



Ottawa Valley Weavers' & Spinners' Guild

September 2008 Newsletter

President's Message

Shirley Browsky

I hope that you have all had a wonderfully productive summer and plans are coming together for your Challenge entry. It is amazing how the creative juices flow during the summer – maybe we all suffer from brain freeze in the winter or is it the plethora of colours and shapes around us?

Most of you will have heard about the sudden passing of Jack Lane, our engineer and overshot weaver extraordinaire. I have known Jack since 1977 and have been in awe of his innovative techniques – remembering the loom controlled leno he developed and the weaving of reversible hems for his outstanding coverlets. He was always ready to help his Guild and was at almost every event we had in some capacity. We will miss his charm, smile, sparkling wit, his show and tells, and he will be very sadly missed. We are blessed to have had Jack in our guild and anyone who has one of his coverlets should consider themselves in possession of a treasure.

Those of you who were at the June meeting saw Jack's Linus blankets woven for the Linus charity. I was moved by this project after Jack's death and now have 4 Linus blankets on my loom. I would like to challenge those members who are not participating in the 60th Anniversary challenge to think about weaving acrylic or cotton Linus blankets in Jack's memory. Linus blankets are 'security' blankets given to seriously ill children. The idea is to provide a hug and something soft for children to cuddle. The blankets are given 'for keeps' to children in various local care facilities and the children take them home when they leave. Maybe a loom in the studio could be dedicated to this project?

You can help by making a blanket (approx. 40" x 60") from cotton or acrylic yarns. This is a great way to help the community and feel good about using up handmade (knitted, crochet, quilted, sewn, etc.) and machine washable. All blankets will be labeled as follows: ***Made With Tender Loving Care for Project Linus***



Jack Featherston Lane 1927 - 2008

For more information on Project Linus, please visit the Canadian Project Linus web site at <http://plcanada.cjb.net> or contact me at sbrowsky@sympatico.ca

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Next Meeting September 8th

The next OVWSG meeting is Monday, September 8th, 2008 at 7:30pm at the Gallery in Heartwood House at 153 Chapel Street, Ottawa.

Program: Equipment Demonstrations

This month's program is a great opportunity to see what kind of equipment your Guild has. Table looms, both 8-shaft and 4-shaft, and a tapestry loom will be on display for weaving demonstrations. Show off your weaving prowess or learn a new technique or skill. Gordon Moat will demonstrate how a picker works. Your guild offers great equipment to purchase (see the ad in the Marketplace) or rent (see the equipment list in your Membership supplement to this Newsletter).

De-stash Table

But that's not all! The September meeting will feature a new monthly opportunity to Guild members with the launch of our De-stash Table. If you have any products, equipment or supplies that you would like to sell (or give away) bring them to the meeting to see if they can find a new home. You must clearly price and identify each item with your name so that any interested parties can approach you about purchasing. So, if you have a barn full of fleece, an old loom, handcrafted spindles or simply too much handspun yarn, bring it to the September meeting and perhaps make a buck or two. Please note that the Resource Centre is not responsible for your goods and all purchased and unwanted items must be taken away by the end of the meeting.

Fibre Tip:

Combing or flicking can be done when the fibre is still damp from washing. When fibre is damp, it swells and straightens, making it easier to comb. Combing or flicking when the fibre is a bit wet also prevents problems with static. If your fibre is dry, use a spray bottle filled with water and a few drops of mineral oil to dampen the fibre.

Teach Yourself Visually Handspinning (p. 43), by Judith MacKenzie McCuin; Wiley Publishing 2007.

General Announcements

City of Ottawa Grant

We received the \$10,500 grant cheque from the city of Ottawa! This money goes towards operating expenses such as rent and insurance. Thank Laurie Haskin-Chiasson for all your hard work in applying for this much needed grant!

FiberHearts: Guild Outreach Award Winner!

Handwoven magazine sponsored a contest to award cash and equipment awards to weaving guilds that demonstrate outstanding programs that create new weavers and help sustain the craft. Francesca Overend, our own enterprising weaving guild member, entered OVWSG in this contest and we won! *Handwoven* awarded our guild a \$500 US prize and a copy of *Mastering Weave Structures* by Sharon Alderman to add to our Library. As well, our weaving program will be featured in *Handwoven* magazine and on their website. To apply for this award, Francesca Overend had to complete a worksheet and write a two-page essay. This was quite a process so we thank Francesca profusely and all others who helped her put together our entry. Also, a special thank you to Ann Sunahara who made sure *Handwoven* had the pictures for our entry. Our Executive Committee is looking into purchasing a portable Voyager loom with the award money to use in demonstrations and classes. Below is the description of our winning Guild's feature as it appears on their web site www.handwovenmagazine.com:

Ottawa Valley Weavers and Spinners Guild Handwoven's Large Guild \$500 Award

Formed in Canada in 1949, this guild of nearly ninety members supports and creates new weavers by hosting a mentoring program matching novice and experienced weavers and hosting Fun Days. Anyone can drop in and ask for help with their current project or just show off what they have been doing. In order to ensure a future generation of weavers, the guild sponsors elementary school weaving courses including Flock to Frock and Weaving by the Numbers. The guild will use their grant money to support their numerous yearly demonstrations that are their primary method of attracting new members.

Congratulations! We are all proud of our accomplishment!

Resource Centre - Weaving Studio

Mary Morrison

"Wednesday Weavers"

The "Wednesday Weavers" will be in the Studio on Wed. afternoons, 12 - 3 pm, alternate weeks, Sept 17, Oct.1, and Thursdays 10 am - 2 pm, Sept.11, 23. Come see us if you have weaving problems. We can help: Mary Morrison and Sue Quinn.

Weaving Studio Renovations on Hold

The renovation of our weaving studio in Heartwell House has hit a road block. There is currently no one available to perform the work required to bring our current weaving studio to a more workable solution. Your Executive Committee is addressing the issue and all future developments will be detailed in this Newsletter.

Heartwood House News

Mary Morrison

Parking at Heartwood House will be limited during the high holiday season for Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot, however, parking passes will be available for on-street parking. The parking lot will be closed on the following days:

Rosh Hashanah

Monday, September 29 - from 4:00 p.m. onward

Tuesday, September 30 - all day

Wednesday, October 1 - all day

Yom Kippur

Wednesday, October 8 - from 4:00 p.m. onward

Thursday, October 9 - all day

Sukkot

Monday, October 13 - from 4:00 p.m. onward

Tuesday, October 14 - all day

Wednesday, October 15 - from 4:00 p.m. onward

Simchat Torah

Tuesday, October 21 - from 4:00 p.m. onward

Wednesday, October 22 - from 4:00 p.m. onward

Cotton is the most widely used of any fibre. It is stronger than rayon or wool and weaker than silk or linen.
The Natural Knitter, Barbara Albright; Potter Craft 2007

Demonstrations Summer 2008

Cindy O'Gorman

Thank you so much to all those who took time to represent the Guild at various venues throughout the summer and upcoming fall. I'd like to thank Jan Scott, Elizabeth Watt, Marilyn Mulligan, Christine Turnbull, Ann McElroy, Francesca Overend, Anne Middleton, Cindy O'Gorman, Gordon Moat, Pat Trudel, Dyanne Beauvalet, Francine Deguire, Ann Sunahara, Judith Rygiel, John Toth and Judy Kavanagh so far. These members attended Goulbourn Museum in Stittsville, Dickinson Days in Manotick, Sheep to Sock event and Pioneer Days at the Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum, Sheep to Sock display on stage at the Super Ex, Billings Estate Museum and Riverfest at Pinhey's Point. Coming up in September, we will likely have demonstrations at the Carp Fair and possibly a few other events. If anyone is interested, please contact me, Cindy O'Gorman (OVWSG Demonstrations Coordinator) at 613-832-9316 or cgo244@yahoo.ca.

Exhibition & Sale

Nancy Ingram

As we move into the fall, preparations for the Exhibition and Sale are gaining momentum.

- Roberta Murrant's team is submitting information to the various media: TV, radio, newspapers and community calendars, the Citizen's Arts Calendar etc.
- Melanie Overduin has designed an excellent business card size ad which will be used in local newspapers along with a press release and photos. I am busy contacting the newspapers, preparing the list for Melanie and keeping an eye on the advertising budget.
- I have written to all booth participants asking you to re-read the Job Jar notice sent to you in the spring. It is time to undertake the assigned work to promote the event. Everyone should mail out invitations to clients and place bookmarks in libraries, community centres, shops etc. It is very

Did You Know

important to promote yourself as you will see the rewards in increased sales. If you have an article published about yourself & your work remember to include information about the Exhibition and Sale.

- Cindy Jackson has installed Ex & Sale material on the Guild website. Make use of the material and make reference to it in your own website. Use the pdf bookmarks to e-mail to your friends and clients along with Janet Whittam's invitation. Download the biographies edited by Ann Sunahara posted on the website and make them available on Studio Tours etc. There are three press releases written by Janet Whittam, Heather Sherratt and Denise Atkinson, available to use in your promotional material.
- If you require more bookmarks they are available at the Resource Centre or contact Ann Sunahara and she will mail them out to you. Remember you can always pick them up at the September meeting – which would be preferred.
- It is my hope that not only will vendors promote this important event but also all members in the Guild. As I have said many times in the past, it is an opportunity to highlight the activities of the Guild and our craft.
- No one has signed up for the Co-Op booth. Melanie Overduin has offered to help man the booth. This booth has been created to encourage members who produce only a few items to participate in the sale. We will obtain a retail tax permit for the coop booth for the event if needed. The Guild takes 10% of the total sales as a booth fee. I am hoping that a number of members will participate. It is a way to "dip your toe in the water" and to get to know other vendors.
- This year we have arranged for free parking for clients and guild members at Corpus Christi School. Anne Jackson is attempting to arrange for students to coordinate the parking. However, we will also need volunteers from the Guild to help out. If you have some time to spare, please volunteer. gNext year we celebrate the Guild's 60th anniversary & it would be nice to continue the tradition of the Exhibition and Sale. We need someone to step forward to chair the event as I am retiring. I will speak at the September meeting about what is involved in organizing the

event and I sincerely hope that the tradition will continue under a new chairperson.

Over the summer, the Executive Committee got together and decided to give a \$25 honorarium to members who take up the call to represent the Guild doing demonstrations and promoting the Guild. This new policy takes effect May 1st, 2008 and doesn't include venues where members are allowed to sell their items.

Other Upcoming Events

Basketry Class by Janet Whittman to be held Sat. the 13th of Sept. Cost to Guild Members is 50.00. Emphasis is on using native materials and learning how to construct several shapes of baskets using the Rib Basket technique. More info on my website www.handweaving.ca There will be another class Sat. Oct. 4

Fall Colours Studio Tour: Our own village of Westport will once again be holding the Fall Colours Studio Tour Thanksgiving weekend October 11, 12 and 13 from 10 - 5. My home and studio will be one of the spots on the tour and we have 6 artists at our location - 5 returning artists and a new artist Debbie Gilmer who is an amazing potter. If you would like a brochure or more info please email me, Loretta Bluher-Moore at lbmc@videotron.ca or check the website at http://artatwork.ca/westport_studiotours/index.html.

The Ottawa Valley Button Club presents the Canadian Button Convention at the Sheraton Ottawa Hotel, 150 Albert Street, Ottawa, ON. A two-day convention for people with an interest in antique and collectible sewing buttons; will include a show and sale room, seminars, a live and silent auction of antiques and collectible buttons, and sewing related items. A display on the history of buttons will be presented. The convention dates are, Saturday, September 13, 10 am-5 pm and Sunday, September 14, 9 am-4 pm. To see a complete schedule for the full two-days of the convention visit our web site at: www.ottawavalleybuttonclub.ca.

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www.ottawavalleybuttonclub.ca.

Kaleidoscope of Colour Lecture with Kaffe Fassett: The Kaffe Fassett "Kaleidoscope of Colour" lecture is designed to inspire and motivate. The power point presentation highlights works from his latest projects - these will include his patchwork quilt designs, needlepoint, mosaic, painting and his knitting designs. A tremendous amount of Fassett's inspiration comes from the past and his lecture is designed not so much to instruct, but to empower and inspire the audience to create their "mind's eye". Audiences leave invigorated - entranced by Fassett's use of (and sense of) color. They are ready to try it themselves, and are encouraged to do so. The slide show lasts approximately 45 minutes followed by a question-and-answer session and a book signing. Limited to 200 people

Contact: Gisele Goulet, Wool N' Things: 613-841-8689

Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2008

Where: In the theatre at 255 Centrum Blvd in Orléans

Time: 7:00pm

Cost: \$25.00 (coffee/tea/water and sweet treats too!)

Workshops and Courses

The OVWSG offers courses and workshops in weaving, spinning, and dyeing, for very reasonable fees. Why not learn a new craft or improve your skill level? Below is the Fall 2008 / Winter 2009 calendar of courses available to members (and non-members).

Weaving

Beginning Weaving

Learn to create fabric starting with the basics of setting up and weaving on a loom. Learn to colour-blend yarns, a system of drafting and how to plan and execute a project. Table looms are available to rent – deposit required.

This course is taught in 4 parts which will be repeated in the Spring Session.

Cost : \$180 members/\$220 non-members.

Materials cost: \$10

Time: 10 am – 4 pm

Instructor: Mary Morrison

Part 1: Sunday October 26, 2008

Part 2: Sunday November 9, 2008

Part 3: Sunday November 23, 2008

Part 4: Sunday December 7, 2008

Beginning Weaving II

This course follows up on Beginning Weaving. Plan and weave a project of your choice on a floor loom. Experience the difference a floor loom makes to your weaving using one of the Guild's looms at our Resource Centre. See how the extra width and ease of treadling make weaving more pleasurable.

This course is taught in 3 parts which will be repeated in the Spring Session.

Cost : \$110 members/\$140 non-members.

Materials cost: TBD

Time: 11 am – 4pm

Instructor: Mary Morrison

Part 1: Sunday September 21, 2008

Part 2: Sunday October 5, 2008

Part 3: Sunday October 19, 2008

Inkle Weaving

The inkle loom is used to make bands up to 3" wide. It is the simplest of weaving looms having only two sheds. Limitations in the number of harnesses means that the weaver uses colour-placement, texture and embellishments to develop a variety of patterns. We will start with flat bands and graduate to weaving a tubular band! In this class you will use a variety of techniques to make a scissors-pocket necklace. It's functional and looks good too!

Level: Beginner

Date: Saturday January 10 2009

Time: 10:30 am - 4:30 pm

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

Materials Fee: \$3.00

Instructor: Jan Scott

Putting Your Best Side Forward – Profile Drafting

Learn short cuts to creating original patterns. Students will learn an easy method of designing and adapting block weaves to create original textiles. They will learn to recognize the structures of five different four-shaft block weaves, then create and weave an original design.

Requirements: an introductory weaving course, a pre-warped, four-shaft loom, graph paper and enthusiasm

Level: Intermediate

Date: Saturday October 18, 2008

Time: 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

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

Materials Fee: TBA

Instructor: Judith Rygiel

Dyeing

Complex Rainbows

Paint wool warps to achieve highly complex and pleasing colour arrangements. Limit of 5 students.

Level: Beginner

Date: Sunday February 22, 2009

Time: 9:30 pm - 3:30 pm

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

Materials Fee: TBA

Instructor: Judith Rygiel

Basketry

Pine Needle Basket

Make a small pine needle basket. Several delicate decorative features will be taught as well as traditional stitches. This is a sewn "coil" style of basket. Some work will be done at home between classes.

This course is taught in 2 parts.

Level: Beginner

Time: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Cost: \$80 members, \$90 non-members

Instructor: Laurie Harkin-Chiasson

Materials: \$20

Part 1: Sunday November 16, 2008

Part 2: Sunday November 30, 2008

Basket Handles – Embellishment Techniques

Embellish a plain wood, hoop or reed handle to make it stand out. Make several samplers to use as reference. 6-strand 3-D braid on a wrap, wrap variations in single, double and steps, etc. We will use reed and cane but these techniques can be used in other applications.

Level: Beginner

Date: Sunday March 1 2009

Time: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

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

Instructor: Laurie Harkin-Chiasson

Materials: \$10-15

Japanese Braiding - Introduction to Kumihimo

Starting with a 16-strand spiral braid you will progress to a square braid and to more decorative types of braiding. The course exposes you to traditional methods and equipment, a brief history as well as modern methods. Japanese braiding is an excellent technique for embellishing other fibre works.

Level: Beginner

Date: Sunday February 8 2009

Time: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

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

Materials Fee: \$10

Instructor: Laurie Harkin-Chiasson

Spinning

Introduction to Spinning

Beginners will learn to spin and ply wool fibre on a hand-spindle. Materials include fibre, spindle and instruction booklet.

This course is offered twice:

Saturday November, 22 2008

Saturday February, 28 2009

Level: Beginner

Time: 10:30 am - 3:30 pm

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

Materials Fee: \$12

Instructor: Elizabeth Watt

Wheel Spinning

Move from the spindle to the wheel. Must be able to spin and ply on a spindle. Wheels provided or you can bring your own.

Level: Intermediate

Date: Saturday January 17, 2009

Time: 10:30 am to 3:30 pm

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

Materials Fee: \$10

Instructor: Elizabeth Watt

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. Learn drafting techniques to control a variety of fibres.

Level: Intermediate

Date: Saturday Feb. 14, 2009

Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

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

Materials Fee: \$10
Instructor: Elizabeth Watt

Please make cheques payable to "OVWSG"
Mail to: Elizabeth Watt, Registrar.,
c/o: 1118 West Ave, Manotick, ON K4M 1G6

Contact : 613-692-6115, elizabeth@wattfamily.ca

Please make a separate cheque for each course, Date the cheque for one (1) week before the course.
Materials Fees are payable to the instructor. Please do **not** include them in your cheque for the course.

June Guild Meeting Minutes

Merilyn Mulligan

Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild Monthly Guild Meeting, Monday June 2, 2008

Gallery, Heartwood House

(Written & Recorded by Merilyn Mulligan)

Meeting called to order at 7.30 P.M by Shirley Browsey
Shirley asked if any new members could introduce themselves

Shirley announced the meetings now would consist of 15 minutes allowed for business, then we would have show and Tell, and then the Program.

Business

-A new suggestion for September, the destash table, was discussed,

-We still need a Chairman for the Ex and Sale for 2009

-The Magazine "Hand Woven" presented a prestigious \$500.00 cash award to OVWS Guild award winner, Francesca Overend . She decided to purchase a 15-shaft table loom, which comes in its own suitcase.

-Jack announced that he wanted to meet with the group, who wanted to work on the 100" loom, during the break.

Demonstrations

Cindy O'Gorman advised we have been asked to participate in the sheep to sock demonstration at the Osgoode Township Museum on Thursday August 21, 2008, They will provide the sock-knitting machine and provide a person to work it.

-Billings Estate will be doing a program using sustainable fibre

-North Gower Farmers Market will be having their Heritage day on Labour day 31 August, and they need a weaver.

Programs

Elizabeth Watt advised that she needs the instructors to give particulars and dates before she can prepare the new schedule.

Exhibition and Sale

Nancy Ingram announced that the advertisements the "book marks" have been printed and have allotted 100 each to the vendors and advised them they are to target only their interested clientele.

-Press Release advertisements will be on our Web site and will be updated if giving another press release, please contact Ann Sunahara or Nancy Ingram, they will be able to provide pictures. Also advise Roberta so that she will know.

-Parking - Sue Quinn has arranged for parking at Corpus Christi School next door to the community centre.

Friday after 6.00 and Saturday and Sunday during the hours of the sale only.

-The Raffle has been agreed on. We will charge \$ 2.00 for each ticket or 3 for \$ 5.00. The winners will be awarded First Prize - Jack's Coverlet, Second Prize will be a basket of knitted things, and Third Prize will be one of Fatima's purses.

-We need a name for the co-op booth and if we have anything for display, these articles may be sold if we want.

-fresh or dried flowers could be brought in from our gardens to make the room more pleasant.

-Mary Bowrin announced St Distaff day in Almonte, the Richmond Guild and the Mississppi Guild will be hosting the event.

-if anyone wants to rent equipment over the summer please speak to Mary Morrison

The September meeting will be held on September 01, 2008 and an introduction to the new space will be held. Volunteers are needed to paint and decorate the room.

It was suggested we set up a loom and have a social.

Show and Tell

-Jack showed us some small blankets (linus blankets) which he had made from many bits of yarn left over from other projects (material is possibly all acrylic)

-Judith Rygiel showed us 30 yards of material she had woven for sashes. Some beautiful woven wool scarves.

-Prue Spry, Judith Rygiel, Mary Bowrin and Francine Deguire demonstrated their felt hats they had made the day before.

-John Toft advised of the art show " Art on Abby Hill" in Kanata to be held on Saturday, he showed us three baskets he had made.

Elizabeth Watt showed us the socks from the "sheep to sock" event at the Osgoode Museum, she had finished knitting the ribbing of the socks by hand.

The Clothing Designer Eves St. Laurent passed away recently and an Exhibit of his work can be seen in Montreal.

Beak 8:10

Resumed at 8:30

Program:

Ann McElroy and Jan Scot presented a video and description of Sheep and Wool.

We saw and heard a description of many different breeds of sheep; the difference in the types of wool and the fibre's produced by the different types of sheep. We heard an explanation of the characteristics of wool and saw some of the products produced from lanolin and also from the sheep and wool. They described some of the points for each buying and selling fleece, preparing the fibre and selecting a specific fleece for the end result. Some sheep breeds have been developed specifically for a specific wool characteristic or for meat.

Jan has a book in the library with samples of wool and samples of this spun into yarn and has asked if anyone has any strange samples they would like to donate to her book of samples.

They also brought in some samples of fleece, some in the grease, and some washed

Meeting adjourned at 9:45

Editor's Note

Melanie Overduin

This edition of OVWSG Newsletter is dedicated to Jack Lane; he will be greatly missed.

I would like to encourage all of you who do not weave (like me) to either knit or crochet squares to be pieced into blankets for Project Linus.

In an effort to promote this Guild a little more, I have changed the title page to focus on our name, Ottawa Valley Weavers and Spinners Guild. I have also started some new little information features that can provide tips or little know facts. If you have any helpful tidbits or interesting facts on weaving, spinning, dyeing, basketry, etc. let me know so I can publish them in this Newsletter. Its easy, just send me an email: melanie_overduin45@hotmail.com.

Marketplace

Looms for Sale from OVWSG

Floor Looms:

- 45" Leclerc counter-balance, in working order but needs some refurbishing: \$200 or best offer!

- 36" Leclerc jack-type: \$200

Table Looms:

- two Leclerc 15" "Dorothy" models: \$95 each

THESE LOOMS MAY BE VIEWED AT THE RESOURCE CENTRE at the September meeting, or by appointment.

Contact Mary Morrison:

mormmry@sympatico.ca or 613 830-9992

Wanted: Items for the OVWSG Exhibition & Sale Co-Op Booth

Make some money from the fibre art you create!

Contact Nancy Ingram for details:

(613) 272-3604

ingram@rideau.net

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

Rates for Non-members:

\$15.00 for first 25 words or less; + \$0.28 for each additional word

Business Card Size: \$18.00/issue or \$150.00/year

¼ page: \$30/issue. ½ page: \$32/issue.

Commercial: \$15.00 for 20 words, + \$0.45/additional words.

Full page: \$32/issue

Contact Melanie Overduin

melanie_overduin45@hotmail.com

OVWSG Calender of Events**September 2008**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Guild Meeting 7:30 pm	9	10	11 Wednesday Weavers 10am-2pm	12	13
14	15	16	17 Wednesday Weavers 10am-2pm	18	19	20
21 Beginning Weaving II Part 1	22	23	24	25 Wednesday Weavers 10am-2pm	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Wednesday Weavers 10am-2pm	2	3	4
5 Beginning Weaving II Part 2	6 Guild Meeting 7:30 pm	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Profile Drafting
19 Beginning Weaving II Part 3	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Beginning Weaving Part 1	27	28	29	30	31 Ex & Sale Guild Meeting	

A Brief Introduction to The Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild (Updated Aug, 2008)

Welcome!

All members extend a warm welcome to you! The Guild thrives on enthusiastic and sharing people and your participation will always be appreciated. If the Executive or any member can help you in any way, please let us know. **This is your Guild!**

History

A weaving and spinning group existed in Ottawa under the auspices of the Ottawa Civil Service Recreation Association from 1943 to 1946. Due to space limitations, in 1947 five weavers met privately to form an independent handweaving group, which eventually led to the formation of the Bytown Weavers' Guild. In 1949, weavers attending a conference sponsored by the Ottawa Recreation Commission and the Ontario Department of Education expressed an interest in forming a new guild. Consequently, on September 20, 1949, the Ottawa Valley Weavers' Guild was founded. Eventually, the Bytown Guild disbanded because its members were more involved with the Ottawa Valley Weavers' Guild. As a matter of interest, the then Governor General's wife, Lady Alexander, who was interested in weaving, was extended the first honorary membership in the Guild.

The first meetings were held at the old Ottawa Teachers' College off Elgin Street and eventually other sites in Ottawa. In 1978, the Guild started holding meetings in the gym of Devonshire Public School on Breezehill. In 1997, the Guild changed meeting sites once again to The Churchill Seniors Centre on Richmond Road. Unfortunately, due to space limitations at the Seniors Centre, the guild needed to move again in 2000, this time to the Fisher Park Community Centre. However, that location was a bit cramped for our needs. That, and other factors, forced us to look again and in 2003 we finally found a suitable home and are now happily settled into our present location at Heartwood House.

In 1986, the Guild's name was changed to the Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild to acknowledge the many spinners in the group. The purpose and objectives of the Guild have always been to promote interest in weaving and spinning and to encourage a high standard of craftsmanship and design.

1960 appears to be the first year the Guild held a public exhibition in the form of a spring tea and exhibit. This event lasted only a few years. Although the Guild members had displays and exhibitions at other functions, it was not until 1980 that the annual fall sale became a regular event.

Over the years, Guild members have been involved in several major projects requiring membership participation. In 1952, Guild members undertook the major task of weaving 300 towels which were used as favours at a Beta Sigma Phi Sorority convention. A sample of these finely woven towels is shown in the Guild's History Book which is in the Guild's Library. For the OHS 1976 conference, our members wove 400 belts using various weaving techniques, such as tablet, inkle, sprang, etc. In 1986, our membership wove 300 of the samples for the registrants' kits for the Handweavers Guild of America's international conference, Convergence, held in Toronto.

A permanent facility for the guild's equipment was finally realized with the grand opening of THE RESOURCE CENTRE in November 2003. A place for spinners and weavers to congregate as well as inviting members of the community to become involved with lessons and workshops.

A book outlining in detail the history of our Guild has been compiled and is in our Library. Although not available for general circulation, it is available during meetings.

Meetings and Programs

Meetings are held usually on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m., Heartwood House, 153 Chapel St., Ottawa in the Gallery (first floor). In case of a holiday, the meetings are then scheduled for the second Monday. No general meetings are held during July and August. In case of inclement winter weather, please listen to radio stations such as CFRA for meeting cancellation announcements. Each meeting consists of a business meeting, a social break and

a program. Programs pertaining to weaving, spinning and related fields, are both informative and interesting. The Program Convener is always looking for suggestions for topics and speakers. The purpose of the meetings is not only to educate and stimulate our members through the program, but to provide enjoyment and promote friendship amongst our members. To this end, a social break for refreshments occurs between the business and program parts of the meeting. During this break, members have the opportunity to circulate and talk with other members and to peruse our extensive library.

Show and Tell We encourage members to bring in recent weaving, spinning etc. projects, to share with the rest of the members. Both successes and problem articles are welcome, as we all learn from others Ooops's. Hints and tips are willingly shared. Show and Tell is often a highlight of the meeting. Often, members bring in excess yarn, equipment, books, etc. to swap or sell.

Resource Centre and how to access it

The Resource Centre opened Dec. 1, 2003. From this permanent location (in Heartwood House) the guild offers members of the community lessons, workshops and access to our equipment and library as well as studio space for textile artists.

Access during Heartwood House Hours: Members may access the Resource Centre Mon to Fri, during Heartwood House hours, by signing in at the front desk at Heartwood House and showing a valid OVWSG membership card. Heartwood House has a key to the Resource Centre door. **Heartwood House Hours** are Mon & Tues 8-7, Wed & Thurs 8-7:30, Fri 8-5

Outside of Heartwood House regular hours or on weekends: a set of keys may be obtained :

1. From members of the Executive (the list of current key holders is on the Executive Member list).
2. Several FLOATER KEYS are available for you to sign out on a monthly basis. See the Librarian at regular meetings to get a set of keys for the month. A deposit cheque is required (returned to you once keys are returned).

Doors, Camera and Telephone/Buzzer system

Front door is only to be used during Heartwood House regular hours.

Use the Left-hand Side door (facing Rideau St) evenings and weekends or regular hours. There is a camera on this door, so the Heartwood House front desk can see who is entering the building.

Regular Hours: Use the front door. Or, on the brick wall to the left of the side door there is an intercom system.

Punch in 1002 which rings through to the front desk. Identify yourself as an OVWSG member. They will buzz you in. Left-hand door only. Do not let anyone else into the building with you, unless they have identified themselves to the front desk as well. Then proceed to the front desk and sign in. If parked in the Visitor parking lot (defined below), sign into the visitor parking binder, at front desk. You will need to include your licence plate number. A parking fee of \$1 /half day or \$2 for full day is in effect to 5 pm, payable at the front desk when you sign in.

After hours: If you know someone (ie instructor) is already in the Resource Centre Buzz 1002 (our phone is shared with the Heartwood House front desk). Identify yourself and they will buzz you in. Left-hand door only.

Buzzing people in: The phone will ring. Identify the caller as an OVWSG member then buzz them in by holding down the "9" on the phone. If the person is looking for OC Transpo lost and found, Heartwood House or some other organization, tell them that they are "closed at this time". We must be diligent on security, so do not let anyone, other than our own members, into the building.

Parking: Saturday mornings and Jewish Holidays the synagogue has the exclusive use of the rear parking lot. Use street parking on Beausoleil (next street north of Resource Centre) as an alternative. There is a 3 hour parking limit on Ottawa streets (only on weekdays), so you may have to move your car if you are staying longer.

Heartwood Reg hours you may **NOT** park in the main paved parking lot. Use the **Visitor parking lot** (gravel lot by north fence, near dumpster, or along the north fence). Place a paper on your dash saying "Heartwood visitor - OVWSG". This indicates to the parking ticket patrol, that you are a legitimate visitor, otherwise a parking ticket and subsequent towing could result.

After 5 pm you may use the paved main parking lot. Place a paper on your dash (as above), again, to avoid a parking ticket.

Check with the guild, newsletter or web site for scheduling and lists of workshops etc. The guilds yahoo group is used for members to announce spontaneous get togethers or projects at the Resource Centre.

Members are encouraged to volunteer some time at the Resource Centre. Enthusiasm is all that is required.

Workshops and Other Between-Meeting Gatherings

There are numerous opportunities to attend workshops in weaving, spinning, dyeing and many other fibre interests, for very reasonable fees. Well-known instructors have provided us with invaluable knowledge and information over the years. The workshops have proven to be very popular and many of our own members have the expertise to conduct many of the workshops offered. The Workshop Convener attempts to hold workshops that will satisfy all levels of skill and to include as many interests as possible. The convener is always looking for suggestions for workshops and instructors. In addition, there are also some in-depth Study Groups each year, focusing on the study of a particular weaving or spinning aspect. Study Groups usually meet several times over the course of a year. And

just in case all those activities don't interest you, there are also Fun Days organized where the learning is more unstructured and playful. The Newsletter and website list information describing all our upcoming activities and events as well as those of other groups which might be of interest to Guild members

Membership Information

The membership year runs from May 1 to the following April 30. Current membership fees are: Individual \$30 and Family \$45.00. Including honorary members, the Guild membership fluctuates from approximately 80 to 120 members. Membership name tags to wear during meetings are kept in a box on the membership table at the door. Membership lists are available from the Membership Convener. Please advise the Membership Convener of any change of address information, e-mail, etc.

Newsletter

A Newsletter is produced prior to most meetings. Members will be notified by e-mail of the private location on the website where the newsletter is posted (in PDF format). Non-e-mail access members will have their newsletter mailed via Canada Post. If a member wishes to receive the newsletter by snail mail instead of e-mail, please notify the newsletter publisher of such. The newsletter contains information regarding the topic for the next meeting's program, various Guild business activities, messages, updates, etc. Announcements for workshops, study groups, and other similar activities also appear in the Newsletter. There is also an advertising section for items and activities relating to weaving and spinning. Advertising rates are available from the Newsletter Editor, and periodically published in the Newsletter. Fees are payable in advance. **NEW:** Guild members may use this service for FREE (within reason, of course).

Web Site

In 1999, the Guild joined the Internet community and now maintains a web site at <http://www.ovwsg.com>. This site contains much of the same information available in the Newsletter, with the exception of internal Guild business, such as minutes of meetings and with the addition of many hyperlinks to web sites and email addresses of interest to Guild members.. This site is maintained by the Webmaster and is usually updated in tandem with the Newsletter. An added benefit of advertising in the Newsletter is that the ad will also appear on the web site at no extra charge, substantially increasing the audience who may see it. Problems with the web site (e.g. broken links, outdated information, etc.) should be directed to the Webmaster (email address at bottom of main page). **New:** Personal contact information appearing in the newsletter is removed (except for ads) in the web version.

Yahoo Group

Since January 2004, the Guild has also had a Yahoo group. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ovwsg/> where members of the Guild can meet online, plan informal get togethers, discuss topics of interest and share pictures, files and other web-related info. Note: the group is restricted to present members of the Guild and requires approval, but is free and easy to set up. For those members who don't have a Yahoo Profile set up, there's a Help file <http://www.ovwsg.com/YahooProfileSetupInstructions.html>. To join the Guild's group, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ovwsg/join> and follow the instructions. Hope to see you online soon!

Library

The Library is an excellent Guild resource and very popular with our members. We have a substantial collection of books and periodicals pertaining to weaving, spinning, dyeing and related topics. The Guild subscribes to all the major weaving and spinning magazines. Members are allowed to borrow books and magazines on a meeting to meeting basis. If members are unable to return items on the due date, the Librarian must be contacted prior to the meeting to arrange an extension. Otherwise, be prepared to pay a Library fine. Since the Guild does not meet in July and August, materials borrowed in June are due in September. A deposit cheque of \$10 per item is required for the summer period. This deposit cheque will be held and returned in September when the items are returned. The Librarian invites recommendations for book purchases when funds are available. Donations are always welcome! Our librarians are preparing a library database which should be available online to members, hopefully in 2009. **Floater Keys** for the Resource Centre may be signed out on a monthly basis, through the librarians. A deposit cheque is required (returned once keys returned). **NEW:** The library now opens at 5pm on meeting nights, to give you even more time to browse and socialize.

Exhibition and Sale

Since 1980, an annual Exhibition and Sale has been held in the autumn at the Glebe Community Centre on Lyon Street in Ottawa. Usually the first weekend in November. Each year finds more members participating in one way or another, and the popularity of the event is widespread. A special committee is formed in the early spring to arrange and organize this event. This ambitious project includes fashion shows, displays, weaving and spinning demonstrations, information areas, a raffle, and of course, the marketing booths which Guild members may rent. There is also a "Co-Op booth" for members with limited stock (you must obtain your own PST Vendors permit beforehand). Full Guild participation is encouraged in many ways, since this is not only a sale, but an exhibition. Many volunteers are required for the numerous duties related to conducting such an event. It's a great way to get involved in Guild activities and to get to know other Guild members.

Guild Standards

To assure a uniform and high level of craftsmanship, the Guild has established guidelines concerning the type and quality of work expected at Guild sponsored functions, such as the annual Exhibition and Sale. The current Guild Standards document is part of the new member package. It may also be obtained from the membership convener, or downloaded from the yahoo site.

Equipment

Guild equipment is available for rental to Guild members. A deposit in the amount of \$100 is required for each item rented. This deposit cheque will be held and returned at the end of the prearranged rental period providing there is no damage or loss. Rental fees are payable in advance for a maximum rental period of three months. Arrangements must be made to return equipment when due to avoid penalties. Please see rental contract for complete details. Special rates are in effect for July and August, as well as term rentals over 3 months.

Equipment available for rent to members includes the following:

(**Note:** This list may change as to numbers and types of looms etc., as we periodically buy, sell and upgrade.)

- 1 100" 4H floor loom - Counterbalance type (two person) with attachable sectional warping/beam parts & temple
- 1 45" 4H floor loom - Jack type
- 1 36" 4H floor looms - Jack type, "Artisat" - folding
- 2 36" 4H floor loom - Counterbalance type - non folding
- 1 27" 4H floor loom - Counterbalance type - folding
- 1 22" 8H floor loom -Jack type, " Minerva" - folding

- 13 15" 4H Table looms, "Dorothy" - folding
- 1 15" 8H Table loom, "Dorothy" - 2 castles
- 1 15" 4H Extra castle plus 4 long side bars

- 6 Benches - various sizes
- 2 Warping Mills - small - Vertical, Tabletop
- 1 Warping Mill - large - Horizontal
- 1 Bobbin rack
- 2 Yarn cone stands
- 8 Warping Boards - each with a bag of 20 pegs
- 1 set Tablet weaving cards
- 1 45" Temple (width holder)
- Pair Side bar Temples
- 1 Bobbin winder - electric
- 6 Bobbin winder - hand winder
- 1 Tension box (for sectional warping)
- 2 45" Raddles
- 1 36" Raddle
- 1 22" Raddle
- 12 15" Raddles

Various Reeds, Lease sticks, Warping sticks, Shuttles (boat, flat, rag), Bobbins (large, small, tapestry), Reed hooks etc.

3 Inkle looms

6 Tapestry Looms - many sizes and types

1 Tapestry loom - Large

3 boxes Tapestry square-frame looms for classroom teaching

1 box Drop spindles for classroom teaching

1 Twining loom

1 Bead loom

1 Ashford Spinning wheel - traditional, with bobbin stand

1 Louet Spinning wheel

1 Lendrum Spinning wheel - with Lazy Kate

1 Cottage head spinner

2 Drum carders, coarse

1 Rolling pin Carder (good for felting batts or picking, blending coarse fibres)

3 Hand Carders

1 Picker

1 Rag cutter & blades

1 McMorran balance

5 Umbrella swifts - various sizes

Various other pieces of equipment associated with spinning and weaving.

Accessories are included in loom rental. Please contact the Equipment Convener for the rates which also appear regularly in the Newsletter.

The Guild also has a 100" loom which is available for rental. In 1981, with the help of a Wintario Grant, the 100" loom was purchased. Usually the months required by you and your partner are booked in advance with the Loom equipment Convener. This loom is for large projects and over the years many coverlets, bedspreads, rugs, etc. have been woven by Guild members. The loom is in storage (because of space) and may be brought out once a project is ready to go, for use in the RC. Users are requested to donate a sample of the weaving for the Guild's 100" Loom Sample Book in the Library, if possible. A large horizontal warping mill accompanies the loom to facilitate the warping process.

Supplies

There are a variety of yarns available, (approx. 15 shelves full), for member use if a guild project is proposed. Yarns may be purchased at a minimal charge, and donations of yarns are gratefully accepted. NOTE: Donations must be approved by RC Equipment Coordinator beforehand. This is to avoid being over-run with yarns we can't use.

Name Tags

At each meeting you will find a **small brown file card box** sitting on the corner of membership desk. All paid up members of the guild will find a name tag for themselves in the box. Please wear your name tag. This is of great benefit to our new members who are learning who we all are. At the end of the meeting please return your tag to the box. If you happen to forget and take it home, bring it back to the next meeting please.

