

PENELOPE'S NEWS



May 2015

The newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild

Marianne Heggteit.....*Board Chair*
Sayward Johnson.....*Board Vice Chair*
Kelly MacGregor.....*President*
Kathleen Schwass.....*Treasurer*
Ruth Cooper.....*Corporate Secretary*
Sandra Jager, Brenda
Mills.....*Studio Managers*
Elizabeth Watt *Education Coordinator*

The Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild (OVWSG) is a non-profit, incorporated organization, whose mandate is "to encourage its membership to achieve a high aesthetic standard and technical expertise and to promote and foster the knowledge of, interest in, and appreciation for historic and contemporary weaving, spinning, and their related fibre arts."

President's Message

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Open Studio Days

Every Tuesday and Friday.
Everyone welcome. Tuesday is
potluck lunch.

Meeting Info

This month's meeting:
Monday May 4th, at 7.30pm

Program:

Judy McGrath presentation:
Dyes of the Arctic

Next meeting:

Monday, June 1st, at 7.30pm

There are a few business items I want to be sure you know about:

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requires that the membership receive training on an annual basis, which we did at the April meeting. I want to remind members to review **Our Accessible Customer Service Plan** on the OVWSG web site. If you require assistance of any sort, please ask!

Heartwood House is more than just an organization from who we rent space. Heartwood is a community of not for profit agencies with belief that we are "better together" under one roof. Check out the other agencies housed at Heartwood. Maybe you can offer them a few hours of your time; or, maybe there is an organization at Heartwood that can fulfil some need you may have. When possible, please consider how you can support Heartwood House.

Once again please remember to attend our **Annual General Meeting (AGM) on June 2nd**. Yes, usually it is the May meeting but not this year. Please ensure your membership has been renewed so that you are eligible to vote at the AGM. There will be reports from various operational areas.

The Strategic Planning process is progressing. By now we will have completed the SWOT focus group. I will be working with the Strategic Planning Working Group to hammer out our goals based on the focus group and survey feedback. Your input from all areas is greatly appreciated.

Okay, enough business. It's supposed to be warmer now but it snowed again today. Yesterday one of my sheep lambed in the field during a light snowfall. It should be warmer when you

read this Newsletter. Oh, mother and baby are fine.

So, warmer, sunnier, getting outside.... How does that affect your craft? Does this mean you sit outside to spin? Do you dye fibre? Do the vibrant colours of the season lead you to plan some special weaving project? However the season can, let it inspire you!

Kelly

Announcements from guild coordinators

Workshops

We are still short of registrations for the next session of Beginning Weaving. We have moved the session ahead to allow more time to find students. The new dates are May 30, June 6, 20 and 27 time, etc. remains the same. I will need to have at least 4 confirmed students by May 16 in order to run the new session. If you are thinking of taking Beginning Weaving, now is the time.

It is also coming up to the time to start planning the new schedule. If you are interested in teaching a workshop but haven't done so before please get in touch. Instructors are expected to have strong knowledge of their topics and some experience in teaching adults.

Upcoming Workshops:

NEW: FELTED FLOWERS

Did you see the felted flowers on the Facebook page? Want to learn to make them? Ann McElroy will give an evening workshop where you will make two kinds of felted flowers on Wednesday May 13 from 7:00 to 9:30. Cost is \$30 plus materials (approximately \$10 or bring your own merino wool, silk etc). Limit 8 students. If there is a wait list, we can schedule another session.

Handpainted Warps - FULL

Summer and Winter Spring and Fall - FULL

Wool Combing May 30th - 4 spots

Just Beyond Beginners May 31, Jun 7, 14, 28 - 2 spots

Intro to Spinning Part 2 - Wheel - June 13 4 spots

Beginning Weaving - May 30, Jun 6, 20, 27

As usual, details including time and cost are on the website. Please use the web form to sign up, it really helps me keep track.

BY REQUEST: Beth Briggs is taking over managing "by request" workshops. Judy, webmistress extraordinaire, has created 2 web forms to help us collect and track requests. They can be found under the workshops tab on the website. Please read the instructions carefully and answer as fully as possible. The forms and procedures are a work in progress so please be patient with us as we work out the new system. The new procedures will help us connect "lonely learners" into groups who can then request a workshop and should improve the communication process for groups as we set up requested workshops.

Elizabeth Watt
Workshops Registrar
workshops@ovwsg.com

Library

Hours: the library opens 5pm the Monday of the meeting, to 7:15pm. Please come in early to look over the library materials (Books, DVD- use them in your computer and Magazines) and drop off the items you took out last month.

Dropping off books between meetings: inside the studio there is a drop off book box. It is beside the double doors at the north end of the studio. Please leave books there. Please do not take library materials out of the drop off box.

Taking out books: Members with no overdue books *may take out four items* from the library (5pm to 7:15pm on the Meeting Monday). The items will be *due back the next* (5pm to 7:15pm) Meeting Monday. If you cannot make a meeting, Email **Library at OVWSG** or one of the librarians and we will renew your book for a month. If you forget the *library fine is 1.50 per book per month* late.

Really Important **filling out the card!!** *Date due is next months' meeting!!* Please PRINT your Name and Phone number.

Studio Reference Books: these are the books in the open shelf white cabinet beside the magazines. *They are for use in the studio*, to help you design a project or answer a weaving /spinning question while you are there. They are not for circulation. Please use them in the studio then return them to their shelf for the next person to enjoy.

New DVDs For the May Guild Meeting

Remember these DVD's are for use in a computer. Most new DVD players will also be able to play them but not all. Come in early to take one out. If you are the first to borrow one of our new items please consider make a quick review for the newsletter.

The Efficient Weaver Video Download

Files

The Efficient Weaver Video Download

Weaving Overshot Video Download

Files

Overshot Handbook

Overshot Projects

Weaving Overshot Video Download

Boutenné

Files

Boutenné

Boutenne Pillow Pattern

Drop Spinning 101 & 102 Video Download Bundle

Predrafting for Spinning: How, When & Why

Files

Predrafting for Spinning: How, When & Why

Spinner's Color Toolbox Video Download

Files

Spinner's Color Toolbox Video Download Part 1 & 2

Weaving a No Sew Baby Blanket Video Download

Files

Weave a No Sew Baby Blanket Video

Weave a No Sew Blanket PDF

I am having trouble downloading the **Nuno Felting Video Download** but hope to have it ready in time for the meeting.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask us. We also usually have candy. Sometimes we have cookies. library@ovwsg.com

All for now dyslexically yours Jan

Membership

Membership renewals are now due:

All membership expire on April 30, 2015 (unless you joined in 2015).

Reg. \$40.00 Family (at the same address) \$55.00

Pay online at www.ovwsg.com Go to membership tab and follow the directions. Pay using paypal or credit card (click no paypal to use a credit card).

Pay at May 4 meeting

Pay by mail. Cheques made out to "OVWSG"

Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild

Heartwood House

404 McArthur Ave.

Ottawa, ON K1K 1G8

Please fill in a membership form for my records please, see attachment on newsletter link e-mail.

Welcome New Members!

Liliane Cloutier
Shvaugn Craig
Candace Vanskiver
Claire Guerette

Did you know? Maurice Brassard & Fils can now do **PayPal!** Finalize your order with Diane Brassard (diane@mbrassard.com) by email -- including those pesky taxes and shipping costs -- and ask to pay by PayPal. They will ship by Canada Post as soon as PayPal confirms that you have paid.

Heartwood House announcements

Dragon Boat Festival

As you know, Heartwood House was a beneficiary of the monies raised by the Dragon Boat Festival last year. This year we will receive funds again. As a community building effort we would like to enter an HH Dragon Boat team in the race and we need your help!

We have room in the boat for 20 people. It is \$100 per person to enter. You get 2 practices, a fabulous dragon tattoo and an HH volunteer tshirt!

June 25th to 28th

***Festival Mission*:** To deliver North America's premiere Dragon Boat Festival...an opportunity to participate and engage in, the arts, sports, cultural, heritage and volunteer activities, significantly contributing to the tourism, economic growth, community engagement and cultural fabric of our diverse community.

2015 Festival Supports 5 great charities: Youth Services Bureau, Heartwood House, Shepherd's of Good Hope, Children at Risk, Helping with Furniture.

We have our own area to play, laugh, eat, drink be merry for the whole week end...and of course our moment of fame on the water!

ALSO is sponsoring 2 people in the boat this year and we are raising money to support a 3rd rower. Our Board is contributing the \$200.00. ADAO is also putting in 2 rowers! We need the other HH groups to set up and get in the boat!

Please respond with your commitment to Kim at ALSO; kim@also-ottawa.org before May 1, 2015.

Kim Oastler, Executive Director

The heating season is officially over.

Heartwooders in spaces with thermostats - do not turn your thermostats to heat.

Enjoy the fresh air with a sweater as warm temperatures are just around the bend.

Smokers: Gaston has moved the large bench to the (pylon) sign at the corner of Moorvale and McArthur. See photos of location below. Gaston will also install a smoke waste can at the bench for smokers to dispose of their butts.

Please make certain that all volunteers, participants, students, staff - everyone knows that the smoking bench is at this sign.

We need your help to stop smokers from leaving doors ajar at the back and front of the stairwells in the building. Please make certain that everyone in your organization knows this practice must end.



New Smoking
area with
bench

General Announcements

Weaving class

In my own new studio, near Chesterville, On: *Uncomplicated Weaving* -- May 23rd & 24th, 10-4 each day. Each student will make a warp, set up a loom and weave a project. Cost is \$150.00 for guild members. This amount is to be paid in full 2 weeks before the class (May 9th), as this gives me time to get all the looms emptied, get all the materials ready, etc. Sometimes it is possible to apply closer to the date. Please call me at 613-448-3733, or look at my website www.handweaving.ca for more details.

Janet Whittam

Events

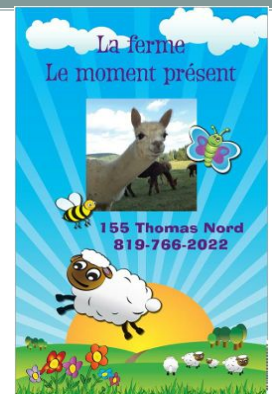
Educational day about shearing alpacas and processing fiber on May 16th...

<https://www.facebook.com/events/670957053014118/>

If you are not on Facebook, please confirm by email

lafermelemomentpresent@hotmail.com or by phone [819-766-2022](tel:819-766-2022)

Céline Paquette



Following Bertram is my name for the collection of baskets that I am creating for my part of Wabi Sabi's 3 woman show during the Hintonburg Happenings, May 1-10th, 2015. For this show I am featuring baskets made from materials I gathered during my winter retreat in SE Alabama. I always enjoy adding found materials to my baskets, and I hope these baskets show a real sense of time and place. Wabi Sabi is located at 1078 Wellington St. W. I am pleased to show my work alongside paintings by Anne Theriault and ceramic work by Laura Sheppard and we will be participating in a brief Artists talk May 6th at 7 p.m.. If you are interested in more information about my baskets and this event, please check out the blog post on the first page of my website www.handweaving.ca

Janet Whittam

belated

An exhibition by Carl Stewart

April 21, 2015 to June 27, 2015

Mississippi Valley Textile Museum
3 Rosamond Street East
Almonte, Ontario K0A 1A0
phone: [613-256-3754](tel:613-256-3754)

Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00am to 4:00pm

www.mvtm.ca
www.carlstewart.ca



belated

On the afternoon of Saturday, September 19, 1970 my three-year old brother, Owen, was struck by a car and killed in front of our house. Apart from the driver, I was the only witness to his death. I was five years old.

Since Owen's death more than forty years ago certain objects associated with him have taken on an iconic status in my family; a wooden toy, a small tweed cap, a tiny pair of baby shoes but most particularly a photograph; the photograph my mother included in Christmas cards mailed the same year he died; the photograph that was trimmed with tinsel and given pride of place on the Christmas tree each year; the photograph my parents always held in family snapshots; the photograph my siblings prominently display in their homes and that sits on my shelf.

November 14, 2006 would have been Owen's 40th birthday. To honour his memory and to celebrate what is a milestone in everyone's life my gift to my brother is *belated*, a series of portraits based on this iconic family photograph.

icon, the first group, is a series of hand-woven portraits. The colours are bright, bold and almost child-like in their combinations, like the pages from a child's colouring book. The work references Warhol's Mao portraits, some of the most iconic images of late 20th century art, creating for the viewer a sense of familiarity despite not knowing the child depicted.

The second group, *memoria*, is a series of cross-stitch portraits beginning with navy-on-white and working through a gradation of progressively lighter colours to a final white-on-white portrait. The inherent qualities of the heavily sized fabric used for the portraits are exploited as the fabric is folded, creased and crumpled in the more high-contrast portraits, a recent memory rich with detail, and less manipulated as the colours fade to white suggesting the fragility and fallibility of memory.

It is sometimes assumed that I am the child in the portraits. And I easily could have been. What if the car had been traveling a little faster? What if he had been running ahead of me? It is these "What ifs" that resonate for me, not out of regard for my own mortality, but out of curiosity, and mourning, for the person he would have been, the life he would have led and the fraternal relationship we might have had, had he lived. It is this loss of possibility that drives the work.

Early Notice: Get Ready For Fall!

Have you heard about Fibre Roads? If not -- it's a group of local textile artisans and people who raise fibre animals. We've gotten together to extend the idea of 'buy local' into the world of fibre, yarn and finished textiles; and while we're at it, we can provide you with a lot of information about the fibres they produce and how they should be handled.

On July 25, from 9:00 to 1:00 or a little later, Fibre Roads will be holding our third annual Mini-Fibre Festival in McDonald's Corners, on the grounds of MERA (<http://www.meraschoolhouse.org/>) – as part of that Saturday's Farmer's Market. You'll be able to see (and touch!) wool and alpaca fleeces, hand-dyed yarns (both handspun and millspun) – all produced by local farms. Knitted, woven and felted items will also be available for sale, and enthusiastic, knowledgeable conversations about fibre and its uses will be free.

The whole affair is in a lovely setting, on the lawn in back of the old schoolhouse. The Farmers' Market will be in full swing on the other side of the building, which means that you can shop for local produce, baked goods and crafts – and also have a delicious lunch with locals at our weekly community-market shop and get-together.

We'd love to see you there, and we're sure you'll have a good time if you come for a country drive. If you have any questions, go to our website (www.fibreroads.ca) or write me directly at susan@susanberlin.ca

Middleville Fair

When I first moved back here from the West coast, and got involved in my local community, I naturally looked around for weavers and spinners. What I found were lots of knitters, excellent quilters – and very few people who were interested in either spinning or weaving. Sadly, that was confirmed when I went to the local Middleville Fall Fair: NO entries in spinning, NO entries in weaving. Lots of knitting entered, some wonderful quilts, even a knock-out tatted shawl – but no weaving, no spinning.

Now, the Middleville Fair is a wonderful event: very much agriculture-based, all volunteer managed, great food, no scent of the commercial (rides, etc.) So I thought: okay, I think I'll put some time into trying to build up interest in spinning and weaving around here.

I'm now in charge of the spinning and weaving sections of the Fair – which is why I'm writing this note. I very much want to have lots more entries in those two classes – and if possible, to have a display of interesting spinning wheels and spindles, other spinning tools, samples of fleeces and demos of how they're prepared, etc. It seems to me that members of the Guild would be a great source of all of the above, especially if given a long enough time to prepare entries (and to think about spending a few hours at the Fair, partly doing demos and partly just plain enjoying the events).

So here's the essential data: the 164th Middleville Fair will be held on Saturday, September 19th, with entries to be delivered to the Fairgrounds on the preceding Friday. The class lists aren't up yet on the website, but if you're interested, I can email the spinning and weaving entry requirements to you – as well as answer any questions you may have. And I can help with picking up and returning entries, as well as tools for display, if that will make things easier for you. *Please contact me if you have any questions about entries, display items, or your participation at the display table.* You can reach me at

susan@susanberlin.ca

Member Tips & Tricks

How to avoid weft floats in weaving double with cloth

One of the challenges in weaving double width fabric, blankets or whatever is to avoid weft floats in the lower layer that are created by warp yarns clinging together due to the close sett required for double weave. In her book *Exploring Multishaft Design* (p. 73) Bonnie Inouye suggests to put a mirror on a chair at one side of the loom to check the shed in the mirror and assure that no warp yarns stick together before throwing the shuttle.

Twist happens!!

I had a lovely time taking pictures and spinning at the intro blacksmithing course Glenn attended on the weekend. It was all quite exciting to watch but my ears perked right up as soon as the instructor started talking about how twist travels preferring thin spots to thick (and hotter spots to cooler spots). Hmm, I've heard that somewhere before...Elizabeth!! She must have taken the blacksmithing course too. WOW!! Since twist seems to react in a similar manner in both hot mettle and fluffy fiber there must be science or at least a universal principle or maybe just math. Better ask Elizabeth!



Here the metal has twisted more in the hotter section on the Right side and a more open twist on the cooler left side.

It was very cool to see twist happening in a different medium. I really wanted to see what would happen if I tried the fringe twister out on the hot metal but I didn't want to hurt the fringe twister.

This is their example of a twist that has been twisted back on itself, sort of like our plying to make a balanced yarn. When they balance they get a twill-like pattern or maybe it's water in a brook; hard to tell. But it is cool!

Glenn will be taking the intermediate level course in a couple weeks I cant wait to see what exciting spinning/weaving ideas develop out of that!!

Jan



Marketplace

The Marketplace portion of the 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 at marketplace@ovwsg.com or newsletter@ovwsg.com

FOR SALE

Versatile pine display props excellent for use at studio tours, craft markets and shops.

7 panels (7ft high by 39ins wide) linked by pinned brass hinges for flexibility; removable inserts - pine shelves, "windows", burlap covered solid panels, cloth skirt for desk shelf and one display shelf (lights and back curtains not included). Will deliver within reasonable distance. Price \$175. Contact Nancy Ingram (613) 272-3604/ ingram@rideau.net.



FOR SALE

- 1) Floor model large warping wheel \$250.00
- 2) Horizontal warping wheel \$25.00

Janet Whittam
613-448-3733



Judith Rygiel's Studio Sale

Saturday May 09, 10 am to 3pm

Silk, cotton, mohair and wool yarns; duplicate tools, including numerous reeds, as well as weaving and spinning books for sale.

Many bargains and freebees.

2 Bren Maur Rd, Ottawa

April Program



Jay Ellen Bogen's presentation on Indonesian baskets

Show & Tell



Left to right, top to bottom: Wool drying baskets from Laurie's class; Amanda's basket; Amanda's Linus Blanket; Carlene's handspun; Anne's handspun & knitted sock; Anne's wool/silk/alpaca handspun yarn; Patti's handspun yarn; Kathleen's blanket; Ann's new and improved Voyageur tote bag; Francesca's Shibori scarf; Francesca; Francesca's wool and cotton scarf; Laurie's warping board stand; Laurie's egg basket sample for upcoming class.



Laurie's pine needle baskets; Jean's handspun & knit shawl; Jean's handspun & knitted sweater; Nancy's blanket; Nancy's new spinning wheel; Jan's buffalo fibre; Jan's backstrap weaving, Jan's clamps; Sheilagh's backstrap-woven scarf; Kelly's Shibori table cloth from Japan.

April meeting minutes

General Membership Meeting - 13 April 2015

Chair: Kelly MacGregor

- Chair welcomed all old and new members and any guests in attendance.
- Executive was introduced.
- Mary Morrison given best wishes for 85th birthday!

Business:

- 36" Loom for sale -- \$300. Contact Andrea Dixon or studio coordinators if interested.
- Eco-Equitable is having a Show and Fundraiser at the Wabano Centre on May 27, for clothing, bags, etc.
- We still need a Fundraiser Co-ordinator (organizing card-making , etc.)

- Hired consultant for Strategic Planning, Pauline Daling, introduced.
- Treasurer announced City Grant approved for 3 years, starting in 2014. Have been allotted \$16,000 for this year.
- Networking evening will be next Monday and the Wednesday, two weeks after meeting Monday. The evenings are going to be expanded every Monday, except for general meeting nights, 7 – 9 pm. and clean-up.
- The Guild calendar of events is on the website, and is updated regularly.
- Training for Accessibility Awareness – there are larger chairs for handicapped members, room for walkers, front seats for lip-readers and assistant is allowed to classes if needed by a workshop student.
- Ex and Sale – box-lunches for Vendors will be provided by the Pantry. Say will be taking pictures of items for the Ex and Sale publicity.
- Strategic Planning meeting on Jan.24 was a “Road Map” for the Guild. **Vision Statement:** Ensure the future of new and traditional weaving, spinning and related fibre arts.
- **Mission Statement:** OVWSG members share knowledge, skills and appreciation of the crafts of spinning, weaving and related fibre arts, such as felting and basketry. The guild offers an education program, demonstrations at community events, and maintains a resource and training centre.
- **Constitutional Mandate:** OVWSG is a non-profit, incorporated organization, whose mandate is to encourage its membership to achieve a high aesthetic standard and technical expertise and to promote and foster the knowledge of, interest in, and appreciation for historic and contemporary weaving, spinning and their related fibre arts.
- **Linus Blankets** – still need boys blankets at CHEO. (no Fringe or large holes in blankets, please)
- Beth Briggs will assist Elizabeth Watts with “on request” workshops.
- **OHS Panoply 2015** this May 22-24 in Burlington. Ruth Cooper and Natalie Shumovsky will attend and report on the conference.

Program:

Jay Ellenbogen provided a talk, complete with pictures, about Indonesian woven basketry. From his travels, for up to 3 months at a time, Jay described the types of beautifully woven bamboo baskets, many used for rice.

Strong and durable, these baskets are completely biodegradable, and more attractive than generic plastic planters that we use. Jay has a business, making planted hanging baskets out of these. Shipped from Indonesia, he macramés ropes of pandan onto them and lines them with a butcher paper and compostable “black plastic,” made from corn. At the end of the growing season, the whole planter can be thrown into the compost, to be broken down into reusable soil. Situated in Belleville, Jay’s planted baskets can be found at www.indobasket.ca

Show & Tell:

Amanda Carrigan	Twill Linus Blanket, woven as first blanket project. Wool drying basket from Laurie's class.
Carlene Paquette	Basket, dyeing Shetland and mohair, using Easter egg dye pellets.
Anne Middleton	Sock yarn for slippers, mixture of wool, silk, alpaca.
Patti Hennesey	Arcott yarn for a pioneer museum.
Kathleen Schwass	Green shadow-weave blanket.
Ann Sunahara	Leclerc Swinging Beater for loom, beats at 90 degrees always. Cut Dorothy loom denim bag for new Voyageur, adding side panels.
Francesca Overend	3-Dimensional scarves, using shibori with silk and ½" wool floats.
Laurie Harkin-Chiasson	Pine needle baskets, Egg basket with ribbed bottom, and warping board stands for classes.
Jean Sharp	Knitted Shawl from hand-spun yarn.
Nancy Taylor	Fleece & Fibre Book, spinning wheel and blue blanket.
Jan Scott	Buffalo fibre and backstrap loom weaving.
Kelly MacGregor	Cobalt blue shibori-dyed table cloth.
Sheilah Mackinnon	Backstrap loom scarf.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Next meeting: **Monday, May 4th at 7:30 pm.**