

Notes to Weave By December 2007

The purpose of the Clear Lake Basket Weavers Guild (CLBWG) is to encourage and perpetuate the art and skills of basket weaving.

Weavers - Here's our proposed schedule for 2008.

Note: We usually meet the 4th Sunday of each month—except when noted! Please note the following dates are tentative (subject to change); details will be filled in as they are finalized, as well as skill level for the project, cost, sign-up by date, contact phone numbers, etc.

All workshops will be held at the Challenger Park Learning Center (unless notified otherwise).

January 20 - 1pm-5pm - Community Project - by CLBWG member Mary Brown

Skill level: All (This is for the Empty Bowls for Houston Food Bank project.)

February 24 - 12pm-5pm - Beginner's Class/Hearth Basket - by CLBWG member Mary Brown

(This will be held for beginners, but experienced weavers are needed to help.

This is the time to invite anyone you know, who wants to learn to weave.)

March 30 - 9am-5pm - by Monica Impellizzeri/Baskets 'n the Works

Choose one of 2 baskets: 1) Diamond Tote - \$65; 2) Threads of Diamonds - \$85

April 27 - 1pm-5pm - UFO (unfinished objects) - Contact Bonnie Lindell

If you aren't familiar with a UFO; it means bring unfinished objects (baskets, etc.) and we weave and visit.

May 17 & 18 - 9am-5pm - Wire Weaving - Marilyn Moore

Contact Robyn Gardner

Early registration will be for CLBWG members; then other organizations.

June 22 - 9am-5pm - Double Wall Feather Basket - by CLBWG Member Becky Kitzmiller

July 27 - 1pm-5pm - Christmas in July - by TBD

Meeting upstairs - no kitchen use; snacks only

August 24 - 1pm-5pm - UFO (unfinished objects) - Contact Bonnie Lindell

September 28 - 9am-5pm - Paper Baskets - by CLBWG Member Linda Sura

October 26 - 9am-5pm - Antler Basket - by CLBWG Member Stewart McGowan

Learning Center not available—Location will be announced.

November - Have a Happy Thanksgiving (no workshop)

December ? - Annual Meeting and Christmas Party

A calendar will be emailed to everyone once dates, times, and costs are determined. The all day classes will be potluck. The shorter classes will be snacks.

Come and have some fun with us! New this year is that some classes may include open weaving (bring your own project) if you don't want to do the workshop project. Most of all, support your Program Committee by coming—they work hard at coordinating everything. They are already working on the 2009 schedule as some "big name" teachers are booked far in advance.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Did we have a good time at Becky's home? Yes!!!! Thank you, Becky, for hosting our Christmas Party and Annual Meeting.



L-R: James, Stewart, Ginny, Mary, Robyn, Tricia, Marsha, Gale, Bonnie, Becky

A summary of the topics and actions are listed below. Items 1 and 13 were the only ones requiring a vote by members present.

1. **Travel fees for out-of-town workshop leaders.** *Change Article VI, B7b Travel Fees from "An instructor teaching a [CLBWG]-sponsored workshop, who resides outside a 100-mile radius, is eligible to receive 30 cents per mile, the maximum amount being \$200.00 through the Guild treasury" To "An instructor teaching a [CLBWG]-sponsored workshop, who resides outside a 100-mile radius, is eligible to receive the current IRS accepted business rate per mile, the maximum amount being \$200.00 through the Guild treasury."*

Note: The IRS rate is now 48 cents per mile; but we will still keep the cap at \$200.00 maximum.

Action: Passed – Bonnie Lindell will insert the new wording into the current By-Laws and a copy will be distributed to all members.

2. **Keeping Guild records.** Each Guild Committee would serve the Guild well in the future by making a record of its procedures/programs/activities so that future committee members would have a productive reference point from which to decide how to proceed with current tasks.

Mary Brown (Program Committee) is working on this. She has copies of newsletters back to 1998 that list all the workshops. *(Only super organized people save stuff like this!!!)*

Marsha Allen has the Treasurer records. The end-of-year Treasurer's Report will be sent out in January.

3. **Beginner basket workshops.** Several members perceive a need for the Guild to be more active in recruiting new guild members. One way is to provide workshops specifically designed for beginners. This would provide opportunities for individuals who express an interest in weaving to evaluate their aptitude for the craft and to decide whether they would like to be associated with CLBWG.

The first such workshop will be in February; will cost approximately \$15, and we will *need* you Guild members to help with the beginners. The Program Committee is looking at ways to “get the word out”; such as contacting several other Guild societies, etc. (Mary will contact the Houston Center for Contemporary Crafts; Bonnie, The Arts Alliance Clear Lake and Daily Citizen; James, Galveston Daily News; and Gale, local newsletters, etc.

4. **Enhance guild members’ opportunities to glean more benefit from their membership, in addition to the formal workshops.** Designate workshops as either “open” -so that weavers can bring their own UFO, weave separately from the workshop group, participate in break time socialization -or be open only to weavers who are registered for the particular workshop.

5. **Increase community awareness of CLBWG through public appearances and charitable contributions.** Various committee members expressed a need to promote CLBWG to potential new weavers. Mary Brown has nurtured contact with HCCC and facilitated our opportunities for exhibitions there. Stewart McGowan, Mary Brown, and James Carthel have demonstrated basketry at festivals. Marsha Allen, Debbie Sterner, and James Carthel have provided experiences for elementary students and scout troops. In previous years, CLBWG weavers have demonstrated at Bayou Bend, Armand Bayou, and area nursing homes.

Gale Brom has inventoried and updated the Beginner Basket Kits that we have sold at festivals in the past. James said he would produce and make available business cards/brochures with contact information for people interested in the Guild.

Other venues: Texas Folklife Festival in San Antonio, General Sam Houston Folklife Festival in Huntsville, schools, The Arts Alliance Center At Clear Lake (TAACL), Armand Bayou Nature Center festivals, Bayou Bend of MFAH, HCCC, area fairs, craft shows/markets, etc. Of course, there will have to be a couple of “workdays” to put kits together; this would be a Guild effort.

Last Spring Mary led a CLBWG workshop in which members wove a basket specifically to give to the “Bowls” charity food project (and which we plan to do again in January).

6. **Internal Guild communications.** All members should use the “Reply All” email function to notify every member about current committee activities. The procedure is to open the most recent email message from the Communications Committee (James Carthel), delete the subject line and message body text, *replace* it with the new subject and new message, then click on “Send.” Committee members who are comfortable with sending their own messages will do so. James will continue to forward communications any time committee members need the service.

7. **Website.** James Carthel and Bonnie Lindell plan to collaborate on enhancing <http://clbwg.org>. Input from members will be gratefully appreciated.

8. **Debbie’s basketry tools and materials.** Debbie Sterner’s Estate Executor gave Debbie’s basketry tools and materials to CLBWG. Linda Sura is currently storing and developing an inventory. The Program Committee will schedule an opportunity, possibly auction format, for Guild members to purchase tools and materials. The Guild will use the funds for a Memorial for Debbie.

9. **Bedrooms for out of town guests/workshop leaders.** Hosting fellow weavers can be viewed as a special opportunity to share weaving experiences. Members who have guest bedrooms are requested to “register” with the Program Committee as hosts for out-of-town guests and workshop leaders. This will help defray expenses.

10. **Weaving skill level of workshops.** Having the weaving level designation for workshops is helpful to most everyone interested in weaving. When certain workshops are offered specifically for beginners, members can focus on inviting inexperienced weavers to register for these specific workshops.

11. **Procedures for “high-financial-commitment-nationally-known” workshop leaders.** The “drop-dead” date provision that the workshop will be canceled is a key component to keep us out of trouble. This means that, if the minimum number of registrants is not achieved by a date several months ahead of the workshop, we are in agreement with the workshop leader to cancel with no penalty. This is part of the Program Committee.

12. **Craft in America.** Guild members may make a voluntary donation in memory of Debbie Sterner rather than using current Guild funds for this purpose. Mary Brown will email a notice to the members about this opportunity to donate.

13. **Guild membership in basketry associations.** In past years CLBWG has had memberships in the National Basketry Organization (NBO) and other such associations, but currently we do not hold such memberships. The Basket Bits magazine and other publications have sections in their communications media for local guilds to post notices about their programs. Several possibilities were discussed and some newsletters were circulated. {Houston Center For Contemporary Craft (HCCC), where several of us hold individual memberships, does not seem to have an "organizational" membership category, as such. See <http://www.crafthouston.org>.} We continue to benefit significantly from participating voluntarily in HCCC events, thanks mainly to Mary Brown's leadership.

The Arts Alliance Clear Lake (TAACL) was identified as the regional entity with greatest potential benefit for CLBWG.

Action: Passed

14. **Program Committee personnel.** Mary Brown is in her third year; Bonnie Lindell volunteered for a 3-year term during the 2007 recruiting year, and Stewart McGowan volunteered to be the third member, also for a 3-year term. This committee needs to always have at least one new member "waiting in the wings" to take over because the "oldest" member cycles off each year.

15. **Nametags.** Support was expressed for having nametags worn by participants in all Guild events. James volunteered to create printed nametags for any CLBWG event when the registrar provides him the list of participants far enough in advance of the event.

16. **Newsletter.** Gale Brom has volunteered to do the newsletter during the coming year. She listed potential features, such as courtesy advertising/websites of members, and stated that a newsletter will be needed after the 2008 Weaving Calendar is adopted by the membership. {See CLBWG By-Laws Article V, B, 2, c for Communications Committee responsibilities.} Member inputs will be welcome.

17. **Database.** As our organization grows, recordkeeping is needed to keep up with names, addresses, phone numbers, etc. Ginny Brooks volunteered to put together a database similar to one she uses for another group and will compose a form which we will fill out and submit back to her. This form would be used for Guild information only. Everyone present thought this was a great idea.

CLBWG BUSINESS

2008 Membership Dues REMINDER

Dues (\$15.00) are due; make checks payable to the Treasurer, Marsha Allen, and mail to her at 16623 David Glen, Friendswood TX 77546 (281-482-1304). The 2008 membership roster is based on paid-up members only. Please remember, if you suddenly realize you aren't receiving any Guild information, you may not have submitted your dues and should call Marsha. Also, please inform Marsha of any address, telephone, and email changes.

WEAVING REPORT

No reports.

NEW MEMBER

Delores McRae - Clear Lake City; pdmcrae@comcast.net. Delores was previously a Guild member in the earlier Guild years; welcome back.

FYI - our Guild has 23 members.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES WE KNOW OF!**JANUARY 25-27, 2008****11th ANNUAL WEAVING RETREAT**

Sponsored by Monica Impellizzeri, Baskets 'n the Works, Spring TX
www.intheworks.net Columbia Lakes & Resorts, West Columbia TX

Instructors will be Monica, Karen Hobbs, Jill Robinson, Mary Brown, Laura Lee Zanger, and Lyn Siler.

MARCH 13-16, 2008**NCBA CONVENTION, Durham NC****MY BASKETS AND ME**

If you wish to attend next year's convention, you must be a North Carolina Basketmakers Association (NCBA) member; dues (\$25.00) must be paid by July 1; so, if you want to attend next year, join by July 1, 2008. Several of us are members and hope to attend. Check their website for further information: www.ncbasketmakers.com.

This is the largest basket convention in the US.

AUGUST 7-10, 2008**MISSOURI BASKETWEAVERS GUILD CONVENTION****WEAVE ME IN ST. LOUIS**

Holiday Inn Southwest, Viking Conference Center

Membership in the Missouri Basketweavers Guild (MBG) is just \$20 per year, which includes quarterly newsletters, membership directory and convention packet, and eligibility to attend the convention. You will find out all about them at: www.mbg.unionpoint.net

A couple of us are considering going (specifically, Gale & Bonnie).

If you have information for any upcoming events that you wish to share with the Guild, please let Gale or Bonnie know so it can be included in the newsletter.

SUGGESTION BOX

If you have any suggestions or information you would like to see included in the newsletter, contact either Gale (ladybrom@aol.com) or Bonnie (bsktcse@earthlink.net).

Some emails still show @houston.rr.com in email addresses; if this is incorrect, please let James Carthel know. Time Warner sold out to Comcast and many people are changing their emails to either @comcast.net or to another provider. Just like the post office, we need to be notified of address changes.

2008 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Finance Committee: Marsha Allen

Program Committee: Mary Brown (alternate Bonnie Lindell)

Communications Committee: James Carthel

Members at Large: Gale Brom & Ginny Brooks

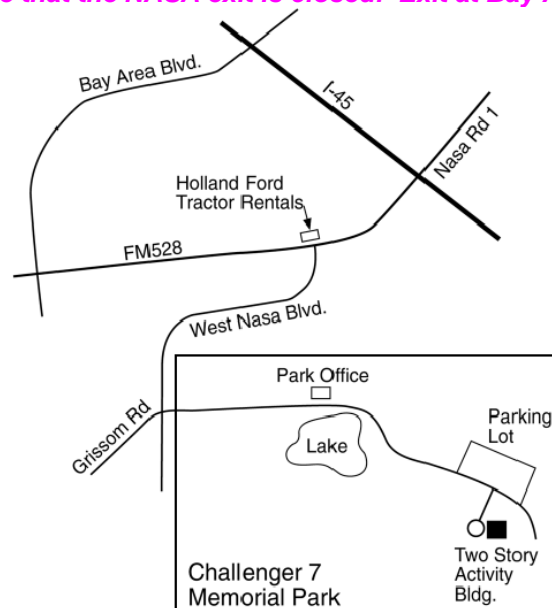
AFTERTHOUGHTS!

Remember, to check our web page: <http://www.clbwg.org/> for regular updates of events (once it becomes active). We hope to list upcoming events of interest, and to disseminate information much more quickly. As the web page becomes more active, it can become the current, reliable source of event information, including CLBWG sponsored workshops.

DIRECTIONS TO CHALLENGER 7 MEMORIAL PARK LEARNING CENTER

2301 W. NASA Boulevard
Webster, Texas 77598

Please note that the NASA exit is closed! Exit at Bay Area instead.



- ◆ From Houston, take I-45 South
- ◆ Exit Bay Area Blvd. (Exit 26) since NASA Parkway (aka NASA Rd 1 & FM528) is *closed*; you will need to get over to the right on the feeder road to exit right on the ramp **before** the NASA Parkway bridge overpass
- ◆ You will go right (West) on NASA Parkway, then you must get into the left lane after the traffic light (past the shopping center)

- ◆ Turn left at the street across from Holland Ford (you might see the small sign for Challenger Park)
- ◆ Follow W. NASA Blvd. until you come to the stop sign
- ◆ Turn left into Challenger Park (watch your speed limit) and go all the way to the large parking lot
- ◆ You can park in the semi-circle

We have to follow the Learning Center rules, such as:

- Put back tables & chairs in the same places/positions they were upon first entering!
- Sweep the floor
- Take out the trash
- Close off the kitchen
- Turn out the lights
- Lock the door

Reminder: If you have a plastic tablecloth, please bring it for your table top work surface so we don't accidentally damage their tables. Always bring a towel, too.

WEAVING TIPS

Submitted by Stewart McGowan: To keep wooden bases from becoming "water stained," cut a piece of contact paper to the size of the base (top and bottom) and press on. This will help keep the base dry. Then just peel off the contact paper when the basket is done.

CLBWG MEMBER BUSINESSES

New – If you'd like to advertise your business, just send me a business card and I will insert it here (no cost). – Gale Brom, gbrom@utsi.com or LadyBrom@aol.com