

# Penn- Jersey Basketry Guild

Our 36<sup>th</sup> Year



## FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER

[pennjerseybasketryguild.org](http://pennjerseybasketryguild.org)

### HANDS ON HISTORY



### THE SHELTON SISTERS BASKET

Submitted by  
Claire Gallagher



In my hands it is weightless; its shape and materials remind me of a delicate bird's nest. Although a few weavers are damaged it is magnificent in its construction and a close look reveals the intricacy with which it was made. Patience and care are evident.

I had heard of the Shelton Sisters as a result of lifelong friendships with decorative arts scholars, graduates of Winterthur's academic programs who went on to teach at Bard, Sotheby's, Christies, and to curate collections at the Milwaukee Museum of Arts, and the Wadsworth Atheneum. Examples of their baskets were in decorative arts collections I had visited and the focus of conversations about feminism in the arts among my friends. When I had a chance to own one I was beyond excited.

(continued on page 4)

### GUILD OPEN HOUSE JANUARY 14, 2023 12 NOON

Please join your fellow guild members by ringing in 2023 at our Annual Guild Open House on January 14, 2023! Cyndi Lawrence will be our hostess in North Wales, PA. Festivities start at noon.

Please come with something sweet or savory to share with fellow guild members. Paper products will be supplied by the guild.

In lieu of our gift exchange please bring a food donation for a local food bank.

Hope to see you at the Open House! Cyndi Lawrence's home is located at 106 Bayhill Drive, North Wales, PA 19454.

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Sue Bunkin

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Karen Wychock

### **HISTORIAN**

Joan Darrigo

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

Claire Gallagher, Mary May and Karen  
Wychock for contributing to this  
newsletter!

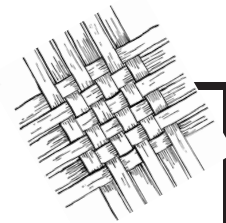
## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Martha Costain  
Barbara Henckler  
Connie O'Connell

## **PLEASE SUPPORT ALL OF OUR ADVERTISERS!**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings PJBG Members,

It's great to share stories that come from our members. In our last newsletter Gretchen Birdsall shared her story of the Nantucket purse. In this edition, our own Claire Gallagher is sharing her story of the Shelton sisters. It's a heart warming and touching tale of two sisters living in the hills of North Carolina weaving oak baskets. We hope you enjoy it. Thank you to Claire for sharing. If you have a story please let me know. I would love to feature it in an upcoming edition.

Our Annual Meeting in June was held at historic Walnford. As usual we shared stories, swapped basket supplies, shared some great food and enjoyed our Basket Bonanza! Everyone in attendance had a great time. Thank you all of our members who participated.

We did elect our new slate of officers for the upcoming two years. Your officers are as follows:

President: Karen Wychock  
Vice President: Mary May  
Treasurer: Carol Pollock  
Secretary: Pam Johnson  
Membership: Patti Bishop

Committees:

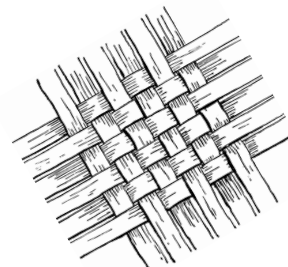
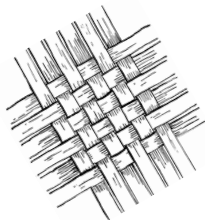
Programs: Mary May, Karen Wychock, Barbara Henckler and Sue Bunkin  
Cyber Secretary: Lisa Jahn  
Advertising: Joan Darrigo  
Historian: Joan Darrigo  
Newsletter: Karen Wychock

Thank you to Barbara Ann Mueller (secretary) and Connie O'Connell (programs) for their years of service to the PJBG. As they step down we welcome Pam Johnson to the board as Secretary and Barbara Henckler and Sue Bunkin to the Programs Committee.

It was agreed upon at the Annual Meeting to offer fewer classes by outside teachers. Our current membership numbers are not capable of supporting as many classes as we have had this year. We encourage our members to offer a class for the guild. Please let us know if you are interested.

Our Opening House this January is being held at Cyndi Lawrence's new home on January 14. We hope that you can join us for this annual event!

Weave On!  
Karen





(continued from page 1)  
The Shelton Sisters, Mary (1837-1921) and Eliza (1845-1933), were part of an active regional home industry and were listed as “Basketmakers at Home” in the 1910 Forsyth County, North Carolina census. Their work is known for its meticulous construction, fine details, and delicate but sturdy design.



Looking at examples of their oak baskets is amazing. The sisters designed and wove them for utilitarian purposes, and the baskets are clearly functional, but as art, they are beautiful sculptural objects. Visually they are impressive but to hold one in your hand is another thing all together; another sense is added to the experience.

This tiny basket sat on the bedroom bureau of the grandmother of a man who remembered it as always there, with her little odds and ends inside. She lived in the vicinity of the Shelton Sisters and her grandson could trace the basket to them, as he hand wrote in the statement he included with the basket. He was looking for a person who would appreciate and treasure this memory of his grandmother. I recognized the beauty of this example of decorative arts that carries the history of the hands that made it, the time in which it was made, and the elderly woman who put her small treasures inside it.

I have owned this basket for long enough now and it is time for it to go to a new home, to someone who will appreciate it and perhaps ensure that it is handled with care and respect and finds its way to a new home some day. Karen Wychock, I hope you love this gem as much as I have.



This basket measures 4 1/2” tall x 3 3/4” wide (handle to handle). The piece came from Scott Copes grandparents (Ollie Byrd Streeter b1902 Morven, NC and Joseph Richard Bunch b1913 Edenton, NC). Ollie was a teacher in Edenton. Joseph worked at the Newport News Ship Building and Dry Dock. Ollie owned the basket before she was married.





This is a large rare hand woven basket made by the Shelton Sisters in North Carolina between 1880 and 1910. A similar basket was seen on Antiques Roadshow episode #1819 from Knoxville and appraised for \$2000 to \$3000. This basket is in excellent condition and measures 11 3/4" wide by 12" deep and 10" tall including the handle. The weaving is very intricate and done with exceptional precision. It is a lovely tan color with what appears to be an added glaze or tint.

Of diminutive buttocks form, the basket of finely woven oak splints with bentwood frame and with nice age patination. (6.5 x 6 x 6.25 in.)  
By Descent from Annie Helsabeck Kapp (1910 - 2004) to her sister, Helen Shore.

ancestry.com - North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1975

North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1975 for Mary Shelton

1921 > May

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS				MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH			
3 Sex <i>female</i>	4 Color or Race <i>white</i>	5 Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (write the word) <i>Single</i>	16 Date of Death (month, day, and year) <i>May 3<sup>rd</sup></i>	I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased on <i>March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1921</i> to <i>May 2<sup>nd</sup></i> that I saw h... alive on <i>May 2<sup>nd</sup></i> and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at <i>1921</i>			
6 Date of birth (month, day, and year) <i>March 11<sup>th</sup> 1837</i>			The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows <i>acute dilatation of Heart</i>				
7 Age years Months Days <i>14 1 29</i>	8 Occupation of deceased (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work <i>Basket maker</i>			Contributors (SECONDARY) <i>Initial Migration</i>			
9 Birthplace (city or town) (State or country) <i>Pittsboro N.C.</i>			18 Where was disease contracted if not at place of death? <i>No</i>				
10 Name of Father <i>William Shelton</i>			Did an operation precede death? <i>No</i> Date of <i>No</i>				
			Was there an autopsy? <i>No</i>				

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Death certificate for Mary Shelton  
born March 11, 1837  
died March 5, 1921

ancestry.com - North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1975

North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1975 for Eliza Shelton

1933 > July

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS				MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH			
1 SEX <i>Female</i>	4 COLOR OR RACE <i>white</i>	5 Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (write the word) <i>single</i>	16 DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) <i>July 23 1933</i>	I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <i>July 22 1933</i> to <i>July 23 1933</i> and that I saw her alive on <i>July 23 1933</i> and that death occurred on the date stated above, at <i>1933</i>			
6 DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) <i>July 18 1845</i>			The principal cause of death and related causes of importance, in order of most were as follows: <i>arteriosclerosis</i>				
7 AGE years Months Days <i>88 5</i>	8 TRADE, PROFESSION, OR PARTICULAR KIND OF WORK DONE, OR BUSINESS, SERVICE, OCCUPATION, ETC. <i>housework</i>			Contributory causes of importance not related to principal cause: <i>(82)</i>			
9 BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or county) <i>Ya</i>			18 Where was disease contracted if not at place of death? <i>No</i>				
10 NAME <i>John Shelton</i>			Did an operation precede death? <i>No</i> Date of <i>No</i>				
11 BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or county) <i>Ya</i>			Was there an autopsy? <i>No</i>				
12 MAIDEN NAME <i>Eliza Apperson</i>							

© 1997-2014 Ancestry.com

Death certificate for Eliza Shelton  
born July 18, 1845  
died July 23, 1933

E. Frank Strupe (1899-1995) grew up on the farm next to Mary and Eliza Shelton. He wrote this tribute to them in 1979.

### A Tribute to Two Skilled Artisans

Of all the people I remember, these two spinsters were the most outstanding for their skill and artisanship. While I was quite young, since they lived on an adjoining farm, our family was often called on and more often, our family volunteered to render them assistance, because of their age and health, they were often unable to make a living by their trade of basket-making. In fact, very few weeks passed that one or more of our family did not climb the hill and follow the ridge to their humble log cabin, carrying milk and butter, sometimes eggs and flour and meat to them. This was not particularly a chore, for these two old people were very deserving, so that it was a neighborly thing to do.

Here too, I would like to also pay tribute to the other neighbors in the community, who felt the same as we did. Among them were "Uncle Billy Briggs," who lived on the other side of the hill from them who with his daughter, Parrie Newsom, often were seen taking them provisions and otherwise helping them, voluntarily.

Among the memories was and still is, the coldest and most refreshing spring that trickled out of the side of the hill that one would get water from without bending over. When the neighbors were together in the fall to cut the winter firewood for them, it was in the spirit of sort of a picnic, for everyone had the same feeling toward them as did our family.

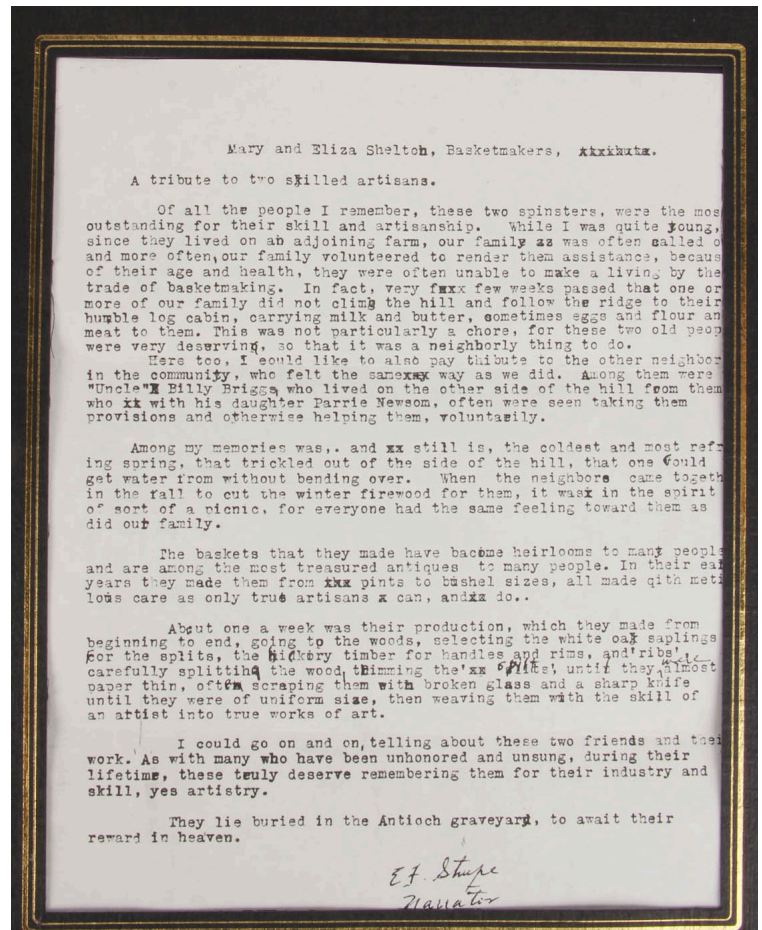
The baskets that they made have become heirlooms to many people and are among the most treasured antiques to many people. In their early years they made them from pints to bushel sizes, all made with quite meticulous care as only true artisans can and do.

About one a week was their production, which they made from beginning to end, going to the woods, selecting the white oak sapling for the splints, the hickory timber for handles and rims and ribs, carefully splitting the wood, trimming the splint until they were most paper thin, often scraping them with broken glass and a sharp knife until they were of uniform size, then weaving them with the skill of an artist into true works of art.

I could go on and on, telling about these two friends and their work. As with many who have been unhonored and unsung during their lifetimes, these truly deserve remembering them for their industry and skill, yes artistry.

They lie buried in the Antioch graveyard, to await their reward in heaven.

E.F. Strupe







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# Festival of Trees

This year, the PJBG is involved in two Festival of Tree displays, one in PA and one in NJ! Barbara Ann Mueller handled the display in Somerset County, NJ while Karen Wychock, Joan Darrigo, Pam Johnson and Sue Bunkin handled the display in PA. This is a great opportunity to get our guild some much needed publicity. Hopefully you can attend at least one of these events. Happy Holidays!



## Festival of Trees

Open Daily 9:00am – 4:30pm

Friday, December 2 through  
Thursday, December 29, 2022

*Festival Closed Friday, December 23 -  
Monday, December 26*

**Fun for the whole family!**

Featuring a multi-room display of decorated trees with a wide variety of themes

**Somerset County Park Commission  
Environmental Education Center**

190 Lord Stirling Road  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

**Suggested donation \$5 per person  
Refreshments will not be served**

Masks are optional and social distancing is encouraged. The Somerset County Park Commission reserves the right to modify rules or cancel the event in accordance with the Governor's Executive Orders.



**Toys for Tots  
drop-off through  
Dec. 13th**



For more information, contact the Environmental Education Center:  
908-722-1200 Ext. 5002  
[www.somersetcountyparks.org](http://www.somersetcountyparks.org)  
Individuals with a hearing/speech impairment may call the Relay Service @711





# PEARL S. BUCK FESTIVAL OF TREES

Penn-Jersey Basketry Guild  
proud participant in

## *Festival of Trees*

Pearl S. Buck House  
Nov. 16, 2022–January 8, 2023

Holiday Community Night  
Dec. 15, 2022 6–8 pm



520 Dublin Road, Perkasie, PA 18944  
For more information call 215-249-0100

Spend the Holidays  
at Our House





# BASKET CHATTER

Do you have an interesting photo, article, or basket tidbit that you would like to share with fellow members? Here is your opportunity to share. Simply email your information to [kwychock@verizon.net](mailto:kwychock@verizon.net). The following items were submitted by Mary May and Karen Wychock.



Mary May demonstrating at the Annual Duck and Decoy Show in Tuckerton, NJ



Gretchen and Robin (Peapod Weavers) arrived at a recent class dressed as twins! I wonder how often this happens?



The picture of Ally May was taken at Perkins Center for the Arts, Collingswood, NJ on August 30, 2022. The event was called Basket Tales and taught by Steven Carty, a PJBG member.



I had an enjoyable time teaching at the Waterford Craft School in Waterford, Virginia. I offered a class for kids and one for adults. It was a weekend filled with baskets!





## White Chile Recipe aka Backpack Chile from Mary May

1 LB Organic Ground Turkey  
1 LB Italian Sausage  
(I use links taking the meat out and crumb)  
1 yellow pepper chopped  
1 sweet onion chopped  
2 cans white cannoli beans  
2 cans hominy (corn)  
1 can green chiles chopped peppers  
1 can refried beans  
2 envelopes taco seasoning (I mix my own)  
4 cups chicken broth or stock

Brown Turkey + Sausage together

Add Taco seasoning & stir  
onion + yellow pepper - sauté

Then add to the meat mixture

Add beans, refried beans, hominy and green chili peppers

Pour chicken stock slowly, mix thoroughly and simmer ½ hour (I simmered 1½ hours)

Salt and pepper more spices to taste.

My seasoning mix: 1 tablespoon chili powder, 1 ½ teaspoons ground cumin, 1 teaspoon sea salt, 1 teaspoon ground pepper, ½ teaspoon ground paprika, ¼ teaspoon garlic powder, ¼ teaspoon onion powder, ½ teaspoon ground red pepper flakes, ½ teaspoon dried oregano

## Spaghetti and Meatballs from Karen Wychock

### Sauce

¾ cup chopped onions  
1 clove garlic (chopped finely)  
3 tablespoons olive oil  
2 one-pound cans tomatoes  
(you can just use tomato sauce or chopped tomatoes)  
2 six-ounce cans tomato paste  
1 cup water  
1 tablespoon sugar  
1 ½ teaspoon salt  
½ teaspoon pepper  
1 ½ teaspoon oregano  
1 bay leaf

Brown onions in olive oil, add garlic

Combine with other ingredients

Start cooking sauce while you make the meatballs

I usually bring the sauce to a boil and then turn it down on low

### Meatballs

4 slices dry bread  
(cut into small cubes, use stale, dry bread)  
1 pound ground beef  
2 eggs  
½ cup grated romano cheese  
2 tlbps. chopped parsley  
1 clove garlic, chopped fine  
1 tsp. oregano  
1 tsp. salt  
dash of pepper  
2 tlbps. olive oil

Combine all ingredients and shape into small meatballs (1-2").

Drop meatballs into hot sauce to cook.

Cook until meatballs are done (about one hour).

I then leave it on low for 1-2 hours for the best flavor.

I also like to add some grated cheese to the sauce before serving.

# MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## CONNIE O'CONNELL

“Attended the Association of Michigan Basket-makers Convention. Entered a beaded basket in miniature category and received 1st Place and in the Artistic Category received Exceptional Merit Award for my beaded bowl by the judges! The beaded bowl received the membership's Viewers Choice Award! What great joy!”



## MARY MAY

Mary May was invited to share her basket making talents with the public at the John Peto Museum in Island Heights, NJ. She did an open discussion with Folklorist Rita Moonsammy.



## KAREN WYCHOCK

My tote basket was chosen for the recent online NBO exhibit, Every 1. The exhibition will be live online through December 31, 2022. The goal of the exhibition is to provide an all-inclusive, members-only basketry exhibition that demonstrates the breadth and scope of the basketry that NBO members create.







*Our group may be small, but we are mighty! The PJBG Annual Picnic In the Park Weekend at historic Walnford was great fun. We enjoyed seeing all of our basket buddies and sharing our adventures, basket supplies and lunch! Thank you to all of our members who participated and to Mary Annuziata who taught us to make those beautiful wooley trees and sunflowers! Hope to see you at an upcoming PJBG event.*







*Class  
with  
Linda  
Scherz*

*May 2022*







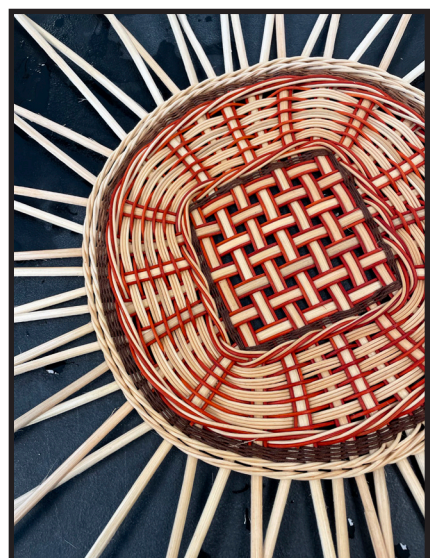
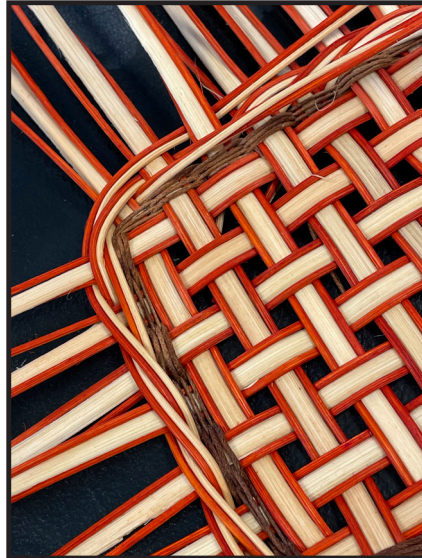
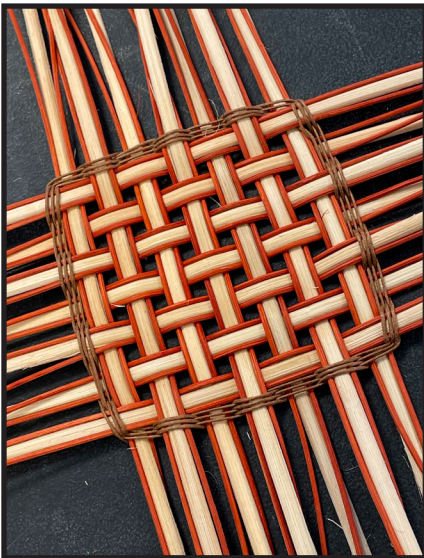
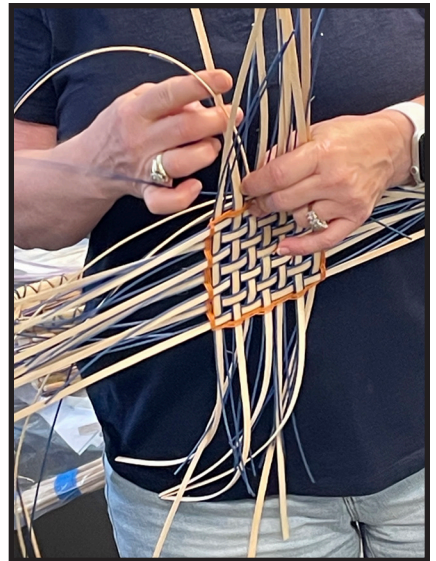
*Class  
With  
Mary  
Annuziato  
June 2022*







*Class  
With  
Pam  
Wilson  
July 2022*







*Class  
With  
Annetta  
Kraayeveld*

*September 2022*





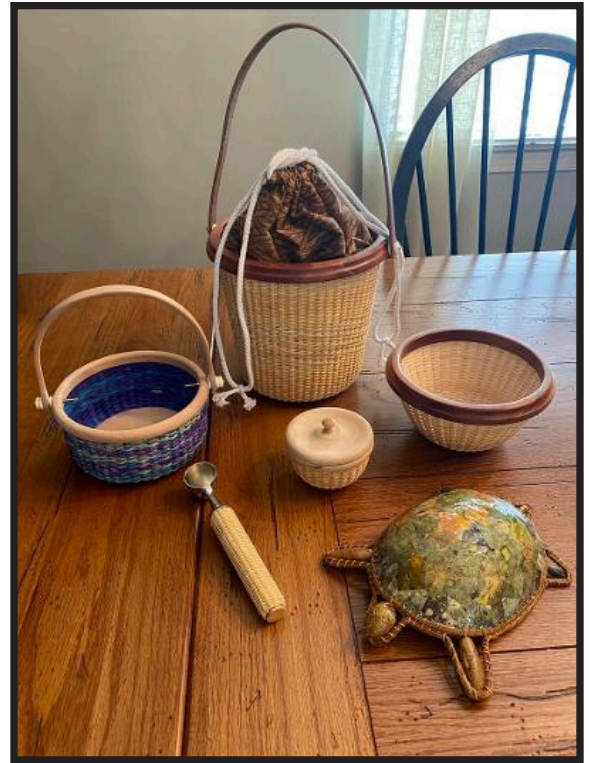
# WEAVING AT ODYSSEY

SUBMITTED BY CAROL POLLOCK

The Central Pennsylvania Basket Weavers Guild (CPBWG) convention in Gettysburg PA was a fun weekend. This year's theme was "Love & Let's Weave! A Weaving Odyssey." As in the past, several PJBG members attended and are called "The Jersey Girls", which I've amended to "The Jersey Girls & Me", the Pennsylvanian. Pine Boughs were taught on Thursday night by Mary Annunziato, whom the Guild had last summer. A new teacher, Mary Price, was there and Barbara Henckler asked her about teaching for us when she comes East. Several ladies took classes with Jan Beyma who specializes in Nantucket styles, and others took classes with Denise Bendelewski. Vickie Echols offered pine needle projects, an Altered Turtle or pendant. Annetta Kraayeveld who we also had the week before was there as she joined the two events to help us cover expenses. For me, I took a Joyce B. Smith class and made a double walled black ash basket about 3.5 inches tall and a twelve (12) hour class with Kathy Petrozio of Massachusetts, making a Summer Tote that has a double wall overlay and bead embellishment. Pictures of class our projects were posted on the Penn Jersey Basketry Guild's Facebook page by several of us.

One thing we always look forward to on this trip is a nice dinner out on Friday night. Since the convention date was moved to a different week, we couldn't get reservations at our usual favorite places. However, someone remembered a place in Fairfield PA, about 12 miles away, and they were able to accommodate the seven of us for dinner on short notice. We went to the Mansion House 1757 Boutique Inn. This is an old tavern where we got to see the side room where Mamie Eisenhower came to have lunch with friends and play cards. The room had a separate outside door so the Secret Service could keep her safe. Besides the fabulous food we received a history lesson. Plus, we made it back to the hotel in time to spend money at the Teacher's Market Place.

This convention is laid back fun and always a great time.



# BASKET HAPPENINGS!



**2023 Weaving in the Sunshine State Basket Weaving Retreat**  
**Save-the-Dates**  
**January 31st - February 2, 2023**  
**Ft. Myers, Florida**  
Questions? Send an email to [BeckyBechtel@gmail.com](mailto:BeckyBechtel@gmail.com)

**Tradition and Innovation in Basketry 11**  
The National Basketry Organization  
11th Biennial Conference

June 20 to 24th, 2023  
Tacoma, Washington  
<https://nationalbasketry.org>



**2023 Workshop Series**

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**Line-up!**

- Nantucket Style Baskets and More  
**Kathy Petronzio • March 9-13**
- Black Ash Basketry  
**JoAnn Kelly Catsos • March 20-26**
- The Art of Pine Needle Coiling  
**Char Ciammaichella • April 10-16**
- Diagonal Twill Immersion  
**Annetta Kraayeveld • April 17 -23**
- Basketry with Anne Bowers  
**March 27- April 2, 2023 & April 24-30**
- Painting the Blue Ridge  
A Field Guide to Plein Air Painting  
**Catherine Hillis • May 4-8**

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Shenandoah Valley, Virginia



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**Y**ou've joined the Penn-Jersey Basketry Guild, so why not join the group on Facebook? Keep up with all of our members latest happenings! **STAY CONNECTED!**

To join the Facebook group, simply log onto Facebook and in the search box, type "Penn-Jersey Basketry Guild." When the group shows up in the search results, click on it. You'll be brought to the guild's Facebook page. Then, under the header image, click "Join." You're in! It's an open group, so no approval is needed. We hope to see you on Facebook!

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## Editorial Information

Please e-mail text submissions as Microsoft Word attachments; Photos as high-resolution jpegs or tiffs (200-300 dpi) to:

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

or mail to: Karen Wychock  
108 Lyric Way  
Warrington, PA 18976

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**Submission deadline for the  
Spring Edition is  
March 1, 2023**

# EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar

## 2023 SCHEDULE

### JANUARY 14, 2023

Holiday Open House  
Noon to 3 PM  
Cyndi Lawrence's home  
106 Bayhill Drive, North Wales, PA 19454

### FEBRUARY 16 (WARRINGTON, PA) FEBRUARY 18 (FORKED RIVER, NJ) SMALL MARKET BASKET

Choose your location, Forked River or Warrington!  
Community Service Project for womens shelter.  
PJBG will supply all materials FREE of charge to make these baskets for the womens shelter. You then take it home and fill it with goodies (brush, shampoo, toothbrush and toothpaste, deodorant, gum, gift card, chocolate, etc.). The guild will then deliver the baskets.  
10 AM - 3 PM

### MARCH 11, 2023

General Membership Spring Meeting  
Location (Cloverdale)  
34 Cloverdale Road  
Barnegat, NJ 08005  
Woven bells with Mary May  
\$35 for 2 bells  
12 Noon - 4 PM



### APRIL 15, 2023

10 AM - 4 PM  
Mary Annunziato  
Sunflowers/hyacinths/carrots for Spring  
Location: Warrington, PA



MAY 12-13, 2023  
LAUNDRY BASKET  
Karen Wychock's home studio



### JUNE 9-11, 2023

PJBG Annual Meeting at Tuckerton Seaport

Class with Linda Scherz  
pack basket, 2 sizes (ornament and Sightseer)

Sightseer Dimensions: 8" x 11" x 16"  
Sightseer is a medium size pack of the utilitarian packs. Men, women and teens can comfortably wear this pack.

Sightseer is the perfect size for an overnight hiking trip.



Backpack Ornament  
Dimensions: 1 1/4" x 2" x 3 1/4"



All workshop flyers can be found on our webpage at [pennjerseybasketryguild.org](http://pennjerseybasketryguild.org) in January 2023.

They will be located with our newsletters.

### In the works...

Goose Feather Christmas Trees (Lititz, PA)  
Class will schedule once we get the instructor's schedule for the Spring and Summer classes.

Road trip to Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum.  
Lancaster, PA

A behind the scenes tour of their basket collection.