



Ottawa Valley Weavers' & Spinners' Guild

December 2013 Newsletter

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Upcoming Meeting:

Monday December 2nd,
2013 at 7.30pm
Heartwood House
404 McArthur Avenue
Ottawa, ON

Program:

- Election of Vice-Chair
- Rosepath Auction
- Show and Tell

Next month's meeting:

Monday, January 6th,
2014, at 7.30pm

President's Message

Welcome December and the winter season! I thank you for welcoming me as your new President.

Over the last year or so we have seen a great deal of activity and change in our Guild, namely hosting the OHS Conference and the move. And then there was the annual Exhibition and Sale. All of these large endeavors have been successful. Now, we need to catch our breath, let the dust settle, and find some balance.

We experienced an excellent weekend at the Glebe Community Centre and a special thank you to Anne Middleton and her Exhibition and Sale Team for all of their contributions to this event. Anne has agreed to continue as Co-ordinator for next year and has booked the space for 2014. Many members spent time across the weekend helping out in various ways. All efforts contributed to the event. Many visitors said they came after hearing the CBC interview of Sayward Johnston and Ann Sunahara. Thanks to them for messaging so well the great work of our guild.

Many people in our Guild have been very busy with a variety of activities, above and beyond their craft. And recently several members have stepped up to fill vacant roles. A vote for a new Vice Chair will take place at the December membership meeting. Please be sure to attend to cast your ballot.

So, what's next? There is a full slate of workshop and course offerings for the next year, with thanks to Elizabeth Watt and her team. The new Networking Night, a result of the efforts of Bernadette Quade and others, is in full swing with 11 attending in October and 18 attending in November.

The executive is in the process of finalizing the upcoming year's budget. Now that our corporation has received our Certificate of Continuance we will complete the application for Charitable Status.

Work continues on developing policies and procedures for our growing organization. And then there is the balance we need to find for the smooth operation of the guild...

If you have an interest or particular skill that you can contribute to a committee or task, please speak to one of the executive. In the meantime, participate in your craft, register for a workshop, and I look forward to seeing you at the monthly program meeting or Networking Night.

Election of Vice-chair

We have two candidates for Vice-chair: Sayward Johnson and Carlene Paquette.

Near the beginning of the December meeting we will have an election. We will

- a) distribute the ballots
- b) allow each candidate up to 5 minutes to explain their qualifications and why they want the Vice-chair job
- c) collect the ballots
- d) count the ballots while the Rosepath auction is in progress
- e) after the auction, introduce the new Vice-chair.

Rosepath Auction

Our annual Christmas fundraiser, social and de-cluttering event!

First bring in items to put in the auction. These can be fibre related or not. These are usually unwanted items found in our cupboards and stashes. In the past donations have included books, puzzles, odd balls of yarn or fibre, plants, jam, decorative items, anything that you no longer want but someone else might.

The items are laid out on tables with a cup in front of each item. Participants purchase numbered envelopes containing 50 tickets marked with the same number as the envelope. They then divide their tickets between items they are interested in. Once everyone has dispersed their tickets the drawing begins. A ticket is then drawn from each cup and the holder of that envelope number wins the corresponding item.

This activity is always accompanied by much laughter and excitement. One person's trash is another's treasure!

Upcoming Workshops for January/February

Weaving

Weaving Refresher

Sundays Jan 12,19, Feb 2

Beginning Inkle Weaving

Saturday Jan 18

Beginning Kumihimo

Sunday Jan 26

Beginning Weaving

Spring Session -Sundays Feb 16, 23, Mar 9, 16

Spinning

Intro to Spinning – Spindle

Winter Session—Saturday Jan 11

Care and Feeding of Spinning Wheels

Saturday – Jan 25

Meet the Wheels Bring, Share and Try

Saturday – Feb 15

Felting

Wet Felted Fingerless Mitts, Cuffs or Wrist warmers

Saturday Feb 22

OHS Spinning Certificate Program

OHS Spinning Certificate Program Level 1 to be offered in Summer 2014 in Haliburton

This year, 19 spinners completed all of six levels of study of the OHS Spinning Certificate Program at the Haliburton School of Arts in Haliburton, Ontario. With sufficient interest, year one of the 6-year-program will be offered again beginning in August of 2014. Each module of the program consists of 9 days of in-class study, followed by 150 to 200 hours of homework. Registration opens on March 1, 2014.

Please watch www.hsta.ca for more information or contact msecone@gmail.com and I can forward some more detailed information that I received from the college.

Denise Furakawa

Announcements

Library: December 2013

Please remember if you can't make it to the meeting (this is the season of unexpected precipitation!) contact the librarians by email or phone to let us know you would like to renew your library materials. If a meeting has to be cancelled then we will renew all the books do that month. On the meeting Monday the library opens at 5pm until 7:15pm please bring in your books, magazines and DVD's promptly so we can enjoy the meeting too. We are aiming to have the library open on the Social night (the Monday following the meeting) as well but starting at 7:00pm.

If you forget your library material and forgot to ask to have it renewed, then you get to donate to the new book fund!! The fine is \$1.50 per item per month.

Please check your personal libraries for missing guild books; we still have quite a few that are MIA. If you bump into past guild members please ask them if they have seen any lost books too! I will be publishing a list of all the missing titles after next meeting, so as you do your Christmas redecorating you will know which ones to look for.

We were recently gifted with a lovely selection of basketry books from John Toft. They are project based and will be an excellent addition to the library.

I also found a book on types of fleece and one on embellishment to inspire you to use your woven fabric and make something phenomenal! We have also purchased the book by Inge Dam who did the amazing presentation on tablet-woven inclusions in her garments. Please come in early and make the new books feel welcome. Come early and select your Xmas reading!

Jan

WANTED: HATS, GLOVES, SCARVES & SOCKS FOR THE HOMELESS

They need to be **warm** and preferably new, but they don't have to match. Please bring your surplus hats, gloves, scarves and socks to the December 2nd meeting. We will get them to the homeless through the "Out-of-the-Cold" program supported by four local churches.

Bus trip to Salon des Metiers d'arts craft show

Wabi Sabi is going to Salon des metiers d'arts, Place Bonaventure, Montreal on December 9th. Come and join us on this wonderful bus trip. All the details are on the website.

<http://wabi-sabi.ca/uncategorized/1735/>

Welcome to New Members!

Mara Christie
Andrea Dixon
Cindy Pepper
Terry Nelson
Jane Chandler
Sharon Rideough
Carl Stewart
Dyane Leclerc
Debbie Cadelli
Clarissa Langdon
Leslie Tepper
Debbie (Raven) Graham

Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you! Thank you! to Lise Horth-Susin, Mandy Heggteit, Mary Morrison, Kathleen Schwass, Elizabeth Williams, and Heather and Elizabeth Watt for your hard work organizing and selling baked goods at the Heartwood House Fund-raiser on November 22. We raised \$445.00 for the Heartwood House Building Fund. A special thanks also to Roger Williams who sold drink and treats tickets all evening! Ann Sunahara

Ann Sunahara

Heartwood House Renovations

Moe Moloughney, the Executive Director of Heartwood House, advises that the renovations to Phase 2 of 404 McArthur Ave (and our second storeroom) should be completed by December 20th.

Buying a building and raising over \$1 million to renovate it within one year of the purchase has been an enormous task. The OVWSG owes Moe and the Heartwood House Board of Directors, a huge thank you for working day and night for the past year to prepare our new home for us and the 17 other member charities.

You can support Heartwood House when you make your United Way donation. Just enter the full name: Heartwood House: Au coeur de la vie and their Charitable Registration Number: 879671618RR0001 in the designated area under "Other Options" on the United Way Donation Form.

Membership Numbers

This subject was revisited at the recent Operational meeting. It was decided to cancel the 'membership number' idea for now.

Did you know???

The Guild has major yarn manufacturer's catalogues available for members to see yarn samples and choose colours before buying them. The samples are located in the studio.

Exhibition and Sale

The many people who need to be thanked for this very successful event are too many to name! Thanks to all. However, the joint efforts of Jean Sharp and Nancy Ingram on advertising really need to be mentioned. Several vendors mentioned that it was the best year they've ever had. We had a perfect combination of weather (cold enough to remind people that Christmas was coming), yet not bright and sunny. To top it off we had at least 14 new members join as a direct result of attending.

Next year we will be looking for a few new vendors and I encourage you to talk with your friends and consider the possibility of renting a booth with 2 or 3 members sharing the cost. As a guild we put on an excellent display and it would appear that there is an upsurge of interest in these arts.

I will be sending out an email invitation to all members to attend a meeting for the Ex and Sale early in the New Year. If you are new to the guild, please feel welcome to join us.

Way to go all!

Anne Middleton

We have Wi-Fi and computers but need volunteers!

The OVWSG now has Wi-Fi in the studio! Members with tablets and smart phones will be able to search the Internet and to send and receive emails from their devices while in the studio. The sign-in password is on the transmitter. Please use it wisely. (Eg. Do NOT download movies or anything that will blow up our usage fees.)

We also have computers and weaving software -- both Pro-weave and Fibreworks. These programs are for the use of our members. However, we need the computers properly set up (configured?) for the Internet and for email in the new office area. Could someone who knows the technical side of computers, please volunteer to set up our computers correctly?

We also need to get our files in shape. Mandy Heggteit, drawing on experience from her past life, has volunteered to design a filing system but needs help getting the existing files organized. We will also need volunteers trained in the file system to file new material once a month.

If interested, please contact the Studio Manager, Ann Sunahara, at studio@ovwsg.com.

Did you know??

The Guild has wheels, spindles, looms, fiber prep tools and loom accessories available for rent for at low cost to members. Contact the rental coordinators for details. Try before you buy!

Did you know that your Membership includes:

- 10 monthly meetings featuring fibre-related programs and social events
- Use of the Guild Studio and Library at 404 McArthur Avenue
- The right to use equipment in the Studio or to rent equipment to use at home
- 9 newsletters per year
- Discounts on courses and workshops
- Networking meetings with other weavers, spinners, basket-makers, felters and textile artists
- Participation in the co-op booth at the Annual Exhibition and Sale held on the first weekend in November in the Glebe Community Centre (Lyon at Third Avenue)

Alpaca Ontario Show 2014

7th Annual Fibre Arts Competition April 11, 2014

Now is the time to take your alpaca fibre and/or yarn and fashion it into something exquisite to enter in our competition in any (or all!!) of the following categories:

hand knitting, machine knitting, crochet, weaving, felting and hand spinning.

Ribbons will be awarded to third place in each category (with monetary prizes).

This show is encouraging the use of alpaca and as such, blends must contain a minimum of 50% Alpaca fibre. All classes are open to naturally colored or dyed yarn/ fibre

Hint: Contact your local alpaca breeder to get some of this yummy fibre and yarn.

All members' contact info is on the website.

Details covering rules, entry forms and Description Cards will be available on the Alpaca Ontario website www.alpacaontario.ca under the Fibre tab.

Submission deadline - entries must be received by March 14, 2014.

Please mail your entries to:

Sharon Trent
232 Eighth Road East
Stoney Creek, Ontario
L8J 3M2

I am also looking for hand spinners to spin for our Spin off. All this is for the show in April 2014.

Tips from Members

From Laurie H-C

1. Store your fibre in Ziploc Vegetable storage bags. There are very tiny holes in the bag, which allow a bit of air into the bag but not big enough for any bugs get in.
2. What to do with that clamp-on desk lamp (V shaped arms with springs) that you can no longer use because the plastic clamp eventually breaks? Lee Valley Tools has a stainless steel bushing specifically to fit this style of desk lamp. I rescued several of these lamps by drilling a hole in a piece of wood for the bushing, then fastening it to the wall beside my work area. Later I decided to make several holes in the piece of wood, so I can select the perfect position for the lamp. I made several stations around my studio to accept the bushing, so I can move the lamp around as needed. See them at:
<http://www.leevalley.com/en/wood/page.aspx?p=70534&cat=1,41636,41637,70534>
3. Rusty Tools: Use a wad of Aluminum foil dipped in a bit of Varsol. I used to use WD40 and sandpaper but it would take a small layer of the metal off, so not very good for the tool. The Aluminum foil has some sort of a chemical reaction with the rust and leaves the metal clean and smooth to the touch. I did not believe this tip until I tried it. It worked fantastically. I keep Aluminum foil in my studio now. I'm going to tackle a loom reed next!

From Elizabeth Watt:

Joining Plastic Belts - Advice from the Model Engineer

When polyurethane belts are joined part of the material de-polymerizes because of the heat. If the joint is left in a relaxed state for 24 hours the depolymerized material will re-polymerize and a strong joint result.

Fibre Arts Afflictions

OLAD: Obsessive Loom Acquisition Disorder- what weavers develop when they find a good deal on a loom, then another one, and another one, and suddenly realize they're going to need a bigger house.

SABLE: Stash Accumulated Beyond Life Expectancy – when your stash of yarn or fibre is so big that you're never going to get through all of it.

Do you suffer from OLAD or SABLE? Maybe it's time to de-stash. Consider placing an ad in the February newsletter's Marketplace section, or post an ad in the OVWSG Ravelry group or on our Facebook page.

Marketplace

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.

For Non-Members: \$15.00 for the first 25 letters. \$0.28 for each additional word. \$2.00 per image

CONTACT: Natalie Shumovsky nsh65@hotmail.com

I am once again purging my studio and have several books that I have grown out of for sale. I will bring them to the December meeting. If you want a list, please email me at sbrowsky@sympatico.ca. Shirley Browsky

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS FOR FIBRE ENTHUSIASTS \$32 or Less



Top left to bottom right

Drop Spindle Plying Jig – holds 2 loaded drop spindles so you can then ply yarn off them. \$20

Bobbin/Thread Holder – holds shuttle bobbins and thread spools of all sizes. \$32

Spinning wheel hooks – for pulling yarn through wheel orifice to start. 2 hook lengths, various exotic woods. \$15

Pattern/Memo holder –mahogany, 10 carat gold plate. \$20

Mini magnet pen – rare earth magnet top, sticks to loom harness, or your frig, various woods. \$20

Nostepinne (portable Scandinavian Ball winder) - walnut .\$20

Equipment Brush – use to de-fuzz reeds, bobbins, wheel orifice etc, food grade bristles, maple. \$20

Ring Keeper – holds your ring(s) when working with fibre that catches or, washing dishes etc. \$6

Wood Buttons – Round – Walnut or Red Oak. \$3 each

Toggle Buttons - natural, cherry stain, walnut stain or maple stain. \$2 each

Down Bookmark – Siberian Husky, St. Bernard or Bison down. \$9.50



Left to Right

Magnifier necklace – 2X magnification lens on a 10 carat gold plate necklace. \$25

Darning needle holder necklace – top screws off, inside is lined with a brass tube, could also hold pills, toothpicks etc. Includes 3 needles. \$25

Seam ripper necklace – rare earth magnet allows it to be detached from necklace, razor sharp medical steel cutting edge stores inside when not in use, 24 carat gold plate twisted rope necklace or chrome twisted rope necklace. Gold shown in closed position, chrome shown in open/disconnected position. \$30

Knotty Spindle Necklaces – design loosely based on a drop spindle, 10 carat gold plate. Figured pine, cherry, mahogany or walnut, in various sizes, 3 different necklace lengths to choose from. \$30 (or \$40 with a Kumihimo braid)

Compact mirror – opens up to reveal 2 mirrors, one regular and one magnifying, stunning spalted canarywood top insert, 10 carat gold plate, used to see the underside of your weaving or toss it in your purse for everyday use \$25

Laurie Harkin-Chiasson – lauriehc@magma.ca 613 448-3853

NOTE – I can bring items to the Dec. 2 meeting for pickup or, make other arrangements.
NO HST

Persian Hamadan Rug for sale. 8' x 10' wool with cotton weft. Beautiful and lush in excellent condition. It is around 30 years old. I have no place for it. \$425.00.

Jean Sharp
613-761-1945



December meeting Announcement

December Meeting Custom: Please read and heed

Refreshments at the December meeting are potluck. If you are inspired to bring some goodies to the meeting, please do. Give Marilyn Mulligan -- who makes the refreshments for our meetings -- the gift of a break from all her work.

Last month's meeting highlights in pictures

Ex and Sale Prize Winners:
First Prize:



Third Prize:



Inge Dam and Fashion Show:





Show and Tell



OVWSG Members Meeting - Minutes

November 4th, 2013

Welcome to all members by Mandy Heggveit, Past President, who chaired meeting. An announcement was made that Aurora Richard, our President, has resigned today, due to poor health. Kelly MacGregor will be our acting President until the new term elections. However, we will need a new Vice President to replace her. 12 new members and 1 visitor were welcomed to our guild.

Business Report:

- There has been a complaint that the Business portion of the meetings have been too long. With a city grant of \$40,000, we are obliged to follow certain guidelines, and one is to inform the membership of on-going business. However, the executive will endeavour to keep them short. The newsletter is also another venue to keep informed.
- The Ex and Sale this year was attended by more people than we have had for several years. It was a great success. A lot of credit can go to great advertising and a Saturday morning interview with two guild members, Ann Sunahara and Sayward Johnson, on "*In Town and Out*" with Giacomo Panico. Some new memberships were due to the show.
- Third Prize raffle gift was presented, in person, to the winner, Canadian Consul-General in Chandigarh, North India, Scott Slessor.
- Ann McElroy is putting together a guild order to the "*World of Wool*" in Yorkshire, England. Each person must order at least 1 pound each and there is a minimum of 22 pounds total order to make the \$75 shipping worthwhile. A sign-up list was circulated for interested people and Ann will email the catalogue and wholesale prices to you. (shepherdessann@gmail.com) There is fleece, plant fibres and spun yarn available.
- Good Companions, a Seniors' Centre near Albert and Bronson, needs help to set up a loom to start a weaving program. They also would like assistance to help teach spinning on a drop spindle to their members. Please contact Marilyn Mulligan if interested.

Corporation Report (Ann Sunahara)

We are the biggest, most active guild in Ontario. The Act, which formed our guild is outdated and we couldn't run as a non-profit with it very well, so we applied to incorporate. The Chair chairs the Board meetings and the Annual General meeting.

- The President chairs the monthly Members meetings and the Executive meetings. Incorporation is important to give us 1) the legal capacity to make a legal contract for the studio; 2) limits to the executive powers, with members able to call a meeting and turf the executive out, if needed; 3) better justification for \$15,600 / year from the city (40% of the budget); & 4) help to apply for charitable status, so people like donators of looms, equipment, etc., can get tax receipts.
- The purposes were rewritten and criteria was picked for our association. It was sent electronically to the membership last week and will be attached to the November newsletter on the last page. The Act tightens up our financial side.
- There are financial controls and we must be highly accountable for the money we administer. There was a compilation audit done by Marc Lord and the Financial books are open to members. The Minutes of the meetings are also open to members.
- We are a 100% volunteer organization, with almost 2,500 hours / year of volunteer work done.
- Most of the Acts guidelines have been put into Bylaws so one doesn't have to read all the Act.
- One difference from other organizations is that we have a prohibition against borrowing money. This guild does not spend money that it doesn't have.
- The Studio Manager and Education Co-ordinator have been added to the executive committee. It was asked, "*Does anyone regret the resolution that the Studio manager and Ed. Co-ordinator be on the Board?*" All members in attendance accepted that they be part of the Board.

Guest Speaker Presentation

Inge Dam was introduced, as a weaver for 31 years. As a weaver extraordinaire, she completed the in-depth OHS Master Weaver Study in 1992, looking at "Iron Age Danish Textiles." She has contributed to Handwoven, Complex Weavers Journal and has a new book, "*Tablet Woven Accents for Designer Fabrics: Contemporary Uses for Ancient Techniques*". Inge proceeded to explain tablet weaving with one set-up between two c-clamps on a table. The warp goes through holes in the tablets (cards) and one can change the shed by rotating the cards $\frac{1}{4}$ turn.

Inge warps a loom on one beam and uses a tablet woven warp on another beam, weighted down by bottles of water. These two types of weaving are incorporated into one fabric. She uses five different techniques in her garments, all of which have been made over the last 20 years.

Inge then had various members of the guild model her jackets and shawls that she had brought with her. She opened our eyes to the type of weaver that most of us can only admire and aspire to be like. Woven jackets with embroidered tiny mirrors on them, handmade beaded buttons, patchworks of various woven samples, warp-painted shawls with thin tablet-woven bands running down them, often with tiny figures on them; needle-lace edgings, rich blended colours, supplementary warps with beads to hold floating warps down (put between the beater and heddles and brought forward as they were needed), double weave, flounce collars, kumihimo button loops, etc. – countless hours of work for each garment. There were easily over 40 breath-taking garments that we were privileged to view.

Networking Meeting: (Bernadette Quade)

- Next Monday, November 11, there will be a group meeting at the studio foyer at 7:30 of all fibre artists in the guild.

Other Business:

- At the Ex and Sale, there was a Tapestry Loom, Chakra and Scottish Haldane Loom donated to the guild. The Scottish loom has hand-painted thistles on it.

Workshops: (Elizabeth Watt)

- Elizabeth displayed her 12-month binder, complete with the full schedule for the year and details on the courses and instructors.
- The On-Demand courses will go again this year, if 4 people interested in one course contact Elizabeth.

Past President (Mandy Heggveit)

- Please do not forget about the “Out of the Cold”, requesting clean or new scarves, hats, socks, mitts, for the homeless.
- Heartwood House represents 17 small charities and the Director, Moe, has dedicated a lot of time in order to make the move to the new building seamless. At the December meeting, she will be presented with a handwoven gift from our Guild, as our thanks to her.
- There will also be a “*Rosepath Auction*” next month, where everyone is invited to bring in fibres, equipment, books, household items, etc., that they feel will be a good fundraiser and we will have a draw of purchased tickets. You can put as many tickets as you wish in a container for each item. (50 tickets for \$2.00)

- The Guild had an email from a Kanata woman who has a ½ finished woven tapestry on a frame loom that her mother did not finish before she died. She would like to contract a weaver to complete it for her. She has 6 completed and this is the 7th.
- Also Heartwood House has a large fundraiser on Friday, Nov. 22 here at McArthur. CBC Amanda Putz will host and there will be a Bake sale, organized by Ann S. Please try to support this, as it is going towards the mortgage for the building.

Show and Tell:

Jan Scott	A new camera, for a great visual experience.
Patti Hennesey	A long brown wool warp chain, looking for a good home.
Samantha Van Noy	A Spin dryer, that spins fibres, like raw wool and even sweaters. 1 minute/4 skeins of worsted weight. (\$75 from Laundry Unlimited)
Bernadette Quade	Rognvaldson Wheel
Merilyn Mulligan	Yarn spun on Great Wheel at the Ex & Sale
Terry Nelson	New Spinning Wheel and Blue-Faced Leicester yarn spun on it.
Carolyn Duke	Weaving Puzzle on Paper
Pascale Archambault	Weaving Sampler form Beg. Weavers Class
Christine Turnbull	Purple woven Shrug