

MINNESOTA BASKET

WEAVERS GUILD



Spokes and Weavers

Minnesota Basket Weavers Guild Newsletter

President's Message by Deb Johnson

Apr 2018- Year 22 Issue 2



It's time to welcome Spring!! We are nearing the end of yet another MN winter...and a tough weather winter it was!

I had the opportunity to attend the 2018 Weaving in the Sunshine State (2nd annual) Retreat in Ft. Myers, FL in January. There were more than 100 attendees from many states, enthusiastic to be there! Of course, I caved into temptation and signed up for 4 classes over 3 days, which was a bit of a marathon! An antler bowl, instructed by Pam Talsky from WI; a more traditional basket with an interesting Japanese rim taught by Debbie Mroczenski from MI; a Cherokee market basket taught by Candace Katz from AR; and my personal favorite, a black ash piece taught by Alice Ogden from NH. I do believe that black ash miniatures have become my latest basketry addiction! All of the instructors had their own market place and KnK Creations provided near round-the-clock shopping opportunities! Plans are well underway for the 2019 retreat which is scheduled for Feb. 5-7, 2019 (<https://www.brightexpectationsbaskets.com/blogs/news/weaving-in-the-sunshine-state>).

April 20th I will be attending a one-day birch bark class in Sarasota, FL with Vladimir Yarish – and I can hardly wait! For something a little closer to home, Weavin' in Winona is coming up June 22nd – 24th! (www.weavinwinona.com).

A special thank you goes out to fellow member Martha Bird, for sharing information about an upcoming lecture about the Gullah tradition of sweetgrass basket weaving to be held in May at the Minneapolis Institute of the Arts! See inside this issue for more information and get your \$10.00 ticket soon!

Are you doing something interesting? Do you know about retreat opportunities? Please share with us, so we can let our membership know! We love to have information to share. Your inspiration spawns' others to be inspired, so let us know what you are up too!

Be sure to check out our class schedule and if you're not taking a class, please join us at the open weave table. And if you are having trouble with a project, bring it along – with all the talent and kindness of our members, it is more likely than not to get the helping hand you may need!

Keep weaving and have fun!

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PARKING ALERT— started MARCH 1

The Textile Center has purchased a parking lot on University Ave. , just a bit "uphill" from the TC. It is just past the old health care office and computer buildings, and is the first right turn past the TC when you are driving on University. Use this space if the regular lot is full and DON'T USE THE LOTS WE HAVE BEEN USING BEHIND THE TWO OLDER, ADJACENT BUILDINGS. THE TC NO LONGER LEASES THEM, AND YOU MAY BE TICKETED OR TOWED IF YOU PARK THERE.

Sweetgrass Basketry with Henrietta Snype & Durades Dialogue with Jonathan Shodekeh Rose

Coming up: Thursday, May 10 at 6:30 pm



Henrietta Snype will talk about the Gullah tradition of sweetgrass basketweaving, its 300-year history in America, its connection to Africa, and the enduring nature of the art form.

One of Snype's baskets is on view in Mia's Charleston Room period room, where it tells the important story of Charleston's dependence on enslaved West Africans' indigenous knowledge of rice cultivation for commercial gain and nourishment—foreshadowing the legacy of African cuisine in the US. Followed by a dialogue with Jonathan Rose.

A native of Mount Pleasant, SC, Henrietta Snype has been making sweetgrass baskets, a craft she learned from her mother and grandmother, since age 7. Snype tours the country educating and demonstrating her Gullah traditions.

Jonathan Shodekeh Rose, a Sierra Leonean whose ancestors were brought to the Carolinas as enslaved laborers, works as a chemical engineer at #M. He shares his knowledge about Gullah traditions of rice and indigo cultivation. For more info click here:

<https://new.artsmia.org/event/sweetgrass-basketry-with-henrietta-snype-durades-dialogue-with-jonathan-shodekeh-rose/>

Information submitted by Martha Bird

A Common Thread 2018-Annual Member Exhibition at the Textile Center

The following is from the Textile Center Website- "*A Common Thread 2018* brings together our community of textile artists for this annual celebration of work honoring textile tradition and innovation. This inspirational exhibition showcases the accomplishments of many of our members and welcomes all levels of ability and expertise. From colorful and patterned surface design and dyed works; to meticulous stitched and quilted pieces that range from wearable to pictorial to photographic; to weavings that are spontaneous and symbolic; to sculptural forms of gesture and contemplation, the processes of textile practice are broad and the quality of practice runs deep. Our relationship with our members is vital to the mission of Textile Center, and this show highlights their incredible talent and supports their achievements. Join us in celebrating this exciting yearly event that helps make Textile Center a national leader in the field of fiber art." ~Tracy Krumm, Textile Center's Consultant for Artistic Advancement

4 of our members had pieces in this exhibit: Martha Bird, Bonnie Buzza, Cathryn Peters and Tressa Sularz. It ran from Jan 8-March 10, 2018.

Martha Bird

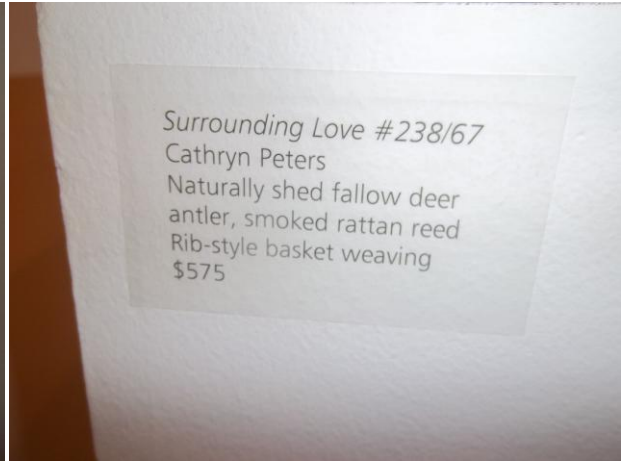


Bonnie Buzza

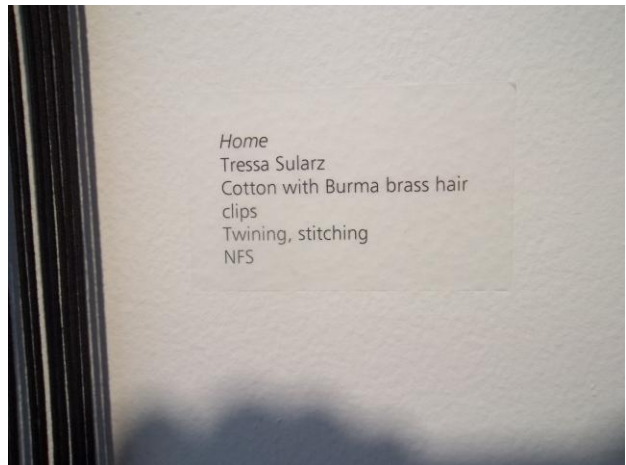


Not baskets but still by a guild member.

Cathryn Peters



Tressa Sularz



From Deb Johnson:

The following article recently appeared in the Basket Makers Association of Michigan newsletter, 'Basket Reeder', and is being published with permission from Martha Bird:

[From Michigan to the Minnesota History Center](#)

My four-part series of articles for the Reeder started with my recounting how I discovered basket weaving in Michigan after a back injury left me on bedrest for 2 years. My story has evolved and revolved from Minnesota back to Michigan once again. The Associate Curator of 3D Objects at the Minnesota Historical Society (housed in the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, MN) let me know, "We'd like to follow you as an artist." Since that conversation this past Fall, they have purchased a basket from my early days in Michigan, a current one based on the medication-taking experience, and they look forward to purchasing one years into my future.

I wove the rosebud Basket in a class with an unidentifiable teacher while living in Grand Blanc, MI, at a time when few teachers were writing patterns. I simply have my handwritten post-it notes of how to make it. I used a wood burning tool to engrave "MBG95" on the bottom of the basket. At that time my name was Martha Bird Geiger.

Wanting to attribute the basket to the right person, I extended my research back to MI this past Fall. I was able to learn from Sue Lawrence that Nancy Conn and Amy Banks were the inspiration for this basket. She provided me an emailed image of her own pattern from the class that included a picture of the teacher's basket that was similar. I also had an email conversation with Sharon McElroy, former president of AMB. I emailed a picture of my Rosebud Basket to her asking if she knew who the teacher was. She also said Nancy Conn and further commented, "You did a beautiful job weaving this basket. The year you gave (1995) was also during the hay day of basket weaving. So many people were weaving back then."

Next, I was in contact with Nancy Conn and she confirmed that she and Amy Banks did indeed design the "Rosebud" motif and whoever my teacher was had done a variation of their design. This basket is now in the Minnesota History Center's permanent collection and will be searchable for research in about 6-month time. Sue, Sharon, Nancy and Amy are all now documented in Minnesota via my Artist Statement submitted with the piece. It's important to name our teachers and honor our legacy. So now the Michigan-Minnesota relationship is cemented in perpetuity. I am so please.

These baskets will come out of the permanent collection for public viewing at the Minnesota History Center in the Fall of 2018.

Marth Bird mbirdthatflies@gmail.com; www.mnartists.org/martha-bird.

MBWG Classes for 2018



******April class will be held in May because of a scheduling conflict at the Textile Center so May 5, 2018 –New York, New York- Ellie Lida**

Sleek and sophisticated, we start with a slender slotted ash base. The many narrow spokes create tightly woven sides resulting in a heavy duty basket. Overlays, paired triple randing, and a swirly detail finish it off. Color choices Topped with a pair of beautiful long leather straps. Finish it by lashing the rim with waxed linen for durability. W 10" x l 16" x H 11" , Intermediate **\$70 for members \$75 non members**



May 19, 2018-Sylvan Lake Wastebasket- Jo Guttormson

Useful and fun to weave, this basket has interesting variety including a triple twine zigzag in a choice of colors. All Levels, 5" x 8" x H 10" **\$38 members \$43 non members**



Sept. 22, 2018-Apps, eggs or pie! Tray-Jo Guttormson

This versatile basket is fun to weave and useful to own. Woven on a large wooden base, the class includes, 2 inserts, one for appetizers and one for eggs. There will be color choices and it

is topped with an intricate (but easy) lashing technique. Beginner, 13" x 2.5" **\$45 for members \$50 non members**

Oct 27, 2018-BASKET BINGO! Make a table decoration, small basket, large basket, raffle basket or bucket raffle basket. Volunteer, help make it a success again.



Nov 17, 2018-Japanese Style Weaving

on Rocks-Jill and Paul Scarpari and Della Pleski

Flat rocks-'skipping rocks'-from various locales will be available for learning how to weave on rocks. Cane of various shades and sizes will be available, as will 'bling' if so desired. Bring your own bling if you want. The designs that can be created are endless and each unique! All levels **\$15 for members for first rock \$20 for non members, \$5 for second rock.**

Dec 8, 2018 Holiday Party and Service Project

As always the Open Weave Table is always available every month-Have a project that you want to finish but need help? Or just want to talk about baskets? Check out the Open Weave Table.

Check out MBWG website for more info on above classes or contact Julie Pleski (jpleski@yahoo.com) if website does not have current information.

✚ The MBWG website also has all of our forms. Just search for mbwg.org and hit the forms tab. Every form you need is at your command. Print and use often.

Looking for a President Elect and a Newsletter Editor.

And so it is, we are already looking for a **President Elect**. Every year we need a new one, sometimes we find one, sometimes terms are extended. It helps to volunteer early so the new person can learn the ropes. Adding to that we need a **newsletter editor**. Yes I am giving up this position at the end of the year. Paul and I are planning a move out of state, so we can see the granddaughters play sports and instruments and other things kids do as they grow. Besides new people reinvigorate and change things, which I've always felt is good. That means you don't have to format the newsletter as I do or write the same way or articles. We have found that to be true for our new President, Debbie Johnson. She joins our monthly board meetings by speaker phone as she is currently in Florida. Both these positions are essential to keep the guild running. Let a board member know soon if you are interested in either of these positions.

Table decorations for 2018 Basket Bingo update.



Plans are moving along for table decorations for Basket Bingo. Some are already made and the rest have been pledged. I have either received from the following people or been told that the following people will make a basket(s) for table decorations: **Linda Wilcox, Susan Burkhalter, Margaret Fiedler, Alice Ford, Roxanne Miller, Chris Dellwo, Nancy Fulton, Jean Ellingson, Claudia Speak, and Jo Guttormson.** **So we should have enough!** Thanks to all who volunteered. One job down, many more to go for Basket Bingo. The date for Bingo 2018 is Sat., Oct. 27. Suzette Leizinger and Jean Ellingson are co-chairing again. Any questions or if you want to offer to help-find their information on page 2 of this newsletter in the box for Board Members and contact them. Bingo is always a good time!

MBWG 2017 Round Up-Treasurer's report

Bonnie Buzza

We continue with a healthy bank account, thanks to you all, and our rent is paid to the Textile Center for the year. Don't forget that your MBWG membership gives you borrowing privileges from the great TC library, since we have an organizational membership with them. And we have exceeded our (modest) goal of joint memberships taken by members. These provide you with a range of other benefits with the Textile Center, including a discount on their classes and a discount in the shop. The Board is considering renting a bit more storage space at the TC because our locker is so crowded...this will be a modest additional charge by the TC for the year.

We hope you will enjoy—or have enjoyed, depending on when the newsletter is published—the special Sami Bracelet class the Guild has underwritten for you. We are looking for ways to provide “value added” to our members on years we have a good turnout for bingo baskets, and bingo players. With a good nest egg in the bank, we want to provide additional member benefits. The Board hopes to have a special class or teacher or other event each year we continue with a good result from Basket Bingo. If you have suggestions you think the Guild might enjoy, pass the idea on to a Board member or e-mail me.

Bonnie Buzza, Treasurer

Basket [bas-kit, bah-skit] **noun**

- 1.a container made of twigs, rushes, thin strips of wood, or other flexible material woven together.
- 2.a container made of pieces of thin veneer, used for packing berries,vegetables etc.
- 3.the amount contained in a basket; a basketful:*to pick a basket of apples.*
- 4.anything like a basket in shape or use: *He never empties my wastepaper basket.*
- 5.any group of things or different things grouped as a unit; a package;package deal: *You can't buy the single stock; you have to take the basket— companies, stocks and bonds, all of it.*
- 6.the car or gondola suspended beneath a balloon, as for carrying passengers or scientific instruments into the atmosphere.

Word Origin and History for basket

n.

early 13c., from Anglo-French *bascat*, origin obscure despite much speculation. On one theory from Latin *bascauda* "kettle, table vessel," said by the Roman poet Martial to be from Celtic British and perhaps cognate with Latin *fascis* "bundle" in which case it probably originally meant "wicker basket." But OED frowns on this, and there is no evidence of such a word in Celtic unless later words in Irish and Welsh, counted as borrowings from English, are original.

Interesting stuff on the internet about the word. So what is really the origin? It is lost in history and time.

Jan Guild Meeting 2018



First 5 pictures are of basketry supplies donated to the guild by our webmaster, Don Ericson, his wife Diane, was instrumentale in establishing the guild. Not all are taken, Jean Ellingson will be bringing them to other guild meetings when she has the time and inclination.

The last picture is of students creating “The Rim Rocks” at the January meeting.

Feb Guild Meeting 2018




Scenes of the Feb class with Della Pleski.



Table Decorations for Bingo, donated by Linda Wilcox.

Editor's disclaimer: My favorite season is gone! Snow was excellent some days and ok others. Such is winter in MN. Now the snow can go quickly, I know you can't believe I said that, but it is

not skiable snow.  Send any additions, articles or corrections-*corrections meaning factual errors not grammatical/semantical errors because I can live with those-you* want addressed in the next newsletter to jill.scarpari@gmail.com .

Respectfully written/edited by Jill A Scarpari