

MINNESOTA BASKET

WEAVERS GUILD



Spokes and Weavers

Minnesota Basket Weavers Guild Newsletter

President's Message by Nancy Fulton

Oct 2017- Year 21 Issue 4



Happy Fall to Everyone.

I hope everyone had a great summer. I did two basket related trips this summer. In July I went to the National Basket Organization <http://nationalbasketry.org/> biannual conference in Tacoma Washington. The conference was at the University of Puget Sound and we stayed in student housing. The dorms were suites that had multiple single rooms with a shared bathroom and common area. The single rooms have the worst mattresses I'd ever tried to sleep on. A solid sheet of plywood for the box spring and one thin mattress, oh to be young enough to be able to sleep on anything. What made it all worthwhile was taking a four-day class from Kathey Ervin <http://www.thebasketrystudio.com/>. Kathey works in red cedar and yellow cedar. These are marvelous materials to work with, red cedar is like a soft reed and yellow cedar is almost like a soft leather. We used the yellow cedar more as an accent since it is not as readily available. Red cedar is harvested by removing the bark vertically up the tree but only in about 25% of the tree. In fact someone in our class has a red cedar in her yard and the arborist said it had been harvested decades ago and the tree obviously survived.

In September I took a Road Scholar <https://www.road scholar.org/> class at Snow Farm in Massachusetts <http://www.snowfarm.org/> from Jackie Abrams <http://www.jackieabrams.com/>. Jackie taught us cat head baskets woven from heavy watercolor paper. We painted both sides of the paper with acrylic paint and then used a pasta cutter to cut the paper into strips. Jackie is a marvelous teacher with infinite patience. The class had several total novices who had never woven a basket and everyone completed at least one basket and got another basket started.

Remember that Basket Bingo is coming up on Saturday October 28th and we need donated baskets and people to help with the event. This is a great event because it is fun to attend and it raises the money we need to be able to teach classes.

Nancy Fulton

MBWG Board 2017

President & TCM Liaison

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n-fult@umn.edu
651-552-1453

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Past President

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651-454-3415

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Julie Pleski
jpleski@yahoo.com

Librarian/Historian

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612-781-2304

Librarian/Historian

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Newsletter Editor

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jill.scarpari@gmail.com
651-322-1964

Basket Bingo Co- Chairs

Suzette Leizinger
aslzinger@gmail.com
952-212-4408
Jean Ellingson
952-949-2026

Special Event Chair

TBD

Hospitality-Everybody!

FB Liaison

In this issue:

- Prez message
- PrezElect! Still need FB Liaison
- Basket Bingo-Jean E
- Basket Bingo Flyer
- A Brief History of MBWG
- MBWG Exhibit at the Textile Center-Jeannie and Debbie with photos
- Upcoming events and classes plus call for teachers
- Do you know this founding member?
- Textile Center info
- Sept photos, Birthday gift, State Fair Winners
- Treasurer's Report-Bonnie B.
- MBWG Membership Info
- Class Registration Form
- What is it?

Exciting news!!

We have a President Elect!
It is Debbie Johnson. Thank
and congratulate her next
time you see her.

Facebook Liaison

Let's join the current culture and exhibit our
handicraft on social media! I know someone
out there **looooves Facebook** and can help
us out! Check out Headwaters on FB or
other groups to have an idea what they do
to promote their organization. **WE NEED
YOU!** So we stay current and relevant.
Consider volunteering for this position.

ATTENTION GUILD MEMBERS (or others reading this incredibly interesting Newsletter)

It is time for the premier basket event of the year! The one, the only **BASKET BINGO!** (Imagine a roaring crowd cheering with shouts of great joy.) Just think, you - **YES YOU** - can donate baskets for prizes, help set up, play some bingo and hang around to participate in one of the fastest clean up sessions you will ever experience.

The fun starts at 9AM to set up. Doors for bingo open at 11AM. Bingo starts at 12PM. There will be 10 games (two chances to win in each game) and the cost is \$10. There will be the always popular MBWG light lunch available for a nominal charge. (Really - the word nominal in this article, that's ridiculous.)

Speaking of lunch, remember there is also an opportunity to show off your baking skills. The guild provides bars and cookies (no charge - not even nominal) for our guests. If you prefer to show off your purchasing skills, feel free to bring something from the ovens of Cub, Kowalski's, Lund's/Byerly's, HyVee or whatever fine establishment allows you to use their ovens.

Contact Suzette Leizinger (aslzinger@gmail.com) or Jean Ellingson (jellngsn@gmail.com) with questions. Jean is trying to learn all the details of roads and traffic patterns in the Twin City area. If you need someone to pick your donation up, contact Jean and she will come to your home or meet you somewhere. Just think, donating a basket (or two) AND contributing to her higher education. What a bonus!

Summary:

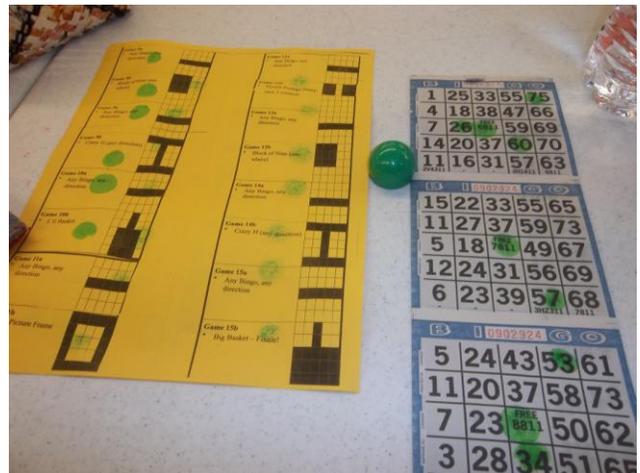
- * Basket Bingo October 28th
- * Set up starts at 9AM
- * Doors open at 11AM
- * Bingo starts at Noon
- * Baskets (both big and small) are needed and can be brought the day of bingo or Jean will pick them up
- * Raffle baskets are needed, let Jean know (new item not included above - tricky and attention getting isn't it)
- * Bars and cookies needed
- * Help needed to sell bingo cards (contact Jean if interested - snuck in another new item - just keeping it fresh)
- * Clean up follows the fun (does nothing fun come without a price?)
- * If you cannot stay to clean up, not a problem - please come just for the fun

That's it. Thanks for your attention and your donations (of all types) needed for this event.

Basket Bingo

Minnesota Basket Weavers Guild's 18th Annual Fundraiser

Saturday, October 28, 2017 (away football game at the U)



10 pairs of games

*Prizes: Handmade Baskets
by members of the Minnesota Basket Weavers Guild!!!!*

Doors open at 11:00 AM Play begins at Noon

Visit the Guild's 20th Anniversary Exhibit at the Textile Center,
or enjoy one of our famous hot dogs...or both!

Textile Center, 3000 University Ave. SE

Free parking behind the Textile Center and in 2 adjacent lots,
or ride the light rail to the adjacent stop

\$10 (return to 2015 prices) for an afternoon of Bingo

Additional sets of cards available for a nominal cost

Raffles Door Prizes Food Old Friends Fun

A Brief History of the Minnesota Basket Weaver's Guild Submitted by: Ann Danko

Initially organized in April, 1997 as the Basket Weavers Guild Midwest, the name was changed in 1998 to Minnesota Basket Weaver's Guild.

Fred Kogler was instrumental with the founding of our Guild. While vacationing in northern Itasca County, Fred became intrigued with birch bark baskets hand made by Helen Gustaveson. Fred also met Hans Evenson and Sid Rommel, both Black Ash basket makers in the area. After his return to the Twin Cities, Fred embarked on a search to find others interested in the art and craft of basketry. After searching on-line, he connected with a fellow basket maker, Betty Swanson. Together, they decided there would be enough interested basket weavers in the area to form a Guild. An ad was placed seeking other basket weavers that may have an interest in forming a Guild. Word spread quickly and the initial membership roster included 51 basket weavers.

The Guild's first meeting place was Emmanuel Lutheran School, followed by The Barn at The Preserve in Eden Prairie, before making our home at the Textile Center of Minnesota, after its current location opening in 2001.

Since its inception, the Guild has grown to support awards at the Minnesota State Fair, our Random Acts of Kindness program, and the annual Christmas Giving, when our members make and fill 30+ baskets for donation to the Alexandria House women's shelter. The Guild also conducts an annual fund raising event 'Basket Bingo', which helps fund rent expenses and our continued support at the Textile Center of Minnesota. You can join in the fun of Basket Bingo this year on Saturday October 28th, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.!

An article from the first newsletter, by Fred Kogler:

Anyone who has set about to 'make a basket' knows how important it is to properly get started. Pattern in mind, materials on hand, and the desire to bring together the various elements available one begins. The goal is to craft something that will serve a long time, while being beautifully functional. To bring the creation to completion is still another part of the whole scheme.

That's what The BASKET WEAVERS GUILD-MIDWEST is all about. The vision to bring together the various elements that make up a guild, to establish something that is lasting and functional, and to cultivate and continue the friendships that emerge, to stimulate growth in knowledge and skills, and to contribute to the overall wellbeing of many through the practice of basket weaving is our goal. We hope to begin with some old friends and to gain many new ones. Though weaving may seem to be solitary as an activity, it may certainly also be the basis for many friendships and fond memories.

In addition to the common interest in an ancient craft, there is always the thrill of learning, growing and developing through the shared knowledge of others who practice the same art. To learn anew the importance of careful precision, to redevelop one's discipline of patience and tenacity, and to observe the creativity of others and find it awakens an untapped notion or

individual nuance is a part of the goodness of working with another weaver. So we welcome you and hope that we will find a common ground and mutual benefit from this joint venture. Fred Kogler

Past Presidents of the Guild:

Fred Kogler | Diane Ericson | Jill Scarpari | Sandi Quint | Janet Prow | Mary Konobeck | Juli Fick
| Jean Ellingson |
Linda Wilcox | Bonnie Buzza | Alice Ford | Louanne Hipp | Christine Dellwo | Nancy Fulton
(current)

Our Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Guild is to bring together individuals in Minnesota and the region, who have an interest in baskets and the creating of baskets; to cultivate and continue the friendships that emerge; to stimulate growth in knowledge and skills; and to contribute to the overall wellbeing of many through the practice of basket weaving.

MBWG – 20th Anniversary Textile Center Exhibit – 2017



For all of you who have had an opportunity to view our Guild's exhibit at the Textile Center, we hope it brings joy and inspiration! The installation was completed Friday September 1st, and will remain until October 28th. If you have not yet seen it, we hope you find an opportunity prior to the de-installation!

A special thank you must indeed go out to Martha Bird, who not only had the recollection that 2017 was the 20th anniversary of our Guild, but also initiated conversation with the Textile Center to schedule the opportunity to produce an exhibit. As a result of her efforts, our Guild was on the calendar for the Guild Wall exhibit space for September and October! The opportunity for the Pat O'Connell Library exhibit space was also on the table.

This past Spring, Jeanie Wilcox and Debbie Johnson teamed up, co-chairing an exhibit. Further discussions with the Textile Center resulted in securing the Guild Wall, the Pat O'Connell Library and the Community Wall for the months of September and October. This would keep the exhibit in place through our annual Basket Bingo fund-raising event on October 28th. Our main contacts at the Textile Center were Sharon Mulhollam, Membership Coordinator (Guild Wall), Tracy Krumm, Consultant, Artistic Advancement (Library and community Wall space) and Jenny Jones, Director of Communications (Textile Center website and mailing announcements). Having all three spaces for both months has drawn greater exposure to our Guild, the diversity of basket making and our resource of talent!

A call went out to all our members to consider submitting baskets for the exhibit. The focus was for basketry to be original pieces designed by members, diversity of materials and of a size conducive to the display areas. Works that had been made through class instruction or from artist patterns needed to be disclosed in order to provide credit to originating artists. Additional volunteers stepped in to help too. Ann Danko, Della Pleski and Julie Pleski assisted Debbie and Jeanie reviewing submitted work. Ann, Julie and Jean Ellingson helped as additional 'drop-off' points to collect the art work over the summer.

Guild members contributing art work for the exhibition:

*Martha Bird / Katherine Buenger / Bonnie Buzza / Ann Danko /
Alice Ford / Debbie Johnson / Cathryn Peters / Della Pleski / Julie Pleski /
Jill Scarpari / Paul Scarpari / Jeanie Wilcox / Linda Wilcox*

The installation itself began August 29th and was completed September 1st. All gallery space at the Textile Center was transitioning at the same time. We pitched in with wall patching, sanding, cleaning, moving display cases, up and down ladders. It was a flurry of activity! A very well attended artist reception was held September 7th, primarily showcasing the Jerome Foundation exhibitors in the Joan Mondale gallery space. Our Guild exhibit was given recognition by Karl Reichert, Executive Director of the Textile Center. Many compliments were overheard from guests and artists alike! In addition, recently retired Exhibition and Program Coordinator Kraig Rasmussen described the exhibit as 'amazing'. What a wonderful compliment!

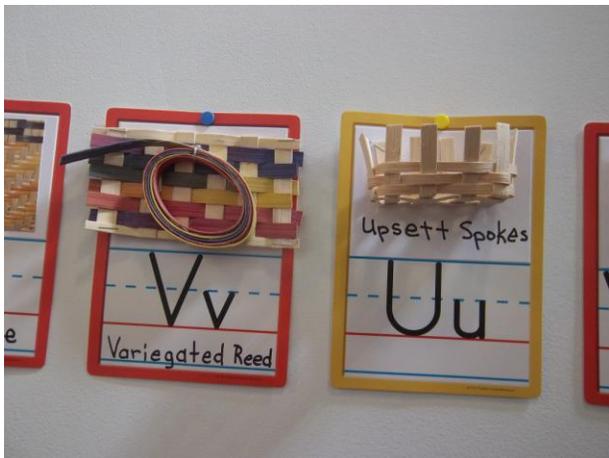
The design and creation of the Guild Wall exhibit was the idea and development of Jeanie Wilcox! The 'ABC's' of basketry, together with information of events our Guild participates in and benefits of membership worked very well to tell our story and take advantage of the start of the school year. A Textile Center member shared that in her opinion, we had set a new bar for other guild displays! Many visitors to the Textile Center were intrigued with the display and took time to check out all the information!

Thanks must also go to Jeanie for her creation of the Community Wall. Jeanie happened to have three large banners from prior 'Art on Main' events in Zumbrota, MN illustrating basketry. She added the guild name to one of the banners too. Suspending the banners on the wall provided an invite to guests entering the Textile Center, drawing their curiosity to find the exhibits.

Securing the Pat O'Connell Library gallery space was key for the exhibit. Showing the three-dimensional art work of baskets could not have been done well without this space! Through the generous contributions from our guild artists, we were able to install pieces showing a variety of basketry technique, materials, size, color, tradition and abstract design. Visitors have been intrigued and captivated. Many, many visitors have spent time viewing, studying and taking pure enjoyment by the display. Textile Center employees have also shared many compliments about the exhibit, in particular librarian Nancy Mambi, who has a real appreciation for basketry!

In closing, we would like to share this.... The rewards from participating in this event by far outweigh the investment of time and effort! It has truly been a rewarding experience! When opportunities arise to volunteer to help our Guild, we strongly encourage you to step up to the plate. Helping hands lighten the load and always seem to appear. The more we do together strengthens our Guild, provides an opportunity to learn something new and build friendships we didn't know we needed!

Photos of our Guild Wall and Library Display for our 20th Birthday/Anniversary-See it before Oct 28th. This is just a quick snapshot of what Jeanie Wilcox and Debbie Johnson put together. And they did a fantastic job! Thanks for all the hard work ladies. Visit the Textile Center to see the whole display in all it's glory. Baskets displayed are from Martha Bird, Katherine Buenger, Bonnie Buzza, Ann Danko, Alice Ford, Debbie Johnson, Catherine Peters, Della Pleski, Julie Pleski, Jill Scarpari, Paul Scarpari, Jeanie Wilcox, and Linda Wilcox.









Our upcoming MBWG class and events:

October 28: **Basket Bingo**

November 18: Shirley Mount-A Charm



December 9 - **Annual Holiday Party**

- ❖ To see more information about these classes and events; also to **print forms for class registration**, please go to our website, www.mbwg.org/classes.html If you wish to take a class, please register for a class in advance to guarantee your spot in the class. This is becoming important since all instructors have minimum students required to keep the classes.

Julie is still looking for a few more teachers to ensure we have a great selection of classes. Let her know if you have an idea and want to teach.



Do you recognize this person? She is one of the founding members of the guild! She wandered into my booth at the Rosemount Country Faire and we immediately recognized each other. She still makes baskets from kits now and then. Check in the editor's disclaimer box at the end of the newsletter for her name and see if you have it right!

Ever wonder who to contact at the Textile Center for questions?

FOR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Executive Director

Karl Reichert, kreichert@textilecentermn.org

Classes, Outreach & Adult Education

Melisa Wahlstrom, mwahlstrom@textilecentermn.org

Gallery & Exhibitions

Tracy Krumm, tkrumm@textilecentermn.org

Library

Nancy Mambi, nmambi@textilecentermn.org

Marketing & PR, Textiles on the Town email newsletter

Jenny Jones, jjones@textilecentermn.org

Membership (Individual, Business & Guild), Rentals, Volunteering, Group Artmaking Experiences & Tours

Sharon Mulhollam, smulhollam@textilecentermn.org

Youth Education, Youth Fiber Art Guild, Field Trips, Birthday Parties

Scarlett Larson, slarson@textilecentermn.org

Shop, Facilities

Nancy Gross, ngross@textilecentermn.org

All this info is also available on the Textile Center Website <https://textilecentermn.org/>

There is lots of info at their website about happenings at the Textile Center and it is very easy to navigate. Happy surfing!

September Teachers 2017



Paul Scarpari practicing his craft.



Jill Scarpari showing her wares.

Potential new members and visitors in October 2017



Joyce and Rhoda who came with Pam Ihle. Shellie who is making her first basket ever!



Returning guild member, Marie.



And a birthday gift for everyone from the Guild.
Pick yours up at the next meeting you attend.
(Though not at Basket Bingo.)

And another birthday cake for our 20th Birthday Celebration.



Paul and Roxanne sharing a slice of chocolate birthday cake with cherries and whipped cream.



STATE FAIR BASKET WINNERS:

Sharon Belsaas above and the next 3 from Alice Ford. Great weaving ladies!



Treasurer's Report: **Lots of news and updates from Bonnie Buzza**

TREASURER'S REPORT

We continue with a healthy budget. Not having had a summer event the past couple of years our bank account was larger than its "average"—so we decided a birthday gift was in order. We hope you like your new, improved, tool-bag!

Members present in September received their bags then, and I will have them at the November and December meetings to pick up if you haven't gotten yours earlier. Basket Bingo in October is just too crazy for me to hand them out and mark off who has gotten them. After December I will mail them to the members who don't attend regularly. It's a cool bag!

Of course, **what makes a healthy budget is Basket Bingo, and we urge your continued support**. There are 2 things everybody can do...**donate your lovely baskets for prizes, and come play and bring your friends!** In early October I will be e-mailing a poster you can print off or forward to encourage attendance. We're back to \$10.00 for Bingo Cards, and a shorter afternoon of play. Bingo players who are not Guild members will also receive a birthday gift.....

NEW CLASS REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

We will soon be announcing our 2018 class schedule. November and henceforward we have a slightly different registration (payment) [procedure.... As a membership benefit, Guild members now get a class discount...thus there are member and non-member fees for the classes, reflected on the class schedule. To facilitate this, please use the NEW REGISTRATION FORM found on the website, and make your checks out to MBWG rather than to the teacher. Sent them to Julie with your registration as usual. She will work with the Treasurer, and the teacher will get 1 check from the Guild on the day of the class, for her/his teaching fee. Thanks for your help in implementing this!

WEBSITE

We got the webpage back on line and updated after issues of an expired domain name and out-of date contact information with the domain host. It was a busy couple of months!! Now we are wondering if and how we can upgrade our website to make it more inviting to site visitors and possibly easier to utilize via mobile phones. We'd appreciate your feedback to Bonnie at a special e-mail address of threadsbb@gmail.com on ideas for what you'd like to see on the site and what you'd like the site to do.....maybe we need to leap into the 21st century!!

Effective Fall 2017

Minnesota Basket Weaver's Guild Membership Information

- The Minnesota Basket Weaver's Guild was formed in April of 1997.
- Membership is open to all.
- Cost of membership is \$25.00 per year (beginning in 2007).
- Members receive a discount of \$5.00 on class prices.
- Guest weavers are welcome. There is always an open weave table so you can bring your own projects to work on.
- Guild membership runs January to December and may be paid after October 1st.
- Newsletters are published quarterly in January, April, July and October.

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held the fourth Saturday of the month at:

The Textile Center of Minnesota (TCM)

3000 University Avenue SE

Minneapolis, MN 55414

Unless otherwise noted, meeting times are:

8am – 9am: Set up, greetings

9am – 3pm (approx.) 12 noon Class time and open weave

12 noon: Informal business meeting

NOTES: Lunch time is on your own - bag lunches are suggested

1pm - 3 pm: Clean up and table break down

Space is always provided for weavers who choose to bring materials to weave on their own (the “open weave” table).

Please join us for a visit! Registration and payment for classes must be done in advance, so that the instructors can plan for the class, but visitors are welcome to come to the “open weave” table, or to just come and watch or visit.

There is usually more than one class offered per month; for over-enrolled classes, the date of receipt of registration and payment is used to select class members.

For class information, you can click on the “Class Schedule” link on our website or you can contact:

Julie Pleski

1492 Pascal Street North

St. Paul, MN 55108

jpleski@yahoo.com

What is it?



It is woven with randed willow. Handles are willow wrapped wire. Size is 14 inches high and 19 inches diameter.

1. Have you seen another basket like this?
2. What do you think it's purpose was?
3. What would you use it for?

Submit guesses to be shared at Christmas meeting to Jeanie Wilcox basket55992@yahoo.com

Editor's disclaimer: My favorite season will be here soon, although it has not been a horribly hot summer but still, gotta love that 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

PS-That is Irene Lambrecht!