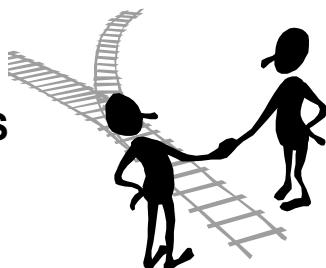




**BURLINGTON  
HANDWEAVERS  
& SPINNERS  
GUILD**



# Warped Perspective

Issue 19

September 2008

## President's Message:



A group of us were spinning in the studio one Thursday afternoon recently when we noticed a woman and two young boys hovering at the door. "Please come in" we called "and see what we're doing!" The boys, ages 9 and 11, were fascinated by the spinning process and interested to feel the different types of fibres and see how yarn was made. While we talked with them I heard the woman, grandmother of one of the boys, admit she had often passed by the door and been curious to come in and see what was going on. "You're welcome to come in

anytime we're here," said one of our group. "Perhaps you'd be interested in taking a class and learning how to do this yourself." "Oh no!" the woman replied hastily with a laugh. "I'm too old to learn something like that – you can't teach an old dog new tricks!"

What nonsense, I thought. Learning isn't the exclusive privilege of the young; in fact research has shown that keeping your mind active and striving to learn new things is one of the best ways to counteract memory loss associated with aging and can even help delay the onset of Alzheimer's. Learning in a class or group setting can also have a social context as we interact with one another and make new friends. Of course as adults we may be more selective in what we choose to learn – and those of us who are retired have the opportunity to try something we couldn't in younger years due to family, job and perhaps financial pressures. We may also face physical limitations that make acquiring some new skills risky. This past summer I was introduced to white-water canoeing, courtesy of my younger son. I had a great time at the beginner level but know the more technical and challenging waters he loves are not for me and my middle-aged body!

As spinners, weavers and pursuers of other fibre crafts we know we'll never learn it all – there's always a new technique, a new type of loom, a new fibre to entice and challenge us. Often the most fun is in the process – how to approach that new fibre, mix different yarns in a warp, get that exact colour in a dye bath, fix those droopy threads on the right side, or make a particular accent colour stand out – and the consultation and debate that ensue with guild colleagues as a project develops. The end product may be very different from the initial vision but we've had a grand time en route and likely opened up new learning avenues along the way.

October 6 – 12 is Spinning and Weaving Week this year. As we remember and celebrate our accomplishments I'd like us each to think not only of how far we've come but to plan a new learning activity for the coming year – something you've always wanted to do but have never got round to. By next October we should all have something to show or tell about – and we'll have staved off that mental aging process for just a little longer.

**Lois Wyndham** - President

### **Dates to Remember!**

**Sept. 8/08 - Show & Tell** - what we did in the summer.  
**Oct. 6/08 - TBA**  
**Nov. 3/08 - Lucy Slykerman** - mixing fibres in your warp.  
**Dec. 1/08 - Pot Luck Supper** -  
**Jan. 5/09 - TBA**  
**Feb. 2/09 - Annual Auction.**  
**Mar. 2/09 - TBA**

### **Special Dates:**

**Sept. 13-14/08 - Waterfront Art Market** - in Spencer Smith Park. Opportunities to volunteer in order to fulfill your 10 hr. yearly commitment to the Centre. Our guild will be demonstrating during the two-day event. Schedule is posted on textile studio bulletin board and will be circulated at the meeting. (Eleanor Roberts)

**Sept. 20/08 - Five Counties Display** - theme 'Anniversaries' - our guild's 50th. Incorporate Gold in the items you have been working on. - - for our guild display. - weaving/spinning/basketry/felting etc.

<http://www.ohs.on.ca/>

### **Luncheon and Lecture Series:**

**Nov. 1/08 - Arthur Greenblatt** - *The Unpopular Image of the artist in the Popular Culture.*

**Nov. 27 – 30/08 – Christmas Sale** - the committee is looking for donations for the silent auction. Information is posted on our guild bulletin board. (Jo Holden)  
Weave up a storm for the sale, please!

**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.

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

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

**More Dates To Remember:**

**Sat. Sept. 20, 2008. BAC's 30th Anniversary Gala** - beginning with cocktails at 6:00. Evening at the Pearl - Tickets Selling Fast.

**Nov. 1, 2008 - Luncheon and Lecture Series: Part Three: Arthur Greenblatt - *The Unpopular Image of the artist in the Popular Culture***

Lunch at 12:30 pm, at the Burlington Arts Centre. Contact **Eleanor Roberts** at 905-6537-1788 for tickets.

**Mark your Calendar - May 1-3, 2009 - 2009 OHS Conference: "Fibre Unleashed": "Pushing the Limits"** to be held at the Nottawasaga Inn near Alliston.

**Members News:**

Congratulations to **Laura Marotta!!** - She is moving to Texas next week, having been awarded an artist in residence position at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, from Sept. 15 to March 31. Laura will continue to sit on our committee looking at the possibility of our guild offering a studio scholarship, working with us by email. It will be wonderful to have her expertise as a young artist currently in a similar program.

**Joan Lidkie** misses us in the USA.

**Study Group:** *Colour & Weave* is usually the second Monday but gets out of whack with Labour Day and Thanksgiving. So the study group will be on Sept. 22. Then in October it will have to be on the 27th. In November we should be able to manage the 10th and get back on track. Come and see what's happening!

**Our July - August Window**

Animation came to the July-August Weaver's display window in the Center. We have always tried to draw attention to our craft through these displays and it appears that animation has helped.

We have heard favourable comments from parents and their children about the spinning process depicted in the window. Guild members also enjoyed the whimsical look at our efforts.

The idea for this display came from our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the June Lecture "The Future of The Fibre Arts". It's obvious that Wall-e the Robot is still struggling with the problems of spinning and weaving and continues to search for an easier way to make a scarf or tea towel in the next 50 years.

Submitted by **Lesley & Peter French & Marg Burns**  
Ed. note: The display was spectacular! A special thank you to Peter French for all of his work!

**Juried Show**

19 weavers submitted 42 items and 25 pieces were chosen to be hung in the Perry Gallery. Seven prizes were awarded on Sun. June 1/08 at the official opening. On Monday June 2 as part of our program, the Juror – **Pat Burns-Wenland**, critiqued the show as well as those items not selected, if the artist gave her permission to do so.

a work of art. Beautiful colours, sumptuous texture, each entry was unique and of high quality."

**Congratulations to all!**

**The Winners are:**

**Fiberworks Award:** **Lucy Slykerman** with her scarf *Pulmonaria*.

**Best Expression of theme:** **Lesley French & Gerda Steenkist** with felted *My Monet Bag*

**Past presidents' Award:** **Laura Marotta** - *Untitled*

**Best off Loom Award:** **Joanne Van Der Linden** with her beaded work, *Elegant Lady in Garden*

Juror's Remarks:

"Fibre has traditionally been considered a craft rather than an art form. The Burlington Handweavers and Spinners Guild definitely break with tradition. Each piece entered into the Juried Show was



**Complex Weavers Award:** *Margaret Jane Wallace* with *Lady Guinevere* scarf.

**Jurors Choice:** *Jennifer Earle* with her hangings *Flora & Fauna*

**Honorable Mention:** *Jennifer Earle's - In an Octopus's Garden in the Shade!* (Fun)



### Book Suggestion:

#### "The Day the World Came to Town" - 9/11 in Gander Newfoundland

Picked up a book in NL that should be on everyone's summer reading list. It's very well written, first book from a Miami Herald newspaper columnist.

**Title** - The Day the World Came to Town - 9/11 in Gander Newfoundland

**Author** - Jim Defede: publisher - Harper: ISBN - 978-0-06-055971-7

Imagine about 6500 people on 38 planes landing in a

somewhat isolated town of 10,000. Luggage, medication, etc., all have to stay on the planes, because they expect to be only a few hours when they land, and need to be ready to leave again ASAP. Each planeload needs to be kept in a group, close to the airport, so they can contact them easily. They are there for 6 days. Add to it that authorities think there could be terrorists in the group. A good read! Sorry, I already have a full "Can I borrow it?" list!

Submitted by *Joyce Newman*

### More Words from the Library

We have some new books in the library this year. I hope you find them interesting, along with the various magazine subscriptions that Guild maintains. We have had various donations of books this year, with particular thanks to Sharon Gowland, Gerda Steenkist, and Joanne van der Linden. Some others were purchased from various sources. Usually the new books go on the

display section of the bookcase, and then get moved into the appropriate topic section so they will be in various locations by now.

#### Some of the new titles this year include:

Lendrum Folding Wheel

Colour works by Deb Menz

Weave a Weave by Malin Selander  
 Treasure Chest of Swedish Weaving by I. Skjoldebrand  
 Favorite Rag Rugs by Tina Ingell  
 Braids by Roderick Owen  
 The Ashford Book of Carding by Jo Reeve  
 Handweaver's Pattern Directory by Anne Dixon  
 Big Book of Weaving by Laila Lundell  
 Crocheter's Companion by Nancy Brown  
 Start Spinning by Maggie Casey  
 Best of Weaver's: Overshot is Hot by Madelyn van der Hoogt

The Big Book of Weaving is very comprehensive and has some interesting projects as well as a very complete outline of the Swedish practices in dressing a loom. In the Handweaver's Pattern Directory you will find that tip about threading the selvedge that our juror mentioned as well as some interesting ideas on how colour can alter the appearance of a weave structure. This book is sort of an updated Davidson, but does include some structures not covered in that earlier reference.

If you read about a book in a review that you think would add to the depth of the library coverage, please add it to the book wish list on the bulletin board, as it is nice to have other eyes out there looking at different interests. It is nice to have some feedback from

members regarding book choices and desires. So far we have not got much into knitting books and I would be interested to hear if a reference book of stitch patterns would be of interest.

Ruth and I have been working on developing a sort of Dewey Decimal system so that books can be sorted by topic. Most of the data entry has been done and soon (I'm thinking positively here) we will get to the stage where there will be another numeric label on each volume so they can be shelved by topic and author. Hopefully this will make things easier to find. We have a lot of "depth" in the number of resources in the library. Some of the older monographs have a lot of information on a particular structure even if there are no flashy pictures. A sorting by topic will make these sources more evident if you are researching a technique. We also have many issues of a publication called "Loom Music" which was part the weaving scene in Canada a few decades ago. You will find these in black binders in the bookcase. Although "historic" in some sense, there is a social history there that shows the strength of the weaving community and the desire for knowledge and development.

Hope I have inspired you to take a look at your library and take out a book! They are yours to enjoy.

From *Jennifer Earle*

### **Guild Golden Anniversary: "Looking Towards the Next Fifty Years".**

June 1/08 luncheon lecture with William Hodge was fantastic. Forty three attended. Eleanor thanked the committee for all their work. A look at the pictorial history of the guild; the community wall in the hall in the centre was incredible!

Thank you to Eleanor for all her hard work in all our anniversary events.

### **Biography Of Arthur Greenblatt**

*Mr. Greenblatt* will be our third and final speaker in the "Luncheon and Lecture" series. He is the Executive Director of the Dundas Valley School of Art, a multi media painter, and an excellent speaker in a humorous and satirical vein.

When the committee was in the process of collecting names for speakers we asked the Centre staff for suggestions and Laura Arseneau, curator of education, who had worked with him at the Dundas Valley School of Art, recommended him. I believe she said "if we want a very humorous, rolling-in-the aisles speaker, he was our Man". (I trust I have that right.)

Arthur was educated in the U.S., receiving his BFA at Maryland Institute College of Art and a Master of Education from Towson University and, lastly, attended the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard.

He worked extensively in the U.S. before accepting a position as president of Alberta College of Art and Design in 1994 and executive director of DVSA in 2000.

Arthur seems to have also been a very active member of any community he lived. Since coming to Dundas he has sat on many arts related committees. ie. Hamilton Arts Advisory Commission, which he chaired from 2004 to 2007; Mohawk College Creative Arts Advisory Commission; Hamilton's Action 20/20 Arts; and Heritage Task force 2001 to 2003.

His speaking engagements are numerous so I think we can say he has had some experience in the field.

He is a very accomplished artist and describes his works as "multi-media". He has some works on the DVSA website, or he did the last time I checked. Lesley also had pictures of his work in the display window. (February/March)

If you have any professional or semi-professional artist friends this is the lecture to urge them to attend. It should tickle their funny bone.

*Eleanor Roberts*, chair 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee.

## Degrees of Separation ... or ... It's a Small World

**Small World Theory:** states that there are just six degrees of separation between any two strangers on earth.

As many of you know, Greg and I recently spent our first winter sailing our 38 foot sailboat, *Muskoka Moon*, to and in the Bahamas. With the huge amount of planning involved, upgrades to the boat to change it from a weekend Great Lakes boat to a live aboard salt water boat, as well as 2007 being one of the busiest years of our lives, we were very grateful to finally sail our way across the Gulf Stream from West Palm Beach, Florida to The Abacos, Bahamas in early January 2008.

We finally arrived in our first protected Bahamian harbour, White Sound in Green Turtle Cay. We were there to wait out one of the numerous northern fronts (from Canada, they always say ...) which bring high winds and nasty weather. Anchor down and set, we finally raised our heads from our boat tasks, looked to the left, and saw a small sailboat sporting a large Canadian flag. The name on the boat was *Muskoki*. We couldn't believe our eyes! We'd come all this way and there's another boat, Canadian, with almost the same name, right beside us! How could this be? Looking further around the anchorage, we could see about twenty more sailboats and of those twenty, about eighteen were, in fact, flying Canadian flags. Later, at happy hour on the beach, we met the couple from *Muskoki* and they live near Bracebridge in Muskoka, Ontario. Most of the other Canadians in the harbour were from various places in Ontario ranging from Thunder Bay to Cornwall, from Quebec or from Nova Scotia and one young family who had come through the Panama Canal from Victoria, B.C. There was even a US flagged boat disguising a Canadian couple onboard from London, Ontario. This was like old home week! It's definitely a small world ... even when you're 'out there'.

We weavers are well on our way to proving 'The Small World Theory'.

As many of you know, Blanca and Leo Eisermans (Blanca was a long time member of our guild) left on their sailboat, *Promesa*, for the Caribbean in September 2002. They sailed from Lake Ontario through the barge canals to New York and on down the Inter Coastal Waterway (ICW) to Florida. They made their way through the Bahamas, down the eastern islands of the Caribbean, across the top of South America to Panama.

**Picture Caption:** *Muskoka Moon* at anchor off the old kerosene lighthouse in Hopetown, Elbow Cay, just south of Man-O-War Cay.



Eventually, they crossed the South Pacific to New Zealand where they spent this last winter. The last we've heard, they have sailed east again to Fiji in spring 2008.

As Blanca and Leo made their way down the ICW, Fran Boisvert received many emails describing their joys, their trials, and their tribulations. Fran passed those emails on to me and I read them voraciously, planning for our own journey along the same route. In those emails, Blanca mentioned connecting here and there along the way with Ruthe and Bill on sailing vessel *Tarshish*.

As previously mentioned, in the winter, weekly and sometimes daily cold fronts from the north, bash through the Abacos in the Bahamas on a regular basis. So, again, we found ourselves hiding out in a protected harbour, this time in Man-O-War Cay. New cruising friends, Peter and Lorraine from Nova Scotia, on sailing vessel *Noahgenda*, led us there. Later that afternoon, they invited us and everyone else in the anchorage for a potluck dinner aboard their large, 'room-to-dance' catamaran. As the evening wore on and stories were told, Greg was chatting with a woman named Ruthe. He was telling her the story about our year off in 1992-93 when we traveled the South Pacific and SE Asia on the trail of weavers and weaving. Ruthe pointed out that she knew a weaver named Blanca and her husband Leo on sailing vessel *Promesa* and that she and her husband Bill had left Hamilton with Blanca and Leo in the fall of 2002 on their sailboat *Tarshish*. We couldn't believe our ears! I remembered reading about *Tarshish* in Blanca's emails. How could this be? Well, it can be. It's that Small World Theory at work again.

The next day I emailed Blanca in New Zealand to tell her of this amazing coincidence and that she was at the centre of it. She, of course, remembered Ruthe and Bill and was reconnected to them through us on the other side of the world.

I guess when you weave together the close-knit worlds of both weavers and sailors; you don't get six degrees of separation. I'm not sure if this story proves two or three degrees of separation but whichever it is, it sure is a small world, even when you're 'out there' and especially when you're a weaver.

True story told by weaver and sailor *Marian Riach*.

### Hot Websites:

**The World of Threads Festival:** *Common Thread* is the flagship exhibition of the World of Threads Festival. This juried exhibition attracts diverse entries from across Canada and around the world. Work on display is both traditional technique-based fibre art and conceptual fiber art forms. **Deadline March 31, 2009 Call for Submissions!** Oakville, Ontario, Canada.

<http://www.worldofthreadsfestival.com/>

**Ann Welch - OHS Master Spinner** - On Line Craft Garage Sale. Spinning Fibers, Weaving Supplies, Yarn, Fabric, Books, Equipment and much more!!

<http://www.craftsale.web44.net/>

**Dundas Valley School of Art:** Arthur Greenblatt, Executive Director. Workshops can vary from Colour Theory, Compositional Elements of Design, Sculpture and Perspective to even the exploration of Creative and Dramatic Movement.

<http://www.dvsa.ca/>

**Unicorn Books & Crafts** is your leading distributor for needlework and textile craft books. We carry over 3500 titles the latest releases, old favorites, imports and self-published exclusives. We are also your top source for textile winding equipment and KA bamboo needles and notions.

<http://www.unicornbooks.com/index2-SQL3.asp>

**SCRAP** is a creative reuse center, store and workshop space founded in 1976 in San Francisco, California. Donations of high quality, low cost, re-usable are collected then sorted and distributed by SCRAP for artists, educational and community groups. "REDUCE, RE-USE AND RECYCLE."

<http://www.scrap-sf.org/>

**The Spinning and Weaving Association** was created to ensure a vibrant marketplace by promoting the joy of handspinning and weaving.

<http://www.spinweave.org/news/index.html>

**Fibrepalooza** is dedicated to the principles and promotion of both globally fair-traded and locally produced fibres and woolen products. Fibrepalooza is also a small family farm on 125 acres in rural Nova Scotia, Canada.

<http://www.fibrepalooza.com/>

**Susan Duncan** on southern Vancouver Island, BC, Canada. My goal with this blog is to talk about what I weave and how I go about it. To share and perhaps help another weaver out there. It will be an ongoing view of what is current in my own studio from start to finish.

<http://weeverwoman.blogspot.com/>

**Meghan Nuttall Sayres** writes and weaves in Eastern Washington. Meghan spins her own yarns for tapestries, dyeing her wool with native plants. She has explored this craft in Ireland and Turkey and taught workshops abroad and currently volunteers for Taipeis Gael, a tapestry weaving cooperative in Donegal, Ireland.

<http://www.meghannuttallsayres.com/index.html>

### Burlington Handweavers and Spinners 2008 Executive

<b>President:</b>	Lois Wyndham
<b>Vice-Pres:</b>	Joyce Newman
<b>Past-Pres:</b>	Eleanor Roberts
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Susan Turnbull
<b>Assist:</b>	Doreen Winter
<b>Secretary:</b>	Fran Boisvert
<b>Assist:</b>	
<b>Programs:</b>	Chung-Ja Jackson
<b>Assist:</b>	Margaret Jane Wallace
<b>Display:</b>	Lesley French
<b>Assist:</b>	Margaret Burns
<b>Sales:</b>	Ruth Thoem
<b>Assist:</b>	Jennifer Earle
<b>Librarian, Co -Chairs:</b>	Jennifer Earle
	Ruthe Stowe (Emeritus)
<b>Looms:</b>	Lucy Slykerman
<b>Membership:</b>	Lucy Slykerman
<b>Assist:</b>	Barbara Reid
<b>Social:</b>	Mary Wesko
<b>Assist:</b>	Gisela Risse
<b>Flowers:</b>	Freda Vietch
<b>Assist:</b>	Joanne Van Der Linden
<b>Phone:</b>	Fran Boisvert
<b>Newsletter Editors:</b>	Barbara Laking
	Ruthe Stowe
	email: ruthe@weavingworld.ca
<b>Co-Chairs for Juried Show:</b>	Margaret Jane Wallace
	Diane Woods