

# Great Basin Basketmakers



Continuing 10,000 Years of Basket Arts

**July 3, 2025 10 am—3 pm**  
**Sparks Masonic Center**

We will have a short business meeting in July, then present an open studio day in

conjunction with ARTOWN. <https://artown.org/event-details.asp?ID=6933>

Please bring any projects you would like to work on or need help with—for those of you that need to finish the rim on your market basket, please bring it. Feel free to bring your favorite material to showcase a project. There will be a variety of projects that visitors can attempt to make—plaited grocery bag baskets, twisted 7 braid, pipe cleaner baskets, cordage, etc.

## Newsletter

**Summer 2025**  
**Volume 39 Number 7**

**Edited by**  
**Karen Olson**

[www.greatbasinbasketmakers.org](http://www.greatbasinbasketmakers.org)

Zoom



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**STARRY SKIES TO NEON LIGHTS**  
**- SPIRIT OF THE Silver State**

**2025 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree**

**We Need**

**Handmade Ornaments**  
of varying sizes that are lightweight and durable, colorful and reflective!

Use natural, recyclable or repurposed materials. Ornaments cannot include any commercial logos, political affiliations, or be divisive or offensive. No sharp edges. Ornaments cannot be returned.

**Help us make 10,000 ornaments to represent Nevada**

**3,500**  
9 - 12 inches  
weatherproof

**500**  
8 - 10 inches

**6,000**  
4 - 6 inches

**Suggested Themes**

Uniquely Nevada, "Home Means Nev"  
Nevada traditions & people  
Iconic landscapes & special places in  
How Nevadans enjoy public land  
The wild plants, animals, & geology of  
What public lands represent  
Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl

All ornaments should be submitted no later than: **September 15, 2025.**  
Drop off at ANY Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest office or mail to:  
2025 Capitol Christmas Tree Ornaments  
1536 S. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701  
Contact [courtney.giglietti@usda.gov](mailto:courtney.giglietti@usda.gov) for ornament questions  
[www.uscapitolchristmastree.com](http://www.uscapitolchristmastree.com)

There's an opportunity to make Christmas Ornaments for the US Capitol Christmas tree—so be thinking about what we can make or if we want to participate.

Tule reindeer, willow Christmas trees, willow stars, twig reindeer. They have to be collected by September 15, so it may be something to do in August and/or at the September meeting. The ornaments should be larger than 4".

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kathleen Nojima, Reno, NV  
Jess Kindred, Reno, NV

# Summer Schedule

**Tule Ginger Jar Class**  
**July 17, 2025**  
**9:30 am—3:00 pm**  
**Instructor: Sue Ann Monteleone**  
**Sparks Masonic Center**

This basket is a rounded globular jar shape made of tule (Schoenoplectus acutus). We will use plain twining, three-strand twining and finish with a plaited rim. We will work on our skills of shaping and manipulating with our tule.

Tools: scissors, bone or wood awl, spray bottle or sponge, small towel  
Bring your lunch and beverage.

Class limit – 12

Weaving level – Intermediate

Fees – Members - \$35/non-members \$40

Materials - \$20



Contact Sue Ann Monteleone, 775-721-1817, [samonte@charter.net](mailto:samonte@charter.net)  
Please sign up by 4 days before class – materials have to be prepared.

August 7, 2025 - GBB Guild Meeting - Sparks Masonic Center - 10 am to 3 pm



The program for the day will be presented by Gayleen Roy.  
We will be making beaded Earrings using a variety of seed beads—there will be a \$5 charge for materials.

**September Newsletter Editor: Karen Olson**  
**[kvmikesell@hotmail.com](mailto:kvmikesell@hotmail.com)**

**Please submit articles for the September newsletter by Aug 12**



*For many years the Native American Choctaw tribe was well known for making utilitarian baskets, a tradition they aim to preserve today. One of these baskets commonly called an Elbow Basket was used to hold utensils and dry herbs. Choctaw baskets are traditionally made from river cane, harvested near where they were living. In addition to the natural cane color they incorporated yellow, red, brown/black into their baskets. The cane was dyed naturally using plant roots, tree bark and nut hulls that grew in the area. The dye absorbs darker into the inside of the cane, so this part faced outwards on their baskets. Some Choctaw weavers still make their baskets with these traditional materials, while others have now use reed instead of cane and commercial dyes for their color.*

*By: Beverly Ashton- Vickers*

### **Choctaw Style Elbow Basket**

**August 21, 2025**

**9:30 am – 3:00 pm**

**Instructor: Nettie Fox**

**Sparks Masonic Center**

In this class we will be using natural and dyed reed for our baskets.

Tools: Packing tool, sharp scissors, clothes pins, pencil, ruler, spoke weights, towel, spray bottle, soaking bucket.

Class Fee: \$35 members/\$40 non-members

Material Fee: \$25

For more information or to sign-up for this class contact Nettie at [keepitwild@gmail.com](mailto:keepitwild@gmail.com)

Don't forget your lunch and drink.



June 5, Program  
7 strand braiding.

L-R: Gloria, Kat,  
Trisha, Shelley,  
Kathleen, Nettie,  
and Gayleen.



*Special Event*

**Square Work Willow Workshop  
With Margaret Mathewson  
October 14, 15, 16, 2025  
at St. Mary's Art Center, Virginia City, Nevada**

Join us at the historic St. Mary's Art Center for three days and two nights of basketweaving and comradery.



We will learn to weave a strong rectangular tool basket with blunt corners, raised sides and roped handle. We will make a base with stakes woven in process. Techniques will include 3 rod waling, randing, slewing, cut stick packing, and a 4 rod behind 2 border with 2 possible styles of cornering. Weavers must be intermediate to advanced.

**Cost of 3-day class, materials & lodging— \$460.00**

(\$230 deposit with registration, balance due Sept. 4, 2025)

Contact Sue Ann Monteleone - samonte@charter.net, 775-721-1817 or  
Karen Olson - kvmikesell@hotmail.com, 775-843-1361 for more information.



**October 14-16, 2025**

***GBB presents a 3 day workshop/retreat***

**Square Work Willow Basket with Margaret Mathewson**

**St. Mary's Art Center, 55 North R Street, Virginia City, Nevada**

Please join us in the Historical District of Virginia City for three days of weaving with Margaret Mathewson. This workshop will be held at the old St. Mary Louise Hospital originally built in 1876, later becoming St. Mary's Art Center in 1964. There are 16 guest rooms, 5 1/2 restrooms with showers, 2 large kitchen facilities, a library, a theater, and a large sunlit room for classes on four floors.

**FYI: there are two flights of stairs between each floor to negotiate (no elevator)** **Brief floor descriptions:**  
**Lowest floor** — kitchens, 1 guest room, 1/2 bath; **Ground floor** — 7 guest rooms, 3 full shower/bathrooms;  
**Upper floor** — 5 guest rooms, 2 full shower/bathrooms and the **Workshop Classroom**; **Top floor** — 2 guest rooms, library, and theater. Some of the guest rooms have multiple beds: some queens, doubles and even twins (no hospital beds.)

Participants will need to provide their breakfast foods, drinks and coffee. Evening meals may be catered and we ask everyone to bring a salad to share for lunches. After registration we will coordinate with participants on lunches and dinners. At this time there are no meals included in the **\$460** fee.

Registration opens **June 5, 2025** submit this registration form with your deposit of **\$230**. It will be first come/first serve, after receiving the first 12 registrants we will begin a wait list. A notification will be sent out to all registrants. The balance of **\$230** is due by **September 4, 2025**. Please make checks payable to: **GBB, PMB 293, 8175 S. Virginia St. #850, Reno, NV, 89511.**

**Cancellation/Refund Policy:** A full refund of fees paid if cancelled prior to the final payment deadline of 9/4/2025. No refunds after 9/4/2025 unless there is a replacement attendee from a wait list. Any cancellation must be in writing and mailed to: **GBB, PMB 293, 8175 S. Virginia St. #850, Reno, NV 89511, or emailed to Sue Ann Monteleone at samonte@charter.net.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Diet Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

**I understand that a refund of deposit fees may be obtained until September 4, 2025.  
After this date, no refunds will be issued unless there is a replacement attendee.**

**Participant Signature (required):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**June 5, 2025 GBB General Meeting Minutes**  
Submitted by April Barber

Great Basin Basketmakers minutes, June 5, 2025 attendance: 17 in person, 2 on Zoom.  
Karen Olson called the meeting to order at 10:10 am at the Sparks Masonic Center  
Minutes of May meeting approved as printed.

Membership: New member Kathleen Nojima from Reno, NV

Programs: Today's meeting program will be a 7-strand twisted braid taught by Betty and Trisha, who have materials for us to use and a video to watch to learn how to make the braid.  
For the July 3 meeting it will be an open house in conjunction with Artown where participants may observe or for a small fee join us for a simple class to make a tension tray or simple bag/map basket, or a twisted braid. Demonstrating a weaving skill or weaving on unfinished basket is encouraged to show your weaving skills to future members.

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday classes: June 19 - Karen will teach a class on how to design and make a basket using the raffle kits from the retreat. You may also bring your own materials from home. \$35 for the class for members and \$10 materials fee.

July 17 - Sue Ann will teach a rounded vase-shaped intermediate level tule basket class.

Special Workshop report: Sue Ann announced that Margaret Mathewson will teach willow square work at St. Mary's Art Center in Virginia City, NV October 14-16. Only 12 may attend so sign up soon by calling or emailing Karen or Sue Ann.

Shows and Exhibits: The exhibit at the Sparks Library will be July-August and have a theme of Retreat Projects. The Northwest Library exhibit will be for smaller baskets. This exhibit could include demonstrations or a workshop. Spanish Springs Library exhibit will be Nov-Dec and also has display areas for smaller baskets.

Library report: Lorrie says the library has been re-organized and is in the process of being labeled.

Announcements: Thank you to Mary Lee Fulkerson for donating books to the retreat at Tahoe in May. Thank you to Susan Lester who came to the meeting and donated wonderful materials to GBB, some of which will be used for the June class.

### **Library Shows & Exhibits - 2025**

Sparks Library is still scheduled for July-August, no events are scheduled. Install of the exhibit is scheduled for June 30, if you would like to help please contact Sue Ann.

The theme for the exhibit is focusing on the fifteen years we've been meeting and weaving at Lake Tahoe for our annual Retreat at Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center.

Northwest Library Exhibit (Robb Dr) is scheduled for September-October with the possibility of planned events in September. There are several medium to small cases, and the possibility of a new larger case.

Spanish Springs Library exhibit is scheduled for November-December. We are looking for volunteers for the exhibit install and possible activities at the library.

Contact Karen Olson if you are interested in volunteering.

## 2025 Officers and Committee Members

President: Karen Olson  
 Vice President : Betty Hulse  
 Guild Secretary: Vacant  
 Treasurer: April Barber  
 Membership: Betty Hulse

Board Chair: Trisha Work  
 Board At Large: Nettie Fox  
 Board At Large: Jennifer Jay  
 Board At Large: Sue Ann Monteleone  
 Board At Large: Lorrie Moore

Committees: Library: Lorrie Moore; Special Workshops: Sue Ann Monteleone; Exhibits & Shows: Mary Goo, Veda Keefe; Grants: Betty Hulse, Karen Olson; Raffle: Lorrie Moore; Website: Jennifer Jay; Newsletter Editors: Sue Ann Monteleone, Karen Olson.

If you are able to volunteer your service to help out GBB in any way, please contact Betty Hulse at 775-747-5794 or email to [betty.hulse5@yahoo.com](mailto:betty.hulse5@yahoo.com)

**Consolidated Thread Mills** Located Fall River, MA [www.consolidatedthreadmills.com](http://www.consolidatedthreadmills.com) 508-672-0032  
 Good source artificial sinew, waxed linen and craft cords. Call for pricing.

**Royalwood Ltd** Located Mansfield, OH [www.royalwoodltd.com](http://www.royalwoodltd.com) 800-526-1630  
 Books, patterns, weaving materials, reed, waxed linen, caning supplies, shaker tape, Spend \$100.00 or more and qualify for wholesale prices.

**The Caning Shop** 926 Gilman St, Berkeley, CA 94710 [www.caning.com](http://www.caning.com) 800-544-3373  
 Your source for caning, basketry and gourd crafting supplies, tools, and books.

**V. I. Reed and Cane, Inc** Located in Omaha NE [www.basketweaving.com](http://www.basketweaving.com) 800-852-0025  
 Reed, tools, caning, books and kits. Good quality of reed.

### ***Great Basin Basketmakers Membership Application/Renewal***

**Annual Membership Dues:**

Electronic newsletter recipients: ☐ Individual: \$25/year (\$10 additional/year for family membership)  
 Hard Copy newsletter recipients: ☐ Individual: \$35/year (\$10 additional/year for family membership)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

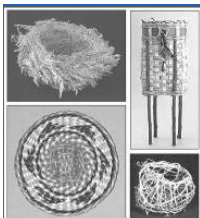
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Send this completed form and check payable to Great Basin Basketmakers and mail to:*

**Great Basin Basketmakers  
 PMB 293  
 8175 S. Virginia St. #850  
 Reno, Nevada 89511**





**Great Basin Basketmakers**  
PMB 293  
8175 S. Virginia St. #850  
Reno, NV 89511



NEW ZEALAND FLAX

## **Great Basin Basketmakers** Established January 1987

Meetings the first Thursday of each month at Sparks Masonic Center located at 2425 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV. Our new hours for meetings are 10 AM for our business meeting, followed by show and tell, then a mini workshop. All are welcome and we will be providing ZOOM access for those members who can't attend the meeting.

Membership dues for Great Basin Basketmakers are \$25 per yr, \$10 extra per yr. for family membership (living at the same address), \$10 extra for a mailed newsletter. Membership includes monthly newsletter, access to large library and reduced workshop rates. Dues are to be paid annually in January.

Please direct address, email changes, membership dues, and requests for membership to:

GBB  
PMB 293  
8175 S. Virginia St. #850  
Reno NV 89511

Questions regarding workshops, events, etc. may be directed to our email at [gbbreno@gmail.com](mailto:gbbreno@gmail.com)  
or check our website at: [www.greatbasinbasketmakers.org](http://www.greatbasinbasketmakers.org).

If you would like to submit to GBBs Facebook page please send to [GBBFBpage@gmail.com](mailto:GBBFBpage@gmail.com)

## **Our Mission Statement**

The main focus of the Great Basin Basketmakers is to make baskets, to learn everything possible about the tradition and techniques of basketry and to pass this knowledge along to others.

