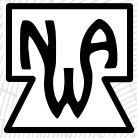


# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

October 2021, Vol. 30, Number 78

## October Meeting

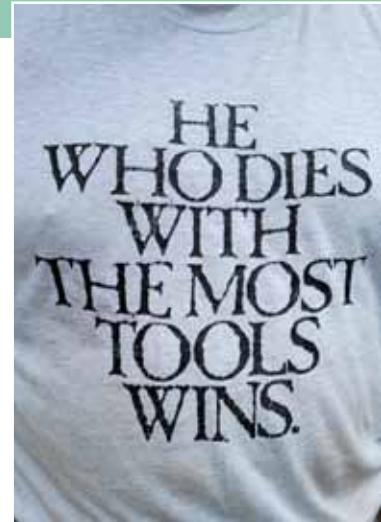
*By Carl Stoner, NWA Vice President*

**Thursday, October 14, 2021 7:00 PM**  
**Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse**  
**Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY**

Ray Puffer's subject of his presentation will be, "My Search for Precision in Woodworking." He will be discussing the progression of tolerance standards over his 65 years of woodworking, from basic carpentry as a young boy, to furniture builder, and finally as a segmented turner in his later life.



*Ray's Puffer*



*Ray's shirt*

## The 2022 Showcase Gallery Exhibit registration process is up and running!

The 2022 Showcase Gallery Exhibit registration process is up and running!

The printable form, the on-line entry form, and the display and judging categories have all been updated for 2022. Each is reachable through the NWA webpage <https://woodworker.org/about-showcase/>

- The Online Form: <http://bit.ly/34aB0eL>
- The Printable Form: <http://bit.ly/2PjQ19Z>
- 2022 Categories: <http://bit.ly/2Nk7NY2>

The last link on Categories includes the 2022 Showcase Woodworker Challenge description as well.

Items registered for 2020 were automatically re-registered (as a draft registration) for 2022, and emails were sent to all the registrant email addresses if they need to check their items, make changes, or add more!

I am very excited to see you and your woodwork in the Gallery!

Regards,

Dale Lombardo

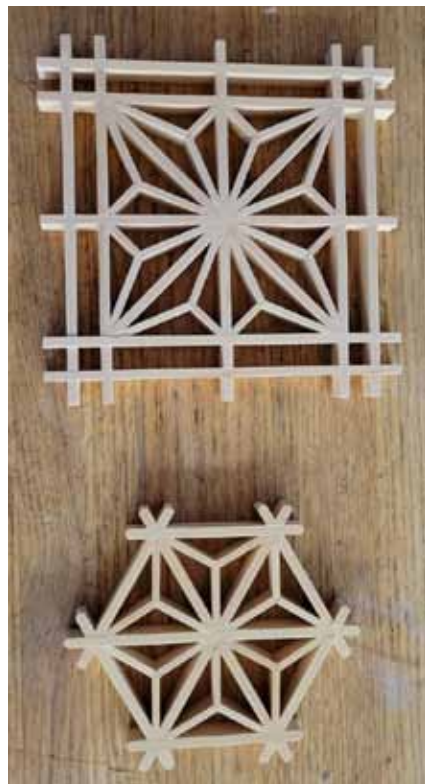
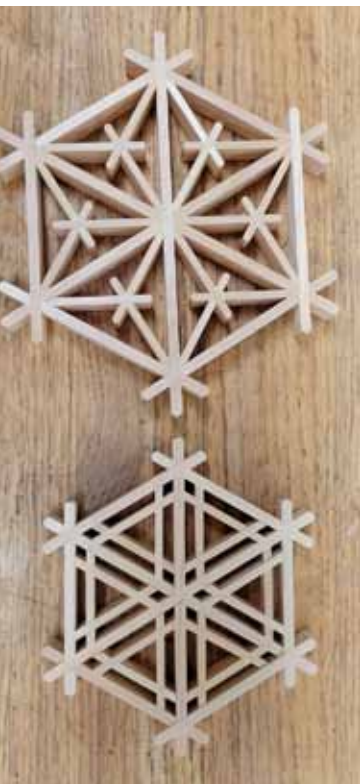
Judging Co-Chairperson, NWA Showcase  
[showexhibit@gmail.com](mailto:showexhibit@gmail.com)

# Hand Tool SIG Gives Kumiko Demonstration

By Susan McDermott

On Tuesday night, September 7, 2021, Dave Parkis introduced Juliana Shei to masked NWA members seated a safe social distance in the Learning Center. Juliana had a PowerPoint projected to show the beautiful styles and functions of Kumiko screens, doors, room dividers, furniture, lamps, and decorative panels. Kumiko is a “functional, traditional Japanese wood working art.”

She developed an interest in this art form about two years ago. “I became interested in Kumiko because it is beautiful and delicate. I have a slight advantage finding information that is written in Japanese videos.” She watched many YouTube videos for over a year before attempting a project. She displayed some of her intricate projects as the pictures will show.



Trivet and coaster design

Another trivet and coaster

Juliana’s PowerPoint showed two subtle but distinct differences in Japanese vs. Western Kumiko joinery. First, the western version uses all the same thickness pieces. Japanese version frames are often thicker than infills, but not always.

Second, Japanese style scores and bends the angle to accept the short, angled piece that serves as a keystone while the Western technique uses three separate pieces whose ends are planed to 67½ and 45 degrees.

Juliana has invented four types of jigs for precise cutting of lengths and angles of straight grained pieces.

She also has a thickness jig which holds a block plane to smooth shavings off pieces before cutting their angles. She inserts a variety of wood or cardboard rectangles to the floor of the plane’s jig to accomplish the exact thickness she wants.



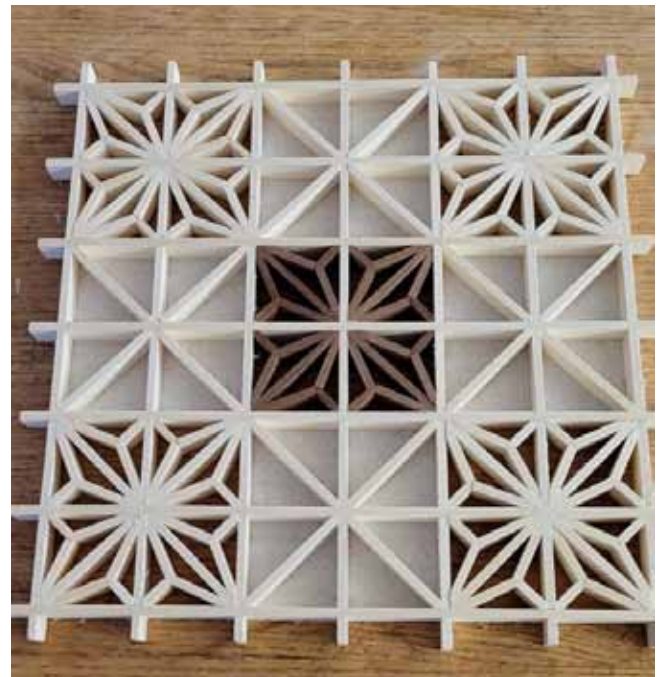
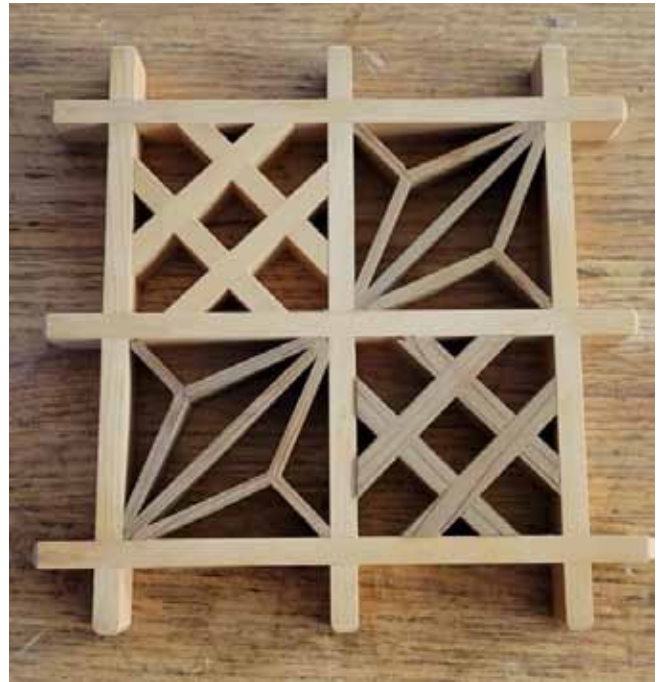
Magazine rack



Juliana’s coffee table was published in Wood magazine, October 2021 issue.



*Japanese style*



*Four jigs*



*Block Plane*

# September 9, 2021, General Meeting at the Shaker Meetinghouse

By Susan McDermott

For the first time in many months NWA has held its general meeting with a live audience. This event might be streamed at a later date as the technology is being developed.

## Announcements:

Wally Carpenter has published information on Showcase in this newsletter.

Dale Lombardo stated the Showcase Challenge to construct a picture frame is from the cancelled 2020 show with a modification to include framing mirrors. Applications to enter a frame are available on-line <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vNfUmWB9n-Y4pKGfAFWuLVkZSxoVbmUq/view>

Dick Flanders expressed a need for a trucking coordinator to work with Dick in the 2022 Showcase and take over the role in 2023. There is no heavy lifting. Responsibilities would entail renting two trucks from Penske, bringing the trucks to the shop on a Friday for loading workbenches and equipment to deliver to City Center in Saratoga. Then oversee the unloading. On Monday morning supervise the reloading and returning of same to the shop. Please see Dick for the specifics.

## Instant Gallery:

Wally Carpenter showed his carved Mouradian stars

Don Orr displayed his whistles and tongs

Dale Lombardo has a two-sided chip carving (side 1)

Side 2 explained below

“The symbols are from Tibetan Buddhism: Ohm Mani Padme Hum (Hrih is normally in the center, but no room with the game board in the center. Since Hrih is symbolic of Lotus Seed... The Lotus flower on the back was inspired by the lack of center symbol on front...)”



## OFFICERS

**President** - Irv Stephens  
nwapresident1@gmail.com

**Vice President** - Carl Stoner

**Secretary** - Chris Stolicky

**Treasurer** - Paul Ruud  
nwatreasurer2@gmail.com

**Executive Secretary** - Charlie Goddard  
Cgodd@aol.com



## NWA BOARD MEMBERS

Irv Stephens  
Carl Stoner  
Chris Stolicky  
Paul Ruud  
Charlie Goddard  
Pete Chast  
Wally Carpenter  
Rich Duval,  
Susan McDermott



## Mid-Hudson Chapter

Bill Sterling, President  
wster1156@aol.com

## Sacandaga Chapter

Vacant



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*Members* - Jim Lefebvre, Rich Glover

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*Treasurer* - Juliana Shei  
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*Members* - Jon Bennett, Dick Flanders,  
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### Library

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Vacant

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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 November

Copy deadline: October 15

Susan McDermott, Editor

[Nwanewsletter1@gmail.com](mailto:Nwanewsletter1@gmail.com)

Elizabeth Keays Graphic Artist  
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### NORTHEASTERN WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 246

Rexford, New York 12148



### The Program:

Vice President Carl Stoner introduced Dave Parkis and Juliana Shei to discuss the many advantages and pleasures of using hand tools. Dave began by saying that for \$500 or \$600, one can assemble an impressive collection of quality hand tools.



*Dave Parkis*

There are many advantages to using hand tools rather than power tools. You are less likely to be injured; they make no loud noise; they are not a dust collection problem; they are the traditional means of making wood projects; they take up far less space in your shop.

Dave held up some of the tools any woodworker should have. Card scrapers, mortise chisel, a push screwdriver, a push drill, a side rabbet plane (Stanley# 98 and# 99), a good basic set of handsaws, including a small dovetail and tenon saw, a medium sized crosscut 14", a 4-to-5-point rip saw, and a large crosscut saw.

Juliana followed up by displaying what she accomplished with hand tools. She believes those who master hand tools are much better wood workers than those who rely on power tools. For example, she spent many hours in private lessons to learn to hand cut mitered concealed dovetails.

Much Japanese furniture uses no glue as it is assembled with tight joints that can be disassembled with the tap of a soft mallet. Juliana's Kumiko frames are assembled without glue as the precisely cut pieces firmly placed can be pushed in or pulled out. Her basic tools are a draw saw, chisel, measuring square, pencil, and her custom-made jigs. View her Kumiko work in the article about her class.



*Concealed mitered dovetail separated*



*Assembled*

# Who Was Dr. Herm Finkbeiner?

*By Susan McDermott*

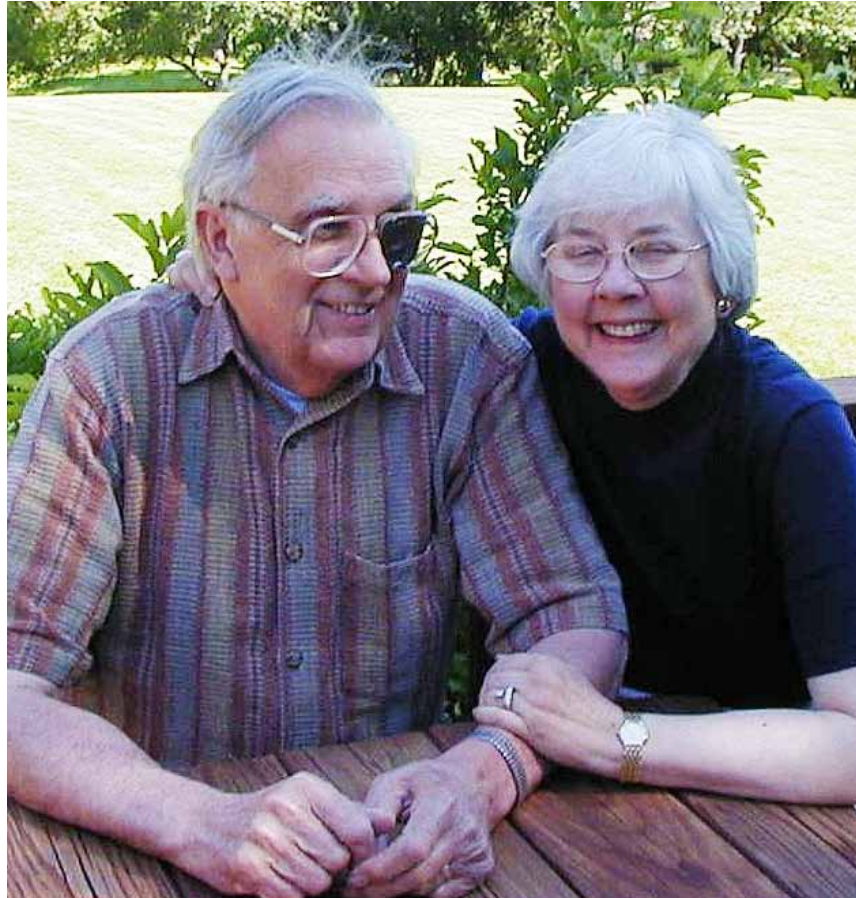
Our longer serving NWA members fondly remember Herm Finkbeiner as a founder of NWA and first president of the eight-member group of woodworkers. But most of us have not had the pleasure of meeting this brilliant, community-minded, skilled woodworker that our Learning Center is named after. The stories that follow reflect Herm's philosophy and community service that is the foundation of NWA for over forty years.

Here is a partial biography lifted from his published obituary of April 1, 2013:

A graduate of the University of Michigan where Herm earned a PhD, he came late summer of 1959 to the GE Research Laboratory. At GE his work was initially on metal moderated organic reactions, published twenty scientific papers and was granted 30 patents. While at GE he managed several research groups as well as serving as personnel manager for a time. He was involved with his community during his working career as a board member and treasurer of the Schenectady Museum, a member for many years of the Clifton Park Planning Board and the Saratoga County Planning Board, and president of and founding member of the Greenhouse and Indoor Plant Association. On retiring after 35 years at GE, he devoted his time and energy to the Landis Arboretum. Fran often told friends that upon returning home from work each day, Herm walked among the hundreds of trees they planted to count the leaves and see if any were new, missing or somewhat different from the day before. He was the first President of the Visher Ferry Association, and the Friends of Grooms Tavern. But the activity which gave him his greatest pleasure and occupied his fullest attention was the Northeastern Woodworkers Association.

**Ken Evans published the following story in March 2012 NWA Newsletter:**

In 1991 Milan Fiske had retired from GE, and Herman Finkbeiner was still working at GE. Herm relates that Milan would occasionally stop by his office at GE and suggest, "Why don't we start a woodworking organization?"



*Herm and Fran (provided by Jeanne Walker)*



*Herm's woodworking (provided by Ken Evans)*

Herm's response was, "Why don't you start one!" The first meeting was held in Herm and Fran's living room on March 1, 1991. It was suggested to meet each month at someone's shop. The next month the meeting was held at Milan's shop. The purpose of going to each member's shop was to see what each member was working on and to learn from doing so. This educational theme runs through NWA to this day.

The NINE NWA founding members were:

1. Dale M. Brown
2. Jack Ericson
3. Fran Finkbeiner
4. Herman Finkbeiner
5. Milan Fiske
6. Dave Mobley
7. Rowland Wells Redington
8. Daniel A. Staver
9. Alfred C. Stevens

*Founder Dave Mobley shared his personal experience with Herm.*

I met Herm when we both worked at GE Research, and for a time Herm was my direct manager. It was during that time that the idea for NWA was formed by Herm and Milan Fiske.

Perhaps because of his background as a research scientist, Herm felt NWA should always be willing to try new things. He firmly believed that we, as members of NWA, shouldn't get so stuck in our habits that we couldn't experiment with new activities or ways of doing things.

Another thing I remember about Herm is that he had a number of quotes and sayings that he liked to toss into conversation. One that sticks in my head because it often seemed appropriate, not just to woodworking projects, but to pretty much any activity is, "Never take a short cut unless you have extra time."

*Charlie Goddard holds Herm's memories with great fondness and admiration.*

He was a very intelligent man. No matter what the topic he would be well versed in it. And he could explain difficult concepts so that they were easily understood. Herm loved to make things out of wood, including many small boxes of various designs. He also made larger things, such as workbenches. I have no idea how many workbenches he made in total, but at least most of them are the shop's. His favorite wood for the benches was black locust.

One year he donated one of his benches for the raffle at Showcase.

One of our favorite activities was to go to go out to eat. His favorite restaurant was the Lake Ridge in Round Lake. Herm was very persuasive when he was looking for someone to volunteer. I remember one time when he suggested we go to lunch. He had been Showcase Chairman and wanted to have someone else take over. Somehow, I agreed to take the job, which I did for seven years. It soon became a joke in NWA - be careful about going to lunch with Herm!

Herm was a strong leader in NWA. Many of the things we do today, including the concept of SIGs, came from him. Though he has been gone for a few years, at times I still wonder, "What would Herm say or do?"

*Pete Howe recalls Herm's many charitable programs and generous spirit:*

I have had so many positive experiences with this true gentleman, visionary, leader and man of exceptional integrity!

My association with Herm began with a mutual friend, Jim Kennedy. Jim had a well-equipped shop and shared (as did Herm) doing charitable things for children such as toy making. Jim opened his shop to NWA and the founding group which met on Saturdays for the purpose of doing charity work and learning from each other's talents. (i.e., Learning Center)

Another great initiative inspired by Herm was "The Hole in the Woods Gang".

Members visited the camp for children in the Adirondacks and performed re-construction projects and also made toys. We developed a log-sawing group to raise funds for the Fiske Fund Charity. A log hauling trailer was assembled for the purpose of centralizing the sawing process. Today whenever I enter my workshop, I see some toys, log trucks and a small hand-crafted toolbox made by Herm and gifted to me which is a constant reminder of what a great individual he was.

One of Herm's quotes was, "Do something even if it's wrong then fix it".

*Chuck Walker reminisces Herman Finkbeiner.*

I first met Herm in 1949 when we were fellow chemistry majors at a small liberal arts college in Missouri. Herm's wife Fran and my wife Jeanne were also graduated from there, each in different years but for at least one year



we were all there together. As lab assistants in the chemistry department, I got to know him better. He was a tall and handsome gent, always helpful, honest and with a calm demeanor, slow to anger but with a wry sense of humor. Our paths separated after college; Herm went to a job at Spencer Chemical Co. in southeast Kansas. From there, he went on to the University of Michigan to pursue his PhD. Oddly, unknown to me at that time, I joined Spencer one week after Herm departed

When we moved to New York State, we discovered Showcase which we attended for several years, not knowing Herm and Fran were involved with NWA. We liked the show as it was a great balance of a fine woodworking display, free lectures, and vendors. Looking through an issue of *Woodworkers Journal*, there was an article about NWA, and it mentioned Herman Finkbeiner. Of course, it caught my attention, and I called to see if he remembered me. This led to a meeting of old schoolmates that developed into a close friendship that lasted until Fran's and Herm's deaths. It was like a fifteen-year class reunion plus other common interests. Herm, to his credit, was the same gentle and helpful person we remembered from college.

Many attributes of Herm are recounted in this collection of memories. They are all accurate! But the story of Herm's effect on the formation and nurturing of NWA would be incomplete without mentioning the major contributions of his wife Fran. She hosted the initial gathering of the eight GE people and always kept track of who and what was happening. She served as newsletter editor for many years, demanding correctness for spelling and grammar. And in the early days of Showcase she managed the office. She ran a tight ship and let it be known that if you arrived at the show without proper identification of yourself or your projects, she could become "really cranky". But it was always tempered with good humor.

The Northeastern Woodworkers Association would not have developed into the friendly and helpful group of woodworkers that it has become without the talents and devotion of Herm and Fran Finkbeiner.

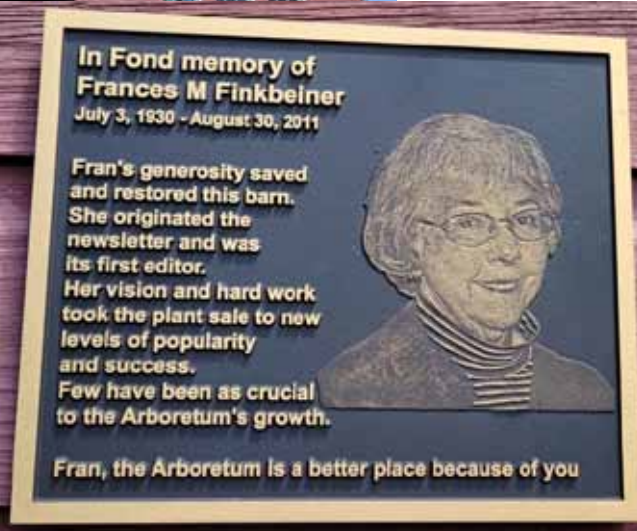
My favorite sayings of his: "Procrastinate today, don't put it off!"

"Life is uncertain, eat dessert first." "Let's have lunch." (uh-oh)



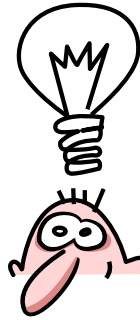
Herm's barn

Herm built a barn at Landis Arboretum which was later restored by his wife Fran's generous funding.



Dedication to Fran

# "MEMBER'S WOODWORKING TRICKS"



*Submitted by Rick Bird*



## #1 Tackle Box

Rick uses a fishing tackle box to store all his glues and supplies. It sits open on his side bench next to his assembly table within easy reach for all his glue-ups. It keeps all glues and supplies handy and organized.

## #2 File rack/holder

My second tip of the month is my file rack/holder. I custom made this for my particular files, but it has some unique features with it.

1- I used two old, clear tennis ball cans to store my long microfiles and their accessories.

2- I made comfortable handles for my small files out of old toothbrush handles. I cut several old toothbrush handles to size, drilled small holes in the cut end, then heated the handle end of a small file and inserted it into the toothbrush handle. The hot file handle will melt the toothbrush handle slightly and once cool, it will form a nice bond and easy-on-your-hands file handle.



*Send us your woodworking tips and tricks for a prize.*

*NWAnewsletter1@gmail.com*

*Submission deadline is the 15th of each month (except June and July).*

# Showcase and Totally Turning 2022 is only SEVEN Months AWAY!!

*By Wally Carpenter, Showcase Chair*

The Showcase team is heavily engaged in making Showcase 2022 an event to remember. We will be looking forward to all of you supporting Showcase and Totally Turning Symposium, a gleaming success.

Remember, your contribution can include displaying your wonderful woodworking skills, as well as your volunteer efforts.

PLEASE, help us by making yourselves known. It's an amazing weekend and one not to be missed! See the Showcase link on the NWA website for details. <https://woodworker.org/about-showcase/>

# Juliana Shei Teaches a Two-day Class in Kumiko

By Susan McDermott

On September 11, 2021, seven students participated to assemble their grids which serve as the frame for their Kimiko designs. To save class time, Juliana cut all the stock with a table saw.

On September 12, the class met for a full day to cut the inserts. This precise process required students' use of jigs to cut the angles of  $\frac{3}{4}$  strips of exact lengths. First, strips were partly sawn to the point that the strips could be bent to accept 45-degree pieces. The small draw saw has two cutting sides. The coarse side is for ripping, the finer for cross cuts.

There are no set teeth in a Japanese style saw. Western saws have teeth set at opposite angles to prevent binding against the wood. Japanese saws have the entire width of blade tapered narrow to wide so as not to bind the wood while cutting. Users draw the saw rather than push it.



Stock



The draw saw



The saw is \$18 at Amazon



The jig for right-handed wood workers as the hand rests on the higher side.



The jig disassembled to adjust widths  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch-wide strips



Juliana used a sharp chisel to pare her angles on the strips mounted in her jig, but others might use apron planes. Bottom right is Lie Neilson apron plane for \$140. The top is a Veritas. Or a "baby" plane.



The class



Grid



Jason Nemeec with his finished Kumiko panel

# Online Sale Tool Market Marked a Year+

By *Lee Hilt, Chair*

On August 1st, 2020, NWA held its first Online Sale. The event was organized and conducted by the NWA Auction Committee. The process was expected to be a temporary substitute to the club's yearly auction held each fall at the Shaker Barn. Large gatherings such as in person auctions are not feasible considering COVID restrictions, but the club still needed operating revenue.

The online format relies heavily on the volunteers' many hands and many hours. Most of the work is conducted behind the scenes and is unknown to the general membership. Donations of wood, tools and equipment are accepted and picked up from anyone and anywhere, often many miles away. Items are transported to the barn after a "cleanout" is conducted of the donor's shop. Many of these cleanouts require member volunteers' pickup trucks, trailers, SUVs and more than a few strong backs. All items picked up are next tagged, photographed and cataloged. A spreadsheet is prepared, research for pricing based on similar or comparable items is done, and all relevant data are formatted for posting to the NWA Tool Market website.

The remaining steps are more public and typically begin with an E-Blast to members announcing the sale and a "Live" date announced, normally the first Saturday of the month. It's at this time that folks buy items via email, establish a payment method, and schedule their pickup time for the following Saturday.

The Auction Committee conducted three Online sales in fall 2020. With the successful outcome, the monthly Tool Market was launched in January 2021.

Many unique tools donated were offered to members, as well as Baltic Birch and other high-end plywoods and four dozen 40 year-old redwood 2x4x8' studs.

The online sale process has developed into a steady source of revenue for the NWA in these financially stressed times, as well as allowing members to buy some lumber, tools, and equipment at very reasonable prices. We've had a few growing pains, however. Some members still want to think of this as an auction.

An auction allows for all parties to stand in the same area, bid on the same item, and even outbid other attendees. These are not options for an online format.

The price marked is the price that will take the item. That and the **first** email in, determined by the date/time stamp after 12:00:00 PM on a given sale date, determines the buyer.

Going forward, we'll be looking at an NWA Garage Sale in October, where many of the smaller items that have accumulated in the barn will be offered either in "lots" or for less than \$10 each. Most of these items are too small and too low in value to be posted to our Tool Market website. Watch for an Eblast announcing this event.

Finally, we're not sure how much longer the online format will be needed or when we'll get back to a traditional in- person auction. But until that time, our current format will continue, and it will mean a lot of work for a few. Please consider volunteering for one or more of the areas I outlined above.

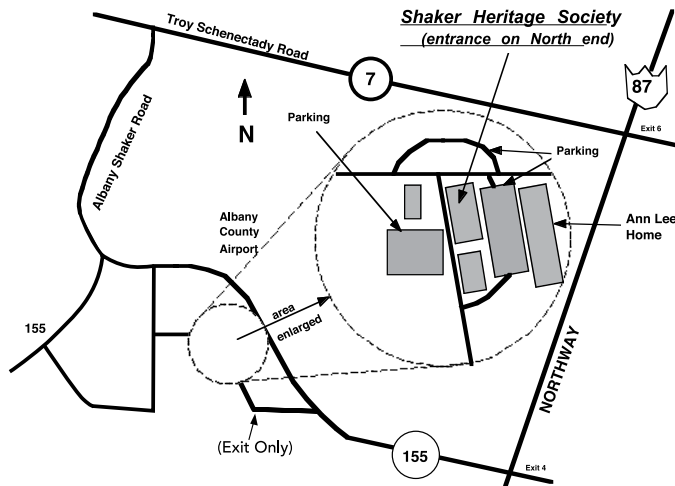
The next volunteer I turn away will be the first volunteer I turn away!



*Volunteers (left to right) front row Lee Hilt, Juliana Shei, Austin Spang, Dave Mobley, Don Cooke Back row Rick Bird, Ray Puffer, Dick Flanders, Jon Cochran*

# October Meeting

Thursday, October 14th, 2021 7:00 PM  
Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse  
25 Meeting House Road, Albany, NY



## 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:** Kevin Ramsey Cell 518-769-9665 or kmrammer@yahoo.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 **Contact:** Kevin Ramsey Cell 518-769-9665 or kmrammer@yahoo.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 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

**Scrollers SIG** - Meets every Monday and Wednesday 6 to 8:30 PM. Contact Pam Bucci woodglass2@gmail.com 518-429-6440 (for Mondays) Kay McCampbell kmcccampbell@nycap.rr.com 518-371-9608

### CHAPTERS

**NWA Mid-Hudson** - The chapter meets on Zoom at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday, except July. Post Covid, in-person meetings will take place on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Hudson River Maritime Museum located at 50 Rondout Landing, Kingston NY 12401 **Contact:** midhudsonwoodworkers.org Bill Sterling, President - 845-532-3754 wster1156@aol.com