



## **Minutes of KHWS General Meeting, Wednesday, January 14, 2026 On Zoom**

Meeting was called to order at 7.00 pm (quorum requirement was met – 21 members present on zoom)

1. **Welcome:** Cathy Davidson greeted the members.
2. **Approval of the Agenda**  
**Motion:** Jackie Sylvester      **Seconded:** Dorina Freidli  
**Carried**
3. **Motion to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2025 General Meeting**  
**Motion:** Janet Noyes      **Seconded:** Andrea Vollenwyder  
**Carried**

4. **Sharing Memories to Honour the Life and Contributions of Doreen Jeffers**

Members were invited to share memories of Doreen Jeffers, who passed away on December 28.

Doreen joined the Guild in 1962 and was honoured with a life membership in 1992. In the early days of the Guild, Doreen would travel from house to house with a loom and would set up the loom for the members to work on.

Cathy Davidson told the members that Doreen taught her spinning in 1998. Cathy told a story about bringing her own mother to the class. As homework, each student was sent home with a piece of raw fleece. The fleece was dirty and Cathy's mom was horrified. She tried to clean it, but by the time that she returned to the class with the fleece, it had become a felted mess of wool. Doreen remarked that her mother had learned to make felt. Cathy noted that this had been really good learning experience.

Barbara Heins remarked on how active Doreen had been at the Guild. She was a great person and teacher.

Jackie Sylvester also learned to spin from Doreen. Doreen was also often a participant in weaving blankets on the 100 inch loom. Jackie told the members that Doreen had been employed by Dupont, weaving samples before material went into commercial production.

Cathy encouraged any other members with memories to share about Doreen to email them to Cathy. They will be shared at the AGM.

5. **Memorial Centre Market – request for window coverings – Studio Team Email**

Cathy advised that the studio team is considering the feasibility of this request as a collaborative project. Some woven pieces have already been donated and are currently located under the counter

near the books for sale. There are a lot of windows to cover, so members were encouraged to donate fibre and/or woven items for this project if interested.

6. **Reports from December Holiday Market – December 6-7 and 13-14**

Cathy Davidson reported on the success of the holiday markets, despite the weather. Mary Mayo will provide actual sales figures in the upcoming newsletter.

7. **Post Holiday Challenge, etc:-** Mary Mayo reported that she has not heard back from Interval House regarding a donation date. Given that it is already mid-January, the collection of scarves, mittens, and toques may be delayed until next year. Mary will advise in the upcoming newsletter.

**Invitation**

The TETT received and then forwarded an invitation to the various guilds with studios in the TETT, including KHWS, to attend any of three shows at the Isabel: "Out of the Deep" (January 25), "Rites Reclaimed" (January 31) and "Roomful of Teeth" (February 5). Cathy Davidson asked that if any member is interested in attending one of these shows, they advise Nancy Bowman. Nancy will contact Brianne Franklin of the TETT to see whether any tickets remain available.

**Shearing Day Event**

On January 13, the members received an email from Krys Dallaire regarding shearing day, Saturday, March 28, 2026. Please let Krys know if members are interested in attending for some or all of the day.

8. **Programme: Beth Showalter – Exploring and Spinning Colourful Yarns**

Cathy Davidson introduced the members to Beth Showalter. Beth graduated from UWO with bachelor degrees in Fine Arts, Studio Honours and Education. Beth is a visual arts teacher at the secondary school level. She completed the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Spinning Certificate Program in 2014 with Distinction. As a spinner, Beth is fascinated with the effects of colour, texture and twist in yarn design.

Beth gave a fascinating presentation on colour techniques in spinning and knitting, using slides. A handout has also been provided and will be distributed in the upcoming newsletter. The following is a point form summary of her presentation:

**Color Inspiration Sources**

- Color wheels and color theory (complementary, analogous colors)
- Personal fiber stash organized by type and color
- Online resources like Colour Palettes websites for inspiration
- Paula Burch's dyeing website for custom color creation
- Photography and nature as inspiration sources

**Fiber Selection Considerations**

- Visual qualities: smooth and shiny (silk, mohair) versus matte and fuzzy (exotic downs like camel and yak)
- Fiber fineness and coarseness affecting color appearance
- Fiber length and preparation methods
- Natural colors versus commercially prepared and indie-dyed fibers
- Color value and dye types (weak acid dyes, natural dyes, fiber-reactive dyes)

**Fiber Preparation Techniques**

- Light attenuation for minimal processing
- Blending boards for deliberate color effects
- Drum carding and hand carding
- Creating random versus controlled, repeatable effects

- Different fiber forms (rolag, roving) and their impact on final yarn

### **Dyeing Techniques Demonstrated**

- **Crowded Pot Method:** Using a large canner with 2-3 colors injected into fiber, creating watercolor-like blending
- **Dot Dyeing:** Applying drops of color with eyedroppers, creating beautiful watercolor effects when spun. Featured in "The Twisted Sisters Sock Book" by Lynn Vogel (2002)
- **Slow Gradient Dyeing:** Creating gradual color transitions by carefully measuring and applying dye in sections
- **Indigo Dyeing:** Using pre-reduced indigo dye bats for intense, deep color with beautiful sheen
- **Space Dyeing:** Creating color pooling effects in rovings
- **Immersion Dyeing:** Solid color dyeing for unified effects
- **Car Dyeing:** Using a car on the driveway as a heat source by placing dye trays in black garbage bags

### **Spinning and Plying Structures**

- Grist selection and drafting methods (long draw, short draw, spinning from the fold)
- Two-ply yarns as workhorses
- Chain plying (3-strand) for maintaining color pooling
- Traditional 3-ply and 4-ply structures
- Cabled yarns for complex effects
- Crepe plying techniques
- Textured yarns with slubs
- Multi-stranded structures (up to 6-strand chain-plied yarns)

### **Projects Showcased**

#### **Prepared Fiber Projects (Beginner Level)**

1. Silk-alpaca scarves from Silver Cloud Alpacas (early 2000s), including the "boyfriend scarf" and Whisper scarf pattern
2. First painted space-dyed roving project using entrelac technique and chain plying
3. Boom shawl using two coordinated bats with matching colors
4. Hitchhiker shawl with Saracen Silkworks silk-cashmere gradient

#### **Single Color Effect Projects (Intermediate Level)**

1. Crowded pot dyed vest using navy as unifying color
2. Dot-dyed scarves and mosaic knitting samples showing watercolor effects
3. Slow gradient wrap transitioning from purple to blue
4. Indigo-dyed Border Leicester shawl with 5 dips per skein
5. Needle-felted mittens with carded color designs (OHS Level 1 project)
6. Blending board scarves with staff-buster approach
7. Chambered Nautilus tam using Elizabeth Zimmerman pattern
8. Saroyan shawl for Beth's mother using pink and purple blends
9. Deliberate gradient shawl with peachy-orange to plum transition plied against bright pink

#### **Multiple Color Effects Projects (Advanced Level)**

1. Mosaic knitting vest combining space-dyed colorful yarn with black
2. Natural alpaca shawl combining silver gray and creamy white
3. Danish tie shawl using natural colors with three immersion dye colors (blue, green, burgundy)
4. Knitted clutch with Rideau Arcott fleece, star tweed stitch, and complementary color mixing (OHS Level 2 project)
5. Nymphalidea shawl combining silk-merino blend with natural yak in short rows
6. Ramie bag with 3-ply structure using brown as unifying color plus six accent colors
7. Diamond lace vest holding two yarns together (space-dyed blue and Donna Hancock's purple blend)
8. Lefties scarf with 3-ply tessa and 4-ply cabled cultured silk

### **Complex Projects (Expert Level)**

1. COVID spiral blanket inspired by Elizabeth Zimmerman's 10-stitch blanket, using multiple yarns including Donna Hancock fiber
2. Camel and silk shawl showcasing natural camel colors with Sericin Silkworks dyed silk-camel blend
3. Cabled slubbed wrap with four-stranded yarn featuring dyed slubs for color pops
4. Rug hooking wall hanging (24" x 18") with 11 different 6-strand chain-plied yarns using mohair and Northern Lights rovings, separated by natural dark wool like stained glass (OHS 50-hour project)
5. Design challenge creating 21 different 4-stranded cabled yarns using only 3 colors (OHS Level 6 project)
6. Yak scarf in progress with multiple natural yak colors and Saracen Silk multicolor
7. Mobius vest by Elizabeth Zimmerman with Border Leicester, planning gradient dyeing

### **Key Teaching Philosophy**

Beth emphasized several important principles throughout her presentation:

- Give yourself permission to experiment and try new things
- Being willing to be "bad at something for a long time" is essential for learning
- There are multiple ways to achieve results - no single "correct" method
- Choose fabric construction methods that showcase the yarn rather than compete with it
- Simple, classic patterns often work best with complex yarns
- Complementary colors intensify each other when used together
- Breaking down techniques into steps makes complex processes manageable
- Inspiration comes from many sources: books, other makers, nature, art, and experimentation
- Projects accumulate over time - Beth has been spinning since 1998
- Teaching commitments can motivate project completion

### **Resources Mentioned**

- The Twisted Sisters Sock Book by Lynne Vogel (2002)
- Barbara Walker's Treasury series (mosaic knitting)
- Elizabeth Zimmerman's books (Chambered Nautilus tam, 10-stitch blanket, Moebius vest)
- Folk Vests book (black vest pattern) by Cheryl Oberle
- Colour Palettes for Inspiration
- Paula Burch's dyeing website
- Ravelry patterns: Boom, Hitchhiker (Martina Behm), Saroyan, Nymphalidea, Lefty (Martina Behm)
- Fiddlesticks patterns (Whisper scarf)
- Woolly Wormhead (YouTube, hat knitwear designer)
- Deb Menz's book on color blending (late 1990s/early 2000s)

### **Suppliers Mentioned**

- Silver Cloud Alpacas (Nancy Carr present at meeting)
- Treenway Silks
- Sericin Silkworks (Tabby Ferguson)
- Wellington Fibres (Donna Hancock)
- Northern Lights wool rovings (Lewitt)
- Lambsquarters
- G&S Dye and Accessories Ltd (Markham)

Beth will be teaching a workshop on blending in March with 14 people currently registered. She offered to:

- Bring any items from her presentation for members to examine in person during lunch
- Include a show-and-share session where participants bring their favorite color work items

There were several questions from the members. Cathy thanked Beth for such an inspirational presentation. Cathy will send a message to membership about bringing color work items to the March workshop lunch.

9. **Information Updates/Reports:**

a) **Tett Representative Report**

Nancy Bowman will provide the report in the upcoming newsletter.

b) **3P and Strategic Plan Review .**

Nancy Bowman is spearheading this review. It is anticipated that the updated document will be ready for review by the membership this spring.

c) **Review and Consolidation of Committees:**

No updates at this time.

d) **Schedule of Presentations for 2025/ 2026 and call for suggestions for Fall 2026/Winter 2027:**

**The** 2026 schedule was distributed previously. Cathy is looking for suggestions for presentations to be given in the fall of 2026 and winter of 2027. The members are asked to forward suggestions to Cathy.

e) **Membership:** Norma Rosier reported that the Guild is now charging only half for membership.

f) **Treasurer:** Mary Mayo confirmed that she will have the results of the December sales ready to be included in the upcoming newsletter.

g) **Studio and Equipment** – Janet Noyes reported that recently a studio project was fully enrolled within 10 minutes of its announcement! There will be more studio projects scheduled in the near future.

h) **Workshops:** Gabby advised that several workshops are in full swing. A list of workshops which still have available spaces will be provided to Janet to include in the newsletter.

i) **Events**

Nancy advised that a report will be included in the upcoming newsletter.

j) **Archiving Project with Queen's University:** Yael Schlick provided a comprehensive update on the archiving project:

**Progress to Date**

- File folders have been sorted with Nancy's assistance
- Remaining work involves reviewing binders to compile a complete set of minutes and meeting records
- Target completion date: end of February
- Materials will be brought to Queen's Archives after review is complete

**Questions for Guild Consideration**

Yael raised important questions about material retention:

- Should certain materials (newspaper clippings, hard drives with interviews/videos, special event posters, photographs) go to Queen's Archives or remain at the Guild?
- What is the balance between safety and accessibility for original materials?
- How easily can guild members access materials stored at the archives if needed for projects or research?

### **Unidentified Photographs**

Yael discovered photographs with no identification or dates. She plans to:

- Create a folder with unidentified photographs at the guild
- Send an email to members about the folder's location
- Encourage members to visit and help identify people, dates, and events
- Explore ways to reach out to others who might recognize people in the photos

### **Next Steps**

- Yael will compile questions about material retention for future discussion
- The guild will consider where to permanently store various types of historical materials
- Members will be invited to help identify people and events in historical photographs

### **k) Other:**

- **Fibre Garden Proposal**

Documentation for the Fiber Garden proposal is available in the Google Drive for members to review. The project continues to move forward.

- **Show and Share via Padlet**

Members shared their recent projects through the Padlet platform:

- **Brandy's New Shuttles**

Brandy Hyndman received surf shuttles from Fiber Artist Supply (purchased in the US through her brother). They are designed for rigid heddle looms with narrow sheds. She is awaiting a drill attachment to wind paper quills. She also received a Handywoman Shop shuttle in broiled maple. The Handywoman Shop offers customization options for wood type and stain.

- **Janet's Woven Bags**

Janet Noyes created 3 vintage woven bags for Unit 1 of the weaving certificate course and gifted them to her daughters and daughter in law. She used vintage bag patterns. She used 2/2 twill with 9 different pattern variations (3 warp patterns × 3 weft patterns). She focused on plaid and complementary colors. They are lined with cotton.

- **Alida's Towels**

Alida Moffatt completed 4 towels at home on her own loom as gifts for family members. Alida plans to compare these with towels from the Waddington loom project. Alida also made tea towels using the false damask pattern (pattern #246 in Strickler book) as Christmas gifts.

- **Andrea's Needle-Felted Ornament**

Andrea Vollenwyder created this ornament during Saturday spinning day at the guild. The design was inspired by Van Gogh's Starry Night. She used blue tones with sparkly fibre.

- **Rosie's Wool Scrap Quilt**

Rosie Hyde showed the quilt that she is in progress of making for a cousin's new baby. She is using 100% wool scraps which are stitched onto brown backing fabric. It will be very warm when completed.

### **10. Next meeting:**

February 11, 2026 – 7 pm on Zoom.

### **11. Adjournment**

**Motion:** Johanna Amos

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.