



Etobicoke Handweavers and Spinners Guild

Newsletter - April 2018

Happy Spring!!!



Spring is here and the lambs are frolicking in the fields... or will be soon!

And speaking of lambs, our sheep named 'Pearl' had triplets recently! Here's a photo of her and the babes.

Joan McKenzie

STUDIO TIME

Fibre Fridays - 9:00 - 12:30

April 6, 13, 20, 27
May 4, 11, 18, 25
June 1, 8, 15, 22
July 6, 13, 20, 27
August 10, 17, 24, 31

Fibre Wednesdays - 9:00 - 4:30

April 11
May 9
June 13

Sunday Open Studio Days - 12:00 - 4:00

April 22
May 27
June 24

Tuesday Evening Meetings - 6:30 - 9:30

April 3
May 1
June 5

Please continue to put \$2 in the box for half day and \$5 for full day studio time. This helps to offset our rental costs. If you stay after 12:30 on a half day please arrange with the office to pay an additional \$5 for the afternoon.

Dorothy Thomson

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 42 guild members.

Dorothy Thomson

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April: Indigo around the World with Leslie Ordal
May: Shetland Felting Adventure with Maura Leahy
June: Annual Meeting

Sharon Rose Airhart

WEAVING

This year, we are currently working on several group projects. On the small floor loom, the tea towels are underway with two already completed. I will put up a sheet on the cupboard door for a second group of tea towels. If you are interested, please sign up or let me know that you are interested.

I have purchased 4/8 cotton to do the colour gamps. Currently eight people have signed up. I can always order more yarn, so if you haven't signed up but would still like to do a gamp, please let me know.

The 60" loom will have a blanket warp. The pattern and colour will be decided as soon as I get an updated colour list from Harrisville. There is some interest in doing a large shawl warp after the blankets are done. If you are want to do one sign up or let me know.

*Karen Fowler
Weaving Convenor*

SPINNING

Our spinning season continues - fleece from 'Pearl' from Linc Farm is being handed out to spinners to make something special in memory of our own Pearl. Projects are to be shown off at our June Fibre Wednesday Pot Luck Lunch. Bring in whatever you've done - completed or in progress. If you'd like a bag of fleece (100g washed), just let me know. I have some left.

Dye days should continue on our Fibre Wednesdays - last one was madder. A 'cool' dye pot was prepared and a lovely peachy colour resulted! Quite different from the darker shades we had for the 50 Mile Coat. The pot is still producing colour, so let me know if you want to use it for our April Day. Snow dyeing experiments in February were interesting... fibre reactive dyes were placed on top of a pile of snow, under which was the prepared fleece... however results were quite pastel. A bit disappointing considering the amount of dye powder that was used! A very inefficient way to dye! (See pictures on next page!)

*Joan McKenzie
Spinning Convenor*

Snow dyeing experiments



Some yarns that were spun at the spinning workshop



A programme for hand stitchers and beaders at Neilson Park!

Stitchery Loves Company (for all hand stitchers & beaders)

All Levels

\$4.43 (HST \$5.00)

Wednesdays 6:30pm - 9:30pm

April 11, 2018

May 9, 2018

June 13, 2018

Both members and non-members are invited. There will be no organized programme, just sitting around and stitching and chatting with like-minded folks.

Helen Benninger

WORKSHOP: WORKING WITH COLOUR

Aren't we lucky! Fiona Ellis, world-class knitting designer, will present a workshop on working with colour. <http://www.fionaellisonline.com/>

We will look at colour temperature, tonal value, complimentary and analogous colour schemes. And once you get playing with colour you will see how the theory can be a helpful underpinning in all the work you do.

Date: May 26

Time: 10:30 to 3:30

Place: Neilson Park Creative Centre

Fee: \$35 for EHS members. Open to non-members at \$40 if there is space available.

You should know: basic knitting To bring: part balls (a few yards each) in medium weight SOLID COLOUR yarns, bring as many colours as you can and are willing to share, pair of yarn appropriate knitting needles, squared paper, coloured pencils (if you have them) Bring your lunch! Tea supplied.

If you would like to register for the workshop, please email me at sra@ca.inter.net Please bring a cheque for \$35 to the April Guild meeting or drop one off at NPCC in an envelope, attention Dorothy Thomson.

Sharon Airhart

SPINNING EDUCATION

Our Colour spinning workshop - And it begins with 3 - was well attended - with some spinners from other guilds admiring our facilities! All enjoyed the day, working with the colours - blending and marling away. Hope to see some project results soon! Thanks to Beth Showalter for a great day!

The first Fleece to Yarn workshop series is starting Sunday, April 8th - for 5 Sundays. This series was developed for my Design Challenge for my OHS Spinner's Certificate - nice to get it into action! Workshop is being run by NPCC - so they are doing promotion and registration. A number of guild members and others have signed up! Should be a busy but fun time! Lots of interest in the series - with some people interested but not able to make this timeframe. Series may be offered again next season.

Watch for news of more spinning workshops...have a few irons in the fire!

Joan McKenzie

SHOWS

The title of our Hallway show this year is "THIS IS US". It will go up on September 10th to coincide with the Central Region Seminar on September 15th. We would like you to submit your best or favourite work (even if it had been shown previously) that you have done. It should have been completed within the last five years approximately.

Karen Fowler



Yes, Handmade is only days away! It is a good opportunity for guild members to sell their work and in addition to the sale table, guild members will be doing weaving and spinning demonstrations between 11 am and 1 pm. The drop off time for items for sale is noon on Friday, April 6.

Please come out to the sale and invite your friends and family as well. The more the merrier! Hope to see you there.

If you have any questions, please contact *Moyra MacKay* at 416 253-5593 or mackay@bromptongroup.com

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Watch for our Farmers Market days - we usually set up at the Market once a month, from June to September. Bring something portable - spinning, weaving - rigid heddle works!! - knitting or whatever. Saturdays at the Etobicoke Civic Centre Market, SE corner of West Mall and Burnhamthorpe Rd. Start at 9, finish up about 1, and you can also fit in your shopping! Dates TBA.

Joan McKenzie



CHARITY KNITTING

Our charity knitting drive was a huge success and thank you to all guild members who contributed. We had about 100 items donated including hats, mitts, sox, scarves, handwarmers, and even a sweater! We selected 3 charities to receive our donations:

- Evergreen Centre for Street Youth is a program of The Yonge Street Mission which is focused on helping youth aged 16 to 24 who are homeless or street involved. They provide assistance with employment, health issues, housing, weekday lunches and dinners, nursery childcare and foodbank and Evergreen provides a safe drop in space to youth including a place to do laundry, have a shower, and many workshops.
- Women's Habitat provides services to women and children who are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing any type of violence or abuse. In addition to a 25 bed shelter, Women's Habitat also operates an Outreach Centre in South Etobicoke and offers individual and group counselling, transition and support services, housing assistance and parenting support.
- Out of the Cold at St Margaret's Church in South Etobicoke. St Margaret's runs an overnight hostel for 25 men who are also offered dinner and breakfast when staying overnight.

The recipients were very delighted with our donations and they will be put to good use to keep someone warm.

Our charity knitting will continue year round and any items can be put in the cupboard and we will distribute the items when we have collected a number of items.

Moyra MacKay



COMMUNICATIONS AND OHS CENTRAL REGION SEMINAR

Postcards for our upcoming Seminar in September are here! Pick some up when you're next at NPCC and hand out to friends. You might recognize the sheep on the front – it's Rose from Linc Farm who supplied the fleece for the felting and embroidery thread for our 50 mile coat! Graphics on the back were designed by Bonnie Balu (one of my talented daughters!). Cards were handed out at the Landmade event at the Gladstone hotel, and also available at the front counter for the recent Quilt Fest at NPCC.

Our event now has a starter page on our web site. More info to be added as details of the event are available. We have a good list of vendors lined up – watch for updates at

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

Our Social media accounts:

Facebook: @EHSGuild

Twitter: @EHSGuild

Instagram: @EHSGuild

Joan McKenzie

SHARING CORNER - LOCAL CELEBRITIES!

Shabby Sheep Excitement!

I've been invited to return to Sault Ste Marie Back to Back International Contest as part of the Shabby Sheep crew. We are sponsored by the high end fiber store Shabby Motley Handcraft. The date will be either the 20th or 27th, because the sheep we are shearing is pregnant and can't be sheared until she has her little lamb! Last year the sheep was sheared, spun and knit into a sweater in 13 plus hours. We came in 2nd in Canada. The event takes place at The Mill Market in The Soo and Shabby Motley invites vendors and live coverage via Facebook.

Suzanne Wylie

Our own local authors!

Check out the most recent edition of *Fibre Focus* (Vol. 61, Spring 2018). Pictures and articles by two of our members, Elizabeth Evans and Joan McKenzie, are included in the Sock Challenge. They described their processes of inspiration, spinning, designing, and knitting some very special socks. Kudos to both of you for sharing your inspiration and expertise to the spinners and knitters of the whole OHS!

Claudia Clipsham

Transitions: A Common Ground Exhibit at Neilson Park

Some of you will remember Karen Ray, a former member of EHS. She has continued her fibre journey and is participating in a show called "Transitions" that runs from March 26 - April 15 at NPCC. See the NPCC website for details.

Elizabeth Evans

THE WIDER WORLD OF SPINNING, WEAVING, AND TEXTILES

---Jenny Balfour-Paul, author of *Deeper than Indigo* will be giving a free talk at the ROM on Friday June 1 at 6 pm. If you are interested you have to register here:

<https://www.rom.on.ca/en/whats-on/journeys-in-indigo-red-sea-to-rajasthan>

--- I have a novel recommendation: *Five Roses* by Alice Zorn

<https://www.dundurn.com/books/Five-Roses>.

In my opinion this is a really good novel made even better by the fact that one of the main characters is a weaver. Her loom and weaving are well integrated into the novel with appropriate terminology and a good understanding of the process of weaving. Alice Zorn is a well-respected author from Hamilton, Ontario and is now based in Montreal.

--- At our last spinning meeting we were talking about the process of growing flax and processing linen. I came upon this short video by accident. It's really good about the process from planting seed to produced linen fibre.

Making Linen Fabric from Flax Seed (13 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFuj7sXVnIU>

--- **TEXTILE MUSEUM OF CANADA**

❖ **Artistry in Silk: The Kimono of Itchiku Kubota**. Closes May 13.

Some of these kimonos were exhibited in the former Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa in the 1990's. The dyeing and surface design on these kimonos are in a style based on a 16th century technique called *tsujigahana*. Hung together, they form a panorama. This is a great opportunity to see this work. Kubota was a yuzen dyer of kimono in Japan. He was mesmerized by a 16th century textile fragment that he saw in a museum in his early 20's. He wanted to recreate it, but developed a contemporary way of developing a modern technique to express his own artistic ideas. The kimonos form a panorama called "Symphony of Light" designed to be hung in a museum designed by Kubota on a site with a view of Mount Fuji. Some of his inspiration came from sunsets he observed while he was a prisoner of war in Siberia in World War II. There is more information and photographs here:

<http://www.textilemuseum.ca/exhibitions/current-exhibitions/artistry-in-silk-the-kimono-of-itchiku-kubota>

❖ Of particular interest to weavers in the guild, **Jane Kidd: Curious**. Closes June 10. Jane Kidd is an award winning Canadian tapestry weaver from Salt Spring Island. The exhibition includes her work, a hands on area to try out tapestry weaving techniques and several tapestry woven objects from the museum's collection which include: Peruvian textiles dating from 700-1476, Egyptian Coptic textiles dating from 200-799, a Mayan hair tie, Kesi from China, an Aubusson tapestry from 1730-1769 and a kilim from Bulgaria from 1890-1900.

Here is a short video on tapestry weaving:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlbu-dJuEh0> (9 minutes)

Both exhibitions are well worth seeing.

Elizabeth Evans