

## President's Message

by Judy Robelotto

As you'll see in the meeting info, we're holding our Annual Meeting of the members in February (electing Treasurer and Vice President). There will be a basket given to one of the attendees as a door prize and a cute random weave heart mini-workshop.

Check out the calendar and meeting info pages to learn more about mini-workshops and activities.

We have been privileged to welcome several new members this past quarter [See Pg. 7]. I want to say thanks to all of you who continue to renew your memberships!

We're still looking for a volunteer to help coordinate mini-workshops and demo opportunities. This person would gather a few fellow members to brainstorm ideas and keep us on track [See Pg. 4].

There may still be some openings in the February Cael Chappell twined waxed linen classes. The LA Basketry Guild/MWGBG Joint Committee is working to bring us more special classes this year and in 2025.

Hope to see you at a future meeting!



We encourage Guild members to take at least one of the wonderful waxed linen twining special classes being taught by Cael Chappell in February [See Pg. 8] - Photo copyright Cael Chappell

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## Renew Your Membership!

Many thanks to those of you who have already renewed their membership. If you haven't already done so, please renew your Guild membership ASAP. Individual membership is \$25, Family membership \$30 and Corporate membership \$40 (free business-card size ads in quarterly newsletters).

For those who joined between September and December 2023, memberships are valid through December 2024.

Current members will be advised via email of the new Members Only password sometime in March.

### Upcoming Events

**February 4**

Annual Meeting, Elections, Potluck & Random Weave Heart Mini-Workshop

**March 3**

Meeting, Potluck & Fish Mobile Mini-Workshop

**March 9**

Encinitas Art Mart [See Pg. 7]

**April 7**

Meeting, Potluck & Nametag/Basket Start Mini Workshop

## Guild Member Exhibit

### "Woven Treasures"

January 12 - May 7, 2024

Encinitas Community Center

1140 Oakcrest Park Drive, Encinitas, CA (760) 943-2260

The Guild was contacted last fall to submit representative artwork to accompany our application to hold a Guild exhibit in 2024. The good news is that we were chosen to show our members' artwork. However, the Visual Art Committee's policy changed, and only those who submitted representative artwork are allowed to exhibit (not all members as before).

In mid-December, we were told we were assigned the January 2024 slot. The Guild owes many thanks to Grace Swanson for getting clarification on the new requirements. Working with our exhibitors, she fulfilled the last-minute requests by the Visual Arts Committee to gather the entry detail information and create the artwork ID tags.

We thank Debra Zimmerman, Grace Swanson, Carol Lang, Peggy Blessing, Sue Kamin, Natalie Kuhlman and Kiana Janneseri for responding to the call for representative artwork to display.

Please help spread the word and encourage your friends and family to visit this year's Guild exhibit. The Community Center is open Monday - Saturday, 8am-9pm; Sunday, 12pm-5 pm, (760) 943-2260. *[See Photos Pgs. 7 & 9]*

## April 7

### Meeting, Potluck & Basket Start/Nametag Mini-Workshop

The meeting format will be similar to that described in the March meeting info. Following these activities, Grace Swanson will teach those interested in taking the mini-workshop how to make a nametag using a basket start technique on a gourd shard. She will give a demo on five options/ideas and have samples (woodburning; dyeing with GourdMaster metallic dyes; chip carving; one row of pine needles; faux patina).

Grace will provide the supplies (prepared gourd shards; leather and felt for finishing the backs; cord for lanyards; pins for pin backs; dyes; pine needles; waxed linen; and sewing needle).

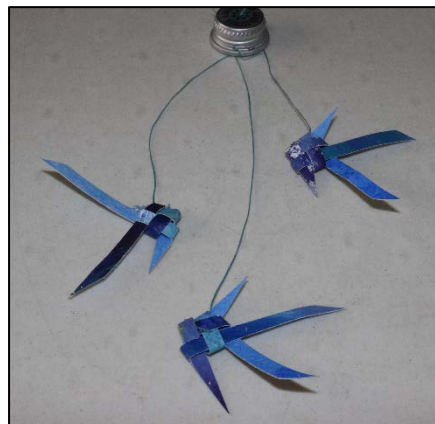
She will have the needed tools available to share, but if you have a wood burner and want to use this option, bring it along. There is a small fee for the mini-workshop.

You're welcome to join the 11:00 a.m. Board meeting.

A Zoom option will be available to members not able to attend in person (excludes mini-workshop).



Example of April Mini-Workshop - Photo by Grace Swanson



March Woven Fish Mobile Mini-Workshop Project -- Photo by Carol Lang

February 4

### Annual Members Meeting, Potluck & Random Weave Heart Mini-Workshop

We hope to see you at the annual meeting of the members starting at Noon. *[We meet outdoors under a covered patio, so please dress accordingly; electricity for crockpots, but no kitchen.]*

The agenda includes 2024 budget approval and election of the Vice President and Treasurer. There will also be a lovely door prize drawing awarded to one of the attendees. We are pleased to announce that Willie Ziegler has agreed to continue serving as our Treasurer and Alison Hiers has been nominated to fill the Vice President position.

After the meeting, there will be a show-and-share, announcements and potluck lunch.

Following lunch, there will be a random weave heart mini-workshop.

This project could be a great Valentine's Day gift!

Thanks to Debra Zimmerman for developing the test projects.

Since she will be out of town, Willie Ziegler has agreed to teach this project. Materials will be supplied, but it's suggested you bring scissors and a towel. There is a small fee for the mini-workshop.

You're welcome to join the 11:00 a.m. Board meeting.

Zoom option will be available to members not able to attend in person (excludes mini-workshop).



Photo by Debra Zimmerman

March 3

### Meeting, Potluck & Woven Fish Mobile Mini-Workshop

Continuing the new meeting format, the regular meeting will start at Noon with show and share, announcements and potluck lunch.

Following this, Carol Lang will show those interested in taking the mini-workshop how to weave a fish mobile from heavy duty watercolor paper, Pellon interfacing, or even magazine covers. You can attach the fish to a bottle cap (like in the photo on Pg. 2) or a shell with a hole in it or a stick or piece of driftwood for the hanger.

Material for the fish weaving and cordage to hang

## CALENDAR

~ Meeting Start Time Noon ~

February 4

Annual Meeting, VP & Treasurer Elections, Potluck & Random Weave Heart Mini-Workshop

February 17 & 18 in El Cajon

Cael Chappell Twined Pendant & Twining Exploration Classes *[See Pg. 8]*

February 24 & 25 in Los Angeles

Cael Chappell Twined Earring & Twining Patterns Classes *[See Pg. 8]*

March 3

Meeting, Potluck & Woven Fish Mobile Mini-Workshop

March 9

Art Mart During Encinitas Art Night at Encinitas Community Center (5:30-8:30pm) *[See Pg. 7]*

April 7

Meeting, Potluck & Nametag or Basket Start Mini Workshop

*Unless otherwise noted, meetings are from Noon to no later than 3:00pm the first Sunday of the month.*

### MEETING LOCATION

*Unless otherwise noted, San Dieguito Heritage Museum at Heritage Ranch, 450 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas, CA, 92024 (next door to the San Diego Botanic Garden; turn onto Ecke Ranch Road to access driveway)*

your piece will be provided. A copy of the directions will be provided. You will need to bring scissors. Optional: You can bring your own hanger or weaving material if you like. There is small fee for the mini-workshop.

You're welcome to join the 11:00 a.m. Board meeting.

A Zoom option will be available to members not able to attend in person (excludes mini-workshop).



## November &amp; December Meeting Memories



- Photos by Peggy Blessing

## Need A Ride?

If you need a ride to a meeting, please let us know! We will make every effort to find a fellow Guild member who either lives in your neighborhood or passes your location on the way to the Heritage Museum in Encinitas. This holds true if you would like to participate in a demo opportunity as well. Contact [editor@baskets-gourds.com](mailto:editor@baskets-gourds.com) if you're interested in exploring this option.

### Chairperson Needed for Workshops/Activities/ Demo Opportunities Committee

This important position has been vacant for a few years, and the existing leadership has been pulling double-duty in trying to fulfill these duties. We are seeking someone who can recruit a few Guild members to help them in brainstorming, scheduling and coordinating mini-workshops (generally simple projects that can be completed within two hours). This Committee would be welcome to consider special activities, such as meeting lectures or field trips in their planning.

It is important that we attract and inspire new members as well as continue to engage current members in these activities. We would be able to better promote a vibrant, active Guild if we could plan a rolling six months out.

This Committee would also coordinate volunteers for demo opportunities already scheduled. It would be ideal if this group would also seek additional demo opportunities to help recruit members and spread the word about basket and gourd art to the general public.

PLEASE HELP YOUR GUILD to continue to succeed and grow by stepping up to be Chairperson of this important Committee!

## From the Shed

*by Alison Hiers*

Happy 2024 everyone! I'm writing a new column to let members know what the Guild has in 'storage' for all of you. As some of you already know we downsized again from the 5 x 10 storage unit to a 5 X 5 storage unit and essentially cut our costs in half. But that means we're a weeeee bit tighter in there than we used to be. So I'll be bringing many of the items we have available to upcoming meetings for our "Orphan Fund" so they can find new homes and be used in your wonderful new projects.

In fact, I went and grabbed a base with handle and some reed, combined that with some yarn from my collection, and made the basket seen here! I have another one set to start soon. Although this type of basket is not my go-to kind to make, it is teaching me a whole bunch about shaping. So imagine what you might be able to explore doing with a new material or other item from our Fund.

In addition to materials like rings, reed, sliced stone, needles, kits, patterns, books, DVD's and handles, I will be bringing baskets we have that were donated to us. Beautiful pine needles baskets, gourd art and even some smaller pieces by Misti Washington herself.

Feel free to make material donations of your own to our Orphan Fund at each meeting if there is anything you would like to re-home. And a personal thank you to all those who have found new homes for many items already. It made the task of moving so much easier!

In the meantime please explore our goodies at each meeting and check out our inventory on the "Members Only" section of the website. Donations gratefully accepted.

Let's stretch our creativity in the New Year!

*[If you find something you're interested on the inventory list posted on the website, contact Alison, and a selection can be brought to the next Guild meeting or to make other arrangements ([librarian@baskets-gourds.com](mailto:librarian@baskets-gourds.com)).]*



## The Library Corner

*by Carol Lang*

Just a reminder that we have a library of over 300 books on basketry and gourd crafting available for our members to check out. We also have magazines and DVDs available. They are listed on the Members Only page of our website.

We are currently working on an update of our collection. As soon as the shelving is completed at Alison's home, we will re-inventory all the books and have our updated list posted on the website.

To check out a book, let the librarians know what book you want with the author listed first and then the title ([librarian@baskets-gourds.com](mailto:librarian@baskets-gourds.com)). We will bring the books to our next meeting where you can check them out. They are due back at the next meeting.

## Save the Baskets & Gourds! We Need Your Entries!

by Carol Lang

It's important that our Guild members keep the San Diego County Fair exhibit on their radar. We encourage everyone in the Guild to enter at least one basket or gourd in the next Fair (6/12 - 7/7/24). The theme is "Let's Go Retro." To help make this easier for you, we will be offering a group delivery and pick-up service! Details will be shared in the future.

There are two areas you can enter: **Fine Arts**, which is juried, and **Home Made**, which is not. As of this publication, entry for **both competitions** are due to open late January and **Online Entry Deadline is April 30, 2024**. If you only have a gourd or basket produced in a class as an option to enter into Home Made competition, all you need do is acknowledge the teacher (does not apply to Fine Art entries).

To give you food for thought, the following were the 2023 entry classes for you to consider: Basket, coiled; Basket other than listed; Gourd, Painted; Gourd, Wood Burned or Carved; Gourd, other than listed; Professional Basket; Professional Gourd.

When we talked to the people in charge of Home Made last June, they were discussing which categories were going to be discontinued in 2024 due to low entry numbers. Their reasoning was that, if only one was entered in a class, it really wasn't a competition.

We believe they eliminated Professional Gourd or Basket class as none were entered and were talking about eliminating Baskets, Coiled, as we only had two entries. Other categories previously eliminated due to low numbers were Non-Professional - Gourd or Basket; Rib Baskets and Splint Baskets; and Miniature Baskets. *[Sadly, we just learned that the Orange County Fair eliminated the category of baskets altogether.]*

You have time to get your Fair entries prepared, and we hope all of our Guild members will be able to participate this time.

Participants receive 1 free Fair ticket for each entry (Fine Arts receives 2 tickets). If that's not enough incentive, there are cash prizes awarded for Place winners and MWGBG awards a \$50 prize for the Best Gourd and the Best Basket. So why not take your chances and enter?

We are planning to participate in Home Made's public demonstrations as we have before. There's free entrance and parking for the volunteers. We always have a good time, meet a lot of nice people, and have time to take in the Fair. I hope more of you can join us this year.

Overall, this is one of our best outreach opportunities to educate the general public about gourd art and basketry. **Please help preserve the basket and gourd categories by showing your work!**

### The History Corner

by Carol Lang

Our guild was officially started in 1997, after our first Gourd & Basket Weekend at Quail Botanical Gardens, now known as San Diego Botanic Garden. The Guild's historians have been keeping track of our progress ever since then. The first historian was Molly Long. Carol Lang took over for her after she decided to retire.

We are now on our 15<sup>th</sup> year-book. Each book covers two years of our progress. If you would like to see any one of them, please contact the librarian and it will be available for you to look through at our next meeting. Presently they are not for check-out and are being kept at our storage unit.



## Opportunities

As a part of the Encinitas "Art Night" event, the Art Mart event will be held at the Encinitas Community Center (1140 Oakcrest Park Drive, Encinitas, CA), Saturday, March 9, 5:30-8:30pm. Because we are exhibiting in 2024, Guild members are invited to do demos as well as sell their basket and gourd art at this event. Let Peggy Blessing know by March 6 if you would like to participate in Art Mart ([editor@baskets-gourds.com](mailto:editor@baskets-gourds.com)).

The Community Center is providing two tables. We will be bringing table covers. If your artwork needs a stand, please bring your own and note whether or not the stand is included in your sale item. You will conduct your own sales transactions and supply your own tissue paper and bags.

Guild members who don't plan to participate in Art Mart are encouraged to stop by and to enjoy a Saturday evening of visual art as Encinitas civic and local art galleries swing open their doors at Art Night Encinitas. The event celebrates the city's diverse visual art scene at participating locations and is free to the public. Enjoy live music and refreshments at several locations. For information about Art Night:

<https://www.encinitasca.gov/government/departments/parks-recreation-cultural-arts/cultural-arts/art-night>

Carol Lang found an item at the "School of Basketry Art with Catriona Pollard" website you might be interested in. They are offering online courses for beginning and advanced levels of random weave basketry. After enrolling, you would have unlimited access to this course for as long as you like. ([https://schoolofbasketryart.com/p/soft-fibres-random-weave-for-every-level?\\_kx=ohKkmKs7Rp51F0TS4ma42Q8jSDaPh1cqsnNF0AT8yz7l-3uGGIOy59r81ZcZm76D.T8bJYS](https://schoolofbasketryart.com/p/soft-fibres-random-weave-for-every-level?_kx=ohKkmKs7Rp51F0TS4ma42Q8jSDaPh1cqsnNF0AT8yz7l-3uGGIOy59r81ZcZm76D.T8bJYS))

*Many thanks to the 2024 Encinitas Community Center Exhibit set-up team: Natalie Kuhlman, Grace Swanson, Peggy Blessing, Carol Lang, Sue Kamin. - Photo by Grace Swanson*



WELCOME New Members!  
Joe Budzik, Rebecca Gonzales, Carol Hansen,  
Kiana Janneseri, Margie Reck, Andrea Ware

Los Angeles Basketry Guild and Misti Washington Gourd & Basket Guild  
Proudly Present

### Special Classes with Cael Chappell

February 17 & 18 and February 24 & 25, 2024  
(Four 1-day, 8-hour Workshops; 10 Students Maximum)

*Cael Chappell has been working with basket weavers in Africa since 1991 and began to weave his own baskets in 2017. Using his innate understanding of basketry, he quickly developed his own unique style of whimsical weaving. His baskets exhibit personality and life which engages the viewer. Cael's work has been featured in many exhibitions and publications, and he has received prestigious artistic awards for his artistry. He is a popular presenter at weaving guilds and is writing a book on twining in waxed linen thread. To discover more about Cael and see examples of his wonderful artwork, visit his website:*

<https://caelchappell.com/>

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! Fee for each class is \$130 (includes material/preparation cost). Tools to bring: scissors; for Sunday classes: tweezers; Optional: small packing tool, tape measure, hemostat.

Make check payable to MWGBG. When mailing your check, include a note with your name, email address, phone number, and class choice(s) and mail to: MWGBG, c/o Willie Ziegler, 1120 Pepper Drive #159, El Cajon, CA, 92021. Email Willie Ziegler ([wznvrhpn@aol.com](mailto:wznvrhpn@aol.com)) letting her know you've mailed a check and what classes you want to register for or if you have questions. Exact location of classes will be shared after registration is confirmed. Registration Deadline: February 14, 2024. \$25.00 fee for cancellations before February 10 and no refunds after February 10, 2024.

Two Classes in San Diego Area  
(El Cajon, CA 92021)  
Saturday & Sunday, February 17 & 18  
8:30am - 5:00pm

Two Classes in Los Angeles Area  
(Los Angeles, CA 90046)  
Saturday & Sunday, February 24 & 25  
8:30am - 5:00pm

**SATURDAY, 2/17:**  
**Twined Pendant**  
Learn to make an eye-catching twined pendant using basic twining and pattern techniques.  
(For all levels of experience.)



**SATURDAY, 2/24:**  
**Twined Earrings**  
Learn to make a pair of lovely twined earrings using basic twining and pattern techniques.  
(For all levels of experience.)

**FULL**



**SUNDAY, 2/18:**  
**Twining Explorations**  
A free form twining class that covers reverse twining, triple and quad twining, full turn twining, shaping, sharp turns, exposed spokes, compound rims, inverse triple twining, and more.  
(Intermediate level: Students bring small twined base already made or purchase from teacher. If no twining experience, Saturday class is prerequisite.)

**SUNDAY, 2/25:**  
**Twining Patterns**  
Learn different ways to make patterns in bases and/or sides of baskets.  
(Intermediate level: If no twining experience, Saturday class is prerequisite.)





## Member Happenings

Marsha Orr taught a "Lace Collar" basket in early February at the San Diego Craft Collective. She will be teaching a "Lacey" basket at Fallbrook School of the Arts on February 24th from 10am-4:00pm.

Marsha is also attending the 2024 "Weaving in the Sunshine State Basketry Conference" in Ft. Myers, FL, 1/30 - 2/1/24. If you're not familiar with this event, here's link to their website:

<https://www.brightexpectationsbaskets.com/pages/2024-weaving-in-the-sunshine-state>



*Lacey, a basket class being taught by Marsha Orr - Photo by Marsha*



*Carol Lang's 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Award Piece -- Photo by Carol*

The Coal Gallery in Carlsbad recently had their open small image show, "Happy Holidays: 57 Days of Art Show." Carol Lang had four pieces accepted and her wall piece, Nowlite took a second place. The show ran from 11/4 - 12/31/23.

For those of you who may be interested, it was an open show, no jurying to get in, no photographs necessary and is held every year. Please think about entering something this coming November. The gallery is located at 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Suite 101 ([www.northcoastalartgallery.com](http://www.northcoastalartgallery.com)).

Polly Giacchina's work was featured in the weekly Contemporary Basketry email distributed 12/29/23 and can be seen at: <https://pollyjgfiberart.com/image-gallery/>.



*Exhibit at Encinitas Community Center January 11 - May 7, 2024.*

*Thanks to Debra Zimmerman, Grace Swanson, Carol Lang, Peggy Blessing, Sue Kamin, Natalie Kuhlman and Kiana Janneseri for answering the call for photos last fall for representative art to accompany our 2024 application to exhibit in Encinitas. - Photo by Grace Swanson*

## Finding Inspiration

"Needles and Grass: The Coiled Vessels of Francina and Neil Prince" is on view through March 25, 2024, at the Mingei Museum in conjunction with "Over/Under: Woven Craft at Mingei" exhibit. A talented couple from Leucadia, their vessels are primarily crafted from San Diego's iconic Torrey Pines and stand as a testament to the artistry deeply rooted in our local community. (Exhibit Info: <https://mingei.org/exhibitions/needles-and-grass.>)

You can read an interview with Francina and Neil by following this link:

[https://mingei.org/communique/fall-2023?token=g2vHcq3Y7V\\_52zSQPFn73R7Eep1u\\_Lv1#francina-and-nei](https://mingei.org/communique/fall-2023?token=g2vHcq3Y7V_52zSQPFn73R7Eep1u_Lv1#francina-and-nei)).

*A bit of history from Carol Lang: Francina was a student of Misti Washington years ago. I have one of their baskets, and I think there are photos of her baskets in a book written by Carlsbad writer, Donna Meilach. Francina gave me a basketry book and a burden basket from the far East. She and I used to meet at garage sales occasionally in Encinitas.*



Publicity Photo - Copyright Mingei Museum



An article entitled "Assyrian Women of Letters" was recently published in *Archaeology* magazine. It reported on the translation of more than 300 19<sup>th</sup> century B.C. cuneiform tablets by or to women of Assur and Kanesh in Assyria. These women played an important role in the production and sale of that country's Bronze Age textile trade. A video entitled "The Assyrian Women of Kanesh" can be found at this link if you're interested in learning more:

<https://www.archaeology.org/exclusives/articles/11828>.



Grace Swanson was approached by several people at Diego County Gourd Artists booth during a Bates Net Farm event last fall about a news clip that had just aired on the CGS News Sunday Morning show. It was about Gourdlandia in Ithaca, NY. This story became a great PR piece for the world of gourd art. In case you missed it, here's a link to the news clip:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dw8cr6O\\_fYE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dw8cr6O_fYE)



Nadine Spier and Willie Ziegler thought you would enjoy this article entitled "Why the Art of Basket Weaving Is Having a Moment" that appeared in a recent issue of *Vogue* magazine.

Here's the link: <https://www.vogue.com/article/basket-weaving-new-york-trend>



## Products, Tips & Tricks

Big, exciting news! **Welburn Gourd Farm** has changed hands! The new owners are very enthused about this new chapter in life and want to revitalize the brand, including holding festivals again! Check out their website to learn more about them and take a survey to earn a free gift card (<https://welburngourdfarm.com/blogs/news/january-16-2024>).

Alana Karam and her husband own **Willamette Willows in Oregon** where they sell **willow cuttings for planting**. However, this summer, they offered **cured willow** for the first time. In 2023, they had 26 willow varieties available, with another 20 coming along. If you or anyone you know are looking for a source, please keep them in mind. You can see what they are about at their website, [www.willamettewillows.com](http://www.willamettewillows.com) (also on Instagram & Facebook).

Debra Zimmerman recommends using **Dharma Trading Company dyes** on pine needles and other natural materials instead of Rit dyes which bleed (<https://www.dharmatrading.com/dyes/>). They also carry paint sticks, which are a fun medium for gourds.

Peggy Blessing discovered **B-7000**, a **glue** particularly good for use on jewelry (purchased pack of 4, ½ oz. tubes on Amazon). The terrific thing about it is that it dispenses the glue through a needle-size opening. This allows you to apply precision drops onto your project.

There is a **mobile App** called **Libby** that is used by the San Diego County Library system that, in addition to **audio and e-books**, allows access to a variety of current popular **magazines**. This is where Peggy found the article about the Bronze Age Assyrian women mentioned in the Finding Inspiration column [see Pg. 10]. Other libraries use this App as well; and, if they allow you to register electronically, you could enroll and have access to libraries across the nation.

### ROAD TRIPS!

**THE LAST Baskets and Gourds, Containers of Our Culture Conference** will take place at the Elks Lodge Mill Creek Conference Center, Visalia CA, sponsored by the Tulare-Sequoia Gourd Patch and the California Gourd Society. **Opening Reception is April 26** at Arts Visalia, **classes are April 27 & 28, 2024** (<https://basketsandgourds.com/>).

Don't miss the last chance to experience this wonderful event! Keynote speaker is Annetta Kraayveld, current President of the National Basket Organization (NBO). The drawing for winners of the CGS Wall Art themed fundraiser will also take place. Tickets will be available at the event.

There's a limited block of rooms at the Lamp Litter Inn (walking distance to Elks Lodge), 3300 W. Mineral King Ave., (559) 732-4511. There are other hotels in the vicinity if the block is sold out. For more information, contact Toni Best ([tonibestbaskets@gmail.com](mailto:tonibestbaskets@gmail.com); 559-627-5430; P.O. Box 6846, Visalia CA 93290).

Registration is now open for the **Handweavers Guild of America, Inc.'s (HGA) 2024 Convergence® Conference** taking place **July 11-17, 2024** in Wichita, Kansas. For detail info, visit their website <https://weavespindye.org/schedule-and-registration/>. The Registration Booklet was also published in the fall issue of "Shuttle Spindle & Dyepot."



**Misti Washington Gourd and Basket Guild  
Board Meeting Minutes  
November 5, 2023**

Board Members present: Peggy Blessing, Website and Newsletter Editor; Willie Ziegler, Treasurer; Debra Zimmerman, Secretary; Grace Swanson, Marketing/Publicity; and Via Zoom: Carol Lang, Vice President, Historian, Librarian.

Members in attendance: Cookie Hanson, Natalie Kuhlman, Beth Premo, Patti Chamberlin, Vickie Patnode, and Marcia Orr. In attendance via Zoom: Sue Kamin.

The meeting was called to order by Willie Ziegler, Treasurer, at 11:14 a.m.

1. Minutes: Debra Zimmerman moved to accept the minutes of September 1, and October 3, 2023 as published in the newsletter, Peggy Blessing, seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. Treasurer's Report: Willie Ziegler reported that Income for October was \$4,215.00. Expenses were \$3,349.33. Checkbook balance is \$9,792. The Guild had income from Margaret Matthewson special class. Willie reminded the group that the Finance Committee requests for budget need to be sent to her this month.
3. Committee reports:
  - a. Historian and Librarian: Carol Lang no new information.
  - b. Membership: We have one new member. It is time to renew membership.
  - c. Newsletter: Peggy Blessing next deadline Jan.15. Website needs update of members' gallery.
  - d. Publicity: Grace Swanson no updates.
  - e. Meeting Workshops/Programs: Jan. - St. Bridgid's Cross and Flower Pin - Debbie Zimmerman, Carol Lang; Feb. - Random Weave Heart - Debbie Zimmerman, Willie Ziegler; March - Name badges - Grace Swanson. Peggy Blessing discussed door prize for Feb. annual meeting.
4. Old Business:
  - a. Special classes: ideas for teachers discussed.
  - b. Shed: no new information.
5. New Business:
  - a. Calendar: we discussed possible activities.

Meeting adjourned 12:00 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted,  
*Debra Zimmerman, Secretary*



Misti Washington Gourd and Basket Guild  
Board Meeting Minutes  
December 3, 2023

Board Members present: Judy Robelotto, President (via Zoom), Carol Lang, Vice President, Historian, Librarian; Willie Ziegler, Treasurer; Peggy Blessing, Website and Newsletter Editor; and Debra Zimmerman, Secretary.

Members in attendance: Natalie Kuhlman, Kim Kuba-Buntrock, Alison Hiers, and Marcia Orr. In attendance via Zoom: , Patty Savinski and Sue Kamin.

The meeting was called to order by Judy Robelotto via Zoom at 11:20 a.m.

1. Treasurer's Report: Willie Ziegler reported that Income for November was \$173.00. Expenses were \$352.00. Checkbook balance is \$9,613.98. The draft budget for 2024 was reviewed.
2. Committee reports:
  - a. Historian and Librarian: Carol Lang reported new books are available.
  - b. Membership: 64 current members. It is time to renew membership.
  - c. Newsletter: Peggy Blessing stated the next deadline Jan.15.
  - d. Publicity: Grace Swanson no report. Grace did a special invitation to old members for this meeting.
  - e. Meeting Workshops/Programs: Jan - St. Bridgid's Cross and Flower Pin - Debbie Zimmerman, Carol Lang; Feb - Random Weave Heart - Willie Ziegler; March - Name badges - Grace Swanson.
3. Old Business:
  - a. Special classes: Cael Chappell will be teaching twining in Feb. Peggy is drafting a flyer. Other teachers have been contacted for future dates.
  - b. Shed: Alison Hiers has reviewed storage and discussed moving to smaller space. Alison made a motion, Peggy Blessing seconded it to downsize the storage area. Motion passed. In addition we will pursue getting a storage shed for Heritage Museum to store tables and hospitality items.
  - c. Fair: No new information from organizers. We need to think about projects. Coiling is in danger of being eliminated if there are not entries.

New Business

1. Call for nominations: there is an announcement to call for nominations for Vice-President and Treasurer.

Meeting adjourned 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Debra Zimmerman, Secretary*

Misti Washington Gourd and Basket Guild  
Board Meeting Minutes  
January 7, 2024

Board Members present: Carol Lang, Vice President, Historian, and Librarian; Willie Ziegler, Treasurer; Peggy Blessing, Website and Newsletter Editor; and Debra Zimmerman, Secretary; Grace Swanson, Marketing/Publicity.

Members in attendance were: Natalie Kuhlman, Kim Kuba-Buntrock, Kiana Jannesari, Cookie Hanson, Beth Premo, Becky Gonzales, Carol Hansen and Marcia Orr. In attendance via Zoom: Patty Savinski. Guests in attendance: Cathy Ornelia.

The meeting was called to order by Carol Lang at 11:12 a.m.

1. Treasurer's Report: Willie Ziegler reported that Income for November was \$240.00. Expenses were \$0. Checkbook balance is \$10,055.98. A copy of 2023 expenses and income report was reviewed. The draft budget for 2024 was reviewed.
2. Committee reports:
  - a. Historian and Librarian: Carol Lang reviewed new periodicals that are available.
  - b. Membership: Willie reported 5 renewals and 2 new members (1 regular, 1 commercial).
  - c. Newsletter: Peggy Blessing stated the next deadline Jan. 15.
  - d. Publicity: Grace Swanson reviewed the installation for Encinitas Community Center show. There is an Art Night on March 9, 2024, to demonstrate from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
  - e. Meeting Workshops/Programs: Jan - St. Bridgid's Cross and Flower Pin - Debbie Zimmerman, Carol Lang; Feb - Random Weave Heart- Willie Ziegler; March - Folded and Plaited Fish Mobile; April - Name badges - Grace Swanson. Carol showed a plaited newspaper basket as a possible future project.
3. Old Business:
  - a. Special classes: Cael Chappell class registration has started.
  - b. Shed: Alison Hiers has moved everything to a smaller 5 x 5 space. We have reduced costs.
  - c. Fair: Theme is "Let's Go Retro." June 12 - July 7, 2024.
4. New Business:
  - a. Discussion if we need to meet less frequently. Peggy Blessing discussed the idea of meeting every other month with board meetings via Zoom. The group did not feel it would work out well. There was a discussion to offer rides to people to get to meetings to increase attendance. Peggy will write up a note in the newsletter.

Meeting adjourned 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Debra Zimmerman, Secretary*



**MISTI WASHINGTON GOURD  
AND BASKET GUILD**

[WWW.BASKETS-GOURDS.COM](http://WWW.BASKETS-GOURDS.COM)

[info@baskets-gourds.com](mailto:info@baskets-gourds.com)

760-431-1645

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Judy Robelotto, President

[president@baskets-gourds.com](mailto:president@baskets-gourds.com)

Carol Lang, Vice President

Debra Zimmerman, Secretary

Willie Ziegler, Treasurer

[wznvrhpn@aol.com](mailto:wznvrhpn@aol.com)

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Peggy Blessing, Editor/Web Administrator

[editor@baskets-gourds.com](mailto:editor@baskets-gourds.com)

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

Finance Committee: Willie Ziegler

History/Library: Carol Lang &

Alison Hiers

[librarian@baskets-gourds.com](mailto:librarian@baskets-gourds.com)

Marketing/Public Relations:

Grace Swanson

[marketing@baskets-gourds.com](mailto:marketing@baskets-gourds.com)

Membership: Judy Robelotto

[president@baskets-gourds.com](mailto:president@baskets-gourds.com)

Workshops/Activities/Demo

Opportunities: **Vacant**

**AD HOC COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

Joint MWGBG/LABG Workshop Committee

Chair: Becky Acosta (LABG)

Many thanks to those who  
Contributed to this issue!

*Alison Hiers, Carol Lang, Misaki Murai, Judy  
Robelotto, Nadine Spier, Grace Swanson, Marsha  
Orr, Willie Ziegler, Debra Zimmerman*

**NBO Connections**

MWGBG holds a guild membership in the National  
Basketry Organization. Willie Ziegler and Kathi  
Klopfenstein are our Guild's representatives in NBO.

If you haven't already subscribed to *Over/Under*,  
NBO's free electronic newsletter, you are really missing  
out on a wonderful world of basketry artists, exhibits,  
resources and much more! We also highly recommend  
you consider becoming a member of NBO, a large  
network of basket makers ([www.nationalbasketry.org](http://www.nationalbasketry.org)).

"The Basket Guild Bulletin Board" is a Facebook  
group sponsored by NBO to help facilitate information  
sharing between basketry guilds, related non-profit  
groups and individual guild members across North  
America.

**Your Newsletter. . .**

This is a quarterly publication for MWGBG members.  
Past issues are available on the Members Only page of  
the website. Submission deadlines are:

January 15 ~ April 15 ~ July 15 ~ October 15

Please share information about gourd and basketry  
exhibits or events. Submit a feature article or profile  
of a fellow member, send in a question or a helpful tip  
you discovered. Submit your classes using form  
supplied by Editor or posted on Members Only page.  
Your suggestions are welcome!



Find us on Facebook!

**MISTI WASHINGTON GOURD & BASKET GUILD**

<https://www.facebook.com/MistiWashingtonGourdBasketGuild>



Mobile App QR Code  
to MWGBG Website

**MISSION**

The Misti Washington Gourd and Basket Guild was formed to preserve, promote and perpetuate the appreciation of  
gourd and basket art by providing a supportive, sharing and educational environment.

## Membership Form

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: Day (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Eve. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I don't have access to e-mail and therefore need to have the newsletter mailed to me via U.S. Postal Service.

\_\_\_ Do not share my contact information with other MWGBG members (*info would NOT be used commercially*).

- \$25 per person     \$30/household     \$40 Commercial (includes advertisement in newsletters)
- I'd like to add a donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to my membership check

*Membership valid January 1 through December 31.*

*(Membership fees are subject to change.)*

Interests:  Baskets     Gourds     Both

Other \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

- Events of interest:  Book reviews/reports     Critique groups     Demonstrations
- Exhibits     Field Trips     Lectures     Art work exchange at meetings
- Workshops/classes     Pot Lucks     Raffle     Retreats     Slide Presentations
- Videos     Volunteering     Other

Send Check to: MWGBG  
1120 Pepper Drive #159  
El Cajon CA 92021