

OVER AND UNDER ACROSS OKLAHOMA



Volume 22 Issue 4

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

August 2022

August 20 Guild Project Positive Tomorrows

Mary Lee is busy cutting kits for the Positive Tomorrows baskets. You need to let her know today if you want a kit for this Saturday. We will be making a 9" square napkin or muffin type basket.

The baskets will be taken home and filled with non-liquid/non-perishable kitchen items. Then bring them back to the October guild meeting and we will wrap them in cellophane and tie a ribbon on.

If you can't make it to this guild meeting, you can make any type of basket and fill it. Baskets can also be brought to the retreat from people who live too far away to come to the guild meetings.

If you don't have material to make a basket and will not be at the guild meeting, contact Janet Newman and she can furnish you with materials at cost to her.

Mary Lee's number is 405-329-6253.

Janet's number is 405-812-4454.



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

I want to take this time to say farewell as your president. There will be a special election this guild meeting to finish out my term in office which is one year. I have been president since about 2015. I hate giving it up but it's time to think about myself. I have some heart and lung issues that the doctors are trying to figure out. I have to start being a good girl and wear a mask around the reed and lose the weight I have gained since this crazy COVID stuff hit. I have loved serving you. Before being president I was the retreat chairperson for 6 years.

The retreat chair is another office that needs a new person heading it up as well as secretary and treasurer.

We want to see our guild continue, so please think about stepping up and taking an office. It really does not take a lot of time to do what needs to be done.

Our service project is the guild meeting. We will once again be making baskets to fill and give to Positive Tomorrows. We have been doing this for 20 years now. We usually give in the neighborhood of 40 baskets a year. That is around 800 baskets that we have given to people starting out in their own place to live.

It's time to enter baskets in the fair.

Our retreat is around the corner. If you have not registered, it's time to do so and to reserve a hotel room. Save your change to buy raffle tickets and donate to the raffle, silent auction and welcome bags.

Thanks, 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 meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of the even months. Meetings generally start at 10am with weaving a project then the business meeting coincides with lunch at 12 noon. 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 between 2-3.

BWGOK Officers - Elected and Volunteer Positions

President: Janet Newman

Vice President: Mary Lee & the Norman Weavers

Secretary: Fran Cates

Treasurer: Marcia Balleweg

Membership: Janet Newman

Librarian: Susan Steele

Newsletter: Janet Newman, Newsletter submissions can be sent to: dnjn3227@sbcglobal.net

By August 15	Deadline to enter baskets in the State Fair. After this date it cost \$10.
August 20	Guild Meeting, Positive Tomorrows project
September 17	Fall Museum Class, will need volunteers
October 15	Guild Meeting, project is a Wisk broom—Vickie Gildon, bring back PT baskets filled
November 4-6	Weavers Weekend
December 17	Christmas Party

State Fair of Oklahoma

Deadline to enter baskets into the State Fair is August 15th. After that it cost \$10 to enter.

2022 Creative Arts Quick Reference Guide

Creative Arts registrations must be submitted online.

Starting July 1, [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

Competition Guides

Posted Online:	Wednesday, June 1
Registration:	Friday, July 1, 9 a.m. - Monday, August 15
Deliver Exhibits:	Saturday, September 10, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday, September 11, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Pick Up Exhibits:	Monday, September 26, 2 - 7 p.m. Tuesday, September 27, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

ORDER YOUR GUILD MEETING PROJECT KIT.

ENTER BASKETS IN THE STATE FAIR.

VOLUNTEER FOR AN UPCOMING EVENT.



Chuckwagon Festival

Once again we braved the heat and worked with the kids at the museum to weave placemats. This is always a fun time. It was so windy this year, we asked to be moved into the building. The museum jumped into action and got us a place inside. Next year we will ask to be inside and in a quiet spot. We got inside but right across from a booth that had all kinds of musical instruments. The kids had a ball playing as much and as loud as they could. My daughter still holds it against me that I didn't let her play drums. This group had drums. Rat-a-tat-tat!!!!!! Boom, Boom, Boom!!!! It was still a fun day. Thank you to the ladies who came out to help.



Quilt, Craft and Sew Festival

The Quilt show was once again a fun time. We didn't have the traffic or the sales that we did last year but we still had a great opportunity to weave baskets and meet people. We definitely had a lot of baskets to sell. It was

very hot outside. Guess it was just the beginning of our heat wave.

Thank you Fran Cates, Lorraine Witzke, Diana Schwerdtfeger, Marcia Baleweg and Janet Newman for helping us for the 4 days we were involved.

Next year consider selling your baskets or working for a few hours. This is a great opportunity for the guild. The booth is given to us for free.



HELP WANTED—BWGOK WANTS YOU!

BWGOK will be having a special election for President at the August guild meeting. It was discussed at the June guild meeting. Janet has served many years and needs a break. Janet will continue to do the newsletter and membership.

At the November Weaver's Weekend we will be holding elections for Vice President and Secretary. This will be a regularly scheduled election. Our current officers have also served many years and need a break.

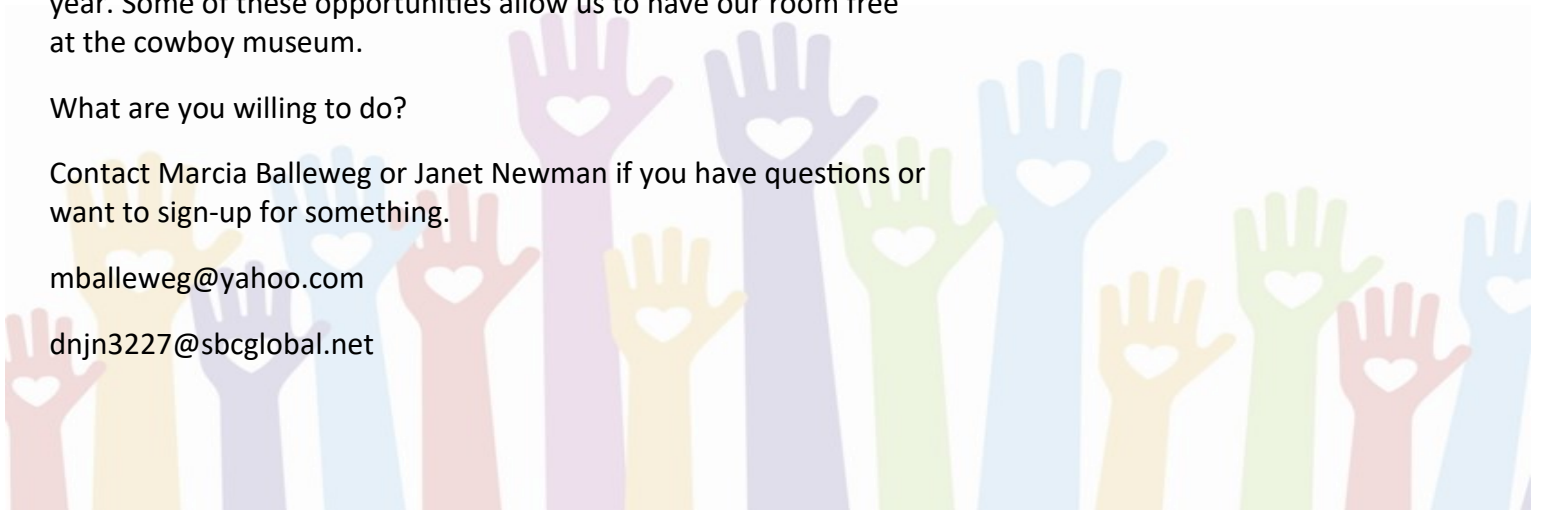
We have many opportunities to volunteer during the rest of the year. Some of these opportunities allow us to have our room free at the cowboy museum.

What are you willing to do?

Contact Marcia Balleweg or Janet Newman if you have questions or want to sign-up for something.

mballeweg@yahoo.com

dnjn3227@sbcglobal.net



Volunteers Needed

Check out the calendar on page 2. There are a number of times throughout the year that we need volunteers to help us keep our commitments to the Cowboy Museum. The room we meet in is not free. We are required to teach 2 classes and help with several events throughout the year. If we do not do these events we will be charged \$350 per meeting to use the facilities. If you want to help us out please contact me, Janet, at dnjn3227@sbcglobal.net or 405-812-4454 or Marcia Balleweg at mballeweg@yahoo.com or 405-823-5073.

The Spring and Fall museum classes are classes the museum offers and we help teach the patrons that sign up. These may or may not be new weavers. Anyone can sign up to take the classes including guild members. For these classes, the participants sign up on the museum website and the people pay the museum. The guild does not make anything on them but we do fulfill our contract obligations for getting our meeting classroom free. Usually volunteers get a free kit in exchange for helping out.

Check out the calendar for other volunteer opportunities.



Summer Weave-In

The Summer Weave-In was a grand time with everyone finishing their baskets. It was a time of choices. You got to choose between two classes and both classes had a small version or a larger version to choose from.

Mary Lee taught Cherokee Swirl which was a beginner twill. Janet Newman taught a file basket to hold your basket patterns, files or magazines. It had flowers on the front of the baskets.

We have a question for you, If the Summer Weave-In was in July instead of June would you be more likely to come to it?"

If the museum can accommodate us, we will move the Summer Weave-In class to July so it does not conflict with the Quilt, Craft and Sew Festival. Please let Marcia or Janet know if you like July better.

National Day of the Cowboy

A big THANK YOU to those who worked at the National Day of the Cowboy. Lorraine Witzke, Daniele Schneider, Carie Avery and Nancy Rimassa spent the day weaving on baskets and telling patrons of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum all about basket weaving. Thank you ladies. You are tops in my book.



BWGOK Minutes—August 20, 2022

President Janet Newman called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm, June 11, 2022 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

Welcome and introductions were made.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the June meeting.

Marcia gave the treasurer's report. As of May 31, 2022 the BWGOK had a balance of \$4,601.61.

BWGOK Treasurer's Report as of May 31, 2022

Balance as of March 31, 2022	\$4819.61
------------------------------	-----------

Expenses

Self Storage – May	\$61.20
Coffee Supplies	\$19.55
OK State Fair Premium Sponsorship	\$25.00
PO Box Renewal	\$84.00
Return check	\$15.00
Bank fee return check	<u>\$12.00</u>
	\$277.95

Deposits

Dues	<u>\$60.00</u>
Balance as of May31, 2022	\$4601.66

President Janet Newman reported the guild membership has broken 100 members.

Old Business:**Weaver's Weekend Report:**

- Marcia reported that plans for Weavers' Weekend are going well.
- She said that as it gets closer, there will be a need for volunteers to help with several things.
- A volunteer will be needed to contact restaurants in the area to see if they will donate gift cards for the silent auction.
- There will be a need for volunteers to help set up on Thursday and to sell raffle tickets at the retreat.
- Marcia was able to locate a man to come sharpen scissors at the retreat.
- As of Friday evening, 22 people had already registered.
- Marcia stated that next year will be her last year to run the Weavers Weekend as chairperson. She asked that members be thinking about this. She would like someone to train with her this year so they will be prepared to take over next year. She will be there to help.
- Storage Unit: The storage unit that is rented by the guild was discussed. The cost of the unit is going up to \$78 a month. Eliminating the need for the unit discussed. Marcia thinks that a large amount of records that are kept could be destroyed. For the time being. It was decided to keep the unit.

New Business:

- Marcia discusses the State Fair of Oklahoma. Several changes have been made to entering baskets into the fair. There are now going to be 8 classes to enter baskets in. You can enter 2 baskets in each category. If you register by August 15th, there is no charge. After August 15th there will be a \$10 charge. The guild has been given Thursday Sept 22nd from 1:00-5:00 pm to demo. So, get your baskets ready and think about weaving at the state So September 22nd. Janet will be sending out an email as it gets closer.
- Janet Newman called for a special election at the August meeting for the office of President. She has some health issues and needs to step down. The election will be held at the August Guild meeting.

MISSOURI RETREAT



Beautiful baskets were made at the Missouri retreat earlier this month. Janet Newman, Kathy Mueller, Marcia Balleweg, Susan Steele and Nancy Ramassa were the ones I know of that went to the Missouri Retreat in St. Louis. It was a great event. There were almost 200 people there. Thank you Missouri guild for putting on a fine retreat. It was a lot of fun.



Shirley Hill

April 18, 1948 – August 7, 2022

Shirley and I became friends in 1995. We both enjoyed crafts and I have to admit, I got her hooked on basketweaving.

We started going to Wichita guild meetings in 1996 or 1997. We would drive up to Wichita on a Friday after work. They held their meetings at 7:00 pm on Fridays. And then we would spend the night at my aunt's house and come home Saturday morning.

On one of those drives home, we started talking about getting a guild together in Oklahoma. After many lists and emails and calls to find a place to meet, our guild was born in September 1998. I was the first President, Shirley was Vice President, Edana Caldwell was our Treasurer and I can't remember who was Secretary. We started with 13 members.

Shirley and I had many adventures basketweaving in Kansas, Texas and Missouri. We carpoled to work for a few years and walked together when we could. In the last couple years, Shirley had COPD and couldn't leave her house much. Tethered to that oxygen is very limiting. So we would sit and talk often and once in awhile I could get her to weave. Mostly we talked about weaving more than we wove!

I will miss my friend. Rest easy, Shirley.

Marcia Balleweg





Weaving With Day Lilies

By Janet Newman

The top two pictures show examples of baskets I have woven this year with day lilies. I normally let my day lilies die in the Fall and clean them up in the Spring. This year I decided it was time I learned to weave with them. My first baskets on the right were lopsided and loosely woven. I went online to Matt Tommy's website called Woven Sculpture from Nature.

The picture to the right shows Matt's workshop where he has gathered green leaves and a few piles of ones that dried naturally. According to Matt, the best leaves are the ones that dry naturally. The leaves have to dry before you can weave them.

When ready to weave with the leaves, you just wet them and put them in a wet towel and let them

mellow overnight. The basic

technique for weaving with these leaves is to twine them with two leaves. When a piece gets short, just slip a new piece in with the end sticking out. It can be trimmed short after the basket is finished. One trick that takes a little getting use to is to twist the leaves as you twine. So the technique is: take the weaver on top behind the next spoke and twist it. Hold it with a finger and do the next weaver. It's twining with a twist.



The picture to the left shows an example of Matt Tommy's weaving the bottom of a basket. To the right is a basket being woven from Iris leaves.



The website: <https://www.matttommy.com/blog/archives/06-2022> has a video about weaving with natural

materials. This video does not show the twist that I used. The material in the video is very small. Mine was bulkier. They is why I twisted it. The video is in the June 2022 Archives of Matt Tommy's website. Matt is a professional artist. He offers online classes where he shows you more information if you are interested. You can learn a lot from his website even without purchasing his classes.

A note about the basket on the top right. It is my most resent basket. I put the spray bottle in the picture to help show how small this basket is. It is woven with day lilies. The green is the leaf stems from Wild Violets. I let them dry and them mellowed them overnight in a wet towel. It surpring how strong the leaves are after they are dried and then soaked overnight. They really need the overnight time in a towel. If you just soak them in a sink of water a couple of hours, they will still be crispy and will break. The top of my baskets are braided. This is a little tricky and I suggest marking the starting point on each row of the rim.

Matt Tommy's website: <https://naturalbasketry.teachable.com/>



Twining with Soft Natural Materials