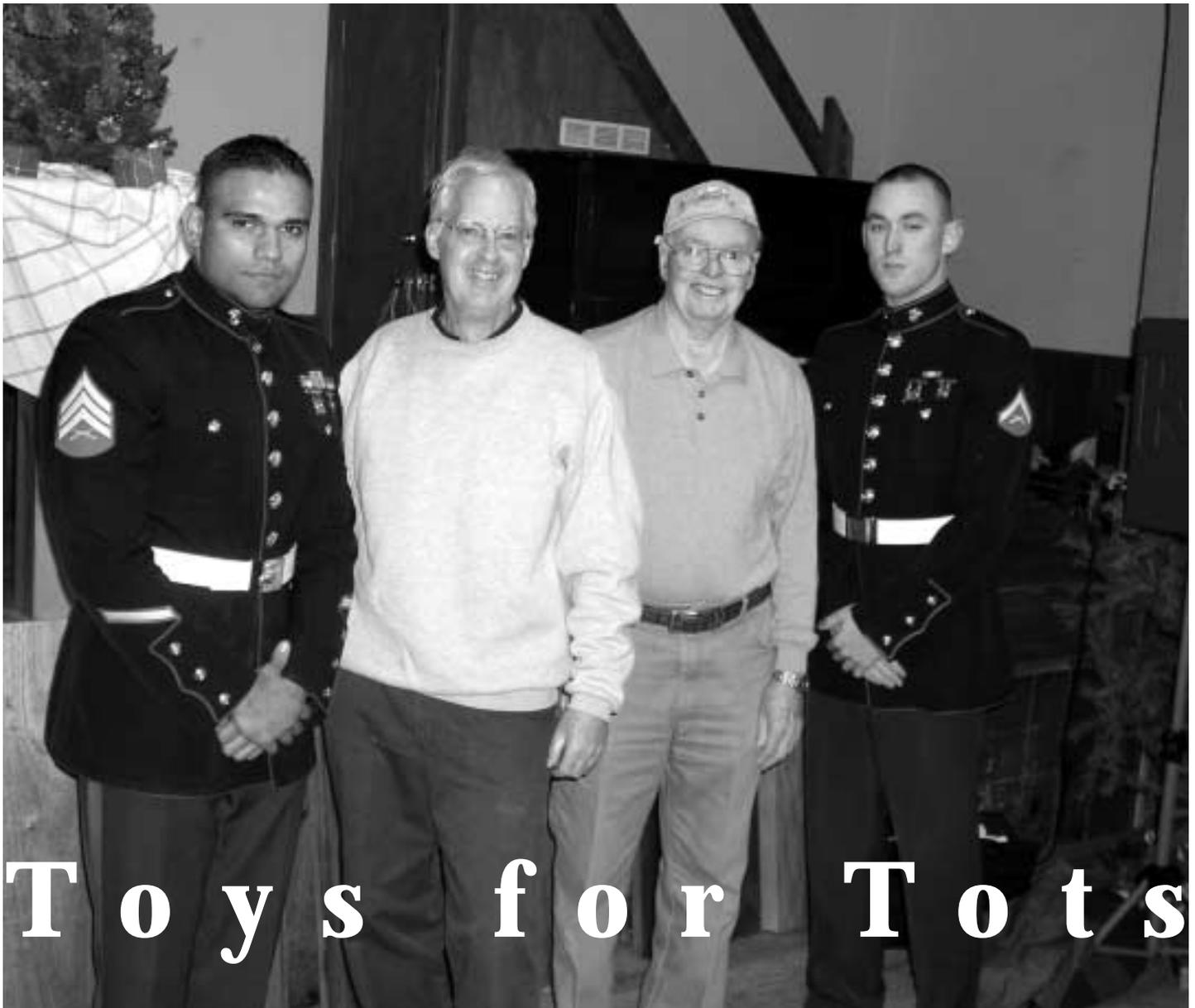
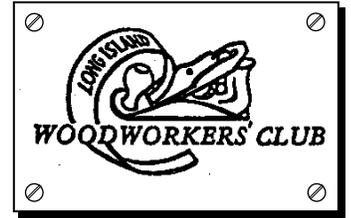


THE Woodrack

January 2007



Happy New Year to All

President's Message



Mike Daum

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<i>Refreshments</i>	Neal Fergenson
<i>Video</i>	Karl Blessing
<i>Photographer</i>	Jim Macallum

The season of giving was quite evident in the Barn on December 6th. I was moved by the abundance of toys that many of us handcrafted or shopped for young children as part of the US Marines' Toys-for-Tots program. A special thank you to Jim Clancy and Frank Allaire for organizing the effort!

I'm not sure if the enthusiasm is greater, or more members are just feeling more confident to share their methods of work - but the January Round Robin will prove to be one of the largest presentations ever. Be sure to attend the meeting to witness and even participate in the many aspects of woodworking that you may regularly utilize in your own shops. It is this interaction of our group that I encourage so much; the exchange of ideas and processes only help to improve our abilities to produce fine projects.

The special guests we had scheduled for December but could not attend will be joining us for the January meeting. Their presentation will be inspirational to all - and frustrating to those who have a tough time hand-cutting dovetails. You'll find out more at the meeting!

I have been approached by several members who are particularly interested in cabinetmaking. I am asking for volunteers to organize the next Special Interest Group (SIG) to join the ranks of the LI Woodturners, the LI Scrollsaw Association, and the 100 Toy Gang. Like these other prosperous SIGS, the Cabinetmakers can meet once a month and develop a program and structure that best suits the criteria in this facet of woodworking. Please approach me at the January meeting if you are interested, or contact me by phone or email (via members listing on the website).

A donation of a sizable amount of lumber has been offered to the club by one of our members. I will be contacting the donor to discuss how best to structure and implement the lumber donation. The frequency of our impromptu auctions at the meetings has been beneficial to our club funds, so it will most likely develop into a member auction held on a weekend. Better start saving...

FEATURES
 Toys For Tots
 Going Pro with Joe Saccente

COLUMNS
President's Message
Show Biz
Secretary's Report
Turner's Guild SIG

"The views expressed within are not necessarily those of the Long Island Woodworkers' Club, it's Board of Directors, or the editorial staff".

The Woodrack

Volume 19 Number 1

Next meeting:

Round Robin
 Starting time 7:00 PM
 January 3rd

Brush Barn



Secretary's Minutes

Gabe Jaen

Mike opened up the meeting reminding members that there are raffle tickets to those members that brought in toys for the Toys-for-Tots program. He then went on to wish everyone happy holidays, however you celebrate it.

He was quick to mention after glancing around the room that the Marines won't be disappointed. At the same time he encouraged everyone to get up and take a look at all the toys that filled several tables and the great turnout of toys by the members.

While waiting for the Marines to land, he talked about the 7th and 8th graders at Prince of Peace school that are involved in some of the basic rudiments of wood-working. This all came about at the request of the school officials and the tutorship of Mike, Rich Macrae and Frank Allaire. The task, making dovetails. The enthusiasm was evident by the several essays the students wrote about their experience. Some of these essays may appear in the next newsletter.

This person was taken by surprise when Mike asked me to say a few words about our recently deceased member and my good friend Owen Brady. I asked Steve Costello to join me in memorializing this wonderful, wonderful gentleman. We both were constant companions of Owen and he will be dearly missed. Owen, for several years attended Woodworking classes at FIT with several of our members and can vouch for any of Steve and my sentiments about him.

Well the Marines have landed; Sgt. Lopez and Lance Cpl. Osborne came in and addressed the members by saying that because of efforts by the Club and other organizations in Suffolk County we have managed to beat Nassau County several times in toys collected. After a short introduction, several members helped the Marines load up their vehicles and off they went. Mission accomplished.

There was just too much going on due to the movement in the Barn but we did have 3 new members. Les

Show Biz

Mike Daum



The dates for our next annual Show are Saturday and Sunday October 6th and 7th, 2007 at the Hofstra University Arena in Uniondale. That leaves us with about 10 months before the Show, and at this point your plans and preparations for your exhibit projects should be finalized. The condition known as Completion Date Stress Disorder (CDS) can affect people differently. Some can manage just fine, smiling brightly as they rub out that final coat of wax at 3:30 am on Thursday, the eve of the Show's exhibit check-in. Most I know and have witnessed exhibit behavior ranging from delirium, blank stares, and repeated sobbing (from relief?). Snarls are also a common sign of CDS. Doctors agree that the only prevention from these symptoms is to effectively complete your projects months in advance of the Show. They agree that winter time is ideal for retreating to your shops frequently, since indoor activity is advisable and provides comfort.

Also recommended is collaboration on a project with a fellow woodworker. If you lack the experience or facility to manage a project, seek out a source at one of our meetings, or post a request on our website forum. I've yet to witness an unresponsive appeal for guidance and help on our forums (let's not mention the recent record-breaking "flagel" thread).

The Show committee does not have facilities to treat CDS, but it has been noted that volunteering early to help with the Show's operations can greatly reduce and help prevent the effects of this condition. A sign-up sheet will be provided at the January meeting. The best advise however, is to complete those projects!

Hoffman, retired from Long Beach, John Simiek of Smithtown, Charlie - a finishing carpenter (didn't get his last name, sorry), Helen and Richard Pizzoli of Huntington Bay, and I think the Reardon family.

Dave of Burt Lumber gave a presentation of the various African woods they now carry along with some samples he brought in that you were able to see the colorations and feel the grain.

Continued on page 6

Going Pro father was “all thumbs”! Interview of Joe Saccente Matt Stern

On October 28th, I had the pleasure of interviewing Joe Saccente about “going pro”. Here’s what I found:

Stern: Joe, when did you first get interested in wood-working?

Saccente: In the early 80’s, I had to make some shelving and cut 2x4’s, so I bought a circular saw. It wasn’t easy, but I did my best. Later, I visited my handyman friend Raul who showed me a homemade coffee table. That’s when I got the bug and was interested in making one, too. I got very “advanced” and mounted the circular saw upside down on a slab of MDF and made my own “table saw”. After it fell over, I decided to buy a real one, and from then, continued to read a lot and wanted to do more and more. This just sort of snowballed.

Stern: You must have been quite handy as a youth. Were you inspired by your father?

Saccente: No, not at all (on both counts). In fact, my

Stern: Tell me about your academic and job history?

Saccente: In the Navy, I was an equipment operator - I drove trucks and worked with some heavy equipment. Afterwards, I worked in an electronics factory, mostly with wave soldering equipment. Later, I became a machinist’s assistant, and got involved in precision operations. In fact, I had to figure it all out, because no one knew the machines and there were no manuals! This is probably when my mechanical skills blossomed. But, then, I went back to driving trucks (for the money).

Stern: When did you decide to go “pro”?

Saccente: At one point, my friend John (who was a professional painter) asked me to make some custom book-cases for his client. I did this, and it was great! The client liked them so much, he asked for custom radiator covers, which I also did. I guess this was the beginning of my woodworking career. I realized I could make money at this profession, so I continued with odd jobs here and there, but kept my full-time truck-driving job.

As driving got more and more dangerous, my wife Karen encouraged me to follow my passion and do wood-working for a living. I got my DBA (Classic Woodware), and



designed a whole new workshop to accommodate my new profession!

Stern: What kind of work do you do now, and why? Also, do you have any dislikes?

Saccante: I do all phases of custom woodworking. This includes cabinets, furniture, and even repairs, to name a few categories, but just about everything. About the only thing I don't like is refurbishing work.

Stern: Has this worked out for you, and can you make a living at it?

Saccante: Yes, and yes.

Stern: Your shop is in your back yard. Do your neighbors complain about the noise or the dust?

Saccante: No, but I did ask them before I built the shop, and do my best to keep it quiet and dust-free.

Stern: How long did it take you to become a full-time pro?

Saccante: Well, I'm almost there now, after 3-1/2 years.

Stern: What advice would you give someone who is considering "going pro"?

Saccante: Ahh! First, realize there will be a long ramp-up time. You will need financial backing, so "don't quit your day job" just yet; don't expect to make much money in the beginning. Get your name out there - get affiliated with a lot of tradespeople, such as carpenters, electricians, plumbers, painters, and so forth - they can often be referral sources. Learn how to price your work: you have to charge enough to be profitable, but not so much as to scare away your clients. Read up on this. Take business classes, too.

Stern: Do you have any regrets about your decision to "go pro"?

Saccante: No, none at all - I take it all in stride. I love the satisfaction of doing both the artistic and technical aspects of the work, and of course, the customer's appreciation of a job well done.

Stern: How do you see the industry now, and where it is going?

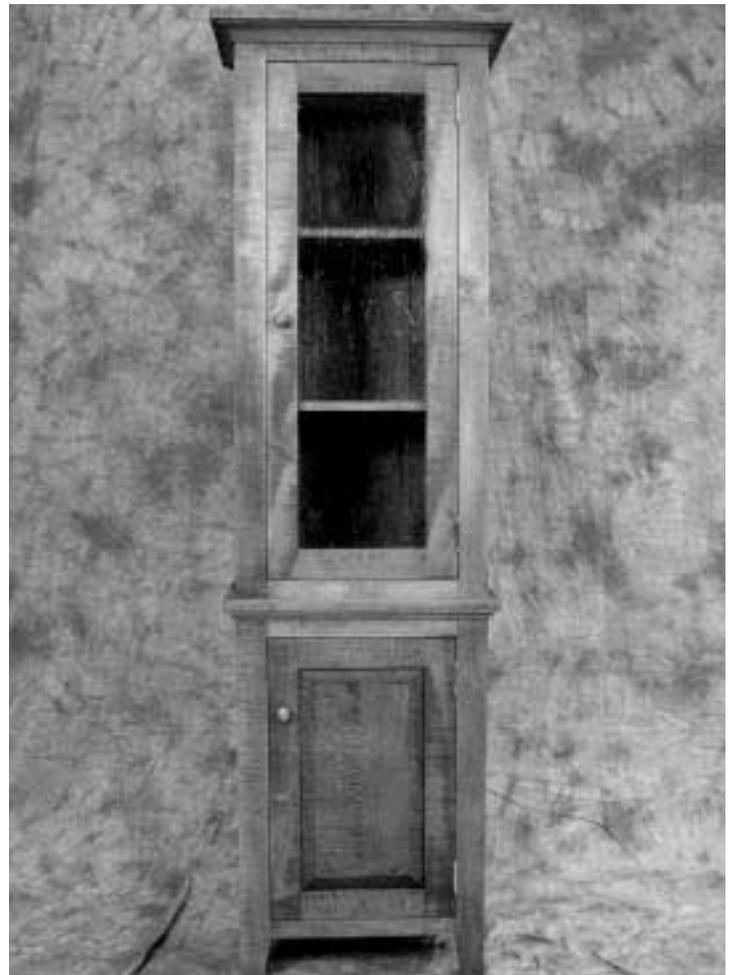
Saccante: I think there will always be a market for custom woodworking, especially since you can't buy everything you need off-the-shelf. While most custom work died off in the Industrial Revolution of the 1860's, and it's difficult to compete with the larger shops and factories, there will always be a need for custom work.

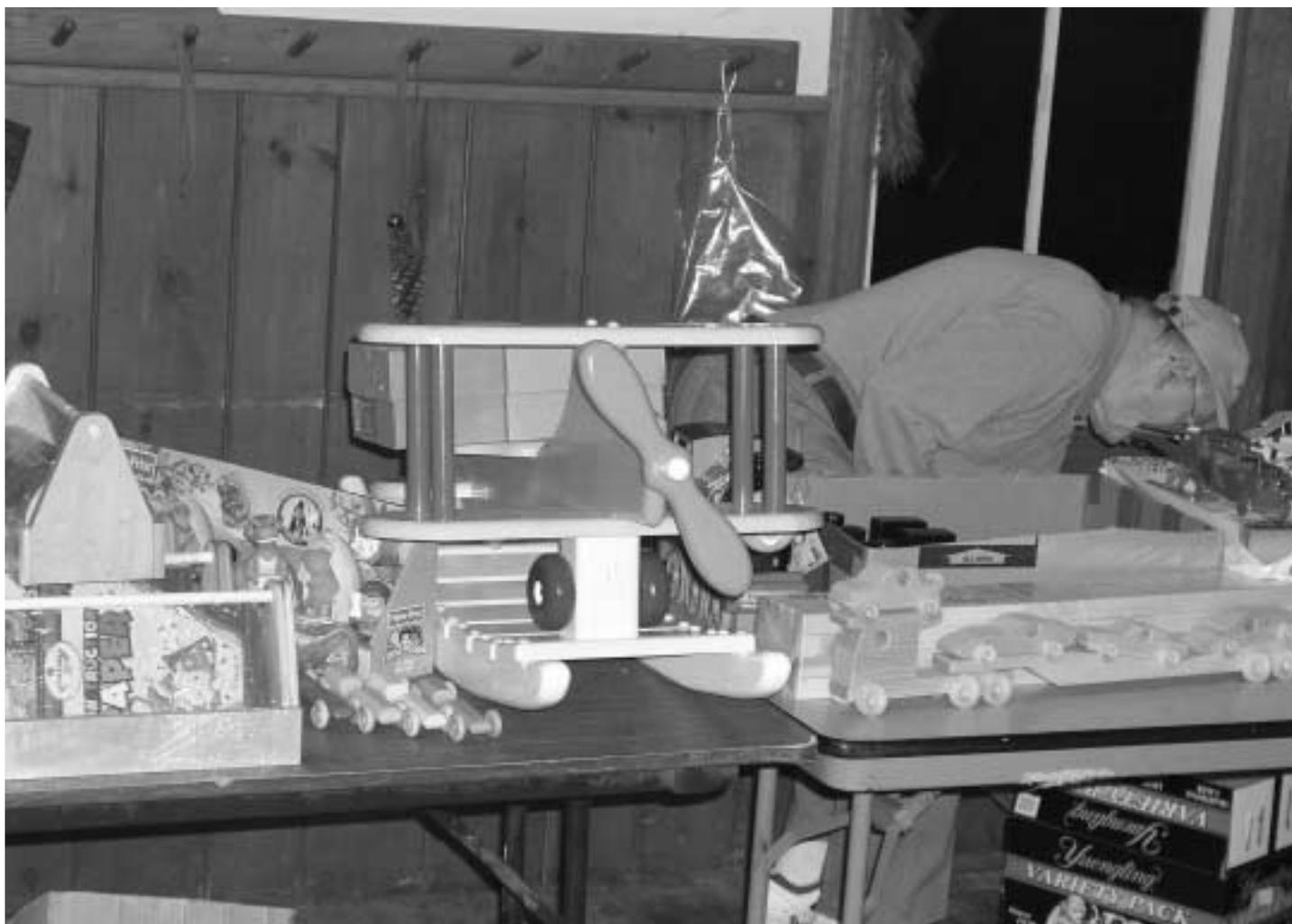
Stern: What hobbies do you have?

Saccante: I am also a professional musician, and play rock, jazz, blues, classical, and ragtime guitar (note: this is finger guitar, not played with a pick). I am also an amateur astronomist.

Stern: Thanks, Joe. Do you have anything to add?

Saccante: Yes - you must have your heart dead-set on this. You can't do it just for the money; you must love what you do. A classic mistake is quitting your day job and renting space for a shop. Don't do this! Go slow. Test the waters; do the woodworking on weekends, starting out as a hobby. You might even specialize, such as cabinetry, so you can be more efficient. And, make a business plan!





Secretary's Notes from page 3.

Show and tell was a series of photos and a presentation of a set of kitchen cabinets that Rich Strickland made using the Kreg pocket-drilling tool and poly construction adhesive. This was similar to a demonstration Mike Daum gave one meeting night showing carcass construction.

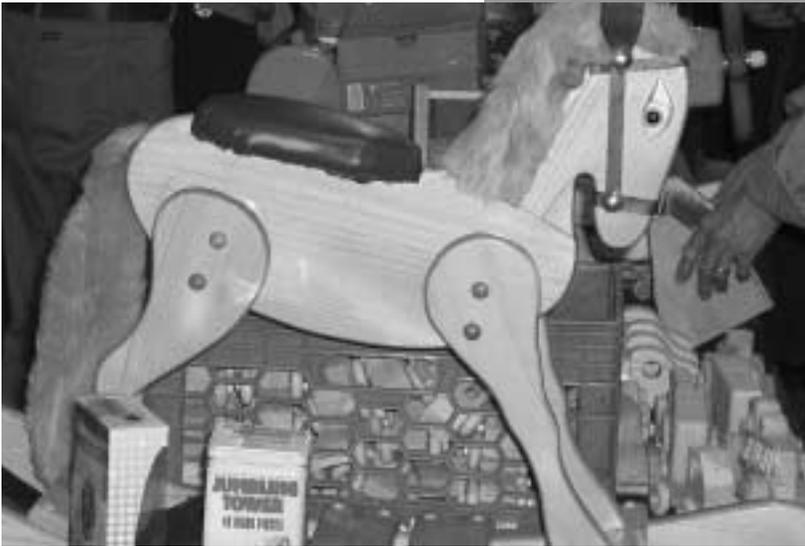
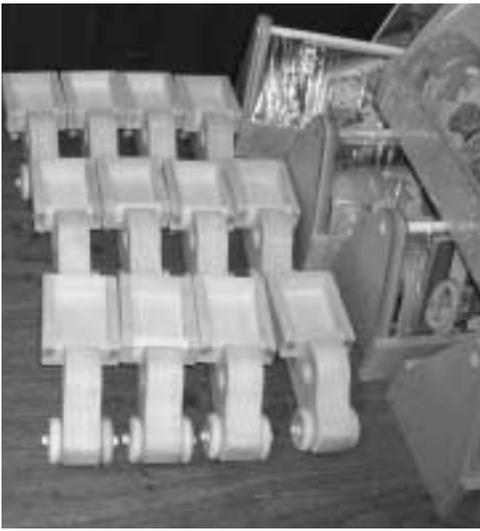
SIG's: The Scrollers will be making baskets and the turners will have Jim Diamond from the turners club demonstrating turning techniques.

January meeting will be a round robin, which is always interesting. Ask questions, ask "can I try that", or you can demonstrate your talents.

Steve Eckers came up to the front of the stage and gave well deserved Kudos to Steve Costello who provides his well provisioned shop and his hospitality to those members who meet weekly to make toys and furniture for children's hospital and charitable organizations. I can ad my kudos also because he makes the shop available to me when I run beginners workshops. We need more members like Steve if we are to tout our mission statement that we strive to promote and educate woodworking to interested parties.

Walter Connolly of the Classical School of Wood Carving and Woodworking has added another staff member, our own Joe Saccente, whose work can be seen on our web site.

In closing, membership dues are due and a Happy and safe Holiday to all of you and your families!



Some of the Toys





Turner's Guild SIG

Karen Saccente

We had another wonderful turn out for our December meeting. For our show and tell segment, Tom Pfister brought in a bowl w/lid and a mortar and pestle. This young man always has something to show at our meetings and he produces some fine pieces. Mike Luciano made a pair of 16" pepper mills (one was for his brother-in-law, a professional chef), which due to their size were difficult to hollow out, but Mike did a skilled job of crafting these pepper mills. Bob Urso made snowman pepper grinders, quite appropriate for the season and the holiday dinner table!

Our guest speaker tonight is Jim Diamond. Jim is a member of the Long Island Woodturners Association and has demonstrated at seminars at our woodworking shows in the past. Jim is a phenomenal instructor in demonstrating his many years of experience at the lathe. This was great seeing him at our club tonight, where the venue us smaller and we could get a much better look at what Jim was doing. Jim took us completely through the important techniques from beginning to end in making

a goblet. He brought some samples of goblets he has turned and finished with different techniques. I sincerely hope we get to spend more time with him in the future. Jim has recommended a book by Richard Raffan entitled "Woodturning Design". Richard Raffan is perhaps the most influential turning teacher writing today. I looked him up on the internet and found many instructional books and DVD's. Perhaps we can get some of these for our club library.

Hope everyone has a happy holiday and a healthy, happy and safe New Year. See you at our next meeting, Thursday, January 11, 2007. This meeting will be a round robin, so please bring your lathes and knowledge to share!



LIWC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Complete your renewal by clearly printing the information requested in the spaces below, and return this form, along with your check in the amount of \$35.00 to:

Joe Bottigliere
1238 Church Street
Bohemia, NY 11716

Checks should be made out to the **Long Island Woodworkers' Club**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Telephone _____ Date Joined _____

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The Club Board would appreciate your comments concerning club operations, programs, speakers, seminars, etc. Your input, whether pro or con, is necessary for the club to prosper and be of value to you as an individual member. Please don't be bashful. All comments are welcome. We would also like to know if you are interested in serving on one or more committees and those areas of woodworking that are of greatest interest to you.

COMMENTS:

TO ALL MEMBERS: MEMBERSHIPS RUN FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31. TO REMAIN A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING, YOUR RENEWAL IS DUE BY DECEMBER 31, 2006.

The Marketplace

4/4 Spalted Beech lumber for sale. Most 9" and wider 8' long, with great figure.

http://www.righteouswoods.net/Beech_European_Spalted.html is selling it for \$14.20 a board foot, I am asking \$7 a bf for quantities less than 50 bf, \$5.50 for quantities over.

Powermatic 719A Hollow Chisel Mortiser with 4 chisels and mobile base. Great condition, works like a champ. Asking \$595, about \$950 for all this new, save money and get a great tool.

Bill at wmarr@optonline.net, or 631 312 6617

Performax 25 x 2 Dual Drum Sander with Power Feed; 5 hp 220 V Leeson Motor. Machine has "low mileage"

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Roger 631-691-2095

Fine Woodworking Magazines, issues 1-159 plus index to 120
Excellent condition \$475

Woodsmith Magazines, issues 1-143 plus index to 126

Excellent Condition \$300

Gene Kelly (631) 265-5218

Upcoming Events

JANUARY 3RD - MONTHLY MEETING
Round Robin

FEBRUARY 7TH - MONTHLY MEETING
TBA

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