



# Etobicoke Handweavers & Spinners Guild

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## A Message from our President

*By Carolyn Ramos*

Happy New Year to all the guild members. We have survived another strange year of unknowns and come through in one piece.

Last year some of our members had health issues and we hope they are doing better and will be back with us this year. Jane Milisiewicz passed away recently close to her 100th birthday. Such a milestone!

Last year we had wonderful presentations and workshops, all on Zoom. This year we are looking forward to more in the spring. Beginner weaving classes (5 days of 6 hours per day) are being offered to stimulate rigid heddle weavers, knitters and spinners to take a walk on the wild side and start using their yarn to weave. I hope you are encouraged to join us. Details about this workshop can be found on the EHS website and in this newsletter.

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We are back at NPCC sharing our projects and chatting during the weekly drop-ins on Friday mornings which can extend to the afternoon for a full day. Fibre Wednesdays are back in person and Joan usually has some interesting dye pots to offer those who bring fibre and/or yarn to add to the pot. NPCC has opened evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 pm for anyone interested in catching up on projects.

We have two shows starting soon. One at the Etobicoke Civic Centre beginning mid January to early February. After that, our projects will be hung in the hallway at NPCC for all to enjoy the amazing things we do.

As I am sure you have heard we could use a few volunteers. One or two to help with the Library to keep the books and journals organized as well as reminding borrowers when it's time to return their borrowings. Others could help us with the By-law and Constitution revamp we are required to do as the provincial laws have changed.

We received the grant we applied to the Province of Ontario to help outfit Studio C with hybrid equipment. We are keen to keep our Zoom members involved in the goings on of the Guild. To that end, we have collaborated with NPCC who are going ahead with outfitting the Centre with hybrid equipment. The supplier will soon be purchasing the equipment and we hope installation will begin soon.

Lots of interesting things slated to go ahead in 2023, so stay tuned. If you have ideas or requests for workshops, presentations or other Guild activities, please don't hesitate to contact us at [info@ehsguild.com](mailto:info@ehsguild.com).

## **Membership Update**

*By Susan Lapell*

We've closed out 2022 with an active and vibrant membership—46 NPCC members and 14 Zoomers. Welcome, especially to our new members.

For all those who are far away, are still maintaining distances, or don't want to brave Toronto's winter weather, keep in mind that we are still zooming—every Friday morning and alternate Wednesdays. We have lively discussions, usually about what we've been working on, but also other things that we've been up to--family, movies, TV. You can join for the full two hours or pop in for a brief visit anytime between 10 and noon. The Zoom links are available on the Members Only page of the EHS website.

## **A Tribute to Janina “Jane” Milisiewicz**

*By Elizabeth Evans*

Jane joined the guild in the early 90's. She first heard about EHS while studying weaving with her first weaving teacher, Cara Perry, in classes run by the City of Toronto and soon became a member. When Cara went back to New Zealand, Jane continued to study weaving with Line Dufour until the late 90's. Jane has experimented with many different weave structures, including tapestry. Her weaving projects exemplify experimentation, practicality and a distinctive colour sense. Jane used unusual yarns from her stash to produce something usable and unique. Jane's show-and-tell was well worth the trip to the Guild meeting. I loved the way her mind works. I remember Jane working on her third attempt at “Not just the Colour Purple” or “Purple Passion” as we liked to call it. Although spinning was probably more of a sideline than weaving, Jane joined the ranks of the spinners when she learned to spin on a drop spindle, and true to form, used her handspun in projects.

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Some of Jane's favourite projects were: an image of a cat woven into a fabric using the Theo Moorman technique; a blouse and skirt made for Carolyn McAlpine's Guild challenge; "O sole mio" a tapestry with images of colourful fish that hung in the "Sole Music" show; a vest made out of the scarf Nancy Linley wove for her from the paper bag challenge and a log cabin runner made for her granddaughter. Even thrums got used up to make chenille bathroom mats and dolls called Thumbelinas. Jane's weaving projects often included sewing as well as fancy knitted edges and seams. These techniques were often employed to solve problems of, she said, poor planning. Jane particularly liked weave structures that are reversible, different on the front and back, because both sides of the fabric can be used to make an interesting garment. Jane was one of those weavers whose woven projects were an integral part of her wardrobe and home decor. Sometimes when traveling alone, a scarf or vest she was wearing would start a conversation with a stranger who became a friend. She contributed many blankets, hats and booties to the Guild's community service project for premature babies born in the neo-natal unit of William Osler Health Centre.

After moving to England from Poland during World War 1, Jane's parents met while they were both working at the Polish Consulate General in London, England. Jane's father continued to work there until after World War II. During World War II Jane worked at the Polish Embassy as Secretary to the Polish Naval Attaché. She met her husband at the Polish Naval Headquarters in London when he arrived in 1943 with other Polish officers released from internment in Sweden.

Jane grew up in Harrow, a suburb of London, and was introduced to interesting textiles at an early age. Her mother sewed for a living and made clothes for herself and Jane out of the best possible fabric she could afford. Jane learned to knit at age 7. As an official at the Polish Consulate General in London, Jane's father often brought home samples of fabric for import or export. Jane's husband was interned for part of WWII in Sweden and billeted with a family with two artist sisters. One of them, an accomplished weaver, made wedding gifts of beside rugs and cushion covers for Jane and her husband. This was really the beginning of Jane's keen interest in weaving, although she wasn't able to pursue it for many years.



After marrying, Jane and her husband lived in Harrow where their son and daughter were born. In 1950 they came to Canada. Initially they lived in the Eastern Townships in Granby, Quebec before coming to Toronto and eventually settling in Thornhill.

After her children were in school Jane worked at a series of temporary jobs and eventually became a secretary in the new Real Estate Department of the (then) Township of North York. Intrigued by the valuation process, she took night courses leading to accreditation in the Appraisal Institute of Canada (the first woman to do so). She appraised many properties in various parts of Ontario for a variety of clients. As a mature student, Jane earned a BA in Urban Studies at York University's Atkinson College in the 70's. In 1987 Jane retired from the Ministry of Government Services, Realty Services Department where she had worked for twelve years. Jane served on the executive of the Toronto Chapter of the Appraisal Institute of Canada and was the President of the Association of Ontario Land Economists in 1976.

Jane has made significant contributions to the Polish community in Toronto including:

- organizing after-school classes in Polish language, culture and history in Willowdale;
- helping run the library at Copernicus Lodge, a Polish seniors' residence;

- and volunteer work in both the Polish Scouting Association and the Canadian branch of the Polish Naval Association.

In addition to being a “fibre fanatic” Jane described herself as an “opera maniac” having attended her first opera at the age of 9 at Sadler’s Wells Theatre in London. She had always sung in choirs, most recently at Our Lady of Sorrows church in Etobicoke. Jane did quite a bit of traveling, some of it in pursuit of her love of opera including a trip to New York City in 2012 to hear Wagner’s Ring Cycle. She wove a set of tapestry banners depicting the flags of all the countries she had visited, not only opera trips. On Mondays Jane volunteered as an amateur archivist for the Canadian Opera Company.

Jane was a cat lover. She moved several times within Toronto and described the process as similar to the way a cat turns around and around before finally settling down.

Gardening had been a passion of Jane’s since early childhood. You may have heard Jane talk about the “Hort”. This is the Etobicoke Horticultural Society of which she and her daughter were both members. Jane bought a house in the Kingsway in 1985 where she developed a beautiful garden. A few years ago, Jane sold her house, dug up plants for distribution to various members of the Hort and moved to a condominium near St. Lawrence market. She would continue to come to Neilson Park for Guild meetings by Wheeltrans.

Jane was a dedicated volunteer at the Textile Museum of Canada. In the photograph taken by Kathryn Lane, Jane is in Fibre Space helping young Florence learn to weave on a small loom. Every second Wednesday Jane worked in the Textile Museum’s wonderful library. Jane and I often discussed the exhibits. Mostly, we gave rave reviews, but I remember one occasion where Jane’s comment about a show was succinctly “Too much skin”.

Keep pushing string Jane!



**Jane in Fibre Space helping young Florence learn to weave on a small loom.  
Photograph taken by Kathryn Lane.**

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## Program Update

*By Vanessa Crandall*

### 2022-2023 Programming

#### February 7, 2023 - Joan McKenzie, Spinning Gone Wild

Spinning has ancient origins - and those folks didn't get to go to a store and purchase ready to spin roving. So - what did they spin, and how was it spun? Joan will demonstrate spinning with your fingers, make cordage, find out what plant materials can be used and experiment with wild plant fibres that have been foraged. She will demonstrate making cordage and show you how to make a twined basket or coaster.

#### March 7, 2023 - TBD

#### April 4, 2023 - Karen Fowler, Discussing the EHS Guild Hallway Show (tentative)

#### May 2, 2023 - TBD

#### June 6, 2023 - EHS AGM

## Sunshine Sunday

*By Cindy O'Malley, Dorothy Thomson, Carolyn Ramos, Joan McKenzie*

I have heard of Sunshine Sunday, but haven't really known its' origins or meaning. All I've ever known is that it's a day in Studio C for EHS on the last Sunday in February, so I asked around and this is what I learned from Dorothy Thomson.

This is just a bit of history. Traditionally the Sunshine Workshop was the last Saturday in February. It was started many years ago as a time to get together with friends and beat the winter blues. Often there was an organized activity, sometimes not. Either way, since the studio was booked Friday morning, all day Saturday and Sunday afternoon, it was also a chance to work on a project that might require a bit more studio time. Every year was different.

This year, one of the Beginner Weaving Workshop sessions has been booked in Studio C on Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup>, however here are some of the activities planned for Sunday February 26<sup>th</sup>.

### Stash Swap & Sale

I am sure many of us have fibre and yarn we would like to pass along to others or, alternately, pick up a few new pieces for ourselves. Bring them to NPCC on the last Sunday in February. Have them tagged with content and price. Join others with the same idea and let's see how it goes.

All items must leave the Studio at the end of the day -- nothing is to remain. Sales are the sole responsibility of the seller.

### Dye Pots

Expect some dye pots to be brewing away on the stove. Save your avocado skins and pits to add to the dye pot on the Friday before. Bring your fibre and/or yarn to transform into lovely shades of pink. Please weigh your contributions first.

# Donation Policy

By Joan McKenzie

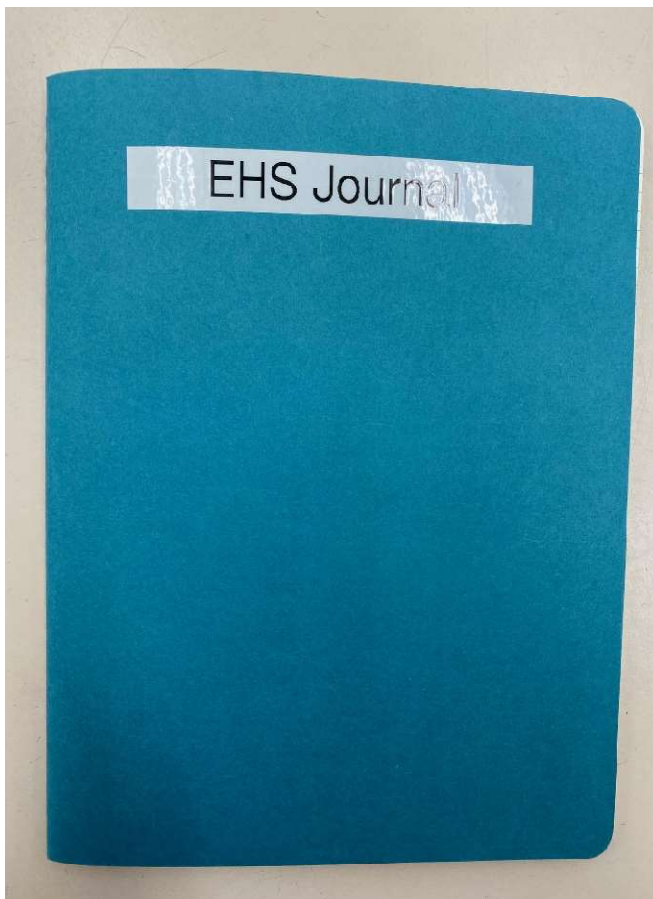
The Guild has often been the recipient of some lovely donations of fibre, tools, looms, books, etc. So much so, that we've recently realized that a policy is needed to ensure that the donated goods can be accommodated.

If you have goods to donate, please email Joan McKenzie for Spinning related items, or Karen Fowler for weaving related items. For all other items, please contact [ehsguild@gmail.com](mailto:ehsguild@gmail.com).

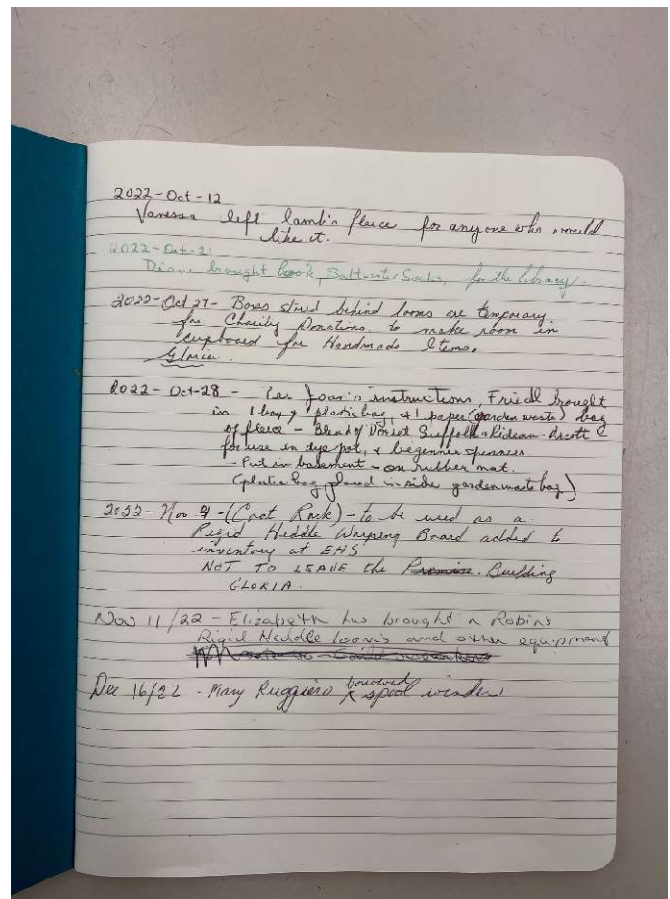
In the email, please list the items to be donated, where/who they are from, and any information regarding the condition of the goods if appropriate, and if you can bring them to NPCC. The email will be reviewed and you will receive a reply as to whether the Guild can accept the donation, and when/how to bring it to NPCC.

When a donation is brought to Studio C, the Journal book, located in the cupboard, is used to record information about the donation. It's a good idea to have a record of who donated what and when. Please ensure that any items donated are labelled with the donor's name, date and any other information pertaining to the goods (e.g. sheep breed for fleece, fibre type for weaving yarns, etc).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Journal Cover



Journal Page

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# Spinning Update

*By Joan McKenzie*

## Workshops

Do you have a fibre in your stash that you are not sure how to spin? I'm looking for ideas for a Spinning Workshop – let me know what it is and I can search out workshop options. Email [ehsguild@gmail.com](mailto:ehsguild@gmail.com) with your fibre suggestions. We've done Silk and Flax in the last 2 years – it's time to play with something new!

## Spinning Equipment & Rentals

Have you been looking at some fibre tools and wondering how to use them, like a blending board or a blending hackle? Come to Studio C on a Fiber Wednesday and play! Both tools are in the cupboard and available for use.

The nice Patrick Green drum carder in Studio C now has a re-vitalized polycord – it was getting a tad loose. I brought the carder out to Ken Hyatt for a tune up and it's now in tip-top shape. Ken also adjusted the spacing between the drums – apparently it should be 16/1000's of an inch, or about the width of the heavy paper found in a file folder. The paper should just fit between the drums. That's the sweet spot. Note – the drums should not be touching! Please ask for help if needed.

Yes – some of our equipment is available for rental. Contact Joan to make arrangements for renting any of the currently available equipment or visit the [EHS website](#) for equipment, terms and conditions. It's a great way to try out a different wheel, or to process some fibre! Rates are very reasonable, and most equipment is available on a monthly basis. The equipment is available for use in Studio at no charge.

Here's what is currently available to full members:

- Lendrum spinning wheel - double treadle
- Rognvaldson spinning wheel (one with a distaff)
- Ashford traditional wheel
- Small Polish/eastern European Flax wheel
- Electric Eel Nano spinning wheel
- Blending hackle
- Blending board
- Drum carders:
  - The big Lendrum for clean fleece
  - A coarse carder for greasy or raw fleece.

## Spinning Challenge for 2022/2023

EHS received a nice donation of fleece from Friedl – an interesting blend of Dorset/Suffolk/Rideau-Arcott. Our Spinning challenge for 2023 will be to make something using the fleece that utilizes and shows off the fleece's better points. Felters are also welcome to have some fleece... It's likely from a meat sheep flock – but the resulting breed blend produced some quite lovely fleece. Maybe we can put some into an avocado dye pot, or use other dyeing techniques for some colour and then use the blending board or hackle to create some lovely rovings. The possibilities are endless!

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## In the Dyepot

*By Joan McKenzie*

Autumn is a great time for dyeing – did you get anything dyed?

In September, Studio C was busy with buckthorn berries and stems, and goldenrod flowers. Did you know that it's been used as a dye stuff since the Iron Ages?? We missed using the bark... it reputedly gives reds/pinks – will have to check that out next year!! Check out

<https://www.suzannedekel.com/post/dyeing-fabrics-with-alder-buckthorn> for more info.

In November we harvested the remainders of the madder plants for the little bits inside the stems and got a wee bit of colour! Next time I won't put in the leaves as they contributed some tannins which we weren't looking for, but it was worth a try!



**Madder Stems and Leaves**



**Stewed up Madder Stems and Leaves**

I've also spent some time updating the Dye Journal book for EHS. It's a great book for record keeping from Maiwa. Samples are included in the book, as a record of what you might expect from a dye bath. We've also started a 'sample set' of yarns to include in all the dye pots including wool, mohair, cotton, and linen. Now we just have to remember to put a set into each dye pot!

With winter coming on it's time to use things other than garden plants. Save your avocado skins and pits and we'll throw them into a dye pot! Winter is a great time for kitchen dyeing.

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## Flaxapalooza 2022 continues into 2023

*By Joan McKenzie*

We definitely have flax! I have 3 yard-waste bags of flax plants in my garage, already retted and waiting for processing. I also have some nice small stricts of hackled flax and a box full of tow fibres. We are making progress! There is also a box of seed bolls of which the seeds can be sorted out (winnowed) and then used for planting in the spring. If anyone has experience in winnowing, please contact Joan.

Once the weather warms up in the spring, I'll arrange to bring in the full set of equipment to do more breaking/scutching/etc.



**Flax Stricts and Tow Fibres**



**Hackle Day in Studio C in November**

Do you still have some flax from the spinning workshop that needs to be hackled again? Let me know and I can arrange to bring the hackles in on a Friday or Wednesday or Sunday. The flax stricts from our spinning workshop came from Taproot Fibres in Nova Scotia and need more hackling for easier spinning.

**Hackling:** The objective is to split the bundles of flax fibres that surround the woody core into individual fibres. Three sets of hackles are traditionally used, from coarsely set nails to finely set nails. They are very sharp which is why we wear gloves - No bleeding allowed on the flax! The flax is 'passed' thru the hackles, removing leftover bits of woody core and outer stem bits and splitting the flax fibre bundles. It also leaves behind any weaker fibres which are known as 'tow'. Nothing is wasted! The tow is collected from the hackles and cleaned up. It can then be carded and spun and/or blended with other fibres and spun.

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## Weaving Update

*By Karen Fowler*

### In the Studio

All three looms in Studio C are in action with gamps, tea towels and blankets, however, there are two gamp projects awaiting weavers to finish them up. Diane, Cindy and Denise have all completed their projects, but due to scheduling conflicts, the next two weavers in line are unable to partake at this time. If you would like to participate, please contact Karen Fowler or Diane Martin. Not only is weaving the colour gamp fun, it's a great opportunity to see the different weave structures and how colours interact.

There have been various discussions as to the next round of projects. Some of the suggested weaving projects include Double Weave Ruana and Rugs. If you have a suggestion or interest in a future project, send an email to Karen Fowler.

It has been wonderful to see everyone enjoying Studio C again. I hope more members will come and join in the fun.

### Shows

This year, we are participating in two back-to-back shows from January to March 2023. The first show is at the Etobicoke Civic Centre and will include ourselves and the other two Studio C fibre groups. This show will run from January 17th to February 24th, 2023. I will be taking all the pieces to Etobicoke Civic Centre on January 15th, so I will need to have everything ready by January 13th. In addition, there will be a reception for this show on February 22nd from 2:00 to 4:00. The last time we did a show like this, it was a great success. Please come and join us on February 22nd.

The second show is our annual Hallway extravaganza starting on February 27th and ending on March 19th, 2023. As this is the first show we have held since the pandemic, it should be a great one. You may submit any piece you wish as there is no specific theme for this show, but we will be including the "Colours of NPCC". You may bring your pieces in on any Friday or whenever we are in Studio C however, I need to know what you intend to submit by February 17th so that I can inform the office.

### Weaving Rentals

There are a number of looms and reeds available for rent to members. If you are interested in renting weaving equipment, contact Karen Fowler for details, pricing and availability, or check the [EHS website](#) for equipment, terms and conditions.

### Weaving Study Groups

*By Cindy O'Malley*

Study groups bring like-minded people together to share and advance their knowledge on various weave structures and techniques. These groups are open to all members, regardless of your experience level. It's about sharing experiences and experimenting with new techniques.

Joan recently discovered a binder in our Studio C cupboard that documented the projects of a Study Group from 1986. As I was flipping through the pages, I came across one sample that spoke to me. Although the sample weave is a twill, I decided that I would like to try and replicate it on my Rigid Heddle in plain weave.



**1986 Study Group Twill Weave Sample**

The yarn I used was Universal Yarn's Deluxe Worsted Tweed which is a superwash wool with synthetic tweed nepps. I had already woven a houndstooth scarf with this yarn using a 5 dpi heddle, however I wasn't happy with the resulting fabric. I followed the guidelines for determining sett, but the fabric was too loose ... you might call it "sleezy". I brought it into Studio C on a Drop In day where I was able to get input from more experienced weavers. Jennifer James made a few laundry suggestions that I could try to tighten up the weave. With nothing to lose, I followed the advice and threw it in the Washer and a short tumble in the Dryer. Not only did it work, but I was really impressed with how well the yarn withstood the Washer & Dryer.

As a result of this experience, I decided to use a 7.5 dpi heddle for my project which created a much better fabric. This is one of the reasons I immediately signed up for the February workshop with Susan Conover. I made sure that I wove a sample piece as well so that I could start my own binder of weaving experiences, both successful and lessons learned.

I'm grateful to have access to experienced weavers in Studio C. It has helped to advance my learning process tenfold, however, not everyone can attend the Studio Drop Ins. That's where online Study Groups through Zoom come in. The following groups are open to all members to join, regardless of your level of expertise. You can find the schedule and Zoom links on the Members Only section of the EHS website or send an email to the contact name associated with each group.

### [Weaving 201 Study Group](#)

**Contact *Cindy O'Malley***

This group meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month as a means to extend the knowledge and learning of participants on multi shaft looms. If you are new to weaving and want to join a group to help inspire and increase your knowledge, then this is the group for you.

### [Weaving Conversations](#)

**Contact *Karmen Steigenga***

The Weaving Conversations discussion group brings together members to discuss various weaving topics in a focused but relaxed environment. In the past, the group has met to discuss topics such as rug weaving, sewing with our handwoven fabric, and weaving with linen. The group meets monthly via Zoom on Wednesday afternoons from 2 – 3 p.m.



**Plain Weave Scarf on 7.5 dpi Rigid Heddle**

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## **Rigid Heddle Weaving**

**Contact Cindy O'Malley**

The group meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month. On some occasions, we have switched nights due to holiday Mondays. We have been exploring various Colour & Weave projects and are starting to venture into finger manipulated techniques.

## **A Weaving Challenge, Exhibition and Donation**

**By Elizabeth Evans**

### **Noh Coat Challenge**

If you were at the virtual Weaving History Conference this past Fall, you will know about the work of 20<sup>th</sup> century designer Bonnie Cashin and the Noh Coat challenge. Cashin designed her iconic Noh Coat inspired by traditional Japanese clothing. Weavers who will be attending the Association of Northwest Weavers' Guilds Conference in June, 2023 have been challenged to weave fabric, then make and wear a Noh Coat based on a design that was published in Threads magazine. I am tempted. More information is available here. <https://anwgconference2023.com/noh-coat-challenge/>

### **Generation – Craft Ontario – January 14 – February 25**

Hamilton weaver, Amanda Rataj has woven fabric to recover chairs that were made by a local furniture company, Brunswick Manufacturing, where her grandfather was the principal designer and shop manager. The chairs will be part of the exhibition "Generation" at Craft Ontario January 14 – February 25. More information is available at <https://www.craftontario.com/exhibitions/current-exhibitions.html>

You may know Amanda through her designs and posts for Gist Yarn or her projects in VÄV Magazine. More information about her work is available here: <https://amandarataj.com>. She writes a really good monthly newsletter.

### **Equipment Donation**

The guild received a generous donation from former guild members Robin and Roberta Woods. Robin and Roberta have fond memories of their time at EHS where Robin took up rigid heddle weaving. They left EHS when they moved to a condo further east and joined the Toronto Guild.

Robin has had to give up weaving because of health problems. The donated equipment includes: two rigid heddle looms, two inkle looms and a Marudai. Everything but the Marudai is at NPCC. I have the Marudai and will bring it to NPCC the next time I come. There are no strings attached to this donation. It can be sold or used by the guild. I've sent Robin and Roberta a thank you card and token on behalf of the guild.

## **Sheep to Shawl Competition**

**By Cindy O'Malley**

After the previous two years being cancelled due to COVID, the Royal Winter Fair Sheep to Shawl competition was in full swing this past November. Three teams competed for the Red Ribbon – the Burlington Guild, The Ewe's (Joan McKenzie's Team), and EHS.

The EHS show floor team consisted of Diane Martin (Carding), Karen Fowler, Carolyn Ramos, and Vanessa Crandall (Spinning), Pat Cooper (Plying), and Cindy O'Malley (Weaving). I say the show floor team as there were several other people involved that were not on the floor. Jennifer James designed our shawl, dressed the loom, and organized and participated in the rehearsal run in Studio C. The

rehearsal day included many more supporting people like Annette Barnie who was also at the show cheering on the team.

When the fleece was dropped on the floor it was time to begin, however, we were down a spinner. Misdirection given by people supposedly in the know, sent Pat on wild goose chase so she was a little late arriving and a little flustered. No worries; although we were the last team to start weaving, we did eventually catch up.

Our colourful warp attracted a lot of attention by visitors, which was good, but also challenging. Some of the onlookers were so close to the loom, that if I missed catching the shuttle, it would hit the young boy right in the chest. It also impeded me throwing the shuttle from the other direction. Carolyn had to jump up to run interference on several occasions and when she was tied up spinning, one of the show judges would step in.

The last few minutes were tense as we had forgotten to bring a tape measuring guide to easily measure our progress, therefore, we weren't sure if we met the minimum length requirements until we took it off the loom. Voila! We were over the minimum of 60".

The judges' decision ... EHS came home with the Blue Ribbon for 2<sup>nd</sup> place! Joan McKenzie's Ewe's team won 1<sup>st</sup> place.



What a fun day this was ... a lot of work, but fun. I would definitely do it again. If you would like to see the shawl, it will be on display at the upcoming shows.

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## Workshops

*By Helen Skelton*

There are a variety of workshops coming up in 2023, and the full details are on the website, and dates in the calendar. The highlights are below, so please register by email to Helen Skelton and save the dates for future workshops.

### [EHS Guild Masterclass on Yarn and Fiber with Susan Conover](#)

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023, 10am – 12.30pm.**

**Delivered by Zoom, registration fee \$50.**

**Will be available for 7 days afterwards as a recording on Susan's YouTube channel.**

Susan will cover topic including yarn sett, reeds and reed maintenance, reed substitution and conversions. Then she moves on to yarns with the "master Yarn Chart", yarn wrappings, how to obtain the correct sett with weave structures, and calculation of shrinkage. A yarn sett sampler will be discussed, and the use of the yarn balance, plus how to use card wrappings. Susan will also cover fiber properties, focusing on cotton, flax, wool and silk, and tips and tricks for each fiber. Then yarn counts and the different systems of measurement. Weaving record keeping templates will be covered to help keep project notes in order, and a weaving "wish book" will be introduced. This workshop is for all levels – from beginner to advanced, there will be plenty to learn.

### [Drop Spindle Workshop Day with Joan McKenzie and Karen Fowler at NPCC Studio](#)

**In planning stage – date to be determined.**

A drop spindle day is being planned for complete beginners to learn this ancient skill, and for those who already use a drop spindle, to improve their technique, learn new tips, and try out some different spindles in our "drop spindle petting zoo".

More details to follow soon...

### [Texture Weaving Workshop with Stacey Harvey Brown](#)

Full details TBD, but workshop is delivered in 3 sessions, by hybrid with Zoom and in person / remote sessions.

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023** – Introduction session by Zoom, where Stacey will introduce textural weaving and inspire with creative ideas for you to plan your own project, maybe using yarns from your stash, which you will then warp ready for a second session.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023** – Weaving workshop hybrid session in NPCC or remote, with Stacey teaching by Zoom, from her studio in the South of France.

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023** – Follow up by zoom to discuss learnings and show and tell.

"Texture can be created through using textured yarns, combinations of structures and/or materials. This workshop aims to give you an introduction to 3 methods of creating dimensional texture using techniques that you might not have considered before. Shibori for texture uses polyester yarn for weft, overshot for texture uses differential shrinkage in the weft and seersucker uses differential shrinkage in the warp. Materials include cotton, wool and polyester plus some optional others that you might like to try such as elastane, overtwist yarns, singles etc."

Stacey is a British textile artist, who teaches and weaves at the [Loom Room](#) in France.

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This is an intermediate to advanced workshop, for 4 or more shaft weaving, and weavers must be confident to design and warp by themselves.

### Beginner Weaving Workshop

Learn how to plan a weaving project and calculate carefully how much yarn you will need.

Learn the basics of setting up a table loom from warping to tie up.

Create a beautiful textured scarf using plain weave.

Finishing techniques will be demonstrated to complete the scarf off the loom.

The final size of the scarf will be 12" W x 65" L after wet finishing.

Materials for this project include a choice of 2-3 colours in a gorgeous 100% cotton slub yarn and are covered under the materials fee. Students will be able to select their colours ahead of time once they have registered.



This is a 5-day class held at Neilson Park Creative Centre in Studio C (56 Neilson Dr, Toronto ON, M9C 1V7) from 10am-4pm each session. Please bring lunch and snacks.



Day one: Saturday, Feb 4th  
Day two: Sunday, Feb 12th  
Day three: Saturday, Feb 18th  
Day four: Saturday, Feb 25th  
Day five: Saturday, Mar 4th

**Instructor:** Johana Cordero

**Prerequisite:** None, this is a beginner class and requires no previous experience.

**Fees:** \$300 registration fee. Fee is non-refundable. To register, please send an email and e-transfer to [ehsguild@gmail.com](mailto:ehsguild@gmail.com). There is also a \$65 materials fee payable to the instructor, due 1 week before the class begins.

[Click here for a shareable pdf with this information.](#)

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## Book Review

**By Friedl Ballaban**

Would you like to read a book that makes you smile? What about a detective story that features a group of delightful and loveable sheep?

I've discovered Leonie Swann's writings and started with "THREE BAGS FULL". I encourage you to meet George the shepherd who reads to his sheep, Miss Maple, "the smartest sheep in Glennkill" and a Merino "who eats a lot and remembers everything". And then there is Othello, "the bad-boy black ram"!

The book is available in the library system (at least in Oakville) but I'm happy to lend it out to you as well.

The description on the back cover is as follows: "A witty, philosophical murder mystery with a charming twist: the crack detectives are sheep determined to discover who killed their beloved shepherd".

Here are a few other comments about the book:

"The sheep society - sometimes touchingly naive, sometimes surprisingly astute - has an inexhaustible, quirky charm." *Salon*

A refreshingly original detective story... The author's sheep's eye view and the animals literal translation of the strange words and deeds of the human species not only create laugh-out-loud humour but also allow the animals occasional flashes of brilliance". *Publishers Weekly*



## Knitting Update

### Knit Night Study Group

**By Cindy O'Malley**

Every other Thursday evening from 7:00pm – 9:00pm marks the Knit Night Study Group via Zoom which is open to all members of EHS. The objective is to learn new techniques to enhance your knitting beyond the basics of Knits & Purls. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced knitter, there is always something new to learn.

The topics are often instructed by Gloria Williams, who has an extensive background in teaching various knitting techniques. We also have our knitting engineer, Diane Martin, as our inhouse consultant. Gloria and I have given her the nickname "knitting engineer" as there is very little that Diane hasn't done in the past, however, once in a [very] blue moon, we have actually taught her something new. We encourage knitters to share your experiences and to bring your questions and Show & Tell. We want to see your accomplishments and to help solve any conundrums you may have encountered along the way.

Our objective is to give knitters the confidence to try new things and to be proud of your handiwork! If you would like to share a technique with the group, contact Cindy or Gloria and we can put you on the schedule.

You can find the Zoom link on the Members Only section of the EHS website, but if you would like to receive the pre-meeting agenda, which includes any homework for the session, you must send an email to Cindy O'Malley so that I can add you to the distribution list.

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## Donation Throw

*By Cindy O'Malley*

No doubt you have read the emails and heard about the success of the Donation Draw Mosaic Throw. What you may not know is how this project started and the number of people involved to bring it to conclusion.

It started as a Knit Night Study Group topic where everyone learned Mosaic Knitting. That expanded into a knit-a-long project for a bag designed by Diane Martin. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the Mosaic Knitting technique and discussions ensued as to how fabulous it would look as a throw. The wheels started to turn and discussions led to a group project that we could potentially use as a fund raiser to hire a speaker for Knit Night.

Gloria, Diane & Cindy designed the blanket and determined the quantity and type of yarn to use. First, all three of us needed to do sample swatches to determine the gauge we would use. This was a challenge as each of us knit very differently, but we finally decided on Briggs & Little Heritage which is a sturdy Aran weight 100% wool yarn. Now to source the yarn. Dawn Juruc, who works at Romni Wools, arranged with Jonathon to give us a special discount beyond our regular 10% Guild discount. This helped us to keep the material costs down.

Time to assign the projects. This turned out to be more of a challenge than we expected. Even though we had polled everyone to understand how they typically knit based on a recommended gauge, several of the participants had difficulty knitting to the gauge we needed. If you were the only knitter on the project, this wouldn't be that important, however, when you're combining pieces from multiple knitters, they have to be the same size, therefore, gauge is extremely important. As a result, some pieces had to be reknit. This also led to a Knit Night Study Group exercise about "factors that impact gauge". We only wish we had done this first. By the way, distributing the yarn and patterns, and returning them to Studio C was also a bit of a challenge as not all participants drove. Ruth to the rescue as she contributed by playing Yarn Taxi.

Time to assemble all the pieces. Diane Martin volunteered to assemble all the pieces which was a huge job in itself, but it was also in black yarn. Talk about a challenge, however she had it completed in record time which enabled Gloria and myself to start working on the borders.

Time to block. Finding an area to block a piece this large at home was another challenge. It would have been easier to do it in Studio C, but unfortunately, the timing didn't work out. Once complete, Diane needed to make one more finishing round.

Time for draw tickets. After much discussion with the EHS Executive and with the Quilters and Rug Hookers Presidents, we determined that to avoid OLG Licensing we had to position this as a Donation Draw. We opted to keep our draw tickets in line with those offered by the Quilter and Rug Hooker Guilds and to hold the draw at the end of the Handmade Sale. We printed and distributed tickets to participants of the Knit Night Study Group and offered e-Transfer tickets to our out-of-town members. Our goal was to sell enough tickets to cover the cost of materials and hire a speaker for Knit Night, and hopefully, contribute to the Guild funds. This meant we needed to raise approximately \$400.

The results were overwhelming. Not only did we achieve our initial target, but we more than doubled our desired goal. This was due to the amazing job of participants in selling draw tickets to family and friends, but also some large contributions from EHS members in support of the project as some of them didn't even want tickets.

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Time for presentation. Displaying the throw at the Handmade Sale also presented some challenges. We had to get approval from NPCC as to how it would be displayed at the Sale, and we needed a method for displaying the throw in all its' glory. Linda Ouderkirk (aka Benne) from Linda's Craftique loaned us her display grids, that we attached to the large warping mill from Studio C. More about that in the write up for the Handmade Sale. We also sold a number of draw tickets at the Sale. And I should also mention that both Jonathon (Romni Wools) and Linda (Linda's Craftique) purchased draw tickets.

Time for the draw. We were ecstatic that one of our own Guild members, Jane Bridgeman, was the lucky winner! Jane as since informed us that her husband has claimed it for himself.

This project was no small feat. In fact, it was much larger than any of us had anticipated, but well worth it. Not only did we raise more funds than we expected for EHS, but we learned a lot from this exercise. On behalf of Gloria, Diane and myself, thank you to all who participated in the creation of the throw, selling and buying tickets, and supporting the project through to completion.

## **Charity Outreach**

*By Gloria Williams*

A total of 117 items (and still counting) were collected to be distributed to organizations that supply warm items to those in need.

I had hoped to distribute the items earlier this year, but I was unable to be at NPCC until mid December. As such, we were unable able to sort and deliver the goods before the organizations stopped accepting donations before Christmas. They all open up to accept items the week after New Year's, so our contributions have been delivered.

I would like to thank everyone who donated items for the cause. We received some lovely hand knit and woven items, as well as some commercially made warm socks. I'm sure they will all be greatly appreciated.

We still have a lot of cold weather ahead of us, and it seems that there is an even greater need this year. We will continue to collect items that can be left in the cupboard at NPCC. Please include a note or write on the bag "For Donation" so they are not confused with the upcoming shows.

## **Handmade Sale**

*By Gloria Williams*

We are pleased to report that the Fall Handmade Sale was a great success!

There is an expression that it takes a village to raise a child. Well, when it comes to pulling together a successful sale, it takes a team of volunteers. On behalf of the Committee, I want to thank all those members who offered their lovely handmade items for sale, volunteered in the studio getting everything ready for the sale, worked on setting up the table displays; and turned the Guild's large warping mill (along with some grid panels loaned to us by Linda at Linda's Craftique) into a great display for the Donation Draw Throw. That's not all. On the day of the sale there are the volunteers who sold items, talked to the visitors and explained what we do as members of EHS, and at the end of the day, helped take everything down, pack it up and put it away in the cupboard and downstairs storage.

Time for a look at the results of the day. EHS has been using Square as our point of sale which started as a way to enable buyers to use credit and debit cards. For every sales venue we participated in this

past year, we have entered all items for sale, including Draw Tickets into the inventory database of Square along with the Craft and Category. All cash, credit, debit & eTransfer sales were recorded in Square which enabled us to download the data and produce Sales Analysis by Product Categories, Venues, and Financial reporting. This is one of the reasons why we request your sale items in advance and why changes have been made to the Sales Sheet.

Now, for some of the results of the Fall Handmade Sale ...

- 16 Members who put items in the sale
- 116 Items available for purchase at the sale
- 43 Items sold which represents 37% of total items.
- Top selling items – Tea towels, Hats & Cowls, & Hand Spun Yarn.
- Fastest selling items – Pillows.
- Requested items not available on the table - Place Mats, Linen Tea Towels, and Felted Mitts.
- Peak Sales – 10:00am, 12:00, 3:00pm for both the Spring and Fall sales.

Tracking the sales activity for both the Spring and Fall Handmade Sales as well as the Artfest Sale in June, gives us valuable information for participating in future sales events. Hopefully, we can also include the upcoming Etobicoke Civic Centre and NPCC Hallway Extravaganza shows to gain additional insight.



**Merchandised Items for Sale**

We had a lot of traffic at our booth which in part, is likely due to increased traffic at the sale, but mostly because the display of the Donation Throw drew a lot of attention. This gave us an opportunity to talk about the Guild and the different things we do. We also received a number of positive comments from some of the other vendors about the appearance of our booth and how it was merchandised.



**Donation Throw Display**

Denise Larocque and myself are co-chairpersons for the Handmade Sale. As most members know, Denise had a serious health issue last fall and was unable to be involved in the show. It was wonderful that her friend and previous Guild member Jane MacFarlane arranged with Denise's husband to bring her to the sale. She was thrilled to be there; we were thrilled she was there; and I'm not sure, but the 3:00pm spike in sales just might be due to her visit.

My personal thanks to Helen Benninger and Cindy O'Malley who took on extra duties when Denise was not available, and the members known as the Committee, who are always there to answer questions, give opinions and lend a helping hand.

We are planning to review the suggested pricing guidelines for sale items going forward. If you would like to participate in this activity, please contact Gloria Williams or Cindy O'Malley and we will advise you of meeting times, dates and venues.

Mark your calendars for the Spring Handmade Sale on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

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## Upcoming Events

### EHS Calendar of Zoom Events

**Monthly Meeting:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month

**Friday Drop-In:** Every week from 10:00am – 12:00

**Fibre Wednesday:** Every 2<sup>nd</sup> week from 10:00am – 12:00

**Knit Night Study Group:** Every other Thursday from 7:00pm – 9:00pm

**Rigid Heddle Weaving Study Group:** 1st Monday of every month 7:30pm – 9:00pm

**Weaving 201 Study Group:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month 7:30pm – 9:00pm

**Weaving Conversations:** Monthly on Wednesday afternoon 2:00pm – 3:00pm

### EHS Studio Dates

**Friday Mornings:** 9:00 – 12:30

**Fibre Wednesday:** 9:00 – 4:30

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month
- Check Calendar on EHS website to confirm dates

**Sunday Afternoons:** 1:00 – 4:30

- Last Sunday of every month
- Check Calendar on EHS website to confirm dates

The participant cost for Friday and Sunday is \$5 and \$10 for Wednesday.

NPCC offers other open studio times on Thursday evenings and Friday afternoons. Please check their webpage for specific dates and times. These dates have also been updated in the Calendar of the [EHSGuild.com](http://EHSGuild.com) website.

## Acknowledgements

### EHS Executive

President	Carolyn Ramos
Vice President	Joan McKenzie
Treasurer	Dorothy Thomson
Secretary	Cheryl Michalson
Past President	Jennifer James

### Committee Chairs

- Membership – Susan Lapell
- Programs – Vanessa Crandall
- Shows – Karen Fowler
- Spinning & Spinning Education - Joan McKenzie
- Weaving Convener – Karen Fowler
- Weaving Education – Helen Skelton
- Handmade Sale – Denise LaRocque & Gloria Williams
- Charity Outreach – Gloria Williams

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### Other Roles – to name a few

- Newsletter Editor – Cindy O'Malley
- Ambassador – Elizabeth Evans
- NPCC Resident Group Representative – Sharon Rose Airhart
- Website Administrator – Vanessa Crandall
- Librarian – Vacant.

Want to get involved in EHS activities? Contact anyone in the list above or send an email to [EHSGuild@gmail.com](mailto:EHSGuild@gmail.com).

The EHS Newsletter is published three times a year – beginning of season (September), mid-season (January) and end of season (May/June).

Thank you to everyone who submitted content for this newsletter. If you have something that you would like published in an upcoming newsletter, submit your article in writing to Cindy O'Malley with Newsletter Content in the subject line.

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