



SHELTER and SHARE

January 15, 2021

I don't know about you, but I am really missing the activities and getting-togethers of NW Basket Weaver's Guild. So, I've talked to a bunch of members and we came up with this project: *The Shelter in Place and Share Basket Making with Grab-bags Event*, which I am calling "Shelter and Share" since SiPaSBMwGE is confusing and awkward. The idea is to have fun by challenging yourself to make a basket from a grab bag of free materials. Or, if you prefer, just make a basket in the spirit of the event.

So far, we have come up with 3 ways to participate.

- 1) sealed grab bags will be available at various people's houses/garages to pick up. The grab bags will be free, 1 to a member, about a grocery bag sized clear bag. They will be stocked with free materials from our storage locker plus various member's donations.
- 2) if you live a long way from the Seattle area, and/or want to pair with a friend, you are welcome to share materials between you.
- 3) if you want to work with materials you already have, please join in for the community part.

Relevant dates:

By January 26th

If you want to participate, please email Barbara Osborne by January 26 at basketmaker47@gmail.com. We need to know by then so we can plan for how many grab bags to prepare and where the bags need to be distributed. **Include your phone number, email and physical address in your email.** Please indicate if you already have someone in mind to exchange materials with and therefore do not need a grab bag, or if you would like to work with your own materials. For people outside the Seattle area, I can help you find someone to exchange with.

Mid-February

The distribution of grab bags will happen mid-February, Valentine's Day would be nice (suggested by the romantic Jill Green). Grab bag pickups will be scheduled so that people aren't arriving at the same time due to COVID-19 precautions.

March 10th Guild Meeting

There will be a check-in at the March 10 Guild meeting where people can ask for help or share stories about what has happened so far.

April 14th Guild Meeting – The Finale

The April 14 meeting will be devoted to sharing and more brain storming/problem solving (as in, how can I finish this basket?). Everyone will be encouraged to show their projects at the Zoom meeting in whatever stage they are, from a pile of unused materials to finished. Expect praise and encouragement!

So far, people have volunteered to hosts grab bag locations in Seattle, Tacoma and Kirkland. We are looking for more hosts in areas that will make this event not so Seattle-Tacoma centric. We would like to find a grab bag hosts for the Kitsap Peninsula, Olympic Peninsula, Ellensburg or Yakima, Tri-cities, etc. For people who are far flung, like Canada, California, Oregon, Idaho and Entiat I am willing to work with you to find an exchange partner.

If you are willing to be a host, or to drive a box of grab bags somewhere, please let me know. I have this adventure fantasy that I will take the ferry to Kingston with a box of grab bags and hand them over to someone who has driven down from Port Townsend or Sequim.

Please join us in sharing free materials and making baskets. There will be materials distributed in Covid 19 respecting ways, experienced basket makers sharing via phone, FaceTime, Skype and Zoom with people who have questions about their projects, people meeting people they have never connected to before, conversations about how hard it is to prepare cedar bark, who to call if we have another flooding event, how to make the best squash soup, grandchild bragging, and community. Please feel encouraged to try materials or ideas you never have before. Who knows what will come of this!

Missing everyone and hoping to connect,
Barbara Osborne
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