

# THE Wood Rack



APRIL 2001

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

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## NEXT MEETING: Wed., April 4, 7 p.m., Brush Barn, Smithtown

### NEXT MEETING: Q&A with John White of Fine Woodworking

*Mr. White manages Fine Woodworking magazine's shop and is their Consulting Editor. He has expertise in both hand and power tools, and along with shop management he is involved with tool and product evaluations and testing. He has in the past operated a shop using only hand tools for five years. The meeting will begin with a short introduction by this extremely qualified woodworker and then will evolve into a question and answer session on tools and techniques. Be sure to come with questions and take notes.*



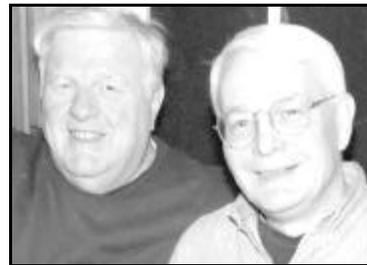
### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Gabe Jaen

For a woodworker, what could be a worse nightmare than to have the shop you've worked in for years go through a drastic change? Maybe it's because you've moved into a bigger or smaller house, so now your shop floor area and location are different. It may be smaller or larger, but it's still changed, and it's confusing and annoying. You try to arrange your new space the same way you had it before, but it just won't work. Either a stairway is in the way, or it's on a different wall, and so now you've lost some wall space you needed for the machine you were going to put there. Or the outlets are all wrong, or there's a lolly column in the way.

It doesn't matter that you've gained some additional real estate! Now you've got to figure out what to do with it, but that's not what you want to do. You just want to work wood or finish that incomplete project. But you can't; the saw's in the wrong place, and the nearest available power is too far away. So you sit and think for the next few days and mentally try to rearrange your space, and then you start to move machinery and tool cabinets around. But that was only move number one, only to be followed by at least two more.

*continued on page 2*

### SECRETARY'S REPORT



Owen Brady  
& Steve Costello

The meeting started promptly at 7 p.m. as usual. Gabe greeted everyone present and commented on the good attendance. He got right to the point of the purpose of the club, and that is to educate woodworkers. He cited as an example our website as a source where members can exchange ideas and ask questions instead of having to wait for the next meeting. He urged us all to make use of this resource at [www.liwoodworkers.org](http://www.liwoodworkers.org).

Gabe urged all members to support the club by paying their dues. Joe Bottigliere, in his membership report, mentioned that of the 218 members on our rolls, only 149 have paid the current year's dues.

One of the highlights of the evening was the unveiling of the new Club Workbench, designed and built by Rich Weil, John Sieple and Graham Kelly. The bench features an ingenious knockdown design for easy transportation and storage. The bench top, which is laminated hard maple, secures to the bench by way of two pairs of oak sliding dovetail cleats. The leg assembly is connected to the side rails using bedrail hardware. Congratulations to all involved for a job well done.

Bob Urso showed a spokeshave he was making, featuring an inset throat made of Corian, a creative use of a new material.

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## President's Message continued ....

*Continued from page 1*

How do I know this? Well, I am going through this nightmare now. All I did was replace an old furnace that measured 2 feet by 5 feet by 4 feet high and was in the middle of my shop. It was a foot and half from the wall. The space was useless – except for the top that I used for some tools when I was working nearby. The new furnace measures 2 feet by 2 feet by 2 feet, and it is also in the middle of the shop. But it also replaced the hot water heater. You have no idea the dilemma 10 square feet can cause. I can't believe the change my shop has gone through. I have more room than I ever could have dreamed of.

So why am I now moaning and groaning? Well, putting priorities in their proper place, nothing is more important than getting my shop squared away. It's my trial and tribulation – moving equipment around, adding shelves, rearranging my workbench, dreading the thought that I have to take down my wall-mounted tool cabinets to be more accessible to my workbench. Mind you, I do this with some troubled joy, thinking about all this new space I now have, but I can only think about how many times I'll have to change it all again because it doesn't flow like my old shop. I tell you, it's like starting a new job. Oh well, maybe now I can get that dust collector I've been thinking about, or that drum sander, or that bigger surface planer. Let me see – hmm. Oh oh! The wife wants me to go shopping with her; I'll put on a sad face while I hug my new Lie-Nielsen plane.

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## Secretary's Report continued ....

*Continued from page 2*

The raffle prizes were won by Joe Pascucci - Bessey Clamp; Owen Brady - turning chisel; and Lou Parisi - set of paring chisels.

Bob Urso brought us up to date on presentations and guest speakers planned for future months. It should be a very interesting time.

The guest speakers of the evening were John Matchak and Aime Fraser, who gave a comprehensive review of the relative merits of several brands of mortising machines.

Charlie James demonstrated his ability to make mortises and tenons using hand tools only.

## Letters to the Editor

**By James F. Ruppel**

Woodrack Layout Editor

This month's President's Message provoked a strong reaction from yours truly (*see "I Disagree! below"*) which subsequently provoked an idea for this newsletter: A Letters to the Editor column.

It occurred to me that only a few voices seem to dictate the tone and content of The Woodrack and these voices go unquestioned, unanswered and un-commented upon.

Of course most of us don't have the time or the inclination to write a full-blown article, but we might want to comment on something that someone wrote, whether that comment is to agree, disagree or just to add another point. It could be a sentence or two, or several paragraphs. It's up to you.

This column could also be a place to share quick tips. I know that, for me, some of the most interesting parts of magazines like "Fine Woodworking" are the Letters to the Editor and the Tips sections. I always read these first.

So, send your comments, ideas, thoughts and tips to Jim Cosgrove, Woodrack Editor, 3570 Manchester Road, Wantagh, NY 11793 or (preferably) e-mail him at [ckcos@hotmail.com](mailto:ckcos@hotmail.com).

Be sure to include your name and a phone number or e-mail address where you can be reached if he has any questions.

## *I Disagree!*

**To the Editor:**

Our president must be crazy. I just read his article about the problems he's having because he has MORE ROOM in his shop and I have to say, I don't know what he's talking about. I'm constantly re-laying out my shop. Sometimes I think I enjoy that as much as I do woodworking (well, not quite). It seems I'll never have the perfect layout, but re-arranging and re-organizing things before I start a project gives me time to mull the design over in my head. Plus, I while I'm re-arranging I always seem to make some kind of jig or something to make things easier. So I say, stop complaining Gabe, enjoy whatever time you have in your shop, whether it's rearranging or making sawdust.

**James Ruppel, Bay Shore**



## NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

By Bob Urso

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 30, 31**

**and April 1st.** As many of you know, the American Woodworker Show in N.J. has been cancelled, but there is another show on the same date in W. Springfield, MA.

**May 2nd.** Monthly Meeting. Our speaker will be Mario Rodriguez, and the topic will be veneer basics.

**May 12th.** Seminar at the Barn by Mario Rodriguez. This will be a hands-on seminar, and all participants will construct a fan-shaped veneer piece. You will learn to cut, shade and assemble veneers. Space is limited, sign up ASAP with Joe Pascucci.

### June 2&3. Sixth Annual Club Exhibition and Wood Show.

At this time I would like to re-emphasize that member involvement is crucial to the success of this show. We had a great show last year, and this year it is shaping up to be even better. I will list the individual committee members and their responsibilities. If you can help in any way, please contact these individuals. They have put a lot of work into your show and deserve your help.

First I would like to address what I consider the two most crucial areas.

**The Commercial Vendor Area.** Many of last year's and several new vendors will be exhibiting this year. We still have spaces available, and if you know of anyone interested in exhibiting, please feel free to help. Our goal

is a good mix of quality vendors. Once vendors are acquired, our work is only beginning; we want our show to be a positive experience for all concerned. We would like volunteers on hand to help vendors as needed at set-up, during the show and at break-down. Also please remember to save those woodworking dollars and support our vendors. They are the life of the show.

**Members Exhibit.** If the vendors are the life, then the exhibits are the soul. They show what woodworking is about and are the reason that our shows were started. We need all your exhibits – large or small, simple or detailed. It is all woodworking, and it all belongs in our show.

**Your show committee members are:**

**Owen Brady. Publicity and Advertising.** This is a huge job, please help if you can. We will be distributing signs, posters and \$1off coupons soon, and everyone should plan to be involved.

**Jim Clancy. Toy Workshop.** Toymakers are needed; also machinery or material sponsorship would help.

**Steve Costello. Tool Garage Sale.**

**Kevin Hanson. Our Website Connection.** Check our web-site frequently for updates and info.

**Gabe Jaen. Show Program.**

**Charlie James and Brian Monks. Members Exhibits and Work Assignments.** We have requested that all members return the forms provided to either Charlie or Brian. To date only about 1/3 of the members

have responded. We need this info now – whether or not you will be participating. Consider it an RSVP and a common courtesy to fellow members working hard for your show. Advance planning makes the difference between haphazard display and a professionally run show. Step up. **Leo Meliak. Layout and Printing of Programs, Fliers etc.**

**Joe Pascucci. Show Treasurer and Seminar Coordinator.**

**Bob Urso. Commercial Vendors.**

**Rich Weil. Woodshop Gallery.** An excellent opportunity to sell work at the show. Contact Rich with items for sale and space or display requirements.

In addition, we have the following sub-committees members that need your help:

**Elaine Deazley. LIWC Table and Membership Area.** We are planning continuous demos both days in a number of woodworking disciplines. Members are also needed to staff club membership and info areas.

**John Hons. Lodging.** Thanks for securing economical accommodations for show attendees.

**Ed Schnepf. Signs and Banners.** Help is needed with sign and poster placement. Help is also needed with signs for various club areas in the exhibit building.

**June 6th.** Monthly Meeting and Annual Picnic

**April 21 & 22, 2002.** 7th Annual Show and Exhibition. We are already looking ahead to next year's show.

## What the LI Woodworker's Club Means to Me

**L**ike giving up smoking, woodworking was something I tried a number of times but was never able to keep up enough interest in to make me continue. I can't tell you the number of radial arm saws I purchased and resold just from lack of interest. I guess I wouldn't be doubling the size of my garage now if it were not for the Long Island Woodworkers Club and its members. They are the reason for this expansion.

I can't tell with any certainty how I ever got to the Barn. It was probably the fliers the LIWC put in Woodworkers Warehouse. I attended a meeting and have been hooked on the Club ever since.

The first person that I met there was John Keane. He is not a hard guy to get to like, and after a meeting or two I was down in front of his garage working on a hall mirror. I took to John like ducks take to water. He was always helpful and was willing to share his talents – not only with me but with anyone. Gabe I saw in the Club, but I started to get to know him when I visited his shop. He warned me about the limited height of his shop, but that didn't stop me. Gabe and I have been great pals since. He has been down to my shop, I have been to his on many occasions. I find that Gabe is a great teacher

who has had experience in all sorts of things and will not hesitate to share it with anyone.

I have enjoyed visiting the shops of Graham Kelly, Brian Monks, Brian Hayward, Vic Werny, Gene Kelly, John Hons, Kenny LoFink, Charlie James, Bob Urso, Joe Pascucci and Owen Brady's clean room. Charlie, Gabe, Owen and myself had the privilege of making an altar for a mass said for the visiting relics of St. Theresa. We now refer to ourselves as "the Choirboys," or – as I say – "the Altar Boys."

Woodworking has opened and renewed an avenue of relaxation and a hobby for me. It has also allowed me to meet so many of the members who share the same and similar interests. One of the main problems that I had in the past was that I didn't have the sources to turn to when I ran into problems. Now I do, and I am better off for it.

Woodworking is a hobby that will take me well into my retirement years, which I am looking forward to because of this interest. The Club has created or renewed an interest for me. It has giving me a social outlet and, being a very social animal, all I can say is, "Long live the Club."

– Steve Costello

## Member Presentations Are Key to Club's Success

**L**ast month's meeting was about mortises and tenons, and we had the pleasure of having as presenters John Matchak and Aimie Fraser, who incidently joined the Club that night. They are from The Woodworkers Club in Connecticut, and they came down with three different mortising machines, along with a bunch of other things of interest – all this in total disregard of all the snow we had the preceding days. They gave a detailed presentation on the pro's and con's of these three mortising machines and also made them available for purchase at a reduced price. The Woodworkers Club is an independently owned and operated franchise of John and his wife, Ginny. The franchise sells all of the tools that are listed in the Woodcraft catalog, and the store is very well arranged. The Club has available to their members a shop which is also used to give woodworking classes. The classes are varied. Some of them are held on the weekends

and are taught by experts like Ian Kirby, Struther Purdy and other well-known experts.

But on to our own Club expert, Charlie James. Charlie was also available that night, giving his own presentation on how to hand cut mortises and tenons. The crowd around him was three deep and taking in every step of the process. Those sharp chisels that Charlie constantly stays on top of certainly did the job. When he finished and put the two pieces together you could hear the piston-like whoosh sound. Good job, Charlie!

Charlie, like a few others, can always be counted on to share his talents with the members, something we should all strive for, because that is our Club's mission. That should always be at the forefront of our minds and action.

So when can I sign you up for the next meeting presentation?

– Gabe Jaen

## Expo Success Story: Club Inspires New Member

By Mike Daum

Imagine an indecision at a crossroads in your career: stick to your very lucrative home improvement field work, or revive your sorely missed custom woodworking business in your shop.

Last year, that was what I was nervously contemplating at the exact time I was traveling on Rte. 347 and I saw the sign on the Sports Plus building that read "Woodworking Expo." That sign was MY sign for a change. I entered in the last hour of the last day of the show, and I was thankful for every minute left. My heart raced in witnessing a Long Island based woodworking club hosting this event. Seeing all of the reps and vendors (and tools, of course), I made up my mind that I needed to get back to my true passion, fine woodworking. I spent a lot of money that day (my wife wasn't there with me), retrieving tools sold years ago when the economy forced me out of the custom cabinetry market and investing in new products that I've always wanted or needed. Okay, okay, just wanted. AND, most importantly, I found kindred spirits in the art of woodworking.

After attending several months of meetings, I realized that there is a plethora of diverse talent here within our group. But our informational rate of exchange is pretty much limited to our monthly meetings. If I have a question on a product or technique, I invariably end up consulting the folks at Woodworker's Warehouse, or worse yet, Home

Depot. These are salespeople, and for the most part, their guidance often reflects their limit of experience. The Internet newsgroups are also untrustworthy and sometimes contradictory (he says "yes", she says "no"...), and there is no means of physical demonstration of a technique or product. So, I sug-

gested to Gabe that a database be created to give each other an idea of our members' interests, so that we can interact outside of the meetings, and learn from each other.

At the April meeting, a simple, one page member data form will be distributed to each club member. This information

will be compiled and cross-referenced, and a print-out will be available at the May meeting as a reference guide to our members at each meeting, or online on our website.

Then, if I want to buy a HVLP sprayer, I can look up "Finishing" and see who to contact for an endorsement or technique. Before I spend hours devising a design for a jig, I'll check the "Jigs" page, and make an inquiry.

By the way, please make use of the FORUMS on the website as well, or at least log-on to check them over to see if you can be of assistance to someone pulling his/her hair out over something.

And, finally, I want to thank our members for the camaraderie. It is great to know that woodworking is alive and active in our area. It has been an encouragement to me in my ultimate decision to continue working with wood.

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*"... And, most important, I found kindred spirits in the art of woodworking."*

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## Become Part of the Legacy: The Unfinished Armoire

Are you interested in completing a project someone started but couldn't finish because he passed on? There is a person who, for obvious reasons, would like to see the project, an armoire, finished. This person is willing to pay for your help. The armoire, which is made of cherry, is at present just the assembled carcass with the crown molding attached. There are sketches available of

what the person had in mind, and there is enough wood to complete the job. The armoire is in the basement and would have to be removed and taken to your own shop for completion. If you are interested, please let me know. You can call me at 631-269-5130. Please mention that you are a member of LIWC.

— Gabe Jaen

## THE MARKETPLACE

**10-INCH COMPOUND MITER SAW.** Model No. 36-220K, Type III with illustrated manual and extra wood fence. Call Chuck at 631-261-3950.

**12-INCH METAL LATHE.** Includes 5 chucks, 8-inch faceplate, center rest, multi-tool post and many extras. Asking \$550. Call Chuck at 631-261-3950.

**PORTER CABLE OMNI-JIG.** Porter Cable Omnijig 16-inch with 1/4-inch and 1/2-inch half blind dovetail templates and 1/2-inch box joint template. \$250. Call Bob at 631-271-0012.



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