PENELOPE'S NEWS



September 2016

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

Marianne HeggtveitBoard Chair
Sayward JohnsonBoard Vice Chair
Ruth Cooper
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Laurie Harkin-Chiasson Studio Manager
Elizabeth Watt Workshop 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."

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Meeting Info

This month's meeting: Monday, September 12th at 7.30pm

Program:

Activities planning, Reports and Extended Show & Tell

Next meeting:

Monday, October 3rd at 7.30pm

President's Message

Taking hold of the reins of a busy, vibrant organization like our fibre Guild is a bit of a daunting feeling. There are so many aspects of this wonderful network that it indeed is like an intricately crafted piece of textile. In order to hold together and form strong, stable cloth, each thread, each fibre, has to be interlaced and support and be supported by the other threads.

Each guild member hopes to come away with something to enrich themselves and hopefully also will in turn, enrich the guild with skills that they have to offer. A volunteer organization such as ours, depends on the strength and support of our members to make it successful. The more members that help and that volunteer their time and skills, the stronger our guild will be. As our southern neighbors' past President J.F. Kennedy once famously said, "Ask not what your country [sicguild] can do for you, ask what you can do for your country [sicguild]."

We have wonderful volunteers, but we do not want to see any of them "burn out", exhausted from a responsibility that often may seem thankless. Step up and ask to assist, learn a basic guild task, and ease someone's job. You will usually find that you gain more than you give!

Ruth Cooper



General Announcements

Guild Sheep to Shawl Challenge

I challenge you! I am looking for at least 10 members to form a minimum of two teams for an in-house Sheep to Shawl Challenge.

Along the way we will learn about how these things work. I challenge you to work with a raw fleece in a limited time frame and weave a shawl on a prepared warp.

What lovely design will the weaver prepare in the warp? Perhaps there will be colour in that warp. How will this team work together to spin, ply and weave a divine shawl that when washed will full into a one-of-a-kind item for our annual raffle?

And after our Sheep to Shawl Challenge, members can proudly step forward to compete with other guilds in the community since we will know how to do this and have experienced success doing so!

The process will involve one day of planning, likely a Saturday in November, followed by a Sheep to Shawl Saturday in January or February. All of this will take place at the guild. Interested persons are asked to contact Kelly MacGregor by September 20th by email at <u>KellyMMacGregor@gmail.com</u> or by telephone at <u>613.659.4267</u>.

Announcements from guild coordinators

Ex & Sale Co-op Table

Would you like to participate in our Exhibition and Sale in November but you don't want to rent a table? You are welcome to join the Co-op Table. Members may place their sale items on the Co-op Table and a commission of 10% is charged by the Guild only on items that are sold. You will also be asked to volunteer a couple of hours to set up, sell or take down the booth.

The Co-op Table is open to beginners and experienced members. This is an excellent way of getting to know more guild members.

If this is the first time you have participated, or you are doing a new craft, you must have a sample of your weaving, spinning or felting juried prior to the Exhibition. The OVWSG standards can be found on our website under the Exhibition and Sale page. This document will explain the requirements for our exhibitions and sales. I can assist you in contacting the standards committee. Bring some samples of your work to the September meeting.

I will be sending around sign-up sheets at the September meeting or you can email me at <u>kathleenschwass@hotmail.com</u>.

Studio

Change in Studio Managers

In July, Sandra Jager turned over her position as Studio manager, as she was moving away from Ottawa.

Studio Manager is now Laurie Harkin-Chiasson (formerly Assistant Studio Manager). Assistant Studio manager is now Terry Nelson.

Contact: studio@ovwsg.com will reach both of them.

We all wish Sandy and George good luck with their new home and hope that they will still be able to come visit us occasionally.

New feature in Guild Studio and Classroom

Mounted above the main phone in the studio are 2 clipboards. Similar clipboards will appear in the classroom, shortly.

SNAG LIST – this is to report anything broken, breaking, wearing or missing. We can't fix it if we don't know about it! There are also columns for a volunteer to take on the job of investigating the issue and/or fixing it (or arranging for it to be done). Also, a column for date resolved.

SUPPLIES – this is to report any supplies needed, getting low, or out. Also, a column for a volunteer to get the supplies (so no duplication in purchases). Plus a column for date resolved, so we know it is no longer needed.

Anyone can volunteer to take on a task on these clipboards, which will help keep our studio and classroom running as smoothly as possible.

Workshops

Things have been quiet for the summer. Jan and I have started working on the 2017 schedule and it is slowly taking shape. It will be ready for it's debut at the Ex and Sale in November.

Meanwhile, we still have 4 months left on the 2016 schedule. Several workshops in September and October still have spaces:

Intro to Spinning Part 1 (Spindle) Sat Sept 24 5 spaces
Beginning Weaving (Judith) Sundays Sept 25, Oct 2, 16 and 23 3 spaces
Inkle Too Saturdays Oct 22 & 29 5 spaces
Intro to Spinning Part 3, Gaining Control Saturday Oct 22 5 spaces

As always, more details are on the website as is the registration form.

Elizabeth Watt, Workshops Registrar. workshops@ovwsg.com

Library

The Library will be open at 5pm on the Monday of the meeting. Please come in early to select your September reading material. All items taken out at the September meeting (and if the library is open at the social) are due at the next meeting which will be October 3rd.

We will be closing the library 15 minutes before the meeting starts so the librarians can participate in the meeting too!

If you are unable to make the meeting, please contact the librarians at library@ovwsg.com. If you forget, then you can contribute to the new book fund! (\$1.50 per item per month overdue.)





We have had a busy summer of socials and new library acquisitions. I have logged into the catalogue new and donated books, videos and magazines for your perusal. Book returns will be a bit slower since this is the first meeting after the summer break and we need to return your deposit checks from your summer borrowing. Please try to come in early so we don't have a line up at the book return.

Any member in good standing and having no overdue library items may borrow up to four (4) items.



To take an item out of the library, take it to the sign-out desk where a librarian will help you fill out the card usually in the back of the book, magazine or DVD you have selected.

Under the date due: put the month and year of the next meeting (there is usually a sign at the sign-out desk to help you).

Under the name box: Print your name and phone number clearly.

Remember to contact the librarians if you are unable to make it to the next meeting and we will arrange for the item's return or an extension of a month if the book has not been requested. If you forget to contact us the fine is \$1.50 per item per month. The fines go to the new book fund.

Card information Location of book, Author, Title, Acquisition Number	
Date Due	
(The Next Meeting Month and year)	PRINT name of member and print your phone number (use 2 lines if necessary for legibility)
(i.e.) Oct. 2015	
	(i.e.) Jane Dough 613- 555-555

All for now, Jan and the Librarians

Welcome New Members!

Serafina Adams Deb Templeton

Events

Doors Open Ontario - September 24, 2016

North Grenville Historical Society will be hosting the public at 15 Water Street, Kemptville.

Please join us to learn about our initiatives and archives located above the court house. We will take over the ground floor court room for displays of technology from the 1800s with a special emphasis on a local craftsman, Horton Row, who made spinning wheels and skein winders in Kemptville. There will also be hands on demonstrations of spinning with one of his great wheels as well as cutting wooden threads.

Visit the Doors Open website at http://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/Events/North-Grenville.aspx and look for North Grenville Archives.

Fibrefest 2016: 21st Annual Festival

At two locations — **the Museum, and the Almonte Arena**—visitors will find demonstrations, vendors, and exhibits. Local guilds will demonstrate spinning, knitting, weaving, rug hooking, lace making, smocking and quilting. Vendors include spinners, weavers, and fibre artists from across the province, as well as quilt shops and alpaca farms.

This two-day festival of the fibre arts ends with the Lamb Race. At 4 pm on September 11th, hundreds of wooden lambs will be thrown over the falls in downtown Almonte, and the owners of the first three to reach the finish line will win fabulous prizes.

The Friends of the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum will provide a tea room, featuring homemade goodies, beverages and sandwiches.

Admission to Fibrefest is \$5.00 per day, which includes access to all sites.

http://mvtm.ca/fibrefest-2016/

SPIN - IN 2016
Celebrating 27 Years!

Tuesday October 4, 2016 10:00 – 3:00 St. John's United Church Bridge St. W., Campbellford, ON

SWEETS TABLE
BBQ LAMB BURGERS
Bring a MUG

ADMISSION \$5.00 SUPPLIERS & DRAWS

CONTACT: Joan McCulloch 705-653-1509 joanmcculloch40@gmail.com

September 25 - Rib Basket Class

The class begins with a trip to a near by wetlands for a collecting expedition and a little lesson about what grows in this area that can be used for basketry. There are lots of possibilities. Students are welcome to bring any material they might want to learn if and how it could be used in this way. But there is no need to bring any materials. Do bring your lunch and garden clippers or kitchen shears.

Then every student will make a basket with a handle or a bowl shaped one using the Rib Basket technique. This is quite a forgiving technique and user friendly. Good for either a plain, purely functional basket or a wildly decorated art piece with the potential for many different shapes.

Cost is \$65.00. Time is 9-4. Location is near Chesterville, ON. Please apply at least 2 weeks before the class with full payment. This allows me to make sure I have what is needed. Occasionally it is possible to apply closer to the date. This is a popular class, so might be best to apply sooner rather than late. (photo by Jan Scott)

Janet Whittam Tel: (613) 448-3733

E-mail: handweaving.ca/classes.htm



Nancy Ingram: Proposed Needle Felting Workshops

For the past several years I have been a participant in the OVWSG Annual Exhibition and Sale. You may be familiar with the needle felted products which I offered for sale. Now that I am "retired" I would like to teach the art of needle felting to members of the Guild.

I am proposing two separate workshops: one would feature needle felted ornaments and the other, the design and creation of a needle felted tapestry. If you are interested, identify it as a "by request" workshop on the Guild website and if a number indicate interest, a workshop could be scheduled at the resource centre when a time slot is available (it could take place either during the week and on weekends).

To express interest or for more information about the proposed workshops contact me at Ingram@rideau.net. Looking forward to this new adventure!

Nancy

OUR ECOLOGICAL FIBRESHED: A workshop series at Rock's End Farm

I am partnering with some guild members to put together 6 fantastic on-farm fibre arts workshops on my farm in Cantley, QC. Thanks to a grant from Achillea Endeavours, the quoted cost INCLUDES all of your materials as well as refreshments. At each workshop we will also take some time to go on a farm tour, learn about fibre farming and talk about our local fibreshed. Space is limited, contact me by phone or email to register: Erin Krekoski - 819-775-8132 - erinkrekoski@gmail.com - www.RocksEndFarm.ca

Learning to Knit: From Sheep to Cowl with Anna Beaudet: *DATE TBD* This workshop offers an introductory lesson in knitting. You will go home with an understanding of the craft and the foundations of a beautiful Infinity Cowl. \$ 55

Natural Dyeing with Amanda Carrigan *WAIT LIST ONLY Saturday, September 24 from 9:00 am - 4:00pm Learn to transform fibres into gorgeous colours from the materials all around you and go home with samples of wool that you have dyed. \$ 35

How to Create a Wet-Felted Bird Pod with Diane Lemire *Sunday, September 25 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm* Learn wet-felting while creating a great simple hand-crafted project for the fun of it! Perhaps a little 'feathered friend' will take shelter there in the spring. **\$ 40**

Peg Loom Weaving: Bewildering to look at, simple to use! with Susan Berlin *Saturday, October 15 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm* This workshop will introduce you to weaving on a peg loom. You will leave with an understanding of this traditional craft, your own new weaving, and your very own peg loom to use at home! **\$ 50**

I have a raw fleece: now what do I do? Preparing a Raw Fleece with Susan Berlin *Sunday, October 16 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm* If you are interested in working with local fibres but have never worked from a raw fleece before, this workshop is for you! Learn how to choose, skirt, sort, wash, and prepare a fleece straight from the farm. \$ 30

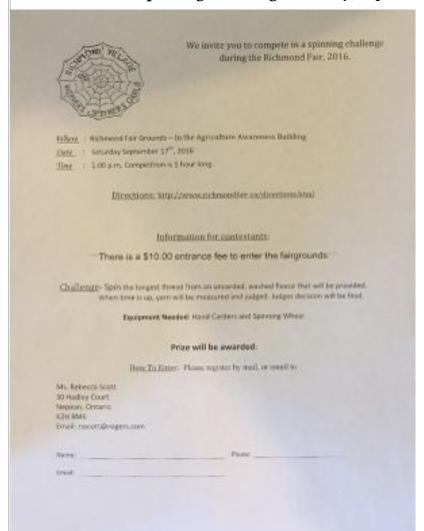
Traditional Padraig Slippers with Anna Beaudet *Saturday, October 29 from 1:00pm - 5:00 pm* Create a pair of crocheted slippers with a sheepskin sole. You will learn crochet and leave with the start of a pair of slippers to finish at home. \$ 55

The Ottawa-Gatineau Fibreshed Directory

I'm working on building a mini-directory of where people can buy fibre directly from farmers. The aim of project is to help support local fibre farmers and promote the possibility of buying from a farmer. This wil online directory but if there's lots of interest perhaps we can do printed copies in the future. Right now I'r collecting information. Please help me with this project by telling me what kinds of fibre you raise and sel where you buy fibre from locally. Thanks!

Erin Krekoski -- Rock's End Farm -- 819-775-8132 -- erinkrekoski@gmail.com

Richmond Fair Spinning Challenge Saturday, September 17th at 1 p.m.



Exhibits

Swoon 04 by guild member Carl Stewart has been included in the exhibition *Punctured Landscape* at the Âjagemô art space at The Canada Council for the Arts at 150 Elgin Street in Ottawa.

Punctured Landscape continues until October 02 2016. The Âjagemô art space is open Monday thru Friday 7:00am to 9:00pm.

http://canadacouncil.ca/council/ajagemo



A member of the guild, **Claire Guérette** has been selected to participate as a textile artist at the Triennale internationale des Arts Textiles en Outaouais. She will make an on-site installation with an internation artist coming from Poland and 20 other artists from Europe ,Canada, and U.S.A. Exibitions, on-site installations, films, master classes, interactive projects and conferences are part of the program. Claire is part of the textile tour exhibitions and will exhibit (Tribal Felt) at the Chelsea Library during the same period, from August 27th to September 16th. For more information http://triennale-outaouais.com

Textile Travel Opportunities

Tribal Weavings of the Lesser Sunda Islands

The most exciting textile tour you are ever likely to find – the trip of a lifetime! The remote ikatweaving islands of eastern Indonesia have one of the most diverse textile cultureson the planet. Handwoven cloth plays a pivotal role in the cohesion of all these societies, cementing clan alliances through complex gift exchanges, revealing tribal loyalties and underpinning the annual cycle of rituals. As some islanders emphasize: 'without cloth we cannot marry'.

Join British textile experts David and Sue Richardson for a fantastic, adventurous voyage on a traditionally designed Indonesian schooner (phinisi), custom-built by Buginese shipbuilders. With a maximum of 22 passengers, our newly fitted French- and American-owned boat has all modern amenities with comfortable en-suite air-conditioned cabins, lots of shaded deck space, an enclosed lounge and bar, and all the latest safety equipment. Our itinerary takes us along the coast of Flores and on to the islands of Lembata, Alor, Timor, Savu, and Sumba, returning via Rinca to visit the Komodo dragons. In village after village we will see every aspect of ikat production and natural dyeing and have the opportunity to purchase fabulous textiles directly from the women who made them. Before each visit guests will be fully briefed so that they completely understand the type of textiles and techniques they will encounter and the role that cloth plays within the local community. Our journey will take us through a dramatic volcanic landscape during which there will be time to write-up journals, relax, swim, snorkel, sunbathe, and beachcomb. Our cruise begins at Maumere on the island of Flores on May 1, 2017 and ends at Labuan Bajo, also on Flores on May 12. Both places are connected to Bali by short direct flights. We will also lead a short land-based pre-cruise tour from April 29 to May 1.



See http://www.asiantextilestudies.com/tour.html and https://www.facebook.com/David.and.Sue.Richardson/287466518059

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 mewsletter@ovwsg.com

For Sale: Leclerc 45" 8 shaft 10 treadle Colonial Loom (Jack/Counterbalance convertible).

Lightly used and in excellent operating condition. Has both overhead and underslung beaters. Comes with many, many Texsolv and metal heddles and a 44 inch Leclerc open-end loom bench. \$2,250 firm.

Contact: BobClarke21@gmail.com



Wooden hat forms and drum carder for sale Carmen <u>613-241-2863</u> or email carmspace@hotmail.com

One side of pork. already butchered. The price is \$2.75/lb. This is a large side that weights 135.5 lbs, for a total cost of \$372.63. The bacon is in slab form ready for smoking. It is cut with 50/50 chops and roasts. The tenderloin is whole. There are ribs and ground as well. If you are interested or would like any more information please email me at shepherdessann@gmail.com or send me a message on Facebook (Ann McElroy).

Fibre for sale by Kelly MacGregor of Kinnaird Farm

Some of each of the following will be available at the September meeting:

- (i) **FLEECE** lovely, crimpy, BFL mix & Rideau Arcott mix;
- (ii) ${\bf ROVING}$ described as "incredible", "silky", and "easy to work with". ½ BFL fleece processed into roving and packaged in 200 gm bags; and
- (iii) ALPACA lustrous colours of fawn, light beige and brown-black.

Focus Fibre

Claire Guerette, Ashford dealer jardindelaine@live.ca 819-639-4106

Ask for a soumission for products Spinning-Weaving-Felting-Dyeing

Photos from the June meeting program

Tom Knisely spoke about Sakiori and Zanshi and brought lots of textiles and samples.



Show &Tell





Left to right, top to bottom: Trish's painted warps; Linda's painted warps; Shirley's Shibori scarves; Carlenes apron; Carlene's yarn; Ruth's Krokbragdt sample; Francesca's baby blanket; Francesca's blanket and Shibori shawl; Sam's Qiviut yarn; and Carl and Natalie's Sakiori and Zanshi samples.

June 2016 Meeting Minutes

General Membership Meeting 6 June 2016

Chair: Ruth Cooper

- Chair welcomed members, new members, and guests. (About 70 members in attendance and one new member).
- Sincere thank you to previous executive for their dedication and contributions.
- New executive was introduced.

Business & Announcements:

- Newsletter copy is available at the Membership Table. No newsletters are published in the summer but will resume in the fall.
- Workshops: Check out *Choosing Materials for End-Use* with Shirley Browsky. Workshops begin again in September; sign up early to secure your spot!
- Ex & Sale: 1 kiosk is still available!
 - o Work on the first prize item: warp is almost ready for the loom.
 - o Work on second prize item: Judith Rygiel volunteered to weave the shawl.
 - o Rack cards are ready to share, contact the guild Ex & Sale Coordinator to obtain some.
- Door Codes: Update that the door codes change regularly and membership is mandatory for those who wish to access the guild facilities. Kindly don't share the codes; members can obtain the codes directly from the executive.
- Library: Many new books in the library! Reminder that members need to provide a deposit cheque to take books out for the summer.
- Guild Audit: a draft letter is available to the membership regarding the expense of the mandatory audit. Please send one to your MP, no postage is required to send mail to your member of parliament at the following address:
 - o Name of Member of Parliament

House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada

K1A 0A6

- Preview of next year's program! The proposed program was very well received by the membership. The June program is still being reviewed, and a member suggested possibly having a Syrian textile artist present.
- An invitation came to the guild to join the Sheep to Shawl at the Sheep Dog Trials, Grass Creek Park, Kingston. Focus on quality of design, shawl & creative appeal. There are rooms at The Ambassador Hotel @ \$139/night if the team wants to stay over. Saturday, Aug. 6.
- WASOON: happened May 27-29, 2016 in Sudbury.
 - Next Year's OHS Conference is at Seneca College, 1750 Finch Ave., Toronto. May 5-7, 2017.

- o WASOON 2018 will be in Timmins.
- Circulated a card to sign for absent Mary Morrison, and had a brief update about her situation.

Program

Tom Knisely: Collecting old textiles

Tom presented a broad array of textiles as included in his presentation for the membership to see and touch.

Marie-France introduced Tom Knisely to the membership.

Tom prefaced his presentation to the membership with *Keep Me Warm One Night* by D. K. Burnham & H. B. Burnham looking at Mennonite work as they moved from Pennsylvania to Canada and a continuation of their work. History, family history, and antique shopping are important when discussing collecting old textiles. Tom obtained his first wheel at 14 years old, and it was an antique at that time! He spent 30+ years at the Manning Studio in Berlin Pennsylvania. In terms of collecting and looking at textiles, Tom recommends using the *4 W's* just as we are taught in school. Look at a textile and see what social impacts in can identify for you about its time.

A linen feedbag was presented. This feedbag was from the civil war, it showed signs of meticulous mending, re-use, a design predating other bag techniques, and those details also indicate the value of the material at the time.

The complexity of a work can indicate ingenuity with or of the equipment of the period.

A textile with a warp in linen but a weft of cotton is presented... Why would they choose to do it in that manner?

A Jacquard coverlet is stretched out to see the complex design...this gorgeous item was on ebay!

Japanese Obi, a country obi is the next item shown. A sample of rag-weaving from leftover strips of cloth and threads. These type of items serve as inspiration for modern re-uses of scarves, rags, and leftovers of any variety. What you use gives an opportunity to control your final product in terms of drapeability and softness. Often thrift shopping is a means to gather what you need.

Zanshi-cloth is manipulated to display its textural properties and appearance. Made of leftover threads. The warp is of a smooth thread, but the weft is leftover thread pieces all tied together.

Tom also collects looms and parts. *He shows us an intricate bamboo reed assembled with hemp cord interleaved in the dents to keep the supports together.* He has found other interesting treasures of the past. He found that there were several sets of loom gears stored with reeds already threaded for specific project types. These were prepared and set aside to quickly switch projects.

A small rug is presented to the audience. There is a middle pattern double the width of the edges that make a balanced and repeating pattern if you were to lay another beside it. The pattern designs are sometimes set to lay several pieces end-to-end without breaking the pattern. This is actually a predecessor to modern wall-to-wall carpeting.

Older pieces give inspiration to Tom's new work such as his modern applications of overshot. He indicates that wild colours may be shocking to us at times, but were perhaps developed in different areas where they're more commonly used. Au-naturelle colour made with lichens etc.

"I look at a fabric and ask; talk to me...what do you want to be when you grow up?"

Q/A

- Member: How do I know it's old?? Do I have to know the history of weaving?
 - o Tom: Yes.
- Show and Tell from Tom's Workshop: Natalie S. And Carl S. Show work from Tom's workshop the week before. Interesting Zanchi & Saki-ori samples.
- Member: How do you make joins in a rag scarf?
 - o Tom: Taper the ends of the rag.
- Member: How to cut up an old pairs of jeans for rag pieces?
 - Tom: Any way is good, can add character. Do me a favor and don't use a natural colour warp use a nave or something.
- Member: How many looms are out in the community? How much do they go for at these auctions?
 - o Tom: Loads of them. Was likely special to have a coverlet as that requires more harnesses. Usually around \$100-500.
- Member story: When her Great Aunt had a loom for a few weeks she would do nothing but weave for the entire duration all blankets and rugs for the house. Everyone else helped out & did e other chores for the time.
- Member: Have you been to Upper Canada Village yet?
- Tom: No. I'll be back though. ☺

Marie-France thanked Tom for visiting our guild and presenting. She presented him a gift of a book of Traditional Weaves of Guatemala with a note from a mutual friend within the cover.

BREAK - Refreshments and Socializing

Show and Tell

Linda Perrier &	Painted warps
Patricia Moore	
Shirley Browsky	Shibori scarves
Carlene Paquette	Apron, yarn
Francesca	Baby blanket & shibori shawl
Ruth	Krokbragd
Samantha V.	Qiviut
Laurie Harkin-	Caning
Chiasson	
Natalie S. &	Sakiori & Zanshi samples
Carl S.	

Thanks to all. Meeting adjourned 9:35pm.

Next meeting takes place Monday September 12, 7:30pm. (Labour Day is September 5).