



Etobicoke Handweavers and Spinners Guild

Newsletter - April 15, 2020

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I hope you all had a nice Easter and were able to connect with your families in any number of ways; Zoom, Facetime, telephone, in person.

It has been very trying time for so many people and it looks like things will remain this way for some time to come. Brenda Shewchuk, president of Neilson Park Creative Centre has advised that the Centre will stay closed until, at least, June 30. This means that we will not be together in the usual way until fall, most likely.

For the past couple of weeks we have been holding meetings and drop-ins with Zoom, a way of connecting up to 250 people online in video conferencing. This is a very easy software or app to connect with and hopefully you have given it a try. The past couple of drop in sessions have been well attended by 12-15 members of the guild. It is comforting to connect with those we have seen weekly in the past and too have a look at what they have accomplished during this enforced isolation. (Please see the list of dates and details for logging in on the next page.) If you feel, still, that it is more complicated than you want to deal with, give someone a call or email and we will be happy to lead you through the setup.

There has been a suggestion from NPCC that they will be hosting online 'free' workshops and classes for those over the age of 60. If any of you would like to participate by holding a class or workshop through the Zoom medium, please contact Petra at petra@neilsonparkcreativecentre.com by April 15.

Many of our members have sent Claudia suggestions of interesting sites and things to do while we go through this. I hope you find something new and interesting.

Stay well and busy,
Carolyn Ramos



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

NOTES FROM OUR GUILD AMBASSADOR

Greetings to everyone. I hope you are coping well with whatever this new situation has brought your way. I am the guild's ambassador. This new position started in September 2019 to help orient new members to the guild. When new members joined the guild I was given their names and contact information. I would send an e-mail new members to welcome them, get a sense of what they were interested in and, in some cases, connect them with a more experienced guild member with similar interests. Since a new privacy policy was instituted, I am no longer given contact information for guild members, so I haven't been doing my job. If you are a new member and you would like to contact me, I would love to hear from you. Elizabeth Evans cetkovskievans@rogers.com.

In memory of Libby Porth we have decided to purchase [A New Spin on Color](#) by Alanna Wilcox for the guild library. Alanna is American, but has a Canadian connection. She came to Ontario for the OHS Spinning Certificate and took her final year with guild member Joan McKenzie. The book details different methods for spinning variegated yarn. We hope to use the for a guild group spinning study project.

I was so happy read Guild member, Sandra Dammizio's article "Geringsing: Sacred Cloth of Bali" in the current issue of *Fibre Focus*. This cotton cloth is woven on a backstrap loom in double ikat technique. Production of each piece of cloth can take up to eight years. Congratulations Sandra! Your photographs are excellent and your writing about this complex practice is interesting and clear. I hope everyone will read it and appreciate the work of these spinners and weavers.

Elizabeth Evans

DATES AND LOG IN INFO FOR THE FRIDAY ZOOM MEETINGS

Carolyn Ramos is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: EHS Drop In

Time: Apr 10, 2020 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Fri, until May 22, 2020, 7 occurrence(s)

Apr 10, 2020 10:00 AM

Apr 17, 2020 10:00 AM

Apr 24, 2020 10:00 AM

May 1, 2020 10:00 AM

May 8, 2020 10:00 AM

May 15, 2020 10:00 AM

May 22, 2020 10:00 AM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tJQtc--orjwptMV7NPWeMEdSl-MepxIXfA/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCorj8sGtSSs139Y7lqW8HibPH2kmVjnPRzrCjgLvXUQ-7G-dSKptHFvmB>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/900460073>

Meeting ID: 900 460 073

Please note: This is a new meeting ID but will stay the same for the 7 meeting dates

Carolyn Ramos

caramos@sympatico.ca

A GENEROUS PRESENT FROM LANN SMYTH

I (am sending) a pattern I wrote for knitting Slipper Socks. This pattern is ideal for those weavers and spinners out there who have a lot of yarn and also like to knit. It is designed as a 'stash buster'. Originally I was knitting these slipper socks to sell at the 'Other Things we Make' table at the NPCC Handmade sale and when it was cancelled, I decided to write the pattern down and share. It is also a good easy pattern for those who want to teach themselves how to knit socks, starting with bulky yarn.

Cheers,
Lann Smyth

*Editor's note: Lann formatted her pattern beautifully as a PDF file, and I don't know how to copy it directly into this newsletter. So I'm asking that it be attached to the email that sends you this newsletter. I would also like to emphasize the following statement by Lann: **Please remember that this pattern was created by and is the property of Lann Smyth and is not to be used for commercial use or sales.***

THANK YOU LANN!



COLOUR PLAY

Jennifer James kindly calls our attention to the following website called Stitch Palettes:

<https://stitchpalettes.com/>

She comments, "It is geared towards embroidery but the colour combinations could be useful for weavers looking for some inspiration. I have been looking at it and the Camilla Farm app (that has colour swatches) to come up with a design for bread cloths that I can weave as my next project. I am trying to weave one thing from my stash of yarns - then another where I have to buy some yarns. Normally I would go to Camilla Farm to look at the actual cones of cotton - but now I will just order and pick up at the shop."

I (Claudia) would also like to tell you about a game that was recommended by a teacher of quilt design, called Blendoku. It is played like Sudoku, using colours instead of symbols. It's fun, and is also quite challenging!

<http://www.blendoku.com/>

BOOKS FEATURING WEAVING

If you love cats and cozies -- comfy mysteries -- almost as much as you love weaving, you may be as delighted as I am to find that the iconic Lilian Braun series -- The Cat Who -- frequently features the work of artisans, including weavers. Most often, our detecting hero Qwilleran, who is aided in his work by a Siamese cat, buys these works for his many female friends and admirers. No artisan criminals in the series though a few fine artists have been revealed as murderers.

It always delights me to find weaving in works of literature -- and I use the term loosely when it comes to cozy mysteries which exist, in my view, for relaxing at bedtime. I recently discovered there's a series of these that not only mentions weaving but "stars" a weaver. Carol Ann Martin's four-book series includes Looming Murder, Tapestry of Lies, Weave of Absence, Loom and Doom. All available -- as are the Cat Who books -- from the Toronto Public Library as e-books and, in some cases, audiobooks. Perfect to accompany actual weaving!

For something a little meatier, there's My Name Is Resolute by Nancy E. Turner. In 1729, Resolute Talbot and her siblings are captured by pirates, taken from their family in Jamaica and sold into slavery and taught the trade of spinning and weaving. Resolute's talent at the loom places her at the center of an incredible web of secrecy that helped drive the American Revolution.

A Weaver's Web by Chris Pearce tells the story of handloom weaver Henry Wakefield and his family who live in abject poverty in the Manchester area, UK, in the early 19th century. He hates the new factories and clashes with everyone from his wife Sarah to a factory agent, a local priest, and reformers.

The Carpet Weaver by Nemat Sadat is the story of forbidden love, set in the late 70s of Afghanistan and the U.S. Kanishka Nurzada is a 16-year-old boy who wants to become a carpet weaver when he grows up.

The Silk Weaver's Wife by Debbie Rix is set in two different time periods, depicting silk weaving in 1704 and 2017.

The Weaver's Daughter by Sarah Ladd is about Kate, who loves the family business and loves her father. But her father has plans to marry her to one of his employees.

I haven't read any of the above except The Cat Who books, but there's one more notable book about a weaver that I did read in the seventh grade. And I'll bet you did, too.

Silas Marner: The Weaver of Raveloe is the third novel by George Eliot, published in 1861. The apparently simple tale of a linen weaver, it is known for its strong realism and sophisticated treatment of issues from religion to industrialisation to community. George Eliot, of course, is MaryAnn Evans, best known for Middlemarch.

Sharon Rose Airhart



SOCK YARN STASH USE

After Friedl Ballaban showed us the knitting that she was doing to use up her leftover sock yarns at one of our Friday online drop in sessions, we begged her to share pictures and patterns. Thank you, Friedl, for sharing!



The two patterns below were my inspiration. I have modified only to the extent of having the centre lines (decreases) all point in the same direction. One of these patterns doesn't have that. My blanket is so busy anyway, I didn't want to make it even busier. This is fun knitting - - mindless, watching BritComs knitting - and it keeps me on my toes because the colours change. I do not "design" the colours and just try to alternate a bit between brighter and duller colours. It is, what it is. I'm using leftover pieces of sock yarn and just realized, I've been knitting socks for the family for more than 15 years. I think this blanket will be my last "sock yarn hurrah". Time to move on! haha.

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/the-coziest-memory>

<https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/812477589012318498/>

Thank you, Friedl!



FACE MASKS BEING PRODUCED BY QUILTERS!

I know that there is considerable debate going on about the value and proper use of face masks. The Etobicoke Quilters' Guild has not taken any official position on the matter, and has not taken on the task of supplying face masks in any official way. But many of us are sewing them for family, friends, and to donate. Sandy Lindal is a wonderful member of the guild who has offered help in many ways, including securing a supply of elastic that the guild purchased and has made available to sewers of masks. Here is a great article about Sandy:

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2020/04/06/about-face-about-cloth-mask-leaves-backers-vindicated.html>

Claudia Clipsham

FUN AND USEFUL LINKS FROM SHARON AIRHART

- Library digital resources
<https://torontopubliclibrary.typepad.com/digital-services/2020/03/38-ways-to-use-the-library-from-home.html>

One example of the services offered is the following: Free streaming movies, Great Courses and instructional videos, courtesy the Toronto Public Library.

www.Kanopy.com

- Also Rogers – cable provider – is offering a lot of free channels until the end of April
<https://www.rogers.com/consumer/tv/free-previews>
- And here's the URL for the volunteer site re tracking cases, etc. The Government of Canada is building a roster of volunteers to help with:
 1. Case tracking and contact tracing;
 2. Health system surge capacity;
 3. Case data collection and reporting.

<https://emploisfp-psjobs.cfp-psc.gc.ca/psrs-srfp/applicant/page1800?toggleLanguage=en&poster=1437722>

- A lovely garden tour in Kent, with only birdsong for accompaniment.
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjWx2WNXFF4&feature=emb_rel_end
- Amazing short videos about very interesting things, courtesy of The Beeb
- https://www.bbc.co.uk/ideas/?xtor=ES-210-%5B30704_PANINT_SOT_11_IDA_USA_BBCIdeas%5D-20200320-%5Bbbcideas_bbcideashomepage_curiosity%5D
- Nightly free opera streams from The Met
- <https://www.metopera.org/>
- Access to 500 museums and galleries
- <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner?hl=en>
- National Theatre performance streaming
- https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/at-home?queueitoken=e_safetevent25mar20-q_baa1e546-e171-4ee5-a682-944a0e6ad908-ts_1585335365-ce_true-rt_safetynet-h_c8be7312e9a96664322ecb23a422c023c7348fe43ff38da71eef64b5fc435016
- Since many Guild members love both British television and mysteries, here's a fun read.
<https://www.anglotopia.net/british-entertainment/brit-tv/brit-tv-and-film-a-history-of-miss-marple-in-cinema-and-british-television-which-marple-is-your-favorite/>

A RECIPE FROM NANCY SUMMERS TO SWEETEN YOUR DAY!

DoubleTree Signature Cookie Recipe

Makes 26 cookies

½ pound butter, softened (2 sticks)
¾ cup + 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
¾ cup packed light brown sugar
2 large eggs
1 ¼ teaspoons vanilla extract
¼ teaspoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
2 ¼ cups flour
1/2 cup rolled oats
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
Pinch cinnamon
2 2/3 cups Nestle Tollhouse semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 3/4 cups chopped walnuts

Cream butter, sugar and brown sugar in the bowl of a stand mixer on medium speed for about 2 minutes.

Add eggs, vanilla and lemon juice, blending with mixer on low speed for 30 seconds, then medium speed for about 2 minutes, or until light and fluffy, scraping down bowl.
With mixer on low speed, add flour, oats, baking soda, salt and cinnamon, blending for about 45 seconds. Don't overmix.

Remove bowl from mixer and stir in chocolate chips and walnuts.

Portion dough with a scoop (about 3 tablespoons) onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper about 2 inches apart.

Preheat oven to 300° F. Bake for 20 to 23 minutes, or until edges are golden brown and center is still soft.

Remove from oven and cool on baking sheet for about 1 hour.

Cook's note: You can freeze the unbaked cookies, and there's no need to thaw. Preheat oven to 300° F and place frozen cookies on parchment paper-lined baking sheet about 2 inches apart. Bake until edges are golden brown and center is still soft.

AND FOR A LAUGH - KAREN FOWLER SENT US THIS:

(SOURCE UNKNOWN - PLEASE COPYRIGHT POLICE, GIVE US A BREAK!)

- Day 1 - I can do this!! Got enough food and wine to last a month!
- Day 2 - Opening my 8th bottle of wine. I fear wine supplies may not last!
- Day 3 - Strawberries: Some have 210 seeds, some have 234 seeds. Who knew???
- Day 4 - 8:00 pm. Removed my Day Pajamas and put on my Night pajamas.
- Day 5 - Today, I tried to make hand sanitizer. It came out as Jello Shots!
- Day 6 - I get to take the garbage out. I'm so excited, I can't decide what to wear!
- Day 7 - Laughing way too much at my own jokes!
- Day 8 - Went to a new restaurant called "The Kitchen." You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.
- Day 9 - I put liquor bottles in every room. Tonight, I'm getting dressed up and going bar hopping!
- Day 10 - Struck up a conversation with a spider today. Seems nice. He's a web designer.
- Day 11 - Isolation is hard. I swear my fridge just said, "What the hell do you want now?"
- Day 12 - I realized why dogs get so excited about something moving outside, going for walks or car rides. I think I just barked at a squirrel.
- Day 13 - If you keep a glass of wine in each hand, you can't accidentally touch your face.
- Day 14 - Watched the birds fight over a worm. The Cardinals lead the Blue Jays 3 - 1.
- Day 15 - Anybody else feel like they've cooked dinner about 395 times this month?

AND THE DAYS WILL GO ON...AND SO WILL WE.

PLEASE SEND ME ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE FOR ANOTHER MINI-NEWSLETTER.

YOU CAN EMAIL IT TO ME DIRECTLY: ckclipsham@gmail.com

Please be sure to put NEWSLETTER in the subject line so I don't miss it.

I miss all of you, and look forward to the day when we are all together in person again. In the meantime, maybe we are learning just how strong our spirit connections are.

Fond regards to all,

Claudia Clipsham