

## Visalia Conference Report

By Madeline Rodriguez

The “Baskets and Gourds Containers of Our Culture V” conference was held April 25 through 27 in Visalia, CA, and is held during even numbered years.

This year was no exception to the wonderful basketry and gourd classes that were offered. The conference is organized by Toni Best, and I have to say she did a great job. Toni tells me that there were three new teachers at the conference. Sue Kamin, who is a member of MWGBG, was teaching pine needle basketry. Kristy Dial was teaching gourd techniques which included carving and wood burning. And the keynote speaker, Flo Hoppe, taught ridge basket weaving and three-rod wale. Her talk was a most entertaining and educational presentation on basketry and toilets!!

Toni informed me that this year thirteen scholarships were given to students from the Police Alliance League (PAL). I did come in contact with some of these students, and

*Continued on Page 2*



MWGBG members at Visalia Conference  
- Photo by Cookie Hanson

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## The President’s Message

*by Judy Robelotto*

As I write this, many of our members are under siege from the wildfires that are burning out of control in the San Diego area. My thoughts and prayers are with you, and I hope you are all safe! I hope that you all will take time to check out your home and surrounding area to see what you can do to keep your home and property safe from the ever-present fires.

We have six teachers who have proposed for the Members’ Basket Day! This is really exciting, as we were having to consider canceling the event due to lack of teachers. You should receive an email with a list of teachers, classes and registration information in the near future.

At the May meeting, the Board picked the classes for the 2015 Weekend in the Garden. Details will be shared with Guild members as soon as the list has been finalized.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Sunday, June 1**  
Meeting/Potluck & UFO Projects
- Sunday, July 6**  
Meeting/Potluck

*Visalia Conference Continued*

they were very excited to have the opportunity to attend this conference and take the classes. It was amazing to me how talented some were with no previous basketry or gourd experience. This may be a way to get young people involved so we don't lose the crafts of basketry and gourd art.

I very much enjoyed my two classes, one with Jennifer Wool and one with Judy Zugish. Both of my projects were finished in class. We were so lucky to have teachers of this caliber.

There was an exquisite art show that I attended on Friday, April 23, which showcased the artwork of the teachers. Boy there is a lot of talent in this group! I left with a piece made by Jennifer Wool. There was also an auction of work provided by many donors and a raffle of art made by California Gourd Society regional patches. I was lucky enough to have my name picked first! I chose the Orange County patch piece, so I thank them for adding to my gourd collection.

It was great seeing old friends and meeting new ones. I do look forward to 2016. If you haven't attended this conference before, you should try to attend. It is so worth the education, history and camaraderie.



*CGS Charm String Raffle Prizes - Photo by Cookie Hanson*

## Show Your Stuff!

*By Polly Giacchina*

Our first exhibition for the Guild this year will be baskets shown at the Encinitas Library. The opening date is August 26 through October 14, 2014 (there is a 20" height limitation). It would be wonderful to showcase the variety of baskets that are created by the Guild members. Please let Polly Giacchina [pollyjg4@gmail.com](mailto:pollyjg4@gmail.com) know if you want to show your basketry work.

Our second show will be gourds starting October 16 at the Encinitas Community Center. This show is organized by Grace Swanson.

Please consider putting your work in these shows. Everyone's work is welcome!



*MWGBG booth at San Diego Botanic Garden Asian & ArtsFest  
[See Pg. 4 for article.]  
- Photo by Carol Lang*

## UFO Sightings. . .

Bring your UnFinished Object (UFO) to the **June 1** Guild meeting and get help or inspiration to finish that pesky unfinished project.

Here's a twist on this concept for you. . . why not exchange an unfinished project with a fellow Guild member? They finish yours and you finish theirs! This could be lots of fun and who knows what the end results might be. If you want to consider exchanging projects, then please bring enough supplies to pass on to the other Guild member. Also, it would be a good idea to bring a variety of items that you might want to incorporate into someone else's UFO.

Whether or not you exchange UFO's, we hope you'll be inspired to finish up a project during the meeting.

Because the **July 6** meeting occurs during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, we won't be having a mini-workshop. So, bring a project you're working on or are having a problem with. There will be folks at the meeting that can help or give you suggestions.

Or you may need this extra time to finish up that UFO!

## Demo Opportunity

Contact Judi Shaw to sign up to demonstrate at the MWGBG booth at the San Diego County Fair. 2014 dates/times are: Saturday, 6/7, 10am-4pm; Thursday, 6/26, 11am-4pm; Saturday, 6/28, 10am-4pm; Friday 7/4, 11am-4pm (maximum of 8 people per day). Judi will have complimentary Fair entry tickets with her at the June meeting.

This is a fantastic opportunity for us to spread the word about the Guild and basketry and gourd art in general. If you haven't done it before, it's always a fun day!

## CALENDAR 2014

**June 1**  
Meeting/Potluck & Work on Unfinished Project

**June 26 & 27**  
Gourdstock Classes at Bates Nut Farm  
[See Pg. 5]

**June 28 & 29**  
Gourdstock Festival & Classes at Bates Nut Farm

**July 6**  
Meeting/Potluck & Work on Project

**August 3**  
Members' Basket and Gourd Class Day

**August 26 - October 14**  
MWGBG Basket Exhibit at Encinitas Library

**September 7**  
Meeting/Potluck

**October 11 & 12**  
Fiber Arts Fiesta at Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum

**October 12**  
Guild meeting at Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum

**October 16**  
MWGBG Gourd Exhibit at Encinitas Community Center

**May 2 & 3, 2015**  
MWGBG Weekend in the Gardens

Unless otherwise noted, meetings take place from Noon to 3:00pm the first Sunday of the month at San Diego Botanic Garden (230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA)

## Member Happenings

**Peggy Wiedemann's** art is on exhibit at the "Small Expressions 2014" exhibit at Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA, 7/15 - 10/4/14. She has work in the "Basket Exhibit for 2014", Philip Dicket Basket Exhibit Museum Gallery, Amana, IA, 5/3 - 10/6/14.

Member **Carol E. Lang** has curated a basket and gourd exhibit at the Rancho Buena Vista Adobe Gallery in Vista. It features gourds and baskets from around the world that have been collected by two members of our Guild, Willie Ziegler and Carol herself and a friend of hers. The show runs from Thursday, 5/8 through Saturday, 6/28/14. Gallery hours are Thursday through Saturday from 10:00am until 3:00pm. Admission is free to the public [<http://ranchobuenavistaadobe.com>].

In the March newsletter, there was an article on "Making a Difference" that encouraged Guild members to volunteer in some capacity for the National Basketry Organization. Well, we're very happy to report that **Kathi Klopfenstein** has been elected a board member of NBO. Congratulations, Kathi!



*Cookie Hanson's basket she taught at the 2013 Members' Basket Day*

## Members' Basket & Gourd Day Is Happening!

When the class catalog for the August 3 event is available, we'll send an email notice that it's been posted on the website's Calendar/Special Classes Page.

## Report on San Diego Botanic Garden Combined Asian & Art Festivals

*by Carol Lang*

The Misti Washington Gourd & Basket Guild once again demonstrated at the San Diego Botanic Garden's Asia and ArtFest 2014. This was the first time that the two groups joined together. The event was held on Saturday and Sunday, 4/12 & 13/14. There were over 20 artists showing and selling their work. Food and music were also available. Member Grace Swanson had her own booth, while Willie Ziegler, Nanette Wood, Susan Roberts, Peggy Blessing and Carol Lang manned the Guild booth. Willie even taught us a quick Japanese Ikebana basket. The weather was fine this year. . . NO RAIN!

## What's that Stuff?

During the May meeting "show and share" Kathy Romero was asked what she was using in one of the items she brought to the meeting. She said it was ¼" raffia rayon ribbon that she found on Amazon (also seen on Ebay).

Cool stuff!

## San Diego County Gourd Artists 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gourd Festival Gourdstock 2014!

Don't miss this year's gourd festival at Bates Nut Farm in Valley Center, CA, June 28 & 29 [15954 Woods Valley Rd.]. Classes will take place from June 26 - June 29, and the class catalog is now available. This year, they are opening vendor opportunities up to a broad range of artisans in addition to gourd-related art and supplies. You'll find links to class registration and vendor applications on the California Gourd Society Events Page (<http://www.californiagourdsociety.com>).

Also, all you CGS members are encouraged to enter in the Southern California competition. Best of Show wins \$100! Categories and entry instructions can be found on the CGS website's Competition Page.

Gourdstock Festival activities include:  
Gourd art, supplies, and craft vendors  
Classes - exciting and new!  
Free educational demonstrations  
Make & take gourd crafting (all ages)  
Opportunity drawings  
Individual project Play Zone  
Food vendors  
California Gourd Society Competition  
Dry camping available  
Picnic area  
Free entrance and free parking!



Interested in teaching?

Contact Judy Robelotto or Willie Ziegler if you would like to teach a special class during the year. If you'd like to teach a mini-workshop after a meeting, contact Gail Ethier. Also, your class topics and teacher suggestions are welcome! [See contact info on Pg. 10]

## Seal Beach Classes

The "Love Weaving Baskets" group in Seal Beach is in full swing and has had a really good year so far. Classes have been popular, and there are lots more on the way. Contact Cookie Hanson to receive a color copy of the flyer for the rest of the year ([lwbaskets@gmail.com](mailto:lwbaskets@gmail.com)).

Exciting classes with great teachers are planned the 4th Saturday of each month (except December). Here's the schedule for the remainder of 2014: June 28 Basket on a

Gourd with Cookie Hanson; July 26 Gourd with Coiled Pine Needles with Toni Best; August 23 Random Weave Basket with Willie Ziegler; September 27 - finish a project instead of formal class; October 25 Cornucopia Basket with Lynne Everett; November 22, Rag Basket with Cookie Hanson.

We are also asking what classes you would like in the future, so give us a shout at the above email address and tell us what you want.



## Road Trip!

Here are some recommendations from your fellow Guild members:

On Saturday, June 28, 2014, California Indian Basketweavers Association will provide an opportunity for the general public to experience well-organized, educational demonstrations of traditional basketry and other indigenous art forms, including stone-boiled acorn preparation in woven baskets. Event is at the Morongo Community Center on Malki Road, Banning, CA. The CIBA conference is 6/27-29/14 [<http://www.ciba.org>]. Kathi Klopfenstein has raffle tickets for the drawing taking place at this event.

July 11, 12, 13, 2014, are the dates for the International Folk Art Market in Santa Fe, NM [<http://www.folkartalliance.org>]. Kathy Romero may know of other Guild members attending this event, so contact her if you want roommate suggestions or advice about hotels.

October 25 & 26 and November 1 & 2, 2014, are the weekends for the annual Highway 62 Artists' Studio Tour in the Morongo Basin, CA. Kathi and Paul Klopfenstein will have their studio open both weekends [<http://www.hwy62art.org/2014ArtTours>].

If you are near Eureka, Willie Ziegler says not to miss Trees of Mystery Museum. Behind their gift shop is a fantastic American Indian basket museum.

## The Library Corner

### Book Review

#### *Plaited Basketry with Birch Bark*

by Vladimir Yarish, Flo Hoppe, Jim Widess

by Gail Ethier

Don't think you need to have a bushel of birch bark to benefit from this book! It is full of practical information on plaiting from simple to advanced. There are a number of projects very well illustrated with step-by-step photographs of the essential steps. I learned how to do diagonal plating with a rectangular base, made easy with instructions from Flo Hoppe. The cube project is not easy, but gratifying when you get it.

As for the difficulty of obtaining birch bark, gathering and preparation techniques are covered. I just went ahead with some substitute materials: folded map strips, painted watercolor paper, and my own experimental material, painted sewing interfacing. The cube project does call for something like the painted interfacing because it is strong and very flexible.

Check this book out from our library if you want to learn about plating. Borrowing books is free for members by just sending an email to the Librarian. (See *Contacts* on Pg. 10.)

*A recently updated list of Guild library books can be found on the Members Only page of the website.*

### Steal Like an Artist

Although not one of the books you'll find in our library, Peggy Wiedemann highly recommended a small, quick-read book entitled *Steal Like an Artist: 10 Things Nobody Told You About Being Creative* by Austin Kleon. She said it was a very inspiring book. Here's a review of this book found on the internet:

“Artist and poet Austin Kleon writes in an accessible, breezy, conversational shorthand. Few of his sentences run longer than eight words, and his message is simple: Learn all you can, develop a library of influences and never stop believing in your own creativity. His best advice to artists - get out of and stay out of your own way - recurs throughout the book in various forms, and Kleon offers simple, effective methods to do just that, organized as 10 creative spurs. His little sketches and profound, often humorous quotes from great thinkers and artists from across the centuries feature throughout this pocket-sized guide to unleashing your inner Picasso. While Kleon's unchanging tone can feel a bit precious, getAbstract still recommends carrying his guidebook around for boosts of creative confidence and doses of friendly, workable commonsense advice.”

**Misti Washington Gourd and Basket Guild  
Board Meeting  
April 6, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Cookie Hansen at 10:40AM.

- 1) Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes for February 2014 and March 2014 as published was made by Kathy Klopfenstein and seconded by Carol Lang. Motion carried.
- 2) Treasurer's report: Total assets \$14,475.34
- 3) Committee reports:
  - a) Weekend 2015:
    - i. Kathy Klopfenstein reported the she has received 12 teachers as of now with multiple classes. There are several more that she knows that will be received.
    - ii. Carol Lang made a motion and Willie Zeigler seconded that Weekend teacher selection be moved to the June meeting. Save-the-date notification will be on website and bookmarks will be produced.
    - iii. Carol has the list of goodie bag items leftover from the last weekend and will give this to Kathy Romero who is handling the goodie bags for the weekend.
  - b) Scholarship committee: no report
  - c) Newsletter: Next newsletter deadline is May 15. Need info for the Basket Day. Will include: Visalia Madeleine will write article on Visalia, and someone else will do pictures. Save-the-Date for the 2015 weekend (May 2-3, 2015) bookmarks will be distributed at the Visalia Conference.
  - d) Publicity/PR: Susan Roberts reported that she has got a notice of our meetings in the Reader. She also placed meeting notice in NC Tribune North County Section (looks like it appeared on the internet section). Susan will check on print version of the paper.
  - e) Website: Peggy Blessing is keeping up the current events. Password will be changed at April 15. Susan will send e-mail blast out April 14.
  - f) Special Classes: None
  - g) Workshops: no report
  - h) Library: no report
  - i) Membership: no report
  - j) Hospitality: Cecelia Roper made the counter look very Spring time.
  - k) Demo Opportunities
    - i. April 12-13: Will be at the Gardens 9-5 (set up at 8:30AM). Art expressions is the theme. There will be a passport that participants will get stamped. The Garden will provide stamps. Peggy will make brochure for the Guild. Peggy will also make Save-the-Date business cards for the Weekend in the Garden.
    - ii. Fair: Fab Fair theme-- Judi Shaw reported that the theme is to honor the British Invasion. Dates are Saturday June 7, 26, 28, July 4. Online entry close on May 9 for Home and Hobby. Will only accept on-line entries. May 20 is deadline entries are due. Need to sign up to demo with Judi Shaw
  - l) Historian: Carol reported that she has another book to share of the history of the Guild. She is looking for pictures for any year as well as the registration booklet for 2009 Weekend in the Garden. It was agreed that newspaper articles about members should be in the history book.
- 4) Old Business: no
- 5) New Business:
  - a) Judy Shaw reported Rhonda Epstein left an article and has not been able to locate her for several years. It will be put in the auction since there was no way to find her.
  - b) Newspaper article before the weekend: Carol suggested that we find who at the Gardens might be doing their PR and have a contact with the Union Trib. She will relate the info to Susan Roberts.
- 6) Action items (see above)

The meeting adjourned at 11:15am.

Respectfully submitted by  
*Judy Maddox, Secretary*



**Misti Washington Gourd and Basket Guild  
Board Meeting Minutes  
May 4, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by President Judy Robelotto at 10:45a.m.

Attending: Judy Robelotto, Cookie Hanson, Carol Lang, Peggy Blessing, Judi Shaw, Cecelia Roper, Gail Ethier, Kathi Klopfenstein, Willie Ziegler

- 1) Minutes: Willie Ziegler moved to accept minutes as published in newsletter. Peggy Blessing 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. *[Editor's Note: The April 6, 2014 Minutes were not yet published.]*
- 2) Treasurer's Report: Assets: May 2014, \$14,531.34 Report accepted for file and audit.
- 3) Committees:
  - a) Weekend 2015:
    - i) Kathi Klopfenstein brought proposals from 17 teachers. Since she could attend this meeting it was decided to go ahead and select the classes for the weekend. Proposals from 16 teachers were chosen, one teacher will be contacted to see if proposals can be altered to fit the weekend schedule better.
    - ii) Carol Lang brought up that the Garden wanted to cut the number of brochures printed and sent out. After discussion, it was decided to ask them to print 1000-1500 and to send only to Guild members and participants from past 2 events. Guilds will be notified and information will be on line.
  - b) Membership: We currently have 71 members
  - c) Scholarships: no report
  - d) Newsletter: Next deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>. Needs reports from Visalia and the Demo from the Asian Art festival.
  - e) Publicity/PR: no report
  - f) Website: Has been updated.
  - g) Special Classes: There have been only two proposals submitted for Basket Day. Carol Lang, Cookie Hanson and Kathy Romero volunteered to submit proposals. An e-mail blast will be sent out to request more proposals.
  - h) Workshops: Need a workshop for June meeting.
  - i) Library: It was suggested that a complete list of books in the library be available at the meeting for people to chose from. Several new books were added.
  - j) Demo Opportunities: Del Mar Fair- 4 days. June 7<sup>th</sup>, 26, 28 and July 4<sup>th</sup>. Judy will have Fair passes for those who have signed up at the June meeting.
  - k) Historian: Carol announced she is working on the notebook for 2014. Has included information from the Asian art Festival demo opportunity and several news articles about members. If members have newspaper articles, etc please get them to Carol.
- 4) Old Business: none
- 5) New Business: none

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Board meeting was followed by the general meeting, announcements, potluck and mini class taught by Gail Ethier.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Willie Ziegler, Acting Secretary*

**MISTI WASHINGTON GOURD AND  
BASKET GUILD**[WWW.BASKETS-GOURDS.COM](http://WWW.BASKETS-GOURDS.COM)[info@baskets-gourds.com](mailto:info@baskets-gourds.com)

760-431-1645

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Judy Robelotto, President

[oldsnowboarder@verizon.net](mailto:oldsnowboarder@verizon.net)

Mary Severine, Past President

Cookie Hanson, Vice President

Judy Maddox, Secretary

Willie Ziegler, Treasurer

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

Peggy Blessing, Editor

[pblessing@baskets-gourds.com](mailto:pblessing@baskets-gourds.com)**COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

Demo Opportunities: Judi Shaw

Finance Committee: Willie Ziegler

History: Carol Lang

Hospitality: Cecilia Roper

Library: Madeline Rodriguez

Marketing/Public Relations:

Susan Roberts

Meeting Workshops: Gail Ethier

[gailethier@mac.com](mailto:gailethier@mac.com)

Membership: Judy Robelotto

Special Classes: Judy Robelotto  
and Willie Ziegler

Volunteers: Kathleen Romero

[khtravel@gmail.com](mailto:khtravel@gmail.com)**Many thanks to those who  
Contributed to this issue!**

Gail Ethier, Polly Giacchina, Cookie Hanson, Kathi Klopfenstein, Carol Lang, Judy Maddox, Judy Robelotto, Susan Roberts, Madeline Rodriguez, Kathleen Romero, Judi Shaw, Grace Swanson, Peggy Wiedemann, Willie Ziegler

**T-Shirts Are Available**

If you're interested in getting a new MWGBG t-shirt, you can place an order through Judy Robelotto [See Contacts]. You can get it in any color the manufacturer offers (there's a ton of them!) and cost is \$10 with just the logo or \$15 if you add your first name.

You will need to pick up your shirt at a meeting, as we will not be mailing them.

**Your Newsletter. . .**

The MWGBG newsletter is published during odd months of the year. Deadlines for are as follows:  
July 15 - September 15 - November 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. Your suggestions are welcome!



Mobile App QR Code to MWGBG Website



Find us on Facebook!

**MISTI WASHINGTON GOURD & BASKET GUILD**

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

**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*).

- \$20 per person     \$25/household     \$40 Commercial (includes advertisement in newsletters)

*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