



**BURLINGTON  
HANDWEAVERS  
& SPINNERS  
GUILD**



# Warped Perspective

Issue 28

September 2011

## President's Message:

by *Ruth Thoem*, President



September is such a good month to start something new. Anyone with connections to the school year knows the anticipation (OK, and dread) that can fill the air as September approaches. New clothes, new pencils, new friends, new challenges! That's how I feel in September. The air seems clearer to me, and now that there are no school connections for me, those new coloured pencils beckon to me, for myself.

I just read a great essay by Anita Osterhaug of Weaving Today. She offers "creativity is a discipline in itself, perhaps the most challenging discipline of all. For a few of us, creations may spring instantly from thought into being, fully formed, but I've seen many handweavers who gather materials, keep notebooks of ideas, and sample until materials, colors, structure, and technique converge to realize their original vision." A great springboard for a September start.

### ***Dates to Remember!***

**October 1/11- OHS Central Region Conference** in Warkworth (<http://www.ohs.on.ca/events/regional-events/>)  
**Oct. 3/11 – Guild meeting** – Loom Maintenance  
**October 17/11 - DVD Night** - 7:15pm  
**October 22/11 - Woodstock Fleece Festival** (<http://fleecefestival.com/>)  
**October 26/11** (Wednesday) - Executive Meeting, 7:15pm  
**November 5/11 - BAC Wearable Art Show** (<http://www.thebac.ca/get-involved/events1/wearable-art-sale/>)  
**Nov. 7/11 – Guild meeting** – (Topic – Weaving hearts; new slate of Executive Officers for 2012)  
**Dec. 5/11 – Guild meeting** – Christmas Potluck and TBA  
**November 17-20/11 - BAC Soup Sale** (Tickets: <http://www.thebac.ca/get-involved/events1/soup-bowl/soup-bowl-tickets/>), (Christmas Sale: <http://www.thebac.ca/get-involved/events1/christmas-sale/>)  
(<http://www.georgianc.on.ca/coned09/handweaving/>)  
**November 21/11** - Executive Meeting - 7:15pm  
**November 28/11** - DVD Night - 7.15 p.m.  
**December 5/11** - General Meeting – Christmas Buffet (Topic – The Thoem's trip to BC) - 6:30pm Bring your place setting, food and appetite. Vote on Executive Officers of the BHSG  
**Meetings General:** 7:15 pm, the first Monday of Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May. Dec. and June meetings start at 6:30 pm. Sept. meeting on the second Monday. No meetings in July and August. Wednesday group and Thursday group meet at 12:30 pm each week; the Saturday group meets at 10:30am.

**Burlington Handweavers & Spinners Guild**  
1333 Lakeshore Road, Burlington, ON L7S 1A9  
Phone: 905-632-7796

<http://www.weavingworld.ca/bwg.htm>

Last night I read a design notebook from our library, wrapped yarns with inspiration from William Hodge's recent workshop on colour and planned, with more excitement than usual, my next scarf. I encourage you to try this discipline for yourself. I know several Guild members who are deep into this, but if not, give it a little try.

Oh yes, and when you have planned it, add one more item to the length of the warp and put that one into the Christmas Sale!

Our September meeting with Don Marshall provided us all with an opportunity accept the challenge of improving our Guild. Much food for thought was generated, and I trust we are all, individually and in small groups, mulling over what can happen next, and next, and next. What is your part in this? The Nominating Committee needs to hear from you, your thoughts on equipment and process in the guild should be known. Is there something you've been wishing and hoping for, but have not voiced? Speak up, step up. We're all in this together, and we'll have more fun if we all take part.

Happy weaving and spinning,  
Ruth

## Finger Lakes Arts Festival

by *Freda Veitch*

On September the 17<sup>th</sup> I went to the *Finger Lakes Arts Festival* hosted by the Genesee Valley Handspinners Guild at Hemlock Fairgrounds N.Y. It was held Saturday and Sunday, admission \$5.

There were 80 vendors, 40 in a large Exhibition Hall, some in 3 Barns and some along the roads in tents. In one building the results of many competitions were shown with some fleece that had been judged and were for sale. In another were demonstrations of lace making, silkworms with silk reeling, ancient sock knitting machines (there is a guild doing it), quilting etc. and displays from other Guilds. Being a Fiber Festival it was not only spinning though that was the main theme. Rochester has a large active Weavers and Spinners Guild and might be worth a visit. Workshops were held in the 4H building and there was a small interesting museum telling the story of Hemlock. Of course there were Food Vendors with interesting stuff some of which I did not recognize.

There were sheep, llamas and alpacas in and around the barns and demonstrations there of shearing, felting, drop spindling, combing llama fiber, carding, flax to linen, flax spinning, nuno felting, charka spinning, angora spinning, spinning on a great wheel etc, Many of these things one could try. It was impossible to see everything but I tried.

I like to go to this Festival every couple of years because the vendors are new to me. There is a great variety of fibers, books, buttons, notions etc. 1 rug hooking stall with supplies, Goldring drop spindles had a stall, finished goods, sheepskins, etc. etc. There was an interesting stall with used equipment. 2 Great Wheels in working order, about the size of the one in the studio, were both sold, both with \$275 labels. But down at the Barns were 2 similar condition Great Wheels sold for \$200 each. An older Ashford in good condition sold for \$375. Everyone is very friendly; of course we all have a common interest.

I had a wonderful day and of course didn't buy anything. These bags? Well.

### More Special Dates:

**May 18 – June 12/12** – Burlington Handweavers and Spinners Guild Juried Show “GEMS”. Perry Gallery.

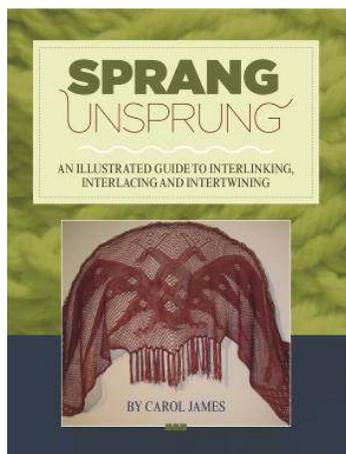
**June 22 – August 25, 2013** A juried exhibition, tentatively scheduled for the AIC Gallery. The focusing theme is “**Tall Tales**”. Original works by individuals and collaborations are welcome. Collaboration can be with member(s) of the same guild and/or with member(s) of other guilds. 2013 is the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Burlington Art Centre. *Tall tales about the beginnings of the Centre and of the people who were involved in the beginnings would be especially welcome.*

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## Words from the Library

### Book Review "Sprang Unsprung" by Carol James:

by *Celine Gorham*



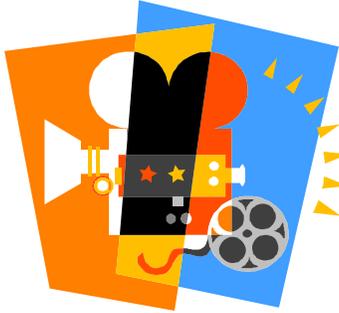
Carol James' book, "Sprang Unsprung" is great for anyone wishing to learn Sprang from the basics through to more advanced pattern making and colour play. The step-by-step instructions are offered for both left and right-handed folks, and are always accompanied by helpful coloured illustrations and photographs of work in progress. Each page of the book is jam packed with project details interspersed with historic sprang woven pieces.

James' experience with Sprang weaving is extensive, and it shows in her clear instructions and logical progression of technique. She even provides schematics for building several different types of frame looms for weaving. The projects build upon what the weaver has learned from the last chapter, and for further inspiration and learning, James has put together a thorough annotated bibliography.

This book is very user-friendly and would be a good resource for anyone wanting to learn Sprang from the ground up. Go to [www.sashweaver.ca](http://www.sashweaver.ca) for more information. We also have her companion book “Fingerweaving Untangled” in the guild library.

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## Now DVD Nights from the Library



As you can see in the Dates to Remember Section, we have two DVD nights organized. Mark **October 17** and **November 28** on your calendar and plan to come out for evenings that allow for good discussion. If there is a special one in the library that you would like to see scheduled, please contact your librarians, otherwise, we will just surprise you.

## Weaving and Spinning for Christmas

by *Willa McCaughan*

An exciting time ahead! What to weave for the upcoming Christmas Sale! How much to spin and what colors to use! This is a fantastic opportunity to sell your exquisite scarves, cosy shawls and bright coloured tea towels. In



consultation with Miss Ellie, my fashionista Granddaughter, the colors for this fall/winter are: jewel tones, darker reds and leopard prints.

Your jewel tone creations could be in preparation for the 2012 Juried Show.



This is also a perfect time to participate as a volunteer in the great Christmas Sale/Soup Bowl Event. And so sign up to volunteer for one of the many positions in Sales with our Guild or in representing the Burlington Art Centre and welcoming the community to this exciting event.

## Donate a Christmas Decoration to the Guild Tree



In past years members of the BHSB supported the BAC Foundation Fund generously by knitting little sweaters, which were put on a Christmas tree in the studio. The funds raised through this effort passed through the hands of Arts Burlington to the BAC Foundation Fund and we are running out of sweaters.

**This year each member is being asked to make one Christmas tree decoration as a donation.** The design of the item is to be decided upon by the individual. The materials and methods should reflect those allowed in the guild standards. It is also the makers' responsibility to suggest a retail price for the item and submit it to the Sales Committee in time for the Christmas Sale. Please see Guild flyers for take in times, or contact Willa McCaughan or Lesley French.

## BHSG Juried Show 2012: GEMS

by *Eleanor Roberts*

I have been reading my Webster dictionary lately. I thought I might get some queries about what a gem was and wanted to be prepared.

- GEM: a jewel, a precious or semi-precious stone, cut and polished for an ornament.
- JEWEL: an ornament of precious metal often set with stones or decorated with enamel and worn as an accessory.

Then I wondered about pearls, which happen to be a favourite gem of mine (?). Is it or isn't it. So I went back to my dictionary.

- PEARL: used as a gem, a dense variously coloured and usually lustrous concretion formed of concentric layers of nacre within the shell of a mollusc.

My favourite gem is JADE. My engagement ring is a big!! piece of jadeite, the precious form of jade. I also have various pieces of the semi-precious jade called nephrite. This is unusual for gems: both forms, precious and semiprecious, by definition are GEMS.

Sapphires and rubies are the same composition, corundum, the colours usually seen as different; RUBIES ARE RED AND SAPPHIRES ARE BLUE. However one of my sisters-in-law had a pale pink sapphire for her engagement ring and I have pictures from National Geographic of blue, yellow and red gems and I have read of orange sapphires!!

At the least we have a wide range of colours to weave with and there are still patterns to think about.

Diamonds anyone?

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## Display Window for November and December 2011

by *Sharon Trent*

### Theme: "The International Year of the Forest"

The Display Committee requires finished goods from guild members. In order to fit in with the theme, the items being loaned for display should be cellulosic in nature: bamboo, Tencel, banana or other plant material.

They will work with pieces of any size, so bring in your scarves, towels, blankets, and more on Wednesday **October 12<sup>th</sup> between 1 and 4 pm.**



Meet me at the studio and bring in some of those amazing pieces of work to add to the window display

Any questions please email me at [sharontrent@inbox.com](mailto:sharontrent@inbox.com) or call 905-643-0339

## Goings On In the Studio

by *Jennifer Earle*



Members had the opportunity this week to find out more about *Celine Gorham* and her interests while she conducted a snapshot of natural dyeing practices. We are a lucky guild to have Celine in our midst since she is a practised weaver/dyer who has brings curiosity, creativity and a investigative approach to things fibre related.

You may have noticed that small jars have been springing up around the studio. These contain parts of her study and the results are being gathered into an amazing sample book which is full of records and variables. Ah! Celine is a record keeper of repeatable results and has created tests to keep track of the different outcomes of various materials treated various ways. Currently she is weaving on the dreaded loom (McComber) to produce some cotton scarves which will get experimentally dyed.

In her handout this week Celine says “extracting beautiful colour from the natural sources around us is immensely satisfying. I was first introduced to natural dyes as a child, through grass stains on my clothing, and later, through onion skin tie-dyeing. It wasn’t until college that I became aware of the ocean of history and knowledge attached to dyeing with naturally-sourced dyes, and it was there that I began a journey to make sustainable natural colour an important part of my creative process” .



During her presentation, Celine outlined the nature and function of mordants. She does not use the mordants we now know to be toxic but tends to rely on found objects such as rusty nails, soy flour or tea. I wonder if she will have a use for the tea bags we use each week? She stressed that physical safety is a big issue with her and I hope that we will make sure to benefit from her knowledge when it comes to assessing the condition of our dye kitchen.



During the first afternoon we were shown the steps in making a liquor with which to dye. The first thing to do is to determine the weight of goods (WOG) to be dyed and then calculating the amount of dyestuff needed. The lack of suitable measuring tools in our dye kitchen was a bit of a handicap, but Celine’s practised eye came into play and we were able to “approximate” amounts. While the variety of protein fibres (wool, silk) got heated with alum for an hour, she demonstrated how to make a liquor for dyeing. The chosen material was rose hips from Marian’s garden. They had been first frozen and then mashed. Water was added and the beautiful orange-red substance was allowed to heat for an hour.

I haven’t see how the dye turns out as this is going to “press” before I get back to the studio! Bet it’s lovely.

## Burlington Handweavers and Spinners Guild: Where Do We Go From Here? Summary from Don Marshall: September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

1. Three positive aspects of the Guild: (Note: \*  
= repeated comment)

- Collegiality and camaraderie \*\*\*\*
- Knowledge and expertise \*\*\*\*
- Outreach opportunities
- Enthusiasm
- Sharing and exchange of ideas \*\*\*\*
- Afternoon tea
- Availability of help and support \*
- Opportunity for new learning  
\*\*\*\*\*
- Friendship \*\*\*\*\*
- Social time\*
- Studio facilities and equipment
- Dedicated space and equipment \*\*\*
- Wonderful library of resources \*\*\*\*
- Workshops and program \*
- Well stocked supply cupboard
- More autonomy for executive positions – flexibility in operations
- Classes on computer assisted weaving
- No cliques \*\*
- Beading lessons – on loom
- More member participation in guild and BAC responsibilities \*\*
- Listed information on member expertise and interests
- More workshops \*\*\*\*\*
- Increased access hours to Guild room  
\*\*\*
- Less required volunteer hours
- Increase emphasis on teaching – outside expertise
- More social time
- Upgrade equipment – specialized looms \*
- Ventilation for dye room \*
- More group activities/projects
- New and younger members \*
- Summer staff
- New weaving technology
- Improve general communication \*
- More “quickie” workshops
- More as well as newer members stepping forward into executive positions

2. Three needs, challenges or necessary improvements for the Guild:

- Floors need to be cleaned each week
- More organization of activities
- Mentoring for new members and/or new weavers \*
- More members contributing time and effort rather than the “same old few”  
\*\*\*\*

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- Needs to be less organization
  - Complex looms that are easily operable by elderly members
  - More equipment to keep up with new trends in spinning, weaving, beading, felting etc.
  - Not enough communication/information regarding Guild functions
  - More active weaving for guild sales
  - Guild lacks a sense of direction and purpose
  - All cupboards on a single key
  - Get rid of the Macomber
  - A willing and able “Vice-president”
  - Get rid of – “we always do it like this”
3. *Out the Door: new thought, need to consider, between now and then:*
- Please do not let this momentum get lost. This was a great start.
  - Get out my Inkle loom and become a weaver.
  - Will look at “all” the equipment with a more critical eye.
  - A good decision looks after the minority as well as the majority.
  - Lets continue to make this an exciting place to create and share.
  - Review “constitution”
  - Will a long-term plan limit new thoughts?
- Change executive jobs
  - A three to five year plan is critical and necessary. \*
  - Job sharing so that “snow birds” can participate more.
  - Maybe we will actually be able to make a decision and get rid of the Macomber loom.
  - This is a brilliant starting point and process for decision-making.
  - Keep in mind “FACTS” not “opinion” in decision making.
  - Focus should be on developing a strong executive as a basis for decision-making before starting the planning.
  - I think we have addressed things the guild so NEEDS to hear and act upon in order to move forward.
  - This has been a great arena for members to finally talk about guild business. We never seem to have the time to talk about the things that really matter.
  - Brainstorm ideas for new development.
  - Outreach for new members.
  - Vote for increased guild space.
  - “Communicate”
  - Display work(s) in the guild studio and increase number of display cases.
  - “Action” versus “Reaction”
  - Balancing the history and tradition with the future and new possibilities.
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As your editor, I'm taking the liberty of putting information in the newsletter although it has been circulated earlier to the membership. I think that it is important that we reflect on the positive qualities of our organization. In a subsequent meeting with Don, we identified three issues that were doable by the end of the year and to this end we have three "spearheads" moving on with the following issues:



- Ventilation: to investigate existing ventilation in the dye kitchen, upgrades required and costing. *Ruth Thoem* is your contact.
- Membership Profile/Inventory: A survey to be completed, to provide information to assist in growing the Guild, planning workshops, programs, etc. *Jennifer Earle* and *Pat Hood* your contacts.
- Roles and Responsibilities: A clarification of each Executive and Convenor Job Description. *Doreen Winter* your contact.

One of the most important observations to my mind made at the "condensing meeting" held on Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup> was the following:

**What's in the room and not at home will cause the people to come to the Guild**

Interesting eh? Hope you think about this and share yourself with the Guild.  
We are only as strong as our membership.

**Your Guild Needs YOU!**

by *Doreen Winter, Sue Stasiuk, Willa McCaughan*



We need your support and your time. The Nominating Committee welcomes and looks forward to calls and / or e-mails from you, volunteering to fill a position or to nominate a willing Guild member who, you know, would love to be part of our Executive or to Chair a committee.

Please don't be shy---give us a call! If you have a question about any position just ask.

In October and November the Nominating Committee will be contacting Guild members to finalize the list for the 2012 Executive.

### Images to Surprise and Interest You



Barbara Reid's Showcase:  
Travels of a Lifetime

### Images from Gauthier Show



Yes, it's all beads!



### in Montreal



Photos by Celine Gorham

Get the full story about the flyin' trip to Montreal from Nancy Rose, Celine Gorham or Jennifer Earle



We do outreach!

## Opportunities:

**Dates for the OHS Weaving Certificate Courses** to be held next year at Georgian College in Barrie. This is a wonderful opportunity to access comprehensive weaving education courses. Please forward to your members.

Students can select any courses that interest them (i.e. you don't have to take the whole package) Students who attended this year's classes have set up a closed Facebook page to support each other (to which new students are invited as they attend courses). Also, there are still spaces available for *Unit 6: Rug Weaves*, which will be held next weekend in Barrie.

Unit 8: Colour and Weave - October 21-23, 2011

Unit 9: Fabric Design Sampler - November 18-20, 2011

Unit 10: Fabric to Fashion - March 23-25, 2012

Unit 11: Four Shaft Double weave - April 27-29, 2012

Unit 12: Fabrics for Interiors - May 25-27, 2012

2012 is the next **Guild Juried Show** and it is time to be thinking of your pieces.

Theme: **GEMS**

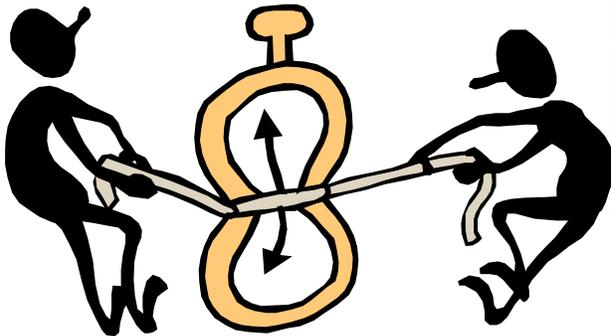
Dates: 19 May-24 June 2012

Place: The show will be hung in the Perry Gallery

Submission Date: 1 May 2012

Convenor: Jung-ja Jackson

Asst. Convenor: Eleanor Roberts



### For Sale

Anyone interested in purchasing a 45" Leclerc 4 shaft weaving loom with all of the attachments as well as 3 very large boxes of yarn for \$500. The loom is perfect condition and barely used by me.

Contact: email; Linda Johnson <lyjholistics@yahoo.ca>

Linda Johnson

#1 - 2136 New Street, Burlington, ON, L7R 1H8

ph; 905-639-7663

"Quit fiddling with and handling the edges. Let the shuttle do its work. Leave sufficient angle. Beat it. Press on."

## Hot Websites

### Loom Manuals, History and Resources

The Weavers Friend is a biannual newsletter for weaving enthusiasts of every persuasion.

<http://weaversfriend.com/index.html>

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**Belinda Rose** took a new direction for "Open Studio". For September, we Showcase Belinda Rose's "Drawing Inspiration During Open Studio - Section 2".  
<http://www.complex-weavers.org/index.htm>

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 Author, **Malcolm R. Campbell** new novel, "Sarabande" is now published and he wrote an interesting post about it, "Women, Weaving and Storytelling".  
<http://eyeblinkfiction.wordpress.com/2011/04/23/women-weaving-and-storytelling/>

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**A Peach of a Summer – A Zipolite Express Special Edition** – William and Robert said Merry Christmas and invited all to follow their blog.  
<http://armurestudios.ca/blog/?p=534>

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**Designing-to-Weave-and-Sew**-by Jean Scorgie: This eBook is a very rich resource for all the sewing techniques you really need to make couture garments from your handwoven cloth. You'll find detailed instructions for each step with clear hand-drawn illustrations by Jean for each one. Best of all, Jean tells you which technique works best with which type of fabric, from fine silks and linens to heavier fabrics in bulky wools and novelty yarns.  
<http://www.interweavestore.com/Weaving/Books/Designing-to-Weave-and-Sew-eBook.html?SessionThemeID=24&a=we110902>

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**Old Swedish Weavings from North to South:** A Collection of Everyday Swedish Weavings from 1850 to 1950 by **Doris Wiklund**, translated by Becky Ashenden. An absolutely incredible collection of 143 older weavings from a variety of locations in Sweden that have been analyzed by Doris Wiklund. Her meticulous instructions for each project include numerous in-depth drawdowns, charts, descriptions and diagrams. Many fine yarns and reeds are used in these older pieces, but Doris encourages the modern weaver to adapt these older patterns to modern yarns and sets and suggests ways in which to do this.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a14pvsJm6Ug>  
<http://www.vavstuga.com/store/books.shtml>

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**Yarn! Len's Mill Store** is probably equally famous for their incredible selection of yarns. Plus, a complete selection of sewing notions, patterns and supplies.  
<http://www.lensmill.com/>

## Burlington Handweavers and Spinners 2011 Executive

<b>President:</b>	Ruth Thoem
<b>Vice-Pres:</b>	
<b>Past-Pres:</b>	Joyce Newman
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Freda Veitch
<b>Assist:</b>	MargaretJane Wallace
<b>Secretary:</b>	Sheila Plant
<b>Assist:</b>	Fran Boisvert
<b>Display:</b>	Sharon Trent
<b>Assist:</b>	Sue Stasiuk
<b>Flowers:</b>	Joanne van der Linden Barbara Reid
<b>Juried Show:</b>	Chung-Ja Jackson
<b>Assist:</b>	Eleanor Roberts
<b>Librarians;</b>	
<b>Co -Chairs:</b>	Jennifer Earle Ruthe Stowe
<b>Assist:</b>	Sharon Gowland Gloria Geller
<b>Looms &amp; Equipment:</b>	Lesley Falzone
<b>Assist:</b>	Pat Hood
<b>Membership:</b>	Mary Wesko
<b>Assist:</b>	Nancy Rose
<b>Newsletter Editors:</b>	Jennifer Earle Ruthe Stowe Gloria Geller
<b>Assist:</b>	
<b>Phone Committee:</b>	Fran Boisvert
<b>Sales:</b>	Willa McCaughan
<b>Assist:</b>	Lesley French
<b>Social:</b>	Julija Paliulis
<b>Assist:</b>	Sharon Trent
<b>Programs:</b>	Nancy Rose
<b>Assist:</b>	Sharon Gowland
<b>Study Group:</b>	Dianne Woods
<b>Mentoring:</b>	Fran Boisvert
<b>Kaleidoscope:</b>	Eleanor Roberts Rosemarie Anich-Erickson
<b>Christmas Sale:</b>	Mary Wesko Gisela Risse