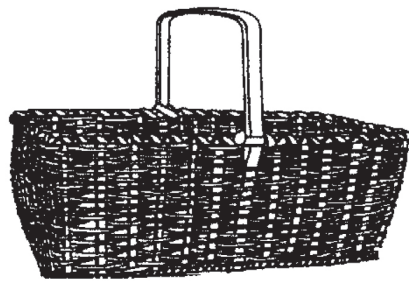


Penn- Jersey Basketry Guild



WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Our 32nd Year

HANDS ON HISTORY



BRIDGIT'S CROSS



St. Brigid, also known as “Mary of the Gael,” is an abbess and patroness of Ireland. She is the founder of the first Irish monastery in County Kildare, Ireland. Born in Dundalk in 450 AD, Saint Brigid is accredited with first creating the unique cross which bears her name. This cross is normally hand created from rushes however occasionally straw is also used.



The distinctive St. Brigid's Cross design is thought to keep evil, fire and hunger from the homes in which it is displayed, however the tale of its creation is somewhat confused, and there is not one definitive

version. The tale as we know it is as follows....

There was an old pagan Chieftain who lay delirious on his deathbed in Kildare (some believe this was her father) and his servants summoned Brigid to his bedside in the hope that the saintly woman may calm his restless spirit. (Continued on page 6)

GUILD OPEN HOUSE FEBRUARY 9, 2019

Please join your fellow guild members by ringing in 2019 at our Annual Guild Open House on February 9, 2019! Cyndi Lawrence will be our hostess in Mapleglen, PA. Festivities start at noon.

Please come with something sweet or savory to share with fellow guild members. Lisa Jahn will be contacting you by email so please RSVP as soon as possible.

If you would like to be part of our gift exchange, please come with a \$20 gift that a basket weaver would love to have!

Hope to see you at the Open House! Cynthia's home is at 816 Nesbitt Road, Maple Glen, PA 19002. Her phone number is 215-628-4064/610-283-2346.



*Wishing all of you a very
Happy and Healthy
New Year!*

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Karen Wychock

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SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Sue Bunkin, Cyndi Lawrence, Mary May,
Connie O'Connell, Carol Pollock and Karen
Wychock for contributing
to this newsletter!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Barbara Henckler
Connie O'Connell

Friendly Reminder:

**It's never too late to renew your PJBG
membership.
Send your check and renewal form to:**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Penn-Jersey Basketry Guild is celebrating its 32nd birthday this year! It's hard to believe. As we look forward to the next year, please know that the Board has been working behind the scenes to fill our 2019 Calendar of Events. You will find an array of classes just for you and your fellow basket buddies to enjoy. I hope to see each of you at an upcoming event. Cyndi Lawrence has graciously offered her home for our Annual Open House on February 9 from 12 noon - 3 PM. Please come out and share an afternoon with your basket buddies.

One of our goals this past year was to increase our mini basket collection for future tree festivals. We succeeded in our mission! Members donated baskets, stars and all things woven! Joan Darrigo did a fabulous job in collecting miniature baskets from every state. To date we have 32 states represented! All of these baskets were on display at the Pearl Buck House Festival of Trees this past Christmas season. Thank you to Joan Darrigo, Cyndi Lawrence and Carol Pollock for helping me to set up/take down the display. I could not have done it without you! Thank you also to Barbara Anne Mueller and Sue Begalke for volunteering to organize all of those ornaments.

Lastly, we would appreciate getting your ideas for classes and road trips. You never know when you will come across a "basket gem" in your travels. It could be at your local historical society or on a European vacation. Keep your eyes peeled for every opportunity. Feel free to contact any of us at any time with your discoveries and ideas!

Lastly, I would like to say "thank you" to all of you for your cards, phone calls and well wishes during my double hip replacement. Your kind words and support helped get me through two surgeries and weeks of recuperation! Let me know if you happen to need a walker, a cane, a commode seat, a leg lifter or even a contraption that helps you put your socks on when you can't bend over! They all work beautifully! I still can't leap tall buildings but I can now be padded down at the airport! Oh joy!

I wish each of you a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Weave On!

Karen

Suzanne Moore's

N.C. Basket Works

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910-245-3049 ♦ 800-338-4972 ♦ Fax: 910-245-3243
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THE EDDIE BASHA COLLECTION

Housed in the Zelma Basha Salmeri Gallery
22402 S Basha Road
Chandler, Arizona 85248
(480) 895-5230

The Eddie Basha Collection in the Zelma Basha Salmeri Gallery, draws admirers from around the world. The impetus behind the collection, as well as the gallery itself was one of love, respect and great admiration.

Eddie Basha grew up captivated by the American West. In 1971, under the encouragement and guidance of Aunt Zelma, Eddie started to collect art. What began as a hobby quickly grew into an inspirational passion, combining his keen interest in the history of the American West, his admiration of the American Indian and his appreciation of art.

His collection has grown into one of the largest private collections of contemporary Western American and American Indian Art in the world.

The focus of the Eddie Basha Collection lies in two areas: Contemporary Western American Art and Western Amer-

ican Indian Art. It is a vast composite of oil paintings, watercolors, acrylics, charcoal, basketry, pen and ink, pottery,



bronze, wood and stone sculptures and jewelry. There are well over 3500 pieces in the collection.

Eddie was just not a collector. He was known for developing close, lasting relationships with many of the artists he collected from. To Eddie, these friendships played a significant and imperative role in the pieces he purchased. Each one tells a unique and personal story.

Eddie was passionate about sharing his love of art, which is why he opened a gallery in 1992. After only two years, the gallery doubled in size. Recognizing the need to create two separate spaces for the two distinct collections, a second expansion took place in 1996, opening up the American Indian Wing.

In January of 1999, a complete renovation of the gallery brought about a unique presentation of the collection in its entirety. The gallery was further expanded in 2001.

If you can't travel to Arizona, the website offers virtual tours of the gallery including the basket room (eddiebashacollection.com). The baskets are absolutely stunning!

DID YOU KNOW?

THE BASHA GALLERY IS THE LARGEST PRIVATELY OWNED COLLECTION OF WESTERN ART IN THE US



By Nadine Arroyo Rodriguez

Published: Friday, July 3, 2015

(<http://kjzz.org/content/159420/did-you-know-basha-gallery-largest-privately-owned-collection-western-art-us>)

The Zelma Basha Salmeri Gallery of Western American and American Indian Art is a gallery created by the late Arizona supermarket owner Eddie Basha. It houses pieces he collected for more than 40 years. Did you know the Basha art gallery is the largest privately owned collection of contemporary Western American art in the country?

"Primarily works done in our American collection are done by members of the Cowboy Artists of America. And then we also have a Native American collection, and all those pieces are done primarily by tribes indigenous here to the southwest as well, tribal members," said Tammy Fontaine, gallery director.

She's been with the company for 30 years and helped Basha create this exhibit.

"We don't really do tours because we don't have the staffing for it, but the size of the collection, it's probably an unheard of thing, but it's just the way Eddie wanted it to be," Fontaine said.

This 11,000-square-foot gallery is located at the company headquarters — at the site of the first Basha's store in south Chandler. It's named the Zelma Basha Salmeri Gallery, after Eddie Basha's aunt, an artist herself and the reason Basha began his appreciation for the arts. After graduating from Stanford University with a history degree, he began purchasing pieces of art that depicted western history. Over the years his interest grew and so did his collection, well beyond his home space. In 1994 Basha dedicated a portion of the headquarters into a gallery.

"There's about 3,000 pieces, between the paintings, the drawings, the watercolors, the sculptures, the Katsina carvings, the jewelry collection, the miniature pottery, the seed pot collection, the gun collection," said Fontaine.

There are also about 400 handmade baskets from Southwestern indigenous peoples, many made between the late 1800s to the early 20th century. Basha hand-picked each of the items in the gallery.

"Eddie knew all of the artists at one time or another. He met them, that was actually part of his joy and pleasure of collecting art, was being able to meet and befriend the artists," said Fontaine.

That means each piece is an original work.

More than 100 artists have their art on display here - including John Clymer, Joe Beeler and Howard Terpning. And American Indian artists Larry Yazzie, Cecil Calnimpewa and David Johns.

"It's a way for he and for the Basha family to say thank you to open-up its doors and let the public come and take a look at the collection," Fontaine said.

No new piece of art has been purchased since Eddie Basha's death in 2013. He was the purchaser of the pieces and it was his passion that filled the room. The gallery continues to be open to the public.

FEBRUARY 16-17, 2019
9 AM - 5 PM
**JOANN KELLY CATSOS
AND HER KITTENHEAD TRIO**

JoAnn will be joining us at my studio in Warrington, PA on February 16-17, 2019. She will be teaching her Kittenhead Trio; a nesting set of three baskets. If you don't have time for three baskets, you can join us for a one-day class to weave a 4" Kittenhead, the largest basket in the trio.



Two-day class - Kittenhead Trio
A nesting set of three baskets; 1", 2 1/2", and 4".
Material fee is \$160, teaching fee is \$130 for 2 days of class.

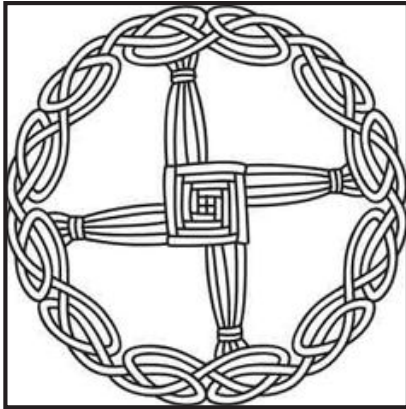
One-day class - 4" Kittenhead Basket
Material fee is \$65, teaching fee is \$65 for the one-day class.

Where: Karen Wychock's Studio, 108 Lyric Way, Warrington, PA 18976
When: February 16-17, 2019 from 9:30 AM - 5 PM

March 24 General Meeting

Celebrating the Irish

Bridgit's Cross



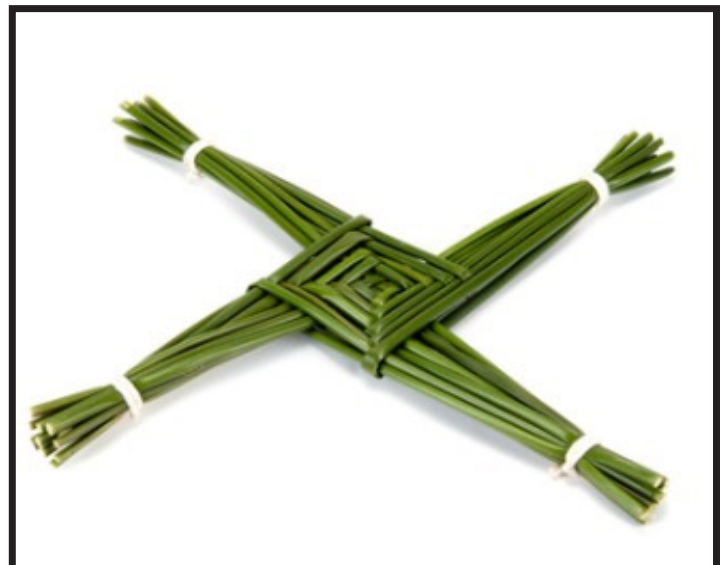
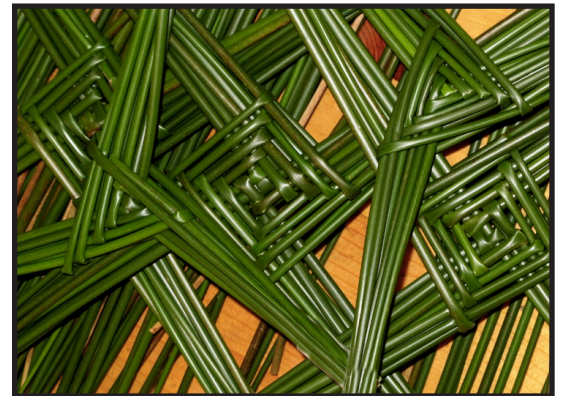
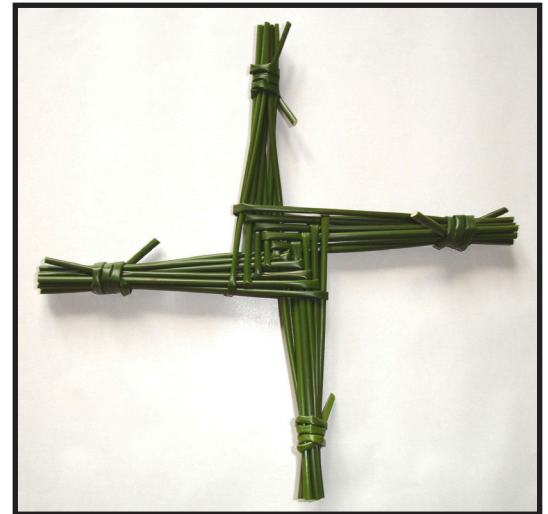
(Continued from page 1)

Brigid is said to have sat by his bed, consoling and calming him and it is here that she picked up the rushes from the floor and began weaving them into the distinctive

cross pattern. While she was weaving, she explained the meaning of the cross to the sick Chieftain and it is thought her calming words brought peace to his soul. He was so enamoured by her words that the old Chieftain requested he be baptized as a Christian just before his passing.

Since that day, and for the centuries that followed, it has been customary on the eve of her Feast Day (1st February) for the Irish people to fashion a St. Brigid's Cross of straw or rushes and place it inside the house over the door. Brigid's cross or Brigit's cross (Irish: Cros Bríde, Crosóg Bríde or Bogha Bríde) is a small cross usually woven from rushes. Typically it has four arms tied at the ends and a woven square in the middle. Historically, there were also three-armed versions.

We will be weaving a St. Brigid's Cross at our March General Meeting and celebrating all things Irish! We are attempting to purchase rush for the project but may need to weave it of straw or another material depending upon availability. Hope to see you at the March meeting. Details to follow concerning this workshop.



St. Brigid's Day Continued...

February 1 marks St. Brigid's Day, when Ireland remembers the Celtic goddess Brigid and her immense power in Irish mythological and religious imagination by making a St. Brigid's cross.

The goddess Brigid was the daughter of the Dagda and one of the Tuatha Dé Danann before she was melded with the Christian saint of the same name in the Middle Ages.

February 1 or 2 is a day claimed by Celtic seasonal thinkers. They called the holiday Imbolc to celebrate Bríd in the form of a cailleach ("witch") becoming a maiden, who collects kindling to make a fire in the winter that will warm the spring and make her young again.

The holiday is understood through the stories of the incredible Brighid. She was the inventor of the mourning songs called caoineadh or "keening." In the story, she keens to mourn the death of her son Ruadán and so invents the art form. Brighid's caoineadh is like the Tibetan ritual of ushering souls to nirvana in the Book of the Dead.

The true meaning behind St. Brigid's Cross.

The Irish tradition of making crosses on Imbolc or Lá Fhéile Bhríde (St. Brigid's Day) is remembered as a Christian ritual and has become that for most Irish people.

The spiral of the Brighid cross invokes the North Star and the pattern that the Big Dipper makes in the sky over the course of a year. As the night sky turns around the North Star, the Big Dipper turns through the seasonal year like the hand of a clock.

Brigid is the fire-keeper of that flame of life that mothers tend to so that we don't die in the winter, and so the lines of family are not broken by the trauma of the cold months. In the winter, Brighid becomes the cailleach, the woman in agedness, and on Imbolc she collected the kindling of the fires that get her to the spring of regeneration.

Christian interpretation in Ireland makes Brigid into a nun, and children occupy themselves by taking bits of straw and weaving this potential-kindling into the shape of spiraling Brigid's crosses.

St. Brigid is said to have invented the cross herself while attending a sickbed and picking up rushes from the floor to craft them into a sacred cross.

Taking up the tradition in its many forms focuses the mind in the meditation of craft, and connects our winter minds mad at the cold to the great wheel that turns and is slowly bringing us into the spring of renewal.



BASKET CHATTER

Do you have an interesting photo, article, or basket tid-bit that you would like to share with fellow members? Here is your opportunity to share. Simply email your information to kwychock@verizon.net. Thank you to Mary May and Sue Bunkin for submitting items of interest!



Mary May found this antique floral basket at an outdoor market for \$20.00. It is very similar to one that we wove with Anne Bowers. Since that day Mary has only found a few, most of them broken. The basket has been painted many times. You can see red, yellow, green and, of course, white.



Sue Bunkin's son, Keith, was married at her home in Tincum on November 13. She, too, was inspired by the antique basket we wove with Anne Bowers. She used two of them to hold floral arrangements which hung on both sides of her walk-in fireplace. Beautiful couple and beautiful floral arrangements. Great job Sue!



BASKET HAPPENINGS!

Association of Michigan Basketmakers Convention
<http://www.michiganbasketmakers.com>

Basketweavers Guild of Bedford County
<http://www.BedfordBasketGuild.com>

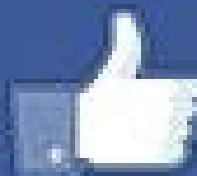
Central PA Basket Weavers' Guild
<http://basketry.homestead.com>

North Carolina Basket Makers Association Convention
<http://www.ncbasketmakers.com>

Tidewater Basketry Guild
<http://www.tidewaterbasketryguild.org/>

Wildwood Basketry Guild
<http://www.winterweave.com/index.htm>

facebook



You'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.

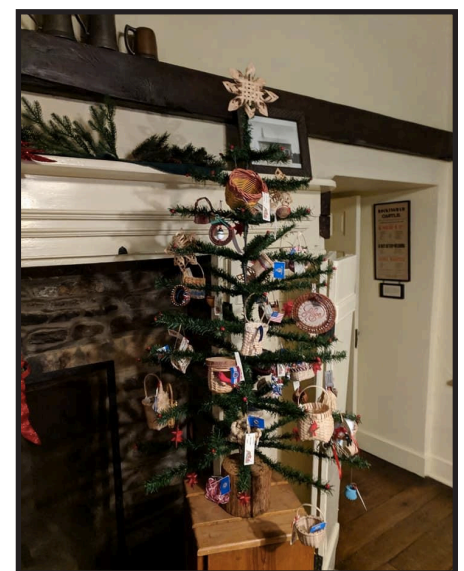
We hope to see you on Facebook!

Thank you to Joan Darrigo, Cyndi Lawrence and Carol Pollock for helping me to set up/take down the PJBG display at the Pearl S. Buck Festival of Trees this past December. Our display was set up in the office of Pearl Buck's second husband, Richard Walsh. We were asked to be on hand for two evening openings. It was a pleasure to speak to visitors, answer their questions and hand out information about our guild.

This year's display featured two four-foot feather trees adorned with miniature baskets, Moravian stars, reindeer, etc. One tree displayed the work of PJBG members. The second tree displayed baskets that were donated by weavers from across the United States. At the request of our historian, Joan Darrigo, 32 basket weavers donated a miniature basket for our permanent collection. They are listed below. Thank you to all of the weavers for making our display such a success. We also decorated three windowsills complete with antique baskets, woven stars and more miniature baskets! If you know of another location in which we can display our collection, please let us know. We would also like to collect a basket from the remaining 18 states.

STATE and ARTIST

Alabama - Brenda Bryant
 Arizona - Bobbie Mckinney
 Arkansas - Debbie Hurd
 California - Eugenia Gwathney
 Florida - Brabdean Jones and Ruth Mowry
 Georgia - Karen Gramenz
 Hawaii - Jalene Clay
 Idaho - Nancy Bergman
 Illinois - Lisa Tipton
 Iowa - Rebecca Abarr
 Kentucky - Nancy Baer
 Maine - Nancy Donker
 Maryland - Judy Fisher
 Massachusetts - Maggie Silva
 Michigan - Sandy Atkinson
 Minnesota - Frank Korteum
 Missouri - Billy Owens and Rhonda Davis
 Nevada - Carolyn Karch
 New Jersey - Mary May
 New York - Barb Witorek
 North Carolina - Jeff Shields
 Ohio - Deanna Vosmei
 Oklahoma - Pauline Hogan Asbury
 Oregon - Linda Shadel
 Pennsylvania - Flo Schadler and Cyndi Lawrence
 Rhode Island - Ruth Mowry
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 South Carolina - Doug Gaddis
 Texas - Judy Gonzales
 Vermont - Camille Meade
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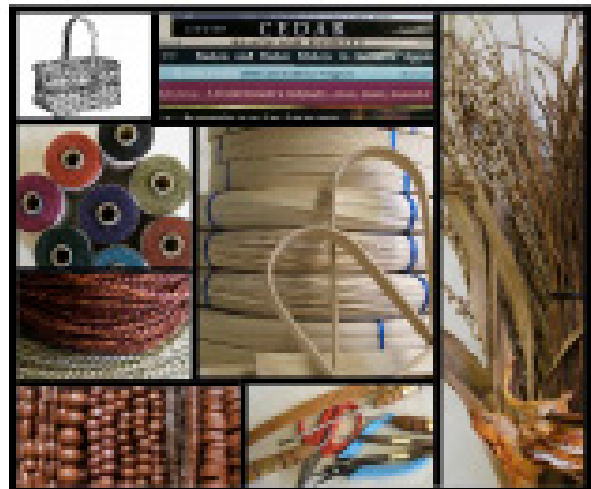
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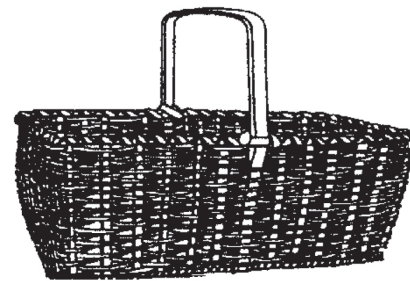
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BECOME A MEMBER OF THE PENN-JERSEY BASKETRY GUILD



BENEFITS INCLUDE:

Three newsletters per year (Winter/Spring, Summer, and Fall).

An Annual Meeting featuring a noted authority on basketry.

In addition:

The Guild invites guest basket makers, nationally acclaimed instructors, to conduct workshops throughout the year.

Members who teach are invited to list up to two workshops per year in our newsletter.

Executive Board Meetings are open to any willing participant.

If you would like to attend a Board Meeting, please call:

Karen Wychock 215-460-8853 (cell)

To join PJBG, complete the Membership Application Form, include a check in the amount of \$20 made payable to the Penn-Jersey Basketry Guild, Inc., and mail to:

Patti Bishop, Membership Chairperson
101 Campbell Blvd. #5304
Manahawkin, NJ 08050-6214

PENN-JERSEY BASKETRY GUILD MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____
COMPANY: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____
STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
HOME: _____
CELL: _____
EMAIL: _____

_____ New Membership _____ Renewal

Please check the items that best apply:

STATUS:

_____ Full-time Professional _____ Collector
_____ Part-time Professional _____ Instructor
_____ Supplier/Mail-Order _____ Instructor/Supplier
_____ Lecturer/Demonstrator _____ Supplier/Retail Store
_____ Hobbyist _____ Author/Writer

MEMBERSHIP: MAY 1 THRU APRIL 30

Individual: \$20.00

LEVEL OF EXPERTISE: YEARS BASKETMAKING:

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

_____ Beginner _____ 0-2 years
_____ Intermediate _____ 2-5 years
_____ Advanced _____ 5+ years



2019 Calendar

February 9

PJBG Open House
Home of Cyndi Lawrence
12-3 PM
Maple Glen, PA

February 16-17 JoAnn Kelly Catsos

Kittenhead Trio
9 AM-5 PM
Warrington, PA



March 24

Spring General Meeting
11 AM - 2 PM
Bridgit's Cross
Manahawkin, NJ



April 12-13

Denise Bendelewski
www.magnolia-baskets.com
Variety of Nantucket Baskets
8:30 AM - 5 PM
Manahawkin, NJ

June 29-30

PJBG Annual Meeting
Freehold, NJ (Walnford)



SEND IN YOUR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS TODAY!

Penn-Jersey Basketry Guild members pursuing experiences in basketry outside of our guild sponsored events, are eligible for one of two \$200 scholarships. The scholarships are to be used for the acquisition of knowledge and/or skill directly related to basketry. Awards are judged on essays submitted by each applicant. Entries will consist of an application form and essay. The essay should explain such things as what proposed activity the scholarship funds would be used for; where and when it will take place; what you hope to gain from participating in this educational activity; how the knowledge would be shared with guild members; how the scholarship funds could make a difference in being able to participate in the proposed activity; and anything else the applicant feels the judges should know in assessing their application. Be as creative as you wish, but keep in mind that you may not use your name in the essay in order to maintain confidentiality.

Applicants are required to have been PJBG members for at least one year. The award recipients are required to make a formal presentation to the guild once they complete their educational experience.

The Charlotte Haines Scholarship Award deadline is June 1, 2019 and the winner will be announced at our Annual Picnic in June of 2019.

The Camella Potter Scholarship Award deadline is November 30, 2019 and the winner will be announced at our Annual Open House in January, 2020.

Please contact Karen Wychock for more information at 215-460-8853 or kwychock@verizon.net.