

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

January 2020, Vol. 29, Number 1

## January Meeting

**Preston Sweeney: Collecting Old Tools**

*Thursday, January 9, 2020 7:00 PM*

*Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse*

*Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY*

Preston Sweeney, whom some may remember from the 2019 Showcase, will present a program about collecting old tools at NWA's regular monthly meeting on January 9, 2020 at the Shaker Heritage Meeting House. Preston will discuss the categories of tool collecting along with the resources to use to help identify and value old tools. He will inform members of what clubs and associations are active locally in old tool collecting. Preston will also display a sampling of tools from his personal collection for members to view and ask questions about as well as share his approach to old tool cleaning and restoration.



*Antique tools*

## SHOWCASE IS ONLY 3 MONTHS AWAY!

Get those projects completed, the challenge done,  
sign up for volunteering and yes, help getting vendors.  
Remember, March 28-29, 2020 will be here before you know it!

## NWA Saturday Class Held by John Kingsley

*By Susan McDermott*

On November 23, eight NWA members spent the afternoon turning hard maple stock into two parts of an ornament which would be embellished with the shell of a sea urchin. The bottom portions of the ornament took unique shapes as turners experimented with a variety of turners' cutting tools. The smaller tops were a second turning, and both pieces were epoxied to the top and bottom of the urchin's shell. The wood portion was sprayed with lacquer, and some students chose to add sparkles to the shell. Under John's individualized, encouraging instruction, the class experienced a highly rewarding afternoon of turning.



*John's bead making tools*



*The goal of the class*



*A future tree ornament of hard maple*



*While turning, the chuck's tenon is cut from figure*



*Greater skill is needed for delicate turning without breaking*



*Sanding a turned figure*



*The sea urchin's shell*



*The lacquer dries on the ornament's way home*

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**Sacandaga Chapter**  
Vacant

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Wally Carpenter - 518-434-1776  
nwa.showcase.chair@gmail.com

# The Showcase 2020 Gallery Exhibit Entry Form is NOW OPEN!

The Online Form, a printable PDF Entry Form, and a printable description of the Categories and 2020 Woodworkers Challenge can be found here:

<https://woodworker.org/about-showcase/>

We need YOUR entries! Over the past several years, we've had a steady decline in the number of Gallery Items, **let's try to turn this around in 2020!** Get an early start, recruit friends and family, and register and display previously judged items, too!

QR Code link for smartphones or tablets:



This year's Woodworker Challenge is: A Picture Frame for Your Work! We want examples from all our various woodworker styles, skill levels, and SIGs. Fine Woodworking, General Woodworkers, Carvers, Pyrographers, Scrollers, ... All wood working methods and styles are welcome!!

For those of you that need them, a small number of paper forms will be available at The Shop on Railroad Ave and at the NWA meetings from now until March.

If you have any questions or problems, please contact me!

Sincerely,

Dale Lombardo, Showcase Judging Co-Chair  
ShowExhibit@gmail.com  
518-290-6803

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**Dear NWA Members:**

**Please make note of the current  
NWA MAILING ADDRESS:**

**Northeastern Woodworkers Association  
PO Box 246  
Rexford, NY 12148**

**Please DO NOT use the address of the  
LEARNING CENTER  
which is**

**97 Railroad Ave, Albany, NY  
since  
NO MAIL IS PICKED UP AT THIS ADDRESS**

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## WOODWORKERS NEWS

is published by the Northeastern Woodworkers Association for its members. The Association's aim is to provide a common meeting ground for lovers of woodworking who want to know more about wood and the techniques for forming it. The newsletter is published monthly. The newsletter is available online at [www.woodworker.org](http://www.woodworker.org)



Your next issue of  
**Woodworkers News**

will be published  
in early February

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## NORTHEASTERN WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 246

Rexford, New York 12148



# Matt Kenney, The Milan Fiske Memorial Lecturer for 2019

By Susan McDermott

The meeting began with announcements, a short history of the Fiske Memorial Fund, and Instant Gallery. Wally Carpenter updated the Showcase planning for its 29th year. The challenge is picture frames. Volunteers for 600 positions are being filled by generous members, some assuming three or four positions. Please see Maria Witkins for what positions still need to be filled. Also, please reach out to potential vendors to encourage their participation. Last year's Showcase lacked about 20 former vendors, and this impacted our revenue. The 2020 Showcase will feature four women wood working professionals.

Dick Flanders announced that nearly 5000 board feet of lumber was recently milled and stacked in the Shaker Barn for drying. More walnut will be welcome.

Stan Blanchard displayed his turned Silver Maple milk painted bowl, distressed with a socket wrench. Tom Moran showed his turned acorn box.

Vice President Irv Stephens introduced this year's chosen Milan Fiske Memorial Lecturer, Matt Kenney, author of *52 Boxes in 52 Weeks* (Taunton Press, 2018) and a regular contributor to the magazine, *Fine Woodworking*. His well-attended lecture on November 21 was held Calvary United Methodist Church in Latham, NY.

Matt is known for his contemporary furniture designs featuring both delicacy and functionality. A portfolio of his work may be viewed at <https://www.mekwoodworks.com>. Matt began his PowerPoint assisted lecture with the focal question: What elements are important to him as a woodworker? He seeks "elegance" and simplicity and eschews complicated furniture designs and exotic woods. Matt would strip away ornamentation and work with the fewest elements possible. He appreciates Shaker furniture's clean lines, well portioned drawers and doors arranged for visual appeal. Milk paints' colors are bold and striking but found in nature's seasonal colors.\* Matt's visuals of landscapes, sun and shadows, earth tones are his inspiration for colors in paints and fabrics.

Matt's visuals showed five turned boxes (1 1/2" to 3" diameter) whose delicate features were inspired by Matt's visit to the cow barn at Hancock



Stan Blanchard's milk painted bowl



Tom Moran's  
acorn box

Shaker Village. The turned wood body is the stone walls and foundation. Its lid is the clear story, and the cupola is the top's handle.

Box #45 is a tea cabinet 19" long and 19" tall with one door (Kimiko gridwork with fabric behind it) and three drawers. It is natural cherry and basswood with pulls wrapped in brown embroidery thread.



*Lecturer Matt Kenney*



*Irv introduces Matt*

The photo of the table illustrates Matt's use of negative space as an aesthetic feature. The base of a box (plinth) or bottom support of furniture is a basic building element. Matt's kindling box of Eastern white pine and apple wood drawer front for long matches demonstrates its unique base. The fatwood sticks and end-grain contrast on the sides complement the wood hues.

The Sake Set of seven boxes are mounted on a wall with French cleats which make a 1/16-inch space from the white wall and creates a shadow of each frame. Another wall mounted tea box with three cherry drawers and bass wood grid base with fabric backing uses its negative space to hold a small black teapot.

\*Editor's note: Milk paint is an environmentally-friendly, made from simple, 100 % natural ingredients like clay, milk protein, lime, and pigment—and it's water-based. It's non-toxic, biodegradable, and doesn't let off noxious fumes. It dries in under 30 minutes, unlike the 24 hours needed for oil paints. Milk paint is also sold in powder form to mix it with water to create the liquid paint (House Beautiful website March 2019).

Matt's philosophy and geometric concepts both guide and emerge in the construction of his Kimiko frames. The precision of his chisel slices requires a deep concentration.

"It takes focus, the type of focus that liberates you from all your other concerns. There is a rhythm to the process that is almost hypnotic...the chisel becomes an extension of your hand."

"If I were to describe in philosophical terms...it's a state in which one's epistemic, emotional, and tactile connection to the world align..."

Matt transitioned to discuss how he designs his projects. He starts with multiple sketches of the face that is seen first. He makes many variations of the sketches until he likes one the best. He experiments with the two dimensions (height and width) in different proportions until it pleases his eye. Then the chosen design is drawn on graph paper for precise dimensions he will use to



*NWA members attend to Matt*



*Boxes inspired by Shaker barn*



*The Shaker Barn*

construct the project. Matt advised the audience to look at the natural world for the arrangement of patterns, shadows and light sources, and nature's colors as seen in his photos of trees against storm clouds, snow in trees, the grays and browns of early winter.

Matt's formal college studies in philosophy guide his woodworking principles. Aristotle's metaphysics taught Matt that purpose is above function.

It is sufficient to just be beautiful. Purpose is about meanings in one's life. What we have accomplished may have a special meaning beyond its use.



*Use of negative space as an aesthetic feature*



*Tea box #45*



*Kindling box*



*Side view of kindling box*



*Wall mounted tea box with teapot*



*Sake Set of seven boxes*



*Kenney wall cabinet with bowed front*



*Matt is presented with the NWA gift made by Steve Vanderzee*

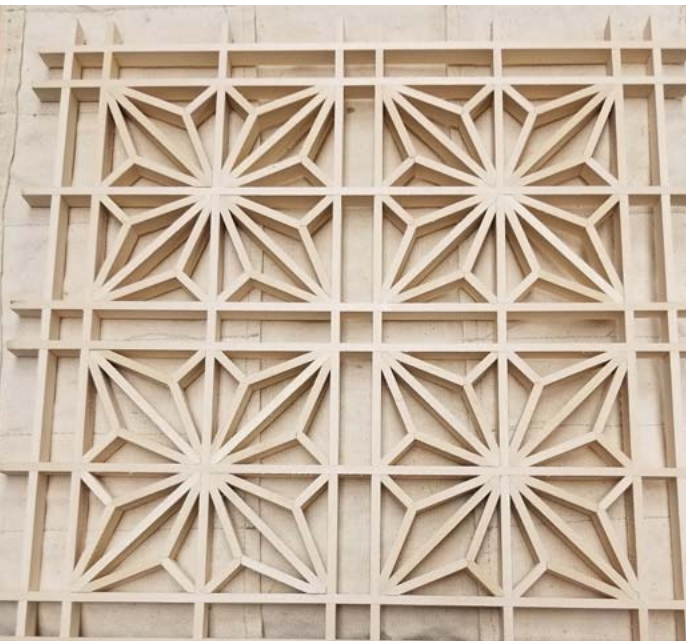
# Matt Kenney's Class

On Friday, November 22, 2019, Matt Kenney taught an all-day class on *Kimiko* at NWA's Learning Center. *Kumiko* is a traditional Japanese technique dating from 600-700 AD used to create geometric and floral patterns in frames to decorate doors, windows and room screens. The technique can also be incorporated into door panels, tabletops or cabinet bases. NWA woodworkers taking this class learned how to make a sample frame and to create a classic geometric pattern.

Matt explained that in Japan, doors, windows, and room screens are often decorated with this delicate wooden framework. The beauty of these frames is enhanced by using small pieces of basswood to create geometric or floral patterns in the framework. This same technique can be used in furniture making to add a beautiful detail to a door panel, table-top, or cabinet base. Kumiko panels also make eye-catching wall art.

At first glance, kumiko panels certainly give the impression that they'd be extremely difficult to make. However, they aren't. In this class, students learned how to make a square framework, and the classic asano-ha infill pattern. Matt explained how to make the joinery for the framework, and then glue up a frame. Students then learned how to create the small pieces used to make the infill pattern. At the end of the day, each of the 12 students have a beautiful panel.

The tools needed are 3/4 or 1 in. wide, very sharp chisel and a Dozuki saw. Matt provided jigs for precise cuts of basswood parts. They can be purchased from Matt's website. [matt@mekwoodworks.com](mailto:matt@mekwoodworks.com)



*The goal at the completion of class*



*A very good quality Dozuki saw \$40*



*Preston Sweeney's treasured chisel was once Mark Levanway's father's*



Matt brought these prepared pieces for the frame



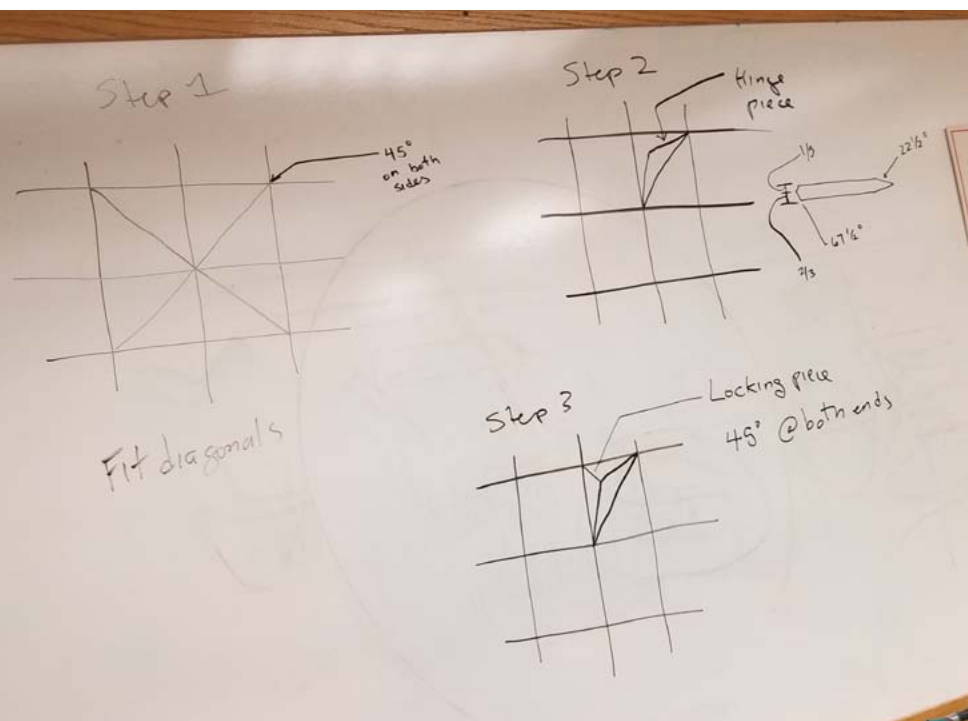
Matt assembles a frame (the only pieces to be glued)



These custom-made jigs are used to pare exact angles



All these pieces will be cut to precise lengths and angles



Steps 1, 2, 3 are diagramed for the class



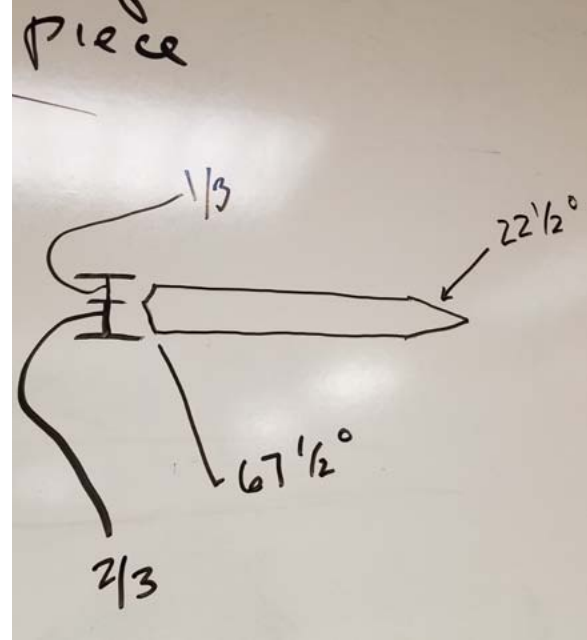
Step 1 is the cutting of diagonals



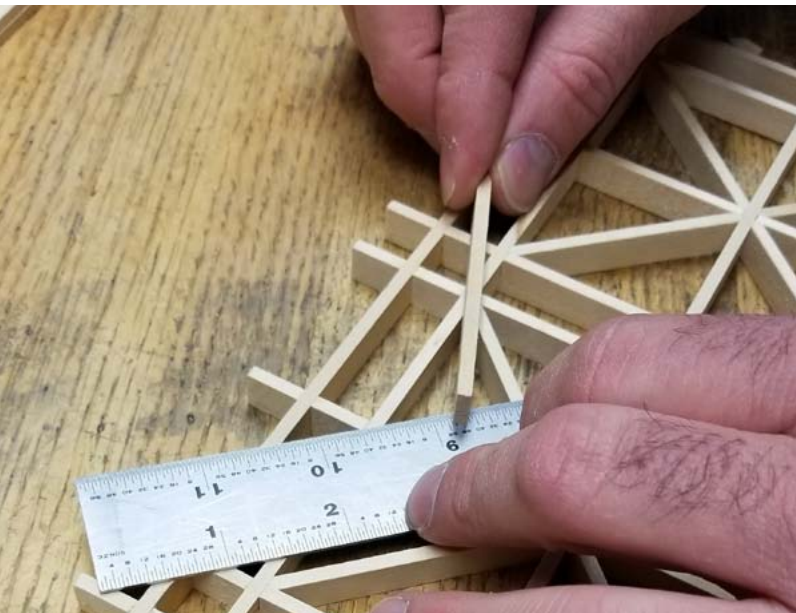
*Matt assists Preston in the design's assembly*



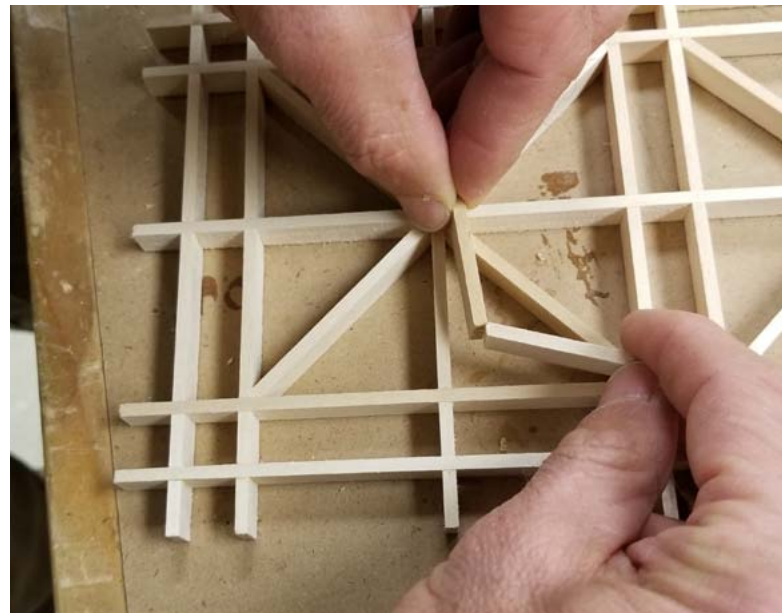
*Two jigs are used together for step 2*



*One third, two thirds angles of Step 2*



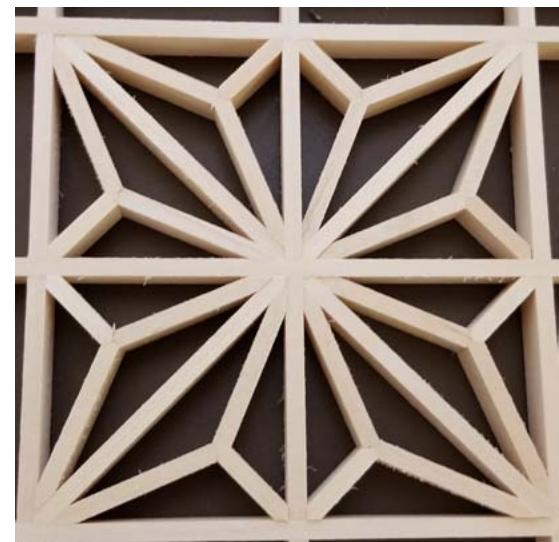
*Matt measures the third piece of Step 2*



*The assembly of the hinge piece is Step 3*



*The class intently assembling their own frames*



*The classic asa-no-ha infill pattern*

# NWA's Family Night Held December 12, 2019

*By Susan McDermott*

NWA members and their families met at the at the Clifton Park Senior Community Center from 6:30 to 9:00. Many generously brought desserts or appetizers to share with the attendees. Vice President Irv Stephens, dressed for the occasion, opened the event by urging members to depart from the desserts and appetizers and sit at the tables to view Pam Bucci's Instant Gallery. There were many wooden projects, arts, and crafts on display. She began at the left end of a long table with Liz Hedman's three watercolors. Jon Hedman played his kazoos (a great gift for his noisy neighbor's kids), his one stringed canjo, and his cookie tin banjo with three strings and a pick-up to connect to an amplifier!



*Vice President Irv Stephens as Master of Ceremonies*



*The long NWA table of sweets and treats*



*Members socialize*



*Jon Hedman's Kazoos, canjo, and cookie tin banjo*



*Liz Hedman's three watercolors: Canoe*



*Liz's Mountain pines*



*Liz's River currents*

Bob Reinhardt made 16 kazoos for Christmas gifts, a challenging twenty-piece scroll saw pattern to stack and balance, and a useful toaster oven rack stick. His wife Bev displayed two beautiful quilts. The black and white is called “Frosty’s First Round”; the second had bright African colors of the sun and jungle flora with the silhouettes of wild animals.



*Bob Reinhardt's two of 16 kazoos, balancing and stackable 20-piece toy, oven rack handle*

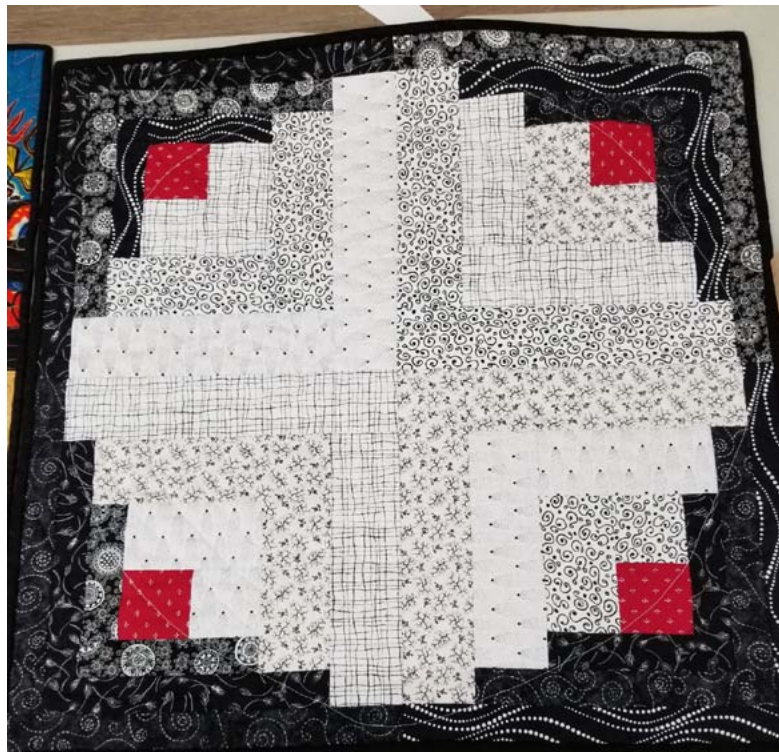
Sara Hill turned a square bowl of Shagbark hickory. Her mother, Betty Hill, held a woven tassel rug and a second item of framed pottery pieces. Juliana Shei had a no-miter frame with her own painting of a landscape of Avila, Spain.



*Betty Hill's woven tasseled rug*



*Bev's Quilt of African colors and animal silhouettes*



*Beverly Reinhardt's Frosty's First Round quilt*



*Betty's framed pottery pieces*



*Sara Hill's Shagbark hickory square bowl*



*Juliana Shei's no-mitered frame with her pastel landscape of Avila, Spain*

Steve Schoenberg built a very detailed doll's rocking cradle he intends to glue up and apply a finish. Rich Cerruto and his wife, Izumi, made a Bird's-eye maple Shaker box and a Shaker basket with handle. He also showed a Number 0 Shaker box for small trinkets and his Kumiko frame in basswood made in a recent class taught by Matt Kenney (see article about the class in this newsletter).



*Steve Schoenberg's unfinished doll's cradle*



*Rich and Izumi Cerruto's Birdseye maple Shaker box, Shaker basket, Number 0 box, and his Kumiko frame of basswood.*

Jackie Donahoe had several wood carvings: a polar bear with cub she intends to pyrograph, a completed male cardinal mounted on a limb, a pyrographed rabbit, duck, a delicate wooden feather quill, a carved Christmas Santa with Santa blanks for Thursday night's carvers to finish.



*Jackie's pyrographed duck and rabbit*



*Jackie Donahoe's carved polar bear and cub*



*Jackie's carved male cardinal on a branch with wooden feather quill*



*Her carved Christmas Santa with a blank for Thursday night Carvers SIG*

Pam Bucci also had a prolific display of her talents. She encouraged members to merge their SIG activities, such as scrolling and carving or turning and carving. She had holiday trees made with a bandsaw, a child's "sewing sheep", a carved dala horse (traditional Swedish symbol - see <http://www.dalahorse.com/>), a kuksa wooden cup (Finnish: kuksa; Swedish: k sa) is a type of drinking cup), and a soapstone bird. But, that's not all! Pam had a box of drop spindles used in ancient times to manually spin yarn which she demonstrated. She identified some of her drop spindles as Scottish, Basque, Russian, and a laser-worked Grateful Dead. They span a lot of centuries, from ancient to modern. She concluded with a Star Wars ornament made by John Kingsley.



*Pam Bucci's band saw wooden trees*



*Pam's trees and sewing sheep, a child's activity*



*Pam's box of drop spindles*



*Pam demonstrates this ancient skill of spinning*

Jerry Ela had four small turned bowls riddled with worm holes which he filled with copper, aluminum, or putty mixed with fabric dyes. Tom Moran had a family of wooden snow people and a wooden vase for dried flowers. Steve Vanderzee turned a black birch bowl whose spalted wood “popped” with color and texture.

Celia Carpenter had two of her watercolors in frames, and Karen Ela had two large quilts, “Housewarming” and “Stack and Whack” (a method of quilt making).



*Jerry Ela's four turned bowls*



*Tom Moran's family of snow people*



*Celia Carpenter's watercolor (one of two)*



*Steve Vanderzee's resurrected Black birch block turned into a striking spalted bowl*



*Karen Ela's Quilt "Housewarming"*



*Her Quilt "Stack and Whack"*

All this impressive talent and creativity concluded with Juliana Shei showing two of six board games built by the Crafters SIG for the Double H Ranch. These first two are the “Plinko Game” and “Slots of Fun”. The other four in construction are: Horseshoe Toss, Beanbag Toss, Spill Some Milk, and Moon Shot.



*Tom Moran's vase for dried flowers*



*Crafter's "Slots of Fun"*



*Crafter's SIG made "Plinko Game"*

Before the evening ended, two announcements and a “raffle” of the tables’ center pieces held everyone’s attention. Pam Curtis explained a contest for a NWA Tee shirt design (announcement to come with details), and Wally Carpenter described the Showcase Challenge for 2020 is a unique picture frame of any shape and joinery but no larger than what could hold a 16” x 20” display. Wally hasn’t built his yet, but as the only applicant to date, he might win! Irv explained his unique method of gifting the center pieces. Each table had two centerpieces with a month and day written underneath. The person at the table whose birthdate was closest to the hidden date, won the item. No ID’s were asked for as this was the honor system!

## Classifieds

### Three white oak boards

10 feet long, four inches thick, ten inches wide. Air dried and stick/stacked and stored in barn for 15 years. No warp or checks. While lumber companies charge \$6.50 to \$7.50 per board foot of white oak for kiln dried, seller would ask \$75 per 10 - foot board. He will negotiate to interested party. No delivery, pick up only. Call Bob Shuey in Averill Park 518-674-3509. Mention NWA newsletter, so he will answer call.



*Tables' Centerpiece Candle holder*

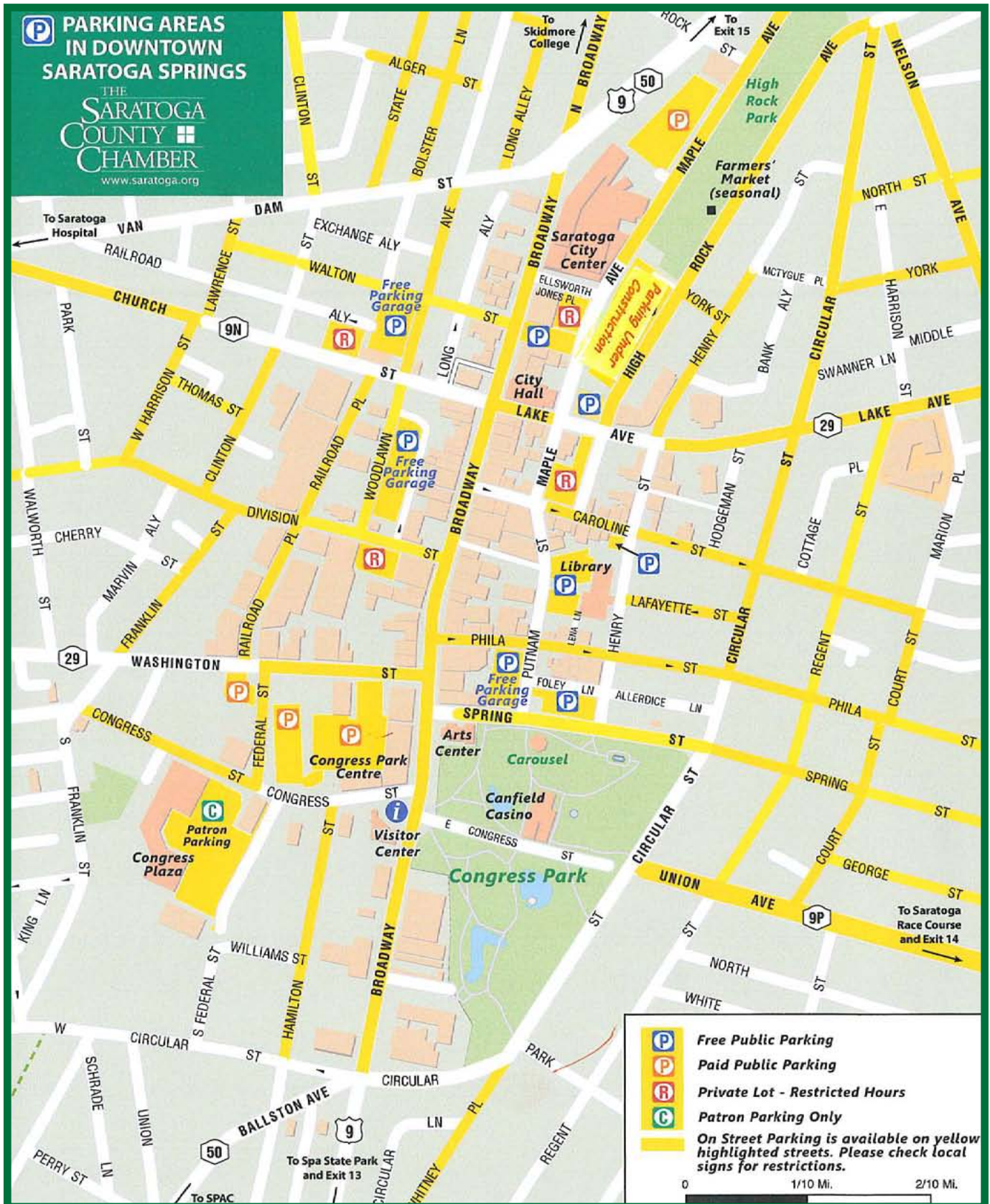


*Centerpiece Comfort bird in nest*



# SHOWCASE 2020 PARKING

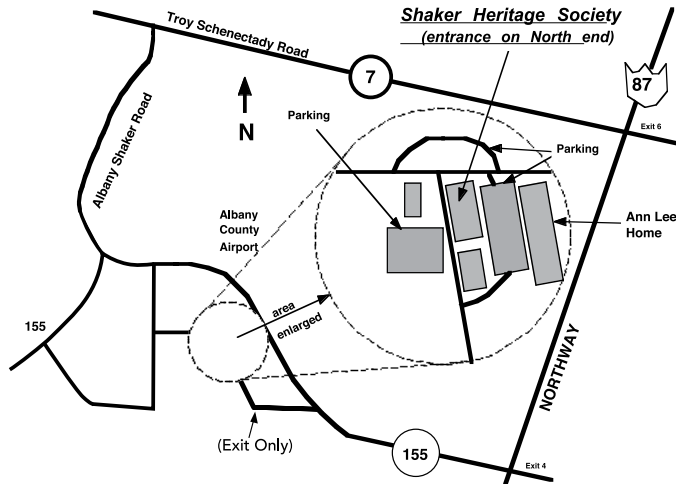
The Civic Center's Parking is not open due to construction.  
Other areas are given in this map



# January Meeting

Thursday, January 9, 2020 7:00 PM

**Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse**  
**Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY**



## 2020 MONTHLY MEETINGS\*

Unless noted otherwise, held at the Shaker Meetinghouse on the Second Thursdays at 7:00 PM

For meeting cancellation information,

call Ken Evans 753-7759 or Charlie Goddard 370-0388

**January 9th** -Tool Collecting - Preston Sweeney

**February 13th** - TBA

**March 12th** - Seat Weaving - Lorraine Weissen

**April 9th** - TBA (Program presented by Mid-Hudson Chapter)

**May 14th** - Turning Topic - Paul Petri

\*To be updated with additional information

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs): Please note meetings will commence at our new location at 97 Railroad Avenue.

**Adirondack Woodturners Association (AWA)** - The AWA is active throughout the year. **General** Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month (except in January and July when it is the second Wednesday), at the NWA Learning Center located at 97 Railroad Avenue, Colonie, NY from 5:30 PM to 8:45 PM. **Contact:** Pam Bucci, President at 518-429-6440 or woolglass2@gmail.com

**Spindle and Pen Turners** - Meets Mondays 5:30 PM - 8:45 PM. **Contact:** Pam Bucci at 518-429-6440 or woolglass2@gmail.com  
Wednesday "Learn and Turn" sessions occur on all other Wednesdays at the NWA Learning Center. These sessions run 5:30 PM to 8:45 PM. [www.adirondackwoodturners.com](http://www.adirondackwoodturners.com) **Contact:** Pam Bucci at 518-429-6440 or woolglass2@gmail.com

**Scroller's Guild** - Meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the NWA Learning Center located at 97 Railroad Avenue, Colonie, NY. Shop opens at 5:30 PM both Wednesdays followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM on the fourth Wednesdays. **Contact:** Tom O'Donnell at Todonnell180@gmail.com

**Kaatskill Woodturners** - Second Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM at the Opdahl property in Hurley, NY. **Contact:** Wally Cook at wally.cook@gmail.com

**NWA Crafters** - Meet Tuesdays and Saturdays 9:00 AM to noon. They provide public service woodworking for various charitable organizations, including the Double H Hole in the Woods camp for children and the GE Toy Modifications Group, and the Make A Wish Foundation. Sharing information, fellowship, and relating experiences are a major part of these sessions. **Contact:** Wayne Distin at 518-674-4171 or wdistin@nycap.rr.com, Ken Evans at 518-281-0779 or kevans1@nycap.rr.com, or John Heimke at heimkj@sage.edu for more information.

**The NWA Wood Carvers SIG** - Meet 1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Thursdays 5:00-8:30 PM all year at the NWA Learning Center located at 97 Railroad Avenue, Colonie, NY. The goal is to promote the art of wood carving and to have a good time doing it. The only prerequisite is a desire to carve while making new friends. Wood, tools, and patterns are available. **Contact:** Diane Balch at 518-885-9899 or signs@balchsigns.com

**Hand Tool SIG** - Meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00-9:00 PM in the Herm Finkbeiner Education Center at 97 Railroad Avenue, Colonie, NY. **Contact:** Dave Parkis at 518-429-6581 for further details: dparkis@nycap.rr.com

### CHAPTERS

**NWA Mid-Hudson** - The chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the third Thursday, except July, at the Hurley Reformed Church. The Church is just off the Hurley exit from Rte. 209. Right at the exit, right at the stop sign and left into the Church parking area. **Contact:** midhudsonwoodworkers.org Jim Lee, President - (845)382-6045