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Words of Wisdom

I can't give you a surefire formula for success, but I can give you a formula for failure: Try to please everyone all the time.

Herbert Bayard Swope

Program Lineup 2020

Meetings are usually held at City View United Church, 6 Epworth Ave, Nepean ON K2G 2L5, between Baseline, Clyde/Merivale, and Meadowlands. **Please remember shoes or slippers for our meetings.**

Because the church is closed, there will be no physical meetings until things isolation is over and things open up

Virtual Meeting, June 22, 2020

June's OOTB meeting will be held Monday, June 22, at 7 pm, not June 15. Please note the change in date. Details further on in the newsletter.

Tentative fall schedule

Wendy Feldberg, Introduction to natural inks, October 19, 2020

Anne Marie Desaulniers, Trunk Show, November 16, 2020

Francine Mongeon, Importance of Art in daily life, January 18, 2021

Fibre Fling 2020 Cancellation

The Planning Committee has decided to cancel the Fibre Fling exhibition that had been rescheduled to October 2020. As you will no doubt guess, this is due to the

continuing Covid-19 uncertainties. Though disappointing, this prudent decision is being made in light of the current Public Health guidelines for public meetings. In addition, there are other unknowns related to rental space regulations and planning concerns beyond our control.

We want to let you know about this cancellation now so you can guard your practical output and creative psychic energy, always a precious resource for committed fibre artists like ourselves. We hope you can find other ways to reinvest in your fibre-related activities.

Fibre Fling's next show is tentatively scheduled for its regular time in early April 2021. This will give time to monitor the situation during the autumn as we move into the fuller planning required to mount our annual April show.

Over a number of years, FF has generated some income that enabled our group to donate to the African Grannies program sponsored by the Stephen Lewis Foundation. That need is greater than ever because the pandemic is wreaking its havoc and increasing the suffering in many hard-hit African countries.

We are inviting OOTB members to donate directly to the Stephen Lewis Foundation because we can be confident that our contributions will go where most needed. Their home page has a "Donate" button and is filled with much helpful information.
<https://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org>

Thank you so much in advance for your generous donation done in the spirit of Fibre Fling.

During these extraordinary times, let's encourage each other to be creatively engaged in the fibre arts activities that stimulate and nourish our creative art-making. We look forward to meeting online (see separate details in this newsletter) to see what you're producing and hear the associated stories.

Thank you for your participation in completing the survey. More than 50% of the members responded.

Survey Results

Here are some of the compiled results to share with members, specifically the questions relating to physical activities and digital communication. The data is summarized where possible for similar responses. Most of these questions were checkboxes and several items could be selected so any percentages would not equal 100%.

Physical:

Meetings/Workshops/Playdates/Shows

Q1 - If you are hesitant about meetings etc. in the upcoming months, what are your concerns

Safety (masks, sanitizers, distancing etc.)	26
Health	20
Financial	2
Transportation & Mobility	4

Comments

- Social interactions are so important in meetings, I find, because they develop relationships and generate interest in techniques, methods, website tutorials. I am concerned to stay healthy but also am prepared to meet in person as long as the Public Health guidelines are enacted and only those who are healthy attend.
- Somewhat hesitant about physical meetings. I miss them and think we could likely do it safely.
- I miss physical meetings and think we could likely do it safely.

Q2 - Given our current public health information what is the earliest you would consider attending in-person meetings/workshops playdates/shows?

With restrictions lifted	27
Sometime in 2021	9
Sooner 2020 but with restrictions lifted	6
Vaccine available	5
Other	3

Comments

- I don't think we should consider any 2020 shows.
- I would have no problem with participating in Fibre Fling in October, provided restrictions are lifted
- We can't provide social distance at Fibre Fling so it should be cancelled.
- When Ottawa has very few active cases rather than a specific time in the future

Digital Communications:

The results shown in tables are summarized to combine similar items.

Q1 - Please indicate your familiarity with video and audio communications platforms.

Zoom	32	35%
Skype	23	25%
Messenger	19	21%
Other platforms: Web Ex, Google Hangouts & Duo, Microsoft Teams, Whatsapp	10	13%
Facetime (Apple)	4	4%
None	3	3%

Q2 - Tell us about advantages or issues you might have with virtual meetings?

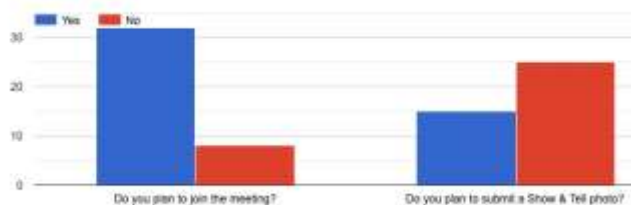
Advantages

- Good ways to connect in these difficult times
- It's a really great way to connect!
- We can still meet together!
- Great morale and inspiration boost.
- Connecting with other members
- Staying in touch and benefitting from the collective wisdom of the group.
- The big advantage of digital meeting is no danger of passing on unknowingly Covid-19.

Issues

Debbie Boyd-Chisholm, meeting host and moderator has reviewed the issues in preparation for the June meeting.

Q3 – We are planning to have a Meeting on June 22 (7-9) via Zoom.



Would providing and sharing photos be difficult for you? If so, why?

No	21
Don't think so.	3
Maybe – not sure how to do it	3

Types of issues:

- Had problems with sending attached pictures get stuck and resent millions of times
- Might have, depending on requirements. have old computer
- Not sure how to do it.

Suggestions

- Am not sure how many items would be up to look at the meeting
- If there are specifications, please let us know.
- Tell me what size in pixels or inches you want the photos to be

Virtual OOTB 'Show and Tell' Meeting

June 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Based on the feedback received from our survey of the group members, Out of the Box is holding our first ever 'virtual' meeting on **Monday, June 22 at 7:00 p.m.** using the free Zoom video conference online platform. If this meeting is successful, we will organize more virtual OOTB events starting in the Fall. We are also open to

any suggestions that you may have on other ways for the group to connect while following public health guidelines.

After a short time to chat, the President will begin the meeting with instructions and announcements. This will be followed by a slide show where members will present one art piece that they have created, like the 'show & tell' segment of our regular meetings. Each artist will be given a few minutes to describe their piece, some of the techniques that they used to create it and what inspired them to make it. After the artist presents their piece, group members can 'raise their hand' using the Zoom app to ask them questions about it. More information is provided later in this article on how to submit your photo for the 'show and tell' slide show and how to 'raise your hand' on Zoom.

To enhance our Zoom meeting's security, we are limiting attendees to current OOTB members. We will send out the meeting link by email only to current OOTB members on the day of the meeting. Please do not post information about our meeting on social media or send the link to anyone who is not an OOTB member.

While we will all be patient with each other as we learn new ways to interact, we highly encourage everyone to familiarize themselves with using Zoom before the date of our meeting. Once you've used it a few times, you'll feel more confident to use it for our meetings. Instructions for using Zoom on a PC are given at the end of this article and the instructions are similar for those using an Ipad. Fortunately, there are many ways to familiarize yourself with using Zoom, such as on their web site, on YouTube, etc. Please note that whatever computing device you use, it must have a functioning microphone and camera. Also note that you do not need to buy a Zoom membership. Details on how to use Zoom can be found at the end of the newsletter, as well as how to send in pictures and how to resize your photographs.

We are aware that these technical requirements may prevent some OOTB members from being able to participate, but we are hoping that many of you will try. Our hope is to reconnect us with each other and inspire us to continue our creativity until we can meet in person again.

We look forward to 'seeing' you and your work soon!

OOTB Planning Committee

Social Media Presence

Hello, members. We would love to see what you are working on and we need content for the social media pages. Please send a jpeg(s) with a brief explanation to: haley.cathy@gmail.com

Our Facebook and Instagram accounts are:

<https://www.facebook.com/OOTBFibreArtists/>

<https://instagram.com/outoftheboxfibreartists?igshid=zpw236rg4nrf>

Cathy Haley

What is this?

There were many ideas about the mystery tools in last months newsletter. You can see from the answers that there is not a consensus.. Thanks to Meredith for supplying the pictures and thanks to all the guessers



Tool 1



Tool 2



Tool3

MT

1. are needle threaders for larger eye needles like tapestry & chenille
2. is a table clamp used to hold hoops or frames steady for embroidery
3. Don't know

PG

3. My guess for the third item is a tool to open sealed plastic bags such as milk bags. There is a small razor blade and an imprint for a thumb.

PH

1. My guess for #1 - instead of using a large safety pin to pull a cord or elastic through a narrow strip, I'm thinking this might work. It's narrower at one end so that would be the front or first part to insert.

LB

Number 3 mystery. It's a yarn or thread cutter.

SB

item 1 is a needle threader for thicker thread such as wool. Item 3 I'm going for a scissor sharpener. Number 2 not sure something to inscribe circles?

LT

1. Not sure what these are, but I think they must be some sort of weight or organizer for threads or floss. They could also be used for lifting warps in a lace or hand weaving process. From the hooks and holes, I

would expect you thread something through them and then use the hook to it in place.

2. This looks to me like a circle cutter or marker. I can't tell if the round thing is a wheel or disc. The knob thing could be a holder for a pen or pencil or point. It works like an old beam compass.

3. This is definitely a scissor sharpener. You hold it in one hand with your thumb on the depression and draw the blades over the rods. I use one all the time. It helps keeps the tips sharp and the blades clean. It will not take serious nicks out of blades, but is a good maintenance tool. With enough patience you can restore sharpness.

DD

Well I have no idea what the first one is but I feel like it might have something to do with buttons. Or possibly knitting.

The second one is a tool to cut circles.

The third one is for sharpening scissors.

New Mystery items

Please send your guesses to Helen.gordon@rogers.com

Tool 1



Tool 2



Tool 3



Call for Entry

Hi there! I hope this email finds you and yours safe and well, and you've been enjoying extra time in your fibre arts studio!

I'm the show registrar for Focus On Fibre Art Association's biannual competition and exhibition, **2020: Future In Focus**. We're excited to announce we *are* proceeding, with some public health precautions! We've extended the deadline for entry to midnight, June 28th 2020. Our jurying will be done digitally, and in mid-July we will work with a small group following public health guidelines to judge, mount, and photograph the show. On the evening of July 19th we will have a virtual opening gala through Facebook Live, and will hold the exhibit July 20th to August 31st online and by-appointment in our

new studio-workshop space in Edmonton. Full details and our Call For Entry can be found at https://focusonfibreat.org/wordpress1/?page_id=2903

Would it be possible to share this information with OOTB's members on your events calendar and the might-be-of-interest section of your exhibitions page?

Thanks so much!

Sincerely,
Deb Merriam
competition@focusonfibreat.org
show registrar and chair, competition and exhibition committee
Focus On Fibre Art Association

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Planning Committee

PC Convenor	Sharon Johnson & Nancy Garrard
Education	Nancy Scott, Kathy Lajeunesse, Luigina Baratto
Secretary	Andrée Faubert
Membership	Val Rochester, Dorothy DeRose
Treasurer	Marilyn White
Web-coordinator	MaryAnne Toonders
Newsletter	Helen Gordon
Library	Rita Rottman
Publicity/Marketing	Lorraine Lacroix
Exhibitions/Shows	Connie ten Bruggenkate, Debbie Boyd-Chisholm, Sheree Bradford-Lea
Contacts: co-chair@out-of-the-box.org	

Sending in your 'show and tell' photograph

To help us build the 'show and tell' slide show for our meeting, please:

- Send ONE photograph of ONE piece that you would like to show the group to Debbie Boyd-Chisholm at debbie@dadero.com. The deadline for submitting photos is midnight on Friday, June 19. We will use the images in the order that they are received. If we have too many 'show and tell' pieces, we will hold on to later arriving submissions for our next meeting.
- Reduce/resize the photograph's file size to 1 Megabyte. Instructions on how to do this are given at the end of this article and are posted in the 'Members Only' section of the web site, out-of-the-box.org. (Click on the 'Registration Instructions for Artwork Exhibit Area' on the Fibre Fling page under the 'Exhibits' tab.)
- Name the file using the formula <your first name><last name>. This helps us to show your name above your art piece on the slide and will help us to unmute the artist so they can describe their work.

How to Use Zoom

Preparing for the meeting:

While Zoom is a free and relatively easy platform to use, we highly recommend that you take care of a few things at least a few days before the meeting.

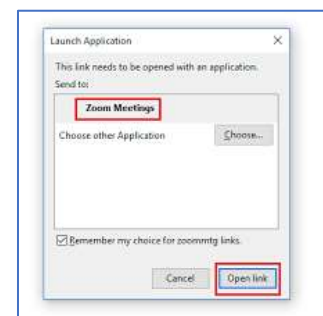
In order to be seen and heard on a Zoom video conference, your computing device must have a functioning camera, microphone and speakers. Please check that you have these on your device and test them to ensure that they are working well. This might also be a good time to check the background that will be seen behind you while you are on the video conference call.

If you haven't used Zoom before, you will need to install the application (see step 2 in the 'Joining a Zoom meeting' instructions below). **YOU DO NOT NEED YOU TO BUY A ZOOM MEMBERSHIP.** We also highly recommend that you practice using their test meeting at zoom.us/test to test your connection and/or familiarize yourself with how to join a Zoom meeting and use the toolbar a few days before June 22nd. If you have problems using Zoom's test meeting, they have instructional text and videos and a link to technical support available on their web site. There are also several very good YouTube videos that you can watch.

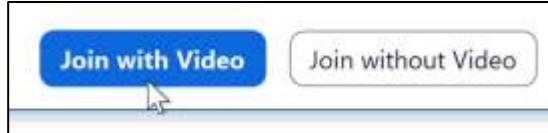
For those of you that have installed and used Zoom already, an update/upgrade was made to the platform in late May. You need to accept the update/upgrade before our meeting, or you may not be able to join the meeting. Go to the platform's web site and it will prompt you to run the upgrade.

Joining a Zoom meeting:

1. 5 to 10 minutes before the OOTB video meeting, log on to your computer and click on the meeting link sent by the host.
2. If you have never installed the Zoom application, you will need to do that to participate in the meeting. To do this, you need to go to the Zoom website at <https://zoom.us/> and click on the 'run' button. It shouldn't take a long time to install, but we highly recommend that you do this a few days before the first meeting.
3. If you have already installed the Zoom application, you will be prompted to click on the 'open link' button. Sometimes there's a short pause before the 'open link' button becomes active, so be patient.
4. You will be put into a 'waiting room' until the host lets you in to the meeting. Admitting only OOTB members on to the call provides extra security.



- Click on the 'Join with Video' button displayed on the next pop up window. *This is the recommended choice.* If you select 'without video', the other meeting participants will only see a black box with your name on it during the meeting. But they will still be able to hear you. Then again, we all have bad hair days...



- When prompted, enter your first and last name to be displayed on your video box during the meeting. This will help us to unmute you so you can present your piece or to ask a question.
- Click on the 'Join with Computer Audio' button on the next pop up window. You will be prompted to test your speaker and microphone levels at this point. I highly recommend that you test these now, especially if you are presenting your art piece to the group.



Mute:



The mute button is

found on the zoom toolbar, usually located at the bottom of your screen. **Important!** Unless you are speaking to the group, please ensure that your audio is muted throughout the meeting. Otherwise, it's hard to hear the speaker over to the sound of papers being shuffled, throats being cleared, phones ringing, etc.

Speaker View vs Gallery View:

Zoom provides several options for what you see while participating in a meeting. These can be changed by clicking on the 'Change View' button on your toolbar, located on the upper right hand part of the screen (on a PC) and sometimes at the bottom of your screen (on an ipad).



Gallery view is the iconic image of how most people use Zoom. It displays up to 25 participants on each screen, with the active speaker highlighted. For meetings with more than 25 participants, tap the right arrow to display the next group of participants on the screen and tap the left arrow to display the previous set.



Speaker view displays a large view of the slide show with a smaller view of the speaker. You can customize the size and location of the size and location of the speaker and slide show screens by dragging the screen frames with your cursor.

Speaker

'Raising Your Hand' in Zoom

Since everyone on the video conference, except the meeting co-hosts and speakers, will be muted, if you would like to ask a question or make a comment about a 'Show and Tell' piece, you will need to 'raise your hand' virtually to let the meeting co-hosts know that you want to speak. When you do this, the system notifies them so they can unmute you.

To 'raise your hand', open the 'Participant Box' found on your bottom toolbar, then click on the **'Raise Hand'** button at the bottom of that box. When you raise your hand, you will see an 'hand' icon next to your name on the Participant list. When its your turn to ask your question or make a comment, the host will unmute you. Don't forget to click the lower button again to 'Lower your Hand' when you have finished or if you didn't intend to raise your hand.



Ending a meeting:

- Click on the 'leave the meeting' button on your screen.
- Log out and/or sign out of Zoom.

How to Reduce/Resize Photographs

There are many different methods of reducing the size of pictures. What follows is one for Windows and one for Mac.

On Windows:

Reduce photographs by making the longest side 500 pixels long:

- 'Select' the photograph.
- On the tool ribbon above the photograph, click on '**edit**' and open it with Paint.
- **Crop the picture to remove any background.**
- Click on the '**Image**' '**resize**' symbol on the 'Home' tab of the tool bar. *(It looks like two overlapping rectangles).*



- A menu box will appear in the resize section. Click on the circle labelled '**pixels**'
- Make sure to check the '**Maintain aspect ratio**' box!
- There will be a large number in the **Horizontal** and **Vertical boxes**. Click on the largest number and type in **500**. The other number should adjust itself.
- Click '**OK**'.
- Click on the '**File**' tab then on '**Save as**'.
- Select where you want to store your photo and rename the file using the formula <artist's first name><artist last name> and hit '**Save**'.
- Close Paint.

On a Mac:

- In the Preview app on your Mac, open the file you want to change.
- Choose Tools > Adjust Size, then select "Resample image."
- Enter a smaller value in the Resolution field. The new size is shown at the bottom.

