



Ottawa Valley Weavers' & Spinners' Guild

June 2011 Newsletter

Message from your President

Mandy Heggveit

I recently had the good fortune to meet an extraordinary man. Hiroyuki Shindo is a Japanese textile artist who dedicated the last 50 years to work exclusively with indigo. He uses natural indigo, fermented with ash, lime, bran and sake in vats sunk into the earth floor or what was once the farmhouse kitchen. His work is in the collection of the Art Institute of Chicago, the American Craft Museum in New York, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and now the Canadian Museum of Civilization (CMC).

During one of our conversations while driving to the Textile Museum in Almonte Mr. Shindo told me that he is in the process of developing yardage with a Shibori effect (needless to say through the indigo vat process) without wrapping fabric with thread because, due to the traditionally time consuming process, this is no longer affordable for young people to make their kimonos. I then told him about woven Shibori, since its concept parallels his own thinking, and he became extremely interested in it. I showed Mr. Shindo Catherine Ellis's book and he will order it for himself once he is back in Japan (although Mr. Shindo does not consider himself to be a weaver he is fully knowledgeable about all of weaving's technical implications).

Mr. Shindo's stellar career is in itself to be admired. But there were two other aspects that I found so exceptional. Firstly there was his modesty, openness to new ideas and curiosity that I found so inspirational. And secondly, I so admire him for dedicating his career to one single aspect of his craft. His continuing research into indigo dying led him to reveal the essence of a process and ultimately to superbly beautiful works of art.

You can see Mr. Shindo's work in the recently opened exhibition *Tradition, Innovation* a fabulous show that draws parallels between work produced during Japan's Edo period and contemporary Japanese design and craft. If you go, I suggest you wear good shoes since passing through the exhibition takes time; there is so much to see and to read.

It is somewhat unusual to think about starting a new Guild year in May - June just before most of us take off to pursue our summer activities. In our mind, the new Guild year begins in September as we return recharged and full of energy. There will be a revised slate of programs and workshops for the coming months, deadlines for challenges and preparations for the Exhibition of Sale. However, the advantage of beginning our year now allows us to use the summer months to not only develop programming but also for all of us to consider two things:

- what and where do we see the Guild to be five years from now (2016) and how we will accomplish this, and,
- on a more personal note, what are our own aspirations in developing our practice over the next five years.

The results of the two surveys and your continued input will assist us in arriving at a long-term vision and strategies for the Guild. As to our practice and in terms of our own growth intellectually, aesthetically and technically the development of a personal five-year plan is a good idea.

I hope to see all of you at the June meeting; it should be a good one! And if I you can't make it – have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you in September.

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Next Meeting: Monday, June 6th, 2011

Come and join us for the next Guild Meeting on Monday, June 6th at 7:30pm at Heartwood House at 153 Chapel Street in Ottawa.

Program:

As suggested by members at our last meeting, the June program is twofold. First, in response to the fascinating collection of African textiles we saw at Carleton University earlier this year, bring examples that you have of interesting domestic or foreign textiles or fibres and tell the meeting about them. Second, an opportunity to destash and restash! Bring your excess fibres, yarns and widgets to sell to your fellow members, and with the proceeds buy their surpluses. You'll get lots of new items to use over the summer, or to bring to the next destash event. We'll put tables out in the gallery for displays.

Our next meeting is Monday, September 12th, 2011!

Workshops

There are still workshops coming up in June & July, most of which have space left:

Sat June 11: Plying - Learn to put two and three or more singles together to make a balanced yarn. 10am-4pm \$40

Sun June 12: Intro to Inkle Weaving - this simple loom makes a wide range of bands, straps and trims 10am-3pm \$40

Sun June 19: Spinning Rainbows - fibre blending for colour effects using hand and drum carding. 9am-4pm \$60

Sat June 25: Intro to Rigid Heddle Weaving - this simple loom is easy to warp, portable and more versatile than you think. 9:30-4 \$50

Sun June 26: Nuno Felting - felt doesn't have to be heavy, learn to make light drapery felt fabrics using wool and silk. 10am-4pm \$40

Mon, Wed and Fri, July 11-15: Rugs! Sample lots of techniques for making rugs on all types of looms.

Note: prices listed are for members, non-member prices, complete descriptions and a registration form are available on the website:

<http://www.ovwsg.com/classes/index.html>

Please, take pity on your registrar and the instructors and register quickly and completely. Unless I receive payment or arrangements for payment are made you are not considered registered. I will hold spots for those who let me know that "the cheque is in the mail" but the process has to be completed promptly. If not a workshop may be cancelled for lack of interest and I would only notify those who have sent me complete registration. It has happened that a student who sent me an "I'm interested" e-mail subsequently showed up to a cancelled workshop expecting to be able to pay on the day. Instructors also often need time to gather materials. Another

note: cheques are preferred for payment, however, if you must pay in cash it must be sealed in an envelope with your name, contact details, course title and date, and amount enclosed clearly marked on it.

Over the summer we will be working on clear policies and procedures for Workshops which we will then share with all members. We will also be looking at the survey results and using them to inform the next schedule. The Fall schedule has been delayed but should be ready on the website by the end of June. It will run from September to November 2011.

Multi-shaft Weaving Workshop with Bonnie Inouye

Weaver, lecturer, workshop leader and author Bonnie Inouye will be giving two workshops and a lecture to the members of the OVWSG on designing original multi-shaft woven structures in October 2011. We suggest you consult Bonnie Inouye's website

<http://reocities.com/Paris/bistro/4347/bio.html> to see examples of work that illustrate fabrics based on her workshops.

Workshop I

Topic: The Big Overshot

Date: October 1 – 2, 2011-05-31

Location OVWSG Resource Centre/Studio in Heartwood House
153 Chapel Street
Ottawa

Times: 9:00 – 4:00

This is what Bonnie's website says about this workshop:

Overshot is a familiar traditional weave associated with sweet patterns. What happens when this twill based structure meets all the new concepts coming from twills? Advancing overshot is one way to make large scale designs without increasing the

length of the floats. Explore the advantages of overshot and give an old friend a new place to grow. We will use new, decidedly non-traditional threading with many different die-up and treadling options. Overshot threading are great for collapsible fabric, loom-controlled shibori, velveteen, deflected double weave, honeycomb, lace, and swivel. For intermediate to advanced weavers using 8 or more shafts at home, this workshop can accept some 4-shaft looms. Work at your own loom.

Workshop II

Topic: Opposites Attract

Date: October 4 – 7, 2011

Location OVWSG Resource Centre/Studio in Heartwood House
Ottawa

Times: 9:00 – 4:00

This is what Bonnie's website says about this workshop:

Create bold, colourful designs that emphasize your warp yarn with parallel (opposite) threading. Echo weave and turned taqueté are a wonderful choice for two or more warp colours and a single weft.

Compare woven examples and learn tips for weaving, sett, and yarn choice. Taqueté has a long history and echo weave is modern. Both are wonderful for shawls, scarves, garments, and art pieces. On the same warp, make samples of warp rep and an exciting kind of double weave that produces four colours with two shuttles. Explore these structures while learning methods for creating your own designs for the fabric of your dreams, including drafts with curves and organic shapes. 3 – 4 days, intermediate through very advanced, mainly for weavers using 8 and more shafts at home but a few 4 shaft looms may be used in the workshop.

Workshop Fees

The Guild applied for a grant from the Canada Council's Jean A. Chalmers Fund to contribute to

the costs of running the workshops. The workshops fees cannot be determined until we hear if our grant application was successful or not – probably not before the end of June or early July. A good number of weavers from our Guild as well as non-members expressed great interest in the workshops and enrolment is limited. For this reason we ask that anyone intending to take one or both workshops to complete the registration form available from our Guild's website at

http://www.ovwsg.com/classes/OVWSG_REGISTRATION.pdf and send it together with a registration fee of \$ 50.00 per workshop to Elizabeth Watt, c/o Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild, 153 Chapel Street, Ottawa ON K1N 1H5.

As soon as we know if we received the grant or not we will advise you of the full amount of the workshops fees and balances owing.

Resource Centre: Library

To take out books over the summer you will need to be a member in good standing (so make sure you have renewed your membership!). You will also need to remember to bring a check book to write a deposit check for (\$10.00 per item) you are taking out over the summer. When you return your library material, at the September meeting, you will get your deposit check back.

As always please contact the Librarians to renew your books if you can't make the meeting. If you forget then the overdue fine will be \$1.50 per item per month which will go towards new library material.

I will be opening the library by 5pm before the meeting so there is lots of time to come in and peruse the book to select your summer reading! Why not come in right after work, try one of the local restaurants and check out the library before the meeting begins.

In your travels over the summer if you spot one of our errant books please grab it and bring it with you in September!

Have a wonderful summer reading, watching DVD's, spinning, weaving, felting, demo-ing and having fun! See you in September! Jan
jsrmt@hotmail.com
613-828-3256

Resource Centre: Studio

Gift of an 8-harness Dorothy

Jean Biggs of Ottawa has donated 15-inch Dorothy and several accessories for use in our weaving classes. The gift includes an extra set of harnesses and the side pieces that convert the loom to 8-harnesses. This gift will be very useful in our planned workshops in October with Bonnie Inouye, a well-known American hand-weaver.

See: <http://www.bonnieinouye.com/>. The OVWSG wholeheartedly thanks Ms. Biggs for her generosity.

100-inch Loom Project

The warp for the blanket that will be raffled at the November Exhibition and Sale is now on the loom.

Iwonna Szpakowicz, Jean Sharp, Brianna O'Gorman, Cindy, Mary, Marilyn and Ann Sunahara were able to wind all 17 yards of the warp onto the 100-inch loom in little over 2 hours. Mandy Heggteit is threading it and Cindy O'Gorman has volunteered to sley the reed. It should be ready for weaving in June. Anyone who would like to try their hand at weaving on the newly renovated, 100-inch, 2-person loom should contact Ann Sunahara (sunahara@magma.ca) with their availability. Teams will be weaving both during the week and on weekends.

Summer Rental Bargain

Rent a loom or wheel for those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer. Portable table looms (and accessories) rent for only \$30 for the entire summer. Wheels are only \$25 for the entire summer. Pick up what you need at the June 6th meeting and return the equipment at the September 12th meeting. Pay the rent in advance by cheque or cash (together with a separate security deposit cheque for \$300 that will only be cashed if you fail to return the loom or wheel). To reserve, contact Ann Sunahara (sunahara@magma.ca).

Hockey Sticks

The OVWSG gratefully thanks the anonymous member who brought 6 hockey sticks to the May meeting. David Sunahara has turned them into side pieces that will enable us to convert a 4-harness table loom into an 8-harness loom for the hoped-for fall workshop from Bonnie Inouye.

Guild Exhibition & Sale 2011

November 4th, 5th and 6th, 2011

This is the guild's headline event, our annual showcase of the work we do, and how we do it. The week-end gives all members a chance to participate by demonstrating, selling and exhibiting your work, helping promote the guild, fundraising, meeting and talking to visitors and best of all meeting and working with fellow guild members.

We have 20 booths of weavers, spinners, felters, rug hookers, suppliers of yarn and equipment, and the Co-op booth where all members can sell their work-even if you only have one or two items to sell.

This summer we will start our publicity with the bookmarks, they will be available for distribution at

summer events. In the fall there will be ads in local papers and the Ottawa Citizen as we get the word out.

If you have any questions or suggestions, or need some bookmarks to distribute this summer please call or email Sue Quinn 613-837-1619
sooniequinn@yahoo.ca

Window Display at Wabi-Sabi

Just a reminder that for the month of October, we are going to be putting up a display window at Wabi Sabi on Wellington Street to advertise the Ex and Sale. I will be looking for pieces to display, so if you have some things that you think represent the OVWSG at its finest - let me know in September!

Thanks

Jean Sharp

jean.sharp@hc-sc.gc.ca

Demonstrations

Thank you very much to the demo teams for the Quilt Show and the Experimental Farm!

Reinouw did a wonderful job getting a new warp on one of the two looms. Unfortunately, the team discovered the second loom that was described as having a warp and working find was not quite running because of warping problems. Ann seems to have sorted that out and they are now ready for the rest of the summer.

The Quilt show went well; lots of interested fiber artists stopped to ask questions. The venue was large and a bit chilly but it was a hockey rink! The little restaurant upstairs was very good. Both Judith and Francesca had brought quilts with handwoven fabric to display. We had an 8 harness table loom, at least one spinning wheel a day and a miniature inkle loom on the Saturday. This is definately a demo I would suggest doing again next year if they ask us.

Upcoming Demos

We have a full team for both Dickinson days in Manotick, and the Upper Canada Village demo! YAH!!! Thank you very much for all the hard work! We will have spaces for demonstrators at the Richmond and Carp Fairs as well as the North Gower Farmers Market (September demos). As I receive new requests I will contact the members for volunteers. So come have fun at a demo!!! Jan
jsrmt@hotmail.com
613-828-3256

Upcoming Events

Fashion Show Features Mill Street Merchants, Almonte

On Thursday June 9th The Friends of the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum will hold their annual Fashion Show for the benefit of the museum, at Almonte and District High School from 7:00pm until 9:00pm. This year the show will feature Almonte's own Mill Street Merchants. Leading the participants is Kentfield Kids. They will feature some of their selection of Name Brand consignment clothing sized from newborns to size 10. Kentfield Kids offers a boutique style experience. They provide a changing room for little ones as well as a play area for the kids while you shop. For your comfort they even provide a place to sit.

Vintage Wear-Ware will be featuring dresses from the 50's and 70's. They are cutting edge with today's fashionistas. A few wedding dresses will also be included. Vintage Wear-Ware is a unique store in Almonte, offering a full range of men's and women's clothing from the 20's to the 90's. Whether it's sweaters, handbags, aprons, hats, skirts (plaid and tartan too), belts, even umbrellas,

they have it all. They also offer a rental service for your next themed party or wedding.

White Lilly is the newest shop in Almonte, located in the Heritage Court on Mill Street. White Lilly offers you the opportunity to be drawn in, to see and feel who you really are, from the inside out. The clothes are selected to enhance your highest potential. Made in Bali from eco-fibres, such as bamboo, beech, soya, silk and cotton, the clothes are wrinkle free. To add that extra splash of personality to your wardrobe there are purses, silk scarves, jewellery and more.

Tickets to this amazing fashion show are \$20.00 and available at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, 3 Rosamond St. E. Almonte, or by calling 613-256-3061.

Habu Textiles comes to Rose Haven June 25 & 26

Rose Haven Farm Store, 187 Main Street, Picton, Ontario

Garments would be on display and Takako available during the breaks in the day. We have a table of Habu yarns and would have it well stocked. We have the largest selection in Canada. We also have Haiku Knits, Ori Ami books and Cocoknit patterns.

Activities planned include:

- Reading Japanese knitting patterns workshop
- Discussion on using Habu yarns in weaving
- Habu Textiles trunk show presentation with wine & cheese.
- Garments will be available for viewing
- Sourcing Habu yarns: how they are selected

Registration is required for all activities. For more information contact Rose Haven Farm Store
613-476-9092

rosehavenfarm@sympatico.ca
www.rosehavenfarm.net

Dyeing Workshops for the Summer

WEAK ACID DYEING

Saturday, July 16 OR Saturday, August 13, 2011.
9:30 am until 4:30 pm. location Shirley Browsey's Farm

Introducing spinners, weavers and knitters to the world of colour. You will learn the basics of colour, dyeing and demystifying the formulae. A dyed colour wheel in two colour families - printers and artist primaries, will be the first project. Based on the wheels, you will learn how to mix dyes for those special colours and take home a dye reference binder, including pre-printed sample cards, recipe sheets and tons of samples.

Cost \$75 per person to be sent by June 30th or August 1st. All materials supplied.

PAINTED ROVINGS AND YARNS

Saturday, August 27th 9:30 - 4:30 location Shirley Browsey's Farm

Learn to create multi-coloured yarns by learning to paint rovings or yarns using weak acid dyes, then spin/weave/knit them into repeatable multi-coloured yarns/garments. You will learn how to get lots of colours in a yarn by using combinations of painted rovings. You will explore design possibilities and plan and dye rovings; you will do some spinning and plying exercises as well. Get the Kaffe Fassett look through hand-painted rovings or yarn. This is a great technique for weavers to produce truly unique garments by using painted yarns in the warp and weft.

Cost \$75 per person to be sent by August 1st. All materials supplied.

Contact Shirley Browsey at sbrowsky@sympatico.ca to hold your space.

Grass Creek Sheep to Shawl

This year's sheep to shawl at Grass Creek Park, Kingston, will be held on Saturday 6th August,

starting time 10.00a.m. Finish time will be 2.30 p.m. with judging shortly after. There are five members to a team and entry fee is \$25.00 per team. This year we will be offering prize vouchers and/or books. Each team will receive 50% of the auction price of their shawl (other 50% goes to Kingston City Hall who run the trials). Auction will be held on Sunday 7th August after the shawls have been washed and prepared.

We hope to receive donations of fleeces white and/or coloured, so try to plan for either.

We encourage a relaxed and enjoyable day and hope that your group will be able to enter a team and join in the fun. Billeting is a possibility if teams are travelling some distance. If your guild has an extra person who would explain to the public what we are doing (but not assist with the shawl) that would be an asset.

Please try to have your entries in by 30th June 2010

If you have any questions please contact:
Gillian Mullins dmullins@reztel.net

Belleville Spin In Tuesday, October 4th, 2011

Maranatha Church, 100 College St. W., Belleville, ON

We hope that you can come to Belleville on October 4 to meet old friend from past Spin Ins and perhaps meet some new ones. There will be lots to see and excellent lamb sausage from one of our members.

Sweets Table & BBQ

Admission \$5

Suppliers & DRAWS

10 – 3

Contacts: Rosemary Morris 613-966-2676

craftercrone@kos.net

Colleen Thomson 613-962-4806

thomcr@sympatico.ca

Guild Meeting Minutes:

Monthly Meeting, May 9, 2011

Gallery, Heartwood House,

(Written and Recorded, by Merilyn Mulligan)

Meeting brought to order at 7:30 by Mandy Heggteit

Mandy Heggteit read the year end reports.

Announcements: A vacuum cleaner has been purchased for the resource centre. We need a proper system for our forms, documents, reports and contracts. Aurora Richards has prepared all new forms and documents ie: for request for payment and rentals and have put them on PDF and hard copies have been prepared are in the resource centre. The Quebec wheel is to be sold. The Executive will hold meetings every 2 months.

Show and Tell: Elizabeth Watt has her Certificate from the OHS after having completed the Master Spinners course. Michelle Bugeaud a beginner spinner-a skein of yarn. Laurie Harkin-Chiasson – her husband made a Lazy Kate for weaving to hold cones, Mandy to try it out. Francesca Overend – woven scarf, reversible from handspun silk by Yvonne Szpakowicz. Ann MacElroy – Felted bird houses. Ann Middleton –for the poker challenge had to spin many fibres – has now made a vest with it. Also has greeting cards for people to make up for the summer. Robin Wood – woven scarf in black and shades of grey.

Announcements: Pat Trudel – 50th anniversary of Upper Canada Village – Final take on Fibre- Sheep Shearing weekend, June 3 to June 6, we have been asked for demonstration for spinning and Education. Mary Morrison has a notice that someone has a 45" loom, bench and books all together for sale. Elizabeth Watt – needs to have list of people willing to teach classes in the fall and

must have specifics. St Distaff Day – June 4. Ann Sunahara has prepared new survey needs to have it completed.

Demonstrations: Jan Scott – Quilt Show – lots of interest in weaving and spinning. Volunteers needed for Experimental Farm, weavers and spinners. Upper Canada Village need for June 5 and 6. Dickinson Days, North Gower Farmers Market, Richmond Fair, and Carp Fair.

8:45 Break, resumed 9:00

Program: Election of Officers. Shirley Browsky read the nominations of the new Executive. Still need a VP, Demo Co-ordinator. Motioned to accept Elizabeth Watt, 2nd by Mary Morrison and all in favour.

9:30 adjourned

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