



## CPBWG NEWSLETTER

March 2024

Issue 104

[www.centralpabasketguild.com](http://www.centralpabasketguild.com)

### President's Message

Winter weather has played havoc with CPBWG first gatherings of the year, leading to postponements and then cancellations. Thank you to everyone for being understanding and flexible with the last-minute changes. Safety for all our members traveling from near and far is a major consideration when making these decisions.

I am eagerly waiting for our Spring Retreat. What about you? The guild event will be held in April at the picturesque Gitt Memorial Library in Hanover. This is the perfect way to usher in spring together. We will have 4 days this year to immerse ourselves with weaving and good times. Kathy Petronzio will be conducting the basket workshops, which are open to guild members only. Set aside April 25-28 on your calendar.

The 2024 UFO basket challenge is still open if you want to participate this year. Any basket that you weave on your own is eligible for inclusion, whether you are completing an unfinished basket or starting a new basket. Thank you, Suzanne, for including photos of the monthly baskets and winners in our newsletter. We have such talented weavers in our guild and this is one way to showcase their baskets.

Other basket guild workshops are detailed in this newsletter. I hope you all will sign up to attend and we will be seeing each other soon.

*Sharon*

### BOARD MEMBERS

#### President:

Sharon Schaeffer . . . . . 410-967-4482  
swschae@gmail.com

#### Vice-President/Programs:

Marilyn Julius . . . . . 717-292-3218  
gmcdejulius@gmail.com

#### Secretary:

Stephanie Hamel . . . . . 570-472-3942  
hamel@ptd.net

#### Treasurer:

Darlene Laughman . . . . . 717-797-9784  
Dlaughman958@gmail.com

#### Members at Large:

##### Communications

Suzanne Williamson . . . 717-632-8453  
sgw59@comcast.net

##### Special Events:

Anne Kelly . . . . . 814-880-2401  
basketsbyanne@yahoo.com

##### Membership/Audit

Donna Kumpf . . . . . 717-440-6249  
kumpf4@gmail.com

### In this issue:

- Guild Schedule, p. 2
- Service Project update, p. 4, 10-11
- UFO projects, p. 5
- What are you weaving? p. 3
- Prehistoric Basketry article, p. 6
- March class info, p. 8
- May class info, p. 9
- Holiday party info, p. 8
- Directions to Venues, p. 12

# ***Guild News***

## **2024 Guild Schedule**

**Saturday, March 16, 9:30-4:00—at the East Berlin Library:** Guild member Marilyn Julius will be teaching a **Trash Can Basket**. See p. 8 for more information. This is also the make-up date for the January **Apple Basket** class taught by Joanne Sheriff. We will also hold our **Holiday Party** on this date! The Guild will provide a main dish. We ask that you bring a side dish or dessert to share and a beverage for yourself. Hopefully snow will not be in the forecast this time!

**April 25-28, Spring Retreat held at the Gitt Library, Hanover, PA:** This year's retreat has been extended by one day! It will run from Thursday 4/25 through Sunday 4/28. Kathy Petronzio will be teaching a variety of classes. Information was emailed on February 13. Registrations should be post-marked March 1 or after. Contact Anne Kelly with any questions (contact info on p. 1)

**Saturday, May 18, 9:00-4:00—at the Camp Hill Giant:** Mary Annunziato will be teaching her Autumn's Cawing class that was rescheduled due to snow. If you already signed up you are ready to go. If you would like to sign up see p. 9 for more information. Deadline is May 1.

**Sunday, June 8, 1:00-4:00—Annual Dye Party at the home of Marilyn Julius:** Look for more info in the June newsletter.

**Saturday, July 13, 9:00-4:00—Service Project baskets at the Camp Hill Giant:** More information will be in the June newsletter.

**Saturday, August 17, 9:00-4:00—at Lake Heritage:** Guild member Samantha Richards will be teaching a water sprayer cover. Look for registration information in the June newsletter.

**Thursday, September 19-Sunday September 22—A Weaving Odyssey:** Held at the Aspire Hotel in Gettysburg. Information will be posted to the web site in mid-April.

**Saturday, October 12, 9:00-4:00—at the Gravel Hill Church in Palmyra:** Guild member Mary Morgan will be teaching a Hexagon Base Basket. More information to come.

**Saturday, November 9, 9:00-4:00—Ornaments or Ombre Gourds at the Camp Hill Giant:** Guild member Jennifer Nailor will lead this class. Look for more information in a future newsletter.

***As always, you are welcome to attend any Guild weave and work on your own project.***

***Newsletter Note:*** The newsletter is published four times per year, in March, June, September, and December. Any news, photos, etc. must be received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the month of publication. Submissions and ideas are always welcome. Contact Suzanne Williamson at [sgw59@comcast.net](mailto:sgw59@comcast.net).

**Thank you note:** A thank you note was received from Tidewater Basketry Guild thanking CPBWG for our donation of a free Odyssey registration that was a raffle item at the 2024 Guilders Weave held in January.

## What Have You Been Weaving?

We would love to see what you have been weaving! Please send photos of your projects to Suzanne at [sgw59@comcast.net](mailto:sgw59@comcast.net) for inclusion in upcoming newsletters.

CPBWG members who attended Guilders Weave in January are pictured below.



Sharon Schaeffer coiled this decorative rim on a gourd. (below)



Debbi Zvanut wove the Bright Easter Basket above. She is teaching this basket at Country Seat on March 9. Above right is Debbi's tray with an image of the Hardy County WV Courthouse.

**Service Project Update:** Under the leadership of the Lehigh Valley Basket Weavers this year's service baskets will be donated to Turning Point Lehigh Valley. See p. 10 for more information and p.11 for the basket pattern. On July 13 we will meet as a guild to weave Friendship Baskets for Turning Point. For those who choose to make a basket on your own there will be a collection area at Odyssey for them. On p. 4 there is a letter requesting donations of toothbrushes and toothpaste from dentists. If your dentist chooses to donate these items please be sure to send the name and address of the dentist to Jude at [julia.gallaher@gmail.com](mailto:julia.gallaher@gmail.com) or Suzanne at [sgw59@comcast.net](mailto:sgw59@comcast.net) so that they can be thanked.



**Central Pennsylvania Basket Weavers  
Guild  
&  
Lehigh Valley Basket Weavers**

**Service Project for Turning Point of the  
Lehigh Valley**

**Help Us to Share a Smile!**

The members of the Basket Guilds in Central PA and the Lehigh Valley are weaving Friendship Baskets for Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley clients. The gift baskets will be finished in time for the 2024 holiday season and will be filled with supplies that the families need to help them survive in the shelter.

Such items include: toiletries (such as shampoo, soap, razors, feminine products), first aid supplies, crayons, coloring books and small toys for children, etc.

You can help by donating toothpaste and toothbrushes for the families for their dental health. We would appreciate it if you could help by donating 10 tubes of toothpaste and 5 adult and 5 child's toothbrushes. We will list your practice's name as a donation to Turning point of the Lehigh Valley.

Thank you!

Guild Members

CPBWG & LVBW



## UFO Challenge Update



Congratulations to November UFO winner Jean Foutz!  
Jean's basket is shown at right.



## February UFO



## Prehistoric Basketry

By Stephanie C. Hamel



9500-year-old Mesolithic baskets from the Cueva de los Murciélagos in Spain  
WITFARM project

Last week, I stumbled upon a magazine article about prehistoric European baskets. Though not the world's oldest baskets, these are evidently the best preserved for their age. Fibers in textiles are susceptible to damage and decay and so are difficult to find in archaeological sites, particularly in damp climates. Most intact ancient basketry has been uncovered in the arid regions of North America; however, these fine specimens were found in The Cave of the Bats, near Granada, Spain. While caves generally conjure the image of dampness and high humidity, in this dry Mediterranean-climate breezes enter, circulate and cool before exiting through other vents. This prevents the growth of bacteria, and thus these materials were uncommonly well preserved.

Over two centuries ago, lead miners discovered numerous elaborate baskets alongside of mummified bodies, tattered sandals, and wooden mallets. At the time, the plant-based relics were unwanted and tossed aside, used to kindle fires to heat the ore, or taken home for souvenirs. Eventually however, archaeologists recovered over seventy-six of the fiber items, including cylindrical baskets, and pieces of cordage and sandals (as well as the mummies) and have been studying them ever since. I wondered if there were similarities between ancient and modern creation of baskets.

Recent carbon-dating reveals that two different Stone Age time periods were represented in these cave specimens. The older items, dating during the hunter-gatherer era about 9,500 years ago, were made with simple closed twining, though at times embellished with colored fibers, human hairs, and geometric patterns. The newer Stone Age baskets from farming cultures dating 7,000 years ago, used looser twining techniques, more complicated braiding, twills, and diagonal twining. These more recent basket weavers also incorporated coiling techniques.

All of these correspond to practices in modern weaving and all were woven with esparto, the grass, *Stipa tenacissima*, which is native to Spain and North Africa. It grows up to three feet in height on sandy, alkaline soils and is collected in the summer, then dried for storage. This 'raw' esparto was used for all of the earlier Stone Age baskets, though always soaked prior to weaving. The need for pliability for manipulation of plants into baskets certainly has not changed in thousands of years.

Later Items show evidence of other more complicated processing techniques. Archaeologists speculate that flexible materials and products were needed to transport the harvest from fields and more malleable baskets would fit the curves of the bodies which carry them, much like the purses of today. Crushing the gathered stems and leaves yielded thinner, more flexible plant fibers. Soaking the esparto in water, followed by lye soaks, and pounding the fibers removed the rigid cell wall lignans of the plants, to obtain flexible, strong, thin threads. Modern esparto grass processing technique has not altered significantly from the Stone Age pattern, which is similar to the modern processing of retting and combing flax to make linen.

The baskets studied from the Cave of the Bats are not the oldest, but they are indeed lovely, intact examples of Stone Age craftsmanship. The variation of weaving and processing techniques reflect how weaving skills develop over time. One learns first to twine before progressing to more complicated twilling or diagonal weaving. Perhaps we would take as many centuries to advance our own weaving techniques if we didn't have our beloved Odyssey, Retreats, and guild weaves to hone our skills.

*References:*

Chen, Ly "Ancient Baskets and Shoes Show Skills of Prehistoric Weavers SW Spain", *New Scientist*, September 27, 2023.

Martinez-Sevilla, Francisco et al., The earliest basketry in southern Europe: Hunter-gatherer and farmer plant-based technology in Cuerva de los Murcielagos, September 27, 2023, <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adi3055>

Plants for a Future: <https://pfaf.org/user/Plant.aspx?LatinName=Stipa+tenacissima>

J.M. Adovasio, *Basketry Technology: A Guide to Identification and Analysis* (Routledge, 2016)  
<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adi3055>

**March Guild Class: Trash Can Basket, Apple Basket make-up class, and Holiday Party**  
**Saturday, March 16, 2024**  
**9:30-4:00 at the Trone Memorial Library, East Berlin**



Guild member Marilyn Julius will be teaching a trash can basket. The guild will provide the weaving materials, base, and trash can. You will need to bring your usual tools as well as a sheet of plastic to fit under your water container to protect the library's floors.

There is no cost, but if you plan to attend you must email Marilyn at [gmcdejulius@gmail.com](mailto:gmcdejulius@gmail.com) by **March 1, 2024**.

On March 16 we will also have Joanne Sheriff teaching her Apple Basket class that was rescheduled from January.

And, we will be having our **holiday party** on March 16 too! The guild will provide the main dish. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share, and a beverage for yourself. If you would like to participate in a gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift in the \$5-\$10 range that you think a basket weaver would like. Check in your stash for goodies! If you plan to attend the holiday party, please email Marilyn so we are sure to have enough food, [gmcdejulius@gmail.com](mailto:gmcdejulius@gmail.com).



**May Guild Class: Autumn's Cawing**  
**Saturday, May 18, 2024**  
**10:00-4:00 at the Camp Hill Giant**

Guild member Mary Annunziato will be teaching this delightful woolly sunflower to go with a painted crow on a gourd. The crow will already be painted, but Mary will explain the process. Several color choices will be available for the sunflower.

Cost for the class is \$35 and the deadline to sign up is May 1, 2024.

***This class was originally scheduled for February and was cancelled due to snow. If you already sent your registration and payment you do not need to sign up again.***

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

# of Kits \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35  
TOTAL \$ enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Mary Annunziato. Mail this form and your check to:

Suzanne Williamson  
289 Grant Drive  
Hanover, PA 17331

**Deadline to sign up is May 1, 2024!**



# Central Pennsylvania Basket Weavers Guild & Lehigh Valley Basket Weavers

## Service Project 2024: Turning Point Lehigh Valley



For the past several years CPBWG has invited its members to participate in a Service Project that provides gift baskets that the members make which are then filled with needed items. Usually these are toiletries, socks or hats and gloves etc. These baskets are then given to organizations in the Central PA service area or to an agency that a member is familiar with. For 2024, LVBW will also participate in the project, and baskets will be given to **Turning Point Lehigh Valley**.

**Turning Point Lehigh Valley** is a safe place where ALL survivors of domestic and intimate partner abuse and their children can find refuge. They need items such as shampoo, conditioner, body wash, loofahs, deodorant, toothbrushes, tooth paste, brush/comb, lotion, hair ties and chap stick for the clients. Our job is make the baskets, collect the various items and deliver them to the agency in October 2024. If we are able to make some prior to October 2024, Turning Point would be grateful for the donations.

CPBWG and LVBW members will make the Friendship Basket by Deborah Blair. In addition, the both guilds will assist in collecting items for them. This is done at A Weaving Odyssey held in September. The basket has a built-in handle and uses 1/4", 3/8", 1/2" flat, natural, 1/4", 3/8" flat, dyed, #2 round reed, and seagrass. It only takes a couple of hours to make and is a great beginner basket

CPBWG will make their baskets at their **July** meeting and LVBW at their **August** open weave. If you can't make either meeting, we can provide materials for you to weave on your own. If you would like to make some now in time for the 2023 holidays, let us know and we can make sure they get to Turning Point.

Please join us in this very worthy service project by emailing Sue Williamson of CPBWG at [sgw59@comcast.net](mailto:sgw59@comcast.net) or Jude Gallaher of LVBW at [julia.gallaher@gmail.com](mailto:julia.gallaher@gmail.com). You can also donate funds to purchase the various items to fill the baskets. If you are donating lotion, shampoo or other consumable items, please be sure they are unopened and have not expired!

Yes, I will make a Friendship Basket \_\_\_\_\_  
at CPBWG, LVBW or home. (circle one).

Yes, I will make a donation to cover the cost of the items for the basket \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cash would be appreciated to facilitate the purchase of the items. If paying by check please make it out to LVBW and note 2024 Service Project on the check. Send it to Jude Gallaher at 4997 Winding Road, New Tripoli, PA 18066

**Thank you for your help in making life a little nicer for our friends at Turning Point**

# Friendship Basket

by Deborah Blair

Deborah wrote this pattern in 1991, and she graciously made it free for all weavers. It is an excellent beginner basket that incorporates a built-in handle. The basket is 8" L x 6" W x 5 1/2" H. The embellishment is optional. It makes a great hostess gift when filled with cookies, candies or wine! It also is an easy basket for gift baskets that are filled with toiletries as a service project.



## Materials:

3/8", 1/2" flat, natural and dyed stakes and weaver's  
1/4" flat or flat oval dyed weaver

3/16" or 11/64" natural for lashing and handle wrapping  
#2 round reed twining  
seagrass  
one 2 1/4" ceramic heart, with two holes (optional)



**Cut:** 11 spokes from 1/2" flat - 22" long and 1 spoke from 1/2" flat - 48" long for the handle

**Base:** Dampen the reed and lay out the base: lay 5 pieces at 22" horizontally; weave in the side 7 pieces by placing the handle piece (48") in the center and weave it under the first horizontal stake. Check your measurements; the base should measure about 7" by 4 1/2."

Twine 2 rows around the base, using #2 round reed. Upsett the stakes.

## Weave:

6 rows 3/8" natural. The first row is woven OVER the handle.  
1 row 3/8" dyed  
1 row 1/4" dyed, attaching the ceramic heart by weaving through the holes of the heart  
1 row 3/8" dyed  
3 rows 3/8" natural (the last row is the rim keeper row).

**Cut and Tuck** the stakes:

**Do not cut or fold the handles at this point.** Fold and tuck outside spokes. Cut off inside spokes.

Fold over the handle spokes and weave them into the opposite side of the basket. Add two pieces of 1/2" cut to the size of the folded handle, in between the handle pieces to support the handle.

Wrap the handle with 1/4" flat oval or smaller, adding a piece of 1/4" dyed reed for accent.

## Prepare the rims:

Prepare the inner and outer rims using the 1/2" flat. Insert the seagrass for filler. Lash the rim with 1/4" flat oval or smaller reed.

Shape corners as desired. Groom the basket to remove any stray hairs.

## Directions to Venues

### **DIRECTIONS TO GRAVEL HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 131 GRAVEL HILL ROAD, PALMYRA, PA 17078**

**FROM INTERSTATE 81:** Exit 80 (Grantville), take 743 South to Route 22 (about 1 mile). Turn left (east) onto Route 22, proceed for approximately 1 mile to Gravel Hill Road (green sign that reads: Palmyra 6 miles), turn right (south) onto Gravel Hill Road. Follow for 4.5 miles to white church on right - Gravel Hill United Methodist Church.

**FROM Route 422:** Go to the “square” in Palmyra, turn north onto North Railroad Street, continue approximately 1.5 miles to white church on left.

### **Directions to East Berlin Area Community Center (EBACC): 405 North Ave. East Berlin, PA 17316**

From Route 15—if coming from north or south take route 234 to East Berlin. (Heidlerberg/East Berlin exit), PA 234 East, go 8.2 miles. Turn left onto Fourth St., then left onto North St.

From PA turnpike, take the Gettysburg/ Route 15 exit, follow 15 South and directions above.

From Route 83 and points east or north, take Exit 35 then...

Head southeast on PA-177 S; turn right to stay on PA-177 (9.6 miles); Continue onto PA-74 N/Carlisle Rd (1.5 mile); Continue onto York St. (0.2 miles); Continue onto Wellsville Rd. (0.9 miles); Slight right to stay on Wellsville Rd. (1.9 miles); Turn left onto Kralltown Rd. (2.1 miles); Turn left onto Davidsburg Rd (0.4 miles);

Turn right onto Red Run Church Rd. (1.5 miles); Turn left onto PA-194 S (2.8 miles); Turn right onto North Ave. (0.3 miles) destination will be on the right. East Berlin Area Community Center 405 North Ave. East Berlin, PA 17316

### **Directions to Giant Grocery store (community room), 3301 Trindle Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011**

FROM ROUTE 581: Take exit 5 to Camp Hill; merge onto 11/15 North. The Camp Hill shopping mall will be on your left. Giant Grocery store is located at the end of the Mall. You can turn left at Trindle Road, then left into the parking lot at Giant.

FROM ROUTE 15 (south of Harrisburg):

Take route 15 North to Camp Hill. In Camp Hill, turn left on Trindle Road, and then left into the parking lot at Giant.

FROM York and south: Route 83 North to 581 Interchange, follow 581 West to exit 5 (Camp Hill), follow directions above.

FROM Interstate 81 (Harrisburg and East): Near Harrisburg, follow 83 South. After crossing the Susquehanna River, continue straight onto Route 581. Take exit 5 to Camp Hill, merge onto 11/15 North. The Camp Hill shopping mall will be on your left. Giant Grocery store is located at the end of the mall. You can turn left at Trindle Road, then left into the parking lot at Giant.

FROM PA. TURNPIKE: Either exit Harrisburg West and take 83 (directions above.) Or exit Mechanicsburg, and follow 15 North (directions above).

### **Directions to Trone Memorial Library: 105 Locust St. East Berlin, PA 17316**

From Route 15—if coming from south take route 234 to East Berlin. (Heidlerberg/East Berlin exit), PA 234 East. At the traffic light in East Berlin, turn right onto Rte. 194 south. Take the second right onto Locust St. (Rutter’s is on the corner) The library is 1 ½ blocks on your right. There is a parking lot as well as on-street parking.

From PA turnpike, take the Gettysburg/ Route 15 exit, follow 15 South to Dillsburg. Turn left onto Rte. 74 and go through Dillsburg. Right past the Northern School District campus, continue straight onto rte. 194 south to East Berlin. Go straight through the traffic light in East Berlin. Take the second right onto Locust St. (Rutter’s is on the corner.) The library is 1 ½ blocks on your right.

From route 30 turn north onto rte. 194 at the Abbottstown traffic circle. Stay on 194 until you see the Rutter’s on your left. (Past Weis and Cashman’s Hardware). Turn left onto Locust St. The library is 1 ½ blocks on your right. There is a parking lot as well as on-street parking.