

# Great Basin Basketmakers



## Newsletter

January 2008  
Volume 22 Number 1  
Edited by Sallie Moore

Continuing 10,000 Years of Basket Arts

### Holiday 2008 Idea

Cut your Christmas cards into strips with a pasta cutter, paper shredder, or scissors, separate into colors, and make St. Brigid's crosses to send next year.



### Bead Shop Show

Thanks to those of you who brought items to the Bead Shop. There were a couple of good articles in the newspapers with worthwhile results. On January 7 Cindy will send checks to those who sold items. Please pick up your baskets on January 7 or make arrangements with the Bead Shop if you wish to leave them for a longer period of time



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January Meeting (1-2 pm)



Sail into the New Year on a sea of dreams. Mary Lee F. is going to show you how to make a little boat basket to hold all those hopes, plans, and resolutions for 2008. Start thinking now about your goals for the coming year, and in January, write them down and cut them into little strips. Then after you make your boat basket, pile your wishes inside and watch the magic happen!

You bring: clippers or old scissors, twelve pieces 1/4-in. flat reed, cut in 17-in. lengths (soaked and ready to go), wax linen or yarn. If you don't have the reed or wax linen, don't worry; Mary Lee will bring enough for everyone.

## Basket Resolutions for a New Year:

1. I will learn a new technique or make some little change in what I do, whether I'm a beginner or a seasoned weaver. My mind is always tempted to close up, so I resolve to keep it open in this way.
2. I am going to accept what I do and create in an unselfconscious way, even if my basket seems different, because this is how I develop my personal aesthetic.
3. I promise to look more and see more art this year—not only baskets, but the whole spectrum. I need to honor all art as visions of their makers, even if it's radically different.
4. I resolve to take my art somewhere new—a new show, new gallery, new gift. The world is waiting for what only I can offer.
5. Even as I make new things, I promise to remember my connection to those ancient histories that have gone before.
6. I resolve to help our guild remain the strong, supportive group that it is—maybe write something for the newsletter, volunteer to work on a show, befriend a new member, and look around to see where I'm needed. I want to continue weaving the chain of friendship that is GBB.

I will remember the words of author Jan Phillips:

“...You are here to co-create the world, to add your vision,  
to make visible what is not yet seen,  
to manifest that which is within you.  
This is the gift you have for the world.

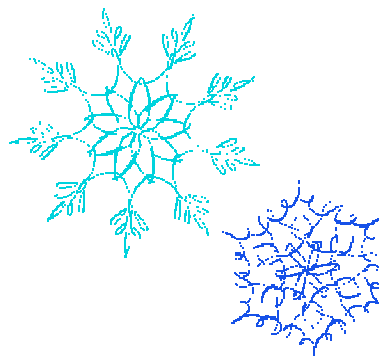
*It is precious and worthy of your time.*



## It's been a Great Twenty Years!

Mary Lee F.

1. I can hardly believe GBB has been around for twenty years, and what a great time was had by all: exhibiting, joking, pulling wild grapevine at Belden, laughing, sometimes crying, learning, writing a book, conventioning, organizing events and activities, and all the while making baskets of every kind and shape. Traditional or non--who cares, as long as we're making baskets.
2. The Basket Goddesses of the Universe want to thank all of you for making GBB the big-hearted organization that it is. To Connie, our librarian for 20 years, to all who have been officers, editors, webmaster, committee chairs, organizers, teachers, helpers of all kinds—thanks for your good spirits and kind deeds.
3. I would especially like to thank GBB for the incredible gift of Jean Summerfield's beaded basket creation, with all the little miniatures. I have never seen anything like it before, but then, I've never seen anything like GBB, either. I love you all.



## Natural Weaving Tip From Susan Stewart

When I read in the latest GBB Newsletter that master willow weaver Betty Hulse was going to lead a group out to harvest willow it reminded me that it was one of the plants we haven't discussed. In some ways, willow is/was so basic to the native people of the Great Basin it has been covered so completely, you can't pick up a book about native shrubs that you don't find an in-depth treatment of it. For example our own, *Weaving Naturally in the Great Basin*, has five pages on the willow, more than any other plant!

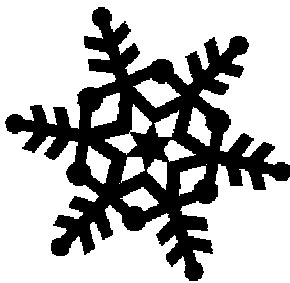
Though there are several native varieties of willow, the Coyote Willow or *Salix exigua* is the one most associated with the native Paiute basketmakers. This native willow grows near water sources and has a grayish rose color to its bark, though most of the cradleboards and baskets done by native basketmakers are white because they scrape off the bark and use the inner fibers for weaving. Since many of the native willow stands in Northern Nevada have been compromised by development, pests or pesticides, contemporary basket weavers have begun using more ornamental varieties, the barks of which are brighter in color. They are also easier to grow because you provide the water! If you haven't tried willow yet, it is a demanding but very rewarding plant. Give it a try.

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## AND The Winner IS

Not only did Jim Santini donate a beautiful Panamint Shoshone basket made by Dollie Boland of Death Valley (around 1970) but, as fate would have it, be in Carson City to draw the winning ticket on Thursday, December 13th. Jim was visiting the area as part of a commission dealing with the Tahoe fire problems. When queried about his donation, Jim responded "I was excited by the opportunity to share part of my basket world with the world of GBB'ers. I made my donation in the hope it will inspire another basket lover to make a similar contribution to my favorite Northern Nevada non-profit organization.

Your proud lifetime member,  
Jim Santini"



Mary Lee Fulkerson, Eileen Brilliant, Margaret Marshall, Jim Santini, Cliff Dunseth

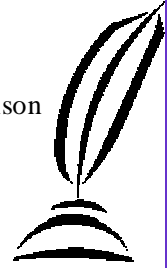
Winner Ruth is a local resident and a frequent visitor to the Nevada State Museum. She taught high school in the Chicago area and currently is a percussionist with the Carson City orchestra.

## Minutes from G B B meeting on December 8, 2007

Pat read the Treasurer's report. Dues are due now. We have paid the room rate for the Johnson Center in Sparks. Minutes were approved.

Connie reported that the ordered videos have arrived. They will be rented for one month.

Check them out and they can be



Tish is stepping down as Book Review Editor and from her Trusty Tips. Dianna volunteered to take over as Book Editor.

So far 27 people signed up for our retreat. The next members' roster will be included with the February newsletter.

Susan Coyle's class on January 25/26 has a few openings. (Ed. Note: These classes have been cancelled).

Mary Lee received a gift as thanks for everything she's done for GBB from starting the Guild to playing an important role in it's life. The gift was a small basket containing a number of even smaller baskets.

We sorted what looked like tons of material for the RSGM Women's Shelter and received a big Thank You and an update on the Shelter from the organizer.

Wednesday, May 14 to Friday May 16, 2008

### 2008 G B B R E T R E A T



Located at Zephyr Point, Lake Tahoe this conference center is situated on the lakefront and provides lodging, meals, and a meeting room. Each guest room has 2 queen beds and a private bathroom with double occupancy. Meals will be available in the dining room and are served buffet style. The estimated cost is \$75.00 per person, which includes 2 nights of lodging and 5 meals. The GBB guild has made a \$1000 donation towards the cost of the retreat, which enables us to enjoy such a great deal!

Please join us as this will be such a fun way to get to know each other better, especially since we have many new members. We will be able to enjoy each others company in a wonderfully relaxed atmosphere. On Thursday, the "Over the Hill Gang" will teach a workshop or you can bring a project of your own to work on. In the evenings we will have some sort of program and would love to have some suggestions from all of you.

A signup sheet will be available at each meeting or you can email or call Joan O'Brien at [joaneob@charter.net](mailto:joaneob@charter.net), 775 849-3442 ; Carol Thomas at [plantweaver@sbcglobal.net](mailto:plantweaver@sbcglobal.net), 775 345-0161 ; or Eileen Brilliant at [abrilliantidea@cs.com](mailto:abrilliantidea@cs.com), 530 544-5145. A non-refundable deposit of \$25.00 is required at the time of signup. The balance will be due by the February, 2008 meeting.

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Found – beaded bracelet, in the driveway at Sky Peaks, after we loaded the van for the women's shelter in December. Call Connie, 425-1305.

# 2008 Programs

Month	1 <sup>ST</sup> THUR PROGRAM (Larry Johnson Community Center, 1200 12th St. Sparks, NV 89431)	3 <sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY\ (Larry Johnson Community Center, 1200 12th St. Sparks, NV 89431)	3 <sup>RD</sup> SATURDAY (Sky Peaks Community Room, 1520 Sky Valley Dr, Reno)
JANUARY	Jan 3 Valentine Pins/Magnets Mary Lee Fulkerson	Jan 17 Antler Basket Joan O'Brien	Jan 19 Antler Basket Joan O'Brien
FEBRUARY	Feb 7 Willow Oval Tension Bases Betty Hulse	Feb 21 Oval Willow Basket Betty Hulse	Feb 16 Horsehair Earrings Cindy Kinerson
MARCH	March 6 Simple Easter Basket Pat Morfoot	March 20 to be announced Karen Rosselli	March 15 To Be Announced
APRIL	April 3 Slide Presentation on Baskets of the Great Basin Dr. Kay Fowler	April 17 Small Flat Reed Gift Basket Linda Havens	April 19 Reed Birdhouse Carol Thomas
MAY	May 1 Name Tags Tish Kendrick	May 15 Special Project for Retreat Over The Hill Gang	May 17 To Be Announced
JUNE	June 5 Materials Sale & Potluck in the Park Members	June 19 Loom Weaving Mel Silva	June 21 Lined Bark or Woven Gourd Cheryl Bennett
JULY	July 3 Wood or Ceramic Base Basket Pat Morfoot	July 17 Paper Making Cheryl Bennett & Jann Selleck	July 19 Williamsberg Basket Bert, Karen & Judi
AUGUST	Aug 7 Mini Books made with Homemade paper Jann Selleck	Aug 21 Doll with several Techniques covered Vivian Snyder	Aug 16 To Be Announced
SEPTEMBER	Sept 4 My Life as a Washo Indian Sue Coleman	Sept 18 Beading & Basketry Cindy Kinerson	Sept 20 Cross Stitch Basket Molly Gardner
OCTOBER	Oct 2 Problems w/baskets & Handle Construction Members	Oct 16 English squarework base & basket Joan O'Brien & Carol Thomas	Oct 18 Contemporary Appalachian Egg Basket Mary Lee Fulkerson
NOVEMBER	Nov 6 Basket Videos	Nov 20 To be announced April Barber	Nov 15 Coiling Project April Barber
DECEMBER	Dec 4 Christmas Party/Potluck	Dec 18 No Class "Happy Holidays"	Dec 20 No Class

## Antler Basket with Joan O'Brien

Join Joan and learn how to make an antler basket. The class will be held at the Larry Johnson Community Center from 10 AM—3 PM. Cost of the workshop is \$15 in addition to a materials fee of approximately \$15. Maximum class size is 15.



Supplies Needed: Please bring a power drill if you have one and bits 5/32", 3/16", and a small bit 5/64" or less. Also, a hot glue gun. These will be available but it's always easier if you use one you are familiar with. Other supplies needed are: hefty scissors or cutters, packing tools, spray bottle, pencil with eraser and a sack lunch. We will be weaving with flexible seagrass, round reed and 1/4" flat reed. If you have very flexible natural material that you would like to use that would be great too. Questions? Contact Joan at 849-3442 or at Joaneob@charter.net.

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## For your consideration

Margaret Whiting combines natural objects such as leaves, seeds, fossils, and shells with discarded law books, science books, encyclopedias, and dictionaries, exploring contemporary issues related to land use. Viewers consider the laws that regulate our impact on the land.

Nevada Museum of Art. Through March 2

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## Make Baskets on Saturdays!



If work prevents you from coming to our Thursday daytime meetings (or if you just want to go make a basket on Saturday), there is another place in GBB for you. Our Saturday group meets the third Saturday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Sky Peaks location, and there's always a great project. No need to worry about policies, procedures, committees, etc. Just come and make a basket.

If you want to sign up for a Saturday workshop, or if you want other information, call Cheryl Smith, coordinator, at 354-1956. Jean Taylor has generously agreed to be liaison, so if you have any info for the Saturday group, contact Jean at the First Thursday meeting.

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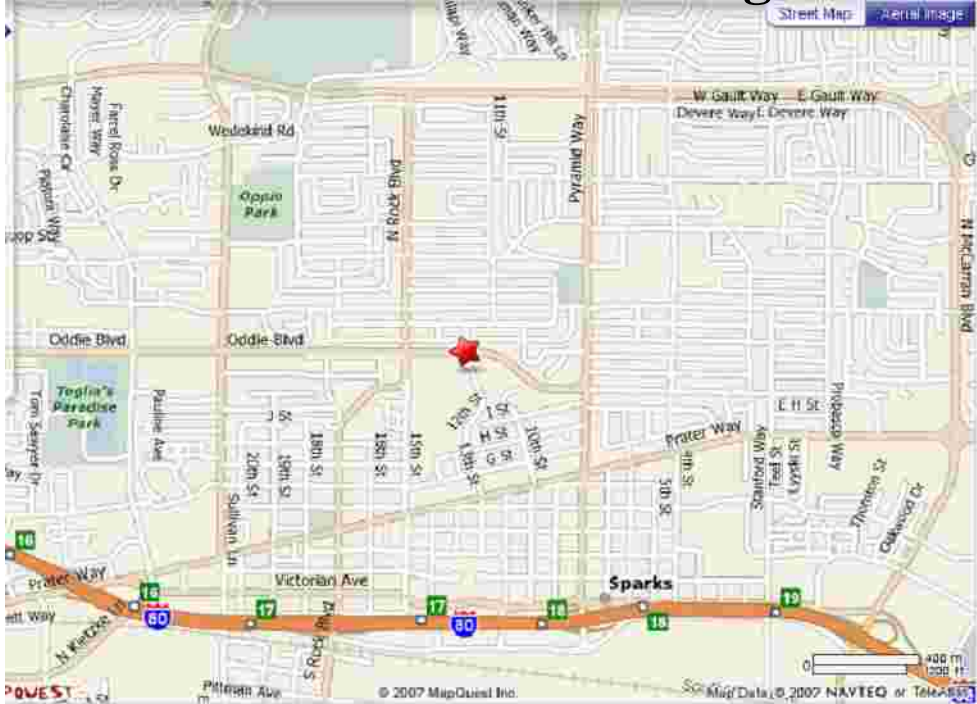
## CHECK IT OUT !!! By Connie Douglas

We recently purchased several DVDs from Odyssey Art Videos in England. They are part of the Contemporary Fiber Artists Maker Profile series, and each runs 30 to 50 minutes in length. They will be available for checkout from our library, for a one-month period. Please make an effort to return them promptly so they can be available for others to view. They cost \$30 each, so be careful not to misplace or damage them. These are the artists profiled: Dona Anderson, Lany Bergner, Mary Butcher, Mary Giles, Christine Joy, Gyongy Laky, Kari Lonning, Marilyn Moore, Judy Mulford, Jane Sauer, Polly Adams Sutton

We have added two jewelry books, *Creative Wire Jewelry* by Kathy Peterson, and *Making Colorful Wire Beaded Jewelry* by Linda Jones. (These were found at a yard sale – I should've bought the whole stack!) Also, the Fall 2007 issue of *The Bulletin of Primitive Technology* is in, featuring primitive woodslore. Of interest to basketmakers might be the articles on bow drill cordage, and building an earth lodge with poles, sticks and thatch. (I want one in my backyard!)



# Our New Meeting Place



We will be meeting at the Larry D. Johnson Center in Sparks, Nevada across from the Sparks Library.

## Next Month's Newsletter Editor is: Cindy Kinerson

She can be reached at [ckinerson@aol.com](mailto:ckinerson@aol.com) or at 775-323-4502.

Although there are a number of ways contributors may submit information for inclusion in the next newsletter, (e-mail, typed and sent via snail mail for scanning or by phone), e-mail is the preferred method. When submitting articles for the newsletter, send them as a plain, unformatted text attachment, if possible. PLEASE don't bold, center, italicize, underline, bullet or number. If you have a "yen" to do so, consider becoming one of the newsletter editors! Your submission may be edited for clarity and/or length.



### Great Basin Basketmakers Membership Application/Renewal

Membership Dues: \$20/yr, \$35/2 yrs, \$50/3 yrs. (Renewals due in January)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

[ckinerson@aol.com](mailto:ckinerson@aol.com)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send this completed form and check payable to Great Basin Basketmakers and mail to:

## Great Basin Basketmakers

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Celebrating our 21st year!



**January 2008**  
**Time Dated Material**

## Great Basin Basketmakers

Established January 1987

- \* Meet the first Thursday of each month at the Larry Johnson Center, 1200 12th Street, (across from the Sparks Library) Sparks, NV 89431 (775) 353-7780.
- \* Business meetings commence at 11:00 a.m. and generally last about an hour. Potluck lunch is followed with "Show and Tell" and a program starting at 1:00 p.m.
- \* Membership dues for Great Basin Basketmakers are \$20/yr, \$35/2 yrs, \$50/3 yrs. Dues are to be paid annually January. Membership includes monthly newsletter, access to large library and reduced workshop rates.

Please direct address changes, membership dues,  
and requests for membership to Pat Morfoot  
4747 Pradera St., Sparks, NV 89436-1649  
775-626-8108

**[www.greatbasinbasketmakers.org](http://www.greatbasinbasketmakers.org)**

## Our Mission Statement

The main focus of the Great Basin Basketmakers is to make baskets, to learn everything possible about the traditions and techniques of basketry and to pass this knowledge along to others.

