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Words of Wisdom

“Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.” Thomas Edison

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.**

No August Meeting

September 21, 2020 meeting – Solving UFO’s, Show and Tell via Zoom

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

Important Notices

Holiday plans for many of us are not what we had hoped for. We wonder if creative plans have also been upended. Here is the provocative quote read at the start of the July zoom meeting, one worth returning to repeatedly.

If we attempt to suspend our intellectual and artistic lives during a time of international crisis, we will simply replace a richer cultural life for a poorer one. (Jamie Quatro)

May this penetrating insight inspire and motivate your creative activities.

Please give close attention to the following six points.

1. **Program:** Though City View United Church will be opening their rental space in September, this is too soon

to switch our projected plans for the fall program. Given the continuing uncertainties, and the level of protocol compliance required for group meetings, zoom meetings will continue for Sept, Oct, and Nov. The situation will be closely monitored by the Planning Committee as we move forward.

September will be a photo-based ‘show and tell’ meeting based on the theme of **Solving UFOs**. I already know which of several projects I’ll be submitting!

Photo submission information has been simplified and appears separately in the newsletter, thanks to Debbie Boyd-Chisholm’s instructions and power point preparations.

October’s meeting will feature a zoom presentation by former member, Wendy Feldberg, on making and using natural inks.

November’s plans are in process so more detail will appear in the Sept newsletter.

2. **Zoom coaching:** Two separate sessions have been scheduled for members who want to learn and improve their basic zoom skills: Thurs, Sept 10, at 10:30 am, and Tues, Sept 15, at 1:30 pm. To attend, please notify Sharon Johnson directly at: sharondjohnson@me.com If neither date works for you, let Sharon know to set up an alternative. NOTE: Zoom instructions will NO LONGER be given at the start of meetings.

3. **Zoom meetings links:** Monday zoom meeting links will be sent out on Sunday. Watch for them and **check your spam**. If you don’t have it by Monday, email a friend, or Nancy or Sharon, to forward you the link directly. Please and thank-you, check for the link in your inbox early in the day, not 10 minutes before the meeting starts.

4. **Informal chat groups:** Because continuing pandemic uncertainties can impoverish our creative efforts, we want to explore the possibility of some informal get-togethers.

If such participation interests you, please let Nancy or Sharon know.

5. **Deferred membership renewals:** Membership will continue to the end of 2020 while we continue to monitor the pandemic’s impact on OOTB finances, especially the needs of the program and operating expenses.

6. **Two creativity resources:** One of our OOTB members and the Planning Committee secretary,

Andrée Faubert, has a lively and colourful blog that features hand stitching, free motion quilting, and all sorts of wonderful things presented with zest and humour. It's well worth exploring.

<https://quiltinglearningcombo.blogspot.com>

Another fulsome and wide-ranging source to explore is: textileartist.org

Please share any other online resources you've found to help us enrich our cultural and creative lives. And feel free to contact us with ideas for meetings and/ or ways we can encourage the interactive support that helps keep our OOTB community together during these extraordinary times.

Sharon Johnson

Solving UFOs!

OOTB Virtual Meeting on September 21, 2020



Do you have an 'old' art piece stashed away somewhere that you just can't seem to finish? Are you struggling to find the right design element, technique, or colour to complete it? At our virtual meeting in September we will do our best to help each other solve the mystery of changing these dreaded "Unfinished Fibre Objects" into "Awesome Fibre Art"!

In order to prepare our meeting's slide show ahead of time, send up to TWO photographs of ONE 'UFO' art piece to Debbie Boyd-Chisholm at debbie@dadero.com before midnight on Friday, September 11. (We suggest sending one email with a photograph of the entire art piece and a second email with a close-up photo of the piece or the problem area. This time, you don't need to reduce or resize the photographs before sending them. But, please remember that high resolution digital photographic files may be too large to be sent by email. Debbie acknowledge when she receives your emails.

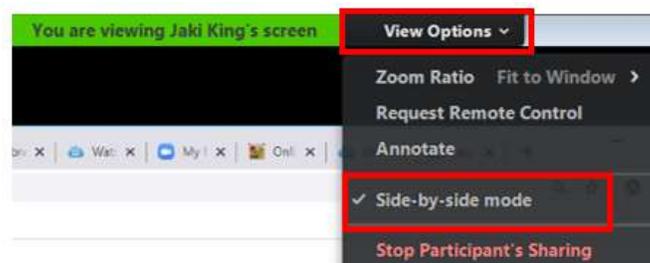
After a short time to socialize at the start of the meeting, all participants who are not presenting will be muted. When your 'UFO' piece is shown on screen, you will have 2 minutes to describe it and explain why you're having trouble finishing it. Anyone with a helpful suggestion or a question should 'raise their hand' to be

unmuted. Please limit your suggestions, comments, and questions to a maximum of 3 per person.

The submitted 'UFO' photographs will be displayed at the meeting in the order that they were received. The number of art pieces we view will depend on how quickly we get through the submissions. Any photographs that are not used in the September meeting may be displayed during a future meeting.

Zoom Tools & Tips:

Using 'side-by-side mode' in speaker view

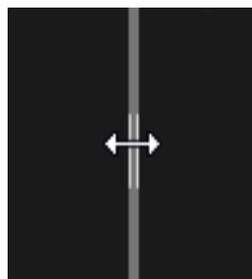


While using 'speaker view' during a Zoom virtual meeting, it is sometimes advantageous to be able to see the speaker in a box that is nearly as large as the box in which the slides are seen. You can easily do this by



going to the 'View Options' in the toolbar at the top of your screen and choosing the 'side-by-side' mode.

Choosing the side-by-side mode displays both the slide and speaker boxes in large sizes.



You can customize your view even more by choosing the size ratio you prefer between these two side-by-side boxes. To do this, use your mouse to position your cursor over the black boundary between the two display boxes. Then, while pressing down on the left mouse button, you can slide the boundary back and forth

to change the size of the boxes. A good YouTube video that demonstrates how to do this is found online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3IPAbpVjd4>

Remember, if this is your first Zoom meeting, you should install the app on your computer, iPad, or other device before our meeting starts. Check out their web site at zoom.us for help with downloading, user tips, test meetings and much more.

Hosting an Online Workshop

OOTB Website Focus on Fibre Links

Some of the OOTB members create workshops to share with interested participants and maybe other members want to do so but aren't sure how to proceed. The pandemic has caused nearly all the workshops since March with physical gatherings to be cancelled. There are artists around the world working hard to create virtual options but for many it's a challenge to get a handle on the technology.

The website, Artwork Archive has created a web page on this topic. It offers a guideline to the pros and cons of a few platforms like Zoom and others, some resources for live or recorded lessons, tips for filming and hosting the workshop, pricing your workshop, and following up with participants. This page is not the answer to all of the issues but might give you some ideas about what is needed and some options for more research.

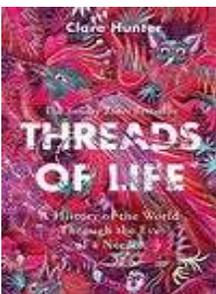
The links for this page can be found on the OOTB Resource page <http://www.out-of-the-box.org/resources.html>

MaryAnne

Threads of Life, a history of the world through the eye of a needle

Book Review

Claire Hunter, 2019 299 pages



This book is available from the Ottawa Public Library and is an interesting read. It, however, might be better described as “**one woman’s view** of the history of life through the eye of the needle”. Certainly, the topic is too broad to be covered in 299 pages.

Claire Hunter was active in the fibre arts world in Scotland. She has been a banner maker and coach, a community textile artist, a

textile curator, and had a fibre art business. A good part of the book relates to her personal experiences in Scotland. The remainder covers issues that aroused her curiosity. Given her base in Scotland, I was surprised that there was no mention of the fabulous effort to make the Scottish Diaspora tapestry (finished in 2014) nor mention of the Bacton Altar cloth from the 16th century and believed to be the sole surviving dress of Queen Elizabeth I. But ..there was lots else to intrigue.

She chose interesting titles for the chapters. Beginning with UNKNOWN, a discussion of the Bayeux tapestry, she groups stories according to 16 themes including POWER, FRAILITY, JOURNEY, COMMUNITY, ART and PROTEST. Throughout she demonstrates the importance of needlework to communicate or to give diversion, encouragement and strength to those in difficult situations. She makes reference to many things we may see today like pompoms, colour choices, etc. and not know the history. The description of the life of the founder of the Singer sewing machines as well as the impact of these machines on domestic and commercial sewing was informative. Her discussion about the importance of needlework instruction in the education of young women is interesting as are her views on the excursions beyond traditional needlework by some. The Glasgow School of the Arts encouraged exploration and certainly Judy Chicago’s embroidered place setting banners for The Dinner Party took needlework in new directions. A common thread throughout was the put down of women who excelled at needlework. Ms. Hunter was active in women’s liberation efforts and thus presents a number of anecdotes about the use of needlework in the suffragette movement and the women’s liberation movement many decades later. Some of her descriptions like art vs craft and men’s comments when seeing women working at fibre art projects in public venues (can you sew on my button?) persist today.

Here is the review by the Sunday Times: “An astonishing feat, this patchwork of history, culture, and politics which takes us from Saxon, England to colonized African tribes, Palestinian villages, rural China, and the cramped homes of American slaves. Hunter writes in clear sometimes lyrical prose and knows just the detail to bring a story alive. Her highly impressive debut is a richly textured and moving record of history that has largely been lost.”

What I appreciated most from reading this book were the memories it prompted and the ability to put some things in context. For instance, the first time I saw Joyce Wieland’s fabric art at the National Art Gallery was thrilling. I was annoyed to learn that Pierre Elliot Trudeau did not consider her description of what she was straying into as “art”, but he redeemed himself by buying one of

her pieces once he saw what she was doing. She was doing this type of art about the same time Judy Chicago was using needlework to make statements about women's place in the world. In spite of the tremendous success of Chicago's Dinner Party opening, directors of the subsequent tour venues refused to exhibit it with the suggestion that gallery directors were men making judgements about what was appropriate.

All in all, it was an interesting read. I particularly liked "Beginning" and "Ending" and I will leave those for you to discover.

Meredith

Merrickville Paint Brouhaha

August 15

Join the socially distanced

MERRICKVILLE PAINT BROUHAHA

aka Paint Pitch, Squirt & Fling

WHY? These last few months have tested our patience & resilience, as well as our fans & air conditioners. We need to get out & have some fun. Vent your feelings about it all by participating in a wild, creative art piece.

DATE: Saturday, August 15 from 9:30-4:30. Rain date Sunday, Aug 16. Appointments at 15 minute intervals to reduce crowding. Props are always welcome but may have to wait for their turn.

LOCATION: 155 Wolford Dr, Merrickville

COST: Totally free. Not required but donations to the Merrickville Emergency Food Cupboard gratefully received.

What to bring: Any unwanted, acrylic/latex house paint (the more colourful the better), paint tools such as brush, stick, squirt bottle, cups, etc & a garbage bag.

RSVP: to Pat at alterredart25@gmail.com. Choose morning or afternoon. Give me 2 words that reflect how you've felt about all the COVID stuff & requirements these past few months. Check your email for more details.

I picked a card for you!

As the enthusiastic reader of many card decks, I was very excited to get the brand new 2020 "The Creativity Oracle" created by the fabric artist Amy Zerner and her partner Monte Faber. The beautiful 80 gold edged cards are a showcase for her exquisite tapestry collages. The accompanying book is an inspiration directed at all seekers in the creativity realm.

I picked a card for you who have been a constant inspiration in my endeavours, in these past years.



Stittsville Library Show

We are planning a show again at the Stittsville Library from December 1 to 31st, 2020. *Please note the show is in December not November this year.* The theme is "2020: Year of the Pandemic". For this theme I would like you to make something that reflects what you did this year during confinement and social isolation, what you learned, thought about, your personal experience, anything related to the theme.

Pieces can be any size as long as no side is longer than 24 inches. And you can use any technique as long as there is some fibre included. Please have your piece ready to hang with wire if it is hard mounted or a rod if it is soft mounted. No alligator clips please because they don't hang well at the library. The artwork on the wall will be hanging by nylon cords so very heavy pieces are not suitable to hang but a regular weight large canvas is fine. Three dimensional pieces are also a possibility because we have a glass display case. Given the uncertainty right now I'm not sure yet how we will deliver the artwork. But we will figure that out before that time! If you want to tentatively volunteer for helping to hang up

pieces that would be appreciated. I understand if we have to make changes.

I do encourage you to make a new piece if possible. That way you will have some new work in this theme. Even if the library has to close and the show doesn't go on, this will give you something new to work on before that time. If we don't have enough artwork I will consider pieces that have been shown before but preferably not at the Stittsville Library. I look forward to seeing what we can put together for this theme! If you would like to contribute a piece or have any questions email me at: connietb@sympatico.ca

ONN newsletter

Please check out the ONN newsletter posted on our website to find out how other Guilds are coping with Covid19

What is this?

Luigina supplied answers for the June mystery



Tool 1



Tool 2



Tool3

1. wooden needle case
2. lace bobbins from northern Italy
3. ellwans, which is the measure from the elbow to the tip of the hand.... (old cloth measuring tool), about 18 inches, and used to measure cloth...was already used in England in medieval times

July's Mystery tools Guesses

SG: In the 'guess the tool' section of July's newsletter, #3 is a linen tester. It's used to analyze textiles: thread count and weave.

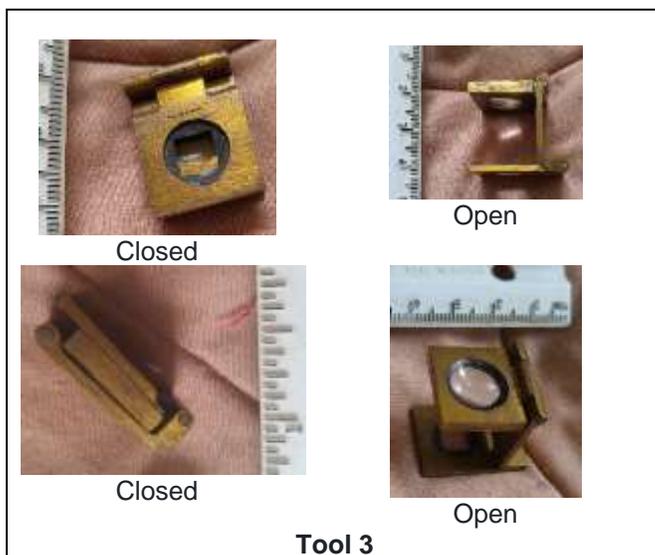
MF: I don't know what the first item might be. #2 is a finger tip trolley needle used for laying threads in embroidery. Number 3 looks like it could be a small magnifier which might help when determining the number of threads per inch for even weave embroidery fabrics.



Tool 1



Tool 2



Tool 3

I was hoping that someone would identify tool 1 since it's mine and I have no idea what it is. Tool 2 is a finger trolley or laying tool and used to assist in laying embroidery threads side by side. Tool 3 was a plaything from my childhood. I loved opening it up and looking at tiny things with intense magnification. I later learned that my mother had it when she went to MacDonald College (Guelph University) to study. It is a fabric weave analyzer and allows you to discover the fabric count and weave of very, very fine fabric. Helen

Planning Committee

PC Convenor	Sharon Johnson & Nancy Garrard
Education	Nancy Scott, Kathy Lajeunesse, Lynn Keeler, Cindy Brown
Secretary	Andrée Faubert
Membership	Val Rochester, Dorothy DeRose
Treasurer	Marilyn White
Web-coordinator	MaryAnne Toonders
Newsletter	Helen Gordon
Facebook/Instagram	Cathy Haley haley.cathy@gmail.com
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