



**BURLINGTON
HANDWEAVERS
& SPINNERS
GUILD**



Warped Perspective

Special Polar Express Issue **December 2014**

Santa's Message:



Dates to Remember!

January 5/15 – General Meeting. A showing of the DVD “Woven Lives: Contemporary Textiles from Ancient Oaxacan Traditions”. This is available for a guild viewing thanks to *William Hodge* and *Robert Wylie*. Some guild members who went on the textiles tour visited many of these weavers featured in the DVD while in Mexico.

January 19/15 – Executive Meeting includes all incoming and outgoing conveners assistants and executive. Please bring binders or an outline of the duties you are passing on to the next incumbent.

February – Fine Art Studio Tour and guest speaker *Denis Langchamps*, Chief Curator.

February 7/15 – Heritage Fair at the Burlington Public Library. We need outreach volunteers for 10 am – 3:30 pm. Event theme is Sir John A. MacDonald’s birth. Our theme may be tartans.

May 21- 24/15 – Panoply: A Pan American Celebration of our Fibre Craft Heritage here in Burlington. Got to <http://panoply2015.ca>

May 31 – June 6/15 – Art Sale at the AGB

June 6/15 – AGB Live Art Auction/Silent Auction

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.

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bhsguild.ca

Santa knows that you have been good boys and girls this past year. There is a long list of the “nice” things you are been doing:

Volunteering at outreach opportunities.

Making Christmas decorations for donations to the AGB.

Making cookies and other great nibbles for meetings and social gatherings in the studio.

Mentoring and helping others.

Staffing events such as Kaleidoscope, Christmas Sale, and Silent Auction.

Designing displays for the corridor and studio.

Attending guild meetings and supporting with ideas and enthusiasm.

Adding to your fibre stash.

Making tea.

Washing up.

Welcoming visitors to the guild studio and giving informative tours.

Laughing at your own mistakes.

Continuing to be creative and share your discoveries.

Attending meetings to represent the guild interests and to further relations with Arts Burlington and the AGB.

Supporting AGB events by attending such fund raisers that are organized.

AND.....

Keeping cupboard & organized.
Looking after inventories of the guild's belongings.
Making our sales tables look great.
Working at increasing the communication between the guild members and the larger community via the web and Facebook.
Taking on a major role in the organization and preparations for the OHS regional conference Panoply.
Developing interesting and informative programs for the membership.
Producing items for guild sales, which support the Guild and Arts Burlington.
Keeping track of guild finances and sales.
Weaving for charitable causes.
Making new friends while maintaining long term relationships.
Trying new things. Smiling. Organizing.



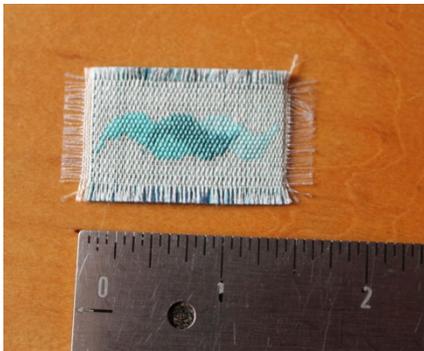
In fact, boys and girls, Santa's elves do not have enough time right now to list all the good things you have done this year, there are just too many to count. We will be soon be starting to warm up the reindeer, make sure Rudolph's nose is working and wax the runners on the sleigh.
Santa wishes your all a fibery good Christmas full of friends, family and good food.

Affectionately yours, Santa Claus

Convergence 2014

by Joyce Newman

In the spring of 2014, you may have heard *Eleanor* and I talking about going to Convergence, the biennial conference of the Handweavers Guild of America. This year, it was in Providence RI. Why do we go?



First, it's an opportunity to meet weavers from around the world, and to see their work. Former guild member Patty Chasse and her husband *Chris* were there from New Brunswick, and asked us to say hello. *Lillian Whipple* sends greetings to *William*. *Lillian* is well known for her weaving with fine threads (sewing thread weight and finer), and every Convergence, she hands out hundreds of handwoven conference logos to be tucked into our nametag holder. Yes, *Eleanor* and I were both "whipped".

There are exhibitions, gallery shows, and a fashion show (but why do the models have to look so bored and disconnected?). *Some exhibits require a "touch and feel" piece, so you can fondle the fibre. Is this something we should think about for our juried shows?*

There are suppliers from all over, including the opportunity to try out different styles and brands of looms. I came home with an ikat jacket from Thailand and 3 lb. of mercerized cotton, but the new piece of equipment that caught my eye was an on-the-market-this-fall “clip temple” that *Francois Brassard* from **Leclerc** was using. Much easier on the fabric than a traditional temple, no pricked fingers, and no need for several sizes to suit different fabric widths. It consists of Canadian made nylon clips with Texsolv cords attached. The cords run through screw eyes inserted in the loom frame, and you hang weights (3 sizes included) from the cords to hold the selvages in place.



And best, **Convergence** offers the opportunity to study with well-known instructors, including people who have written books, articles in **Handwoven**, and more. There are “seminars” (1½ hours) for an introduction to a topic, “super seminars” (3 hours) with more detail and maybe some hands on, and “workshops” (one or more 6 hour days) for in-depth learning.

We both had 3 days of pre-conference workshops starting Monday morning, so we left home early Saturday morning to allow a “rest and explore” day after a beautiful but long drive east through New York and Massachusetts. Did you know the NY State Thruway no longer has picnic areas? Now, there are signs saying “IT CAN WAIT. TEXTING AREA _ MILES AHEAD”, and a few miles later, there's an exit lane signed “TEXTING AREA”, leading to a couple of parking spots with picnic tables, and an entrance back to the highway.

Monday and Tuesday I took a 2-day workshop on Designing Multi-Shaft Twill (more than 8 shafts) with *Jannie Taylor*. *Jannie* teaches for **AVL Looms**. It was an intense 2 days working with **WeavePoint**, AVL's design program, but the lessons learned were applicable to any weaving design software. Great handout, a binder of notes! One of the things *Jannie* emphasized was using your past designs as a library. I often start a new design with an earlier threading, but why not copy and paste a tie-up from another design and a treadling from a third? Combine a couple of different threadings? If you use design software, play with it, saving even the designs that you don't like – they may spark a future project!

Wednesday was a 1-day workshop on designing fabric for clothing with *Sarah H. Jackson*. *Sarah* is a technical editor for **Handwoven** and a frequent contributor. She quoted *Anita Mayer* as saying “A plan is something to deviate from” as you let the design evolve. Sample, sample, sample, you need a minimum of 12” square to be able to judge the hand and drape. The sample warp can have 2 or 3 coloured sections, and be woven with several weft colours to see how the colours work together while you work on sett, beat, and pattern. The first sample should be cut off and finished to check the hand. Once you know the sett and beat will give you the drape and hand you want, play with colour in the rest of the warp, changing weft colours, tying in warp stripes, etc. As always, document the samples – even if they aren't right for this project, they may be a starting point for another. Don't be afraid to mix fibres, but again, sample and wash to see how they work together. One of *Sarah's* latest summer tops has alternating threads of 2/8 cotton and 2/8 tencel in both warp and weft, with a lovely feel, a bit of sheen from the tencel. A combo I wouldn't have considered, but it works! She passed around a lot of samples, and some garments. We saw (and felt) samples for her pieces that were in the fashion show that evening. She

decided the pattern of squares in the first sample for her fashion show jacket was too large and she rethreaded to reduce the pattern size. The smaller pattern was a much better choice. You can use some of the samples to test different sewing techniques. With a little over an hour left in the class, we were asked to jot down some ideas for the starting point for a garment we'd like to make and present them to the class. What type of garment do we want to make? Where and when will it be worn? Does it need to be warm? Or cool? What colours? What fibres? I'm working on more detailed plans for mine, to be worn at the OHS conference next May.

Thursday was play day, a hands-on workshop with *Jannie Taylor*, making her “**Camel Necklace**”. It was a lovely day of wrapping cords, making tiny tassels, and chatting.



Friday morning was a super seminar with *Robyn Spady* on Designing Advancing Twills, another multi-shaft technique. I've admired pieces using advancing twills by other weavers, read lots of articles, and spent a lot of time with my design software without producing any designs I wanted to weave. We'd covered advancing twills in *Jannie's* workshop, but it was late in the second day of a pretty intense workshop, using new-to-me software. After this session with

Robyn, the scarf warp on my small loom is going to be re-threaded! This was my 3rd or 4th class with *Robyn*, she's a wonderful instructor who can simplify complex theory, she's entertaining, funny, thorough, and has great class notes.



Friday afternoon was another hands on class, making buttons with polymer clay with *Diane Villano*. She did several classes with each class making a different style of button. Basically, I picked the one that the time worked with the other classes I wanted. Our buttons were round, done in the *millefiori* style, another class did square buttons in a log cabin pattern.

My final class was on Saturday morning, with tapestry weaver and occupational therapist *Rebecca Mezoff*. The primary message is to set a timer for 25 minutes.

When the timer rings, take a 5-minute break, with some stretches appropriate to the task you were doing. For example, when you're threading, arms are forward, and you start to ache between the shoulder blades, so you need to extend your arms to the side, maybe some arm circles. Let your arms hang down, and roll

your shoulders. Throwing the shuttle, you're using hands, wrists, and forearms – press your hands together in a prayer position, with elbows out to the side, forearms parallel to the floor, and slowly move hands down a few inches. Think about adapting your equipment. *MargaretJane* uses a foam wedge on top of her loom bench. I have replaced my bench with a pivoting bar stool with a sheepskin over it. If you have rotator cuff problems, a fly shuttle may be easier on wide warps.

Have I tweaked your interest in going to a conference for a few days of concentrated classes and meeting other spinners and weavers? Fashion show and guild displays? The **Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Biennial Conference** is being held here in Burlington May 21 to 24, 2015 inclusive. No travel costs!! Panoply 2015 has 1 and 2 day pre-conference workshops on the Thursday and Friday. The conference opens Friday night with internationally known author, speaker and instructor *Tom Knisley* giving the keynote address. A great selection of 1/2 and full day classes will follow during Saturday and Sunday, closing with spinner *Amy Tyler's* Sunday lunch closing keynote. Complete schedule and information can be found at <http://panoply2015.ca> starting October 1, registration opens October 15.

New Faces for 2015



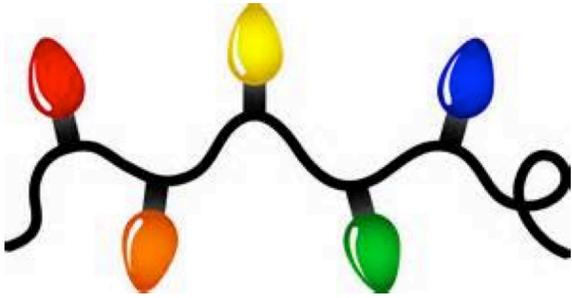
Congratulations to *Sue Stasiuk*, the most recent recipient of the Burlington Handweavers and Spinners **Guild Golden Shuttle Award**. It was said by one of our members ‘that she (Sue) is the quintessential volunteer and guild member. She has a tireless willingness to volunteer, whether it involves representing the guild on a committee or manning a post during a sale, she is dedicated to getting the job done. Her opinion, whether it is personal or as a representative of the guild is always presented in a direct, respectful and eloquent manner. She is enthusiastic and encouraging, towards members and when discussing new ideas. Sue would be an asset to any guild and we are lucky to have her as a member. She is very deserving of our recognition and gratitude for her dedication to the guild.’
Sue is our **President** for 2015.



The new incoming editor for **Warped Perspective** is *Bonnie Sylvia*. Many of you will recognize her as our intrepid auctioneer. *Bonnie* is an accomplished weaver and was responsible for the title of our guild newsletter. She is a very busy person being the head honcho for the **Camelot Centre Adult Day Centre**, a charitable organization she founded to assist individuals with intellectual disabilities. I’m sure that she will appreciate your support. Collecting content for the guild newsletter is easier when members write book reviews, articles about travels and send along interesting “stuff”, including dates of upcoming fibre related events. I want to thank all the contributors to past issues and particularly *Marsha* who supplied the links and write-ups for interesting websites. My apologies to *Joyce* for taking so long to get her article out there in print.

Sayonara, Jennifer.

Hot Websites/Blogs



We're on
Holidays

More next year.....



**Burlington Handweavers and Spinners
2015 Executive**

President: Sue Stasiuk

Vice-Pres: Marsha Walters

Past-Pres: Nancy Rose

Treasurer: Marilyn Fish

Assist:

Secretary: Jennifer Earle

Assist:

Display: Jim Thomas

Assist: Irena Thomas

Flowers: Barbara Manning

Assist: Donald Williams

Curated Show: Eleanor Roberts

Assist: Sue Stasiuk

Librarian: Jennifer Earle

Assist: Sharon Gowland

Looms & Equipment:

Margaret Jane Wallace

Assist: Jim Thomas

Membership: Lauren Arkell

Assist: Richard Aylen

Newsletter Editor: Bonnie Sylvia

Assist: Jennifer Earle

Phone Committee:

Fran Boisvert

Sales: Lesley French

Assist: Nancy Mazzetti

Social: Gisela Risse

Assist: Irena Thomas

Programs: Saira Jan-Meyer

Assist: Colleen Nolan

Mentoring: Fran Boisvert

Kaleidoscope: Barbara Scott

Rosemarie Anich-Erickson

Christmas Sale: Diane Woods

Assist: Sue Stasiuk

Arts Burlington Nancy Rose

Rep: Marsha Walters

Webmaster: Lauren Arkell

“Wake up happy.

Chase a cloud.

Savor a memory.

Laugh out loud.”