

# Women in Turning Newsletter

September 2020



## Women in Turning vs. The 2020 Pandemic by Andi Wolfe

**AAW** | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF WOODTURNERS

“May you live in interesting times” is an anonymous quote that is interpreted as a curse. It sure seems appropriate for 2020, regardless of its origin. I’m sure you’ve all noticed that this is the first newsletter for 2020. I will use the COVID-19 pandemic as my primary excuse. My governor initiated a state-wide shutdown in early March, which included The Ohio State University where I’m employed as a professor in the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology. The mad scramble to switch my spring semester course to an online format, having to learn how to use Zoom for all my in-person interactions, mentoring my graduate students, working out a shared home office scenario for my spouse and me where we are both in online meetings simultaneously, and juggling what seemed like a thousand balls in the air, jumbled all my priorities into a gigantic mess. I sincerely apologize for letting the WIT Newsletter ball drop not only to the floor, but to become buried in the lowest levels of debris resulting from pandemic and social upheaval chaos.

I hope that you and your loved ones are well and staying safe. If you have been affected, or have lost a loved one to this pandemic, you have my deepest sympathy and empathy. Some of the WIT committee members, including myself, have family members who contracted COVID-19. Fortunately, our loved ones are recovered, but you can imagine the additional distraction and stress this caused. Nonetheless, the WIT Committee has been hard at work to bring new programming to meet our mission goals, despite the pandemic challenges. Kathleen Duncan has contributed an article in this issue of the newsletter that describes one such project: **WIT Presents**.

Earlier in the year, as the pandemic was just starting to cause many states to enact social distancing mandates, we sent a letter to our WIT liaisons asking for input on how their groups were handling the challenges of the pandemic. I’m including those stories below.

Also in this edition of the newsletter is another new project from the WIT Committee: the **2020 Virtual WIT EXCHANGE**.

*May you live in **uninteresting** times!*

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My club, Southern Bayou Woodturners, will hold its first club meeting using Zoom this Saturday (in March). Due to our club being so large (>100 members) we divided into small Zoom practice groups before the club meeting allowing everyone to learn the basics, and to ask questions and visit for a few minutes. Our Vice President, Joel, will be conducting a demonstration during the Zoom meeting which we are looking forward to as he always has great information during his demos.

We have encouraged our board members and club members to check on one another by phone and email. We have had more postings on our Facebook page. It has been great to see what others are working on during this stay-at-home-time. We have a very active club with lots of talent so we do enjoy seeing each other’s work.

Joan Busby

First State Woodturners are holding Zoom meetings where we have a show-and-tell of what we have been working on. We are able to share our screens while describing what we created. Our chapter is very supportive of new and experienced turners alike. It is a great environment in which to try new things. This month we had a President’s challenge to turn 4 coasters with embellishments. We submitted our work and received genuine feedback from the group. Next month, we will be able to watch an online demonstration by Cindy Drozda. She will have cameras at different angles for us to see how she is turning. I look forward to the next challenge and to our next online demonstration.

Heather Handler

The Chesapeake Woodturners (Annapolis, MD) had previously scheduled a remote demo with Trent Bosch for our April meeting so all we had to do was get up to speed using Zoom. A few members sent emails with directions for using the app, coordinated a trial run, and ran a test meeting to make sure everyone could use it. We are ready to go this Saturday.

Penny

Huron Valley Woodturners has been around a long time and has always found a way to survive despite losing our workshop home and various leaders over time. Now we have looked at how to survive as a club through this pandemic and sheltering-at-home requirement.

## ***Women in Turning vs. The 2020 Pandemic con't.***

Though the average age of club members is over 70 and some members have never even gotten around to learning email, we have had two practice sessions using Zoom. This is kind of like moving people from Neanderthal life to the age of flying cars. With every practice session we schedule, a few more members trickle in.

Necessity being the mother of invention, we are beginning to see actual advantages to having virtual meetings. The first that immediately comes to mind is making attendance more possible for those who won't drive in the winter or who are "laid up." And there is an entirely different experience in looking closely at peoples' faces vs seeing them slouching on metal chairs at the community center—a new way of seeing and appreciating of each other.

We do not expect all 32 of us to attend our first actual club meeting, but we are hoping for half to start with. Wish us luck and perseverance!

Erica Perry, co-secretary  
Huron Valley Woodturners  
Michigan

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I'm the President of the Georgia Association of Woodturners. Our WIT representative is Elisabeth Ross. Our AAW Chapter has a "three club agreement" with two other clubs that normally all meet the third week of the month, and we coordinate to leverage our meeting, demonstration, and hands-on workshop opportunities to share a demonstrator for our meetings each month. For our April meeting we had to change our plans because our scheduled demonstrator is a professional hospital administrator. Instead, we have scheduled an Interactive Remote Demonstration (IRD) with Cindy Drozda. We will be sharing this IRD with the Atlanta Woodturners Guild (one of our monthly programs partners), for whom Katie Navarro is the WIT representative, and Treavor Anderson is the President. Even though the reasons for our change of plans is a painful one, we are all looking forward to this opportunity to experience this technology and its potential to bring woodturning instruction to individuals at remote locations. Since GAW currently meets at a Materials Laboratory on the Georgia Tech campus and the university is closed down indefinitely to all but essential personnel/activities, we will be assessing this IRD experience and its viability as an option for future chapter meetings which we may need to continue to have remotely.

Kim Muthersbough  
President, Georgia Association of Woodturners

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The Wine Country Woodturners (in Sonoma County, CA) have suspended their monthly meetings and demos for the time being. Since we're all missing out on the shop talk and camaraderie, our email discussion list has exploded with questions and comments, shared photos, discussions of techniques and tips, and even a recent in-depth discussion about burls. The email discussions are every bit as chatty and sociable as our regular meetings, though we're all very sorry to be missing out on Carol Buttrum's wonderful cookies which are a staple at every in-person meeting. It doesn't take the place of meeting in person, but it keeps us connected and engaged which is a big help.

Kalia Kliban

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Our loosely held Women In Turning group is now at 8 to 10 persons from the Santa Fe turning AAW Chapter, New Mexico Woodturners, and from Santa Fe Community College, which offers two levels of turning classes.

Only a few members are on Facebook so it is difficult to encourage them to join another Facebook group! I have shared advice on the page with people, showing them how helpful and open the members are to answering questions and giving advice. And, of course, I have encouraged them to join their local clubs with the emphasis on what the demos and professional turners offer.

I have in the past done two different WIT classes, both with Sally Ault's help. The first was on creating and decorating boxes. There were seven participants and it was held at the home turning shop of John Ellis, a member of the New Mexico Woodturners in Albuquerque. In the second class we made necklaces, which was also lots of fun and full of learning! We had a more diverse group, and held the class at the Santa Fe Community College, where nine lathes are available for rental. The AAW covered the insurance, which is great for people to know!

I hope to do another Albuquerque class this summer. There are a few new women turners in the Albuquerque club that would benefit. Merryll Saylan is thinking of coming to Santa Fe to demo and we could add a WIT class at John Ellis' for everyone. We also have the World of Wood store in Albuquerque which is in the process of gearing up for classes. This would certainly help us encourage new people to join in the joy of turning and, hopefully, gain new WIT members.

Kathy Knorr

## **WIT Presents** by Kathleen Duncan

During this time of social distancing and isolation that many of us are experiencing due to Covid-19, the WIT Committee has been searching for ways to bring WIT members together. During the May monthly WIT Committee meeting we discussed several different paradigms—all involving Zoom online meetings. We wanted something a little different from the myriad of online demonstrations, chapter meetings, and shop tours that have replaced face-to-face demonstrations and meetings. We definitely wanted our focus to be on women turners. After discussing many possibilities, we settled on a format that was built on a structure of a narrated slide show of the artist's work, a tour of her shop or studio, and a time for questions and answers. Since there are so many wonderful women artists, coming up with a potential list of presenters was easy. Because we were not asking presenters to demonstrate, technology could be as simple as a tablet or computer with a camera and reliable internet. AAW has sufficient Zoom licensing to give us the capacity and time we anticipated.

We invited Beth Ireland to attend the May WIT Committee meeting to discuss another potential WIT program. She contributed to our discussion and volunteered to be the first presenter. We asked Tib Shaw of the AAW staff to help us with the setup and technology aspects. After much discussion of the pros and cons of using a webinar versus a Zoom meeting format, we opted for using the webinar because it gave us more technological options, but it did sacrifice the audience interacting with one another. We were able to put together our first **WIT Presents** in just a little over two weeks after the program was conceived. It was a huge success! We immediately started working on the second presentation with Betty Scarpino.

Many attendees commented that they would have liked to have been able to see and talk with other attendees. With Betty's **WIT Presents**, we added the option to attend an "After Party." These are regular Zoom sessions where you can see and talk with all participants. To keep groups more manageable, we limited each party to 50 participants.

With the success of both Beth and Betty's presentations, the AAW Symposium asked Beth to do her presentation for the 2020 virtual symposium in July. That was very widely attended and another huge success and seems to have spawned a number of similar events with other groups. We knew we had done something right!

Due to the **very** positive response we got to our first presentations and the requests from male members who wanted to attend, we opened registration to all AAW members for Kimberly Winkle's presentation in August. We wanted to keep the After Parties for WIT members only, so instituted a separate sign-up for them. Much like the symphony or theater might do with their special patrons, we send an After Party invitation to **WIT Presents** registrants who have indicated they are female on their AAW profile. The discussions at these gatherings have been lively. Some topics have been serious, and some have been whimsical and fun. At one, someone decided it was "ice cream day" and those who could, left and returned with a dish of ice cream.

We still have some problems to work out! None of the committee members, AAW staff, or presenters have a strong background in the technological aspects so we are learning as we go and hope to make improvements to the Presentations with each one being better than the last. Because of the number of emails and calls we get prior to the **WIT Presents**, we suspect that a number of people register but unfortunately do not complete their registration by hitting that final submit button. We are looking into that.

If you missed the live presentations or want to watch again, they are archived at: [https://woodturner.org/Woodturner/WIT/WIT-Home-Page.aspx?WebsiteKey=c9100f02-c77e-4177-a9bc-7d3eb0216238&hkey=7f6a65b2-ec98-472f-a7b6-2ac573f7258d&New\\_ContentCollectionOrganizerCommon=9#New\\_ContentCollectionOrganizerCommon](https://woodturner.org/Woodturner/WIT/WIT-Home-Page.aspx?WebsiteKey=c9100f02-c77e-4177-a9bc-7d3eb0216238&hkey=7f6a65b2-ec98-472f-a7b6-2ac573f7258d&New_ContentCollectionOrganizerCommon=9#New_ContentCollectionOrganizerCommon)

*Cradled Horizon, Harmonious Bones, Fragile Fragment,  
Drooping Containment, Imaginary Gift, Tactile Armor,  
Reckless Bones, Refined Enthusiasm, Frivolous Risk,  
Mystical Generosity, Drooping Diversity, Cradled Position,  
Diverse Aggregate, Unruly Turbulence, Flawed Conversation,  
Voluptuous Emotion, Playful Flow, Rhythmic Current,  
Enveloping Passage, Neglected Adventure, Fluid Adventure*

# WIT EXCHANGE 2020 goes Virtual

by Andi Wolfe

Our 2020 WIT EXCHANGE was to have taken place at Arrowmont during the third week of September. Alas! this was not to be, due to the current pandemic. This would have been our third EXCHANGE, and the WIT Committee is really disappointed that we were not able to make it happen. The past two years have shown us how important the EXCHANGE has become to a community of women turners in stimulating creativity, fostering collaboration, and facilitating self-confidence.

In our most recent WIT Committee meeting, we brainstormed about collaboration and how to continue the WIT EXCHANGE while we are not able to come together in person. Voila! The Virtual WIT EXCHANGE was born.

Throughout this newsletter you will find pairs of words in blue typeface – one is a noun and the other a modifier. At the in-person EXCHANGES we placed words from these categories into two separate bags from which groups of three women would draw a noun and a modifier. The two words that were randomly selected were used as inspiration for a project that represented those two words. For the 2020 Virtual WIT EXCHANGE you are limited to the word pairs found in the newsletter. Examples of projects from previous years are included in the Gallery section of the newsletter.

To participate in the 2020 Virtual WIT EXCHANGE you will need to find two women to partner with. It would be awesome if they were both turners, but you can choose women with other artistic talents as well. Select one pair of words to use as inspiration and then brainstorm ideas on how to represent those words in a sculptural work. At the in-person EXCHANGES we provided the same sets of wood blanks for all the trios to work from. For the Virtual EXCHANGE you can determine what works best for your piece. Try to keep the size at a reasonable scale that can be photographed on a table, and that can be shipped easily if we have a gallery exhibit or auction. These details are still under consideration and will be announced on the website before entries are due.

Given that we had three full days of making at the in-person EXCHANGES, and each group was unique for every day of the event, you can participate in up to three collaborations inspired from three sets of unique word pairs as long as your two partners are different for each one. Try to limit your work time on the projects to simulate how our in-person EXCHANGES work. Also, please practice social distancing if in confined spaces, wear masks, and use best practices for staying safe during this pandemic. How you approach your project is up to you, but consider working on separate components in separate spaces, sending work sequentially to each participant for contribution of effort, and coordinating assembly in such a way that social distancing protocols can be maintained. We want this to be fun and collaborative, but we also want to make sure everyone stays safe.

We want to have a virtual exhibit of the work, so there is a deadline (December 31, 2020) for submitting photos. Try to get high-quality photos for your submission. Use the photos posted in the Gallery section as examples of what we would like to see. If you need information on how to make a good photo, please contact me (andiwolfe@yahoo.com). We'll have a submission form posted on the WIT page on the AAW website in the coming months, and we'll send an email with the information when the site is up and ready to accept submissions. There is no need to inform the WIT Committee of your intention to participate before submitting pieces. All entries will be included in the virtual exhibit. However, if we host a gallery exhibit or auction, the WIT committee will jury the entries into either or both options for those who would like to participate, so do present your best work for consideration.

Be sure to document your works in progress and record your interactions with how the ideas develop. This information will be part of the exhibit. We're looking forward to seeing what you produce! Collaboration is a wonderful way to grow as an artist. If you would like to have more information about the 2018 and 2019 WIT EXCHANGE events, here are the links to the issues that have the articles published previously in the newsletter. 2018 WIT [EXCHANGE](#), 2019 WIT [EXCHANGE](#).

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*Neglected Curiosity, Escaping Turbulence, Harmonious Emotion,  
Fragile Flow, Imaginary Conversation, Contagious Gift,  
Tactile Reflection, Reckless Containment, Frivolous Fragment,  
Playful Spirit, Rhythmic Horizon, Fluid Adventure,  
Iconic Generosity, Joyful Opportunity*

# “You Have to Start a Thing”

by Anne Ogg

Lillian Exum Clement of Asheville, the first woman elected to the North Carolina General Assembly in 1920, said: “I am, by nature, very conservative, but I am firm in my convictions ... I want to blaze a trail for other women. I know that years from now there will be many other women in politics, but you have to start a thing.”

As we gathered at the 2019 Women in Turning **EXCHANGE**, many of us shared ideas on how to grow membership in our clubs, specifically women turners. In our club, I contacted a craft show, now the largest in Asheville, and found them willing to donate space for us to publicly turn during the show. Last year, I tried to make sure we had women turning both days on one of the two lathes we used to demonstrate. This year as the number of women in our club has grown, I am specifically asking women in our club to volunteer. Perhaps we can fill both lathes at times with women turning.

Another club holds a monthly turning just for women. They gather at their club’s meeting space and usually have a theme to turn. If some of you are participating in the Elfster gift exchange for the holidays, this may be a good theme to incorporate. Simple holiday ornaments can be turned by beginners as well as advanced turners.

At the Symposium in Raleigh, one member stated that she ensures there is a welcoming face at the door during her club meetings. Many times I have seen women peek in the door at our meetings (open to the public) only to see an ocean of men. I try to welcome them and make sure they know that women turn too!

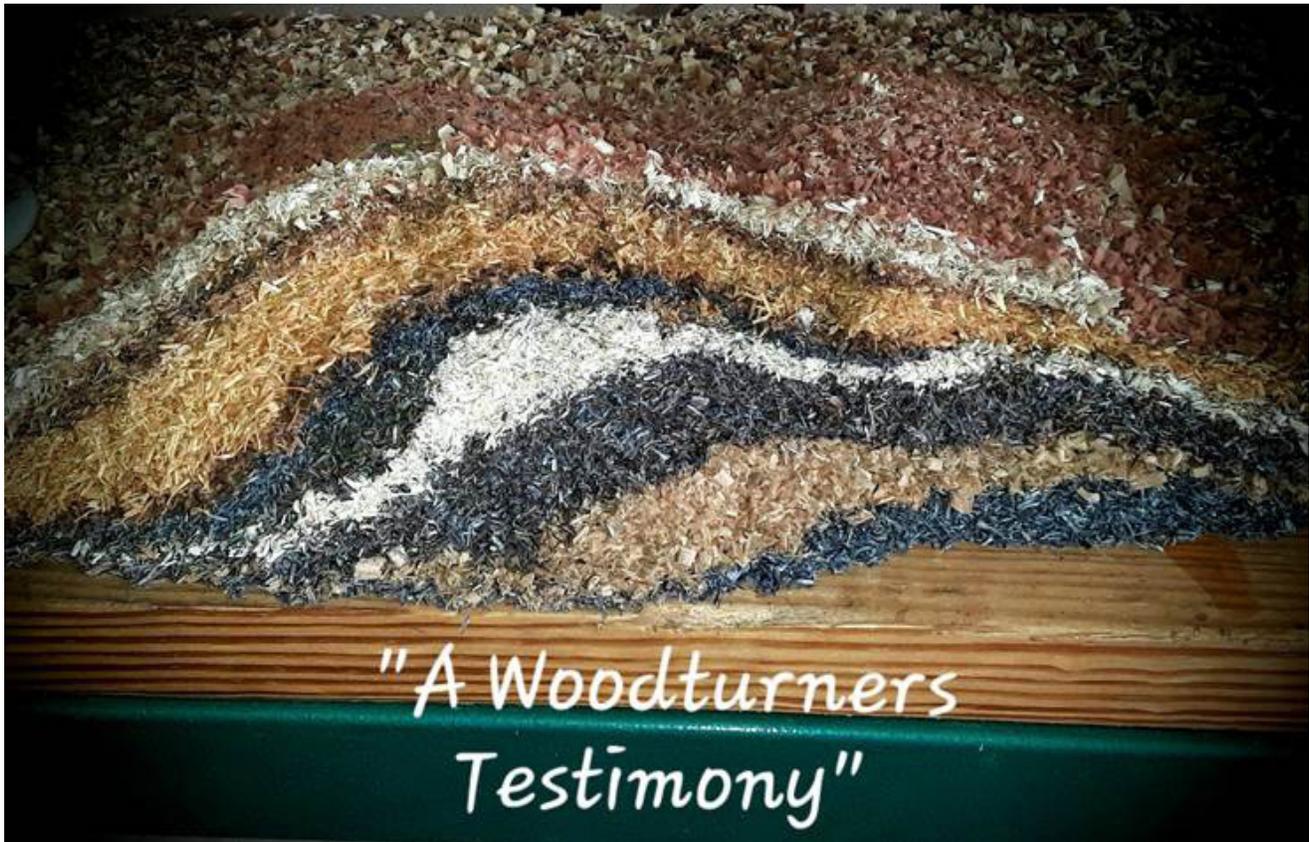
Publicly turning is one way to ensure people see that women are turners. “If they can see it, they can be it.” What are some of the ways your club is working to build membership? Sometimes it is a challenge, but “you have to start a thing!”



*Contagious Reflection, Playful Fragment, Fluid Containment,  
Escaping Curiosity, Enveloping Aggregate, Diverse Evolution,  
Harmonious Conversation, Fragile Diversity, Imaginary Current,  
Iconic Opportunity, Joyful Current, Flawed Risk, Refined Enthusiasm,  
Voluptuous Bones, Reborn Armor, Unruly Passage, Drooping Position,  
Cradled Flow, Rhythmic Evolution*

*“I remember envying the boys long before I even knew the word feminism, because I liked shop better than cooking or sewing.”- Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

## Let the Chips Fall Where They May by Darcie Didden



While working in my shop the past few months getting ready for the Show & Sale, I decided to follow my dad's lead and "Let the chips fall where they may." There's even a sign in my shop (which came out of my dad's shop) that says just that. So, I'm working away, and I had the pleasant surprise of visitors stopping by. I think every turner likes nothing better than a time of visiting and talking about ideas and things in common. Before you know it, there were five of us! Each one not knowing the other was going to be there. It was great! One turner had his wife with him and after noticing the piles of chips at both lathes, she proceeded to tell me about collector systems. Well, I once had my dream shop with the 40-foot-long 6" PVC across the ceiling and 4" drops at every machine, with a remote to turn it on and off. I left that. Additionally, I've sold two other collector systems over the years. So here I am with my piles of chips and two shop vacs. ZESH! So, today I entered the shop, looked around, and she had shamed me into cleaning up my mess. Now please understand, I have an order for 42 pens by the 18th and what am I doing? I am clogging up my shop vac filter with chips and sawdust! By now you're wondering, where the heck is this going?

So ..... I'm vacuuming away and I get to my Grizzly which has a shelf under the bed and a pile of chips about 6 inches deep. When I swept the vac hose over it, the most amazing thing happened! It was like a piece of art just jumped out and appeared in front of my eyes!

*Reckless Curiosity, Refined Opportunity, Frivolous Diversity,  
Fluid Generosity, Escaping Risk, Harmonious Gift,  
Fragile Enthusiasm, Imaginary Reflection, Iconic Bones,  
Joyful Containment, Mystical Spirit, Drooping Fragment,  
Cradled Armor, Flawed Horizon, Voluptuous Gift, Reborn Passage,  
Unruly Adventure, Enveloping Emotion, Neglected Turbulence*

# A Beginner's Christmas Ornament

## by Suzette Edwards

I began turning in June when I purchased a Shopsmith. I had never turned before but had wanted to learn for years. I pretty much learned from watching videos on YouTube. I'd like to give a big thank-you to Sam Angelo and Mike Peace for their instructive videos.

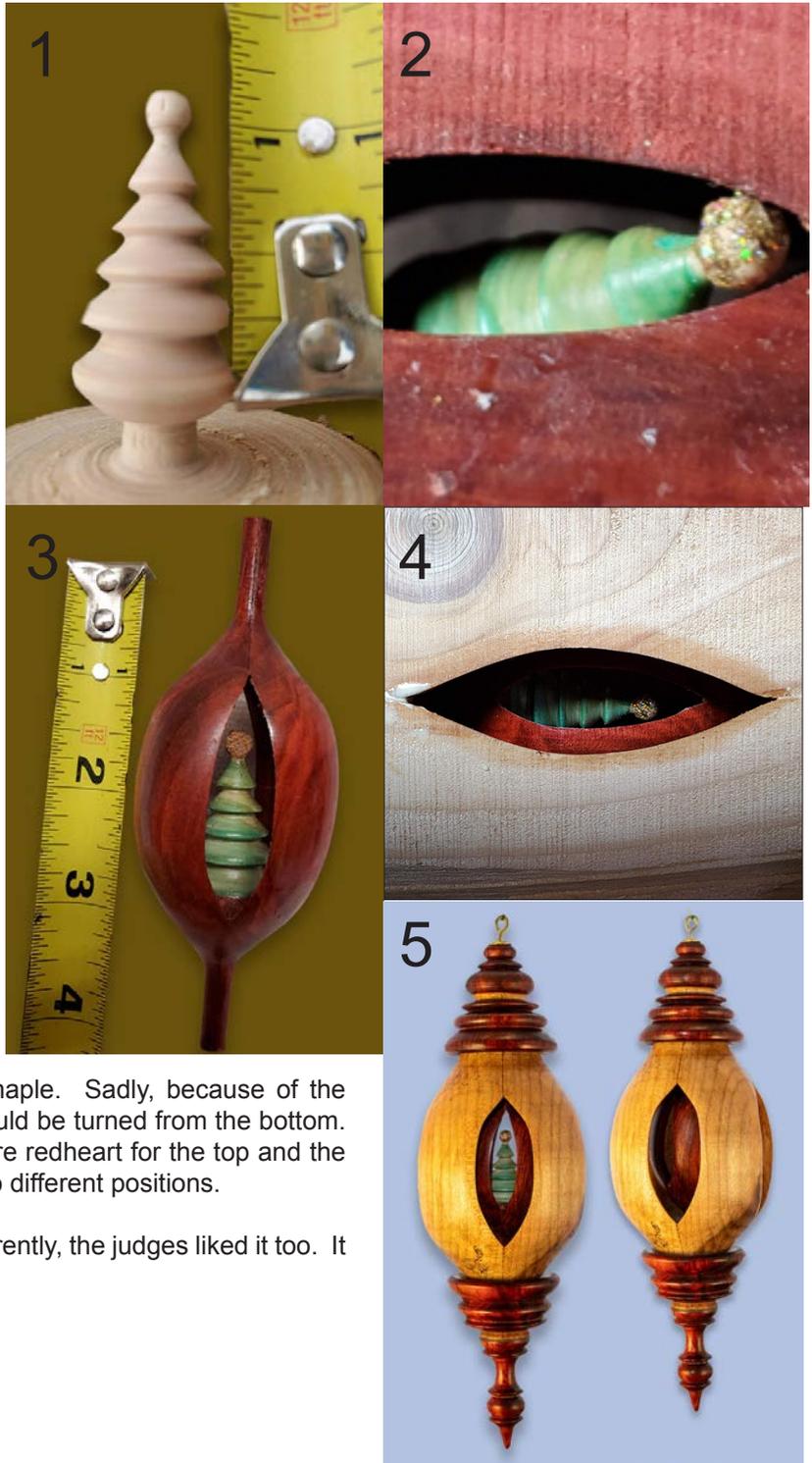
I decided to try to turn something for the President's Challenge in the South Puget Sound Woodturners chapter. I'd tried an inside-out ornament once before and decided to go one step further and do an inside-out ornament with an inside-out inside another one. Confusing? I started by turning a small tree from some plum I'd gotten from a friend who trimmed her tree (Photo 1). As a new woodturner, one gets as much free wood as possible. I then dyed the tree with some green resin dye then dipped the top in some gold glitter.

Next I put the tree in some redheart (Photo 2). That got me some Christmas red. I then turned a small ornament with long tenons on it so I could set it up to turn inside the larger ornament (Photo 3).

I embedded the smaller ornament in some cedar I had with which to make the larger ornament (Photo 4). This was a huge mistake. Cedar does not work well for this sort of thing as it's too soft and breaks easily. I should have known from a previous effort but, alas, before starting to turn it and noticing the cedar smell, I thought it was maple. I started turning it and just as I was nearly finished it broke apart. Back to the drawing board. I found a chunk of maple. This time I made sure. I turned the ornament using the maple. Sadly, because of the blow-up I ran out of time for making it so that it could be turned from the bottom. Instead I had to get it together to turn. I used more redheart for the top and the bottom. Photo 5 shows the inside ornament in two different positions.

I thought it was pretty good for a new turner. Apparently, the judges liked it too. It won the President's challenge.

Now, what do I do for next year?



*Fluid Curiosity, Flawed Opportunity, Refined Flow,  
Frivolous Current, Reborn Aggregate, Enveloping Reflection,  
Tactile Evolution*

# Selected Projects from the 2018 and 2019 WIT EXCHANGES



## ***Angular Aggregate***

2019

Esther Assemat

Janet Collins

Colleen Larsen

## ***Comfortable Record***

2019

Leslie Nielsen

Roxann Ritchie

Danielle Barbour



*Selected projects, con't*



***Cooperative Cacophony***

2019

Linda Ferber

Cyndi Reece

Susan Rennie



***Cradled Strength***

2018

Ana Lappegard

Patricia Rasmussen

Sue Canfield



***Elevated Abundance***

2019

Ena Dubnoff

Kathleen Gardner

Pat Reddemann

*Selected projects, con't*



***Empty Balance***  
2018  
Lynne Yamaguchi  
Conni Rabur  
Bina Rothblatt



***Iconic Legend***  
2018  
Anne Ogg  
Lynn Reece  
Ena Dubnoff



***Inspiring Happiness***  
2018  
Marie Anderson  
Sue Janis Bergstrand  
Lou Kinsey

***Selected projects, con't***



***Luxurious Friendship***  
2018  
Ana Lappegard  
Anna Duncan  
Crystal Earley

***Moving Safety***  
2019  
Joan Busby  
Ettasue Long  
Cindy Navarro



# Women in Turning - Sharing Experiences

## DALLAS/FORT WORTH LADIES' GROUP

by Janice Levi

In the summer of 2019, several ladies from three different woodturning clubs decided that they would like to form an informal group and help each other with woodturning and embellishment projects. At present, the ladies are meeting every Monday in the shop of Charlotte "Charley" Phillips. Group size usually ranges from 5 to 7 women. I have been a fortunate visitor a couple of times and I sincerely wish that I lived closer and could be a regular.

Currently, the ladies are focused on embellishing woodturnings with carving, pyrography, and color. Charley Phillips, nationally known carver, has taught the ladies basket illusion techniques and hand-carving flowers. Pam Thompson, well-known furniture maker (especially her chairs), brings a keen knowledge of wood, grain, and figuring to the group. Sharon Ayers, an accomplished turner and artist (her Zentangle-inspired designs have been published), helps the ladies with design and use of color.

This extremely talented group all contribute to the weekly meetings. The various members sign up for a date or dates to bring the program and provide instruction. They work together to furnish the necessary supplies and equipment for each project. The main drawback at present is that the shop is not equipped with enough lathes so that the ladies can turn on site. Anxious to learn new turning skills, the group is applying for an AAW grant in hopes of purchasing lathes and turning equipment.

Although the current focus is to promote woodturning for the women in the area, Charley hopes that a fully equipped shop will serve all three area clubs as a place to conduct hands-on classes (and that would include the men, also). She does state, however, that her ultimate goal is to get ladies involved with turning and embellishing wood. The clubs represented so far by the ladies' Monday group are Woodturners of North Texas (Fort Worth), Golden Triangle Woodturners (Denton), and Dallas Area Woodturners (Dallas).

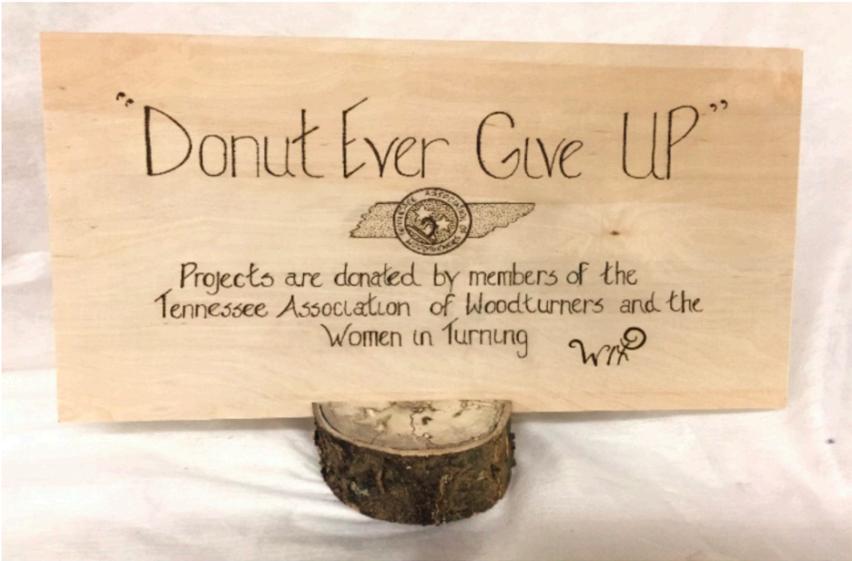


Left: Janice Levi (visiting), Charley Phillips, Karen Stehle, and Pam Thompson take a break from a design session.

Right: Rhonda Stelly applies color to her Basket Illusion turning.

*Unruly Emotion, Reckless Position, Voluptuous Turbulence,  
Contagious Conversation, Playful Generosity,  
Neglected Risk, Escaping Enthusiasm, Diverse Spirit,  
Mystical Armor, Iconic Adventure, Joyful Passage*

# Women in Turning - Sharing Experiences



These beautifully embellished donuts were created using the ancient Indian art of Mehndi. By applying henna on her wood donuts, she was able to represent her heritage and the art of her family culture, which lies so close to her heart. By Sonal Gupta.

## Donut Ever Give Up by Chris Price

The "Donut Ever Give Up" fund-raiser, what fun! The Women in Turning of Nashville together with the Tennessee Association of Woodturners jointly participated in this project with the goal of raising money to support the TAW and also to provide a scholarship for one of the WIT members. This project was adopted at the TAW 2019 symposium and presented at this year's 2020 symposium auction. What a success!

The project was to present a torus/donut with a diameter of 3 inches and a center hole that was 7/8 inch. The thickness was up to the designer. During 2019, the participants gathered to share ideas ranging from how to turn a donut, to detailing their creation, to having conversations on how the project was to be presented, and to spending time together and creating new friendships. Who would have ever thought! Give a woodturner an idea and the possibilities are endless?



These donuts resembled actual Krispy Kreme donuts in Krispy Kreme boxes. The donuts were not only turned but embellished with sawdust, Elmers glue, candy sprinkles, and acrylic paints. by Akira Ueda



This child's toy titled "Moon Stars and Donuts," was created to teach a child to recognize characters and color matching through various mediums such as pyrography, acrylic paint, and carving. By Chris Price.

*Through this project alone we were able to raise almost \$1400, thanks to the generosity of our members and friends.*

# Women in Turning - Sharing Experiences

For the longest time (8 years), I have been the only woman in our club of 32 members.

Several years ago I received a grant from AAW and WIT and taught 21 women (Staff, clients, and friends) at Eisenhower Center, a rehab facility for traumatic brain injury, to turn wood. We made simple projects that they could take with them—bottle stoppers, candlestick holder kits, scoops—and I had thought that this would lead to women joining our club ....it didn't. The women claimed that their lives were just too busy, though they loved learning to turn.

Several times my club members and I have talked about why women might hesitate to join us and several of our officers still cannot understand that a mostly all male club can be intimidating. "After all, our intentions are good" and "women who work under me at work say I am a great boss!" Nonetheless they trust me and will let women who contact them know that I am happy to mentor them.

Thus far I have mentored a 17-year-old young woman who intends to make a career out of turning. Initially I lent her a mini lathe but she soon found she wanted a bigger one. At our Holiday sale last year she made more money than any of the seasoned male turners!

I also work with a young woman PhD grad student once a week and together we have had a great time turning and also experimenting with coloring epoxy. She has finally bought a lathe of her own and is keeping it in her brother-in-law's garage. While sheltering in, she sends me pictures of her turned work.

Finally, a retired woman comes to Eisenhower Center, where our club has a small workshop and she joyously turns and learns from us while we also work with clients there.

We have president and secretary elections coming up in August. I have considered running for president though I hesitate because I miss a third of the meetings due to the babysitting needs of my daughter in Baltimore when she is on call at the hospital. Still, sitting in a seat of "power" might shift the gender dynamics such that more women might want to join us.

Erica Perry  
Co-secretary  
Huron Valley Woodturners

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## Cape Cod Woodturners by Robin McIntyre

February, 2020

Eight turners attended our first session for 2020 at Jan Casiello's shop. Our focus was on tops--simple, embellished, various designs--inspired by the AAW WIT 2018 collaborative project. After enjoying lunch together, catching up on news, and getting updates on the 2020 **WIT EXCHANGE** and regional workshops, we headed to the shop to make some shavings! Jan and Robin McIntyre were mentors at the two lathes for the tops, which were turned collaboratively. Turners embellished tops with texturing and woodburning. Everyone was pleased with their glistening cuts with improving tool control. A second session is planned for later in the spring.

April, 2020

Hello from Eastern MA! We are all involved in many home activities—caring for others in our homes and community, working remotely, making masks, doing undone home projects, getting yards and gardens ready for spring, and turning! Five club BOD members participated in the recent AAW Zoom presentation. Our club is gearing up for using Zoom for our May and June meetings (at least, more as needed) and having smaller tutorials on Zoom for our members prior to the first meeting. A mentoring group for the club called Turn and Learn (3 WIT participants for this session, 2 as mentees, 1 as mentor) has had its first meeting with a live demo from a member's shop with 2 camera angles (WIT member successfully on camera duty with her husband turning). Members are being encouraged to forward photos for Show and Tell, shop tips, and resources that they encounter for our ongoing club newsletters. We haven't yet scheduled a WIT gathering using Zoom but will—I have the host features figured out.

# Women in Turning - Sharing Experiences

## Cape Cod Woodturners con't

Our WIT group was scheduled to submit a collaborative project for an exhibit "Just Like A Woman" at the Cultural Center of Cape Cod for May 1. They have shut down of necessity as other venues have but just announced that they will do the show virtually! So, we have chips flying to make a group project of trees—all sizes and shapes, various wood, some detailed, some rustic—to represent the diversity of women. In light of our current world situation, we will title the work "Standing Strong, Together.". I will do a curbside pick-up of the pieces from at least 6 turners toward the end of April and get a photo in to the exhibit by May 1. One WIT member had some good photo backdrop ideas to add to the wood theme of our presentation. We should know by May 15 if we get accepted into the show which opens in June. Maybe our first Zoom could be a celebration of being accepted into the show!

## May, 2020

Our group submitted a collaborative project for a virtual juried exhibit and sale titled "Just Like a Woman" at the Cultural Center of Cape Cod. Our piece, called "Standing Strong, Together", was a first for us! We didn't get into the show but felt good that we collaborated and participated in a community event.

## September, 2020

Since the shutdown began, our WIT members have had the opportunity to participate via Zoom in monthly club demonstrations, interactive remote demonstrations from professional turners, the AAW Symposium, and the WIT Presents events. We have had 2 WIT Zoom meetings with another scheduled for September with Show and Tell of our turnings, discussion of learning opportunities via Zoom, discussion of turning problems, planning a focus for our turnings, and generally catching up with each other. In May, we decided on mushrooms as our focus for both turning and embellishment which we continued to August.

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## From the Editor:

I hope things will improve for all of us in 2021. It would be nice to get back to a sense of normalcy and to be able to meet in-person once again. The WIT Newsletter is always in need of articles that highlight the activities of Women in Turning. Please do not hesitate to send me information about the activities you are involved in with your local chapter, or any efforts you are making to learn new techniques, reach out to new women turners, etc. If you have an article you would like to write about a technique you demonstrate or tips from the shop, I would like to include that information as well. **Liaisons** – please share what your club is doing to promote Women in Turning. I would also be interesting in finding out what type of content you would like to see in the newsletter. If you have suggestions for Gallery themes, please let me know. This is your newsletter and we need information in order to share it with the broader community. Thanks!

Speaking of thanks, I need to thank **Elizabeth Amigo** and all of the WIT committee members for helping to edit the content of this issue, especially **Jean LeGwin**. Thank you, also, **Joan Busby, Darcie Didden, Kathleen Duncan, Suzette Edwards, Heather Handler, Kalia Kliban, Kathy Knorr, Janice Levi, Robin McIntyre, Kim Muthersbough, Anne Ogg, Penny, Erica Perry, and Chris Price** for contributing content to the newsletter.

*"We [women] should not be held back from pursuing our full talents, from contributing what we could contribute to the society, because we fit into a certain mold — because we belong to a group that historically has been the object of discrimination."*

*– Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

# Women in Turning - Safety Tips

## SAFETY TIPS

**AAW** | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF WOODTURNERS

### Woodturning safety is **YOUR** responsibility

**Safe, effective use of a wood lathe requires study and knowledge** of procedures for using this tool. Read, thoroughly understand, and follow the label warnings on the lathe and in the owner-operator's manual. Safety guidelines from an experienced instructor, video, or books are good sources of important safety procedures. Please work safely.

#### PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

- **Use a full-face shield** for all woodturning operations, any time the lathe is turned on.
- **Wear safety glasses** when doing operations other than on a running Lathe.
- **Use a dust mask**, filtering respirator, or a powered air filtration respirator in conjunction with a dust collection system and proper ventilation. Fine particles from a grinder and wood dust are harmful to your respiratory system. Be especially mindful of dust from many exotic woods, spalted woods, or any wood that gives you a skin or respiratory reaction.
- **Wear hearing protection** during noisy procedures. If a procedure is even moderately noisy and you are doing it for an extended period of time, wear hearing protection.
- **Wear shoes or boots** to protect your feet from falling objects.



#### ***Diversity Statement:***

The American Association of Woodturners (AAW) is dedicated to advancing the art and craft of woodturning worldwide by providing opportunities for education, information, and organization to those interested in turning wood. The AAW welcomes and encourages participation by all individuals regardless of age, race, culture, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental difference, politics, religion, socioeconomic status, or subculture. We strive to cultivate an organization built on mentorship, encouragement, tolerance, and mutual respect, thereby engendering a welcoming environment for all. The AAW further promotes diversity in all areas of activity, including membership, leadership, committees, staff, outreach, public engagement, and recruitment, within the association as a whole and within each chapter.

(Adopted April 19, 2019)

# Opportunities for Women in Turning

## Classes, Workshops, Exhibits, Demonstrations, and Grants

**AAW: Resources for Remote Demonstrations:** <https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/Chapters/Chapter-Officers-Toolkit/Chapter-Remote-Demonstrations.aspx>

### Classes:

**May 24–28, 2021. Andi Wolfe:** *Beyond the Form – Exploring Texture, Carving, and Color in Woodturning.* <https://www.marcadams.com>

### AAW Grants available for WIT

**Under-represented Populations Outreach Grants:** These grants may be requested for events such as activities or workshops to promote women in turning. All AAW Grant applications are reviewed annually. However, since these events may be time-sensitive, such grant applications will be considered periodically during the year. More details are available on the website. Grant recipients are expected to disperse information about AAW, and promote its activities. Grants cannot be used for food or personal expenses, or to pay a stipend to the grant applicant.

**WIT AAW Membership Grants:** To encourage women to join AAW, the WIT Committee offers a limited number of WIT-sponsored half-price one-year “General” AAW memberships to women. WIT is also offering at no cost a one-year “General” AAW membership to women who join AAW for the first time AND join their local chapter for the first time.

### Eligibility

To be eligible, a grant recipient must be a woman who has never previously been a member of AAW.

### Process

Only the chapter AAW WIT Liaison, chapter president, or chapter vice-president may request the grant. If you have questions, please email [wit@woodturner.org](mailto:wit@woodturner.org).

**Call for Exhibits:** AAW maintains a list of calls for exhibits and other opportunities. Info at: <https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/Events/Calls-for-Entries/Woodturner/Events/Calls-for-Entries.aspx?hkey=ec198405-f7a4-4e3b-8627-bec99a5ad10e>

**Save the date!!! July 15–18, 2021 AAW Symposium, Omaha, Nebraska.**

### Call for Entries

**Elements: 2021 POP Exhibition and Auction:** Application Period Dec 1, 2020, to Jan 15, 2021. <https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/2021Omaha/Exhibitions/Elements--2021-POP-Exhibition-and-Auction.aspx>

**Finding the Center:** AAW's 2021 Themed Member Exhibition, Application Period Jan 1–Mar 15, 2021. <https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/2021Omaha/Exhibitions/Finding-the-Center--2021-AAW-Member-Exhibition.aspx>

*“Fight for the things that you care about. But do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”*

*– Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

## Endnotes:

**Thank you!** The WIT committee thanks Lynne Yamaguchi for her dedicated service on the committee and contributions to the mission of Women In Turning. We also want to welcome Linda Britt, newly elected AAW board member, and a new ex-officio member to the committee.

**Encourage WIT.** The mission of WIT is to encourage and retain women in woodturning. Here are some suggestions of how you can help: 1) Introduce a friend or neighbor to woodturning by bringing her to a chapter meeting, 2) accompany her to an open shop session, 3) teach her in your own shop, and/or 4) offer to be her mentor for a year.

If there is a new member in your chapter who is not yet a member of AAW, tell her about AAW's 60-day guest membership: <https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/2020%20Grants/WIT%20membership.aspx>.

Pay it forward. Instead of telling a new member about the guest membership, buy her a membership. In return, she can pay it forward by bringing another new member into the AAW. This generous gift may be the beginning of a lifetime of enjoyment for many new woodturners.

**Did you know?** There are many benefits of AAW membership, including a world-class journal, publications on techniques, videos, a directory of learning opportunities, and other online tools. Check out all the opportunities for members at [Why Join](#)

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*“Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn't be that women are the exception.”*

*- Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

