

QUARTO

»» Guild of Book Workers »»»«« Midwest Chapter »»«« Quarterly Newsletter »»«« June 2016 ««

Greetings from Your Chapter Chair:

We had a great time in East Lansing at the annual meeting, many thanks to our site hosts Eric Alstrom, Patrick Olson and especially to Bexx Caswell. We also thank Cathy Baker for her fabulous lecture on the life and times of Dard Hunter, and to Shanna Leino and Joanne Kluba for their informative and fun workshops. A recap of the meeting is elsewhere in the newsletter. For the future, I have a couple of participatory activities in the works for the upcoming months, more details will be announced as we get things sorted out.

MIDWEST GBW CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: Emily Martin
Programs Chair: Kerri Harding
Secretary/Treasurer: Giselle Simon
Newsletter Editor: Mark Arend
Webmaster/Communications: Eric Alstrom
<http://midwestgbw.wordpress.com/>

Thank You to Mary Uthappuru

Many thanks to Mary for her stellar work over the last years as our Program Chair. Mary leaves us in excellent shape with her organization and written planning guides for annual meetings and exhibitions. Thank you Thank you!

Re-election of Giselle Simon as Secretary/ Treasurer

Giselle has graciously agreed to serve a second term as our Chapter Secretary/Treasurer. Thank you Thank you!

Meet Our New Program Chair

We welcome Kerri Harding as our new Program Chair. Kerri currently divides her time between book conservation, teaching, and creating. She is the proprietor of The Valley Bindery, where she repairs books and work with artists on collaborative projects. As a book artist she strives for integration of content, materials, design, and structure.

2017 Annual Meeting Locations and Date

We are pleased to announce that the 2017 annual meeting will be held April 7-8, 2017 in Bloomington, IN. Mary Uthappuru will serve as our site host. Details regarding workshops and other activities will be announced in January 2017.

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The Seminar on Standards of Excellence in Hand Bookbinding will be held in Charleston, S. C. on 15 - 17 September. Check out <https://guildofbookworkers.org/standards> for more information.

The chapter is again funding a \$1,000.00 plus membership scholarship for a student to attend the Standards of Excellence meeting this fall. The recipient will be announced in June. Anyone interested in donating more student memberships or anything else please contact me: emilyjmartin@mchsi.com

Scholarships for Memberships and Standards Attendance

Rachel Bourneuf has donated two GBW and chapter student memberships (\$40.00 each) to University of Iowa Center for the Book students and MFA candidates Christine Manwiller and Nicole Cotton for the upcoming year. The students were nominated by instructors at the UICB.

It takes just as long to do a bad job as a good job.

— Betsy Palmer Eldridge as quoted by one of the presenters at the 2014 Standards

Do you have a website or blog? I've featured members' sites from time to time and would like to add more to the list. Let me know.

--Mark Arend, editor

mwarend@new.rr.com



"Show and Tell" at the annual meeting in East Lansing.

Annual Meeting April 22-23, 2016

All events took place at Michigan State University, except as noted.

Friday, April 22, 2016

In the afternoon attendees had the option of a tour of the MSU Special Collections offerings. Friday evening, Cathy Baker presented Dard Hunter: Arts-and-Crafts Designer, Paper Historian, and Private-Press Printer Extraordinaire.

Saturday, April 23, 2016

We started with a casual breakfast of bagels, coffee, and juice. Followed by the annual business meeting. As always we had a lively discussion of chapter activities and ways to expand our membership and encourage younger people to join the GBW and the Midwest chapter.

Most of Saturday was spent in workshops, either The Magic Box with Joanne Kluba or Bone Tool Making with Shanna Leino. There will be individual reports on each of the workshops elsewhere in the newsletter.

We ended the afternoon with show and tell.

Saturday evening our generous site hosts Bexx Caswell and Patrick Olson invited us to their home for a relaxed pizza dinner.

Bridges Exhibit

January 20, 2016 - February 26, 2016

St. Ambrose University Catich Gallery

518 West Locust,

Davenport, IA 52803

Participants in the exhibit were each asked to create an edition of 20 prints based on the theme "Bridges", and what resulted was a wonderful range of work! Artists mailed their finished editions to our exhibit host, Andrew Huot, who collated the prints and sent them back to everyone. Each artist received their suite of prints and then bound or boxed them with no limiting guidelines. Finally, finished pieces were mailed back to Andrew for the show. The exhibit will feature the ten Midwest members' prints and their chosen housing method.

As an added bonus, all artists were invited to include an additional piece of artwork, unrelated to the theme, for display as well. This provides a great opportunity to showcase the range of work our Midwest members are capable of, as all are skilled in multiple disciplines.

Geographies: the Mid-West Examined Exhibit

Chapter members Alicia Bailey, Charles Wisseman, Robert Rowe, Tawn O'Connor, Deborah Howe, Marianna Crabbs, Todd Pattison, Jill Krase, Peggy Johnston, Andrea Peterson, and Laura Russell made bookwork related to the theme of the Midwest. This geographic area encompasses a variety of landscapes and has produced its share of artists and writers, providing much room for interpretation conceptually or practically. The exhibit will be on view at the MSU Main Library, 4th floor, East Lansing, MI from March 31-May 31. The exhibit will then travel to the University of Iowa Main Library Special Collections, 3rd floor, Iowa City, IA where it will be on view for July and August 2016.



Charles Wisseman



Peggy Johnston



Andrea Peterson



Deborah Howe

Tool-Making Class Report

by Kerri Harding

Shanna Leino's book tool making class guided students through the process of shaping and finishing bone tools. Shanna purchases clean elk bones through a wild game processor. She then used a band saw to cut them into shards.



We chose from these fragments and tried to envision the tool that would emerge as we filed them into their final forms. The bones were then rough shaped with a hatchet, if needed. We began to refine the shape of the tools with farrier's rasps. We then worked through progressively finer files to shape the bone tools to fit our hand and suit our needs.



Decorative embellishments were added with jeweler's saws and a dremel.



Kerry Harding currently divides her time between book conservation, teaching, and creating. She is the proprietor of The Valley Bindery, where she repairs books and work with artists on collaborative projects. As a book artist she strives for integration of content, materials, design, and structure.

Magic Box with Joanne Kluba

By Bexx Caswell-Olson

I had the pleasure of attending the Magic Box workshop taught by Joanne Kluba of Paper Birds Studio (www.paperbirds.com)



This fascinating structure will warp your mind and impress your family and friends. Based on a Jacob's Ladder, the box opens in two directions, allowing for the viewing of different compartments, depending on which way you open it. Here is a link to a video I made of my box: <http://bit.ly/25IGBrO>

As anyone who's ever made a box knows, the difficulty lies in measuring and cutting the pieces to size (and ensuring that they are square). With this in mind, Joanne pre-cut all of the pieces ahead of time. This allowed us to focus on the constructing and covering the boxes, rather than the measuring and cutting. Joanne provided lots of tips that enabled us to cover quickly and easily, without getting glue in the wrong places.



I loved seeing everyone's finished box. Although we all made the same structure, different combinations of decorative paper and cloth made everyone's unique. We found that those who used a softer Japanese or Indian paper functioned more smoothly than those that used a stiffer Western paper.

I appreciated the well-illustrated and easy to follow and handout, which will aid me in making another one of these boxes on my own. This is such a fun structure - thank you Joanne for the wonderful workshop!

Guild of Book Workers Midwest Chapter Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Saturday, April 23, 2016

Michigan State University Library, Lansing, MI

Members in Attendance: Giselle Simon, Emily Martin, Mary Uthupuru, Kerri Harding, Marieka Kaye, Charles Wisseman, Eric Alstrom, Laurie Ketcham-Schrick, Joanne Kluba, Karen Hanmer, Jim Welker, Joan McCormick, Rachel Bourneuf, Bexx Caswell, Patrick Olson.

Chair E. Martin called the meeting to order.

Introduction of officers and their roles: Emily Martin, President, Mary Uthuppuru, Program Chair, Giselle Simon, Treasurer/Secretary, and Mark Arend, newsletter editor. Introduction of site hosts Bexx Caswell, Eric Alstrom and Patrick Olson. E. Martin thanked M. Uthuppuru for her many years of service to the GBW Midwest as Program Chair. E. Martin asked for volunteers to report on the workshops to follow. Bexx Caswell and Kerri Harding volunteered to be reporters.

Minutes:

The minutes for the 2015 meeting were approved as distributed. M. Uthuppuru made a motion to approve. L. Ketchum-Schrack second. Approved.

Treasurer Report:

Last year's beginning balance was \$11,791.40 and this year's beginning balance \$11,746.53.

Current membership yielded \$1,240.00 (124 members).

Last year's meeting after expenses cost the chapter 557.35 in Cleveland at the Morgan.

Other expenses included:

- Workshops/instructors: 1,000.00
- Officers: 400.00
- GBW Standards: 335.00, (Mary Uthuppuru attended)
- Scholarships: 200.00 + 300.00 (Lisa Miles)
- Plainly Spoken shipping costs: 220.78

R. Bourneuf made a motion to approve, M. Uthuppuru second. Approved.

Other Reports:

- Workshops with regional centers: E. Martin opened discussion about holding workshops in addition to the workshops at annual meetings. It seems there is not as much interest in this idea and participants enjoy workshops at the annual meeting. There are different planning needs and limitations.
- Standards location 2016: E. Martin announced that she is unable to attend Standards this year in South Carolina, the program chair will attend in her place. The national exhibit "Vessels" exhibit continues to travel.
- Annual Chapter Meeting: The 2017 Midwest Annual Chapter Meeting location is Bloomington, Indiana, with site hosting by M. Uthuppuru. No dates have been set, but two workshops will be offered.

Exhibits, Midwest Geography theme and Bridges: Two exhibits occurred in the last year: *Bridges*, on display at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. *Geographies: the Midwest Examined* is currently featured at the MSU Library and will move on to the University of Iowa Library, Special Collections this year. The group is open to other location proposals. Discussion followed. Other possibilities included Octavo Fest in Cleveland. K. Harding will investigate. M. Uthuppuru announced that **Geographies** will be featured on the national Newsletter and will be online, according to E. Alstrom.

Old Business:

- Student Scholarships: Two student scholarships were given but only one was used this past year. Lisa Miles went to GBW Standards last year, gave a report and was thrilled to attend. Discussion followed about whether or not to give 1 or 2 this year and if 1, should it be increased to more fully assist a participant with travel and hotel? Other comments included covering the registration in addition to the funding and the need to recruit and encourage students to apply. B. Caswell mentioned that the Lone Star Chapter gave a scholarship through national channels as a national scholarship to attract more applicants. J. Welker voiced his support for sponsoring a student doing “traditional” bookbinding which would be funded by him. There was some discussion that description, details and application process go through J. Welker if he would like to do this.

More discussion followed with a large support for 2 scholarships and limit the application to Midwest students. More discussion about encouraging a variety of students to apply and limiting it to 1 so that the funding could be increased. Large support around the room for covering registration costs and consideration to cover registration costs for the Midwest Annual Meeting.

E. Martin made a motion to grant (1) \$1000.00 scholarship to a student in the Midwest, with GBW Standards registration paid for in addition. M. Uthuppuru seconded the motion. The Motion passed. E. Martin made another motion to offer small scholarships for students to come to the Annual Meeting in Bloomington next year, 2 for \$200.00 each. M. Uthuppuru seconded and the motion passed.
- Standards registration for the Chapter Chair: E. Martin opened the discussion. She cannot attend this year and wanted to extend that registration to the incoming program chair. M. Uthuppuru made a motion granting registration covered to Standards for the incoming Program Chair, Kerri Harding. L. Ketchum Schrick seconded and the motion passed.
- E. Martin opened discussion to approve officers receiving \$100.00 for attending the Annual Chapter Meeting. B. Caswell made the motion to approve, R. Bourneuf seconded and the motion passed.
- E. Martin opened the discussion to approve the site-host for the Annual Chapter meeting to receive \$100.00. K. Harding made a motion to approve and M. Uthuppuru seconded. The motion passed.

New Business:

- E. Marti opened up discussion about other Chapter activities. Delaware Chapter did a Valentine project, creating multiples and sending to participants. The project was digitized and posted on the website. E. Martin suggested we try this, knowing that participants will pay for postage and it would be voluntary. E. Alstrom described an Exquisite Corpse project that North Bennett Street students and the New England Chapter did with leather plaques, which would be great exhibit idea. Both exhibit ideas will be explored further and offered to members later in the year.

Officers:

- Mark Arend would like to continue as Newsletter editor and his term will end next spring, when we can revisit.
- The Treasurer/Secretary G. Simon was re-elected for another term. J. McCormick made the motion, E. Martin seconded and the motion passed.
- Program Chair Kerri Harding was elected. J. Kluba made the motion, P. Olson seconded and the motion passed.
- E. Martin reminded the group that her term as President was up next spring and that considerations for a new President should start now. She urged the group to think about the next year and who would lead the Chapter.

A motion to adjourn was made by C. Weissman and M. Uthupuru seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Edgar Mansfield on perfectionism

"To my mind, the texture of the leather, the grain surface of the leather, is the whole thing: a unique quality in its own right and I love to explore it. But there is a limit, beyond which you are making a vulgar statement. For God's sake, you are going to create a binding that is going to live, you hope for a thousand years. If you are commercially minded and say, "Oh, but I could get two pieces of cover out of this skin if I do it that way", it is the wrong way of thinking. You have to think in terms of "How can I get the most beautiful effect from the point where I cut the leather?" So you may destroy the whole skin for one cover instead of three. It's infinitely more worthwhile, but an entirely different attitude from the commercial point of view.

Perfectionism can be a curse, you know; it can work against you. Life and the book, do not deal with perfection. Human frailties can exist in a low-grade skin and be totally absent from a first-class skin. So a first-class skin can be totally wrong for a book on human beings. This is where, in the years before the war, the African Nigerian goatskin was so beautifully tanned from years of experience in the use of native dyes, and they varied and they were full of imperfections-but beautiful imperfections. I.C.I. came along after the war and said "You don't want to use that rubbish! Here, we've got beautiful perfect dyes that will make the skins perfect and all the same." And this is what we are talking about in our twentieth-century philosophy-making everybody the same; beautifully, perfectly the same. God help us!

I adore the imperfection. That is, not just imperfection, that would be wrong, but imperfection used-chosen and used with intelligence-to make a point."

Edgar Mansfield 1907-1996

President, Guild of Contemporary Bookbinders 1955-1968

OBE 1997 FRBS 1980

(Extract from an interview with Trevor Jones Bearstead 22.08.1993)