

PENELOPE'S NEWS



November 2015

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

Marianne Heggtveit.....*Board Chair*
Sayward Johnson.....*Board Vice Chair*
Kelly MacGregor.....*President*
Kathleen Schwass.....*Treasurer*
Ruth Cooper.....*Corporate Secretary*
Sandra Jager, *Studio Manager*
Brenda Mills*Studio Manager*
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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It's almost here! No, not Christmas! Although there are websites that will tell you how many days remain until then. It's almost time for the annual OVWSG Exhibition and Sale at the Glebe Community Centre. The timings are:

Friday, November 6th, 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm

Saturday, November 7th, 10:00 am until 5:00 pm

Sunday, November 8th, 10:00 am until 4:00 pm

So, what role do you have that weekend? Are you a vendor? Perhaps you are one of the talented folks who have some stuff for sale at the Community Table. Maybe, you are spending some time volunteering at the Guild Information Table, selling raffle tickets there. There is the demonstration area too. Oh, and set up and take down is always a crazy time; many hands make light work is oh, so true.

Thanks to Carol Stuart for taking on the role of Exhibition and Sale Coordinator. Carol's enthusiasm is just a bit contagious....

November and the Exhibition and Sale bring us closer to the holiday season. Perhaps you have gift giving plans that require you to get moving on your production so you meet that December deadline. It is not a forgiving or flexible deadline; it is what it is!

By now most of us have had a flurry or two in our day. Yes, there will be more. As the colder weather moves in and we hunker inside to bide our days, the craft of choice is picked up more frequently. Enjoy!

Kelly

Meeting Info

This month's meeting:

Monday November 2nd at
7.30pm

Program:

Susan Berlin Fibre Roads &
"Buy Local"

Next meeting:

Monday December 6th at
7.30pm

General Announcements

Heartwood Annual Year-End Extravaganza!

Planning has begun for the Heartwood Annual Year End Extravaganza, which will be held on Thursday December 3rd. The evening will feature the Ottawa Police Choir and the MC will be our City Councilor, Tobi Nussbaum. We plan to have a host of holiday paraphernalia in the Silent Auction and holiday baked goods for sale. The contributions of all our member groups will be essential and very deeply appreciated. The board requests your support for the following:

1. Selling tickets and generally talking it up with your supporters and friends. Tickets can be purchased on the website via Pay Pal or from the front reception. We ask each group to sell between 5 and 10 tickets if possible.
2. An item for the Silent Auction. Anything \$50 or more and suitable as a gift. Restaurant vouchers, VIA rail gift vouchers, event tickets, movie tickets, quality Christmas decorations, exotic candles etc. Dee at PWC is coordinating the auction again. Please contact her for more information. dee@pwc-ottawa.ca. Dee likes to receive the items at least a week before the event. Thank you Dee.
3. A plate of something homemade and probably very sweet for the holidays. Ann at OVWSG is coordinating the sale. Please contact her for more information. sunahara.ann@gmail.com. Anne asks that you bring the food items on December 3rd. Thank you Ann.
4. We will need about 20 volunteers on the night. Sign-up sheet will go up on Heartwood Reception door in mid November.

The event poster will be ready by the end of the week hopefully which will provide all details and I will get it out to you.

Volunteers needed: Heartwood House Fundraiser and Bake Sale -- December 3rd

On the evening of Thursday, **December 3rd, 2015**, Heartwood House -- where we have our Studio and Classroom -- is holding a **Concert, Fundraiser and Bake Sale**. The concert starts at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$20.

The Ottawa Police Choir will sing, a silent auction will offer interesting items (Restaurant vouchers, VIA rail gift vouchers, event tickets, movie tickets, quality Christmas decorations, exotic candles ..) and the **OVWSG will coordinate a bake sale of goodies provided by all 19 charities housed in Heartwood House**. The proceeds will go to the upkeep and improvement of HH.

Heartwood House is a charity that has pioneered housing other small charities and non-profit organizations at 30% below market rates. Because of their efforts, the Guild and 18 other charities and non-profits enjoy clean, pleasant, climate-controlled facilities at very reasonable rates. Every dollar HH raises means a better HH.

So on December 3rd, 2015, the Guild will need several volunteers to serve and sell the goodies (while enjoying the concert) or, if baking is your joy, the Guild needs baked goods delivered to the Studio on the afternoon of December 3rd. If you can bake or volunteer please send an email to Ann Sunahara at sunahara.ann@gmail.com. (Leftovers of our members' baked goods will be frozen for consumption at our holiday meeting on Monday, December 7th.)

Ann Sunahara

Weavers Wanted and Welcome

The 100-inch Loom Group is weaving more blankets! If you are a weaver with at least some experience and want to try two-person weaving, please email Ann Sunahara at sunahara.ann@gmail.com to receive the sign-up calendar.

Announcements from guild coordinators

Library

On the **Monday of the meeting the Library opens at 5pm and Closes at 7:15pm**. Please arrive early to return your books from last month and take out new ones. Members in good standing (no overdue materials) may borrow up to 4 items a month. All items are due the next meeting (**Dec. 2015**). If you cannot make the meeting contact the librarians and we will either renew your book or arrange for its' return if it is requested by another member. If you forget to bring it back the overdue fine is \$1.50 per item per month. Cards filled out at the November meeting should have the next date due Dec 2015 and print your name and phone number.

Please be very careful with the Library materials. We want them to last so all members can enjoy them.

We have been trying a new system to make returning books faster. We are sorting the circulating material by the borrowers' first name, (of course when there is more than one Ann we will check the last name too.) so all you have to do is remind the returning Librarian your first name and they can find your cards really fast! The returns librarian will give you a card to hand to the signing out librarian. So you are now all set to sign out more books/DVD's /Magazines!

As many of you likely saw, Interweave Press finally had a limited number of \$5.00us DVD's and books! We have a few new acquisitions. Here is the NEW Material for November!!

Kumihimo with Beads Video Download

Weaving with Novelty Yarns Video Download

Creative Weaving: Leno Lace

Interweave Knits Workshop: 45+ Knitted Cast-Ons and Bind-Offs with Ann Budd (HD Video Download)

If you take out one of our "New Acquisitions" which are on display by the book returns table, please write up a quick note for the newsletter about the new DVD, Book or Magazine. Did you enjoy it? Was it helpful? Would you recommend it? Was it easy to read or hard but worth the effort? Did it have good diagrams or photos? Just one small paragraph would be great!!!

Please check for stray library materials. We are always very happy to see missing items return home.

Come in early and make the new DVD's feel welcome!

Jan and the Librarians

Workshops

Workshops continue to go very well. As of this writing there is at least one space in each of the following:

Cores and Tails, Slubs and Coils - Art Yarn - Nov 14 & 21

Beginning Weaving (Judith) Nov 15, 22, 29 & Dec 6

Intro to Spinning Part 1 Spindle - Nov 15

Care and Feeding of Spinning Wheels - Nov 22

Needle Felting: Ornament Sheep - Nov 28

Intro to Rigid Heddle Weaving - Dec 5

The workshop schedule and catalogue for 2016 is well under way. The workshop team will debut the schedule at the Ex and Sale on Nov 6, 7 and 8. You can sign up in person at the Ex and Sale starting when it opens on Friday. There are several workshops that I think will be very popular so come early to avoid disappointment.

Following the sale our webmistress will put the new workshops up on the website as quickly as she can, however, this is a considerable job given that we have more than 40 titles many of which will be offered more than once next year, so please allow up to 2 weeks for her to get that done.

We hope that you will be as excited by the new schedule as we are and will participate as much as possible. Prices have not gone up, we have had to add HST to our fees but have done so by reducing the registration fees. Workshops start at \$25 including HST.

Elizabeth Watt

Workshop Coordinator

Ex & Sale

Co-op vendor jurying – Last chance to get your items juried!

A reminder to Co-op vendors to bring your items to be juried: if you have never sold at the sale before or you are selling something in a different medium you need to be juried. Jurying takes place on November 2nd at the guild meeting. The standard are available on the website. http://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/OVWSG_Standards-April-2010.pdf

Ann McElroy

Raffle

Hello Members. We need to round up all our tickets before the draw at the Ex and Sale. Please bring back your ticket stubs when you come to the November meeting or bring them to the Ex and Sale.

The proceeds from the raffle are used to support our classes. They help us keep the workshop fees low and to run some workshops with only two or three students. We have some awesome prizes that showcase the talent of our members.

We still have plenty of tickets to sell, so please consider taking out more tickets. We can accept cash (or a cheque made out to the OVWSG) either when tickets are taken out or when the stubs are returned.

It takes all of us pitching in to make the raffle a success. Thank you so much for your help!

Carlene Paquette

Reminder: Labeling Goods for the Ex and Sale

Consumer protection laws require that all textile goods for sale in Canada be labeled, either permanently or temporarily, with their fibre content and the identity of the vendor. Care instructions are voluntary, but, as noted below, should be included for your own protection.

Permanent or temporary label:

Most vendors at the Ex and Sale are selling textiles that only need temporary labels. These include vendors of: carpets, batting, detachable collars and cuffs, headwear, napkins, placemats, piece goods and narrow fabrics, runners, scarves, table cloths, tea-towels, and yarns. For a full list see Appendix D to the *Guide to Textile Labelling and Advertising Regulations* (hereafter the “Guide”)

<http://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf/eng/01249.html#Alternatives>

This means that the vendor only needs to pin a temporary label to the textile. Most use a business card that identifies then vendor and displays on the back:

- The fibre content where 5% or more of a fibre is present in the textile; and
- The care instructions.

Some members specify the fibre content on stick-on labels that can be individualized to each textile. Others create a list of the fibres that they use and write the percentage beside the name of the fibre. See examples below.

However, vendors of textiles like tailored or knitted clothing and throws or blankets need to attach "permanent" labels -- sewn-in labels that can survive 10 washings or cleanings. See Appendix C of the Guide for a full list. Normally these are commercially printed labels. But if the textile falls into the exception for “Home-crafted Articles”, labels that are hand-written using india ink can be used: See section IX 3. of the Guide.

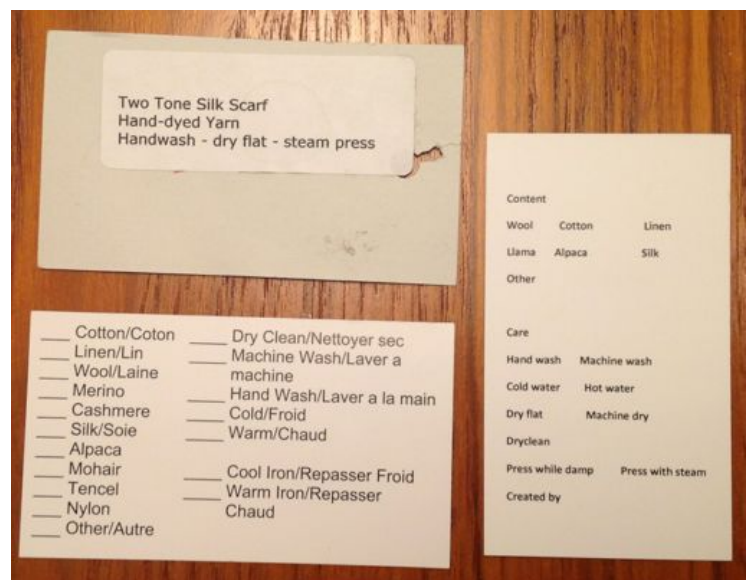
Fibre content:

The law requires that the fibre content be stated **generically** using only the words specified in the regulations. For the correct words to describe various fibres in both official languages, see Appendix A (Natural Fibres) and B (Man-made Fibres) of the Guide.

Vendor identity is required to enable purchasers to contact vendors with complaints and for Industry Canada to enforce regulations. The vendor is the person by or for whom the textile was manufactured. A name and mailing address or electronic address is necessary. A vendor can also register with Industry Canada and be issued a CA Number to use as their identity on their products. Most commercial enterprises use this form of identity.

Care instructions are voluntary but useful to the vendor. If the vendor specifies “dry clean only” and the purchaser shrinks a textile by washing it in hot water, then the purchaser cannot complain about the shrinkage.

Proper labeling is important to prevent fraud and to protect buyers from their own actions. Textile labeling and other consumer protection laws result from a hard-fought battle by the women's movement in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. They have halted the sale of many substandard products and, more importantly, have saved lives. For example, have you ever wondered why your children's pajamas are knitted and close fitting? Or why there are no children's flannelette nightgowns on the market? Or why it is dangerous to allow your child to wear a loose adult-sized T-shirt to sleep or play in? Flammability! Cotton fabrics and open flames are lethal in the presence of air. Before the prohibition against children's flannelette nightgowns was enacted in the 1990s, an average of 7 children died each year in Canada when a candle ignited their nightgowns or a spark from a fireplace and the oxygen under the billowing fabric fed the flame. Tight pajamas minimize the oxygen available should the child be exposed to fire. That change came from lobbying by consumer groups bolstered by



Andrea Hammel
Kirsten Gutri
Pamela Thielmann
Kimberly Webster
Lourdes Rojas
Lynn Simmons
Kathryn Drysdale

Member Events

Nov 14 & 15, 10-4, I am having an **Open House/Open Studio** at my new place, 91 Erin Ave., Chesterville, ON.

I had originated the On Common Ground Studio Tour many years ago, but am no longer involved with it and I miss the annual opportunity to open my studio to my friends, neighbours and clients. Former students are very welcome and I would love to see what you have been weaving.

I will have my woven clothing and baskets for sale. As well, I will be selling some equipment and also destashing spinning and felting fibres. Also, I will be showing paintings by my sister, Judy Hudson. Many people have commented on her work that already hangs in my house. A neighbour, Meghann Gervais will be selling her delicious vegan/gluten free/cruelty free food and she is even making a lunch if you would like that. There will be a table of donated fine arts and crafts, funds raised from this to benefit the Ryan's Wells Program.

Janet Whittam

I am offering a beginner alpaca wet felted hat workshop at my farm on November 28th from 10 to 4pm. Cost is 70\$

All you need to bring is 2 large towels and your lunch.

You will leave with your creation

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

Celine

Nov. 21,22: **Uncomplicated Weaving Class** in my studio. Every student will prepare a warp for a project of his/her choice and warp the loom and experiment with weaving. Cost is \$165.00 including materials. Please register with payment in full by Nov.6th, which is the Weavers' and Spinners' Guild Ex and Sale weekend, so you can contact me there.

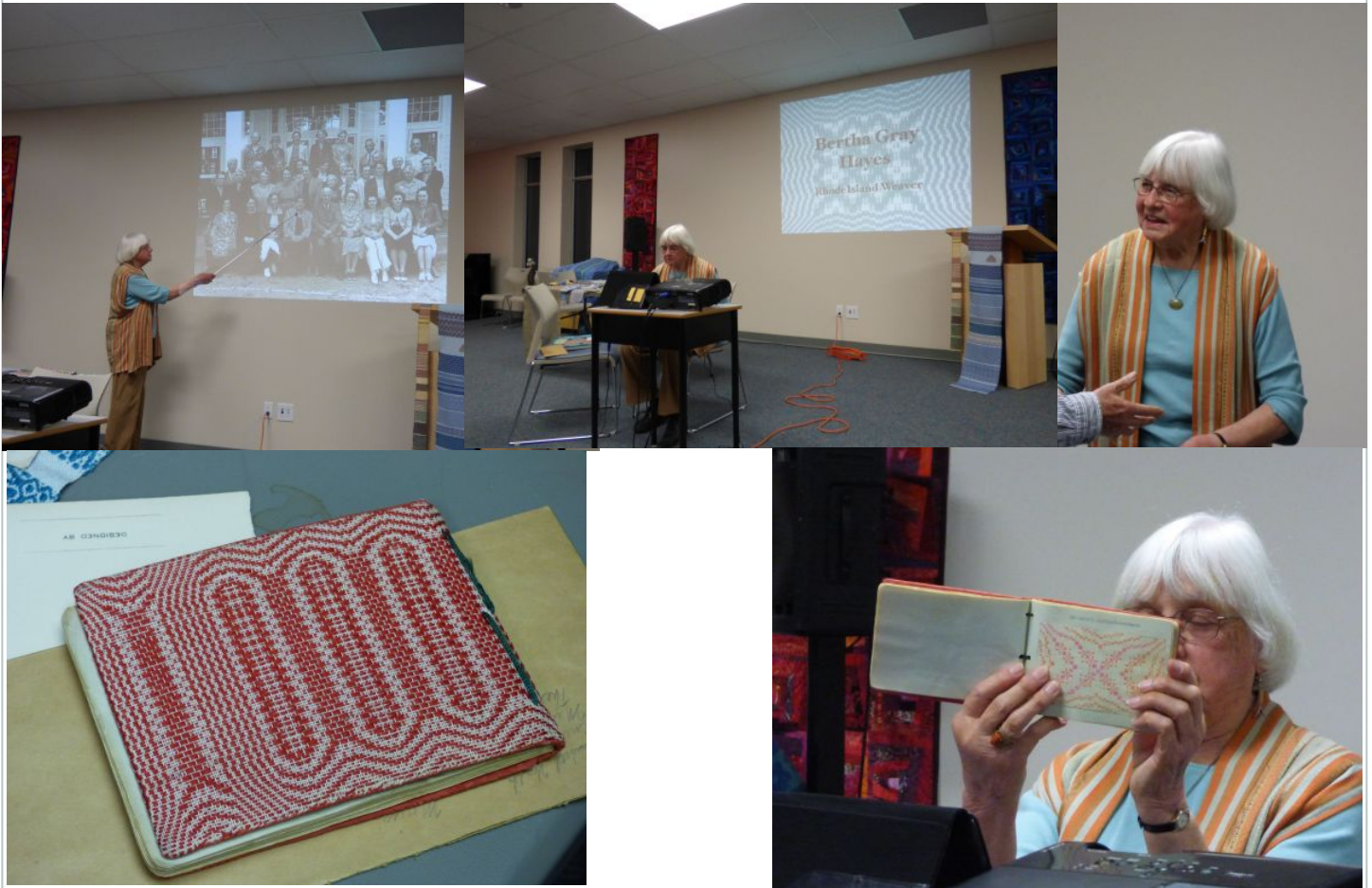
Janet Whittam

<http://www.handweaving.ca>



Photos from the September meeting program

Norma Smayda gave an excellent talk about Bertha Gray Hayes and her legacy.



Show & Tell



Left to right: Elizabeth's eyeglass keepers, Liz's coat, Carlene's round loom and electric spinner



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 from Rideau Arcott mix flock of sheep:

- (i) Well skirted fleece, unwashed, \$5 per pound;
- (ii) Roving, \$20 for 500 gm.

Email KellyMMacGregor@gmail.com.

The Great De-stash is continuing. A dent has been made but there is a LOT of yarn left, spinning fibres, 2 working antique spinning wheels, Dukobhor peasant wool combs, umbrella swift, handcards, and lots of books. Check out my website for details

www.shirleybrowskyfibredesigner.com. Call or email for information or an appointment. I need the space! 613-488-2898 or browskyshirley@gmail.com

Atelier Focus Fibre

Claire Guérette, fiber artist

Spinning-Weaving-Felt

Ashford dealer, 10% for members of the guild

Order by phone or e-mail only

jardindelaine@live.ca, creationclaireguerette.blogspot.com

819-643-4106 or 819-639-4106



Wanted:

Looking for a table loom.

Contact

beaudoin.lynda@gmail.com

Pantone Spring Colour Report

PANTONE has issued its Colour Report for Spring 2016: A Transporting and Transformative Canvas. Unisex colours transcend cultural and gender norms. Vivid brights give way to excitement and optimism, though quiet stability prevails in this season's palette.

Top 10 colours:

Rose Quartz, Peach Echo, Serenity, Snorkel Blue, Buttercup, Limpet Shell, Lilac Gray, Fiesta, Iced Coffee, Green Flash

You can view the complete report at this

link: <http://www.pantone.com/downloads/support/FCR/PANTONE-Fashion-Color-Report-Spring-2016.pdf>

About PANTONE: it is the world-renowned authority on colour. PANTONE Name is known worldwide as the standard language for accurate colour communication, from designer to manufacturer to retailer to customer, across a variety of industries.

October 2015 Meeting Minutes

General Membership Meeting 5 October 2015

Chair: Kelly MacGregor

- Chair welcomed all old and new members and any guests in attendance.
- Executive was introduced.

Announcements:

- Jackie Russel taking on temporary Equipment Manager
- Requesting table looms back before next meeting to be ready to be rented out for next workshop.
- Posters for Ex & Sale available for members to post.
- New weaving rental co-ordinator – Diane Leclerc.
- Andrea Dixon announced that Swedish loom and 45" homemade loom has been donated to us. Require assistance to move it.
- Carole Stewart mentioned that Rogers will be at the studio next Tuesday to film weaving and spinning and interview Julie Zdunich.
- Only half of the raffle tickets have been sold, We need to have more sold to assist with workshop costs. See Carlene Paquette to obtain some.
- We now have 192 members in our guild. Some will also join at Ex & Sale for interest and workshops.
- Vote for earlier time to start at 7 pm. 20 for 7; 15 to leave at 7:30 pm.

Program:

Mandy Heggveit introduced Norma Smayda, who has been weaving for 50 years. She first learned in Norway and continued in Rhode Island and now has a Weaving School in Saunderson, RI. She and a few members in her guild acquired a collection of weaving samples from Bertha Gray Hayes and a small group formed a committee to study her work. When they completed it, they were accepted by Shiffler Books to print it, after Interweave turned them down. It took 6 months to write it.

Bertha Gray Hayes was born in 1878 in Middleborough, Mass. She was an only child and lived at home with her parents and never married. The Rhode Island Guild acquired 72 of Bertha's sample weaving cards after she died. Her logo and her name were both on 4 x 4" sample squares with only the threading indicated.

Bertha was trained as a dressmaker and in 1914, at 36 years of age, she moved to Providence, Rhode Island. She lived in boarding houses there and moved about seven times. She worked for the Providence Gas Company as a bookkeeper and secretary and learned to weave from the Shuttlecraft Company in her spare time. She wove on a simple 4-shaft Structo loom, made by Thompson/Structo Co., in Freeport, IL. It was about 8" wide and had a 15 dent reed. Spools of thread were put on the back warp beam. Later she also had wider looms as well and a 6 or 8 shaft loom.

Bertha worked on **miniature overshot variations**. Overshot is unique in that it is the only weave pattern with all three of: a diagonal line in the pattern, white tabby and ½ tone areas.

Bertha had a love of colour and pattern and her handmade albums contained drawdowns of created patterns. She coloured each of them with coloured pencils. She wove token books for WW II and cigarette holders. She made dolls and wove their

clothing for little girls. She also designed cards for Christmas and other occasions, using woven inserts. Usually she used 22 cotton and Rosepath threading for these. Bertha attended the National Conference of American Handweavers each year. They were 2-3 weeks long and attracted people like Mary Megs Atwater, Osma Gallinger, Harriet Tidball and John Robert Krause. Bertha would design weaving patterns for the conference each year. One year she took a train to the conference in California and came back through Wyoming and Nebraska and called a newly-created pattern "Wybraska".

Bertha would usually make 5" samples, and used variegated tatting yarn for the tabby background often. She hemstitched all her samples and had tiny ¼' fringes. Many of her designs were influenced by WWII, like Bomber Flight and the Dot,dot,dot,dash V (for victory).

Bertha died at age 69 in November 1947 of colon cancer and while in the hospital she continued to design drawdowns until she died.

Norma had lovely samples for our guild to see of woven miniature overshoot on linen and cottons, woven from Bertha Gray Hayes's patterns.

SHOW AND TELL:

Elizabeth Watt	Kumihimo Glasses necklace with loop to hold glasses by hanging.
Ann Sunahara	Colour Gamp Reading Blanket from "Lunatic Fringe" cottons.
Liz Bivens	Coat by Lilianne McKinney, woven with furs and cloth- donated to auction.
Carlene Paquette	E-wheel , electric eel spinning wheel and circle weaving on disc.
Laurie Harkin-Chiasson	12" egg basket with rib structure, and potato basket course.
Gordon Moat	Walnuts for members and print given to Gord by Plowing Match.

Adjourned at 9:45 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, November 2, 2015.