



TIDINGS

Volume 22, Issue 2

April 1, 2021

The President's Pen

by Vicki Cartos

LEAVING HER MARK



TBG's founder, Billie Dorris, passed away on January 19, 2021, after a courageous battle with cancer. Billie's legacy, as we know of, began in 1994 when she moved to Virginia Beach searching for friends who shared her passion for basket weaving. She did find those friends; and, behold, the Tidewater Basketry Guild was born. Twenty-five years later, what a gift she has bestowed upon us: that is, a life-long interest in basket weaving inducing happiness and a sense of accomplishment. We miss her already, yet her spirit exists in all aspects of our guild. It is now our responsibility to carry on this beautiful legacy that we have inherited. Indeed, the guild joyously pledges to commit to this duty.

A memorial donation in Billie's honor was sent to the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia, an organization which was important to her.

Included in this newsletter is a touching tribute to Billie written by **Cindy Stanton** with contributions from **Jamie VanOekel, Diana Veazey, Arlene Wallace, Christy Newman** and **Laura White**. Thank you, ladies, for your poignant homage to our "Queen Mother."

A BIT OF BUSINESS

** TBG had its first Zoom general meeting on March 7. I'm relieved to report that it was a successful experience. In addition to the 10 board members, I want to thank the 8 members who also participated. Zooming may become a new communication tool for our guild as we discover creative ways to use it.

**Volunteer Opportunities:

TBG needs to fill the position of Historian immediately. This board member's responsibility is to document the guild's history through the creation of a scrapbook.

TBG also needs to appoint by May a chairperson and two additional members to serve as the Nominating Committee for September's upcoming elections for president and secretary. This committee's task is to secure the names of members who wish to run for the aforementioned offices.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these opportunities, please contact me ASAP via email at vmcartos@cox.net or text to 757.409.4230.



*Guilder's Weave 2022
Presents
Weaving Naturally*

Hello my Basket Friends!

Well, we have started making progress in the planning for Guilder's Weave 2022. I have spoken to the Marriott team and they are very excited to have us back to their venue. They have provided the group room rates again this year which is a great discount from their regular rates and it includes breakfast. **The reservation link has gone live on the website.** Please pop over there and click on the link to make your reservations now. We are working hard on the teacher applications and they should be available on the website by the time this newsletter is published. I will be mailing out applications to all the teachers on our list, but if you have a favorite teacher please, send them the application. It seems like our theme is very on trend this spring. So, if while you are out and about and are inspired by all of the bee décor in the stores, please feel free to pick up some trinkets for us. We are going to be all sunflowers, bumblebees, bee skeps and fun for our weaving naturally event in January!

Don't forget to take time to work on your weaving. I hope everyone is staying safe as things start to relax a bit. I can't wait to see you all when we are able to be together again.

Sybil Magrill



IN PERSON MEETING INFORMATION

The Tidewater Basketry Guild will be meeting **IN PERSON** at 2:00PM, Sunday, April 11, at the First Christian Church on Todd's Lane in Hampton. YEAH!!!!

Cindy Stanton will be teaching her Beachy Wreath. It will be a free class for members. If you would like to make the Beachy Wreath, send your name to Barbara Speight <sp8barb@gmail.com>. by April 7.



Cindy wants everyone to know that if you have other colors at home that you would like to use for YOUR wreath please feel free to bring them. Reed or ribbon or any color that will coordinate with your home décor. Please be sure to sign up with Barbara Speight by April 7th.

Jamie VanOekel has retired!

Most of you know Jamie through her many years of service to the guild. She has worn many hats, Guild President, VP, secretary, historian, GW Chair and teacher along with promoting the Guild at festivals and demonstrations.

But her new "job" finds her moving to Mississippi with her husband to be closer to her family.

We are going to miss Jamie but I am sure we will run into her at conventions. I would be willing to bet she has already reserved her room for GW 2022.

Before she left Vicki and Cindy went to wish her well and present her with a beautiful Teleidoscope (woven by Cindy Stanton) as a token of appreciation for all she has done for the guild over the years.

All the best to you Jamie!



Wendy Holcombe has also moved. Her husband was transferred to San Diego. During her time with us she was a very involved guild member serving for a time as Membership Chair and as GW chair '21. Before she left Vicki presented her with a gift from the guild woven by Jane Tolar for her service.

We wish you Fair Winds and Following Sea's.



*In loving memory and tribute to
Billie Dorris
aka
"Queen Mother"*



Billie Dorris, one of our founding members of the Tidewater Basketry Guild, affectionally known as the Queen Mother, passed away on Jan. 19, 2021. She leaves behind her husband Johnnie, her son Willie, daughter in law Susie and a ton of friends.

In 1995 Billie contacted a few basket weavers, inviting them to her house and that was the beginning of the Tidewater Basket Guild. Billie held many board positions and chaired Winter Weave and Guilders Weave throughout the early years of the guild.

I met Billie at the Virginia Beach Spring Craft show in 2001. Wanting to learn basket weaving she set me up with a brochure and her phone number. After becoming a member, it seemed that Billie was always there. Teaching, offering advice and sometimes calling me out across the room when I had done something wrong.

Billie was one of the most giving people I have ever met and she became a great friend and mentor.

We traveled to conventions together, wove together and I even nursed her bleeding hand at NCBA when she stabbed it with an awl.

Did you know Billie loved to cook? She was once a test cook for the magazine Cook's Illustrated and I can say that whenever I was at her house, she always had something delicious prepared for us. It could be anything from a simple dessert to a full meal. She loved to share recipes and tips that she learned.

I remember once when I was having a hard day, I called just to chat she said "Cindy sometimes you need to just stop and think about yourself. After you've rested then you're better able to do the rest of the things you must." I have this printed out and posted in my office at work and home. It is hard to believe that I can never pick up the phone or send that email to her and expect that opinionated, spicy response back.

We will all miss her candor, her laugh and her advice. I am honored to say that I was her friend and will never forget the fun we have had over these 20 years. Thank you B for all the advice and fun over the years, I will truly miss you.

Cindy Stanton





Jamie VanOekel remembers Billie:

Building a friendship with Billie took time. Only then did you begin to appreciate her generosity, humor and intelligence. Basketry was not her only forte'. She was also an accomplished cook, an avid reader and kitchen gadget collector who had lived the Air Force wife life prior to settling in Virginia Beach.

To me, she was a mentor and friend I could count on for very honest feedback if I had a question – and sometimes even if I *didn't* have a question!

Conversations at her kitchen table will always be some of my most cherished memories. Billie appreciated unique and unusual art and challenging basketry techniques. She would dive into a new topic or technique to gain as much knowledge as she could. There was always something interesting that she wanted to share.

TBG, as a whole, was very fortunate that Billie was among the founding members of the guild. As a group, those ladies set the course for the guild we enjoy today. I miss her greatly and will make it a point to *stay curious* to honor her memory.

Laura White remembers Billie:

The loss of our Queen Mother, Billie Dorris, has been a real heart breaker for many of our guild members and fellow weavers.

As one of my best friends for over thirty years, I am missing the quick funny phone calls and the emails sharing the latest article from the Washington Post. She was always trying to keep me updated on current events. We did so many things together over the years from NCBA conventions, a fantastic trip to the Stowe Basketry Festival in Vermont, guild displays and endless classes. As a master weaver, Billie was always a warm and generous friend willing to share her time and materials with anyone interested.

She befriended and offered her talents to our new weavers as they joined our Guild. The honorary title "Queen Mother" came from her willingness to lead our guild, her encouragement to new weavers, and her active participation in all guild events.





I remember when I first joined the guild being "scared" of Billie. But as time went on we became best of friends. You always knew when you asked her something you got a very honest answer. Years later the "scared" returned when our president Jamie VanOekel asked me to weave a basket for Billie as a thank you gift the year she was GW Chair. YES came out of my mouth way too quick. When I later thought what could "I" weave for such an accomplished weaver as Billie Dorris!

The basket ended up one of the baskets I am most proud of. I presented it to her at GW and went on to display it in the exhibit room at NCBA that year and won my first blue ribbon.

Christy Newman

Arlene Wallace remembers Billie:

When I think of Billie the first memory, I have is waxed linen...strange for the queen of Nantucket's you might think. The first meeting I attended they were teaching a waxed linen flower basket the size of a quarter...I tried as best I could and Billie was my help mate. It never finished and after about 10 years I threw it away.

Billie introduced me to Nantucket's and I love them. She loved sharing her knowledge and tricks of the trade. And I'm talking real rims not cheaters. The process has changed over the years.

She remarked on several occasions that she was surprised I ever returned to the guild after my first encounter. A couple of years ago Billie gave me a waxed linen flower basket she had made and a Nantucket candy dish, I cherish. She was always kind and helped me with different techniques. She loved sharing her knowledge of basket weaving.



In Celebration and Gratitude for Billie

For days now, my heart has ached. There is an emptiness in our world that no one else can fill. Billie is gone. She was our "Queen Mother" par excellence... and ruled with her "Purple Tool" as her scepter. You never had to wonder what she thought or her opinion on anything. She was more than willing to share it whether you wanted to hear it or not. Yet it was never done with an edge or bitterness. She just told it like it was and moved on.

At Conventions, with her own room as her domain, she reigned with dignity and her dry wit...which kept us all on our toes. Her ever engaging presence with her endless knowledge and skill in basketry pulled us in.

What you saw is what you got...no coddling, or pampering... but a love in her heart that went deeper than any could ever imagine. She brought joy, and spice to life... with a little spite thrown in...to keep things interesting. The depth of her caring was always there...in spite of her efforts to make us think she didn't.

The hole in my heart is huge. Yet over the past few days I have found myself weaving together endless memories of times and special moments shared with her. With the weaving together of these memories, a basket has been formed in my heart. I remember Billie saying that baskets were made to be used, and this basket is where my special memories of her lie.

Remembering is a powerful thing. To remember is to put back together something that has been torn apart. As I re-member Billie, my hope is that I might weave back into the world a part of the joy with which she filled my life. Thank you, Billie, for the simple gift of you. Your presence in our lives was priceless. You will live on in our hearts forever.

Diana Veazey



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 \$25. This can be found on the TBG website under the CONTACT US tab. If you're not sure please contact Cindy.

The new year began October 1st

Mail memberships to:

TBG

107 Brady Loop Ct.

Maple, NC 27956

Attn: Membership/ C. Stanton

**TBG OFFICERS/BOARD MEMBERS
2021**

- President..... Vicki Cartos
- Vice PresidentBarbara Speight
- Secretary.....Marcy Murphy
- Treasurer Judy Townsend
- MembershipCindy Stanton
- Historian.....
- Communications Christy Newman
- Webmaster.....Christy Newman/Cindy Stanton
- Refreshments..... Shannon Lovvorn
- Open to the PublicSherral Nelson
- Open to the Public Diane Short
- Member At Large Sandy Doyle
- Guilders Weave 2022 Sybil Magrill

Tiding's is posted quarterly

Deadline Dates

Publication Dates

December 15

January 01

March 15

April 01

June 15

July 01

September 15

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 Thank you!

Christy Newman
Newsletter Editor



***Are you keeping up with
Friends of TBG on FB?***

***Check out our FB page for great pictures of
baskets and updates about TBG activities!***