

**MINNESOTA BASKET  
WEAVERS GUILD**

***Spokes and Weavers***

Minnesota Basket Weavers Guild Newsletter



Oct 2014- Year 18 Issue 4

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**Message from the President**



**Hello all weavers!**

Karen Tembreull's Summer Event baskets were amazing! I know everyone who participated in her classes created a great basket and learned all about Karen's materials and techniques! Thank you, Alice Ford, for organizing the event and preparing the menu and food!

STATE FAIR WINNERS! Two of our members won ribbons this year, Alice Ford took away three first place ribbons, and Katherine H Buenger received two ribbons! Way to go, gals!

The National Basketry Organization ([nationalbasketry.org](http://nationalbasketry.org)) is planning to have their national meeting in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area in July 2015. Stay tuned for more news!

First post-summer board meeting was on September 23rd. And a reminder that MBWG members are invited to come to the Board meetings; we meet the Tuesday before guild meetings at the Highland Bakery and Café in St. Paul at 6:00 PM. If you plan on joining us, let me know and I can forward you the month's agenda.

Guild classes started up again on September 27. The fall and winter will promise to offer great classes and events. MBWG basket classes are listed in this newsletter and will be on the MBWG website soon. Thank you, Julie for all your work! Julie Pleski will also be taking the class registrations.

Bingo activities are full swing! Volunteer sheets have been sent out. We need BINGO baskets!

So - KEEP ON WEAVING!

Enjoy the autumn colors and hope to see everyone at BINGO! Louanne Hipp

## MBWG Board 2013

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### Librarian/Historian

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Nancy Fulton  
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651-552-1453

### Registration

Julie Pleski  
[jpleski@yahoo.com](mailto:jpleski@yahoo.com)

In this edition of 'Spokes and Weavers'

- **Search for the next Prez-Elect!**
- Summer event recap and pictures
- Requests for 2 teachers
- **Basket Bingo update and flyer**
- Another Summer, Another Conference by Alice Ford
- Underwater basket weaving
- Treasurer's report

Upcoming classes and workshops including:

- Tressa Sularz at the White Bear Center for the Arts
- Cabin Fever in Owatonna and Weavin in Winona
- Wisconsin Weave Away
- Headwaters Basketmaker's Guild Workshop
- Guild events
- NBO Summer Workshop 2015
- 2015 Tentative Guild Schedule

**President-Elect!** We need one for next year (and the year after as **President.**) Is this you? Have you been wondering how you can volunteer to help the guild? Now is your chance! Ask Louanne Hipp for details of duties and **how much fun it is!**

The **Summer Event** was held July 25-27. We had a nice size group of weavers enjoying the fabulous creativity of **Karen Tembreull**.

Karen shared her love of nature with four different baskets. She started with the **Bull Nose Basket** made from poplar bark. Karen cut the strips and had the group weaving little pouches. For handles, lashing and fill, cordage made from birch, rush and iris leaves was taught. It was fun and challenging. The result was a little pouch to hang on a hook or door knob.

Later, the **Pine Pocket** was the highlight. What a treat that basket is! Karen cut the pine bark and prepared it in such a way that it looked and felt like leather. The group had fun making this one too. It is a rustic basket that would look good at the cabin or in any spot on the wall.

Quite a group turned out to make the **Patchwork Sewing Kit**. Karen had her hands full showing how to cut the birch bark and lash the bark on the pieces in a decorative way that each person designed themselves. The colors and designs created were beautiful. It was a delighted group of weavers that completed Karen's class.

The **Bias Woven Bark Basket** was another product of nature. Three types of bark went into the final basket-birch, poplar and elm. Karen prepares each type of material in a very careful manner. She collects the bark herself. She cleans and soaks and cuts each item to work well with the basket she has chosen. We were so very privileged to have Karen teach our **Special Summer Event**.

All the classes were terrific. The materials were top notch. The design of the baskets exciting to make . Karen's teaching adds so much to the class by telling and showing how she prepares the material.

It was a fabulous 3 days of weaving.

Submitted by,  
**Alice Ford**

## 2 requests for teachers:

- 1.) My name is Pam Herda and I am a second grade teacher at Morris Bye Elementary in Coon Rapids. This year our students will be learning all about the Ojibwe tribe. As part of the unit we will be learning about how the Ojibwe made and used baskets. That got me to thinking if there were any resources available in our area where people who knew how to actually make a basket could share that information with our classes? We will have roughly 70 second graders this year that are divided into 3 classrooms. Our unit begins at the beginning of January. I am reaching out to you to see if this is something that you or your group is able to help us with? This unit is new to us.

Please contact Pam @ [herdafamily@gmail.com](mailto:herdafamily@gmail.com)

- 2.) The North Valley Arts Council is involved in a program called "Art for Life". The project utilizes art therapy and art activities for those in long term care to help them with loneliness, boredom and helplessness. We have partnered with Valley Memorial Homes in Grand Forks for this project.

I am putting together a list of artists who might be interested in participating in the project this session. It would involve the artists letting the residents create their own art whether it be painting, quilting, dancing, etc. The artist would offer assistance to the resident in completing the art project. Being as your organization does basket weaving, I would be interested in obtaining a name of someone that would like to participate in helping the residents create a work of art. We are focusing on folk art for this session.

This cycle runs from now until June 30, 2015. We are looking for artists who can commit to 1-1/2 hour a week for several weeks or more to work on a project and also for artists who can come in several hours a couple times. We pay the artists an agreed upon fee for their time and supplies.

If you know of an artist that might be a good fit for this opportunity and lives fairly close by East Grand Forks, I would appreciate it if you could give them my contact information. I submit the artists names to Dan, the activities director at Valley Memorial Homes and the residents then choose what art project they would like to do.

Thank you

Kathy Emmons  
Event Coordinator  
North Valley Arts Council  
2 North 3rd Street, Suite C  
Grand Forks, ND 58203 [701-772-3710](tel:701-772-3710) [www.novac.org](http://www.novac.org) [www.MYNDARTS.com](http://www.MYNDARTS.com)

## BASKET BINGO!

BINGO 2014 is full swing! Jill Scarpari and Susan Burkhalter have the table decorations all set. Alice Ford is the Door Prize Coordinator, and needs 100+ small gifts, so please save whatever might come your way and volunteer to help her out now that the sign-up sheets have been sent out. You can bring your door prizes on Bingo Day!

Small and large tie-on Basket Bingo MBWG 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser October 25, 2014 cards are available for all your baskets, email me and I can snail mail you some if you'd like, or they can be tied on when you bring your baskets on Bingo Day!

Raffle tickets are available; please email me if you would like to have some to sell before Bingo day.

Basket weavers! We need approximately 25 large baskets and 25-30 small baskets for the games, 6 Themed Raffle baskets, 5 Bucket Raffle baskets and 1 NEW Ticket Raffle basket. Whew! That's a lot of weaving going on – how fun! ☺ Please let me know by e-mail [louanne.hipp@mac.com](mailto:louanne.hipp@mac.com) what baskets you plan to donate.

Volunteer Sign-up sheets were sent out, if you didn't get an email inviting you to volunteer, just let me know!

Can't wait to see all the delightful Bingo baskets that everyone has created and I am looking forward to having a great fundraiser event!

Can't wait to see all the delightful Bingo baskets that everyone has created! ☺!

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## UPCOMING CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

### **\*Classes with Tressa Sularz at the White Bear Center for the Arts.**

For questions about these classes: contact Tressa at [tressasularz@gmail.com](mailto:tressasularz@gmail.com)

To register for either class contact the White Bear Center for the Arts at [651.407.0597](tel:651.407.0597).

[White Bear Center for the Arts \[All Classes\]](#)

#### **PINE NEEDLE BASKETRY WORKSHOP – Saturday, October 4, 2014**

Explore pine needle basketry using the traditional coiling basketry technique. The basis of your project is a gourd shard prepared for you to begin stitching pine needles to create a

vessel. We will be using beautiful longleaf pine needles. Gathering needles, cleaning and preparing them for use, and all the techniques to finish your piece will be discussed in class. Size varies – approximately 5". Any level of experience is welcome! All supplies are furnished. Bring a sharp scissors. **Material Fee: \$13.00**

**NOTE:** Photo is a sample, not an exact example. Size and shape varies with each gourd shard.



**TULIPE BASKET – Wednesday, October 22, 2014, 9 am – 3 pm**

In class you'll be working with pre-woven natural rattan. This is a different approach to constructing a basket vs weaving a basket. You will first create a pattern using paper. This process is similar to origami, and could be translated to paper, fabric, or other material you might want to explore at another time. Various objects/beads will be provided to tie into place the shape you desire. You will receive two pieces of the pre-woven rattan allowing you to make a second one at home. This basket makes a great gift. All levels of experience welcome. **Material fee: \$18.75.** Bring a basketry cutter; spoke weight, tape measure, pencil, mister.

Please join us for **Cabin Fever Weavin' on January 10th and 11th, 2015 in Owatonna MN.** We have scheduled **Marlys Sowers** to teach a few of her baskets and **Pam Ihle** to teach her **Viking Knit Bracelet**. To be added to the list of those receiving email notices, contact **Deb Mather** - [weavinwinona@gmail.com](mailto:weavinwinona@gmail.com). Complete information will be available soon, then a link will be posted on [www.weavinwinona.com](http://www.weavinwinona.com) Thank you!

The **22<sup>st</sup> Annual Weavin' in Winona Basket Workshop will be June 26th, 27th, and 28th, 2015** at Tau Conference Center of Winona State University, Winona MN. You are invited to share a wonderful experience of basket weaving with talented teachers who have been invited to instruct and share their talents. Join us for 3, 2, or even 1 day of relaxation and fun. We look forward to seeing you again to renew old friendships or meeting you for the first time to create new ones. **Complete information can be found on the web site** and a workshop brochure can be printed from: [www.weavinwinona.com](http://www.weavinwinona.com) which should be updated later in January. If you would like to receive email notification when the information is available or if you have any questions, please contact Deb Mather at [weavinwinona@gmail.com](mailto:weavinwinona@gmail.com) Thank you

Yes! The **Wisconsin Weave Away**, is **March 13-15, 2015**. Look for registration info on **The Basket Patch** website and sign up on line or via snail mail beginning **October 15th**. All class assignments are given in the order the registrations come in or post marked date. Teachers are..... drum roll..... **Jackie Bedworth** (willow), **Jeanne Dudley** (brooms), **Annetta Kraayeveld** (reed), **Ellie Lidda** (reed), **Shirley Mount** (Nantucket), **Jeanie Penick** (Shaker tape stool), **Judy Wilson** (Twined Trays and coiling).

Shirley will be **teaching in November at our guild meeting**, people can order reed, handles, stain, tools or whatever and save on shipping!! Because Shirley will deliver it that day (if it is convenient for you). Find more info on her website:

[www.thebasketpatch.com](http://www.thebasketpatch.com)

## **NBO Summer Workshop 2015-July 14-19, 2015**

The teachers have been chosen for this workshop scheduled for next summer. They are:

- April Stone-Dahl from WI-Black Ash
- Nick Dillingham from MI- twill weave backpack
- Jarrod Stone-Dahl from WI-folded and etched birch work
- Dawn Walden of MI-birch bark and porcupine quill
- Vladimir Yarish from Russia -Russian birch bark traditions
- Jo Campbell-Amsler from IA -ribbed willow baskets
- Pam Talsky of WI -cedar bag project
- Jo Stealey from MO -armatures
- Ann Coddington Rast of IN -conceptual work with twining
- Donna Kallner from WI-contemporary looping
- Mary Hettmansperger of IN -free form ribbed basketry
- Carol Eckert from NM-basketry techniques in wall hangings
- Norman Sheffield-knotting
- Emily Dvorin and Lois Russell-beginning basket weavers

For more information go to the NBO website-nationalbasketry.org The conference will take place at Macalester College in St. Paul, MN registration starts January 15<sup>th</sup>. You must be a member of the NBO to attend the conference.

## Upcoming guild classes/events:

- Oct. 25: Basket Bingo
- Nov. 22: Wheat Woven Holiday Ornaments, teacher Bonnie Buzza and Basket Purse, teacher Shirley Mount
- Dec. 13: Annual Christmas Party and Potluck. Activities include making gift baskets for the women's shelter, Alexander House and basket exchange.

Find more details on the MBWG website.



November 22<sup>nd</sup> classes-Wheat Woven Holiday Ornaments and Basket Purse

**Save the date for the Headwaters Basketmaker's Guild 2015 workshop-April 17, 18 and 19 2015 at Concordia Language Villages near Bemidji, MN. Teachers will be announced soon.**



## 2015 Guild classes-Tentative Schedule

January 24-Leslie Granbeck - Nuno Felted Table Runner  
Shirley Mount - Nesting Nantuckets

February 28- Tressa Sularz - Trillium Coiled Basket  
Della Pleski - Antler Hen Basket

March 28- Jo Guttormson - Paul Bunyan Bike Basket  
Julie Pleski - Wavy Star Base

April 25- Karen Kotecki - Waffle Cone  
Debbie Mroczenski - Midnight Enchantment

May 16- Louanne Hipp - Plaited Heart Shaped Basket  
Nancy Miller - Glove Basket

September 26- Roxanne Miller with Jill Scarpari - Tribute to Grace Kabel - Little Onion Harvest Basket  
Annetta Kraayveld-TBD possible Friday night and Saturday classes?

November 21- Jill Scarpari - Snowman  
Nancy Miller - Christmas Card Sleigh Basket

Watch for more details coming in at the MBWG website and  
January newsletter.



Jan-Leslie Granbeck



Jan-Shirley Mount

## Another Summer, Another Conference By Alice Ford

Another summer, another opportunity to attend another basket conference.

Last summer, I attended the Missouri Conference in Kansas City. This year, the Conference was in St Louis. It was held at the Marriott West. The accommodations were very nice. There was lots of space. It was a smaller turn out than last year but lots of great teachers.

This year, I took a twill basket from Tika Tucker, called "Going Green". Earlier this year, Tika taught in North Carolina. That class was so much fun, I had to take another one from her. It was a short 4 hour class, but everyone finished!

My next class was a ribbed basket-another type that I seem to put off learning.

Nancy Matthews was the instructor. What a delight that class was! We worked with elm and # 6 round reed. Using a rainbow of colors, the weaving was completed in record time. I either picked easy classes or the instructors were very good! The whole group just had a good time .It was a fun basket.

I saved the hardest for last. It was a two day class from the expert twiller Laura Lee Zanger.

This was the Choctaw design with four part twill. It is called the Sacred Fire.

This one is still not complete. It takes a lot more time than the 12 hour allotted. The results are beautiful. It is exacting but well worth the effort.

On Saturday evening, the Guild held it's annual business meeting and the awards for the baskets displayed throughout the conference. Officers for the Guild come from all over the State of Missouri. There appears to be lots of volunteers to hold the different positions that are open each year. It is a very enthusiastic group.

Each year a room is set aside for the different categories of baskets that are displayed . Basket weavers bring their baskets entered in several categories. Teachers, non teachers and novice weavers vie for the best in each group. The imagination that weavers have is amazing! It's very difficult to come up with the best one in each category. The Winners were very pleased.

Later that evening, Bonnie Gale gave a lecture on Willow Architecture. Bonnie is quite well-known in the field throughout the United State and Europe. She designs willow architecture in parks, private gardens and businesses. The structures last forever if properly maintained. Some examples of her structures are: a park bench surrounded by willow growing into a seat and a canopy for shade, a tunnel that provides a play space and a unique sculpture.

If you have an opportunity, take a class from Bonnie Gale. She offers lots of information about willow. The baskets she teaches are not garden size but inspirational.

I still have more teachers to take classes from: .Patty Feather, Debbie Hurd, Judith Kleinrath, and Jeanne Dudley are just a few. Plus there are so many baskets that look like so much fun to make.

Each time I attend a conference or workshop I ask. Would I like to do this again? What did I learn? And was it worth my time and money.

Yes, I do like the Missouri Conference. The teachers are excellent. The members are nice, helpful, and friendly. It is a very warm and very welcoming group. Try it out next summer.

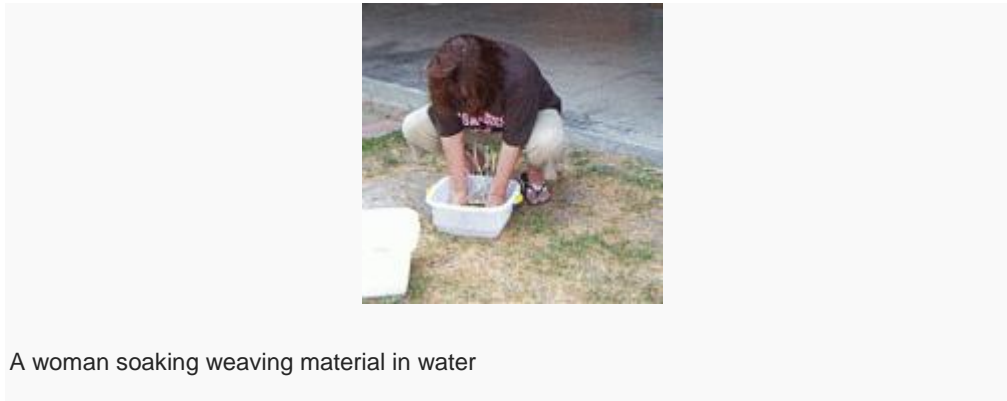
It is July 30- August 2, 2015. It will be held Hilton Garden Inn, Independence, Missouri.

Website: Missouri Basketweavers Guild

## Underwater basket weaving

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. **Underwater basket weaving** is an [idiom](#) referring in a negative way to supposedly easy and/or worthless [college](#) or [university](#) courses, and used generally to refer to a perceived decline in educational standards. The term also serves as an intentionally [humorous](#) generic answer to questions about an [academic degree](#). It is also used to humorously refer to any non-academic elective course, specifically one that does not count towards any graduation requirements. **Possible origin of the phrase**



A woman soaking weaving material in water

In [weaving willow](#) baskets, a trough of water is needed in which to soak the dried willow rods. They are then left to stand until [pliable](#) and ready to be used in weaving. The weaving is, however, not done under water. An issue of [The American Philatelist](#) from 1956 refers to an Alaskan village where "Underwater basket weaving is the principal industry of the employables among the 94 Eskimos here. By way of explanation – the native reeds used in this form of basketry are soaked in water and the weavers create their handiwork with their hands and raw materials completely submerged in water throughout the process of manufacture".

## Early use

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The phrase in its [pejorative](#) sense has been used since at least the mid-1950s. In a letter to the editor of the [LA Times](#) in 1956, a correspondent bemoaned an alleged decline in academic standards among [college football](#) programs and mentioned "majoring in underwater basket weaving, or the preparation and serving of [smorgasbord](#), or, particularly at Berkeley, the combined course of [anatomy](#) and [panty-raiding](#)". The following year, an article in the [National Review](#) mentioned that "the bored students in the educationists' courses call those dreary subjects 'underwater basket-weaving courses'", and another year on a newspaper column noted that "One seaside university is bowing to the stern educational demands of the times by eliminating its popular course in underwater basket weaving". An article in the [Daily Collegian](#) at [Penn State University](#) in 1961 refers to a [parody](#) in which "a 'typical' Miami coed majoring in underwater basketweaving was interviewed". An article from 1976 refers to football players so dumb that they had to take underwater basket weaving, and another 1976 article refers to underwater basket-weaving as "an old old family joke".

Hello, Basket Makers! This is a reminder that our membership year runs January through December...and that it is time to start thinking about renewing your membership for 2015. The \$25.00 due is one of the best bargains in town!!!

To encourage you to renew soon, the Board once again voted to offer a free membership for the following year to the winner of a drawing to be held at the December meeting from the names of all the people who had renewed their memberships by that date.

I've attached a membership renewal form for your convenience--it is helpful if you complete it so I can double check your contact info. Also--if you change your e-mail address, please let me know...otherwise we won;t know how to reach you for messages, announcements, or newsletters.

See you soon! BB

**MINNESOTA BASKET WEAVERS GUILD  
2014 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Please complete this form and send with your check for \$25.00 annual dues to:

Treasurer, MBWG  
Mailbox #7  
Textile Center of Minnesota  
3000 University Avenue SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone A \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone B \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Treasurer's Report

We continue to have a typically healthy bank balance for this time of year, i.e. before Basket Bingo and after we've paid for next year's rent. We have about \$8,000 on hand, some \$650 of which is designated for Random Acts of Kindness. Members have been especially generous in supporting Random Acts, with both donations and purchases. This past summer RAK funded a class scholarship to someone to attend the summer event.

We lost a bit of money on the Summer Event, as we always do.... We subsidize the rent for the TC as a location, so that we can keep class prices as low as possible. Attendees pay only the teacher's fees and mileage.

I should note that Jean Ellingson generously hosted our teacher again this year, which helps to keep our costs down and makes for a nicer visit for the teacher. Thanks, Jean! And Alice Ford donated the lunches that were provided to the students and teacher. Thanks, Alice!

And note should also be made of Nancy Fulton's ongoing gift to the Guild of the cost to provide the Guild's awards at the State Fair. Nancy has done this for a number of years and I don't think we've ever given her a public thank you—which we do now!

We are down 9-10 people for memberships this year from last year—which was our best year in a long time. While the cost of the annual membership is low (only \$25—the best deal in town!!), and hence does not provide a major amount of revenue for the Guild (compared to Basket Bingo), the memberships represent an ongoing commitment of our members to the Guild—hence they are worth more than money to us. Your participation is invaluable—taking classes, helping with Basket Bingo, attending events like our holiday party with its new emphasis on donating baskets to women in need....By joining you are underwriting these and other Guild activities, and we count on your support. The Guild would not exist without the participation of our members!

Bonnie Buzza-Treasurer

## Pictures from the Summer Special Event





## Photos from the September meeting



Basket donations for Basket Bingo-looking good and keep them coming!!

# Minnesota Basket Weaver's Guild 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser

**Saturday, October 25, 2014**

**Doors Open: 11:00 am**

**Bingo Starts: 12:00 pm**

**Location: Textile Center of MN  
3000 University Avenue SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55414**

**See reverse side for Parking Options:**

**We suggest you carpool to avoid problems with congestion.**



**Tickets: \$15.00/set – 2 chances per Card  
(Additional sets of cards are available at an extra cost)**



**Refreshments will be available.**

**Raffle Tickets for baskets!**

**Basket Door prizes and more!**

**For more information, contact Louanne Hipp at [louanne.hipp@mac.com](mailto:louanne.hipp@mac.com)**





Textile Center  
3000 University Ave SE  
Minneapolis MN 55414

Located in the Prospect Park neighborhood at the corner of Arthur Ave SE and University Ave SE

- From I-94, take the Huron Blvd. Exit, just east of the Mississippi River.
- Follow Huron Blvd to Washington Ave and turn right.
- Turn right again immediately onto University Ave SE.
- Textile Center is approximately 1/2 mile, and located on the south side of the street, at the corner of University and Arthur.

## Parking

 **Textile Center Parking**  
Handicapped and 15 minute spaces available.  
Entrances to Textile Center from University Ave  
or from parking lot.

 **\$3 surface lot**  
Entrances available from 29th Ave or 4th Ave.

 **Evenings and weekends only.**  
Located behind BestCare. Please do not park  
in General NanoSystems lot.

Additional on street parking is available in the neighborhood surrounding Textile Center.  
Please obey posted signs.

Next edition of the newsletter will be January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. The snow will be flying and some of us will be very happy, however not most of us.

Editor's disclaimer: Once again forgive any unintentional errors I am sure I have made in this newsletter.

Last note: Send any ***additions, corrections, or articles*** you want addressed in the next newsletter to [jill.scarpari@gmail.com](mailto:jill.scarpari@gmail.com). And I do make mistakes that need correcting, I hope I finally have Bonnie Buzza's email address correct-she only had to tell me 3 times! Yikes! Sorry Bonnie, mea culpa.

Respectfully written/edited by Jill A Scarpari