

# PENELOPE'S NEWS



March 2016

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 ..... *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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### Meeting Info

***This month's meeting:***  
Monday March 7th at 7.30pm

#### ***Program:***

Alan Elder will be speaking  
about Japanese Textiles

#### ***Next meeting:***

Monday April 4th at 7.30pm

March. I think of "madness".

Shoveling out from under February has kept most of us busy to the point of madness and so we can heartily welcome March. March is closer to spring in Canada. Yet, it can be winter and spring – or summer – all in the month of March. Truly, it is a transition month.

So, where are you heading? What are you transitioning to? Where is your craft taking you next? What are you exploring, developing, evolving? As we get closer to spring what are your plans for your craft for the rest of the year? What goals do you have?

Crafters are often quite productive over the winter months. As we anticipate moving away from that productive time and space, it is a good time to consider placing some structure and planning around what happens next in your craft world.

Consider signing up for a workshop or course. There are events coming up too. Will you have a vendor table? Will you add to your stash? Or will you browse and ooh and aah and be inspired?

Or maybe you "just do it", to borrow a phrase. You just do what comes to mind. You take what stash, what colour, what fibre inspires you and move forward.

Whatever works for you, keep on crafting as we transition through nature's seasons.

Kelly

## General Announcements

### **WANTED: Volunteers to fill the following roles**

Secretary: Takes minutes at meetings throughout the year. The current person in this role is Ruth Cooper. If you are interested, please speak with Ruth to find out how non-scary this role can be.

Assistant Studio Manager: This is a new role. Previously there were two persons sharing the role of Studio Manager. At this time, Sandra Jager is the Studio Manager. Please see Sandra about the Assistant Studio Manager role.

Assistant Equipment Manager: Currently, Jackie Russell is the Equipment Manager whereas previously she was the assistant. Jackie is looking for an extra hand.

Grant Co-ordinator: If you have any experience in this area, the OVWSG would be glad to have you on board. Speak with Mandy Heggveit, the current Grant Coordinator, about this role.

Don't see *an opening* but know you'd love to fill a role? Speak to any executive member or the person currently in that role. Many hands make light work and your assistance in any way is always appreciated!

### **We still need more table looms!**

Due to the increased demand for weaving classes, the guild is looking for more 4-shaft Dorothy looms. If you or anyone you know has a Dorothy that is not being used, or even if you see an ad on Kijiji for a reasonably priced Dorothy, please contact the equipment manager.

### **Pantone Spring 2016 Colours**

The top ten colours for men's and women's fashion for Spring 2016 are:

PANTONE 13-1520 Rose Quartz  
PANTONE 16-1548 Peach Echo  
PANTONE 15-3919 Serenity  
PANTONE 19-4049 Snorkel Blue  
PANTONE 12-0752 Buttercup  
PANTONE 13-4810 Limpet Shell  
PANTONE 16-3905 Lilac Gray  
PANTONE 17-1564 Fiesta  
PANTONE 15-1040 Iced Coffee  
PANTONE 15-0146 Green Flash

For more information, see: <http://www.pantone.com/pages/fcr/?season=spring&year=2016&pid=11>

## 100" Loom

If you have had a Beginner Weaving Course or equivalent and are interested in becoming involved with a project, please email Ruth at [recooper424@gmail.com](mailto:recooper424@gmail.com). Also, if you have ideas for a specific weaving project on the loom, please email me. Thanks!!

## Announcements from guild coordinators

### Ex and Sale

Mark these dates, **November 5th and 6th!**

We are finalizing the contract with the Glebe Community Center. As soon as it is signed we will be providing the Vendor application to everyone that will be interested to participate this year. If you are not sure whether you are ready for your own booth don't forget the possibility to participate in the Community Table. We had a wonderful time last year and I am looking for some assistance in organizing this year's event.

This year we would like to recruit some of your High School students to assist us during the weekend. It would be our pleasure to sign for part of their volunteer hours!  
255 days and counting!!

Carole Stuart, Ex and Sale Coordinator

## Workshops

February was a bit disappointing with several workshops cancelled. It is so hard to gauge what will work when. However, we have plenty more to come. The following still have spaces as of late February; please take advantage of them.

Silk Spinning Sat March 5 (2 spots)  
Intro to Rigid Heddle Sat March 5 (1 spot)  
Egg Basket Tuesdays March 15, 22, and 29 (4 spots)  
Bringing Overshot into the 21st Century Saturday March 19 (4 spots)  
Intro to Spinning Part 1 - Spindle Saturday March 19 (4 spots)  
Just Beyond Beginner's Weaving Sundays March 20, April 3, 10, 17 (2 spots)  
Art Batt Construction Sat April 2 (5 spots)  
Summer & Winter, Spring & Fall (weave structure) Sat/Sun April 2 & 3 (6 spots)  
Basket Handles Tues April 5 (6 spots)  
Wet Felted Bird House Sat April 9 (6 spots)

Please note that Introduction to Multi-Shaft has been repurposed as Just Beyond Beginners. We will reschedule Multi Shaft later in the year if there is interest.

As always, the website has full details and the registration form.

Elizabeth Watt, Workshops Registrar

# Library

## **Hours:**

Unless I fall to the horrendous cold that is making its way through Ottawa or we have a horrible storm, the Library will be open Monday Moring of the guild meeting. We will be closing the library at 7:15 so the librarians can also enjoy the meeting. If you cannot make the meeting (you have a hot date or there is a horrible storm), email the Library (you have the email address on the date due reminder slip in all the books) or [jsrmt@hotmail.com](mailto:jsrmt@hotmail.com) will work too. Otherwise you get to contribute to the new book fund (overdue fine) \$1.50 per item per month!!

## **Bringing back a book:**

On the meeting Monday one of the librarians (usually Terry) will have the book return box. It contains all the cards of library items that are out. They are filed under the borrowers Fist Name. When you return your books, DVDs or Magazines you will remind us of your first name and we will pull out the cards. We will re-card the items for you and you will be able to take out 4 items due the following meeting.

## **Taking out a book:**

Remember to take items out of the library you need to be a member in good standing (no overdue items) and be able to fill in the library card correctly. It's very tricky so be careful. You need to print the month and year of the next meeting (April /2016 or 04/16). In the next box you need to print your full name and your phone number (if your phone number doesn't fit you can use the line below). You will give your carefully filled in card and the date due slip, form the back pocket of the book, to the librarian handling outgoing books (usually Alison). The librarian will stamp and return your reminder slip and file your cards in the outgoing card box alphabetically under your first name.

## **More time to browse the Library:**

We have had a request for **more daytime access to the library** so Terry has very kindly volunteered. Terry has been in on most Wednesdays (except for the storm) with the library open for your convenience. If no one attends, Terry will be very lonely.

Ann or I have been at almost every social over the last year. We have had a mixed reaction from those attending about the library being open. Since the library takes up a bit more space when open and the spinners would also like the same space, it may be best to leave it closed unless we have a request to look at books. Books can be dropped off at any social or any time you are in the studio. Just place them in the book return box located near the double doors. Please email to let us know you dropped something off if you are not returning them at a social.

## **New Books!!**

Yes we had a wonderful donation from Marie-France!! Please come in and check out the new books!!

## **New Projects:**

We have 2 large projects the Librarians are working on for the guild. The first one that needs to be tackled is adding every magazine to the main Library database. We will also be adding new address stickers to each magazine while we add their new accession numbers.

The second is going through the donations to find items we would like to add to the library. Sorting the larger donations had been on hold while the space in the equipment room was so full, so I will get back to that as soon as we have the database organized.

### **Need for Volunteers:**

Our 2 large projects are going to keep the librarians very busy. So I have 3 special projects coming up and will need a volunteer to work on each of them. Or you can have a team if you wish.

I have 2 sample book collections, which will need to be made presentable for circulation. This will likely involve scanning and retyping the notes. Then affixing the samples and notes in a binder.

The third special project is going to be more challenging just on the size of the samples. I am thrilled we have been given the pieces from the friendship coverlet that the guild participated in Years ago along with the notes.

Due to all the main catalogue work we have been doing since we moved to our new location, I have not been able to get to work on any of these projects. I feel these are all important items for our guild library so we should get working on them instead of having to wait until after everything else is done. If you are interested email us or come chat with us. Remember we usually have candy!!

All for now. See you soon! Jan and the Librarians

## Membership

### Membership Renewal

Now accepting membership renewals!

\$40.00 Individual    \$55.00 Family (at the same address)

1. Online at [www.ovwsg.com](http://www.ovwsg.com) go to the membership tab and follow the directions. Secure online payment through paypal or a credit card.
2. Pay at a meeting.
3. Snail mail a cheque to (cheque made out to OVWSG):

OVWSG

Heartwood House

404 McArthur Ave.

Ottawa, ON K1K 1G8    Attention: Membership

**Reminder:** We are finally switching to a system where your membership renewal date is 1 year from when you joined.

This does not affect renewing members (will still be Apr. 30), but it makes a big difference to new members joining our guild.

New renewal dates will be the last day of the month in which you joined. There will be a 30-day grace period before privileges are revoked.

It is hoped that the new system will be able to send you renewal reminders etc. automatically.

## Welcome New Members!

Gabriela Garcia  
Carolyn Johnston  
Victoria Ralph  
Kristie Hall  
Renata Gut  
Pamela Rush  
Anna Beaudet  
Lianne Dwyer & Florian Tanguay (Family)  
Sara Berkes

## Events

La ferme Le moment present Farm

Shearing season is coming soon and our farm is looking for:

1. People who are interested in helping me to clear what I have left from last year (washing, carding and spinning), depending of the chore you choose I will trade with a certain amount of fibre.
2. I'm also looking for traders who don't have equipment but are willing to spin already carded fibre depending on what style of spinning. I trade from 25% to 40% of what you have spun 😊
3. People who would like to help in shearing time. Let me know right away if you are available.

Céline 819-766-2022

The New England Flax and Linen Study Group, in collaboration with [Historic Deerfield](#) is pleased to announce the symposium:

**Flax & Linen: Following the Thread from Past to Present Saturday & Sunday, August 20th-21st, 2016** at [Historic Deerfield](#), in Deerfield, Massachusetts Early bird registration February 1st-April 29th: \$135/person After April 29th: \$145/person Register: [Historic Deerfield website](#). Space is limited, so be sure to register early!

<http://newenglandflaxandlinen.org/symposium2016/>

## ART KNITTING WITH COPPER WIRE and WEAVING with WIRE

FIBREWORKS KINGSTON

welcomes

SAYWARD JOHNSON

March 11-13, 2016

St. Lawrence College

945 Portsmouth Ave.

Kingston, ON

FRIDAY EVENING LECTURE, 7-9 pm

Workshops 9:30-4, Saturday and Sunday

\$125.00

More information available at: [www.fibreworkskingston.blogspot.ca](http://www.fibreworkskingston.blogspot.ca)

### **TWIST Retreat March 11-13**

CLICK HERE TO BOOK AND FOR MORE INFORMATION

Our very first retreat is coming soon! Our retreat, is not only the best excuse ever to enjoy a fiber-y weekend, with awesome teachers, in a beautiful setting, it's also part of our fundraising campaign. The retreat will take place March 11-13 at the Centre Touristique La Petite-Rouge in St-Emile-de-Suffolk, Qc. We thank our awesome teachers: **Marie-France Gosselin, Diane Gonthier, Julie Asselin, Josée Labrie, Mélodie Coutou and our sponsors, Wabi Sabi yarn store and Ashford Wheels and Looms.**

It is still possible to book your stay, as we have a bit more than ten spots available. Click on the link above to register and fill out the form.

#### **Last call to vendors!**

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE FORM

Deadline: March 1st 2016

The organization of the 5th edition of the festival is going really well, and we have almost selected all our vendors for this year. If you wish to part of the show and vend this year, dates are August 20-21, don't delay, click here to fill out the form to submit. We will contact you shortly once the committee has viewed your file. **This last call to vendors ends March 1st.**

#### **TWIST 2016 Program: official launch in April !**

Our 5th edition will be full of surprises and novelties! Watch for our workshops that will be held over the course of four days, starting just before the festival, August 18-21. We have once again, great vendors this year, a great team, all we need is you!

The full program will be up in April. Until then, follow us on Facebook page or keep a watch on our website for news! Find us on Twitter, YouTube and Instagram too!

The Twistees

Questions? Write us [info@festivaltwist.org](mailto:info@festivaltwist.org), or call (819) 981-0023, Monday to Friday between 9AM and 5PM!

## Lansdowne textiles festival

The focus of our festival is to bring various textile artists to demonstrate their artistry, explain to the audience what they are doing, and perhaps let them try their hand at it as well. We are looking for weavers, spinners dyers, rug hookers, quilters, needle artist, basket makers, lace makers, anything to do with textiles and of course vendors that support the artists.

A poster for the Lansdowne Textiles Festival. At the top, the title "Lansdowne TEXTILES FESTIVAL" is written in a decorative font, with a ball of red yarn and a cloud-like shape on either side. Below the title, a decorative line with a knot runs across the width. The text on the poster reads: "Come and enjoy the vision and feel of hand crafted art." "See spinners, dyers, weavers, rug makers, quilters, needle crafters and more demonstrate their skill." "Vendors will be on hand as well so that you can bring home some of their products." "Saturday, June 25, 2016 10 am to 4 pm" "Lansdowne Community Hall 1 Jessie Street, Lansdowne, Ontario" At the bottom, a red banner contains the text: "If interested in participating in the festival, or need more information, please contact Liane 613-659-4708" and "HOSTED BY LANSDOWNE ASSOCIATION FOR REVITALIZATION".

**Lansdowne**  
TEXTILES FESTIVAL

Come and enjoy the vision and  
feel of hand crafted art.

See spinners, dyers, weavers, rug makers,  
quilters, needle crafters and more  
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Vendors will be on hand as well so that you can  
bring home some of their products.

**Saturday, June 25, 2016**  
**10 am to 4 pm**  
**Lansdowne Community Hall**  
1 Jessie Street, Lansdowne, Ontario

If interested in participating in the festival, or need more  
information, please contact Liane 613-659-4708

HOSTED BY LANSDOWNE ASSOCIATION FOR REVITALIZATION

## Fibre Fling 5 – Textile Art Show and Sale, April 8 - 9, 2016

Kitchissippi United Church, 630 Island Park Drive, Ottawa, Ontario

Hours: Friday 10 am-8 pm and Saturday 10 am-5 p.m.

Admission is \$5.

High Tea will be available on Saturday for an additional \$10.

Light refreshments are available throughout the show

Out-of-the-Box Fibre Artists and the Kitchissippi United Church invite you to a show and sale of fibre and mixed media art on Friday and Saturday in the church hall. Our membership includes a wide range of fibre artists, many of whom belong to area guilds as well. At last year's show, 44 artists exhibited 253 artworks - art quilts, mixed media, framed works, felting, wearables, embroidery, dolls, beadwork, jewelry, rug hooking, and more. The depth, quality and originality of the work are inspiring!

As well, an extensive Sales area gives visitors an opportunity to purchase a variety of unique items including small framed artwork, wearables such as scarves, hats, and bags, jewelry, cards, handmade books, and an array of felting, stitchery, knitting and crochet.

Volunteers from Kitchissippi United Church will serve a delicious high tea on Saturday, April 9th. Over the last 4 years, this partnership of Art and Tea has raised over \$15,000 for the Stephen Lewis Foundation!

For more details contact Rita Rottman ([ritarottman@sympatico.ca](mailto:ritarottman@sympatico.ca)), or visit [www.out-of-the-box.org](http://www.out-of-the-box.org)

## Photos from the February meeting program

February's meeting was a panel discussion (details are in the minutes).



## Show & Tell



Top to bottom, left to right: Ann's colour gamp; Sheilah and Linda's samplers; Alison's Saori weaving; Ann's shawl; cat caves: Elizabeth's "rock" and Jan's coelacanth; Shirley's "Overshot is Hot" class samples; Ruth's Double Heddle class samples; Paula's scarf; Mandy's Shaker swift; Andrea's stone spindle whorls; Marie-France's mini back strap loom with sample.

## 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](mailto:marketplace@ovwsg.com) or [newsletter@ovwsg.com](mailto:newsletter@ovwsg.com)

### Yarn Sale!

Wool, linen and other yarns, many copies of Handwoven magazine.

Sunday Feb. 28, 10 am until 4 pm

Mary Morrison, 841 Scala Ave., Orleans (east on Innes, past Tenth Line, Turn south on Portobello. At stop sign at school, turn left on Scala. 841 is about halfway down the road, before it turns). 613 830 9992

Also for sale: computer desk for a Mac, probably from IKEA. Best offer.

### Wanted

Back-up newsletter editor in case I am ill or unavailable. Must have a computer and Microsoft Word 2011 or later.

Contact Natalie at [newsletter@ovwsg.com](mailto:newsletter@ovwsg.com)

### Atelier Focus Fibre

Claire Guérette, Fibre Artist  
Spinning-Weaving-Felt

Ashford dealer, 10% off for members of the guild

Order by phone or e-mail only  
[jardindelaine@live.ca](mailto:jardindelaine@live.ca),  
[creationclaireguerette.blogspot.com](http://creationclaireguerette.blogspot.com)

819-643-4106 or 819-639-4106

## March Meeting Program

Alan Elder, Manager of First Peoples and Early Canada at the Canadian Museum of History (CMH) and previously curator of Contemporary Craft and Design at the CMH will speak about Japanese textiles. Mr. Elder will talk in particular about Reiko Suda and Nuno, an exhibition he curated for the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum in Almonte in 2014.



# February 2016 Meeting Minutes

## General Membership Meeting 1 February 2016

Chair: Kelly MacGregor

- Chair welcomed all old and 6 new present members and 1 guest in attendance. **(About 57 members in attendance.)**
- Executive was introduced.

### Announcements:

- Workshops; “Just Beyond Beginners,” “Egg Basket Making” need a few extra people.
- WASOON Conference in Sudbury in May is filling up already! 90 already registered. <http://wasoon.yolasite.com/> for details.
- Our guild has been asked to make Table Centres for Handspinners Conference in Kingston this spring. There should be about 12 tables with 10/table.
- Marie-France Gosselin donated Louet and Ashford Books to the Guild library from the fibre equipment companies.
- Kelly reminded everyone to respect a time limit for each Show & Tell and not to talk about details that can be mentioned privately later to those interested.

### Program:

Karin Hendriksen introduced all the panel members and then asked questions for them to answer. The panel members were:

- Shirley Browsey (spinning, weaving, dyer)
- Laurie Harkin-Chiasson (spinning, weaving, basketry, working with wood)
- Say Johnson (weaving, knitting and working with copper wire)
- Ann McElroy (felting, spinning)
- Carl Stewart (weaving)

The panel session began with panel members providing a brief overview of their career history.

Some questions that were posed were:

- Do you ever suffer from “creative” block and what do you do to get out of it?
- What inspires your work?
- How do you maintain a studio in terms of storing inventory?
- Do you keep records of your work and if you do, how do you do it?
- Do you use records for future work?
- Have you ever had to reinvent yourself due to market or family life?
- How do you balance daily life and art?
- What was one of your most memorable fibre-made products that you have made in your career and why was it so memorable?
- Could you support yourself entirely by your craft?
- What was your best decision made with your art or craft?
- Can a hand-woven product look too perfect?
- What would you recommend as some of the steps to market products?

Many said that nature inspired them, ideas were often written in notebooks for future inspiration, and if they had a creative block, they would switch gears for a bit and then come back to it.

Education (either informal or formal) was useful in training and getting good at what you do. Also loving what you do was important. Laurie showed a very detailed inventory system for her work and yarns. Some panelists store by yarn type, some by manufacturer and some by colour. Most have clear tubs or shelving.

Records were important; either on draft sheets or computer spread sheets to track shrinkage, pattern drafts and photos of the works.

Some said that they constantly re-evaluate whether they need to change some part of their work or way of work. They are constantly evolving and changing, as new things inspire them.

Balancing life and art is not hard for some, since their craft is integral to their life. For others, a solid support system needed to be in place, for care of family members.

Their best decision made with their art was not to stop, moving their studio out of their house, or to teach their craft.

Handwork cannot be too perfect. It is important that it is made by “hand”, and shows the work that a machine does not replicate. Handwork is unique, unlike industrial things. One does not want to copy a machine!

For marketing, Shirley suggested hiring a manager, build a website, educate customers about the value of handmade products versus factory-made items. You need to start small! Stay at least 2 years at a show, so that customers expect you there. Think about putting together a slide show of your work and understand it to talk to people about it. Colour, texture and cut are all important, as well as technique! High standards are essential.

### **BREAK** – Refreshments & Socializing

#### SHOW & TELL:

Ann Sunahara	20 colours, 19 twills colour gamp blanket/ throw, using Lunatic Fringe Colours. Colours framed in black.
Ann Middleton	Handspun alpaca shawl in black, purple and blue colours.
Elizabeth Watt	“Rock” Felted Cat cave.
Jan Scott	“Dolphin or Fish” Felted Cat cave.
Sheilah MacKinnon	Lapsed Weavers sampler.
Linda Beaudoin	Lapsed Weavers sampler
Alison James	Saori Weaving – will be purple cowl eventually

Paula Smith	Scarf woven on rigid heddle loom from spun merino wool.
Mandy Heggveit	Small Shaker swift given to her.
Andrea Dixon	Stone Spindle whorls from Troy in Turkey, from 2000-3000 BC. Purchased at Portobello Market in London, England.
Ruth Cooper	Double Rigid Heddle Loom samples and weaving of sample from her Golden Retriever's fur.
Ann McElroy	Silk Samples (noil, pongee, organza, etc.) from G & S Dyes from Toronto. (Dixon Chan)
Shirley Browsky	Overshot samples with 20+ alternative treadlings.
Marie-France Gosselin	Back strap loom with textile sample from Guatemala from Debra Chandler's textile trip.

Meeting adjourned at about 9:45 pm.

**NEXT MEETING :** Monday, March 7, 2016 at 7:30 pm

