



KHWS General Meeting, Wednesday, 13 November 2024, 7.00pm, KHWS Studio

Mingle and share: 6.45pm

General meeting: 7.00pm call to order (minimum of 15 required for quorum-met)

1. **Welcome:** Stacey Robb greeted members. There were no guests in attendance.

2. **Approval of the agenda**

Motion: Janet Noyes

Seconded: Mary Mayo

Carried

3. **Motion to approve the minutes from October 9, 2024**

Motion: Janet Noyes

Seconded: Nancy Leeney

Carried

4. **Program**

Show and Sale – Guild members who volunteered to help with the preparation and during the sale were thanked for their contributions. Everyone worked very hard!

Study/Learning Groups Panel- Rosie Hyde (Moderator)

Weaving Study Group:

This group has regular meetings on Wednesday afternoons. Members are seeking specific guidance for newer weavers after completing introductory workshops. There are currently around 12 members meeting on a regular basis. Some are new weavers, and some are more experienced. This group is a wonderful resource to explore what is possible (ie. Twill and overshot). Topics are driven by member discussion, for example, fibre exploration (cotton, linen, wool). There are no compulsory activities, and this group aims to open the door to the weaving world. Members who would like to join this group are welcome to show up on a Wednesday afternoon.

Tuesday Group: Barbara Heins

This group is open to all. Currently there are between 10-12 regular members. This group meets in the studio about 9 times per year. The group chooses 8 topics, and members are required to take part in at least 3 of the topics. Members take turns acting as the host of the meeting and meet monthly from March to November. This group is geared towards intermediate weavers. Most topics are for multi-shaft projects, and members usually share drafts and patterns.

Spinning Study Group: Nancy Bowman and Shaelagh Cull

This study group began around 2014, and there is now a Google Group that allows sharing of information. The group is currently exploring a variety of topics, including studying the various sheep breeds raised in the Kingston area. Some members have signed up for the OHS Fleece Assessment course. Studies have been organized around different sheep breeds, examining processing and shearing end results. The group usually meets on Sundays between 11 am and 1 pm, pairing with the timing of the Open Studio. The group works around scheduled workshops. They meet every 6 weeks; check the calendar on the KHWS website.

100-inch Loom: Jackie Sylvester

This loom was gifted to the Guild by the City of Kingston in 1973. In 2019, a group of Guild members assessed and rehabilitated the loom to a working state. This loom has 2 sets of treadles (it is a 2-person loom) and is ideal for group projects. Typically, a group project will involve 8 people. Each group decides on a project, and each weaver will choose and supply their own weft. The loom is rented by the group from the Guild for \$1.00 per day, and the cost is divided amongst group members. The advantage is that weavers are always weaving in pairs, which is a great way to get experience and learn how to prepare for a weaving project. Newer and even experienced weavers can get tips from each other and will be encouraged to attempt more complex weaves than they may be willing to try alone. Weavers will get alternate perspectives towards working on a project, and new weavers will gain valuable experience and confidence.

Any Guild member can join this group. It is fun! There is not currently a group project in progress, so feel free to start one! This group is always open to suggestions. Examples of projects that can be woven on this loom are tablecloths, blankets, or yardage for clothing. This loom can make a 90-inch-wide fabric. What about shower curtains or drapery? Bring your ideas forward!

Sewing with Handwoven – Norma Rosier

This group started as a sewing club. This is a special interest group, and there are no compulsory projects. This group meets on Thursday afternoons after the Open Studio time on the 1st Thursday of every month. The group can support new members and provide mentoring opportunities. There is a Google Group for members to post questions and ask for help. Members who would like to be added to this Google Group can contact Norma directly. Anyone is welcome to join. The Sewing group shares patterns and ideas and try to find patterns that are suitable for handwoven fabrics (i.e. less waste). The group does have a sewing machine. Members seek to increase their confidence to tackle individual projects (i.e. bathrobes!).

Dye Garden – Kathryn Roomba

The Dye Garden was established in 2021 with some donated plants. Volunteers care for the garden over the growing season. Watering is especially important, as part of the garden doesn't really get much rain directly. The garden is more of a resource than a study group, and Kathryn Roomba and Nancy Bowman are currently the best contacts for further information. The Guild could consider inviting speakers to address the membership about the use of dye gardens and natural dying processes, such as Eco-dying. Field trips could be arranged as well.

Special Interests

Guild members were reminded that it's always possible to create special interest groups, for projects such as backstrap weaving. Groups do not have to be a permanent/long term arrangement, you just need a few people with the same interest in learning.

How can the Guild support the Study Groups and help them to thrive?

Group representatives responded to the above question that there haven't been any real problems, but the following points were made:

Having the Guild provide space for the groups to meet is crucial.

It would be helpful for the Guild to promote communication to members to ensure that everyone is aware of the groups.

It's important to note that "Study" group does not always mean that there will be homework required. The Guild could consider sending out a call for interest to the general membership. The call should note that members who would like to join a group will not be turned away, but that if groups become large, they may be split into 2 groups.

The Guild could add descriptions of each group to the KHWS website, so that the members and the public would be able to review them.

There is no need to require the study groups to report to the Guild as they are very informal, but completed or in-progress projects can and should be shown to members (i.e. during Show and Share, etc.)

5. KHWS Strategic Planning Goals for 2024-2025

- a) Continuation of Year 2 Goals: the Planning Goals document is attached to the agenda for member review. The Guild website and the members only area of the website is in development. The 3 Ps need to be updated and reviewed (Policies, Procedures and Practices). There is a call for volunteers to perform the review – please get in touch with a board member if you can help with this. Members can choose subsections to review.
- b) Year 3 Goals: Study Groups; Workshops; Mentors; Education Fund Guidelines; Donation Policy; Virtual Guild Development Retreat. Members are encouraged to provide ideas and input towards mentoring opportunities. The Education Fund Guidelines need to be written. The Donation policy needs to include estate planning and donations from no-profit organizations. There is an opportunity for 4 members of the Guild to attend the HGA (Handweavers Guild of America) Virtual Guild development retreat, which will cover strategies for guild development.

6. 2025 KHWS Guild Challenge Reminder: Soil to Soil

The 2025 KHWS Annual Challenge is "Soil to Soil". This means the item(s) should be made with natural fibres either grown from the soil (cotton, linen, bamboo, etc.) or from animals that feed on plants from the soil (wool, alpaca, silk, cashmere, mohair, etc.) and after the life of the item, it can be returned to the soil to be completely composted. No metals or plastic should be included on the item and any dyeing should be with natural dyes. Any machine sewing should

use cotton or silk thread. The Challenge will be celebrated and shared at the May 2025 general meeting. The categories for the challenge are:

- Best Overall
- Best submission from new spinner / new weaver
- Best use of natural dye
- Best use of local fibre
- Best technique
- Best closure

7. Information updates/reports:

- a. Membership – Norma reported that currently there are 103 guild members.
- b. Studio and equipment – Planning and reorganization of space continues. A new credenza has been ordered, shelves will be moved and there will be new storage cabinets. Equipment reminder: there are currently 4 reeds for sale by the Guild. All reeds are 12 dent. Two are 27 inches, and two are 45 inches.
- c. Workshops – Lis Steele: Most of the workshops are now posted on the website. There are 2 not yet posted: Spinning cotton and Inkle loom weaving. Please let Liz know if you have an idea for a workshop and if you'd like to lead one!
- d. Events: Canadian Guild of Weavers - Tea Towel Exchange; Holiday Markets; Tett 10-Year Celebration – There are upcoming Holiday sales planned to coincide with the Tett Holiday Markets. Please see Nancy Bowman to sign up. The Tett 10-year celebration is scheduled for June 19. The Tett Centre has approached the Guild and other groups within the Tett Centre for ideas to include in the celebration program. If you have any ideas or can act as a leader for this event, please contact Stacey Robb.
Members are reminded to read emails and newsletters.
- e. Other: Education Fund proposal; Update on Filing of Amendments; KHWS Annual Sale Report
Rosie provided an update on the filing of the amendments. The amendments were submitted to and approved by the ministry and are now endorsed. The Guild is following requirements. The documents are being consolidated and the guild will post the information to the KHWS website. The information will be made available to Guild members and the public.

KHWS Sale report: Mary reported that there was \$22,776 in total sales this year. There was a greater focus on the sales of smaller items, and there were fewer tea towels for sale than the previous year.

8. Show & Share Several members shared woven items.

9. Next meeting

December 11, 2024

10. Motion to adjourn Nancy Bowman, Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm