

PENELOPE'S NEWS



March Edition 2024

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

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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."*

The guild gratefully acknowledges the funding that it receives from the City of Ottawa.

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President's Message

Is it spring yet? I hope you haven't put your winter clothes away just yet; we will have another blast or two of the white stuff, I just know it!

In our efforts to get to know our members better, we are going to be asking some questions – Liane Thiry-Smith will be asking those very questions monthly (see her piece in this newsletter) and will compile them for all members to read. Please participate, it will be fun!

The 75th Anniversary Committee has been working hard to organize some fun and interesting events to commemorate this incredible milestone. The Open House/Party is in the organizational stage, and we are looking for guild members to step up and join in. We will be asking for help with specific activities in the coming months. Consider supporting your guild to make this a blast!

If you have visited the studio lately, you will see that we have tidied up in anticipation of visitors during the open house. There is still lots of work to be done to make the space more appealing and reflect some of the work we are doing. You will see that there some empty looms available for rent – if you have a project you want to weave, please speak to Deborah Newhook, the equipment coordinator.

The next Guild meeting will be held on Monday, March 4, 2024. See you there!

Meeting Info

This month's hybrid meeting:
Monday, March 4, 2024, at
7:15 pm

Program: Liz Spear

February Executive Meeting:
March 18, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

The next meeting: Monday, April
8th, 2023

Policy Volunteers Needed

Calling all policy wonks!

This year, the Board will be reviewing all our policies to make sure they are relevant and updated. We'd love a few volunteers to help. If this is something that interests you, please contact chair@ovwsg.com.

General Announcements

Message from the Editor

The newsletter is released on the Monday prior to the general meeting nine times a year, breaking for the summer months of July and August and for the winter holiday season (no January edition). Submissions for the April newsletter are due no later than **March 29, 2024**.

We welcome contributions from all members, so please feel free to submit photos, book reviews or stories of fibre related activities. The February Newsletter can be accessed at: <https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/February-2024-Newsletter.pdf>

Membership

Membership renewals can be done through SECURE ONLINE PAYMENT at:
<https://www.ovwsg.com/membership/membership-application/>

Follow the directions and fill in the forms. You may pay through a PayPal account or a Credit card.

Cheque/Snail mail: Cheques should be made out to "OVWSG". Mail to:
OVWSG / Heartwood House / 404 McArthur Ave. Ottawa, ON K1K 1G8
ATTENTION: MEMBERSHIP

Updates from Program Coordinators

Workshops

Most workshops for March are full. If you are interested please put your name on the waiting list, sometimes a spot becomes available, but it also helps me gauge interest. Note that putting your name on the waiting list for a particular workshop session does not give you priority for subsequent sessions, nor can I individually let people know if and when I schedule it at a later date unless there is such a long list that my assistant, Beth, attempts to schedule a "By Request" session.

These workshops for March and early April still have space:

Overshot with Julie Anne, suitable for any weaver who has taken Weaving 1 or equivalent.
<https://www.ovwsg.com/events/event/2418-playing-with-overshot/>

Cup Cozies - Wet Felting with Ann, a shorter introduction to wet felting
<https://www.ovwsg.com/events/event/2419-cup-cozies-and-coffee-sleeves-wet-felting/>

Nuno Felt with Ann
<https://www.ovwsg.com/events/event/2423-luxurious-nuno-felt-scarf/>

Elizabeth Watt
Workshops Registrar

Programs

Thank you for the positive feedback from last month's panel presentation on lessons learned. Pre-COVID we had at least one panel program each year and sometimes two. This was the first we've had since 2019. Thank you, Carlene, Laurie, and Ruth for sharing your mistakes with tips and advice to avoid them.

Holding member panel presentations is one of many ways programs works to stay on budget. But more than that, they give us another opportunity we can learn from each other, build on our community resources, and give variety to our meeting formats. I'd love to hear your suggestions for future panels.

Next up is our March 4th meeting. Our guest speaker, Liz Spear, an award-winning fine art weaver & handwoven clothing designer will be joining us via Zoom from North Carolina. She is one of three invited artists for the fashion show at the Hand Weavers Guild of America "Convergence[®]" event in Wichita, Kansas this July. Her work is innovative and inspiring. You can check out her website.

<https://www.lizspearhandwoven.com/about-liz-spear-weaver-designer-fiber-artist>

This month I'll attend on Zoom to greet our guest. Then I'll be at our April meeting to help Pauline Maracle, Mohawk basket weaver and loom beadwork, who will bring her basketry to display in person.

See you then.

Liane Thiry-Smith

75th Anniversary – Member De-Stashing Event

Member De-Stashing Event

We're starting the second meeting of our 75th Anniversary with a bit of an experiment that was a success and will be repeated for our third meeting on March 4. As before, we will have a "Members De-stash" opportunity before the meeting and at the break.

The six available tables will be set up around the edge of the meeting room before the meeting. The table costs \$5.00 and must be prepaid via e-transfer to me (details to follow). How you handle your transactions is your business. The doors for the de-stash open at 6:30 and must stop when the meeting begins at 7:15. You will have another opportunity to engage with customers during break. Vendors must stay to help with table take down.

There will not be a jury for materials sold, but we ask that you keep it to fiber related goods. Use your good sense, be aware of your demographic and enjoy yourself.

Please send me an email bquade@pixelgraphstudio.com before Saturday Mar 02 with your name so I can confirm you interest. Payment must be sent via e-transfer before Saturday MAR 02 so I can have a table ready for you. If you have any questions, send them to me at that email address. Tables that are not prepaid will not be held; this payment is not refundable.

Bernadette Quade

75th Anniversary Committee

Member Profile

Wendy Birkett Willbond

As part of our guild's 75th anniversary year, I've started writing a monthly series of member profiles. I want to showcase our members and to celebrate our being here. We all have stories of our fibre arts journey, our time in the guild, how & why we got here and what keeps us here.

A member for 24 years, I met Wendy at my first social after I joined in 2014. She was making cotton punis for that summer's Fibre Focus Challenge. Her early textile influences were knitting and crochet. Her grandmother knit while her mom preferred to crochet. Both were sewists. At that time Wendy favoured sewing most and had absolutely zero interest in knitting or crocheting.

Her family lived in Toronto when she was young. During a family visit to her aunt and uncle's home in Carp, she was inspired while watching her Aunt Beth spin. Not living close enough, learning to spin didn't happen until much later. Finally on a trip to Virginia, at a souvenir shop in historic Jamestown, Wendy found a spindle set. Not surprisingly, it came home with her. With it, she learned to spin on her own. Wendy's first wheel was a gift from her aunt for her 34th birthday. For 15 years, it was her only wheel; a Baynes which she still loves, owns, and will never sell. She has since added a Lendrum and very recently was gifted a Bisson Double Drive Wheel. She has been experimenting with weaving on a 36" Leclerc Fanny loom that had been pre-loved by Nathalie Shumovsky. Wendy has also become quite a prolific knitter but really only because she had to find something to do with all the handspun.

As time passed, her aunt Beth Herity (of WCFG - West Carleton Fibre Guild) encouraged her to attend a St. Distaff's Day event in Almonte. At that time, she owned Angora rabbits. She remembers selling Cindy O'Gorman one of her baby bunnies. While there Wendy learned about OVWSG. She attended her first guild meeting when the guild was on Chapel Street. She initially joined the guild then & there. However, she was busy home schooling her four children and didn't renew her membership.

When buying a property & building a house with her husband Ryan, in a rural area, she decided she now had to get sheep! She bought her first sheep, four Shetland ewes which she named Freesia, Clover, Dahlia, and Tansy. She also fell in love with the cutest little ram. She was disappointed when told, he'd already been sold.

In another random connection, while looking to rent a picker, Cindy O'Gorman offered to lend hers. When Wendy picked it up she recognized the ram she had wanted had been sold to Cindy.

Once finished with home schooling, they moved back to the city so their kids could be closer to their many extra-curricular activities. Now it was time to let her sheep go. Freesia had died. Clover, Dahlia, and Tansy were sold to Karen Kauth (pre-Karberry Farm). In fact, it's a photo of one of Dahlia's offspring on Karen's business card.

They never sold their hobby farm. It had been rented until they could return and have animals again. She'd missed having sheep, but it was such trouble finding a shearer and there is no guarantee that any new sheep would be roo able. (Rooing is when the natural break in wool growth allows the fleece to shed instead of needing to be shorn; a feature of some primitive breeds like Shetlands). She researched Angora goats. Angoras still needed shearing so that idea was nixed. After more research, she chose to raise cashmere goats as their undercoats can be combed rather than sheared.

Asked what other interests and skills she has, she shared that she is part of The Gloucester Community Concert Band. Though she now does percussion for the band, she first played flute. She is also a member of the Twistle Guild of Glengarry. After retiring from homeschooling she landed her dream job as a receptionist at the local veterinary hospital in Navan.

In conclusion, I asked why she rejoined in 2010. She now lived closer, had finished with home-schooling and so had more time. She wanted to socialize with other spinners, meet new people and foster her creativity. Other features included access to equipment, workshops and learning from the expertise of other spinners, weavers, and other textile artists. Once again, she stressed that the socials are very important to her for the inspiration and encouragement she always receives and still the main reason she continues her membership.

She loves almost every colour except purple, orange, and fuchsia. If she had to pick a top three, they'd be blue, yellow, and pink (most days).

Did you know that...

In 1941, the idea to start a guild in Ottawa came about during an out-of-town weaving conference. It was there a few women first met, learned they were each from Ottawa and decided to start a weavers' guild.

After they returned, they began meeting together at the Ottawa Civil Service Recreation Association (what we now call the RA). Due to conditions in the old RA building, they only met there for a few years. Later in 1947, they regrouped with more weavers and became the Bytown Weavers' Guild.

Eventually from there a second guild was formed and on September 20, 1949, the Ottawa Valley Weavers Guild was founded. Our first meetings were held at the old Ottawa Teachers' College (Ottawa Normal School). It is now the Heritage Building at 195 Elgin St.



Photo from Wikipedia.

Sources are from conversations with other members, in particular, Mandy Heggeveit and Jan Scott.

-submitted by Liane Thiry-Smith

Question of the Month

When & why did you join OVWSG, and why do you stay?

I'll start. I joined in 2014, because Natalie Shumovsky told me that I really needed this. I stay because she was right. I do need to be here in this dynamic creative space where I can learn so much and form new friendships.

Email your answers to me: liane.ts@rogers.com

I'll share them in our next newsletter when I ask a new question of the month.

Liane Thiry-Smith

Socials Update

Monday Socials are now from 4-8pm in the studio. Socials occur all Mondays there is not a regular meeting (first Monday of the month) Jan is usually in the studio by 9am working in the library. Everyone is encouraged to pop in and be social (spin, weave, felt, chat etc.) and use the library or equipment. Come and join us and get to know your fellow guild members.

Studio Loom Use – IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please note that any loom that is in use at the Guild overnight or longer, **MUST** have a label indicating who is weaving on it, what they are weaving, and - if they are with a class - who the instructor is as well as the name of the class/workshop. **It is the users' responsibility to ensure that their work is traceable.**

There are labels available in an envelope on the wall of the classroom, and just a piece of paper attached to the loom is adequate, provided it has the required information.

Any unidentified project on a loom may result in that loom being vacated and put back into circulation.

Library

Dear Guild,

As you may have heard my husband has had a stroke. He is doing extremely well considering how he was the day it happened.

Unfortunately, one of his rehab appointments will be on Monday mornings so I will not be in at the crack of dawn to get the library open for you, for the next little while. We will try to get the appointment moved to a different day when an opening appears in the schedule. I will, as usual, post on our Facebook group when I get in. If you are unsure or the internet is being flakey you can call the studio at 613- six eight zero- 6600 to see who is there.

Books presently out are due back before the meeting on March 4th. The library will close 15 minutes before the meeting to allow the librarians to put away the library and also attend the meeting. Items taken out at the March meeting will be due back before the start of the April meeting. If you cannot make the meeting, you can drop books off at the front desk of Heartwood House in a bag labeled OVWSG LIBRARY, or make arrangements with the librarians for drop off in the west end near Ikea or south of the city near north Gower.

We had a few magazines that had not shown up during the pandemic suddenly appear in our mailbox. Please come welcome them to our collection, it may have been a traumatic journey to arrive a year late to the studio! (I suspect they went to some other group who finally notice it wasn't their magazine.) The Librarians are looking forward to seeing you before the March meeting!!

All for now, Jan, on behalf of the library team.

The Great Wood Give-Away

(donations will not be refused)

The Guild has several pieces of wood parts from the previous 100" loom that are of no use to us. We would therefore like to clear them out and free up the space that they are occupying. They are made from excellent wood, the like of which is no longer available, and would be fantastic acquisitions for woodworking or building of any type.

- 2 104" beams, (octagonal, 4" diameter that the warp or cloth wind onto)
- 2 104" 2x4" bars (with one rounded side, possibly front/back beams)
- 4 sectional beams @46-47" long, 1/2" sections (these could likely be cut to fit smaller looms)
- 4 other, @46-47" long. I don't know what they are. They have single sectional dividers at the ends of the bars, and dowel holes (four, evenly spaced) in between.
- 6 lamms in their frame, 35" long, and 2 lamms loose, with brackets
- also 2 temples, 5 feet long closed, therefore minimum warp width of at least 5 feet

Note that these items will only be 'advertised' this once; so if you are interested, don't delay!

Please contact rentals@ovwsg.com for more information, or to make arrangements.

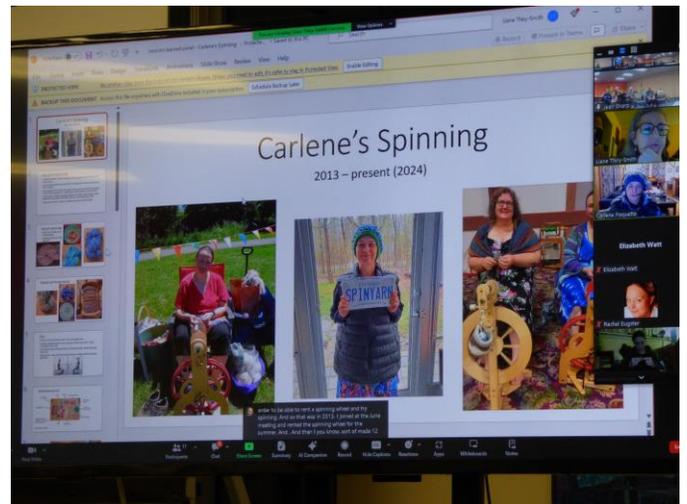
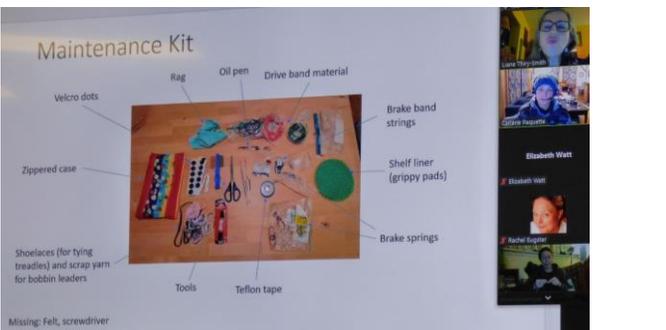
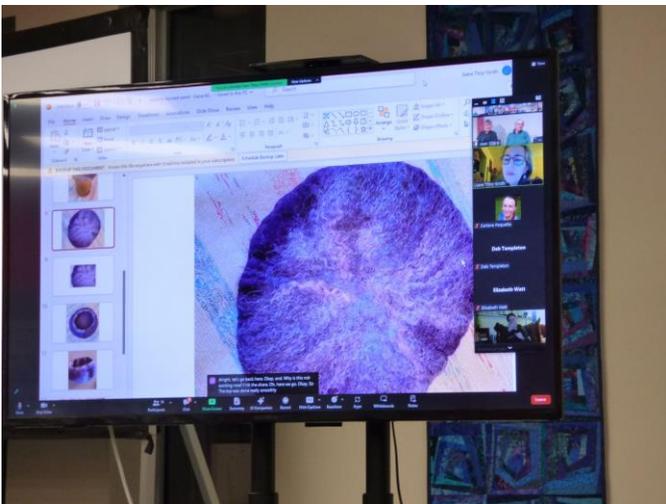
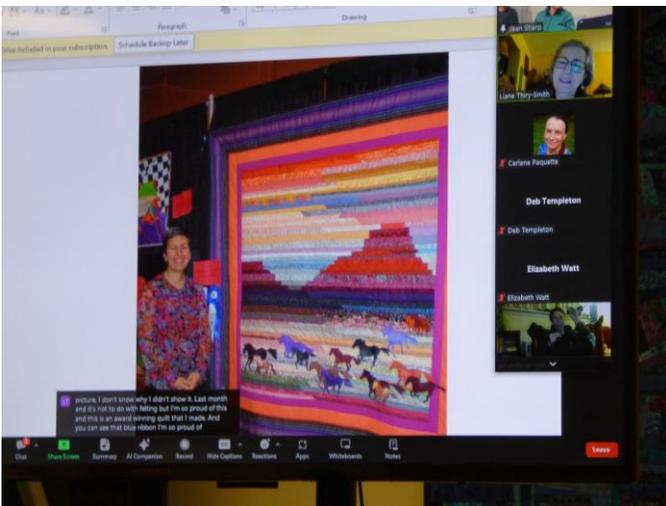
Chesterville Spin-in



Needle-felted Landscape Class



February Meeting



February Meeting



100" loom show and tell



Socials



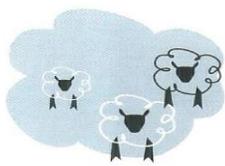
Marketplace

The Marketplace portion of the newsletter is used to promote and assist its members. Some restrictions may apply as to space availability and file restrictions. Contact Brenda at marketplace@ovwsg.com

Kinnaird Farm – www.KinnairdFarm.ca

- Ready-to-spin roving in various natural colours, wool, and wool-alpaca blends
- Fleece – raw wool fleece, *shipped nationwide!*
- Sheepskin Rugs – white, brown, black, grey
- Two-ply mill spun, natural white yarn, fine, 100 gram skeins
- 2023 lamb – sold out – *Thank you! Accepting orders for 2024*

Contact Kelly MacGregor for details: KinnairdFarm@gmail.com



Kinnaird Farm
Kelly M MacGregor

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Mallorytown ON
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613.659.4267

Créations Christine

Représentante d'Ashford Dealer

Pour plus d'information – For inquiries: 819-405-2007

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February Meeting Minutes

February 2024 Meeting

Monday February 5, 2024, at 19:15 in person and via Zoom

- Welcome from President, Jean Sharp, and Introduction of the Executive

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Corporate Secretary position is opening at the end of the fiscal year, please contact Jean Sharp or Moira White if you are interested.
- Programs Update – Programs position will also be opening; programs are currently arranged until next November. Please let Moira or Jean know.
- Tapestry pieces due at the beginning of March
- Next Executive February 19, 2024, at 7:00 am. Everyone is invited. If you wish to be included in the meeting, please contact Moira at chair@ovwsg.com

PROGRAM

- Live and Learn - Carlene Paquette for spinning, Laurie Harkinson-Chiasson will speak to her basketry and weaving, Ruth Cooper on weaving and Liane Thiry-Smith with felting and basketry.

SHOW AND TELL

Heartwood House Parking

Parking

1. Back parking lot:

- The parking area at the Moorvale entrance by the back door entrance and the parking area from the storage pods to the west fence are reserved for permit holders only from Monday to Friday from 8:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.
- Vehicles with no permits on the dashboard will be ticketed.
- There are no parking restrictions in the back lot after 4:00p.m. from Monday to Friday and on Saturday.

2. Front lot:

- Visitors parked in the front lot must be registered on the front desk journal.
- A fee of \$1 is charged for parking in the front lot. Please pay at the Heartwood House front desk.
- Vehicles not registered in the visitor parking journal will be ticketed.
- Visitors who are popping in to drop off an item to a member are not required to pay a fee or register the vehicle.

3. UUFO entrance:

- The two spots in front of the Unitarian entrance are reserved for the Unitarian members.

4. Sunday Parking:

- Please park in front of the building or to the East of the Laundry in the rear parking lot (areas are marked in yellow below) to allow Unitarians access to their space on Sundays.

