition & Sale 2011

Planning for the Guild's 31st annual Exhibition and Sale is well under way. The booth application forms were in the last newsletter, and the deadline is May 2, 2011. Booth fees remain the same as last year: 8 x10 booth \$125; 10 x 12 booth \$175. If you are interested in participating in this event please send in your deposit and completed application form. We need to have most of the booths sold before we can proceed with the Sale. I want to have the bookmarks available at the June meeting for members who have summer and early fall events and sales.

If you have any ideas, suggestions or queries please contact Sue Quinn sooniequinn@yahoo.ca or 613-837-1619

Workshops

The new workshop schedule (April-June 2011) is now complete and available on the website. The listing of classes is also listed below. Members on the e-mail list should have received a copy by e-mail. Please register as soon as possible to prevent cancellation of workshops. Arrangements for

payment must have been made with the registrar to confirm your spot. Instructors need to know numbers ahead of time to allow them to prepare, however, if you find yourself suddenly able to take a workshop at the last minute it doesn't hurt to ask as sometimes extras can be accommodated - less than 1 week before a class date there are no guarantees, however.

The next workshop schedule will need to be finalized by May 20th in order to have it ready for the demo season. If you are interested in teaching a class between September 2011 and February 2012 please contact Elizabeth (e-mail preferred) before the end of April. REQUIRED information: Title, description, level, number or hours of instruction and start time (e.g. 4 hours, 10-3), dates when you are NOT available (efforts will also be made to accommodate preferred dates), materials fees if any. If you have not taught a class before please also include a short bio that can be used on the web version of the course information. New instructors and workshops are always welcome. If you haven't taught before and are a little nervous get in contact, a more experienced instructor can help you prepare. Most workshops are taught on weekends but we are open to trying new scheduling. If there is a course you'd like to see on the schedule, get in contact and we'll see if we can find an instructor. Elizabeth, 613 692-6115, workshops@ovwsg.com

Weaving

Beginning Weaving 1: Parts 1 to 4

Create a fabric! Learn the basics of setting up and weaving on a loom, including colour-blending of yarn, how to read and interpret a weaving pattern and how to plan a project. Table looms are provided, subject to a refundable deposit fee.

Dates: *4 parts: Sunday(s)

April 10 & 17, May 8 & 29, 2011

Time: 10am-4pm

Level: Beginner

Instructor: Shirley Browsky

Cost: \$180 members, \$220 non-members

Materials fee: \$15

Intro to Rigid Heddle Weaving

Learn the basics of weaving on the Rigid Heddle Loom while weaving a scarf in plain weave.

Date: Saturday 25, June 2011

Time: 9:30am to 4pm

Level: Beginner

Instructor: Elizabeth Watt

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

Materials Fee: \$20

Intro to Inkle Weaving

Learn how to set up and weave on an Inkle Loom, which will create narrow bands, ideal for straps and trims. Design will be discussed, notes provided will allow you to explore further on your own.

Date: Sunday 12, June 2011

Time: 10am-3pm

Level: Beginner

Instructor: Jan Scott

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

Materials fee: \$6

Please avoid garlic or shellfish for lunch, your instructor is allergic.

Specialized Weave and Dye Techniques (Shibori)

Using cellulose fibres and fibre reactive dye explore space and Ikat dyeing of warp and weft, Loom controlled Shibori, immersion and direct application and discharge techniques. Students will weave samples or projects at home to be dyed on Day 3.

Dates: * 3 Parts Saturday April 30, Sun May 1 and Saturday May 14, 2011

Time: 9am - 4pm

Level: Can read a draft and thread loom.

Suitable for Rigid Heddle and harness looms.

Instructor: Ellen Good

Cost: \$170.00 members, \$210.00 non-members

Materials cost: \$10.00 – equipment and materials list will be sent to students prior to class.

Spinning

Introduction to Spinning

Beginners will learn to spin and ply wool fibre on a handspindle.

Date: Saturday, April 16, 2011

Time: 10:00am-3:00pm

Level: Beginner

Instructor: Elizabeth Watt

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

Materials Fee: \$12 (includes fibre, spindle and instruction booklet).

Wheel Spinning

Move from the spindle to the wheel. Wheels provided or bring your own.

Date: Saturday May 7, 2011

Time: 10am-3pm

Level: Must be able to spin and ply on a spindle.

Instructor: Elizabeth Watt

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

Materials cost: \$10

Gaining Control

You have learned to spin and ply on the wheel, now take control and learn to make the yarns you want. Techniques to control twist from kinky to soft and diameter from lace to rugs. Drafting techniques to control a variety of fibres.

Date: Saturday May 28, 2011

Time: 10am – 4pm

Level: Must be able to spin a yarn on a wheel.

Instructor: Elizabeth Watt

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

Materials Fee: \$10

Plying

Master plying yarns to create even, balanced yarns. Learn to create 2, 3 and more ply yarns from bobbins and balls.

Date: Saturday June 11, 2011

Time: 10:00am – 4:00pm

Level: Intermediate

Instructor: Elizabeth Watt

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

Materials Fee: \$10

Yarn Design - How to Dazzle Yourself

Spinning and Plying techniques to create unique and beautiful novelty yarns for knitting, weaving and crochet.

Date: Sunday June 5, 2011

Time: 9am to 4pm

Level: Must be able to spin fine to thick yarns evenly.

Instructor: Shirley Browsey

Cost: \$60 members, \$70 non-members

Materials Fee: \$10

Spinning Rainbows and Other Games People Play

Work with dyed fleece to explore colour theory, colour blending, ways to spin colour and specialty carding techniques

Date: Sunday June 19, 2011

Time: 9am-4pm

Level: All

Instructor: Shirley Browsey

Cost: \$60 members, \$70 non-members

Materials cost: \$10

Knitting

Mawata Mitts

Create an unspun yarn from silk hankies and use it to knit mittens.

Date: *2 parts: Sunday May 15 and Sunday 22, 2011

Time: 10am – 12pm

Level: Able to knit in the round

Instructor: Aurora Richard

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

Materials Fee: \$50

Felting

Nuno Felt

(Maximum 5 people). Come learn the latest in felt fashion, combining fine wool with fine silk to make a fabulous new fabric that drapes wonderfully. Each student will make a unique scarf and learn how to use nuno felt to enhance their felting. Nuno felt makes a great fabric not only by its self but combined with other fabrics as well. If there is time that we will do a sample with cotton at no extra cost.

Date: Sunday June 26, 2011

Time: 10am-4pm

Level: All

Instructor: Ann McElroy

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

Materials fee: \$15

Upcoming Events

Call to Artists

The Canadian Tulip Festival is seeking artists to lead hands on creative workshops in Major's Hill Park, between May 6 and 23, 2011. Please submit proposals for workshops that highlight the tulip and draw upon the theme for the 2011 Festival: "Kaleidoscope, a celebration of spring awakening through colour, culture and community". Deadline for proposals: Wednesday, April 6, 2011, at 5:30PM.

For all inquiries and to receive the application form please contact: workshops@tulipfestival.ca

Arts and Craft Workshop Tour

Gujarat State, India, January 2012

INDIA IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND-2012

JANUARY 9-31, 2012

Join a small group of fibre enthusiasts as you discover some of the textile traditions of the state of Gujarat, India.

Tour begins on January 9, 2012 in Ahmedabad, India as the city gets ready for the Kite Festival. The streets and the skies are alive with kites and fireworks as people of all ages participate in this exciting time.

Plans are being made for this group of no more than 6 to have a hotel to ourselves in an historic part of the city. Tours in the city may include step wells, Ghandi's ashram, historic city walks, bazaars, shopping and exciting restaurants as well as temples and shrines and museums. Other highlights could be a visit to the Calico Museum of Textiles and the Shreyas Folk Art Museum. Other surprises may happen- after all it is India.

After the busy time in Ahmedabad, you will board the train for a relaxing ride to Bhuj in the Kutch region of Gujarat to begin a series of workshops by Kutch artisans.

Workshop plans are being made for instruction in block printing, leather work, batik printing, bandhani and various specialized embroidery stitches. Other workshops may occur as the opportunity arises.

Accommodations will be in clean and safe and acceptable rooms with western toilets. Other locations include air-conditioned tents in Mandvi on the shores of the Arabian Sea, mud huts in the desert in Hodka near the Great Salt Flats and in small hotels and student accommodation.

Our final days will be in Bhuj visiting weavers' studios and workshops with opportunities to see the incredible works they produce.

The tour ends after breakfast in Bhuj on January 31, 2012.

From here you can return home or continue to discover other locations on your own.

Need More Information?

Call: Russ Mason 1-705-759-2086

Email: russ.mason@shaw.ca

Interesting Websites

See what artistic silk larvi can do!

<http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/journal/silkworms-spin-coloured-silk-.htm>

Lots of odds and ends tips for weavers (mostly).

<http://wovenfibers.com/tips.html>

Your Yahoo Group: It's Yours to Use!

Rebecca Cairns - OVWSG Yahoo Group Moderator

With spring upon us and the Annual General Meeting just around the corner, once again I'm thinking about my report on the OVWSG Yahoo Group and the situation is much the same as last year: few of our members use the group and it's an underutilized resource for the guild. I hope we can change that.

I would like to encourage those of you who are already members of the group to make more use of it to keep in touch with your fellow members between meetings. Use the group as a forum to ask questions or notify members of things of mutual interest. You can also make use of the Files and Photos sections to post anything you'd like to share with the group - a photo of your latest creation, perhaps! In addition, there's a Links section if you happen to find any web sites you think would be of

interest to the group. In addition, there are some exciting new applications that Yahoo is trying out, such as For Sale, Give Away, How To (Instructions), Questions & Answers and Tips & Techniques. There are also several others which we may explore in the future. Come and see! For those of you who haven't yet joined the Yahoo Group, I would like to encourage you to do so. If you already have a Yahoo Profile and belong to other groups, simply go to the OVWSG Yahoo group web page (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ovwsg/>) and click on the Join This Group! button. For those of you who don't yet have a Yahoo Profile, signing up is free and as easy as 1-2-3!

1. From the Yahoo Groups page (<http://groups.yahoo.com/>), click on "Sign Up" on the header bar where it says "New User?". Fill in the fields, as required. Remember to uncheck the "Contact me" box if you don't want Yahoo sending you their mailings and promotions. Note: sometimes it's better to disguise yourself a little when creating these Internet profiles. You don't have to use your real name or birth date or any other personal information. Be creative - it's fun and it's safer! For anyone who has questions about filling in any of these fields, help is available, either by clicking on Help at the top of the page and reading the online help material or, if that isn't clear, by asking me.

2. When you've completed the form, create your new Yahoo account by clicking on the "Submit This Form" button at the bottom of the page.

3. Once your Yahoo Profile is created, you can join the OVWSG Yahoo Group. Go to the group web page (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ovwsg/>) and click on the Join This Group! button. Note: if you

did choose something particularly obscure for your Yahoo Profile name and/or email address, please tell me who you are in the join request email. Our group is restricted to members of the guild only, so if I don't recognize you from your Yahoo Profile name or email address, approval will take a bit longer.

Hope to see you all on the Yahoo Group soon!

Guild Meeting Minutes:

Monthly Meeting, March 7, 2011

Gallery, Heartwood House,

(Written and Recorded, by Merilyn Mulligan)

Meeting brought to order at 7:30 by Mandy Heggteit

Announcements:

Mandy will attend the OHS conference this year. \$3,000.00 a portion of the Grant from the City of Ottawa has been received. Ann Sunahara is organizing the 100" loom project, design-cream background with stripes using leftovers from the coverlet. 5 blankets will be made, one for the lottery. Mandy motioned we purchase 2 Kumahimo frames and 2nd by Elizabeth Watt all agreed. Invoice for teachers and expenses, both forms to be put on PDF and can be downloaded from there. Elizabeth Watt has class list, it has been checked and is ready to be put on the Web site. Jan Scott has purchased more books. Laurie is now taking renewal memberships. Karen has a friend who is selling 24 harness loom. Ann Sunahara has set up a loom with Linus blankets-anyone can weave on them.

Show and Tell:

Elizabeth Watt – runner woven on 3 harness rigid heddle loom. Ann McElroy - Felt Jacket. Francesca –scarf shadow weave pattern, using two linen (tail end of linen, loose spun). Francesca woven yard goods hand spun by Ann Middleton. Mary

Morrison, Jacquard woven cushion cover. Reinouw Bast-Beginner weaver- place mats. Laurie H-C working on triangular braid in miniature. Karen - yardage from silk and 2 scarves. Shirley Browsky- Alpaca samples of weave structure finished washed in hot water and put in dryer. Mandy – Woven mat and stool cover.

Break-8:15 Resumed 8:35

Program:

Laurie H-C explained how to finish baskets, handles and decorations along with basketry supplies.

Mandy discussed the finishing of blankets using washing machine for fulling yard goods.

Francesca –sewing seams using double needle. Seams and borders.

Karen has a battery run fringe twister.

Spinners –a difference of opinion. Always wash before using. Never washed before using.

Ann MacElroy-when cutting felt you should always rework edges to heal them rub the edges again so they will not shred.. During felting always make holes small because they will grow during process.

SUMMER WEAVING COURSE

Can I interest you in a RUG WEAVING COURSE to be held sometime in July or August? The dates are flexible at the moment.

A sampler of various techniques will be woven, from flat weaves to rya pile. They can be applied to rugs, bags or cushions and the colour options are endless.

Contact Mary Morrison

613 830-9992

mormmry@rogers.com

Basketry Class

May 7th. Cost \$ 60.00. At my high tech basketry studio (aka my veranda). Everyone will make a basket in this one day workshop. We start off the day with a walk through a near by wetlands and choose some of the many basketry materials that grow in Eastern Ontario. More info on my website www.handweaving.ca

Janet Whittam

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. Contact: Melanie Overduin: melanie_overduin45@hotmail.com

For Sale

Dorothy table loom with stand.

\$350.00 OBO

Contact Marsha Zimmerman.m@sympatico.ca

For Sale

Used Louet spinning wheel \$15, un-finished, Very good condition. \$ 350.00

Contact: Elisabeth Kaufmann

info@llamaranch.ca



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

Membership Application / Renewal Form

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)

Note: If also paying for workshops, booth fees etc., please make **separate cheques** for each service.

Please return to the Membership Convenor at the address above.

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:** _____