

Spokes and Weavers



Minnesota Basket Weavers' Guild Newsletter

August 2021 – Issue 4

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Letter from the Editor –

Greetings all! It has been a busy summer - mostly reconnecting with family and working on projects for the Minnesota State Fair. The Kids' Basket Weaving Day was awesome - it filled up in the first day. All parents and kids left with finished baskets, and the rain held out until we were done. Here are some pics - thanks Sarah and Gayle for the pictures and all of your help!





Presidents Message by Debbie Johnson –



Greeting fellow Guild members! Here we are, about to embark on another guild season – yes via zoom. The latest update from Textile Center is not to allow guilds to start meeting in person just yet. At this time, we know we will not be able to meet at Textile Center in person through at least the end of the 2021 calendar year. Unfortunately, this also means another year without Basket Bingo!

Please check out our upcoming programs. We have decided to hold our September meeting at a park pavilion with a class and a potluck lunch! We miss you and decided to take advantage of the outdoors and get together, while the weather is still favorable! Mask wearing for this event is mandatory!

PLEASE NOTE – We have made a couple changes for class registrations:

- * Guild membership is now required to take a class.
- * Registration checks are now to be made *payable directly to the instructor* (unless otherwise noted).

We are eagerly seeking a couple volunteers to help as board members at-large. Ideally, we would like to have somebody specifically coordinate and communicate updates with Don Ericson (he manages our website) to help us keep the website information current. This role would gather info and email it to Don.

If we as a guild are going to participate in the 2022 International Kids Weaving Day event (June, 2022), then we need your help. There is definitely interest from the public to do this event and bring basket making to youth. Having done a mini trial run this past summer, we know what needs to be done.

We also need someone to step up and become our Vice President. This position has remained open since before I stepped into the role of President in January 2018.

Our Board grown over the past couple years, for which we are very grateful! Pam Whitcomb stepped in as our Newsletter Editor. Sarah Peterson came in as Membership Director and established an Instagram site for us! Now we have a new Treasurer with Gayle Ericksen joining the team! A special thank you to all our Board, past and present!

If you are ever interested in joining us via zoom at a Board meeting, please let me know! Debjohnson58@gmail.com. Members are always welcome to attend. Dates fluctuate month to month, depending on what is happening and folk's schedules. It seems we have mostly been meeting on Monday evenings. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday September 13, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM.

Membership Updates from Sarah Peterson–

Hello everyone -

It is membership renewal time. Our new year will be starting September 1 2021, and we are hoping you will all renew with us again. Debbie is lining up a wonderful list of classes and gatherings each month. I am very excited about the rock wrapping in September (25th). We are still going to have a more remote year with Covid increasing again and restrictions continuing, but working to be in person when we can. That means we need you even more! The MN Basket Weavers' Guild needs your help to continue to build a great community of like-minded enthusiasts and creative makers - especially in these ongoing strange times! These dues help to subsidize great instructors and any in person facility costs we may have. Please rejoin us for another year by filling out the below form and sending \$25 membership dues. We are a small but mighty organization!!!

As an incentive for new and renewing members, we will be also offering bundles of birch bark. We were gifted some birch bark, both several large sheets as well as some cut into 1-inch strips. We are still sorting out how to divide up the bark. But we will make sure there is enough for at least a small basket. We will offer these birch bundles to new/renewing members until we run out.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining us - please share the membership form with them and invite them along to one of our meetings!!

I look forward to hearing from you all and seeing you at the September class!

Warm regards,

Sarah, Membership

2021/2022 - MBWG Dates:

Mark your calendars! Here are our dates for this upcoming season:

September 25, 2021	January 22, 2022	May 21, 2022 (Annual Members Meeting &
October 23, 2021	February 26, 2022	election of Officers)
November 20, 2021	March 26, 2022	
December 11, 2021	April 23, 2022	

September 25 – In-Person at Roseville Central Park (Class, Potluck & Birchbark)!

Roseville Central Park, Lions Shelter – 2527 N Victoria St., Roseville (rain or shine) 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Even though we are outdoors, **masks are mandatory**, no exceptions.



Class: Weaving on Lake Superior beach stones – Debbie Johnson; we will work on 3 variations.

Cost: \$25.00 – *Guild membership must be active.* Membership can be renewed the day of class.

Class is Limited to the first 12 registrants! See attached class registration form.

Not taking the class?? ***Come join us for a lunch pot luck!!!*** We would love to see folks in living color! Bring a dish to share. Join in some fun conversation and see what we are up too! We will break for lunch at 12:30 - 1:30. Coffee will be available, as will plates, cups, napkins & plastic utensils. Please bring your own beverage if coffee isn't your thing!

Do you like to weave with birch bark, or want to try playing with it? Our Guild received a donation of birch bark. It is pre-cut into strips approximately 3/4" in width and various lengths. We also received -----sheets of bark, approximately -----in size. It is quite dry and will require re-hydration. We will be making it available for \$ 5 / 8 oz. bundle for strips and \$ 5 per sheet, (13"x18" to 18"x24") to those who have renewed their membership.

Funds raised will be deposited to our 'Random Acts of Kindness Fund'. Don't know what this fund is and want to learn more? Come visit us for lunch or email Debbie Johnson.



October 23 – VIA Zoom – Coiling on a Gourd - Jane Wilson, Gourd Artist

We are delighted to have nationally recognized gourd weaver Jane A. Wilson as our October instructor! Originally from Kansas, Jane began working with gourds in 2007. She found they offer the opportunity to coil, twine, carve, and wood burn. She also makes use of paints, stains, and inks (often on the same piece) in the creation of her original gourd art. Coiling has become her favorite technique and she has developed a way of dyeing cord to match the colors she uses on her gourds. An award-winning gourd artist, Jane recently won Best of Advanced Division at the Missouri Show Me Gourd Art Festival. She placed third in a national gourd weaving competition sponsored by the American Gourd Society and her gourd art has been featured in the society's GOURD magazine.

Cost: \$70.00
the first 10
DEADLINE:

Time: 9:30 a.m. –



(*Guild membership required*). Registration limited to members (registration form attached). **Registration September 25th.**

12:30/ lunch break/ 1:00p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Central time

Kit includes pre-cut, cleaned and cord, beads, drill bit, needle, sharpie, waxed linen thread and color, step-by-step instructions with detailed photos. Students will need a drill, scissors, pencil and awl.

finished 4 1/2" - 5" gourd (ready to weave), hand dyed

Color choices (indicate option on registration form):

1. Metallic finish with three colors (purple, turquoise and blue), the cord is also dyed in those variegated colors then they pick the color of thread

2. Natural finish with a coppery finish gourd with natural cord, copper beads and brown thread.

New Member Spotlight - Gayle Erickson

Welcome Gayle! Gayle joined us this past year and is now going to be our new Treasurer! Welcome Gayle and Thank you for jumping in to support the Guild. She kindly took some time to tell us a little bit about herself:

Tell us a little bit about yourself -

I am a single mom who adopted a baby who is Hmong twenty-seven years ago. She is now finishing nursing school! I grew up in Saint Croix Falls, lived in Ohio then Kentucky before moving to Saint Paul in 1988. I live in a 1920s bungalow and love vintage style and antiquing.

What interested you in joining the basketweavers guild?

Before my retirement from healthcare in December 2020, I decided I wanted to learn other crafts that I might be able to incorporate my beads with. Basketry seemed like a good choice- and I am hooked! Plus, I am all about the process versus the project and basketry is a wonderful process.

What is your favorite basket style?

I made my first basket- stitched Ojibway- in July 2018. Then I took a ten-week Birch class at the American Swedish Institute. My favorite is weaving the diagonal plaited pattern- for baskets and pouches- birch bark preferred.

What prompted you to take over the treasurer role this coming year?

I think that offering to be MBWG treasurer would be a manageable task for me to help this guild. And who doesn't love a spreadsheet? I have used spreadsheets to manage Girl Scout Cookie orders for several troops, the membership list & finances for a Chinese Adoption organization, the checking account for a soccer team, tracking client info & orders for my healthcare job, and even listings for my knitting needles, yarn, patterns and glass inventory!! This seemed like my skill set!

Anything else you would like us to know?

I have 3 dogs of my own, but I also foster dogs, usually older & needing medical attention. I am a life-long knitter, I have spent many years loom weaving and now have a lampwork studio in my basement to make glass beads. Since retirement I have taken many Nordic cooking & craft classes (Sami bracelets & embroidery), Rosemaling, needle felting, and natural dyeing of fiber & yarn- baskets are next!

Seems like you are well on your way with baskets! We welcome you Gayle, and your enthusiasm!

.... Is there a particular class you would be interested in? An instructor you have always to take a class from? Are you interested in teaching a class for your guild? Please email Debbie Johnson at: debjohnson58@gmail.com.

Stay tuned for more program updates as information becomes available!!

Textile Center –

A Common Thread, member show, at the Textile Center is in full swing! The show started on July 6th and will run through to October 16, 2021. There are 131 incredible pieces on display. Don't forget to bring your friends! Can't make it in person? Check their website for all the virtual exhibits: <https://textilecentermn.org/category/exhibitions/virtual-exhibitions/> The Textile Center Gallery and Gift Shop are open – no appointment necessary! Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 11:00am – 3:00 pm. Masks are required as of August 3rd. The library is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am – 3pm. Check out the selection of classes offered here <https://textilecentermn.org/adult-education/classes/> - both in person and digital classes offered.

Did you know....The [Minnesota Basket Weavers Guild](#) sponsors the rosettes, and a one-year membership to Minnesota Basket Weavers Guild to first place winners in basketry classes (classes 558-562) and first place winner of basketry – any type (class 923) at the Minnesota State Fair!

National Basketry Organization – Every 1, a virtual exhibit: <https://nbo-exhibits.org/>

2021 Midwest and Virtual Events -

Minneapolis Institute of Art - [Unexpected Turns: Women Artists and the Making of American Basket-Weaving](#)



[Traditions](#)

[March 11, 2021 - October 24, 2021](#)

[Robert and Marlyss White Gallery \(Gallery 281\)](#)

[Zoom into Weaving](#) - September 13-19, 2021 – Online Conference sponsored by the Columbia Basin Basketry Guild,

<https://www.basketryguild.org/calendar/2021/5/15/register-for-zoom-into-weaving>

[Sievers School of Fiber Arts](#) - September 13-17, 2021, Washington Island, WI – Willow Harvest and Weave, Jo Campbell-Amsler <https://sieversschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Sievers-Class-Schedule-Chart-2021.pdf>

[Wisconsin Weave Away](#) - October 1-3, 2021, Chetek, WI, this is FULL. E mail list is <https://gmail.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=19757b3806d4fe3c1b5d2d161&id=aa6585ad99>

[North House Folk School](#) - October 5-11, 2021, Grand Marais, MN North House Basket Week, <https://northhouse.org/events/basket-week>



[Weaving Magic, Association of Michigan Basket Weavers](#) - October 20-24, Grand Rapids, MI, In person Conference, <http://www.michiganbasketmakers.com/events.html>

[School of Basketry Art](#) - Catriona Pollard, coming all the way from Australia, offers online twining classes for various levels of weavers that you can sign up for at any time. Find more information about the classes at schoolofbasketryart.com, and she also has a Facebook Group, School of Basketry Art.



Here is a great link for basket weaving materials and how to protect them – it lists different materials, different types of basket techniques, and preservation methods - <https://www.canada.ca/en/conservation-institute/services/preventive-conservation/guidelines-collections/basketry-plant-materials.html>

MBWG Board 2021 (September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022)

- Past President, Nancy Fulton
- President, Debbie Johnson – debjohnson58@gmail.com
- Vice President/President Elect - **Open**
- Treasurer, Gayle Ericksen
- Secretary, Layce Parkinson
- Textile Center/Guild Liaison, Nancy Fulton
- Program Director, Debbie Johnson
- Membership Director, Sarah Peterson – mnbasketweaversguild@gmail.com

Additionally -

- Newsletter Editor, Pam Whitcomb
- Basket Bingo 2022 Co Chairs, **Open**
- Kid's International Basket Weaving Day, Pam Whitcomb
- Librarian/Historian – **Open**
- Website Liaison - **Open**

Ever wonder why we have limited board member contact information posted? Multiple Board members have experienced scam imposters contact in recent years. As a result, we have two options for you - a Gmail account that you can send emails, or directly to Debbie Johnson.