

TZOUHALEM SPINNERS & WEAVERS

SALE

“Hey look, a loom in The Loft! Have you seen the spinning wheels there too?”

You’re going to hear those words frequently this fall as the Tzouhalem Spinners and Weavers Guild takes over The Loft Gallery in the Mill Bay Centre for its annual Weavers Sale. From October 31 to December 3, the Duncan-based group will be selling handwoven scarves, blankets, tea towels, table runners, bags, handknit toques and slippers, Kumihimo braiding kits, and other original pieces in the gallery space above Valley Vines to Wines in the Mill Bay Centre. Shoppers wanting that extra special Christmas gift should definitely add this Weavers Sale, with its many ‘one-of’ creations, to their ‘must do’ list! The official opening takes place on Saturday, October 31, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Members of the Guild, as artists-in-residence at The Loft Gallery during the Weavers Sale, will take turns being in attendance so any visitors keen to try the on-site loom can be sure of a helping hand.

More than looms will be in action in the Gallery on the four Saturdays in November. Spinners, braiders, basket makers and felters will be sharing tips during demonstrations of these crafts on November 7, 14, 21 and 28.

To promote the Weavers Sale, coordinators Alison Irwin and Els van Dam will present two events in the Mill Bay Library. On Wednesday, October 21,

at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., Alison will lead youngsters through a design exercise that uses words as inspiration for woven patterns. What will be her ‘weaving with words’ muse? The children’s story *Amos’s Sweater!* A week later, Els will set up her silk reeling equipment. If you’ve ever wondered how you’d unwind the cocoon of a silk moth in order to collect the fine thread it’s made of, circle October 28 on your calendar! Show time is at 11 a.m.

Another date to note is Saturday, November 14. Florence Feldman-Wood from Andover, Maine, editor/publisher of *The Spinning Wheel Sleuth*, (<http://spwhsl.com/>), will be on the island to deliver her lecture ‘Clues to Researching Textile Tools’. It will take place in Toad Hall at Pine Lodge Farm, 3191 Mutter Road, Mill Bay. Doors open at 10:00 a.m. The two-hour lecture starts at 10:30. Admission is \$15. Net proceeds will benefit the Cowichan Valley Museum & Archives and the Shawnigan Lake Museum.

The Weavers Sale in The Loft Gallery will be open during the business hours of Valley Vines to Wines: Monday 9:30 to 5, Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30 to 6, Thursday 9:30 to 7, Friday 9:30 to 6, and Saturday 9:30 to 5.

For more details, contact Alison Irwin at (250) 746-6330 or Els van Dam at (250) 743-0851.