



Spokes and Weavers

Minnesota Basket Weavers Guild Newsletter

December 2010 - Volume 13 Issue 3

Message from the President

Happy Winter, Everyone -

Do you all love the snow and the cold? Did you grow up in this? Or are you like me, dreading every winter and hibernating until it is warm again? I grew up in Southern California, and about now, am wishing I'd stayed there.

Winter seems like a good time to stay inside where it is warm and cozy, make baskets and quilts, do knitting and crocheting, read lots of books, and catch up on all the projects that were put aside during the warm months. I am looking forward to our upcoming classes, and to our Christmas party.

Many thanks to our board members, who have given so generously of their time and talents to keep the guild running smoothly. Special thanks to Bonnie, for serving as president elect and filling in for me when I could not be there; to Sandi, for serving as treasurer and membership chair; to Layce, for serving as secretary; to Susan H, for serving as newsletter editor; to Juli Fick, for serving as program director; to Kathy, for serving as historian; to Nancy, for serving as TCM liaison; to Margaret, for taking registrations and staying in contact with instructors; and to Jean, past president, for pitching in wherever needed. Thank you also to all of our members and guests for your participation.

Basket Bingo rocks! Even with competition from President Obama and from the Gophers, we had a full house and successful event. Our thanks go to Jo, Jill and cohorts for planning, work before, during and after the event, to Pam for great decorations, and to all who donated time, baskets and prizes. I am in awe of all that you do.

Thank you to Susan B for carrying on with the Special Event and to all who worked to make it happen. Thanks go to Don for his help with the Special Event and for all his work on our website.

The Special Event is only one of many times that we will miss Diane. Every time I go to guild or board meetings, I remember her. Every time I take my tools out of my canvas pouch, or wear my MBWG shirt or sweatshirt or apron, and see the embroidered logo, or see the beautiful baskets she designed and shared, I am reminded of all she did for us. We miss Diane and honor her memory.

Looking forward to next year, I know that Bonnie will be an awesome president. She is way more organized than I am, and she has lots of great ideas. Thank you, Bonnie, for taking over while I was traveling.

I'm glad to have had the opportunity to become acquainted with more of you, and look forward to working with you in the years to come.

Linda

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Basket Bingo

Basket Bingo 2010 - Another Success!

Once again, with the help of many, many guild members plus some friends and relatives, Basket Bingo was a huge success. The day began with some extra cleaning of the event room, but it all went quickly due to the huge group of workers. Set up complete, we even opened the doors early. Many "customers" know they need to come early to get their lucky spots staked out, partake of the delicious food options and check out the awesome raffle prizes they might win.

The selection of baskets seems to get better and better every year! Our skill level and experience must be improving too. The BIG raffle table had donations from Layce Parkinson, Tressa Sularz, Jill Scarpari, Molly Stahlke, Nancy and Lorraine Guttormson, Karen Tembreull, and Susan Burkhalter. Raffle ticket sales earned the guild \$699. The Bucket Raffle had items donated by Lynn Breault, Bonnie Buzzza, Larry Poplar, Tressa Sularz, and Susan Burkhalter. This table of delights earned the guild \$350. With the food money, tickets and daubbers our total in-take was \$2680. Some small expenses will be taken out, but the overall profit is excellent. It is a bit below last year, but in these economic times I think it was great!!

An added game of "heart-shaped bingo" was played in honor of Diane Ericson, who passed away in April of this past year. Diane was instrumental in the formation of the guild and held many positions over the years. She loved basket weaving and the guild. She gave generously of her time and energy to be sure that the guild was a successful and gracious organization. The prize for the "Diane game" was an Amish Cutie, a basket she designed and was scheduled to teach at the Headwaters Workshop in Bemidji. She is sorely missed.

There are so many people to thank. Of course we couldn't have bingo without the great baskets donated by many, many members. THANK YOU ALL!! One of the highlights of the day is the amazing selection of treats offered. Thank you to the bakers. The table decor was thanks to Pam Ihle. And Susan Burkhalter did a great job with the door prizes. Every guest left with a prize and the comment "see you next year!". Everyone who sells raffle tickets, comes early to help with the set-up and those who do the little jobs that need doing - thank you!! You know who you are! We have had a suggestion that we do bingo twice a year from one of the happy customers!! Jill and I vote no to that one! Thank you all - and we are now accepting basket donations for 2011! :>

Jo Guttormson

Calendar - What's up?

Annual Holiday Potluck and Basket Exchange - December 10, 2010

Cabin Fever Weavin' Basket Workshop - January 15th - 16th, 2011

Teachers for this year are Marlys Sowers and Dianne Gleixner. We have had to change locations and will be at Roosevelt School - 122 E. McKinley, Owatonna, MN. It is a ground floor room with lots of space. The web site - www.ferggiesbasketcase.com - then go to the "Cabin Fever Weavin'" page link. Registrations are taken on a "as received" basis.

Headwaters Basket Guild Spring Workshop - Bemidji April 15-17

Basket Fest - April 28 - 30, 2011

The Lake Country Basket Guild is pleased to announce our exciting slate of instructors for Basket Fest 2011. Scheduled to teach are Flo Hoppe, Candace Katz, Judith Olney, Polly Adams Sutton, Nathan Taylor, Karen Tembreull and Laura Lee Zanger. Basket Fest 2011 will be held at the Center for Excellence, N4 W22000 Bluemound Road, Waukesha Wisconsin. Waukesha is a suburb of Milwaukee with a wide range of lodging, restaurants and shopping near to Fest. The Center for Excellence is an inviting and easily accessible facility that attendees are sure to enjoy. All activities are located on one floor, and in addition to the classes, include an Instructor's Marketplace, Vendor's Basket Boutique and a Silent Auction. A color brochure of classes and registration information will be available by December 15th on our website: www.lakecountrybasketguild.com

Weavin' in Winona - June 24 - 26, 2011

The 18th Annual Weavin' in Winona Basket Workshop will be at Tau Conference Center of Winona State University, Winona MN. Teachers who are scheduled are: Flo Hoppe, Annetta Kraayeveld, Marlene Meyer, Marlys Sowers, Eric Taylor, and Marilyn Wald. All workshop information including colored pictures of classes and a registration form which can be printed, will be available on the web site www.weavinwinona.com later in January. If you prefer to have a printed brochure mailed to you, which is expected to be out by the end of January, please send a self-addressed stamped business envelope to Deb Mather, 2075 Edgewood Dr NE, Owatonna MN 55060 . If you would like to receive email notification when the information is available, please contact Deb at deb@weavinwinona.com.

Class Schedule 2011

A paper copy of the 2011 class schedule will be available at the December 10 Holiday Potluck and Basket Exchange. For those who do not pick up a copy at that time, they will be mailed on Monday December 13th.

A lot of time and energy goes into soliciting class proposals, making choices, coordinating each month and then lining up all the teachers. Juli Haviland our Program Director assisted by Kathy Dowell, did a lot of work! Let her know you appreciate it. Thanks to Juli it looks like a great line-up!

Saint Paul Art Crawl - Oct 8, 9 & 10 - A Review

I have known about the St. Paul Art Crawl for years and it was always my intention to attend it but it either slipped my mind or something else came up. I have envisioned this event with people walking/crawling the sidewalks in downtown St. Paul with drinks in hand admiring innovative art. This imagining of mine wasn't far from the truth-more on that later.

This year I decided to go on one of the three dates no matter what! I picked up a post card with information on October 2, when Paul and I visited Tressa Sularz to collect her donation of baskets for Basket Bingo. Tressa has been part of this occasion since she moved to a lower town artist's loft a couple of years ago.

Friday night was the only night that worked for me. I found a few basket maker friends, Jo Guttormson and her husband Gary and Susan Burkhalter and her husband Wayne, and of course Paul, who were willing to peruse this art happening with me.

We met at the Black Dog Café and Wine Bar to start. Sitting outside we enjoyed a glass of wine while listening to machinery work on street and/or sewage construction on this beautiful October night. It did give us something to talk about while we looked through a booklet deciding which artists we would like to visit. We also noticed there would be live music and performance art in some spaces. In the end we started with a building across the street from the Black Dog. We did finish our drinks and did not carry them with us, so my initial vision of the crawl was not yet realized.

This first place was the Lowertown Commons at 300 E. 4th Street. The first floor had a variety of artwork from pottery to various painting media to jewelry. We found much to admire there. The artists were very friendly and were interested in talking about everything including the nice weather we were enjoying for the crawl this year.

They were not high pressure sales people. Last year the crawl weekend suffered through the first snowstorm of the season.

Next we went to Tressa's building the Lowertown Lofts Artists' Co-op. This structure had 4 floors open with art on each level. Paintings, brass jewelry, sculptures, prints, handcrafted furniture, as well as baskets were on display. In this building the artists also set out refreshments and snacks. Nuts, cookies, crackers and cheese as well as water and wine were some of the offerings. Tressa kindly showed us her beautiful loft and explained a little how the co-op functioned.

The last building we visited had a bar in the first floor with special music for the event as well as many floors with artists showing their wares. Unfortunately I do not remember the name of this building. In this area I bought some note cards with prints of snow. In fact we all found art to buy in one of the 3 edifices we entered.

As we traveled outside on this gorgeous fall night, between the artists settings, we encountered many patrons with drinks in hand walking (not crawling) between the buildings. My vision was correct! Finally vindication!

There is a website with information about this twice yearly event, www.artcrawl.org. There, I discovered it was started in 1991. This was the 30th time it has occurred. The next one will be in spring 2011-April 29th and 30th and May 1st. I highly recommend this event if the weather is right. It is a splendid way to spend a night, or day, with friends enjoying art offered straight from the artist in the space they live in!

Jill Scarpari

Northwest Indiana Hoosier Basket Guild Retreat - 2010.

When reporting or writing an article for the newspaper, or in this case the newsletter, Mrs. Helgerson tried to teach me to answer the who, what, where and when. So here goes.

Who: Northwest Indiana Hoosier Guild

What: Northwest Indiana Hoosier Guild Retreat

Where: Valparaiso, Indiana

When: September 30, October 1 and 2, 2010

There was quite a nice turnout of MBWG members at the event this year, as there was for the 2009 retreat. I believe the number for both years is somewhere in the neighborhood of 10. The website for the Northwest Indiana Hoosier Guild is <http://www.nwhoosierbasketguild.com/>. There are pictures out there from the retreat and who knows, you might see someone you know. Total number of participants for the 2010 event was 84. This was up slightly from the 2009 retreat.

The drive to Valpo (as the native Hoosiers call it) is about an hour past Chicago. I would like to be able to report the exact driving time involved but it seems that any trip to a basket event must include shopping. This is actually quite ridiculous as this event has quality basket supply shopping. Why in the world anyone would think it necessary to shop on the way down is beyond me but hey I did it anyway!

The registration for the 2010 event was \$25 if mailed in before July 25th (or something close to that). The registration included a light supper on Thursday night, lunch on Friday and Saturday. The guild is able to provide this due to the generosity of people donating items for a silent auction. The proceeds from the auction go toward the cost of the food. Okay - more shopping - can you beat it! This year I won (gotta love the idea of winning something that costs you money!) an embroidered hand towel and a lovely basket made by Karen Griffin from Farmer's wives. Not sure what the others from MBWG "won" but no doubt it was something wonderful!

Classes start on Thursday at 1:00 pm. The location is easy to find and is at a fairground/community center kind of facility. What will be in store for 2011 is yet to be seen but I think they are planning for the same location. Friday classes go the full day and some into the evening for both Thursday and Friday. Saturday is the final day of the retreat so folks can get home for work and what not on Monday. The atmosphere of the event is relaxed and the women from the guild are so friendly and work very hard to provide all a person needs for a good time.

This year I ran into someone I met back in the days of the Indiana Basket Weavers Association. My guess is it has been from 8 to 10 years since I last saw her. I hope to connect with another friend from IBA with the contact information Carolyn was able to give me.

Okay, I know Mrs. Helgerson also taught me not to go into too much detail and keep it short. Oh well, she is no longer my teacher and I get to do as I please (well, within the limits of what Susan Hagberg allows - always someone looking to set limits for me). Anyway, I wanted to tell you a bit about the another activity that must happen on trips for basket weaving - dining out. In Valpo, Jo G. and I have had the pleasure of eating at a little Spanish (not Mexican, not anything like Mexican) restaurant by the name of Don Quixote. The food is wonderful, the desserts fantastic and the Sangria is fabulous! What more can be said? (not much since I have really gone on quite too long.)

That takes care of the report from the Northwest Indiana Hoosier Basket Guild Retreat for 2010. The 2011 event will be September 29, 30 and October 1. Maybe I will see you there.

Jean Ellingson

Review of 3 art fairs-Bluegrass Music and Art Fair (in Rosemount), Art and Wine (in Cannon Falls) and Sogn Valley Art Fair (near Cannon Falls).

or

Too Many Baskets! Two artist's journey to being vendors at Art and/or Craft Fairs

Either the baskets go or we do! That was my thought a couple of years ago, when I tried to find a spot for the new baskets Paul and I had made. With 2 of us in our household making baskets-good thing the dog doesn't like to make them too-we were being overrun with the beautiful containers. My relatives and friends were hinting that they had received enough as gifts. I didn't want to quit making them as I consider it therapy and a way to rest my brain from my daily job as well as keeping it sharp through problem solving (ex. Now how do I fit in one more spoke....) So I started on my sojourn to find places to unload...oh I mean sell them.

Some of my requirements were the fairs had to be close to where we live and have a low entry fee. These 3 fit the bill.

Rosemount's Bluegrass and Art Fair, July 24 and 25, was the first weekend of Leprechaun Days-Rosemount's week long summer festival in July. Music and art were available from 4-9 on Sat and 3-8 on Sun. The music was nice for everyone to listen to as they were shopping. A variety of music was offered by various bands, including gospel on Sunday. and we enjoyed all of it. There were not many vendors but jewelry, quilts, handmade wood products as well as baskets were some items offered for sale. It was the first year for this festival. The festival was fairly well attended and we were able to sell a number of baskets. It was for us and the fair goers a pleasant way to spend the summer evening. There is also a walking track next to the amphitheater for people who wanted to exercise.

The next weekend we sold our wares at Art and Wine at River Bend Park in Cannon Falls. With the purchase of a \$20.00 ticket, patrons could sample 10 different wines. Ten wineries were present with samples of their offerings. Bluegrass music was also offered here at various

times throughout the hours of 10-5. This was a larger fair than Rosemount's but also in its inaugural year. This one was quite well attended even though the temperature was over 90. People enjoyed the wines and that helped with the basket sales a bit.

Our final show for the year was the Sogn Valley Art Fair, October 2 and 3. This one is held the first weekend of Oct every year and has been happening almost every year for 30 years, although it has changed locations. This one is very well attended and has a loyal following from the folks who live in the area as well as some metro people out for a jaunt on a nice autumn day, through a scenic valley full of fall colors. Farm fresh vegetables, honey, baked goods, wandering musicians, jewelry, fabric art, lots of pottery, wood crafts, baskets, food and wine and beer were some of the many things on sale here. People were hunting for useful artwork here and were able to find it. This nice bucolic, farm setting is perfect for browsing and hanging out while enjoying music and grabbing a bit to eat, while deciding what to buy.

All three of these offer space for families to relax and find just the right item for a gift or themselves. They don't have too many artists, like some fairs, where I become totally confused by the plethora of art and can't choose anything because I am overwhelmed. I look forward to participating in these 3 events again and would attend them even if I wasn't selling baskets. Besides I get a head start on my holiday shopping by purchasing from the other artists there-and my relatives receive a hand made item that isn't a basket! We have also depleted our stash of baskets by over half and look forward to making many more this year for next year's summer art fair season in the southern metro.

Jill Scarpari

Online

Free Patterns

A number of online sites offer free patterns. In most cases they are intended only for your personal use. There are some fun Holiday theme items available. Check it out!

<http://www.basketmakerscatalog.com/misc/freeins.htm>
<http://www.allcrafts.net/f.asp?url=www.countryseat.com/freepatternfalldoor.htm>
<http://www.basketsofjoy.com/freepattern.aspx>
<http://justpatterns.com/weavers/patternexchange.html>
<http://ourhouse.ninemsn.com.au/ourhouse/factsheets/db/craft/46.asp>
http://www.basketweaving.com/basket_scraps.htm
http://www.intheworks.net/free_patterns.htm

Basket Care

http://www.simplybaskets.net/Care_of_Baskets.html
http://www.indianterritory.com/pages/basket_care.htm
<http://www.anniesamishbaskets.com/care.htm>

Themed Gift Basket Ideas

<http://www.stretcher.com/stories/01/010716b.cfm>
<http://www.howtodothings.com/family-and-relationships/a4309-how-to-make-a-valentines-day-gift-basket.html>
<http://tlc.howstuffworks.com/family/how-to-make-a-christmas-gift-basket1.htm>
<http://www.betterliving.co.nz/content/athome/decoration/gift-baskets.aspx>
http://seniorliving.about.com/od/grandparents/a/gift_basket.htm
http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/2910300/how_to_make_a_healthy_gift_basket.html



About Our Organization

Minnesota Basket Weavers Guild

www.mbwg.org

When: The Minnesota Basket Weaver's Guild typically meets the 4th Saturday of each month, excluding summer, and with a few exceptions on holiday weekends. Go to the website (listed above) to confirm specific meeting dates.

8:30 - 9:00 am	Meet & Greet
9:00 - 3:00 pm	Classes & Open Weave

Where: Textile Center
3000 University Ave SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Membership: Single \$25 per year

Spokes & Weavers Editor

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