



# OVER AND UNDER ACROSS OKLAHOMA

Volume 17 Issue 1

Dedicated to the preservation, promotion and education of the art of basketry.

February 2017

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Because of not having a meeting in December this newsletter is going to be short. There are no minutes to report. It's main purpose is to inform you of the February project and to make sure you know the meeting dates for this year.

Spring is around the corner. That means warmer temperatures and no more threats of ice storms. Sorry to have canceled the December guild Christmas party. The threat of ice was bad enough but I felt the wind was going to be too strong and too cold for people to be out walking and driving in.

Be sure to watch the dates of guild meetings this year. They are different from previous years. See page 2 for the dates and mark your calendars. We don't want you to show up and there not be a guild meeting.

Planning for this year's Weavers Weekend in October is underway. The Instructor and Vendor information is on the website. Vickie Gildon will chair the selection committee and she has a group to work with her. Thank you ladies. Marcia Balleweg and Diane Wilson will co-chair the retreat. It takes a lot of people to do the work needed to have a retreat. Please volunteer to work. There are many little things that don't take a lot of time and energy for multiple people to complete. The retreat for 2017 is at the Heart of Oklahoma Expo Center in Shawnee, Oklahoma the weekend of October 27-29th.

We have several slots for guild projects open for the year. If you would like to teach a class or have an idea for one, please let me or Vickie Gildon know. Vickie is our new Vice-President and her contact information is [cntrygrl@pldi.net](mailto:cntrygrl@pldi.net).

See you at the guild meeting.

Janet

BWGOK meetings are held at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum located near I-44 and NE 63rd Street in Oklahoma City. The meeting dates are in transition for the 2017 year and are listed on page 2. Meetings generally start with weaving a project then the business meeting coincides with lunch at 12 noon. We finish the business meeting with a basket raffle and door prize drawing followed by more weaving time. Everyone brings a covered dish to share at lunch. If you did not order a project kit come anyway and bring whatever you want to weave on. Bring finished projects to show and tell. We are usually done by 2-3.

## Guild Project

**February 18, 2017**



Our project for February is a 6" Easter basket taught with permission from Debbie Hurd at Bases to Weave in Arkansas. The colors are natural, pink and green reed with

a pink and green tulle ribbon. Partial kits and patterns will be bought from Debbie. If you would like to do this project please order kits from Janet Newman at a cost of \$15 each. The rest of the materials will be supplied by Janet Newman. Only 25 kits will be offered so please contact Janet soon as she will not have extra handles, colored reed or tulle ribbon. This will be a fun simple project that anyone can complete. Please if you start a project stay and finish it. The project will start promptly at 10 am.

If you want a kit contact Janet by Feb. 12th. Her contact information is [dnjn3227@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dnjn3227@sbcglobal.net) or send a text to 405-812-4454.

## BWGOK Officers - Elected and Volunteer Positions

President: Janet Newman

Vice President: Vickie Gildon

Secretary: Fran Cates

Historian:

Membership: Janet Newman

Librarian: Marcia Balleweg

Newsletter: Janet Newman

Newsletter: Janet Newman Newsletter submissions can be sent to: [dnjn3227@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dnjn3227@sbcglobal.net)

**Treasurer's Report as of November 30, 2016**

Balance as of August 31, 2016      \$11128.15

**Expenses:**

Weavers Weekend Refunds	\$95
Insurance	\$398
Storage Unit 6 month rental	\$324
OK Sales Tax Permit	\$50
Patricia Velte website work	\$118.80
Walmart for Welcome Bags	\$125.73
Jo Ann Miller reimbursement	\$22.98
Diane Wilson reimbursement	\$85.77
Droffatt's Catering Retreat Meals	\$1594.59
Sales Tax paid to OTC	\$479.89
Expo Center balance 2016	\$1697.50
Deposit for Expo Center 2018	\$302.50
New checks with treasure change	\$8.60

**Total**      **\$5303.36**

**Income:**

Deposit made Sept. 19	\$360
October meeting raffle	\$50
Registration and Dues	\$2970.23
Vendor fees	\$325
Silent Auction and Raffle	\$1226
Sales tax collected from vendors	\$484.63

**Total**      **\$4931.23**

**Balance as of November 30, 2016      \$11155.65**

**Minutes for the Basketweavers Guild of Oklahoma**

Because there was not a meeting in December there are no minutes to report.

## *BasketWeavers Having Birthdays*

*February and March*

*Mary McKinzie February 6*

*Nancy Mercer February 6*

*Peggy Sechrist February 10*

*Annetta Kraayeveld February 26*

*Janet Newman February 27*

*Jackie Thomas March 2*

*Mary Lee March 4*

*Rena Vickery March 7*

*WOW! Happy Birthday to all of you!!*

I only have about half of our birthdays. Please send me your birthdate and I will let

### **It's Membership Time**

January and February are the months we send in our guild membership dues. They are still \$15. This price has not changed for many years. You can go online and fill out the membership form and use PayPal to pay. You can go online and print the form off and mail in your payment. I will also put a form in this newsletter. After February the membership chairperson will go in and delete inactive members from the newsletter list so please get this taken care of and keep your newsletters coming.



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (month and day only) \_\_\_\_\_

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Interested in teaching at guild meeting? \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Interested in serving on a committee? \_\_\_\_\_

Membership is renewed each calendar year in January and your \$15.00 dues may be mailed to:

Janet Newman  
3401 Eagle Lane  
Bethany, OK 73008  
members@okbasketweaversguild.com

Do you have a friend we can send guild information to?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

## Sightless Weaver's Attitude Colors the Fabric of Her Life

February 29, 1996 By Sandra Mathers of The Sentinel

The things Arvena Farley loved the most slowly began to disappear. The car went first. That was two years ago. Then television was gone, quickly followed by her delicate handwork: knitting, needlepoint and crocheting. Soon even her beloved books faded away.

When Farley, 76, a Union Park resident, officially entered the twilight world of legal blindness, she took only one hobby with her: a sure-fingered skill for weaving reed baskets.

"When I realized I couldn't see, I was devastated because I thought I couldn't make baskets anymore," said Farley, who suffers from macular degeneration, a painless breakdown of tissues at the back of the eye.

Farley has peripheral vision, but no central - or straight-on vision left. But she can still weave, thanks to Eva Walsh. The multimedia artist who introduced Farley to basket weaving about 10 years ago was firm: "Oh, yes, you can," Walsh told her longtime pupil. "You can feel your way."

Now, every Thursday, Farley rides with a neighbor to the Beardall Senior Center in downtown Orlando to join eight other senior citizens in Walsh's weekly basket-weaving class. "All she needed was somebody to pull the colors for her and soak the reeds," said Walsh, who also teaches basket weaving at Crealde School of Art in Winter Park.

Walsh says Farley is one of just a handful of blind weavers to try her class in the 15 years she has taught it.

The retired doctor's assistant from Phoenix is nothing if not determined: Farley patiently fishes lengths of coiled reed from her soaking tub - only wet reeds are pliant enough for weaving - and lets her fingers work their way around the basket's spines.

"I use two weavers (reeds) in this color, then I add a green one . . . you see how the design changes," Farley animatedly explains.

This basket, destined to be a green and natural-colored waste basket will take about 14 hours to complete. She's proudest, though, of the reeds she has artistically twined around a wine bottle, her first bottle design since losing her sight.

Farley, a veteran of more than 100 baskets, laments that she's slower now than she used to be and, consequently, does fewer baskets.

But in her prime she was a one-woman assembly line, creating small containers, casserole totes, doll baskets, log baskets and melon baskets.

She mailed them to her son in Phoenix, sold them to a friend in Malaysia and gave them to her sales agent daughter to use as small gifts at her real estate closings.

Farley's high-production days may be over, but she has honed her hobby to a fine art by adding a single ingredient: the right attitude.

It's not surprising that Farley was chosen as graduation speaker in December for an Orlando training program for the blind. Her parting gift to her blind fellow grads wasn't surprising, either. She left them her "Be Attitudes."

They go like this:

"Be cheerful for yourself and those around you."

"Be involved and focus on things you know you can do."

"Be tolerant of those who do not understand."

"Be eager to accept challenges that can lead you to success."

Farley knows they work; she has tried them all in basket-weaving class.

Article taken from the Orlando Sentinel

## Guild Dates for 2017

\*\*\*\*\*

### NEW MEETING DATES FOR 2017

Meeting time is 10am sharp.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Calendar of Events

- February 18 (third weekend) Easter Basket
- March 18 (third weekend) Beginners Class
- April 15 (third weekend)
- June 24 (fourth weekend)
- August 19 (third weekend)
- September 9 (third weekend) September Fest at the History Center. Need volunteers to demo.
- October 21 (third weekend) Bring Positive Tomorrows baskets.
- October 27-29 Weavers Weekend in Shawnee, OK.
- December 16 (third weekend) Christmas Party

**2017 Dates for Weavers Weekend: October 27, 28, 29**

\*\*\*\*\*

### 2017 Texas BasketPalooza In Huston January 19-22, 2017

I attended the BasketPalooza a couple of weeks ago and had a great time. If you ever want to go to a retreat in another state do the Texas one. This is our sister guild and we have people in both guilds. The basket to the right is one that I made with Polly Sutton with NW Seageass and Cedar harvested by Polly in Washington state. The basket is just over an inch tall and the smallest I have ever made.

Texas state has several guilds. I'm planning on joining the Dallas/Ft. Worth guild. They meet the second Saturday of the odd months. If anyone would like to join and go, I would love to have you join me. The meetings are from 9 to 4 in the North Richland Hills Library. We would have to leave about 5 in the morning but it would be fun.

More information on the Texas retreat can be found at [www.texasbasketweavers.com](http://www.texasbasketweavers.com). The 2018 retreat will be in Kerrville, TX.

For more information on the Dallas/Ft. Worth guild go to [www.weavemealone.co](http://www.weavemealone.co).



## OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

The following email was sent to Marcia Balleweg. If you are interested in working this event please contact Megan Thompson yourself. It sounds like a great opportunity to advance basket weaving. If you do this please take pictures and let Janet Newman know so that it can be put in the newsletter.

Dear Marcia,

I meant to ask you this at the meeting at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Dec. meeting, but since that didn't happen, I totally forgot about it.

Casady School is hosting an arts festival for 2000+ high school students in April. The students arrive Thursday afternoon, and leave Saturday around noon.

When we hosted the festival in 1999 one of the workshops we offered was Cherokee basket weaving and the students loved it.

The dates are April 6-8. The workshop can be 1 or 1 1/2 hours long, and offered multiple times. Maybe they can even be offered longer since that's cutting the process a little short for basket weaving. School pays for all the materials and the presenter receives \$75 for an one hour workshop, and \$100 for a 1 1/2 hour workshop.

Would you, or someone you know be interested in providing workshop(s) for the festival? The main contact person who is scheduling workshops is Megan Thompson, [thompsonm@casady.org](mailto:thompsonm@casady.org), 749-3154.

END OF NEWSLETTER