



**BURLINGTON
HANDWEAVERS
& SPINNERS
GUILD**



Warped Perspective

Issue 33

June 2013



President's Message:

Susan Turnbull, President

We are now well into May and like everyone else I am waiting for a warm and sunny summer. I hope everyone who went to the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners enjoyed it and had a great time, and now the spinners can get ready for their annual conference next month.

I hope to get back to weaving this summer, I am on medication for my shoulders and am hoping

Dates to Remember!

June 1/13– Guild Meeting – Museum for Textiles – Field trip via Go train to the Museum for Textiles Mayan Textiles and Shine. Contact *Willa McCaughan* or *Margaret Jane Wallace* for travel details. Please note this is a **Saturday**.

June 3/13 – Guild Meeting – Potluck finger foods. Hands-on activity led by *Diane Woods*: Viking Braids

June 7, 8, 9/13 – Fine Art & Craft Festival and Kaleidoscope at the BAC. Sales and demonstration days are the 8th and 9th. See *Lois Wyndham* and *Eleanor Roberts* for sign up and take in.

June 14, 15, 16/13 – Ontario Handspinning Seminar at the Holiday Inn, Burlington. “Spinning Tales”. <http://www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca>
Suppliers area will be open on Friday from 4 -10, and Saturday 12:15 noon to 2:30, 4:15 – 5:30. You must have a Seminar name tag or visitors pass to enter this area.

June 22 – August 25, 2013 – Exhibition for BAC Guilds in the Lee-Chin Family Gallery - “Tall Tales”. Submissions June 13/13.

July 8/13 – DVD Night in the studio. Topic to be announced.

August 12/13 – DVD Night in the studio. Topic to be announced.

September 9/13 – Resources on the ‘Net’ with *Lauren Arkell*. Discussion of Ravelry, Weavolution, etc.,

September 21/13 - Five Counties 2013 – One Thread Many Ways – Saturday, hosted by Burlington Handweavers and Spinners Guild at the BAC

October 7/13 – Guild Meeting - Guided Tour of Mexico. Presentation by *William Hodge* and *Robert Wylie*. Sharing of treasures found and bought.

November 4/13 – Guild Meeting – Needle felting led by our own master, *Jim Thomas*. We will make apples (might make a neat tree decoration).

November 15, 16, 17/13 – Soup Bowl and Christmas Sale at the BAC

December 2/13 – Guild Meeting – Christmas Potluck. Vote on new officers. Golden Shuttle Award.

January 6/14 – Guild Meeting – Dyeing. Presentation by *Margaret Jane Wallace*.

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

this treatment will work, it is getting frustrating, but I guess it could be my hips or knees and then I would be house bound, that would be much worse.

I am waiting to get the next treatment for my shoulders and until I can weave again I am thinking of teaching myself to do Bobbin Lace, maybe I will have something for the guild display for Five Counties, I do not know how difficult or complicated it will be, but I did teach myself to crochet when I was younger.

We should receive the inspiration for entries to the Perry Gallery Juried Show 2014 and we can start thinking about what we would like to create with the appropriate theme.

Let us all volunteer for all the jobs required to make Five Counties a success.

It is a new year, 2013, and I begin my second year as president of our guild. Last year was an interesting year for me, I learned many new things not only about the guild but about the responsibilities of being president, chairing both the general and executive meetings and ensuring that things ran smoothly not only in the guild itself but with the Art Center and the other guilds. I would like to thank everyone in the guild for both their patience with my learning and all the help I received.

Kaleidoscope

by *Lois Wyndham*

Over forty years ago a group of people in Burlington had a dream – a vision of a centre that would be a focus of activity for the artists and fine craftspeople in the growing city of Burlington. At that time there were six active arts guilds in Burlington, housed in various inadequate locations run by the Recreation Department. The Potters were at The Maples, an old farmhouse on the Nelson Park property, while the Handweavers & Spinners had space at The Pines, two old houses at the Guelph Line entrance to Central Park. Our looms occupied the small living and dining room of one house and we met in an equally small room at the adjacent building. Weaving classes were run through the Recreation Dept. and Frances Forstner was the instructor for many years.

The six guilds came together to form Arts Burlington Council with the goal of building an arts centre that would provide gallery space, meeting rooms for arts and other community groups, teaching facilities for both adult and children's programs and studio space for the guilds. There were two representatives from each guild on Arts Burlington Council and the chair was Bob Perry; Bob was not an artist himself but he had a fine appreciation for the arts and the ability to steer the group through the many challenges ahead.

Two of the primary Arts Burlington responsibilities were raising public awareness and fundraising and Kaleidoscope was conceived as an event that would assist both those goals. It took place annually on a weekend in early May and was held before the Art Centre was built at Central Arena. It was a judged show and the only opportunity for the guilds to come together to showcase and demonstrate their work as well as sell to the public. There was always a buzz of excitement on the Friday opening night with local dignitaries in attendance and people lined up to purchase items. One hot seller was pottery planters hung with elaborate macramé cords! Tea towels and place mats were other popular items.

Since those early days Kaleidoscope is still run by Arts Burlington Council and has retained many of its original features. It is still a judged show with prizes awarded by arts organizations and local businesses. The \$10 entry fee for each participant goes towards judging fees and expenses. Items entered may be for sale or just for show. It is a family event with demonstrations and hands-on activities for children. Its goal is to raise awareness of the arts and of the many fine artists and craftspeople in our community and to encourage others to join us, whether as a guild member, an Art Centre supporter, a student or a regular visitor to the excellent gallery shows throughout the year. Those macramé plant hangers are a distant memory but forty years later Kaleidoscope is still a signature event on our calendars.



Our Guild Challenge for Five Counties

by *Joyce Newman*

Every September, there's a regional seminar in the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Midwest Region. That's the area from Mississauga around the lake to Niagara, and north to Guelph and Kitchener Waterloo. Weavers and spinners from that area and beyond come together to learn, to socialize, and to shop. This year, it's our turn to host, and the planning committee has been working for about a year now. One Thread, Many Ways will be held September 21 at the Burlington Art Centre. I think it's the best program offered at Five Counties in several years, but then, I'm biased! For more info, go to the guild website.

Each guild in the region sets up a display to show off members' work, created around a theme challenge issued by the host guild. Since this is the BAC's 35th anniversary, and the 30th anniversary of their Permanent Collection of Contemporary Canadian Ceramics, the planning committee wanted to tie that into our event. They asked Curator Jonathan Smith if it would be possible to select works from the permanent collection and send photos to the guilds, and maybe have the pieces shown near the guild displays. Jonathon selected 8 teapots, and a blind draw was done to assign each guild "their" pot for the challenge "One Ceramic, Many Inspirations".

"Our" pot is by Ian Symons. There's a photo on the bulletin board in the studio, beside the calendar. You can see the real thing in the window into the Permanent Collection Vault – go towards the office from the studio, and turn left along the east side of the courtyard. The vault window is on the right as you go up the ramp into the gallery.



How do you translate this teapot to a woven piece?

Here are some of the places my thoughts are going:

- colours – yellow, orange, red, green, turquoise, blue, there so many to choose from!
- pattern – swirls that make me think of leaves, paisley, marbled paper.
- shape – lopsided, distorted, twisted.
- purpose – what's related to making and drinking tea? A cloth for your table, a tea cozy, a caddy, a pad to go under the hot pot.

What does it make you think about?

2014 Juried Show – Looking Ahead

by *Joyce Newman*

Every year, each guild in the BAC is responsible for a 4 week time slot in the Perry Gallery. Our guild has chosen to do a juried show in even numbered years, and to solicit proposals for a non juried show that we host in the odd years. The Grapevine Project (currently in the gallery) was open to all guild members who chose to take part, and is our 2013 show.

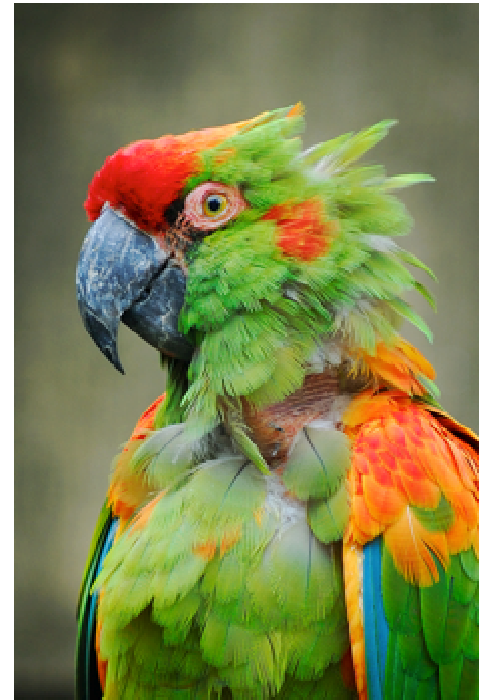
A juried show is a challenge to push your work and produce the best piece you can. A juror from outside the guild is selected to examine the submitted pieces, and select those that work together to showcase the guild. The gallery will accommodate between 15 and 30 pieces (depending on size) and many years, all pieces submitted are hung. We usually present several awards including Juror's Choice, and Best Expression of Theme. The Past Presidents' Award is for a new weaver/spinner, or someone working in a technique that is new to them. Our juror generally comes to the guild meeting following the opening, and talks about the entries and his/her decisions.

We had some suggestions put forward at the May meeting for a theme for the 2014 show. They were:

- Out of This World
- Chris Hadfield's View
- My Blue Heaven
- Sky and Clouds
- Plumage
- My favourite Music – might narrow to an era or type of music

We're open to other suggestions – send them to Joyce Newman to be added to the list.

June is decision time, please come to the June 3 meeting prepared to vote on your favourite theme.

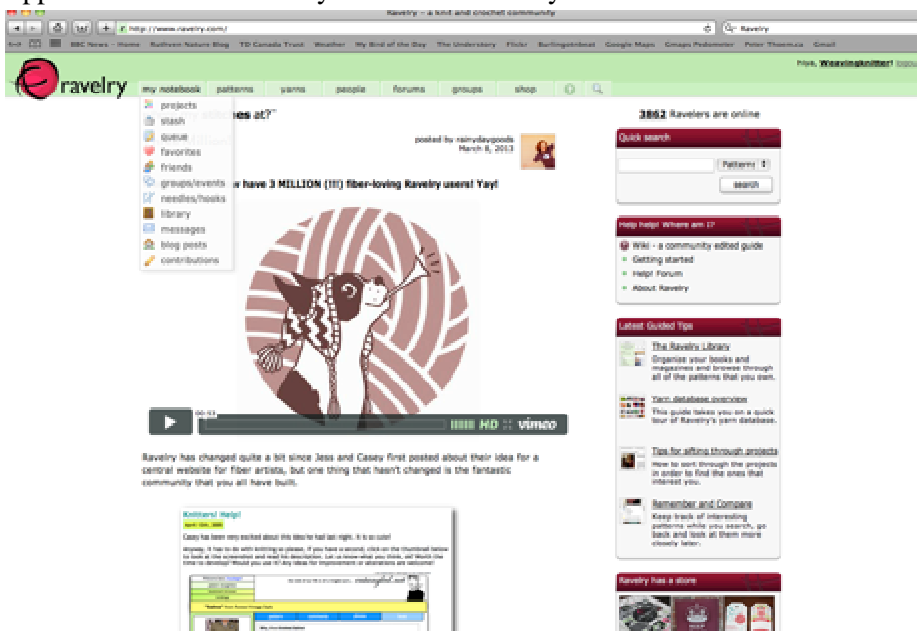


Ravelry Explored

by Ruth Thoen

The Oakville Knitters and Spinners Guild invited us to attend their April meeting to hear Janelle Martin, of Guelph, explore Ravelry. I use Ravelry for my knitting curiosity and thought I should check it out for weaving. I'm glad I did.

First, I must recommend Queen Elizabeth Community Centre to you. It is located on Bridge Street, just off Bronte, in what I suspect was once a school and it is easy to find. Lots of free parking, accessible. I viewed a costume display by the Museum of Oakville, and an exhibit of work by teachers in the facility... amazing variety of work. It appears that there are many rooms for a variety of interests. I will be back to check it out more fully.



Ravelry. Our guide is a committed Raveler. A member of the Guelph Knitters Guild, and knowledgeable Ravelry user, she guided us through the site, providing insight into how and why many of the features would be used. Here are a few tips.....

Stash Inventory. Especially for acquisitive knitters, this feature has lots of tricks. One can enter the trade name of the yarn you have purchased, and up pops all the details. Check the colour you have, enter the number of balls you have, and voila! You have lots of

details in your inventory list. When you need to find a suitable yarn in your inventory, you can search by pretty much anything... weight, colour, fibre and total yards. This works best for people with large stashes. Our speaker admitted to over 1,000 entries! Handspun yarns can be entered, but details need to be input manually. Weaving yarns are not in the database, so not so applicable for weavers.

Chat groups: As our speaker said, if you can't sleep at 4 am, and start wondering about just how to complete a particular stitch, there is no doubt someone else awake, and on Ravelry, who knows how. There are lots and lots of groups to belong to, to chat during the regular day as well as in the middle of the night. Mostly knitting groups, but check out the weaving ones, and help them grow!

Another use of a group is to communicate with an already formed like-minded group. A guild could do that. Create a group that everyone could use to communicate. Not sure I need another group to belong to, especially when Diane keeps us so well informed via e-mail.

Patterns: If you knit, you need Ravelry. The number of patterns available, both free and for sale, is unbelievable. Alongside the patterns are posted examples of other knitters' projects, using these patterns. Stuck on alternate choice of yarn? Just check out what others have used, and their comments. Looking for a new pattern? Use the very detailed search engine to find what you are looking for.... Photo/free or paid or in your library already/technique/gender/age/fit/yardage... you get the picture. One could (has) spend hours and hours just looking and dreaming.

Organization: Ravelry has lots of opportunities to create lists. Keep track of the number and size of your needles. List your books (Ravelry will populate your list with details!).

Why not check it out? No need to sign on, you can look all you want before you commit. I think it is much more useful for knitters than weavers, but I suppose if we all sign on and add our info then the weaving portion will grow. Count on spending considerable time just looking. It is a labyrinth.

Create that Unique Christmas Ornament

by *Sue Stasiuk*

The Arts community in Burlington is truly fortunate to have the wonderful facility of the BAC. In fact, we are the envy of most weaving spinner guilds. Few members realize that the on-going operations are a partnership between the Guilds and the BAC. It is our obligation to give time and money towards the running of our facility. One of the fun ways to support the building is through our annual Christmas Tree Decorations sales event.

In Toronto, the annual 'One of a kind' show attracts thousands of buyers who travel great distances to spend large sums of money on unique treasures. We need to attract these people to Burlington.

I know no one is thinking of Christmas when the weather is warm with a glass of wine in hand and dinners outside; and Christmas seems far from our thoughts when we are sitting at our cottages, gardens and balconies. However, now is the perfect opportunity to make something small and transportable.

Find that perfect spot in the garden, park or balcony and create that 'One of a Kind' tree decoration and make it something wonderful. Carry a basket or bag with you to collect items like Yarn, ribbon, lace, unusual fibre, beads etc. We all have a stash of items that are crying out to be used.

The time to act is now. Yes November is a few months away, but we know how time flies. The Christmas sale is on **Nov 14-17, 2013**

In the BHSG we have about 45 members. If everyone made one distinctive ornament what a wonderful display this would make for the tree!

As for decorations we would like unique better quality ornaments rather than the quick \$5.00 items. The public demand is for items that are creative, distinctive and exquisite... and they are willing to pay. So put on your thinking caps and create something wonderful.

All monies made from the sale of tree ornaments goes to Arts Burlington who then turns it over to the BAC Foundation. They in turn put the money to good use within the building to maintain and enhance this precious facility, so that WE can enjoy our hobby.

Create it! Embellish it! Make it Uniquely YOU!

Labels for your work

by *Ruth Thoem*

For some of my woven pieces I am pleased enough to label them. I have discovered two sources of labels, and have been asked to share these.

My usual source was Cash's Woven Labels, made in England. I ordered them several years ago from H. A. Kidd and Company, 2 Mark Street, Toronto. If you are interested you could contact them at 800-387-1754, or info1@hakidd.com. Copies of the order form will be posted on the bulletin board.



When MargaretJane and I attended the Creativ Festival, we met a new provider of labels, with an impressive sample bag of label styles, sizes and colours. Their office is in Brampton, and the labels are made in India. Prices are very reasonable, although minimum order is 300. Check out www.kikikreations.com. Business cards will be posted on the bulletin board in the studio.



Words from the Library:

Still Missed by the Librarians

452 Handwoven Design Collection #5 Dish Towels
 456 Handwoven Design Collection # 16 Kitchen Collection
 1076 Handwoven 2005 March/April Issue 124
 450 Spin-Off Winter 16.4

If you have copies of magazines or books that you no longer want, we would like the privilege of first refusal.

Review of Spinning Silk DVD with Sara Lamb

by *Nancy Rose*



Follow Sara Lamb's methods and you will learn to spin silk successfully. In her knowledgeable discussion about the do's and don'ts of handling and spinning silk, the viewer is led by a very patient teacher who encourages with such sage advice as "not every inch is a precious inch" (don't be afraid to break off and throw away a bit of unstable, badly spun fibre) and "spinning is like time; once spun, you move on" (don't worry about perfection). The mood expressed in these DVDs is very calming.

Sara's descriptions of the yarn she is spinning are mainly tactile-based rather than visual which makes so much sense; the viewer is encouraged to judge the success of the fibre being spun by touch more than by sight and one can almost imagine one's hand on the fibre with her. Throughout this tactile process, there is continuous stream of very practical explanations. As well, Sara offers the benefits of using the various types of silk for different projects and supplies tips for avoiding common beginner misjudgements.

This DVD collection covers the properties of all silk types commonly available to handspunners including Bombyx, Tussah, Muga, red/white Eri, Noil, and African silk. There are clear explanations of the differences among the various silk preparations: bricks, top, hankies and lap.

The DVD 1 covers the topics of silk's place in history and the basics of spinning the different types of silk available to handspunners.

Topics covered on DVD 1 (54 minutes):

- Introduction and the History of Silk
- Types of Silk Available for Handspunners and their Preparations
- Contemporary History of Silk Spinning Knowledge in the Western World
- Spinning Different Types and Preparations of Silk

DVD 2 is a collection of tips on auxiliary topics beyond the basic spinning of silk.

Topics on DVD 2 (76 minutes):

- After Spinning (Plying and Finishing)
- Spinning Silk Blends
- Adding Colour to Silk
- Silk Yarns in Use (in weaving)
- Silk Spinning for Knitting
- Silk Blend Fabrics
- Intro to Handpainted Silk

New Library Acquisitions



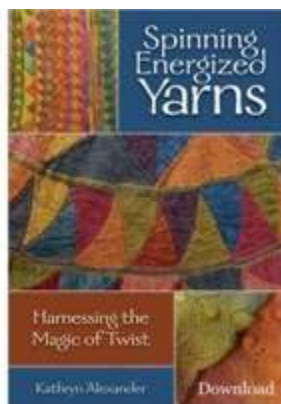
Simple Weaves: Over 30 Classic Patterns and Fresh New Styles

by *Birgittia Bengtsson Björk* and *Tina Ignell*

This is a goldmine of weaving wisdom and gorgeous projects? Readers will find instructions for weaving all sorts of projects—from towels, placemats and throws, to rugs, pillows and curtains. Chapters include weaving techniques such as plain weave and twill; canvas and spot weave; monk's belt and honeycomb; rosepath, Daldräll, and crackle weave; plus waffle weave, color effects, M's and O's, halvdräll, and true dräll. All patterns can be varied by using different types of yarn and suggested weaves can easily be combined. *Hardcover; 128 pages; Trafalgar Square.*

Birgittia Bengtsson Björk studied at Konstfack (University College of Arts, Crafts, and Design) in Stockholm, Sweden, and has many years of experience designing for industry. *Tina Ignell* is the head editor of *Vävmagasinet* (the Scandinavian Weaving Magazine)".

Our guild library: 36.1/BEN/1571



Spinning Energized Yarns: Harnessing the Magic of Twist (DVD)

By *Kathryn Alexander*

"Take your spinning and knitting (and weaving?) to a new level—harness the energy in your yarn for lively fabrics. Kathryn Alexander has mastered the nuances of twist for incredible results in her stunning handspun knits."

I've always been fascinated by the garments that this knitter creates. Great colour and interesting use of entrelac. I'm wondering if this would also be a guide to creating yarns which could be used in collapse weaves.

Perhaps when time allows someone will volunteer to do a fuller review of the program for the fall newsletter



Spin Flax and Cotton (DVD)

By *Norman Kennedy*

This comes with a bonus section on Indigo Dyeing.

“From his youth in Aberdeen, Scotland, Norman Kennedy was fascinated with learning the old textile traditions. His work has preserved stories and techniques passed down through centuries, and in this workshop he carries on the legacy.” Again, perhaps when time allows someone will volunteer to do a fuller review of the program and the wealth of content.

Up Coming Displays for Our Showcase

by *Jennifer Earle & Sue Stasiuk*

As you no doubt know, we will be doing our regular showcase for **July and August**. It is the turn of the **spinners** to showcase their work and some thought has been given to the theme. We don't have a title yet, but the idea is to contrast the difference between spinning “then and now”. This will give us a chance to display various novelty skeins made by the group who took the workshop with Lisa earlier this year or finished projects which are just a **little bit on the wild side**. In contrast we are thinking of including some items from “the days of yore”. I can put in an antique linen wheel which has a distaff sort of dressed traditionally with flax. (Could use a master's touch here) In my collection of everything else I have inherited with the wheel there is also two quilt like things from the 1800's ...but strictly speaking, while they are textile, they are not handwoven or spun. Perhaps if I dig deeper I might find some suitable artifact, but perhaps you have something that would be suitable....? While reading this, would you mentally inventory your collections and then mention to Sue or Jennifer what you might be willing to put on display for two months. This is a project in its formative stages of planning but we will want to know what we have soon.

Our **second** showcase will be in **September and October** in order to have a textile related display concurrent with **Five Counties**. Tentatively our working theme is “**Wild Colours**” in order to have a broad base that would give all members a chance to join in the display. Again, thoughts are pretty general at this time, but we are considering assembling pieces to create one or two huge flowers or other dimensional shape by pleating, folding (NO CUTTING). This means your items would not have to be pristine and brand new, but could be a well loved colourful scarf for example. More details will be revealed in the fullness of time.

By giving advance warning for both these events, we hope that you will choose to use materials that will augment the upcoming displays.

Grapevine Show

We presently have a great show hanging in the Perry Gallery. Congratulations to all the teams who played the “game” so well. There has been wonderful feedback from the docents, and the public in general. Thanks go to David Popplow for his thoughtful hanging of our work. It is a pleasure to go in and look at the collection and see how various artists designed their work to make a connection with something they saw in the in piece done by their predecessor.



Hot Websites

Our new website, don't miss it!
<http://bhsguild.ca>

Weaving Draft Archive.

Wow! Don't miss this!
This website contains **58807 hand weaving drafts**. Each draft includes the standard threading, tieup, treadling, and color drawdown. Drafts can be viewed, printed, and downloaded in WIF format.
<http://handweaving.net/Home.aspx>

Heddle info:

<http://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/weave/heddles.htm>

Robin Murphy: In the beautiful Northwoods of Wisconsin, I take inspiration from the woods, water and wildlife that surrounds me, and try to translate it into my handweaving.
<http://www.northwoodsweaving.com/>

e-weaving: this is an interesting site. Marg Coe...has interesting "tools".
<http://www.e-weaving.com/index.html>

Observations on Unwinding: – Controlling Twist: We spend a lot of time and energy in winding and unwinding the yarns with which we work.
<http://bontricot.wordpress.com/2009/11/18/observations-on-unwinding-controlling-twist/>

Tangspirit: Taiwan handicraft
Since ancient time, Chinese culture has been affecting a lot to people of other sides of the world. In 21 century, while the tides of fashion and technology come and go so rapidly, the historical Chinese culture stands well.
<http://www.tangspirit.com/index.htm>

Textile manufacture during the Industrial Revolution
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Textile_manufacture_during_the_Industrial_Revolution

Cheese! You must be hungry after all this reading and 'mouseing'! Have some cheese!
<http://www.trestelle.ca/english/>

**Burlington Handweavers and Spinners
2013 Executive**

- President:** Susan Turnbull
- Vice-Pres:** Nancy Rose
- Past-Pres:** Ruth Thoem
- Treasurer:** Marilyn Fish
 - Assist:**
- Secretary:** Diane Woods
 - Assist:** Lauren Arkell
- Display:** Sue Stasiuk
 - Assist:** Marg Burns
- Flowers:** Joanne van der Linden
 - Assist:** Barbara Manning
- Juried Show:** Chung-Ja Jackson
 - Assist:** Christine Bateman
- Librarians;**
 - Co -Chairs:** Jennifer Earle
Ruthe Stowe
 - Assist:** Sharon Gowland
- Looms & Equipment:** Margaret Jane Wallace
 - Assist:** Jim Thomas
- Membership:** Ruthe Thoem
 - Assist:** Barbara Ross
- Newsletter Editors:** Jennifer Earle
Ruthe Stowe
- Phone Committee:** Fran Boisvert
- Sales:** Lois Wyndham
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- Social:** Gisela Risse
 - Assist:** Irena Thomas
- Programs:** Willa McCaughan
 - Assist:** Margaret Jane Wallace
- Mentoring:** Fran Boisvert
- Kaleidoscope:** Mary Wesko
 - Assist:** Sue Stasiuk
- Christmas Sale:** Sue Stasiuk
 - Assist:** Chung-Ja Jackson
- Five Counties:** Pat Hood