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## Words of Wisdom

*Connection is why we are here. We are hardwired to connect with others, it is what gives purpose and meaning to our lives.* Brené Brown

## Program Lineup 2020

The Education Committee (EC) is working on 20/21 activities. If you are interested in joining our committee contact any EC member for more information. Regular monthly meetings are now virtual. We will continue to meet virtually and plan monthly meetings as best we can within the regulation we're under. We have a variety of ideas and are always looking for more, send your ideas our way! This year EC is happy to welcome Cindy Brown and Nancy Davies.

**Regular monthly meetings are now virtual**, we will continue to meet virtually on the 3rd Monday of every month except December. Log on information will be sent to members.

**Monday, November 16. Pandemic 2020 - the year of online Fibre art activity!** Three Out of the Box Members will make short presentations that reflect on their online experiences with sales, blogging, participation in workshops, exhibits, and anything else virtual! Hear what they have learned including tips and tricks. We hope to create a forum for some discussion amongst members on this currently VERY relevant topic!

## Membership fees 2020/2021

**(Jan – July) and return of outstanding library books**  
The Planning Committee has decided on a reduced membership fee of \$30.00 for the 2020/21 (Jan – July) season. The renewal deadline is **Dec 15, 2020**. If we decide to host a virtual Fibre Fling around April 2021, you must renew your membership to participate. At this time we will not ask for any membership forms but if there are

any changes to your personal information, particularly your email address, please provide this information to Dorothy DeRose, at [derose.dorothy@gmail.com](mailto:derose.dorothy@gmail.com).

In addition to the collection of membership fees, we are asking that renewing and non-renewing members return all outstanding library books, magazines, or videos.

To facilitate the ease with which members can do both of these things, several members have offered to be drop off locations for both the fees and books.

An email with specific details on how and where dues and books can be delivered will follow.

Thank you for your continued support and membership.  
Val Rochester

## Stittsville Library Show

We're going ahead with the Stittsville Library show in December. For those of you participating, here is what I would like you to email me **by November 21st** so I can type up the info cards that go with our artwork:

Title  
Maker-  
Size- (if framed, frame size)  
Inspiration (50 words or **less**)-  
Techniques and materials used-**keep it very brief**  
Are photos allowed during the show-Y or N  
Price or Not For Sale  
How is piece displayed (rods, hangers, frame, shelf ).  
Include any special props with your piece. Make sure that your props are labeled with your name.

Please label the bag you have your artwork in and any packaging materials with your name, name of the piece and phone number. Make sure that your name and phone number are also on the back of your artwork. If you have props please put your name on them too so they don't get lost. Work must be ready to hang. (no alligator hooks as they do not work with the clips at the library). Bring some business cards with your piece if you like which will be available to viewers.

Once you have sent me your info let me know when you're ready to bring your artwork to the front porch of my house or we can make some other arrangement. My address is 14 Forestview Crescent in Bells Corners and my phone number is 613 820-0122. **Please call or email before coming.** I'm looking forward to seeing this come together!

If you have any questions contact me at [connietb10@gmail.com](mailto:connietb10@gmail.com)

## Postcard Challenge

The Education Committee invites all members of Out of the Box to participate in an activity which would entail individuals making a fabric postcard for a fellow artist! The idea is that every member who chooses to participate would receive a postcard from someone else in the group.

The purpose of this fun activity is three-fold:

- a) to celebrate the camaraderie of our membership;
- b) to celebrate our creativity; and
- c) to mark the upcoming Holiday Season.

Some of you have made fabric postcards before and have a preferred method of doing so. You may find some inspiration from the following link: <https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/easy-fabric-postcards-2821813> ... and there are also many excellent you-tube videos for making fabric postcards.

If you haven't already, you will soon receive an email about this activity which will also include instructions drawn up by OOTB member Juanita Sauve!

All postcards should be no bigger than 6"x4". On the back of the postcard where the message would normally be written, we ask you to put your name, title and inspiration for your artwork.

If you would like to take part in this FUN activity, we are requesting that all postcards be completed no later than **December 1st** and either mailed or dropped off at one of the following places:

Kathy Lajeunesse, 1282 Firestone Crescent, Ottawa, ON K2C 3E3 – [mklajeun@gmail.com](mailto:mklajeun@gmail.com)

Lynn Keeler, 704-1505 Baseline Road, Ottawa, ON K2C 3L4 – [anottawagirl@yahoo.ca](mailto:anottawagirl@yahoo.ca)

Pamela Davy, 1539 Lakeshore Drive, Greely, ON K4P 1G9 – [pamela\\_davy@hotmail.com](mailto:pamela_davy@hotmail.com)

Nancy Davies – 939 North River Road, Unit #401, Ottawa, ON – [nancymaydavies@sympatico.ca](mailto:nancymaydavies@sympatico.ca)

Nancy Scott, 3914 Ashton Station Drive, Ashton, ON K0A 1B0 – [opus1300@gmail.com](mailto:opus1300@gmail.com)

Cindy Brown, 308 Atlantis Avenue, Ottawa, ON K2A 1X6 – [paul.cindy@ncf.ca](mailto:paul.cindy@ncf.ca) (evenings only)

Education Committee members will assume responsibility for addressing and mailing the postcards

to all who have participated. Putting your name on the postcard (as noted above) will ensure you do not receive your own back. They will randomly be mailed to those who have participated. We have decided to put them in an envelope to mail in order to help protect them.

It is our sincere hope that you will consider participating.

## Looking for test knitters



Looking for adventurous knitters to test a new sock pattern, « Waterfall ». This pattern will be available for purchase on Ravelry. If you would like to help test the pattern, you get a kit with all that is required to knit the pair of socks: circular needles, wool, and free pattern. What I will require from you is several pictures of the socks in progress and completed,

as well as any comments/corrections/suggestions on the wording of the pattern. This sock is worked in the round, using Magic Loop, two colours (stranded knitting) and has a non conventional heel/gusset construction. First sock must be completed by **November 23rd**. Please email me [luiginab56@gmail.com](mailto:luiginab56@gmail.com) if interested in knitting Outside the Box! teaser....

## Some Thoughts on On-line Courses

“This year I chose not to participate as a virtual vendor at the 2020 Almonte Virtual Fibre Fest but I did offer an online course on basic sock knitting “Knit a tube to knit a sock”. 10 participants signed up, which according to the organizers was the norm. 10% of the registration fee was donated to the Museum. It was quite time consuming, despite teaching something I had taught many times before. I had to knit, videotape, comment and prepare downloadable materials, while learning how to use an instructional platform. It took a good month to prepare a one day course. When the course launched, there were questions to answer, comments to make and further instructions to provide. All in all a very rich experience; and the course is now ready for another run.

In October I offered a free, KAL (Knit Along) to practice what was taught in the first course. That was also fun with participants joining in from Italy as well as Ottawa. This KAL also took some time to prepare as it has videos and written explanations of the free pattern we were knitting along.

The fun of taking on-line courses is that you can download everything and do the course at your own pace and time.

The fun of preparing on-line courses is that it is art within art: how to explain, show and assist in acquiring a craft while creating with it at the same time.

I will be offering more free and paid online knitting courses as the cooler weather approaches. “

Luigina Baratto

## **More On-line Courses**

### **1. Free on line course on free motion embroidery**

Meredith Woolnaugh, an Australian fibre artist, does impressive work using free motion embroidery and has the best on-line course I have followed. In August, she had an exhibition of 100 small pieces she had made since January. Quite an undertaking since she has a young child and was pregnant; the second child was born just after the exhibition opened! All 100 pieces were sold the first day of the show. Her online course is well executed and is worthwhile watching if you are interested in free motion embroidery or thinking of launching your own on line workshop. It is one hour in total but it is broken into segments so that you don't have to watch the whole thing at one sitting.

2. <http://www.design-seeds.com> is an interesting website to check out. Some readers may already know about it. I used to look at several years ago but stopped until I was reminded of it the other day. They have great ideas for colour combinations in case one is stuck or just wanting some inspiration.

Meredith

## **Even More On-line Courses**

### **Wild Dyery online courses**

I love learning about natural dyeing and printing. This summer I took some online courses with the Wild Dyery which is based in the UK. The website is <https://naturalfabricdyeing.com/>. The courses are taught and offered by Justine Aldersley Williams, textile artist and teacher. She offers three courses and I decided to take all three since they were on sale at the time. You have one year from the time you sign up to finish the course, take a quiz and get the completion certificate. I worked through most of two of them over the summer: Leaf: Print: Cloth (which is on eco printing) and Core Skills in Natural Fabric Dyeing which includes making a natural indigo vat. I'm now working on the third course: Patterned by Plants which is about printing with natural dye pastes. Since winter is coming soon I

worked through the courses that needed fresh foliage first. There are video demonstrations and printouts for each lesson. Each course is intensive with many chapters. Besides all the learning material there are chapters on the history of natural dyeing, ecological considerations, sketching, upcycling, mending, interviews with well known and less well known artists, health and safety considerations and optional lessons. There's a lot of information and learning there! One course would actually be plenty to take at a time. I highly recommend Justine's courses to anyone interested in natural dyeing and eco printing. Even though the plants are slightly different in England than here, there are enough recognizable plants that grow here too.

Connie ten Bruggenkate

## **Pat Hardie's Creations**

Back in September I received an email from a lady in Montreal asking if I might make her some footstools using her deceased brother's ties & do-rags. After much discussion I finally agreed that I could make 9 stools. The commission was officially completed on Nov. 7th. Today, the 9th, I took the following photographs.



Should folks be interested in the backstory and/or how I managed to pull this feat off, I've offered to do a presentation to the group some time next spring. My offer has been forwarded to the education committee for their consideration.



I call the first photo 'The Nine Stool Huddle'

**Planning Committee**

PC Convenor	Sharon Johnson & Nancy Garrard
Education	Kathy Lajeunesse, Nancy Scott, Cindy Brown, Nancy Davies, Lynn Keeler, Pam Davy.
Secretary	Andrée Faubert
Membership	Val Rochester, Dorothy DeRose
Treasurer	Marilyn White
Web-coordinator	MaryAnne Toonders
Newsletter	Helen Gordon
Facebook/Instagram	Cathy Haley <a href="mailto:haley.cathy@gmail.com">haley.cathy@gmail.com</a>
Library	Rita Rottman
Publicity/Marketing	Lorraine Lacroix
Exhibitions/Shows	Connie ten Bruggenkate, Debbie Boyd-Chisholm, Sheree Bradford-Lea
Contacts: <a href="mailto:co-chair@out-of-the-box.org">co-chair@out-of-the-box.org</a>	