

AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

SERVING WOODTURNERS WORLDWIDE SINCE 1986.

Member Profile: Janice Levi

February 16, 2017

MEMBER PROFILE: JANICE LEVI MEMBER #20887



Janice Levi enjoys turning wearable art in her newly revamped shop.

When Janice started turning wood, it was still very much a man's world but the Houston area club members welcomed her. Within three years, she was elected president, the first female to hold that title. Although Janice has gone on to serve the Waco club as president and became the first female president of SWAT, it is turning wood, not politics, that is her passion.

Name: Janice Levi
Hometown: Grosebeck, TX
Turning Club: Brazo Valley Woodturners, Waco; Gulf Coast Woodturners, Houston
Turning Experience: 15 years

What motivated you to join AAW?

A promotional poster for the AAW's 31st Annual International Symposium. The poster features a close-up of a woodturner's hands using a tool on a lathe. Text on the poster includes: "COME LEARN. LEAVE INSPIRED.", "Attend amazing demos and panel discussions. Meet captivating people. See incredible work.", "REGISTER TODAY!", "AAW'S 31ST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM", "June 22-25, 2017", "Kansas City, Missouri", and "Learn more at woodturner.org or tiny.cc/AAW2017KC". There is also a small AAW logo.

**Increase your
skills better and
faster.**

Get new ideas that will motivate you.
Meet friendly woodturners from across the globe.

**Join us for AAW'S 31st
Annual Int'l Symposium
June 22-25, 2017**
Kansas City Convention
Center, Kansas City, MO
[Learn more.](#)

**Don't miss out on
the early bird rate!**

The [Gulf Coast Woodturners](#), the first woodturning organization that I joined, was an AAW-affiliated club and my new woodturning friends encouraged me to join AAW. At that time I was told that the journal alone was "worth the price of admission." It certainly was.

When you look at your turnings, what do you see?

I see a lot of experiments. I've always been an "I want to do it all" kind of person, so I tried just about everything I saw demonstrated, a whole lot of what I saw in books and magazines, and finally, I began to experiment with those things that most appealed to me. For the past few years, I have really worked at jewelry and purse designs.

Who, or what, was your greatest teacher/influence?

I was so fortunate to have two great woodturner friends who lived close-Bill Berry and Luna Ford. They were competent turners and teachers and they would come over on Wednesday afternoons and teach me toolmanship, shop safety, sharpening, wood choices, and so much more. Luna doesn't turn anymore, but I still regularly go to Bill with my woodturning questions.

What was your happiest turning moment?

I had been trying to figure out how to make and install wooden hinges into one of my purse designs, and I struggled with jigs, online suggestions, friend suggestions, and articles. Nothing worked the way I saw those hinges in my mind. I finally was able to work out a design that had promise, but I couldn't get the knuckles all the same width. Finally, my husband said, "Cut inside the lines, not on the lines." It was an "Ah-ha!" moment.

What is your favorite wood/tool and why?

For turning and enhancing jewelry, holly is my favorite wood. It is a blank canvas and the grain doesn't argue with the pyrography tip. For purses, I like maple or pear. For bowls and platters, I like mesquite with all its cracks and bark inclusions.

I do a lot of spindle work and the 3/8" detail gouge is a real workhorse. I use it to turn beads and coves and even to turn delicate finials.

Where do you see the field of woodturning going?

I think we'll head in the direction of artistic turning for awhile. The new, young turners are proving that fantastic things can be accomplished on the



AAW EXPLORE!
DISCOVER PROJECTS, ARTICLES, TIPS, AND MORE!
Explore the most extensive online woodturning library in the world in only seconds.

Fast. Easy.
3 mouse clicks.

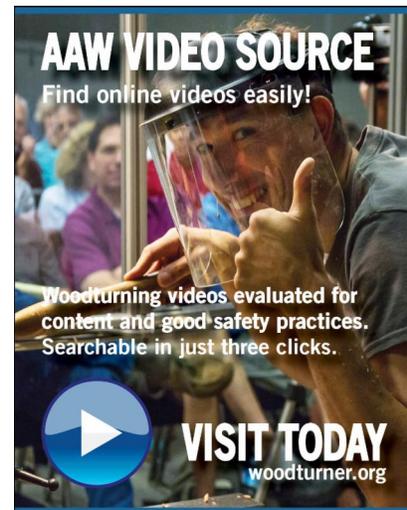
Solve a problem.
Research a technique.
Find a new project.
Get inspired.

Designed by woodturners for woodturners.

Visit woodturner.org or tiny.cc/AAWExplore

The banner features a magnifying glass over a collage of woodturning articles and images, with the text 'ART OF THE FINIAL' visible on one of the articles.

[Explore the most extensive woodturning library in the world in seconds.](#)



AAW VIDEO SOURCE
Find online videos easily!

Woodturning videos evaluated for content and good safety practices. Searchable in just three clicks.

VISIT TODAY
woodturner.org

The banner shows a man wearing a clear face shield while working with a wood lathe. A play button icon is overlaid on the bottom left.

[Browse woodturning videos pre-screened for safety and quality!](#)



Video camera enthusiasts:

If you have experience with video camera equipment, have technical

lathe that were never thought possible nor even dreamed of. But life tends to run in cycles, and I think that in time, we will return to functional pieces stealing the limelight.

In addition to woodturning, what other crafts/hobbies have you enjoyed?

I believe that people should enjoy life and should experience as many new things as possible. Don't be afraid to try and don't be afraid to fail. As a result, I have enjoyed many activities and had many hobbies throughout the years. Water skiing, snow skiing, cave exploring, photography, motorcycle riding, stained glass, gardening, design work... Most of them have faded away as I get older, but woodturning and drawing are still very much a part of my life.

Has being a part of AAW affected your life and work? How?

Every time a new journal would arrive in the mail, I would sit down immediately and read every page, marking those projects that I would go to the shop and try. I still do that today. But the scope of AAW has grown so much and there are so many more resources available now. Need a tip of how to do something? AAW has it at your fingertips online. Need a demonstrator for your club meeting? AAW has a list of them. Beginning turner who needs help and ideas? AAW FUNdamentals is for you. Need a grant? Want to teach the underprivileged? Good grief! I'm beginning to sound like a commercial.

What is your favorite project or piece?

There are a couple of purses that I really like and a few pieces of jewelry. I down-sized the purse wooden hinge and used it in some jewelry pieces that I'm really proud of.

competence, and can make decisions about lighting, shooting angle, and microphone placement, consider becoming a videographer for the AAW's symposium in Kansas City, MO, June 22-25, 2017.

[Learn more and apply.](#)



TRUE BLUE.
LOOK GOOD. FEEL AWESOME.
THE AAW TEE.

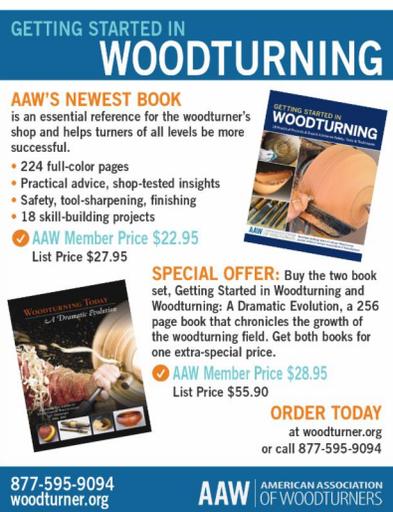
- Pre-shrunk 100% cotton
- Seamless collar
- Shoulder-to-shoulder taping
- 3/4" collar
- Screen printed logos

Member price
\$20
Plus shipping

AAW
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS

woodturner.org
651-484-9094
877-595-9094 (toll free)
<http://tiny.cc/AAWSHirts>

[What the stylin'
woodturner wears!](#)



**GETTING STARTED IN
WOODTURNING**

AAW'S NEWEST BOOK
is an essential reference for the woodturner's shop and helps turners of all levels be more successful.

- 224 full-color pages
- Practical advice, shop-tested insights
- Safety, tool-sharpening, finishing
- 18 skill-building projects

✔ **AAW Member Price \$22.95**
List Price \$27.95

SPECIAL OFFER: Buy the two book set, Getting Started in Woodturning and Woodturning: A Dramatic Evolution, a 256 page book that chronicles the growth of the woodturning field. Get both books for one extra-special price.

✔ **AAW Member Price \$28.95**
List Price \$55.90

ORDER TODAY
at woodturner.org
or call 877-595-9094

877-595-9094
woodturner.org

AAW AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS

[Special two book set,
member price just \\$28.95
plus shipping.](#)



The barrel-shaped purse is one of Janice's favorites to turn. The shapes and designs are endless.

How has your local chapter helped you?

After leaving the Houston area, I joined the [Brazos Valley Woodturners](#). It's a growing club and the level of enthusiasm is fantastic. It's also a club with a high percentage of women turners. We have open shops, hands-on retreats, regional and national demonstrators, club picnics-all the things that create camaraderie and learning!

WHAT THE WELL-DRESSED WOODTURNER WEARS.

THE AAW SMOCK.

2017 AAW Symposium logo / Front pocket with flap
Vented underarms / Elastic collar / Full-length zipper
2 lower back pockets / Breathable fabric
New: Pencil pocket in sleeve

Member price

\$60

Check woodturner.org for our complete selection of smock colors and logos.

Plus shipping

AAW ORDER TODAY!

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

woodturner.org or
651-484-9094, 877-595-9094 (toll free)

2017 Symposium smock,
member price \$60, plus
shipping

CLASSIC. DIGNIFIED. GRAY. THE 2017 SYMPOSIUM TEE.

- Pre-shrunk 100% cotton
- Double-needle stitched neckline
- Quarter turned
- Seamless 3/4" collar
- Shoulder-to-shoulder taping
- Screen printed
- Men's and Women's sizes

Member price

\$20

Plus shipping

AAW
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

woodturner.org
651-484-9094 (toll free)
<http://tiny.cc/AAWShirts>

2017 Symposium shirt,
member price \$20, plus
shipping



AAW

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS

We hope you have enjoyed the Anniversary Profiles we shared with you in 2016. They were a great way to help us commemorate the AAW's 30th year. Inspired by positive feedback on this series, we've decided to continue sharing member stories, but with an expanded scope to include those who joined the AAW later and have had (or are having) a significant impact on our organization's success. We hope you enjoy these

Click [here](#) to read this and other profiles online.



Purse sizes vary, but a diameter of 8" to 10" (20cm to 25cm) and a thickness of 1 1/2" to 2" (38mm to 5cm) are good, workable dimensions.

Getting started

Prepare the blank by marking the outer circumference and cutting away the excess on a bandsaw. Although many prefer to initially mount the blank on a screw chuck, I prefer to mount it between centers, turn a dovetail recess, and mount the blank onto a scroll chuck in expansion mode.

Shaping the outside of the purse blank is similar to turning the outside of a bowl. Use a bowl gouge to create a slightly convex shape. The edges of the blank will be turned straight or very slightly narrower toward the outside edge. Turn a dovetail recess about 1/8" (3mm) deep, then round over the outside edge of the blank (Photos 1, 2).

Hollow the purse

Once the outside shape has been roughly turned, reverse the blank, using the new dovetail recess to hold the blank on the scroll chuck. Now you are ready to begin hollowing the interior of the purse. Begin by turning the surface of the blank flat. Next, mark a cut line 1/8" (13mm) from the outer edge. Use a parting tool and plunge it into the wood to a depth of 1/4" (6mm) on the inside of the mark, then remove the waste wood from inside this plunge cut to a depth of about 1/2" (Photos 3, 4).

Use a hook tool to create a recessed lip beneath the 1/8"-wide shoulder (Photo 5). The recess should be about 1/4" deep. This lip and shoulder will later be necessary to hide the upper edge of the fabric lining. Continue hollowing to a wall thickness of about 1/4", but leave the center area, which will become the bottom of the purse,

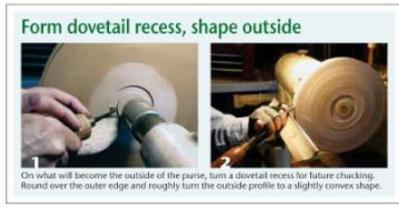
Janice Levi

A turned wooden purse presents an artistic opportunity; it can be as beautiful as it is functional. The design shown in this article borrows from the woodworking world and from leather craft to enhance the turning.

Wood selection

Since a purse is meant to be carried, it must be able to endure some abuse. Therefore, hardwoods work best for

this project. It is also better to select a kiln-dried wood that will not move much after turning. Maple, oak, ash, and pecan are good choices, but if you are planning to enhance the purse with woodburning or color, oak and ash are not the best choices because of their open grain. Many exotic woods also make beautiful purses, including purple heart, quilted maple, and Honduran mahogany, to name a few.



Janice wrote an article for the February 2017 issue of *American Woodturner* on how to turn this half-moon purse (begins on page 32).



WOODTURNING! COME LEARN. LEAVE INSPIRED.

Increase your woodturning skills and know-how better and faster.
Get new ideas that will recharge and motivate you.
Meet friendly turners from across the globe.

- For all skill levels
- 100+ demos and panel discussions
- Internationally known demonstrators
- Trade show with 100+ exhibitor booths
- Exhibitions and gallery with 1000+ works
- Auctions of turned art
- Charitable initiatives
- Networking opportunities



AAW'S 31ST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

June 22-25, 2017
Kansas City Convention Center
Kansas City, Missouri

Details and registration at tiny.cc/AAW2017KC, woodturner.org, or call 877-595-9094 (toll free)



- Educational seminars by industry experts
- Peer-reviewed project showcase and contest
- The newest woodworking products
- Learn more at thewoodworkingshows.com

2017 Schedule

Baltimore, MD 1/6-1/8	Somerset, NJ 2/17-2/19
New England 1/13-1/15	Detroit, MI 3/3-3/5
Kansas City, MO 1/20-1/29	Milwaukee, WI 3/10-3/12
Columbus, OH 1/27-1/29	Tampa, FL 3/17-3/19
Indianapolis, IN 2/3 - 2/5	Atlanta, GA 3/31-4/2
St. Louis, IL 2/10-2/12	

AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS

222 Landmark Center, 75 5th St W, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
651 484-9094 | www.woodturner.org

[Feedback](#)