

# THE Wood Rack



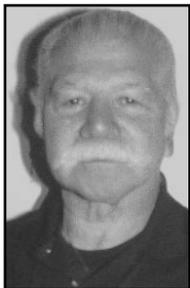
OCTOBER 2001

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 2

## NEXT MEETING: Wed., Oct. 3, 7 p.m., Brush Barn, Smithtown

### **NEXT MEETING:** Fred Barrett techniques of guitar making.

*The September meeting will feature Fred Barrett, who will discuss the techniques involved in the construction of his guitars. Fred's guitar was an award winner at our recent show. It is nice to have a club member speak again at our monthly meeting.*



### President's Message

By Gabe Jaen

I'm presented with a problem trying to come up with words that deal with woodworking at the present time. I've resorted to woodworking to try to get my mind off of this horrible act of terrorism that has been committed against our country, but that doesn't last long, and the concentration is not there. Like all of you, I can't stop thinking of the many lives lost. Yesterday's priorities seem bland in comparison to today's. I hope none of our members have been affected directly, though I know some you are in the fire and police departments – even volunteer fire departments.

I try to take solace and pride in the heroic efforts of all those involved in trying to save what lives may still be buried in that pile of rubble. I grieve, as you do, and at times feel helpless and angry. The turnout of people wanting to help has been so overwhelming that to give blood you may to wait hours or days. Perhaps there is something we can do as a Club.

Owen Brady and Steve Costello are going to act as a committee that will collect from members a donation that we can send to a credible agency or organization that will distribute it to families that have been hurt financially as a result of this tragic event. I hear that member Charlie James, a retired NYC Fireman, is collecting from the Woodcarvers

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### Secretary's Report

Owen Brady & Steve Costello



The first fall meeting was held on Wednesday, Sept. 5, with a full house. Gabe,

hopefully making his last appearance in shorts for the season, started at exactly 7 p.m. with the sad news of the passing of Charlie Wilson last week. Gabe reminded the membership of the importance of PSA testing for the gentlemen members over 40 and brought to our attention scheduled free testing at Stonybrook Prostate Care Center. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Winners of the prizes of Show 2001 were presented with their certificates signed by the selection committee of Mario Rodriguez, Ian Kirby and Struther Purdy. Recipients were:

#### **Toys**

**1st Place:** Kenny LoFink – Fire engine

**2nd Place:** Bob Urso – Long Train

**3rd Place:** Frank Allaire – Small Horse

#### **Scroll Work**

**1st Place:** Flo Leitgeb – Screen

**2nd Place:** John Hons – Lord's Prayer

**3rd Place:** Alain Tiercy – Clock

#### **Furniture and Cabinets**

**1st Place:** Mike Daum – Hall Stand

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## President's Message continued ...

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Club for the families of lost firemen. The organization is the UFA Widows and Children Fund, and the entire contribution goes to the widows and children. The administration costs are borne by the Firemen's Union. Maybe we should pool all the contributions together?

At the October meeting, Steve and Owen will collect checks or cash from the members. Checks can be made out to the UFA fund directly or to the Long Island Woodworkers Club and we will write out a check to the fund. Charlie, Steve and Owen

will deliver the contributions to the authorized person.

The last thing I want to do as the Club's president is to use this column as my public forum to voice my opinion on things not related to wood-working, and I won't, but this horrible act of terrorism I can't ignore. My only message to you all is this: be happy for those who survived, pray for those gone, provide emotional support for those who have lost a loved one, and feel pride for those heroes who have given of themselves unselfishly. God Bless America.

## Secretary's Report continued ....

*Continued from page 1*

**2nd Place:** Brian Hayward – Cradle

**3rd Place:** John Keane – Crib

### **Other Projects**

**1st Place:** Fred Barrett – Guitar

**2nd Place:** Joe Pascucci – Maple Plane

**3rd Place:** Leo Meliak – Zebrawood Table

**Best in Show:** Art Schryver – Tall Hall Clock

Show and Tell consisted of a fretwork clock by Flo Leitgeb and display and storage boxes by John Marada. Gene Kelly described some bargains that he had found in new and used tools at County Power Tools on Commack Road, in Commack.

Tom Clancy kicked off the Toys-for-Tots campaign, reminding members of the great record we achieved the previous year and distributed wood which was donated by Home Depot.

Prize winners in the raffle were Fernand Neuenschwander – sweater with club logo; Bob Urso – chisel; Bob Honor and Jim Leon – aprons with club logo; and Karl Blessing – tee shirt with club logo.

As he had noted in his newsletter message, Gabe mentioned that Jim Cosgrove and Jim Ruppel will not continue as editors of the LIWC newsletter. Gabe thanked Jim Cosgrove for his long service as the Editor-in-Chief and Jim Ruppel for his work as our Layout Editor. The combined effort of these two editors has enhanced the appearance, style and con-

tent of the newsletter. Several clubs have written to Gabe and remarked how envious they were of our newsletter. Gabe made an appeal to the members for volunteers to fill these vacancies.

Bob Urso made a report on Show 2001. Overall the results contributed to the general awareness of the Club and contributed modestly – some \$700 plus dollars – to the Club's treasury (compared to \$3,400 last year). Bob spoke forcefully on the generally low level of support from the Club's membership in mounting Show 2001. He cited the low incidence of member exhibits, poor turnout of volunteers and examples of Club members leaving early with their exhibits while the general public was still coming in. There was a discussion as to whether or not there should be a show at all this year. No final decision was made, but the matter will be pursued by the board. Gabe reminded the membership that it was our show, and it was up to each one of us to contribute to this effort.

This month's speaker was our own Mike Daum who gave a masterful presentation on various mortise and tenon joints used in making fine furniture with many illustrations and examples of variations of this type of joint and where each should be used in different circumstances. His presentation generated a lively and lengthy question and answer session. Everyone was quite pleased with the presentation, and we hope that Mike will be a regular speaker at the meetings.

# Finding Comfort Amid The Chaos

By Mike Daum

With so much destruction and chaos in the world around us, let us woodworkers take solace in the fact that we are the builders – the creators of beauty, of form and of function. Our mission is to bring into this world, not take away from it. We develop a sense of pride from our work, which in tense times may be just enough to keep our chin up and take the edge off, and help to reject any guilt we may feel because we truly enjoy something in the presence of so much pain and suffering. We know we are contributing.

My family and I headed out East the Sunday after the tragedy. We all needed the drive and the break away from the news. We ended up in East Hampton, where I finally made a visit to the famed Pritam & Eames Gallery, specialists in American Studio Furniture. I had read of this gallery from Woodwork magazine's Events listing, which included Pritam & Eames' 20th Anniversary Exhibition May 25th - July 3rd. I never made it to the event.

Walking through that door allowed me an outpouring of emotion – an exchange of five days of horrific scenery for just one hour's view of absolute magnificence. The pieces displayed there are, as one patron commented, museum-quality. Flawless craftsmanship, intriguing designs, and exotic wood choices are exactly the three elements I relish in woodworking.

I had heard of some of the artisans – Jere Osgood, Michael Hurwitz, Hank Gilpin. The latter two had pieces dominating the gallery. There are over a dozen more woodworkers, both male and female, with pieces on display. My favorite was Bill Walker's bubinga sideboard with drawers. The influence of his teacher, James Krenov, was apparent throughout the piece. His contemplative design and use of joinery caught my eye.

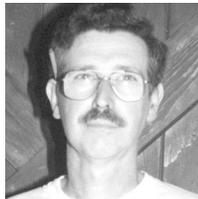
I could fill this newsletter with

descriptions of the woodwork, sculptures, jewelry, and more, but I would instead encourage all to see for themselves the quality of craftsmanship you aspire to achieve. After all, aspiration can beget inspiration, and vice versa. It works for me.

I chatted with owners Warren Eames and Bebe Pritam Johnson before I left. They knew of the LIWC, but not of our activities. I will keep in touch with them for possible involvement in the club. When asked what criteria they require for pieces to be included in the gallery, they both waved around the showroom, and before a word was spoken, it was clear they would say, "Be as good as they are."

With renewed vigor, I'm off to work.

Pritam & Eames  
27-29 Race Lane  
East Hampton, NY 631-324-7111



## NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

By Bob Urso

As I write this I am preparing for a show committee meeting tonight. Those of you who were at the Sept. meeting are aware of the concerns voiced for next year's show. Close to 100 percent of those in attendance returned the questionnaires handed out, and that will help us make determinations regarding Show 2002. Thank you for your comments and suggestions.

### Upcoming Events

**October 28** – The Smithtown Historical Society's Heritage Festival scheduled for Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> has been rescheduled for Oct 28<sup>th</sup>. We will have a Club table at this event.

**November Meeting** – T.B.A.

**December 5** – Annual Toys-For-Tots Meeting.

## THE MARKETPLACE



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