



# TIDINGS

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## **The President's Pen**

by Vicki Cartos

### **THE TOBACCO BASKET** From Utility to Home Décor



Since the guild is offering a tobacco basket class in February, I thought I would share some information about the evolution of the tobacco basket from a utilitarian tool to its current trend in home décor. Be assured that the guild and I are not promoting the use of tobacco products. I'm merely reporting on the basket's historical value, and the guild's calendar-meeting members want you to enjoy creating this particular basket and displaying it in your home.

The tobacco basket originated in Kentucky; but by the late 1800s, North Carolina had become the primary producer of these baskets.

**Why a basket?** Tobacco was first transported in huge wooden barrels holding about 1,000 pounds of leaves. But this method made inspecting difficult, and cheating was rampant with dishonest producers placing superior leaves on top while hiding inferior leaves in the bottom. Consequently, barrels were replaced with flat, open-weave baskets which were used to transport the leaves to market and to stack on warehouse floors. R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company is credited with developing the idea of using this type of basket to keep the tobacco

clean once stacked on filthy warehouse floors.

**How made?** Donna Campbell Smith writes how the tobacco basket was made in her internet article entitled, *Tobacco Baskets*.

"The baskets were made of oak that was split into strips. The oak strips were soaked in boiling soda water to make them bendable. The rim of the basket was fashioned with a double thickness of the strips. The bottoms were woven by machine, and another machine helped with putting the bottoms and the rims together. The tobacco companies purchased the baskets, and their names were stenciled on the rims."

**What happened?** Hand tying the leaves in a specific way was the process used for packing the tobacco basket so that the leaves stayed on the basket and were presented well to the buyers. Unfortunately, this process was time-consuming; and soon, tobacco was transported untied and wrapped in large burlap sheets as it is today. As a result, the tobacco basket companies closed by 1969 for the most part.

**(President's Message, continued to page 2)**

**(President's Message, continued)**

**How 'bout that!** Who would have thought that the tobacco basket would become such a popular item in today's home décor. These baskets can be seen attached to the outside of houses, hung on interior walls displaying floral arrangements, or propped on pieces of furniture displaying memorabilia.



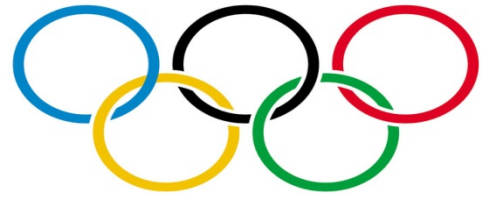
**Want one?** If you are unable to get an original tobacco basket for free by scavenging old barns full of junk, try shopping at flea markets, thrift stores, antique shops, and yard sales. Also, online sites such as Craig's List, Ebay, and Etsy are good places to shop for a tobacco basket for your decorating project. Prices from the sources mentioned can range from \$50 to \$300.

Or, you can make your own 14" tobacco basket on Saturday, February 16, at Larchmont United Methodist Church in Norfolk, 9:00 a.m., under the tutelage of **Diane Short** and **Cindy Stanton** for a very affordable \$15. Contact Tina Plageman if you wish to take the class.



Once you have made your tobacco basket, I invite you to share how you are displaying your basket by posting a picture on the Friends of TBG Facebook page.

Internet reference used:  
Smith, Donna Campbell, *Tobacco Baskets*, March 30, 2014.



Hey everyone,

GW 2019 will be happening soon. I have been busy with the final touches.

I am looking forward to seeing the new faces of first time students and first time teachers. Of course, I am looking forward to seeing all the familiar faces.

Just a few reminders- make sure the Marriott has all guests listed for the wonderful breakfast buffet. Also, please bring a food item to share for the hospitality room. Preferably something that is individually wrapped.

**Don't forget your Address Labels for the Raffle!**

I am looking forward to our first basket Olympics, so please get your five member team together. Think of a fun name for your team. The games will be fun for all ages.

So get ready to go for the **GOLD**.  
Happy New Year and see you soon,

**GO USA!**

Susie Waters, Chairman  
Tina Plageman, Co Chair

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### Guilters Weave 2020

I am very happy to announce that Wendy Holcombe has stepped up to the plate to be my Co-Chair for GW2020!! I will confess that I am a nervous wreck with this big task but I will give it my all and do my best to make it a fun convention. With that being said, I'm getting started right away. If you are interested in helping us in ANY way, please contact me! I am going to be forming committees and some of those will be starting their work right away. I will put this out there.....I need FABRIC scraps larger than 12" and those that can sew ASAP!!

Since the year will be 2020, I would like to have a theme/slogan/idea focused on VISION or eyes/sight. Get your thinking caps on and send me your ideas. This may be the hardest part of chairing!!

Any amount of time you can give us, we will take it!  
Tina

### **TBG Upcoming Events**

2019 is here and we are busy planning another great year of weaving opportunities. Be sure to sign up for the classes!!

Our January meeting will be held in Hampton and we will be weaving the Butterfly Wing Basket.

It's here!! Guilders Weave 2019 will be held in Newport News January 17-20. This is our annual event that brings guild members and teachers from all over together for four days of fun! We wish safe

travels for all of you that are traveling to join us and we look forward to seeing everyone!!

February 3rd will be our monthly meeting at LUMC and GW Show & Tell. Signups will be available for our new and exciting "Basket in a Bag" activity.

Saturday, February 16th, Cindy and Diane will be teaching a 14" tobacco basket.

March 3rd will be our monthly meeting at FCC and the "Live, Laugh, Love" basket will be taught.

March 14-17 is NCBA

If you are interested in signing up for any of our upcoming classes, please contact Tina to get on the lists!!

### **Vice President's Corner**

Hello fellow weavers,

Now that the busy holiday season is behind us, it's time to sit down, relax and get your weave on! The guild has the next several months' classes planned. Be sure to sign up for all of them!!

### **Looking back on the last few months:**

The guild was well represented at the annual Newport News Fall Festival on Saturday, October 6th with Kim, Rami, Annette and others. On Sunday I enjoyed hanging out with Marcy and Debbie. There was a lot of interest in basket weaving and our members had a very nice display of their baskets in all shapes, sizes and materials.

The Waterways Heritage Festival scheduled for October 13th and 14th was cancelled this year because of ongoing construction. We look forward to next year and representing the guild.

On Saturday, October 27th, we held our Fall Open to the Public class in Hampton. We had eight ladies attend and some new membership emerged from the class!! Along with the OTP, we had a good number of our guild members come out to weave up RED/WHITE/BLUE baskets for GW! Whatever Susie is up to with these beautiful baskets, we're going to love it!!

At our November meeting, Diane and Cindy taught the Tinsel Time Ornament. If you missed it, let me tell you, it is absolutely adorable! It's a miniature basket inside a plastic bulb. On the other side of the room, Rami had a group of ladies coiling with pine needles around a laser cut snowman disc. He was so cute and a big hit. Most of the ladies purchased extras discs to make more at home. A special thank you goes out to Billie Dorris for donating the pine needles for the class.

Diane had a full class when she taught the Woven Wreath on Saturday, November 17th. Members started with a wire metal wreath form and wove around it, then decorated it with a bow and an embellishment. Fall and Christmas options were offered.

The next event is something every member looks forward to all year long.....Our Annual Holiday Party!! This year's celebration took us "all the way down to North Carolina" to Cindy's beautiful home which was all dressed up for the season. We had 22 members who joined together for an afternoon of FFF (food, fun, fellowship). The exchange of gifts was absolutely beautiful this year and brought out the "naughty" side of some of our members!! It was so nice to have Billie back and a very special thank you to her and her mini treasures she shared with us.

Tina



## MYSTERY BASKET PROJECT

This year we decided to give the UFO project a rest and to offer another fun activity. This will start at the February meeting and ends at the June meeting.

Each participant will be given a number when they sign up. They will be given a brown paper bag with instructions to go through their craft stashes at home; i.e. weaving supplies, arts & crafts supplies, sewing supplies, etc. and find 10 items to put in their bag. The bag will then be sealed, labeled and returned at the next meeting.

The bags will then be renumbered and redistributed. You will not know whose bag of supplies you have!! You will take the bag home with you and begin making a basket!! You will have until June to weave up a basket using your own supplies and at least 6 items from the bag. In June, you will take your finished basket back to the meeting.

The basket must be at least 6"x6"x6", but you can go as big as you want. This is a project meant to bring out your creativity!

Suggestions for items to put in your mystery bag: dyed reed, wood, embellishments, natural fibers, handle, fabric, wood base, waxed linen, yarn, beads, paper, wire.....anything you have ever thought about weaving in a basket.

If you are interested in participating in this fun activity, please let Tina know.

**WEAVING PROJECT  
FOR BEGINNERS**  
By  
**Rami McKinney**



I am super excited about this new project we are trying for our newest weavers. We will have basket kits available for a small fee that are perfect for you to weave on your own. There are big baskets or small—something for all!

Along with the kit comes help!! That's right! I will be available to help you:

- (1) at guild meetings
- (2) through Facebook Messenger
- (3) through email or text - take a picture and shoot it to me. I will look at it, and together we will figure it out. The goal of this project is to help you weave more often between guild functions.

The kits for this project will be available at the **February 3, 2019**, meeting at Larchmont United Methodist Church in Norfolk. You will reveal your completed project to the guild at the **May 5, 2019**, meeting at First Christian Church in Hampton.

Here is my contact information:  
Rami McKinney at 757-572-8306 or  
[Kindredkountry@yahoo.com](mailto:Kindredkountry@yahoo.com).

Let me know if you want to be a part of this wonderful opportunity!!



2018 Annual Christmas Party



Snowman Ornament Class



Wreath Class

Tiding's is posted quarterly

Deadline Dates

Publication Dates

December 15  
March 15  
June 15  
September 15

January 01  
April 01  
July 01  
October 01

Any news, corrections, comments, suggestions, ideas, or photos should be sent by the designated deadline dates. If you have any articles please forward them to [bchcrzn@yahoo.com](mailto:bchcrzn@yahoo.com) Thank you!

Christy Newman  
Newsletter Editor  
[bchcrzn@yahoo.com](mailto:bchcrzn@yahoo.com)



Wreath Class

**TBG OFFICERS/BOARD MEMBERS  
2018-2019**

President..... Vicki Cartos  
Vice President..... Tina Plageman  
Secretary.....Marcy Murphy  
Treasurer ..... Shirley Murphy  
Membership ..... Wendy Holcombe  
Historian..... Sybil Magrill/Jamie VanOekel  
Communications ..... Christy Newman  
Refreshments..... Shannon Lovvorn  
Webmaster..... Cindy Stanton  
Open to the Public ..... Sherral Nelson  
Open to the Public ..... Diane Short  
Guilders Weave 2019 ..... Susie Waters



Susie's beautiful wreath!

**TBG Membership News**

*Have you paid your dues?*

Because we are updating the notebook, we also Ask that you **print a membership form** and send it in with your \$20. This can be found on the TBG website under the CONTACT US tab. If you're not sure please contact Wendy.

**The new year began October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.**

Wendy Holcomb is our membership chair.

Mail it in to:  
TBG

P.O. Box 55133  
Norfolk, VA. 23505  
Attn: Membership



GW Weaving