

# Women in Turning Newsletter

Summer 2021



## 2021 WIT Virtual EXCHANGE

AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF WOODTURNERS



The 2021 WIT Virtual **EXCHANGE** project presentations program was broadcast June 19, 2021, with Andi Wolfe serving as emcee. This year's event was organized by Marie Anderson and Linda Ferber, with how-to sessions on photography and speed talks presented by Andi Wolfe. We had 27 teams of women who participated, including women from the United States, Canada, Denmark, England, The Netherlands, Scotland, Taiwan, and Germany. This year's event included non-turners for the first time. The creativity, team building, process stories, and final projects were great to see. Thank you to all the participants for joining in this adventure.

The program video and slide show of projects are posted on the AAW website. Click on the following links to see:

1) [2021 EXCHANGE program video](#); 2) [2021 EXCHANGE slide show](#); 3) [video for Cockamamie Conspirators](#), which, unfortunately, didn't make it into the program.

Stay tuned for announcements for future in-person or virtual WIT events.

*The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things,  
but their inward significance.  
-Aristotle*

# Feedback from the 2021 WIT Virtual EXCHANGE

## Team Turned HerStory presenting a Robust Evolution

Four dynamic turners—Tracey Lee, Stacey Pellom, Marie Anderson, and Robin McIntyre—worked together for the 2021 Virtual eXchange. Our words, Robust Evolution, inspired us to create a project based on the idea that we wanted to portray—strong women who have influenced and turned history, or, as we prefer, HerStory, and the evolution of the women’s movement over many decades. With so many women to choose from in our HerStory, we knew we would need to build a tower of strength to represent these women with icons depicting our Robust Evolution. After learning more about each of our featured women, we each got to work on our individual icons. Marie turned the maple tubes as the display for the icons and sent them to each of us so we could individualize the inside of the tubes to represent the uniqueness of each woman. The outside of the tubes was left identical to represent the commonalities among all women. The tubes were then arranged into a pyramid representing how we stand on each other’s shoulders as we grow, gain confidence, make progress, and laugh together. The wall of names honors these particular women and unites us all. Many thanks to the WIT Committee for giving us the opportunity to work and grow together.



## From Dianne Looker, Team Irregular Flatliners: Horizontal Rhythm

I found it challenging in lots of ways; I often mused on how there was a real opportunity for sharing and learning that was missed, given the format of most teams keeping their process secret until the “big reveal” on June 19. I certainly enjoyed and was amazed by both the process and the outcomes when I saw the short videos on June 19. In terms of my own team – I enjoyed briefly meeting Nan Sloan, and having many opportunities to interact with my other team member, Andi Wolfe. I continue to be impressed by the range of both her skills and her energy. For myself, I was surprised to see how much fun I had turning three dozen “raindrops”; I became not only more comfortable with the spindle gouge, I got past my fear and aversion for the skew and felt like I had gained some limited mastery of it. Overall, a very interesting and rewarding experience.



*“The success of every woman should be the inspiration to another. We should raise each other up. Make sure you’re very courageous: be strong, be extremely kind, and above all be humble.”*

*–Serena Williams*

# Conversations from the WIT Presents series receptions

## Compiled by Robin McIntyre

### What Inspires and Motivates You in Your Turning?

You've got the lathe, the tools, the accessories, and the time—but, what inspires and motivates you in your turning? These questions were explored by WIT members at the After Party following Dixie Biggs' WIT Presents presentation in January. Here are some ideas from turners across the country and the world—see if they might work for you!

- Things in nature, either microscopic or macroscopic forms—leaves, seeds, pods, fossils
- Looking at photography—seeing the shapes or objects—take photos of your own for review later—change the scale of the photos, change the texture
- Other mediums such as glass, pottery
- Trying to work on a solo show
- Draw your thoughts—it grows!
- Look at other's books
- Go farther afield, go to other places
- Look at other cultures, go to historical sites—cliff dwellings, petroglyphs
- Look at things from a different perspective
- Sometimes just have to power through it for larger projects
- Get started and it will get better
- Focus on the form of the piece and see if the lines tell a story about the turning
- Ideas from architecture—some are simple, some are ornate
- Make puzzles out of a turning—cut it up. A curved form can be more than that. Round can be flat
- Experiment if you are tired of round and brown
- You can carve before you do the turning
- What can be done that's different when turning between centers
- Add in multimedia background
- Look at Pinterest and see both utilitarian and art forms
- Color—resin casting inspired by ocean, beach, sunsets, trees, crayons melting
- Go for different shapes that are cut and recombined
- Look at other turners' work, feed off their creativity whether brown and round, color, or texture
- Remember it's OK to mess it up, cut it up, take a chance—just do it, it's very freeing
- Be open to inspiration
- Go to workshops, demos, take a course where you can focus—learn from everyone
- Cut up something you don't love
- Furniture forms offer inspiration—see things up close
- Model inlays from other art—see the rims of turnings as palettes
- Look at historic things for design, shape
- Add sand shading to your inlay
- Do the inlay before the turning
- Don't be afraid to fail—it's all about the learning
- Wood itself is beautiful—let the wood speak to you
- Construct things with different bases to make something new
- Have a theme—the challenge is to think outside your comfort zone
- Look at designs in coloring books for piercing—you can copy the shapes
- View art and translate it into your own art
- Look at garden elements, floral design, hardware store items—shop with a new eye for viewing things
- Collaborate with others—we have so much to learn from each other!
- What are the possibilities—look at things in a different way

## ***Conversations, con't***

### **How do you tackle learning a new skill?**

So many things to learn, enjoy, explore, and experience—let's make the best use of our time! At the February After Party following Sally Burnett's inspiring WIT Presents webinar, members shared their own learning resources for exploring this question. With so many different learning styles, it's great to have so many options to think about. See what might help you when you are trying to learn a new technique or skill.

- Take a class or course that is hands-on. We often make so much more progress in a concentrated, dedicated learning experience.
- Watch a demonstration
- Find a mentor with expertise
- Make sure you have the right equipment
- Zoom with a mentor or an on-line class—don't wait for in-person opportunities
- YouTube videos
- Have an attitude of playfulness
- You need to want to do it
- Check out state universities or community colleges for adult learning opportunities
- Approach it head on, go play with it, try it
- Learn from your mistakes
- Learn from your club members
- Learn from AAW tutorials on the website
- Instagram is both a good inspiration and a good learning tool
- Think it through, make a diagram, make sure you are safe
- WIT eXchange—open up your horizons
- Ask others in WIT, defer to people with expertise
- It's OK to experiment, have an open attitude
- Gather with others to teach, learn, and share materials and equipment
- Be selective if you have something you want to do—apply it
- Work up to it—think it through
- Go back to skills that you learned earlier
- Practice and adapt the technique to what you want
- Share with others
- Just run with it, do what's fun, explore
- Use your club resources--mentors, books, videos

### **2021 WIT Presents Archive**

**January:** [Dixie Biggs](#)  
**February:** [Sally Burnett](#)  
**March:** [Andi Wolfe](#)  
**April:** [Barbara Dill](#)  
**June:** [Joey Richardson](#)



# AAW Board of Directors Election

## by Andi Wolfe

Members of AAW who have been with the organization for a while know that the leadership of this 15,000+-member organization includes a nine-member Board of Directors, each of whom is an unpaid volunteer. The term for a board member is three years, and these terms are staggered so that each year a slate of three board members is elected. The maximum length of time a board member can consecutively serve is two terms (i.e., six years).

Nominations for board members are submitted by a committee of current and past board members, and volunteers. This is probably one of the most difficult committee assignments for AAW. Trying to find members who are willing to volunteer their time for such an important oversight role is a huge challenge. When a strong candidate is found, there is cause for celebration. Some of the nominees are current board members who would like to serve a second term. Others are brand new faces who bring new energy and ideas to the board.

The future of AAW depends on strong leadership and a commitment to the mission of the organization. AAW includes members from around the world, from all walks of life, and with differing interests in the craft and art of woodturning. The board of directors should reflect and represent the diversity within the membership.

Annual elections occur in August. The slate of nominees is posted in July. The WIT Committee would like for every member of AAW to vote in the Board of Directors election – every single year. If you are a member of AAW, please review all the statements from the nominees and be sure to cast your ballot. You can vote for up to three candidates each election. Your vote should be for the nominee who best represents your interests and how you want AAW to be. We all have a voice, but only if we exercise our right to vote.

The WIT Committee is not making any endorsements here. We just want all members to participate in the election process.

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## Why join the AAW?

Plain and simple, you are enthusiastic about woodturning.

An AAW membership offers you access to the single largest portfolio of high-quality educational woodturning resources available in the world. Membership is the fastest way to learn and enhance your woodturning expertise.

An AAW membership can help you:

- Experience the remarkable world of woodturning.
- Connect with others who share your passion.
- Be an active and knowledgeable member of the woodturning community.
- Make a commitment to your own personal and creative development.
- Express your dedication to preserving woodturning for future generations.



Photos by Andi Wolfe

## With an AAW membership you have access to:

- 3,000+ online projects, articles, videos, and tips are in AAW's Explore! search tool. Get the best project instructions, technique guidelines, and information in just a few simple clicks. Easily searchable by topic and includes all interest areas.
- 12,000+ images of member work are in AAW's Forum gallery online. Get inspiration, ideas, and feedback simply. Connect with woodturning enthusiasts using this member-moderated virtual community.
- 475+ online videos are quickly searchable by topic in AAW's Video Source. Avoid the frustration of searching YouTube. Get relevant woodturning videos in just a few clicks. All videos are prescreened by the AAW for quality content and safety.
- 150+ issues of American Woodturner are online with a searchable index.
- 38+ issues of Woodturning FUNdamentals publication and the Woodturning FUNdamentals online learning portal offer one-stop basics. Helps newer turners build and expand their woodturning knowledge and skills safely with a curated selection of information, projects, tips, and videos.
- 365 affiliated chapters are all easily searchable in our directories. Find a chapter near you fast. Also, search for symposia, demonstrations, exhibitions, events, organizations, and schools, and more, quickly and easily.



The WIT Committee would like to cordially invite you to join the American Association of Woodturners. It is an organization that has a lot to offer women turners. Not only for the reasons listed on these pages, but because we believe in the community we have within the organization.

Did you know that less than 10% of the membership are women? We want to grow our representation within AAW, and we need YOU! to join us.

There are several levels of membership, depending on your needs. To learn more about these options, click on the [membership page for AAW](#).

## Videos from AAW Video Source:

[Bob Patros Beading Tool \(how to convert a spindle gouge into a beading tool\)](#)

[Joey Richardson - Making Your Work Different Using Piercing](#)

[Barbara Dill: Demonstration of a Simple Multi Axis Spindle](#)

[Merryll Saylan: This is Your Life](#)

[Traditional Japanese Kokeshi Dolls](#)

# Women in Turning - Sharing Experiences

## Cape Cod Woodturners by Robin McIntyre

CCW WIT has continued to meet during 2021 via Zoom. In February, 9 turners met and welcomed 2 new turners to our group. We explored the fall/winter AAW WIT Virtual eXchange projects, discussed the upcoming second Virtual eXchange, and the potential one-day virtual AAW WIT Symposium on Sat 8/14. We did Show and Tell via Powerpoint and live presentation with sharing across art mediums with fiber art, glass art, turning, woodburning, and painting displayed.

Eight members met in March, shared our multi-media Show and Tell projects, presented stage 1 of the Round Robin projects and figured out the trading of those, and had time to catch up with each other. We discussed the upcoming AAW WIT Presents, WIT eXchange, and our own upcoming club events.

Eight turners met in May, 5 from our club and 3 women from nearby clubs. They had such a good time that they want to keep coming and they are very welcome. We shared our multi-media Show and Tell projects, presented the results of our Round Robin projects, and had time to catch up with each other and get questions answered. We discussed the AAW WIT 2021 Virtual eXchange in process, the next WIT Presents, and our own upcoming club events. Our next meeting is in July.



Top, left to right: Platter by Carol Rader, embellishment by Judi Sitkin; Platter by Carol Rader, embellishment by Sandy Arnone; Deb Chapin and Jan Casiello.

Bottom, left to right: Robin McIntyre and Lucy Amaral; Jan Casiello and Robin McIntyre.

# Nova Scotia woman finds fulfillment in woodturning

by Millicent Mckay (reprinted with permission)

When Dianne Looker was a girl, she wasn't encouraged to set up shop in well, a woodshop. But now as a retired sociologist, she's found creativity and enjoyment in woodturning.

"I was doing flatwork, you know, making cutting boards, boxes, and at the time I asked my husband for a drill press. But he wanted a lathe."

When the pair split up, Looker was left with the lathe but didn't know how to use it.

After taking courses on using the tool, she joined the Nova Woodturners Guild.

"I love the way wood responds as you work it and finish it."

At first, there was frustration.

"There would be a catch, where the tool gets stuck into the wood, and then a thump as the wood hits the floor.

"So, I needed to get the basics down. And because it was a challenge, I kept going until I figured how I was supposed to do it."

Looker, 72, said turning is a rewarding craft.

"You can turn something in a couple of hours. It's really enjoyable, you can get your head in it. You can just lose yourself. It's very therapeutic."

## Guild alliance

Usually, the guild, which has about 60 members, meets once a month from September to May. But due to the coronavirus (COVID-19 strain) pandemic, the group hasn't met since February, said Looker, a former president of the organization.

But members of the group's executive have put forth challenges to members to create specific items by woodturning.

The first challenge was the mallet of a gavel. Now members have been challenged to make a rolling pin.

"It's good practice for a number of skills," said Calum Ewing, the guild's secretary.

With something like a rolling pin, he said, "you have to pay attention to make sure you're getting everything straight."

"There's really something to these regular challenges. It's real encouragement to get people in their shops during this time - practicing, maintaining interest in the craft, but also to maintain that sense of connectedness the group has."

Ewing, 58, has been involved with the guild for about 12 to 13 years.

Like Looker, he had been into woodworking for some time before joining. When a friend encouraged him to learn the skill of woodturning, he acquired a lathe and went to a few classes and meetings.

He said in the time he's been involved with the guild, he's seen the skill turn from more a utilitarian technique to creative and artistic.

"There are some members who are artists and some who are craftspeople. I fall somewhere in the middle."

There are turners who are creating bowls and items for use, others are starting to use more embellishments like colours and dyes, joining different woods.

Ewing says he tends to build bowls and platters.

"My mother was a potter and we used to have conversations about shape, form and texture. I've also gotten into embellishing as well.

"I'll make platters with decorated rims. Just because something is useful doesn't mean it can't be beautiful as well."

'Turning is something anyone can do'

For Looker, the skill keeps piquing her interest.

"I really like signing up for hands-on things. I've gone to symposiums where you watch and listen. It's so inspiring. It's like my mind gets set on fire."



Above: Dianne Looker turns the outside of a bowl using a lathe.

Below: Dianne Looker sands and polishes the outside of a small bowl

## ***Nova Scotia woman, con't***

One of her favourite events the guild has for members is the “fun turn.” Each member is given the same block of wood – but it’s up to them to decide what they’ll make of it.

“It’s amazing to see what they make of the same block of wood. Not only will we turn different shapes, but also use different embellishments, grooves, paints, embosses and burns.”

Looker was encouraged to try the skill in the early 2000s by another woman turner.

She said getting started can be intimidating.

“Probably the most intimidating is that you have to sharpen your tools all the time. And that’s different than say flat work, where you’re using a piece of equipment that you might be able to take into a shop and get repaired or sharpened. With turning you might be sharpening your tools multiple times an hour. It’s manipulating metal.”

Ewing said the lathe itself is a power tool, so there’s always a level of precaution that needs to be taken.

“It can be fairly awkward. But you can learn how to use it properly – ideally through taking courses or joining groups like this. It’s a great option for people to try things and learn a new skill in a safe way.

“Turning is something anyone can do, because the machine is doing most of the work for you. A novice woodworker might catch on and make a jewelry box in two or three weeks. But with turning, you could go to your shop and within a couple of hours have something made. There’s quick gratification to it.”

Looker said firsthand learning is different than reading and recording the skills.

“Part of it is the feeling of putting your inspiration into practice and making something. You’re constantly pushing yourself and there’s a sense of accomplishment and pride to that.”

She said she looks forward to a woodturning competition each year.

This year the competition had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

“I made a calligraphy pen for one competition. I made it out of African blackwood. I called it ‘mightier than the sword,’ because, you know, the pen is mightier than the sword. I won first place for it.”

Another piece has a dark line in the middle, called “Into the Dark,” inspired by the song by Rose Cousins. She created it by turning the piece and then cutting it in half and gluing it back together.

“It’s a statement piece. Woodturning is a way to let my imagination go wild.”

She said she tends to work with a lot of maple and cherry wood, as well as apple because she’s located in Nova Scotia’s Gaspereau Valley.

One time while in a hardware store, she got caught up in looking at the different varieties.

“Do you have wood lust?” a store employee asked Looker.

“Yes, I do,” she said, explaining the moment with a chuckle.

“It was that feeling of ‘I’d made it,’” she said, again with a small laugh.

By being a part of the guild, Looker said woodturners get the chance to watch a demonstration in a show and . . . get feedback from peers.

“The biggest misconception is that it’s very difficult. There aren’t a lot of things you can learn to do in a number of days. But all you need is a small lathe, a few turning tools and some space. It’s really good fun.”

To see the original article and all the photos, [click here](#).

To learn more about the Nova Scotia Woodturners Guild, [click here](#).



Covered in dust, Dianne Looker proudly displays her little box she made from African Blackwood.

# Huron Valley Woodturners

by Erica Perry

I am the only woman who consistently comes to our club meetings though I did enroll an 18-year-old who is our webmaster. She is very shy and does not join us very frequently. However, she is a very hard worker and she produces a great number of pieces for our annual holiday sale/benefit in December.

I have been a club member for 10 years now and have served as secretary for most of them. Our club has been dwindling over the last few years since the average age of our club members was in the high 70s. Many members have become deaf or blind or ill, and several have died. We do have one completely blind woodturner who does marvelous things though. Ten years ago our membership exceeded 35. Now we have 15 members. I think the pandemic put paid to quite a few of our members who were uncomfortable about learning how to zoom.

Now our membership of 15 is a bit younger and we have been using zoom for all our monthly meetings.

I personally have loved it because we have learned how to show YouTube videos of wood turning techniques and projects on zoom and the videography is so good that you can see exactly how The Turner is holding his tools etc. We also have had two professional turners give us workshops and that was pretty exciting.

Additionally, our members can give us workshop tours easily now and people are very comfortable tuning in from their homes. Show and tell and problem-solving on projects are made easier on zoom. All in all, our club has adapted to the pandemic and benefited from the need to be more resilient.

My personal interest is experimenting with wood burning designs and rosemaling on my work. Over the months of the pandemic, I kept my hands busy tatting while watching Netflix and I have the thought to inset this bit of lace on my bowls and vases.

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## Happenings in the New Mexico Clubs

by Kathy Knorr

Here in New Mexico our Albuquerque (ABQ) and the Santa Fe (SFe) Clubs have been helping to encourage new members for the WIT group, and engage in more local membership efforts.

Women turners take an active role in many of the outreach programs offered by our clubs to the communities we live in. One is the annual State and Santa Fe County Fair. Women volunteer to demonstrate turning and give to the audience what they turn. Along with many other AAW Chapters, we turn Beads of Courage bowls and volunteer in our local schools and organizations.

In an effort to actively engage women in the AAW Chapters and WIT, I have pieced together the attached document and published it in the ABQ Club newsletter and posted it on the Santa Fe club website. Much of this is directly from the WIT intro page on the AAW website and the WIT Facebook group page.

Additionally, all of the women members of both clubs received the attached email invitation to a Zoom Get Together the month before we begin to have in person meetings. This is the best way I can see getting both clubs (with 70 miles between them) together for introductions and a WIT motivational overview.

I have invited Sally Ault, who is a local chapter member and has presented demonstrations and classes for both clubs, to join in the Zoom call, and to show some of her work, what she does with the community program, her own art sales, and the other volunteer work she does here in New Mexico.

Sally Breeden, an ABQ officer and member has gathered the contact information to help organize events going forward.

I have said before the challenges here are: 1) many of the women are NOT joiners; 2) money for travel and class tuition, etc., are limited; and 3) we did get quite a bit of positive feedback from the two WIT classes presented (with Sally and myself), yet only one of 12 signed up for the WIT Facebook group. The incentives seem to go unnoticed, or at least not accepted as far as I am aware.

The officers of the New Mexico clubs, and I am an officer in each, want to recruit new women members, and expand to recruiting other minorities to enjoy turning.

## We have a local group of Women in Turning (WiT) and invite you to join us!!

Here in New Mexico, we want to start getting together with other women turners – Meet us in a zoom coffee hour for introductions and ideas of how we can be supportive and improve our turning!

As we contemplate when we can meet in person let us get ahead of the game with starting to form a larger WiT group locally.

**Join us for a ZOOM WIT INTRO on Friday July 9 2021 at 9:30am. MST**

**Contact Kathy Knorr at [kathyknorr@gmail.com](mailto:kathyknorr@gmail.com) for the link!**



ALSO – join the AAW with a guest membership so you can see what we offer is access to the AAW site and wonderful monthly magazine, and a group of engaged and enthused turners sharing knowledge, education, and enjoying woodturning!

[Guest Membership \(woodturner.org\)](http://woodturner.org)

Women in Turning (WiT) — The American Association of Woodturners (AAW) strives to deliver the publications and services that our members need to grow, connect, explore, and thrive in the areas of woodturning that are important to them. With nearly 16,000+ members and 360+ chapters internationally, AAW's many resources, including our award-winning American Woodturner journal, help our members to learn, create, and connect.

By signing up for a complimentary Guest membership, you can have access to AAW resources for a full 60 days. You will be able to explore what the AAW has to offer, kick our tires, and hopefully decide to become a full-fledged, paid AAW member to benefit from everything the AAW has to offer. Thanks all!! Contact me with any questions!!

Kathy Knorr is a member of both the Santa Fe and Albuquerque Chapters and a WiT member

# Women in Turning Gallery - Turned Dolls

## From Christine Smith:

I was cleaning up my paintbrushes to start a project when I ran across my old "Strickliesel". Translation: "knitting Liesel," Liesel being a common girl's name.

It will make endless long worms out of yarn. My German friend reminded me that we used to make pot holders out of them but mostly just kept the colorful worms. She said they are still around these days but now made from plastic.



# Women in Turning Gallery - Turned Dolls

Mostly vintage turned wood dolls. The natural branch Japanese kokeshi are by Lisa Holt Hodsdon. Photos by Tib Shaw.



# Women in Turning - Safety Tips

## Fractal burning has killed and could kill you.

The American Association of Woodturners has banned the use of this process at all of its events and has banned articles about use of a fractal burner in all of its publications.

The reported cases of fractal burning deaths range from hobbyist woodworkers through experienced woodworkers to an electrician with many years experience working with electricity. It only takes one small mistake and you are dead; not injured, dead. Some of those who died were experienced at using the process and some were not. What is common to all of them: fractal burning killed them.

High voltage electricity is an invisible killer; the user cannot see the danger. It is easy to see the danger of a spinning saw blade. It is very obvious that coming into contact with a moving blade will cause an injury, but in almost all cases a spinning blade will not kill you. With fractal burning, one small mistake and you are dead.

This is true whether you are using a homemade device or a manufactured one.

There are many ways to express your creativity. Do not use fractal burning. If you have a fractal burner, throw it away. If you are looking into fractal burning, stop right now and move on to something else. This could save your life.

—Rick Baker, Chair, AAW Safety Committee

## Another Death Caused by Fractal Burning

Editor's Note, American Woodturner, February 2019

Sadly, I have just learned of yet another preventable death from the dangerous practice of fractal burning, and my heart goes out to the victim's family and friends. We know of at least six deaths from this cause since 2017, the latest being a retired high school art teacher. As with other fractal-burning-related deaths, this victim was using a homemade rig made using a transformer from a microwave oven. But the inherent risk of electrocution remains, regardless of the equipment used.

Many woodturners (and woodworkers) use fractal burning to embellish their projects, despite the AAW's official warning statement about the dangers. The statement was published in the August 2017 issue of American Woodturner (page 5) and is available on the AAW website at [tiny.cc/AAWfractal](http://tiny.cc/AAWfractal). Please take a few moments to read and consider this serious warning. Also, spread the word about the hidden dangers of this practice by warning others—you could save someone from an accidental but preventable death.

—Joshua Friend

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## From the Editor:

I hope everyone has had a chance to receive a Covid-19 vaccine by now. The feeling of relief after having received my second dose can not be adequately described. Life is not yet back to "normal" – whatever that means these days – but I do venture out for shopping and some travel. I still wear a mask when I'm indoors in public spaces, though (the Delta variant is pretty scary). My local club will resume in-person meetings in the fall. There will be some guidelines, which are being worked out over the summer. I would like to hear from you about how your club is going about resuming in-person meetings. Are you getting together with other women turners? I surely hope so. Send me your stories. I am always looking for articles about mentoring.

The WIT sessions at the AAW virtual symposium will feature a panel discussion on mentoring. This will be a good opportunity to learn how to start an activity in your local chapter.

Many thanks to contributors of this newsletter: Kathy Knorr, Dianne Looker, Robin McIntyre, Erica Perry, Tib Shaw, Christine Smith, and Andi Wolfe. Thanks also to Elizabeth Amigo and members of the WIT committee for all the help they give in putting together this newsletter.

***Please do send me information from your WIT groups and stories about your events and successes.***

# Opportunities for Women in Turning

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

### AAW: Resouces for Remote Demonstrations:

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

**10 July:** Learn to Turn Boxes! #3 – Finial Box; Cindy Drozda. [AAW Remote Demonstration](#).

16–18 July: [2021 AAW Virtual Symposium](#). Dixie Biggs, Rebecca DeGroot, Hayley Smith, Andi Wolfe.

18–23 July: Beth Ireland; [Tool making for turners; Arrowmont](#).

18–24 July: Kimberly Winkle. [Woodworking Nitty-Gritty: Tables. Arrowmont](#).

31 July: Learn to Turn Boxes! #4 – Star Box; Cindy Drozda. [AAW Remote Demonstration](#).

9–13 August: Beth Ireland; [Turned & Sculpted Boxes; Port Townsend School of Woodworking](#).

9-13 August: Jennifer Shirley; [Small decorative bowls and lidded boxes; Marc Adams School of Woodworking](#).

23–27 August: Kristin LeVier; [Powercarving: sculpture, surface & texture. Anderson Ranch](#).

30 Aug–3 Sep: Ashley Harwood; [Woodturning Fundamentals; Port Townsend School of Woodworking](#).

27 Sep–Oct 1: Alexis Dolese; [Beginning Machine Woodwork: Women Only; Port Townsend School of Woodworking](#).

17–22 October: Sally Ault; [Put a lid on it; Arrowmont](#).

23 October: [AAW Presents: Beth Ireland. Using the Lathe to Make Stringed Instruments](#).

24–30 October: Dixie Biggs; [Need some relief: bringing life to your work; John C. Campbell Folk School](#).

31 October – 5 November: Donna Zils Banfield; [Patterns, Texture, and Color; Arrowmont](#).

8–12 November: Peggy Schmid; [Intro to woodturning; Florida School of Woodwork](#).

14–19 November: Dixie Biggs and Betty Scarpino; [Woodcarving: Power Play; Arrowmont](#).

1–4 December: Kimberly Winkle; [Sticks and Stool: woodturning basics and more; John C. Campbell Folk School](#).

### 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>

*“In order to be  
irreplaceable one  
must always be  
different.”  
– Coco Chanel*

## Endnotes:

**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 AAW?](#). If you've not had an opportunity to explore the AAW website, take a few minutes to look around at <http://www.woodturner.org>. The [Women in Turning website](#) is hosted by the AAW site. You'll find all our newsletters, committee meeting minutes, information about WIT outreach grants, and many other goodies there.

### **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)

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*“When you feel copied, remember that people can only go where you have already been, they have no idea where you are going next.”*  
– Liz Lange

# AAW

# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

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