

Women in Turning Newsletter

Autumn 2021



AAW WIT Special Interest Chat on Mentoring



The following is a compilation of thoughts and insights on mentoring from the 2021 AAW Virtual Symposium. Our WIT panel, under the guidance of WIT Committee moderator **Andi Wolfe (AW)**, had many ideas to share with others on their personal, professional, and club-based experiences with mentoring.

Our panelists:

Janice Levi (JL)

Janice has been a woodturner for twenty years starting in the Houston area with the Gulf Coast Woodturners then, after retirement and moving to Central Texas, she became a member of the Brazos Valley Woodturners in Waco. Janice regularly teaches classes while often mentoring new club members.

Robin McIntyre (RM)

Robin is an intermediate-level hobbyist turner from Cape Cod Woodturners in Massachusetts. She has been involved in mentoring informally through her club WIT group, in more formal classes that her club offers to members, and through club activities and outreach.

AW: I'd like to start off with each of you to telling me what mentoring means to you on your journey in woodturning.

• **RM:** To me, mentoring means meeting people where they are so they are willing to expose themselves in order to work together and move forward. As you are initially building the relationship, do more listening and observing than talking. You need to find out what their point of reference is. Adult learners are different from children—they bring their own lifelong knowledge and their own history of positive and negative experiences with learning. Ask them how they learn best. Many people know. You are teaching a technical movement skill with a large cognitive component. They need to learn to think things through in addition to doing it. You are being the Pied Piper of woodturning, helping to instill not only skill but a love of lifelong learning, resource finding, and problem solving by helping to enlarge the context that they have on which to build. Mentoring can be teaching a skill like tool control, or project based, plus it can be working toward being a demonstrator, mentor, or leader in your club. We encourage other women in woodturning by being “seen” as club demonstrators, as demonstrators at public events, and at mentoring sessions both at WIT specific and club events.

• **JL:** When I started turning wood twenty years ago, I immediately joined the local woodturning organization. My husband was not a woodturner and I had no prior knowledge of the craft. Fortunately, two members of the local GCWA club “took me on” as a mentoring project. We met each Wednesday afternoon and learned one tool and one project at a time. I became acutely aware of how dangerous my solo ventures into trying to teach myself had become. I had no idea how to even sharpen my tools nor did I own a grinder. My mentors guided me through equipment, safety concerns, tool handling, and form. Our Wednesday afternoon sessions lasted two to three years then became a bit more intermittent. But the relationship that was developed between me and my mentors has lasted to this day (one has now passed away). I still regularly call upon my mentor for his advice and opinions. Mentoring is not simply teaching by passing on information and knowledge. Mentoring is developing a relationship in which mutual respect is created between those involved, and within that relationship, a little teaching can occur, but more importantly, valuing the advice and opinion of each other becomes most important.

AW: How do people find you, or do you find people?

• **RM:** Our biggest source is through our club membership. We have all levels of turners from beginners to advanced and everyone wants to learn more or something new. We also have classes on woodturning that are

Mentoring..., con't

that are offered in our community that encourage club membership and an opportunity for on-going mentoring. We demonstrate at community events such as show/sales and street fairs that inspire people to investigate woodturning. Our club brochure has three photos of people—two of them are of mentoring situations with women and men involved. Our new website has mentoring and instruction as one of the headers for prominent and easy access to the information. Because our club works to be “known” in our community, we have been asked to work in programs with young people who are at risk.

AW: Typically, how long a relationship is the mentoring?

- **JL:** As I mentioned earlier, I have been mentored for twenty years now. That's probably a bit extreme. I am currently mentoring a new woodturner who comes from the field of woodworking. We began with the things in which he was most interested—turning bowls and platters. We started out meeting once a week, sometimes in my shop, sometimes in his. After about a year and a half, we now meet on a somewhat irregular basis. We have progressed through hollow forms and boxes and are now working on fancy spindle turnings. Our relationship has grown, and I consider him a good friend and now I know his wife and she also is my friend. I don't think true mentoring can be accomplished in a day-long class, but that class can often lead to a longer relationship.

AW: Do you usually mentor beginners or people wanting to accomplish a new specific skill?

- **JL:** The answer is “Yes” to both. Sometimes I work with beginner turners but just as often with seasoned turners who are learning a new skill. Just recently I was working with a group for a period of time. One man was an accomplished bowl turner who wanted to learn to make ornament finials. The spindle work was foreign to him but when he finished the first finial, he could not have been prouder.

AW: What does a mentor do? Do you have any requirements for becoming a mentor for your group? (Who decides the mentor should be a mentor?)

- **RM:** A mentor helps someone establish a context for what they are trying to learn and getting them engaged in the process. You are helping them enlarge their bag of tricks for their own on-going problem solving. You nudge someone forward out of their comfort zone by setting the bar a bit higher or getting them to look at something in a different way. Along the way, you give them feedback in a way that reinforces what they are trying to learn, like “see how much cleaner that surface is because you really stayed on the bevel”. To be a mentor, you don't have to be an expert-level turner, but you need a solid baseline of sound technique, and you need to know what you do know and what is out of your scope of knowledge. You need to be a role model consistently for safety and continue to reinforce those actions over time. In our WIT group, we rely on our more experienced turners to coach our less experienced turners during our gatherings. Over time, we have more women gaining experience from many available opportunities that our club offers. The chair of our mentoring program, a high-level turner and lifelong educator in technical arts, works to gain insights into the skills and knowledge of turners who are used as mentors. Some of us have been previous participants in the formal mentoring program and now serve as assistants. Before group sessions we distribute handouts and have a pre-session review of key points so that the mentors are all on the same page. We also do a re-cap at the end of the session to understand more about the needs of the mentees for the next session.

AW: How much participation to you typically get when organizing a mentoring session?

- **RM:** Our problem is that so many people want to participate we have to offer multiple sessions. Our former mentees often bring their projects to our club Show-and-Tell and talk about their learning experiences in the Turn and Learn program and how it accelerated their progress. It's peer advertising for the program.

AW: What age group are you typically mentoring? Do you have young (18 and under) women participating? If so, any suggestions on how to start this type of mentoring— how to find them, what requirements do you have (parental permission/participation, etc.)?

- **RM:** Our club has piggybacked on existing community events for young people that already internally address the parental permission and liability issues. Our club also carries the Hartford insurance policy via AAW, which covers community events for our members.

AW: What are some tips for organizing a mentoring event? How do you start a group? How long should a mentoring session last?

- **JL:** Typically for me, a hands-on class or private lesson lasts all day. But a couple of years ago, the Houston area woodturners club sponsored a weekend women's retreat. We were fortunate to have applied for and received an AAW

Mentoring..., con't

grant for that retreat to help offset some of the cost. Most of the 14 women were new turners—only one was somewhat experienced. Every single woman walked away with wonderful turnings, new friends, and a great time. If possible, I highly recommend that your club plan the same kind of weekend retreat for the women. And don't forget to apply for an AAW grant to help make it possible. Following the retreat, it is important to keep in touch with the participants and lend them guidance and advice on as regular a basis as possible.

- **RM:** For a group, get the word out to your club members, have an organized focus so you and attendees can prep, and have your processes, materials, and mentors organized and on the same wavelength so you have consistency. Have a variety of samples to display what you are working on. A formal half-day session works well—with a longer session, people get fatigued and lose their focus a bit.

AW: Are you covering technique and form? Is there a group you specifically seek to mentor (i.e., experience to next level)?

- **JL:** I always talk about form (the Golden Mean) whether to a new turner or an experienced one. Teaching proper tool technique is important, but a beautifully tooled turning with poor form is not very appealing. Although it is rewarding to work with beginner turners, it is such a breath of fresh air to work with an individual or group of experienced turners. I can challenge them a little bit and away they go! In those situations, I'm not exactly sure who is mentoring whom.

AW: What has been the greatest reward for you being a mentor?

- **RM:** When you see the spark happen, that “ah-ha” moment, that smile of satisfaction when they get it. They're hooked!

- **JL:** There is nothing more satisfying than knowing that you had a part to play in giving someone skills that they will use in the future, hopefully to make their lives more meaningful and more fun!

Reflections from the first WIT committee chair

by Kathleen Duncan



In 2014, a group of women held a noon meeting at the Albuquerque symposium to discuss issues facing women woodturners. The women attending believed that AAW should provide programming and services directed at women, but there was no clear idea on what form those might be. Our discussion considered symposiums, retreats, a women's virtual chapter, newsletters, and a committee. Women are persistent! In 2015, at the beginning of my first term on the AAW Board of Directors, several of us requested that AAW create a committee to focus on women woodturners. In September of the year, the WIT committee was created which allowed us to plan activities under the AAW umbrella.

As a fledgling committee, our first task was to write a mission statement establishing what it was we wanted to accomplish.

WIT is dedicated to encouraging and assisting women in their pursuit of turning, to sharing ideas and processes to further members' skills and creativity, and to increasing participation of women in the field of woodturning.

Over the course of our first seven years, we have had 14 women serve on the WIT committee. These women have worked tirelessly to provide different activities, events, and exhibitions by and for women. Along the way, we found that we had great ideas and needed to share them with the broader woodturning community. We have held two art exhibitions, two WIT EXCHANGES at Arrowmont and two virtual EXCHANGES, 11 WIT Presents (and counting!), a symposium hands-on turning experience, produced three EOG collaborative auction pieces, created a chapter liaison program, and published a newsletter. Money raised through donations and the auction pieces help to fund some of the activities. But the more long-range use of the funds has been to provide membership grants to qualified women and outreach grants to underserved populations.

These are my last few months as WIT Committee chair. I agreed to continue for one more year after my term on the AAW BOD expired. Now it is time to turn the committee over to a new chair and her committee members. For me, this has been a challenge but not without its rewards. It has been work, but it has been fun. When I undertook

First WIT chair, con't

the chair and formed the committee, I had no idea the direction we would go nor how many people we would impact. I have met wonderful people along the way and continue to be astounded by their creative ideas. I thank all of you for your support, but mostly my thanks go to the WIT committee members to whom I owe a tremendous debt for their support, dedication, and work. You know the saying about “it takes a village”— that is the WIT committee!

Introducing Kimberly Winkle, Incoming WIT Committee Chair



I am looking forward to joining the AAW board and also serving as chairperson of the WIT committee starting in January 2022. I'm grateful to be joining the committee after many years of hard work, service, and strong leadership of my predecessors; thank you. I hope to continue the robust WIT programming that currently exists while also working with the committee to see in what other ways we can engage and support our community. I ask for your continued partnership in this endeavor to encourage and assist each other in our pursuit of turning!



2021 WIT Presents

Archive

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

Join us November 13, 2021 for our next *WIT Presents*.

WIT Presents – Panel: Bosch, DeGroot, Wall

The year is winding up, and we have one more WIT Presents event. Please join us Saturday, November 13 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time for a new take on WIT Presents. Instead of focusing on a single artist, we will be treated to three! Kailee Bosch, Rebecca DeGroot, and Marjin Wall will give short presentations about their work, ideas, and inspirations, followed by a group discussion and Q&A, led by artist and moderator Hayley Smith. The event is free and open to the general public. [Click here to register.](#)

Women in Turning - Sharing Experiences

The Arizona Woodturners Association by Dave Madden, WIT Liaison

The Arizona Woodturners Association (AWA) Women in Turning group met for the seventh time at the AWA Kundrat Learning Center (KLC) in Gilbert on October 13th. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month for a 3-hour session. Our club has been blessed with the use of an air-conditioned workshop that a former member built. After he passed away, his widow donated use of the shop space to the AWA as a woodturning training center. So far, we have six midi-sized and larger lathes and one mini-lathe to use for pens. We have several chucks, live centers, and hand tools, but encourage members to bring a few of their favorite tools to meetings. We continue to solicit donation of additional materials and equipment to continue to enhance the capabilities of our KLC.

The WIT program was the first to use the training center and has helped the club work through the many issues of starting such an endeavor. At the first meeting, safety requirements and learning center ground rules were the priority and each member read and agreed to both.

After our initial organizational meetings, we have covered basic lathe tools and their proper use, over 20 methods of holding wood on a lathe, tool sharpening using a Wolverine jig, turning basic spindles with coves and beads, turning basic bowls, and more recently the group has been working on wig stands, mallets, and ornaments.

The WIT members began by discussing a direction for the group and prioritizing items they preferred to practice/learn. At subsequent meetings those initial requests were realized with the WIT liaison as presenter. Recently we have found it more effective to have several mentors in attendance to give one-on-one attention to the WIT participants. For the members that do not have sharpening capabilities at home yet, we offer tool sharpening before each meeting.

Here are some pictures of a recent meeting, the attendees and helper/mentors.

September meeting of Phoenix Women in Turning at AWA Kundrat Learning Center, Gilbert, AZ



Left to right: Club President and helper Brian Lensink, Kellie Gilligan, Willow Taylor, Michal Korner, Mary Schick, Kira Weiss, Linda Peterson and helper Richard January

Behind the camera, Dave Madden, AWA WIT Liaison

AWA, con't



Top Left: A couple of projects: Wig Stands, small wooden mallet with a club gouge and faceshield.
Top Right: New member Kellie, using calipers to size part of her mallet.
Bottom Left: New member Kira with instructional help from Richard.
Bottom Right: Linda, using spindle gouge to shape part of a wig stand.

AWA, con't



Top Left: Mary, getting help from Dave on use of spindle roughing gouge.
Top Right: Willow, preparing a base for a wig stand.
Bottom Left: Kellie, questioning President Brian about a gouge.
Bottom Right: Kira, looking on as Richard sharpens a parting tool.

Cape Cod Woodturners' WIT Early Fall Gatherings

by Robin McIntyre

Our group met twice in October 2021. Our first gathering was held outdoors in Jan Casiello's open-door garage. A recent club demonstration focused on what constituted good form, so we decided to discuss what we learned when applied to our own work. We had more than a table full of turnings to choose from—bowls, boxes, lighthouses, candle holders, earring stands, vases, weed pots, and platters. We left our egos at the door and gave each other constructive ideas to improve or celebrate our work. We also updated each other on the progress of our group project: We are turning or woodburning lighthouse-related projects to raise funds for the Race Point Lighthouse maintenance in Provincetown, MA. We have a table in an upcoming gallery show and sale and will also have items for sale in the Race Point gift shop next season.



At our second meeting, three of us turned and did woodburning in Jan's shop. One person also worked on the scroll saw with mentoring from Jan.



Women in Turning Gallery - Work from 2021

"There is a crack in everything." A spinning top in African Blackwood by Dianne Looker, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Even though she is over 70 years of age, my sister loves toys and spinning tops. I have turned several tops for her over the years, but she wanted a "large" one. So, I got out a piece of African Blackwood I had and started on the design. I put a lot of thought into the design, wanting lots of weight towards the bottom so it would spin well and spin longer, but also wanting it to look beautiful.



The original plan was to turn the general shape, and then insert concentric grooves on the top of the main body of the spinning top and fill them with brass powder for a highlight. However, as I turned the pieces, some deep holes showed up in the wood. Undaunted, I changed the design.

I filled the cracks and voids with brass powder and decided to name the piece after a line in a Leonard Cohen song: "There is a crack in everything; that's how the light gets in". Brass balls at the top and bottom finished it off.

One challenge the design change created became evident as I sanded the piece. I was entering the top in a competition for our local turning group and wanted it to have a high gloss finish. My usual practice for sanding at the lower grits (120, 220, 320) is to sand with the lathe on slow speed, and then sand parallel to the grain, with the lathe off. Since the brass powder seemed to

create grooves as it was picked up in "lathe on" sanding, I had to switch to doing everything with the lathe off, sanding very carefully by hand. Given my desire to sand it as well as I could, this process involved backtracking to coarser grits when I found a flaw when I held the piece to the light and examined it carefully. I eventually sanded it to 12000 with micro mesh and finished with just oil and wax to give it a sheen.

Next I had to design a holder. Originally the plan had been to put the spinning top in a little glass dish (which was bought to hold a tea candle) that had a gentle slope to its side. The dish would then be centered in a small turned plate of African Blackwood.

However, the change to focus on a crack in the wood in the top itself nudged me to change the design of the holder as well. I had a piece of spalted apple that fit the bill. It had a crack in its side, and I thought its rough, organic look and feel contrasted well with the smooth gloss of the spinning top. While it isn't evident in the photo, the brass ball at the bottom of the spinning top can be seen through the concavity at the side of the holder.



I am pleased with the result, and I'm sure my sister will be as well. But don't tell her about this— it's a secret until Christmas.

Women in Turning Gallery - Work from 2021



Retro-Sphere **Donna Zils Banfield**

This was on display at Arrowmont for their 2021 Instructor Exhibition.

The 'faux' Spalted Maple Sphere was created from a piece of rock maple that had developed decay on only one side. I oriented the turning of the sphere so that there was a clear division between solid wood and decayed wood. There were no visible spalt lines, so I used a fine tip woodburning pen to create the lines, then drew over those burn lines with a micro-fine artist pen. The color was done with oil pencils.

Women in Turning Gallery - Work from 2021



***Windbane Celebrates
October***

Linda Ferber

Birch and Clay. Carving
and Acrylics.

Women in Turning Gallery - Work from 2021



Earth, Water, Air, and Fire **Andi Wolfe**

5.75 X 5.25 inches, Camphor burl, ink, and glass.

This was on display in the *Elements* exhibit at the Gallery for Wood Art in St. Paul, MN. The show was for this year's AAW POP exhibit and auction. It was my first multi-media piece to include my new mania for glass blowing, which I've been exploring for the past two years. There are 82 pieces of glass in this small sculptural piece. Each piece was individually fitted after the carving and coloring was finished.



Women in Turning - Safety Tips

SAFETY

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

Face Shield

Having at least minimal protection in place to reduce the chances that these projectiles will reach and damage the eyes should be a common sense no-brainer for ANYONE who intends to stand at the lathe,



It is advisable to select a face shield that is not simply a piece of plastic hanging from a headband, but one which includes lower face and jaw protection as well.

AAW
SAFETY

Respiratory Protection

Another safety issue involving the use of personal protection equipment involves ensuring that the operator is adequately protected from fine wood dust carried in inhaled air. Since inhaled fine particulates can represent a significant health risk, particularly in repeated exposures over extended periods of time, it is particularly important that this aspect of woodturning safety be treated very seriously.

Installation of an efficient dust collection capability in the classroom workstation is recommended. Respiratory PPE involves specific devices that are used to eliminate or reduce the possibility of inhaling fine air-suspended particles deep into the lungs.

Face masks are recommended for protection from wood dust generated during sanding, this is the greatest respiratory health risk.



*“Doubt is a killer. You just have to know who you are and what you stand for.”
-Jennifer Lopez*

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

Videos from AAW Video Source:

[Mike Peace Woodturning: 12 Cent Stick Pen and Refrigerator Holder](#)

[Yuval Lahav Woodturning: Christmas Ornament Challenge](#)

[Paul Lockwood: A Deer For Christmas](#)

[Carl Jacobsen: Airstream Bambi Ornament](#)

[Máquinas de Madeira: Christmas Tree Lamp](#)

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](#).

From the Editor:

Here we are in Autumn 2021, and most of us are still not back to our normal lives. Pandemic fatigue is affecting us all. Hang in there, folks. We will get through this. Fortunately, we have a wonderful online presence for WIT at AAW, including our WIT Presents sessions. The November 13th one will be as interesting as always, featuring a panel discussion with women turners of various levels of experience.

I hope you are all staying safe, getting your vaccines or boosters, and practicing social distancing where appropriate. I recently received my Covid-19 booster shot (at the same time as my annual flu shot). It was simple and I had very little in the way of a reaction.

Many thanks to contributors of this newsletter: Donna Zils Banfield, Kathleen Duncan, Linda Ferber, Janice Levi, Dianne Looker, David Madden, Robin McIntyre, Kimberly Winkle, and Andi Wolfe. Thanks also to Jean LeGwin and members of the WIT committee for all the help they give in putting together this newsletter.

I'm always looking for articles to put into the newsletter. If you have news to share about your local WIT group, a story about your journey in woodturning, tips to share, projects to share, please send them to me. The newsletter is only interesting if we have things to read about.

SO.....Please do send me information from your WIT groups and stories about your events and successes. I'd also like schedules for demonstrations and classes you teach..

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>

6-7 November: AAW Woodturnings Fundamentals LIVE! (Featuring Kimberly Winkle and Beth Ireland). [Virtual Symposium](#).

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

13 November: WIT Presents: Panel discussion with Kailee Bosch, Rebecca DeGroot, and Marjin Wall, moderated by Hayley Smith.

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](#).

2022

9-14 January: Scarlete Rouse: Invitation to the Heart of Woodturning. [John C. Campbell Folk School](#).

14-16 January: Scarlette Rouse: Getting Started on the Lathe. [John C. Campbell Folk School](#).

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>

Bridging the Gap: the Craft and Art of Turning, 2022 AAW Member Exhibition. Application period: January 1 to March 15, 2022.

The Space Between: 2022 POP Exhibition and Auction. Application period: December 1, 2021 to January 15, 2022.



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.

“Change happens by listening and then starting a dialogue with the people who are doing something you don’t believe is right.”
-Jane Goodall

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?](http://www.woodturner.org). 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 embrace your difference, your DNA, your look or heritage or religion or your unusual name, that’s when you start to shine.”
- Bethenny Frankel*

AAW

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS