

President's Message

by Judy Robelotto

It is with regret that I am resigning as President of the MWGBG. I have had a huge change in my life, and it has thrown me for a loop. My brother, who was my favorite sibling and my rock, died very suddenly from sepsis in November. Needless to say, it hit all the family very hard.

In January, my partner of 45 years, lost his battle with heart and kidney failure. Not a shock, but devastating to me. I thought I was coping well but find that there are days and times when I am not coping at all.

At this time, I feel that I cannot give the Guild the attention that it needs and cannot devote the energy and time required to keep the Guild running like it should be running.

I hope to be able to get back to some sense of normalcy at some point.

Thank you all for your support through the years. You've been wonderful friends, teachers and awesome basket makers.

[See Pg. 2 for information about position vacancies. -- pb]

August 4

Basket & Gourd Class Day

We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting another Basket and Gourd Class Day on August 4 (*in lieu of a regular meeting*). We are in the process of identifying teachers and class projects and will post updates on the website as soon as they are available.

This is a great opportunity for fellow members to share their expertise or to gain more teaching experience. Debra Zimmerman has kindly offered to again coordinate this event, so please send your teacher suggestions, project ideas, or desire to teach to Debra at info@baskets-gourds.com. The teacher proposal form is available for download on the [Classes webpage](#).

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



President's Farewell Message; Basket & Gourd Class Day .	1
Open President and Membership Chair Positions	2
Thanks for Helping, Renewal Reminder, Need A Ride?	2
Calendar; Meeting & Mini-Workshop Info	3
Jennifer Wool June/July Special Classes	4
Save the Baskets & Gourds; Opportunities	5
From the Shed	6
September Special Classes: Lissa-Jane de Sailles.....	7
Finding Inspiration; In Memory of Jewell Nagel.....	8
Library Corner; Welcome New Members	9
Member Happenings	10
Road Trips.....	11
Minutes: February (Regular/Annual), March, April	12-14
Contacts; NBO Info; Links; Acknowledgements	16
Membership Form	17



We hope you can join one of the fun Classes with Jennifer Wool in June and July [See Pg. 4 for details]

**Attention: SD County Fair
Entry Deadline April 30, 8pm!**

[See Page 5 for details]

Upcoming Events

May 5
Meeting, Potluck & Random Weave Heart Mini-Workshop

June 2
Meeting, Potluck & Woven Bracelet Mini-Workshop

July 7
Meeting, Potluck & Mini-Workshop TBD

August 4
Basket & Gourd Class Day

HELP NEEDED! Open President & Membership Chair Positions

First of all, we are so grateful to Judy Robelotto for her many years of time and dedication to the Guild, which included a prior term as President over a decade ago. We all wish her well.

With her resignation as **President**, we desperately need someone to complete her term which ends January 2025. Please contact us as soon as possible if you would like to discuss filling this vital role (editor@baskets-gourds.com). You will have the full support of the leadership team during this time and will not be doing it alone!!

This is the **President job description** as stated in the Bylaws: The President shall conduct all meetings of the Guild; shall set the agenda for Guild meetings; shall be a signatory on Guild bank accounts.

Since Judy has also resigned from the position of **Membership Chair**, a job she had been doing for many years, we will also need to fill this position.

The **Membership Chair job** entails keeping track of new and renewing members, making changes to their contact information as needed, and reporting membership figures at Board meetings. Distribution of updated versions of the membership list is to be sent to a small group of people who need it to conduct Guild business. The Membership Chair will receive information regarding the updates via email (currently from the Treasurer). Basic knowledge of the MS Excel spreadsheet program is required. Also, the Chair's ideas to increase membership would be most welcome!

Thank You, Marsha!

We are so grateful to **Marsha Orr** for volunteering to serve as Chair of the Workshops/Activities/Demo Opportunities Committee. We also thank **Natalie Kuhlman** and **Carol Lang** who volunteered to serve on this Committee.

They would greatly appreciate your ideas for mini-workshops that follow our meetings (less than 2-hrs). They also welcome those of you who would like to teach a mini-workshop. This would be a great opportunity for those who are new to the teaching world to gain experience.

The Committee appreciates Guild member participation in scheduled demo opportunities. They also welcome your ideas for additional demo opportunities to help recruit members and spread the word about basket and gourd art to the general public.

Have You Renewed Your Membership?

For those of you have not yet renewed their Guild membership, this will be your last newsletter!

Current members will be advised of the new Members Only webpage password via email by the end of April. Effective date TBD.

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 if you're interested in exploring this option.

May 5

Meeting, Potluck & Random Weave Heart Mini-Workshop

We look forward to being with you all to find out what you've been up to and discuss and receive feedback on Guild activities. There will be a potluck, a round-table show and share and announcements from fellow members. The Board will share pertinent topics from the earlier Board meeting. Bring finished projects and/or your works-in-progress. Or, if you have a problem piece, there may be fellow members who can help you.

Remember, we meet outdoors under a covered patio, so please dress accordingly (electricity for crockpots, but no kitchen).

Following these activities, there will be a random weave heart mini-workshop for interested students. This project could be a great Mother's Day gift! Materials will be supplied but suggest you bring scissors and a towel.



Photo by Debra Zimmerman

There is a small fee for the mini-workshop.

You are welcome to join the Board meeting at 11:00 a.m.

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

BRING YOUR FAIR ENTRIES TO THIS MEETING!

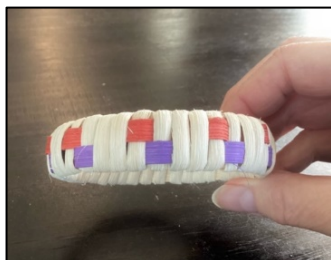
[See Pg. 5 for details]

June 2

Meeting, Potluck & Woven Bracelet Mini-Workshop

See May 2 for a description of the general meeting outline. During this meeting, members will be asked to help prepare demo kits for the four-point lashing and tension tray projects that will be taken to the San Diego County Fair for Guild booth visitors.

Following these activities, those interested in taking the mini-workshop will learn how to make a woven bracelet. Materials will be supplied. There is small fee for the mini-workshop.



Example of June Mini-Workshop
(project results will vary) - Photo by
Marsha Orr

CALENDAR

~ Meeting Start Time Noon ~

Through May 7

Guild exhibit at Encinitas
Community Center [1140 Oakcrest Park
Drive, Encinitas, CA, (760) 943-2260]

May 5

Meeting, Potluck & Random Weave
Heart Mini-Workshop

June 2

Meeting, Potluck & Woven Bracelet
Mini-Workshop

June 22 & 23

Jennifer Wool SD Classes [See Pg. 4]

July 7

Meeting, Potluck & Mini-Workshop

July 13 & 14

Jennifer Wool LA Classes [See Pg. 4]

August 4

Basket and Gourd Class Day
9am - 3pm [No reg. meeting; see Pg. 1]

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).

You're also 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).

July 7

Meeting, Potluck & Mini-Workshop TBD

Details about the July 7 meeting will be posted on website when available and sent via email in late June.

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

Special Classes with Jennifer Wool

June 22 & 23 and July 13 & 14, 2024

(Four 1-day, 8-hour Workshops; 10 Students Maximum)

Jennifer Wool has been a popular basketry teacher for many years and has been creating 3-D artworks for over 40 years, including pottery, gourds and fiber arts. Inspired during her regular hikes in the foothills near her home in San Jose, CA, Jennifer gathers interesting sticks, rocks, and fibers that she incorporates into her work. She enjoys the creative process and finds teaching her skills to others very satisfying.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! Cost for each class noted below (price covers class fee, material/preparation, and teacher travel costs). Tools to bring: basketry scissors, spray water bottle, tape measure, packing tool, clothes pins for the Choctaw and the Flower Basket classes.

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, Spc. 159, El Cajon, CA, 92021. Email Willie Ziegler (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: June 19, 2024. \$25.00 fee for cancellations before June 15 and no refunds after June 15, 2024.

**Two Classes in San Diego Area
(El Cajon, CA 92021)
Saturday & Sunday, June 22 & 23
8:30am - 5:00pm**

**Two Classes in Los Angeles Area
(Los Angeles, CA 90046)
Saturday & Sunday, July 13 & 14
8:30am - 5:00pm**

SATURDAY, 6/22:

Choctaw Basket - \$120

Students will learn many different weaving techniques and patterns in this basket, starting with a bicolor twill weave that is folded to form the "V" shaped bottom. These techniques also include twining, a braid, and a spiral twine using natural and dyed reeds.

(Intermediate Level)



SATURDAY, 7/13:

Cedar Water Bottle - \$130

Students will learn how to twine, arrow twine and straight weave around a new glass water bottle using Western red cedar, round reed, loose seagrass, and waxed linen. It will be finished with a flip and fold rim.

(For all levels of experience)



SUNDAY, 6/23:

Josephine Knot - \$120

Students will learn how to start this ribbed basket with a Josephine knot using 12 long #5 round reeds. Several textured material will be woven in as the ribs are formed and filled in and finished with natural flat reed.

(Intermediate Level)

SUNDAY, 7/14:

Flower Basket - \$120

Students will first learn to weave over the handle of a "D" shaped wooden hoop, the bottom is woven in using natural flat reed with a step up weave creating the sides with some accent colored reed added

(For all levels of experience)



Save the Baskets & Gourds! We Need Your Entries!

Bring your San Diego County Fair basket or gourd entries to the May 5 Guild meeting! We are offering a group delivery and pick-up service for Home Made entries. Carol Lang will deliver your pieces, so contact her for other options if you can't make it to the meeting (librarian@baskets-gourds.com).

The Home Made competition online **Entry Deadline is April 30, 8pm:**

<https://www.sdfair.com/p/participate/entry/home-made>

Box your entry with your name on outside and include a copy of your online entry confirmation form inside the box. Grace Swanson will pick up the Home Made group delivery items on Wednesday, July 10 and bring them to the August 4 Basket Day event.

For your convenience, here are the entry categories in Basketry & Gourds Division 112:

Class 001 Basket, specify technique; Class 002 Gourd, painted; Class 003 Gourd, wood-burned or carved, specify technique; Class 004 Gourd, other than listed, specify technique; Class 005 Fair Theme "Let's Go Retro", specify item and technique; Class 006 Professional, basket, specify technique; Class 007 Professional, gourd, specify technique

Participants receive **2 free Fair tickets** for entering (no matter how many you enter). If that's not enough incentive, there are **cash prizes awarded for Place winners**. Also, if you enter your basket(s) or gourd(s) into Home Made you will be **invited to the Open House on Tuesday, June 11** from 6-9pm (the day before the fair opens). Parking and entrance will be **FREE**, you get to see **the other exhibits before the fair gets crowded**, and **awards will be given out at that time**. Lots of nice people, and you'll have time to take in the Fair.

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!

Sign up at meetings or contact Carol Lang to sign up for DEMO DAYS AT THE FAIR!

(librarian@baskets-gourds.com)

Wednesday, June 12, 19, 26 and July 3 (Arrive at about 10am, Demo Noon to 3pm)

Opportunities

If you're interested in exhibiting your work, the following organizations have a call for entries:

Fiber Options 2024: Introducing Fiber Options

Entry March 19, 2024 to May 9, 2024

Maryland Federation of Art (MFA) invites all artists residing in the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, and Mexico to enter its 7th biennial Fiber Options: Material Explorations exhibition. Any original 2D or 3D artwork created with fiber is eligible. Works selected will be on exhibit in MFA Circle Gallery, 18 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland from July 31 - August 24, 2024, https://artcallentry.com/calls/fiber-options-2024_17863

Opportunities Cont'd. from Pg. 5

CraftForms 2024, 29th International Juried Exhibition of Contemporary Fine Craft
Entry deadline September 10, 2024
Wayne Art Center, Davenport Gallery, Wayne, Pennsylvania
Wayne Art Center is seeking submissions for the 29th International Juried Exhibition of Contemporary Fine Craft, in the following mediums: basketry, ceramics, fiber, furniture, glass, jewelry, metal, mixed media, paper, wearable art, and wood. Selected works will be on display in the Davenport Gallery of Wayne Art Center in Wayne, Pennsylvania from December 7, 2024 through January 25, 2025. \$10,000 in prize awards. Enter on CaFÉ:
https://artist.callforentry.org/festivals_unique_info.php?ID=13206&utm

From the Shed

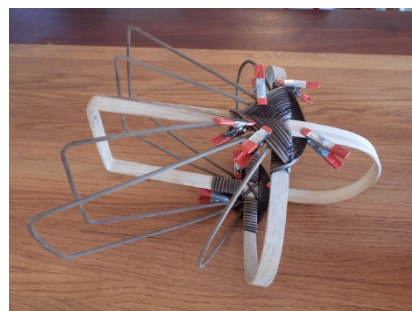
by Alison Hiers

First, I would like to thank everyone who has given materials I bring to the meetings new homes and new life as baskets and art! Cookie Hanson was wonderful and took some supplies for her students to experiment with as well. And Willie Ziegler was able to find someone who was thrilled to pay shipping and take all the Nantucket materials that were donated to us. Thank you Willie for taking on that task!

Thus far, we have emptied one large bin of materials and downsized our stash of baskets. The storage unit now has floor space and more room to turn around so thank you very much! But never fear, we still have plenty of supplies to share, and I will continue to bring them to meetings. We also have materials brought to meetings that are not from storage. In March, Peggy Blessing brought various shapes and sizes of beautiful donated gourds she is re-homing. And Carol Lang had two terrific photography lights that were offered at a bargain basement price. You just never know what will pop up at a meeting!

In addition to our orphan pile, we have begun to occasionally have a door prize with a few of the nicest baskets by Camilla Filancia and Misti Washington. We will be saving some choice ones for a silent auction we are considering for Basket Day in August.

I am including a picture of my latest "shed" project in progress. First, I used a D handle and oval rim for the frames. I got the idea from one of the free books called "Legend of the Bushwhacker Basket" by Wetherbee & Taylor. Some of the baskets in this book begin with square bottoms and end with round rims. I found the material to lash them, which looks rather like cane, in the storage unit stash of goodies and experimented with a pattern called Winking Eye I found in another free book from storage - "New Lashings and Improvements to Old Favorites" by Malone. These books are in my personal collection now! Who knows where this project will go from here, but it sure is fun so far. I hope that anyone who tried some new materials will also share their work and ideas by sending pictures for the next newsletter or bringing items for show and share to the meetings.



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

More Special Classes Coming Our Way
with Lissa-Jane de Sailles
9/21 & 28/24 (Los Angeles) and 9/28 & 29/24 (San Diego)

The joint LABG and MWGBG ad hoc committee has been working on developing and scheduling special classes for several months. We are happy to report that another new series has been scheduled for September 2024.

These classes will be a rare opportunity to learn from a teacher coming all the way from Australia! We are taking advantage of the fact that Lissa-Jane de Sailles will be in the United States attending another conference. Details will be shared at a later date, but here are the dates and photos of the class projects.

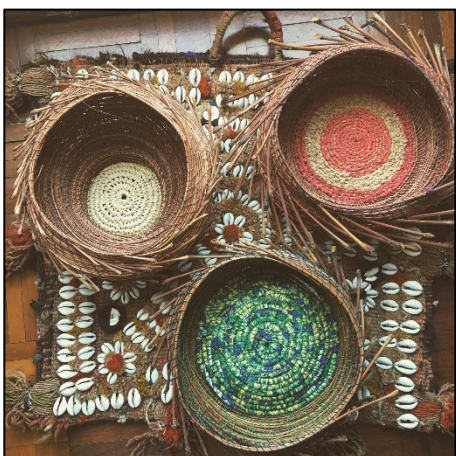
The special classes concept was the result of a prior group working on the possibility of a joint Weekend Conference, which became unfeasible. So far, the special class process has proven successful, creating revenue for both Guilds as well as inspiring both Guild members and non-members in the Southern California communities.



Los Angeles 9/21/24 Class: *Mini Wall Mat - Make a Circle, Explore the Grid*



San Diego 9/28/24 Class: *Small Things*



Los Angeles 9/22/24 Class: *Slow Stitched Coiled Basketry with Fabric, Paper & Natural Materials*



San Diego 9/29/24 Class: *Sculptural Twining with Natural Fibers*



Finding Inspiration



It is highly recommend you take the time to enjoy the HGA's "Textiles and Tea" interview with Annetta Kraayveld (<https://youtu.be/ktuJosmCX4M?feature=shared>) on their YouTube Channel. You will see lots of "basket eye-candy" and learn a lot from her creative process. They discussed her Blog, referencing a particular category where she talks about "Creativity in Excellence." One of the quotes from this Blog could be valuable for all of us to embrace, which is "Failure in the path to excellence." In other words, don't beat yourself up - learn from you're your mistakes! Annetta is the immediate past President of NBO, and you might be interested to know that our recent special class teacher Cael Chappell is the new President of NBO.

You might enjoy viewing the entries in the 2023 California Gourd Society Virtual Competition where you will also find some of our Guild members' work. Here's link to the video: <https://youtu.be/6iZpmu4kjqA?feature=shared>. Prior competitions are also posted on the CGS YouTube channel if you'd like to see more gourd art.

If you want to see and learn about remarkable examples of surviving Neolithic baskets found in Spain, follow this link to an article appearing in the March/April 2024 issue of *Archaeology* magazine in their "Artifact" column. In 1970, researchers dated these baskets to be 6,500 years old! <https://www.archaeology.org/issues/547-2403/artifact/12146-artifact-spain-mesolithic-baskets>.

In Memory of Guild Member Jewell Nagel

by Peggy Blessing

I'm sorry to report that long-time Guild member Jewell Nagel passed away on January 30, 2024. Her son, Eric, let us know that she had been suffering for some time and felt that she is now at peace.

In addition to MWGBG, Jewel was one of the founding members of the Fallbrook Gourd Patch, which later became the San Diego County Gourd Artists, a regional group of the California Gourd Society. She lived in Valley Center for many years and had seven children.



She was a lovely woman who had an infectious creative spirit, not to mention the unusual and delicious dishes she brought to the potlucks. Although she has not been able to participate in the Guild over the past several years, she was a loyal member for over a decade. For those of us who had the pleasure of knowing her, she will missed.

One of Jewel's gourd creations - Photo by Peggy Blessing

The Library Corner

by Alison Hiers

The library has taken much (much) longer than anticipated, and I appreciate everyone's patience! But the shelves now have face frames and the stain is being applied. For those of you who even knew or might have wondered, Ron and I have been completely remodeling his office and during that time took in the library to be part of it. So, after installing a new window, baseboards and closet, Ron decided that he wanted to build custom shelves. And here we are! We have every confidence that the library will be up and running soon (fingers crossed).

In the meantime, I have been rehomeing duplicate free books from storage at the meetings and took some myself for my personal "basket library." I just finished reading "Legend of the Bushwacker Basket" by Martha Wetherbee and Nathan Taylor. It's a short read that chronicles what little is known about a community of basket weavers who lived in the hills outside of Taghkanic (pronounced Ta-kon-ik), New York from the 1700's to the present. Descendants from these expert weavers still live in the area and make baskets, but not in the huge numbers they once did. There is only speculation about where these weavers came from originally, and why they settled that area, but at that time it was an excellent source of materials they used - ash, hickory, oak and maple. There is also no clear reason why most of the weavers stopped making baskets, but a combination of compulsory schooling in town, decline of the forests, the creation of plastics and other factors likely contributed. Unfortunately, because they lived in isolated communities, they were often characterized by townsfolk and the press as lazy, illiterate, inbred and strange, which is why they were called Bushwackers. In reality, they were business men and women who created some of the best baskets ever made. Many of their baskets have survived over a hundred years or more, a testament to the quality of their construction.

The baskets of Taghkanic were originally carried to market on long poles and later shipped to areas around the northeast. They are beautiful, practical, useful, unadorned baskets often confused with Shaker baskets, yet different in many ways. All aspects of the baskets were considered when deciding exactly what the purpose would be, with a focus on durability. Double bottoms, double lashings, wide rims and the use of mixed woods were common design features. Ash for lashings and weavers due to its flexibility, oak and hickory for uprights, rims and handles for strength. All designs were made with tension in mind. Three basic basket types were made: round bottom/round top, square bottom/round top, rectangular bottom/oval top. Apart from some other unique features such as the placement of swing handles, a Taghkanic basket is identified by their distinctive rims (thicker horizontally than they are tall), mix of woods, ratio of weavers to uprights, double lashings and round or oval tops. The finish of the baskets is not polished but has a slightly rough appearance, which fits with the ruggedness of the design and adds to the beautiful nature of the Taghkanic craft. There are many Taghkanic baskets photos online you can check out and be inspired by!

WELCOME New Members!

Marianne Furtado, Diane Girelianu, Cathy Ornelia

Member Happenings

The Guild exhibit at the Encinitas Community Center continues through May 7. The members who have work in that show are: Sue Kamin, Debra Zimmerman, Kiana Jannesari, Carol Lang, Peggy Blessing, Grace Swanson, and Natalie Kuhlman.

The same day that MWGBG artists take their art out of the Community Center show, Grace Swanson will have a solo show in a different case at the Community Center, 4/9 through 9/5/24. Most of the gourds shown will be ones she made but also will include some gourds from her collection from around the world. There is an Art Night event 6/29 from 5:30 to 8:30pm.

Jennifer Tang-Limon has her work in the Art Evolved Intertwined traveling show sponsored by the Fiber Art Now group. The show runs through 2027 and is currently in Seattle. If you're interested in finding out more about Fiber Art Now, a for-profit company, check out their website: <https://www.fiberartnow.net/>.

Willie Ziegler and Peggy Blessing had an enjoyable evening at the Encinitas Art Night event at the Community Center on March 9. They had almost non-stop interactions with the guests. A few of them had genuine interest in venturing into the world of baskets and gourds and, hopefully, will stop by a Guild meeting or take one of our special classes. Peggy was pleasantly surprised to have sold some gourd art!

*Peggy and Willie
at Art Night March
2024 - Photo by
Kiana Jannesari*



Creativity and fun at the February Cael Chappell 2024 "Twining Explorations" class in San Diego. - Photo by Peggy Blessing

ROAD TRIPS!

Alison Hiers thought you might like to check out this basketry exhibit: "Continuity, Cahuilla Basket Weavers and Their Legacies," 2/14/24 - 6/23/24, Benton Museum of Art, Pomona College, Claremont, CA.

There is a fiber art exhibit at the International Quilt Museum in Lincoln Nebraska, entitled "Feed Sacks: An American Fairy Tale," 1/19/24 - 7/27/24. The exhibit has Guild member **Alison Hiers' Great-Grandmother's quilt**, which is now part of their permanent collection. Her name was Julia Jane Reeves Huff, and she was born and raised in north central Florida. Each exhibit has a **Virtual Gallery and Gallery Photos**, and you can tour this exhibit (and others) at <https://www.internationalquiltmuseum.org/exhibitions/now-showing>. Ron and Alison are traveling to Nebraska in May to see it displayed. *[Her quilt is on the far left in the photo, folded over the bar.]*



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."

There will be a **Willow Gathering 2024**, 10/22-25/24, at Sievers Fiber Art School studios, Washington Island, WI. The focus is weaving and sharing together in a beautiful and creative setting with no planned workshops (limit 24 people). If you want to bring your skills, ideas, inspirations, and give yourself this time to create, email Jo or Lee for registration information (jocamsler@hotmail.com; ziekelee@gmail.com).



Those of us at the April Guild meeting loved Marsha Orr's "Show and Share" item. It was from a recent class she took at the Sunshine State Basketry Conference in Ft. Myers, FL.

Thought those who were not there would like to see it too! - photo by Peggy Blessing

**Misti Washington Gourd and Basket Guild
Board Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2024**

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

Members in attendance: Alison Hiers, Marsha Orr (via Zoom).

The meeting was called to order by Judy Robelotto at 11:07 a.m.

1. Minutes: Carol Lang moved and Alison Hiers seconded a motion to accept the minutes of 11/05/23, 12/03/23 and 01/07/24 as printed in the newsletter. Motion passed.
2. Treasurer's Report: Willie Ziegler reported that Income for December was \$385. Expenses were \$9.68. Checkbook balance is \$10,430.33. The draft budget for 2024 was reviewed. Peggy Blessing moved and Willie Ziegler seconded a motion to present the budget for approval to the Annual Meeting. Motion passed.
3. Committee reports:
 - a. Historian and Librarian: no report.
 - b. Membership: no report.
 - c. Newsletter: Peggy Blessing stated the website photos are being updated. April 15 is deadline for next newsletter.
 - d. Publicity: no report.
 - e. Meeting Workshops/Programs: March - Folded and Plaited Fish Mobile, April - Name badges - Grace Swanson. May - Random Weave Heart - Debbie Zimmerman, June - Plaited recycled basket - Carol Lang.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Special classes: Cael Chappell class will be held.
 - b. Shed: still working on getting a placement site with Heritage Museum.
 - c. Fair: Theme is "Let's Go Retro." June 12, - July 7, 2024 entries encouraged.

Meeting adjourned 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Zimmerman, Secretary

**Misti Washington Gourd and Basket Guild
Annual Meeting of the Members Minutes
February 4, 2024**

Board Members in attendance: Judy Robelotto, President (via Zoom), Willie Ziegler, Treasurer, Peggy Blessing, Website and Newsletter, Debra Zimmerman, Secretary (via Zoom).

Members in attendance: Alison Hiers, Natalie Kuhlman, Becky Gonzales, Beth Premo. Via Zoom: Marsha Orr, Sue Kamin and Mary Gayle VanIngen.

The meeting was called to order by President Judy Robelotto at 12:02 p.m.

1. Minutes: Willie Ziegler moved and Natalie Kuhlman seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 2023 as published in the 2nd Quarter Newsletter. Motion passed.

2. Treasurer's Report: Willie Ziegler; reviewed the annual Income and Expense report of 2023. Income was \$15,875. Expenses were \$13,727. Net Increase was \$2,148. The proposed 2024 budget was distributed and reviewed. Willie Ziegler moved, Alison Hiers seconded a motion to approve the budget as presented. Motion passed.
 3. New Business:
 - a. Elections: Nominations were opened for the office of Vice President. Peggy Blessing moved, Judy Robelotto seconded a motion to nominate Alison Hiers as Vice President. Motion passed. A vote was taken and she was elected. Nominations were opened for the office of Treasurer. Peggy Blessing moved and Alison Hiers seconded a motion to nominate Willie Ziegler for the position of Treasurer. A vote was taken and she was elected.
- Meeting adjourned 11:55 a.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Debra Zimmerman, Secretary

**Misti Washington Gourd and Basket Guild
Board Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2024**

Board Members present: Judy Robelotto, President (via Zoom); Alison Hiers, Vice President; Carol Lang, Historian, Librarian; Willie Ziegler, Treasurer; Peggy Blessing, Website and Newsletter Editor; Debra Zimmerman, Secretary.
Members in attendance: Natalie Kuhlman, Kim Kuba-Buntrock, Cookie Hanson, Becky Gonzales, Cathy Ornelia, Beth Premo, Sue Kamin (via Zoom).

The meeting was called to order by Judy Robelotto via Zoom at 11:10 a.m.

1. Treasurer's Report: Willie Ziegler reported that Income for February was \$4,180. Expenses were \$3,885. Checkbook balance is \$11,355.30.
 2. Committee reports:
 - a. Historian: No report
 - b. Library: Bookshelves being worked on. Inventory will be done when the shelves are complete.
 - c. Membership: no report
 - d. Newsletter: Peggy Blessing stated the next deadline April 15.
 - e. Publicity: no report
 - f. Meeting Workshops/Programs: April - Name badges - Grace Swanson.
 3. Old Business:
 - a. Special classes: The committee is looking at scheduling Jennifer Wool for a June workshop. They are talking about having another workshop by getting a teacher who is traveling for another retreat in Sept or Oct. JoAnn Kelly Catsos was a possibility for in Feb. 2025.
 - b. Basket Day: Distributed teacher applications.
 - c. Fair: Carol will take in entries for group. Deadline to enter is April 30.
 - d. Shed: no news from Heritage Museum.
 4. New Business: none
- Meeting adjourned 12:04 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Debra Zimmerman, Secretary

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

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

Members in attendance: Natalie Kuhlman, Cookie Hanson, Marsha Orr, Patti Chamberlin, Diane Gireliano

The meeting was called to order by Judy Robelotto at 11:09 a.m.

1. Treasurer's Report: Willie Ziegler reported that Income for February was \$4.00. Expenses were \$0.00. Checkbook balance is \$11,359.30.
2. Committee reports:
 - a. Historian: No report
 - b. Library: No update.
 - c. Membership: Roster will be updated by Judy so we can send out new password.
 - d. Newsletter: Peggy Blessing stated the next deadline is April 15.
 - e. Publicity: Grace is sending out an announcement for the Community Center show.
 - f. Meeting Workshops/Programs: June is Fair demo project. July -none as it is Zoom meeting, August - none, as it is Basket Day. September - none, as it is a Zoom meeting.
3. Old Business:
 - a. Special classes: The committee has scheduled Jennifer Wool for special classes, June 23 and 24 in El Cajon; July 13 and 14 in Los Angeles. In September, Lissa-Jane de Sailles is coming from Australia and will be teaching twining, knotting and coiling. Classes will be scheduled September 21 and 22 in Los Angeles, September 28 and 29 in El Cajon.
 - b. Basket Day: Teachers are submitting class proposals. Goal set to have flyer done by June 1 so it can be distributed at the Fair.
 - c. Fair: Carol will take in entries for group. Deadline to enter is April 30. Theme is "Let's Go Retro." When we volunteer there is a theme in the Homemade Section of Fashion. Carol brought sample items we can have on display. Woven materials and gourd jewelry, hats, etc.
4. New Business:
 - a. Website content: Alison suggested the Guild update our website to remove reference to the San Diego Botanical Garden and to the Weekend in the Garden. There were no objections to the modifications.
 - b. Budget and Finance: Willie discussed that there is a petty cash fund of \$70, which is no longer necessary to be separated. There was discussion. Carol Lang moved and Judy Robelotto seconded a motion to add the \$70 to the general fund. Motion passed.
 - c. Heritage Museum contact: We now have a contact, Natalie Neal.

Meeting adjourned 11:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Zimmerman, Secretary

**MISTI WASHINGTON GOURD
AND BASKET GUILD**

WWW.BASKETS-GOURDS.COM

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760-431-1645

BOARD MEMBERS:

Vacant, President

president@baskets-gourds.com

Alison Hiers, Vice President

Debra Zimmerman, Secretary

Willie Ziegler, Treasurer

wznvrhpn@aol.com

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Peggy Blessing, Editor/Web Administrator

editor@baskets-gourds.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Finance Committee: Willie Ziegler

History/Library: Carol Lang &

Alison Hiers

librarian@baskets-gourds.com

Marketing/Public Relations:

Grace Swanson

marketing@baskets-gourds.com

Membership: **Vacant**

president@baskets-gourds.com

Workshops/Activities/Demo

Opportunities: Marsha Orr

AD HOC COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Joint MWGBG/LABG Workshop Committee

Chair: Becky Acosta (LABG)

**Many thanks to those who
Contributed to this issue!**

Alison Hiers, Kiana Jannesari, Carol Lang, Judy Robelotto, Grace Swanson, Jennifer Tang-Limon, 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).

"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