

Spokes and Weavers

Minnesota Basket Weavers' Guild Newsletter

October 2021 – Issue #5



Letter from the Editor –



Greetings all! What a gorgeous fall it is shaping up to being! Covid still adds an extra level of excitement to all our goings-on! The State Fair was fun – won some ribbons, none of them blue, but the winners' projects were so beautiful that I didn't mind!



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2021/2022-MBWG Dates:

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

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



Have a gourd-geous Halloween!!

Presidents Message by Debbie Johnson –



Fall Greetings to all! Thank you to everyone who joined us at Roseville Center Park For our September Guild meeting! The weather was a bit nippy in the morning, but it was great fun to see everyone and share some laughter! We had several kits available in exchange for 'at will' offerings and raised \$192 for our Random Acts of Kindness fund. A big thank you to Sarah Peterson, who hauled over a lot of basket weaving materials from the Textile Center Garage Sale donations! We were able to provide these treasures as a private 'pre-sale' to our members.

We will be rolling out our monthly meeting/classes slowly this season. We are watching and waiting to see if opportunity will arise for us to be able to meet in person and want to be able to pivot quickly, should in-person meetings become a possibility. In the meantime, we are able to bring you guest instructors that otherwise would be cost prohibitive, include Jane Wilson from Oregon for our October meeting and Polly Adams-Sutton for the March meeting. In the meantime, monthly meeting will continue to be held via zoom. Mark your calendars and save our Guild meeting dates:

October 23; November 20; December 11; January 22; February 26; March 26; April 23; and May 21.

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

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

Do you have a particular instructor/basket you would like to suggest? Let us know! Maybe you would like to teach a class for us. We would love to support our local instructors!

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 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. Board meeting are typically held on a Monday evening. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday October 18, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM.

Membership Updates from Sarah Peterson-



Hello everyone! -

I hope everyone has been enjoying the beautiful Fall weather! It has been glorious! First - Thank you to everyone who has sent in their membership renewal! It is wonderful to see! And to those who have not, please consider sending in your membership dues soon.

Membership dues are very reasonable, and that membership gives you access to:

- Join guild basket classes from national and international instructors at very reasonable rates (membership is required to access guild classes).
- Borrow books from the extensive Textile Center library, including many textile and fiber resources.
- Borrow basket molds that can be used for projects by any of our members. I will have the full inventory to share shortly.
- Access to periodic sales of basket materials at very economic rates.
- Learn about new and fun basket tricks and tips from a wonderful group of basket weavers!

Thank you and please send in your membership dues if you have not sent already:

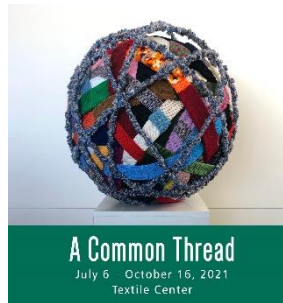
Mail \$25 checks, made out to MBWG to the following address:

Minnesota Basket Weavers Guild
c/o Textile Center Box #7
3000 University Ave SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Please include your street address, email and phone number.

Warmest regards,
Sarah Peterson

Textile Center –



A Common Thread, the member show, at the Textile Center is winding down! The show continues until October 16th, so if you haven't seen it yet, check it out! 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.

Congratulations State Fair Winners!



We happily congratulate all the Minnesota State Fair Basketry competition winners! You are a deserving bunch – beautiful baskets!

Class: 9328 -

- Plaited Basketry – Alice Ford
- Ribbed Basketry – Sharon Belsaas
- Coiled Basketry – Nancy Preckshot
- Basketry, other technique or mixed technique – Louis French

Class: 9501 -

- Over 65 – Sharon Belsaas

November 20, 2021 – Via Zoom - Harvesting and Weaving with MN Foraged Fibers – Mercedes Tuma-Hansen, Guest Instructor



Instructor Bio: Mercedes is a history educator in the Twin Cities area where she enjoys teaching American Indian and environmental education programs at schools, senior centers and nature parks. During the pandemic she has adapted to online teaching. Learning to teach as a tour guide at the Minnesota Historical Society, Mercedes won a national award for developing a museum education program there. By teaching historic traditions like net making, and pioneer and foraging skills, and making traditional art with a modern twist, Mercedes continues to pursue her passion for connecting the past to our modern lives. She and her husband and toddler have recently embarked on a farm adventure with chickens and cats and have begun planting nut and maple trees.

Nature provides many wonderful fibers. This course is an opportunity to play with a variety of plants that grow right here in Minnesota and that people have been using for hundreds of years to make rope and string. Dogbane, cattails, basswood trees, and flax plants all have long, strong fibers in them that have many uses. The Ojibwe of northern Minnesota used basswood bark to sew and tie their world together without metal nails. And Scandinavian fishermen used natural fibers to weave their nets. In this course you will learn about the process of harvesting and processing wild fiber plants, and you will get to play with twisting the plant fibers into twine. As a fun way to create a finished product from your twining samples, you will fashion your different pieces of cordage into a bookmark, bracelet, necklace, or other small item of your own imagination! It is fun to feel and compare each plant and discover the product of your work. You will come away with your samples of twine and the knowledge about plant fibers.



Cost: \$55.00

Registration Deadline: October 25, 2021. Please complete the November 2021 Class Registration Form and mail in.

Time: 10AM-1PM

Materials List: Beads with larger holes, ribbons, buttons, yarn or fabric scraps to incorporate into your projects. Scissors, glue (any kind).

NOTE: Plant materials for class will need to be picked up from Textile Center. Details will follow. If you need materials mail to you, additional fees will need to be charged (whatever the actual cost will be)

Save the date! March 26th (Zoom) – Guest instructor Polly Adams Sutton!! Polly specializes in hand harvested Red Cedar Bark and wire. If you are familiar with the book “500 Baskets”, Polly’s basket is the front cover. More information to follow. Here is a link to the book - <https://www.amazon.com/500-Baskets-Celebration-Basketmakers-Art/dp/1579907318>

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 \(Gallery 281\)](#)

Weaving Magic, Association of Michigan

Basket Weavers - October 20-24, Grand Rapids, MI, In person Conference.



Textile Center – Intro to Coiling

November 18, 2021, 6-9pm In person class, Instructor Alonzo Pantoja, \$54-60 class fee.



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.



Textile Center – Gift Wine

Basket - November 30 and December 2, 2021, 10am-1pm In person class, Instructor Debbie Johnson, \$106.20-\$118 class fee.

American Swedish Institute - Woven Wheat Christmas Ornaments, December 15th, 1-4pm in person class, Instructor Bonnie Buzza, \$55/\$65 class fee. Current wait list for this class.



American Swedish Institute – Coiled Basket Workshop, January 13, 2022, 6:30-8:30pm, virtual class. Instructor, Teresa Audet, \$60/70 class fee.



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.

September Rock Weaving Class – Looks like it was fun!



Bad Basketry Joke Corner -



I grew up in a family of potters.

I told my dad, “I don’t want to make pots anymore, I want to make baskets.” He was FURIOUS.

He said,

“Go. Weave.”