

# THE Woodrack

May 2021

---



**Steve Meltzer**

**Long Island Woodworkers**

## LIW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<i>President</i>	Mike Daum
<i>Vice President</i>	Bill Leonhardt
<i>Secretary</i>	Michael R. Mittleman
<i>Treasurer</i>	Steve Fulgoni
<i>Trustees</i>	Joe Pascucci
	Ed Piotrowski
<i>Membership</i>	Joe Bottigliere
<i>LICFM SIG President</i>	Ben Nawrath
<i>Turner's Guild SIG President</i>	Jim Moloney
<i>LISA SIG President</i>	Steve Kelman
<i>SSOW SIG President</i>	Frank Napoli
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Daryl Rosenblatt
<i>Associate Editor</i>	Michael R. Mittleman
<i>Website</i>	Jim Heick
	Jim Moloney
	Emma Hendler
<i>Show Chair</i>	Bill Leonhardt
	Harry Slutter
<i>Raffles</i>	Brian McKnight
	Mark Oriano
<i>Refreshments</i>	Jean Piotrowski
	Charlie Felsen
<i>Audio/Video</i>	Rich Riedel
<i>Programs</i>	Corey Tighe
	Bill Leonhardt
<i>Photographer</i>	Jim Moloney

## THIS MONTH:

## SECRETARY'S NOTES

## LICFM

## TURNERS GUILD

## LISA

## PUZZLE

SECRETARY'S  
NOTESMICHAEL  
MITTMAN

The April 7th General Meeting was called to order by LIW President Mike Daum at 7:05 PM. The session was in live-streaming format due to COVID-19 restrictions.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Mike D. discussed the possibility of holding a live, in-person meeting in May. The decision will depend on the prevailing COVID-19 situation at that time and will be decided at the LIW Board Meeting on April 19, 2021. Stay tuned...

**OTHER BUSINESS** The idea of a June picnic and the previously mentioned possibility of an in-person General Meeting in May will be discussed at the next board meeting which is tentatively scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>. Social distancing and other member safety issues are of primary concern. Mike D. and others will test the Barn's wi-fi capabilities during the week of 4/11 – 4/17.

Ben Nawrath thanked those offering get well messages and shared with all the issues he has faced post-COVID-19.

Mike Mittleman provided a recap of the progress to date regarding the transition to 501(c)(3) status. A follow-up telephone call with the IRS revealed that our application is now actively under review. They stated that the process typically requires up to 30 days.

Jim Moloney, Woodturners Guild SIG President, indicated there will be a Zoom meeting on 4/8. The session will focus on factors related to lathe selection and acquisition. Steve Kelman mentioned a Scroll saw meeting scheduled for 4/15. The topic is the chapter challenge for letter openers. Ben Nawrath, Cabinet and Furniture Makers SIG President, has scheduled a Zoom meeting for 4/13. The primary discussion will consider card scrapers with a demonstration of their use by Dean Dauplaise.

New Members Joe B. reported five new members since the beginning of the year, and that the membership rolls have increased in 2021.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** No report due to audio difficulties.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT** Joe Bottigliere reported that the membership rolls have increased in 2021.

**SHOW AND TELL** Corey Tighe displayed a nearly completed Roubo-style workbench he and one of his students are constructing.

Joe Maday displayed his \*completed\* Bombay chest. Everything about

## The Woodrack

Volume 30 Number 5

Next meeting  
Wednesday May 5th, 7 pm

Virtual Meeting

Pre meeting chat starts at 6:30

this project underscores the bespoke, museum-quality construction. Joe has promised he will arrange for all to see the chest at the new LIW Annual Show.

The Show and Tell portion of the meeting was abbreviated so adequate time would be available for the evening's presentation.

### **PRESENTATION – RELIEF CARVING ESSENTIALS BY STEVE MELTZER**

The star of the show was Steve Meltzer, a retiree from Steinway Pianos and long-time friend of our organization. Steve has outstanding teaching ability. His clear explanations of techniques and tool selection markedly enhanced the presentation. Steve used many of the 24 different gauges on display while carving a three-dimensional entwined flower and leaves design. He ably communicated his enthusiasm and skill.

Steve showed how he emphasizes the 3-D nature of relief carving by having flower petals and leaves overlap each other while maintaining realism regarding proportions and dimensions. The completed carving was spectacular to behold. Steve, you were an absolute treat. Thank you for sharing your expertise.

Everything about Steve Meltzer's master class demonstration regarding relief carving was excellent, starting with the super technical quality of the broadcast originating from Steve Fulgoni Studios. Close-ups, split screens, decent audio, graphics, and video clarity were great. Thanks, Steve Fulgoni.

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

**MAY MEETING** There will be a General Meeting starting at 7 PM on May 5, 2021. The particulars of the meeting format await the results of wi-fi testing and the upcoming board action regarding a possible in-person session.

There is a Board Meeting scheduled for April 19th starting at 7 PM.











LICFM



BOB WOOD

A Show and Tell session began the April 13th meeting.

**SHOW AND TELL** Show and Tell started the meeting with Joe Bottigliere talking about making a bathroom vanity with plain doors. The pieces are made of cedar, which was and will be finished with four coats of water-based polyurethane prior to assembly plus additional coats applied after construction. Joe likes the stability of cedar and its resistance to moisture. Pocket screws were used for joinery and some pocket nails strategically placed for authenticity. The style is rustic, with an open shelf in the bottom front. One question was the toxicity of working with cedar. Joe said using his dust collection and mask posed no problem regarding irritation. The hinges were Euro and Joe had to make a jig for screw hole placement. Daryl said he purchased his Blum hinges from Rockler. Daryl had difficulty regarding the screws, Blum Euro screws do not fit Blum hinges, so don't order them. Gary Mayhew mentioned using waterproof MDF. Gary is using seven-ply birch plywood to construct a vanity which will be painted and use pocket screw joinery.

Rick McCrae used scrap walnut to make a desk for his daughter. The drawer is a rabbet-locked joint. Rich is using K & V undermount slides. Rich has a Forrest table saw blade with a nine-degree tooth angle to make dovetails.

Brian Monks showed a dovetail jig he got from California. A link will be sent out. The jig fits a Japanese saw.

Rob Demarco asked for advice about reinforcing the miters on the back of a thin picture frame. One suggestion was to use a slot and veneer spline. Joe Mayday said octagonal clocks made in the 1880's had miters reinforced with an arc inset filled with veneer as a spline.

Joe Mayday has finished his Bombay Chest. His next project is a tea caddy made from pine, mahogany and veneer. The idea came from a Ronnie Young presentation, but Young used solid wood. Joe used thin veneer splines to reinforce the miters. The box is olive ash burl and satinwood with some checkerboard banding and ebony corners and escutcheon. Some veneer manipulation was done to cover the legs. Brousseau Hinges were used. Joe explained the various "hot" glues he used for the veneer.

Rick Nicolini showed a video of a miter spline with a crescent-like shape and filled with veneers. Rick ordered six card scrapers with a burnisher. Ben recommended to sharpen all card scrapers at once so one can continually keep working if a scraper gets dull.

#### DISCUSSION – DEAN DAUPLAISE ON CARD SCRAPERS

Dean was the main presenter and demonstrated how to sharpen a card scraper. He explained the scraper should get shavings not dust. First, run a file flat across the scraper edge. That creates a burr. Lay the scraper flat and use a fine file across the edge to create a flat edge thus eliminating the burr. Next, place the scraper in a vice and with light pressure, emphasizing light pressure and create a burr. Use the burnisher at a slight angle both laterally and down. Dean has been using a magnet to dissipate heat and avoid blisters. Ben Nawrath showed a card scraper holder which bows the scraper for the user with a thumbscrew. Brian Monks showed the Universal Burnisher from Veritas, which replaces the file and burnisher, see the enclosed photo. For curved scrapers, the traditional method

must be employed. Dean also sands with 220 grit after scraping. It was suggested that the bow is necessary for the scraping. Joe Bottigliere bought tiny scrapers from Lee Valley for specific purposes. Brian uses Jojoba Oil on planes and scrapers. Joe Bottigliere has an old scraper that is such hard material that getting a burr is difficult. Another hint was to use a drill or machinist vise to hold the scraper. Another method of getting the scraper edge flat is to mount a file in a wood block and run the edge against the perpendicular file and wood edge.

A discussion of a live meeting in May and a test zoom will be conducted at the Barn. Brian Monks mentioned that Roberts Plywood has sales every month. Brian bought Italian Chestnut. A source of veneer is Berkshire Veneer, which is located in Egremont, Massachusetts. They are out of business and are liquidating their inventory.

The Show and Tell and Dean's presentation generated a good exchange of methods and ideas.











After 30 minutes or so of general chatter, SIG President Jim Moloney introduced the topic for the April 8th meeting, which was “Which lathe should I buy?”

**DISCUSSION** Kevin is a new turner who triggered the topic. After doing the research, he is now looking at the Rikon 70-150 VSR.

Tony has a 12/21 Jet that he is happy with.

Jim M. has the Jet 12/21 on a shop-made stand.

Steve F. advised that, if making a stand with storage, be sure to have at least one drawer that is 5” high to be able to store chucks.

Ric has a Nova Comet 2, a Harbor Freight lathe, and a General lathe. He also showed a 3M mask with 2 filters.

Steve F. spoke about several lathes that he is a distributor for, and mentioned that Bob U. is also a dealer for several lathes. He talked in particular about the Record Power midi in response to a question by Steve M.

Steve M. also asked about lathe maintenance and belt tensioning. Several people gave advice on the subject.

Tom R. asked about which tools to buy for a new turner. Steve F. gave a very comprehensive answer.

Jim M. talked about separate gouges and handles, that is buying one handle for several gouges.

Ric asked about a gouge with an outrigger on it, referencing one shown by a member of the “other” club. Steve F. answered that it is not a stock item; that it would have to be custom made, but that he is considering having some made to add to his line of Hurricane tools.

The subject of tool steel came up, and Steve F. talked about a spark test, to be done on a stone wheel (as opposed to a CBN wheel, which would be ruined by using carbon steel on it). The sparks coming off high speed steel (HSS) are in a linear pattern, as opposed to the burst pattern produced by carbon steel.

Mike J. told of his journey from a mini-lathe, to a larger Nova lathe, to his Robust American Beauty lathe. Barry S. had a similar story, going from a Penn State mini to a Laguna 1847 to a Robust American Beauty. The Laguna has a 1 HP motor that is underpowered for some of the work he was doing. The Robust has a 3 HP motor, which can handle anything.

Charlie F. has a Powermatic that also has a 3 HP motor; it is a very popular lathe.

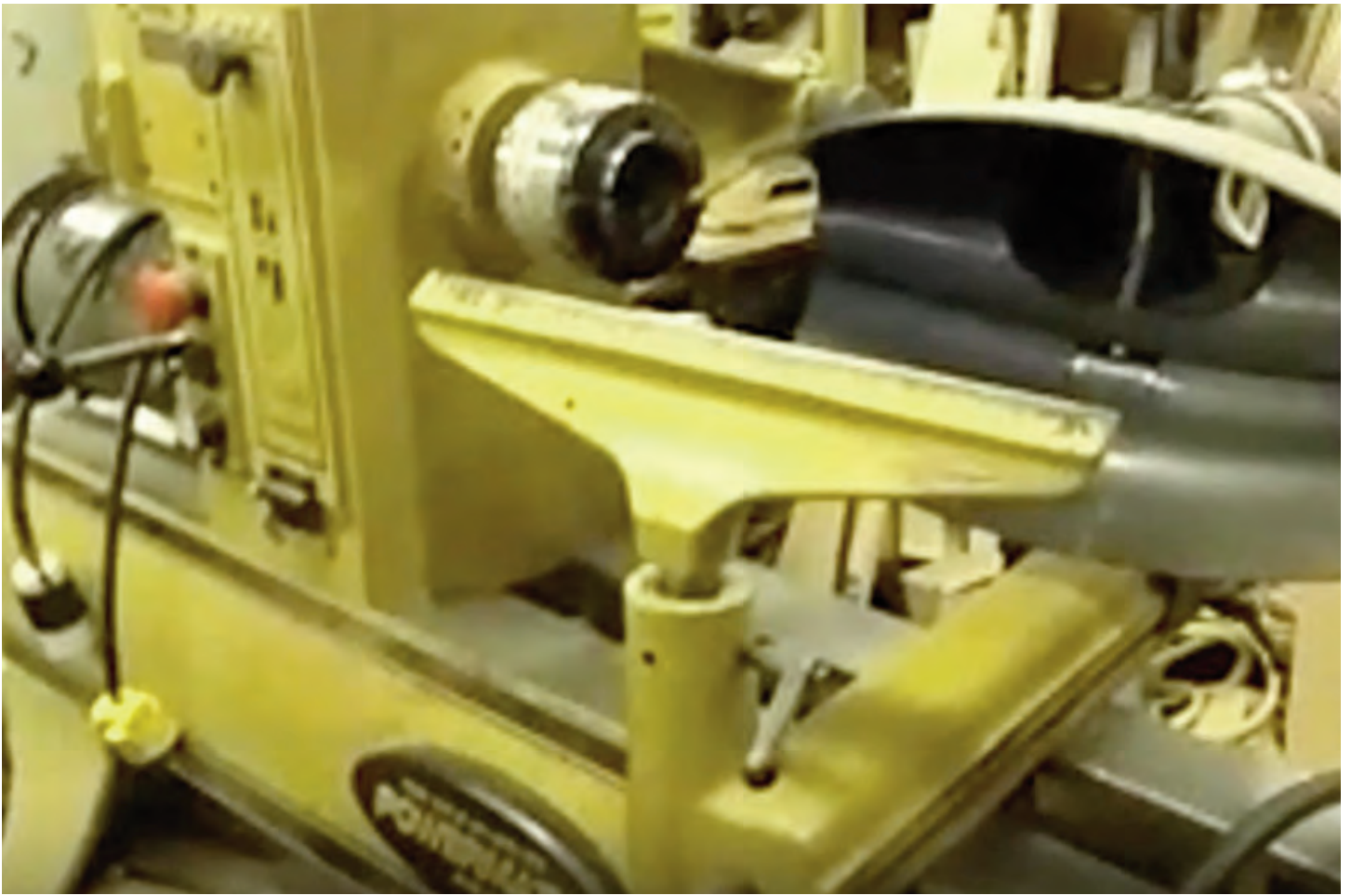
Steve E. asked about outboard turning. Steve F. opined it is okay for platters, but he wouldn’t advise using that approach for bowls.



There was discussion about the capability of work benches to hold mini or midi lathes and lathe maintenance. The question came up about maintaining the top of tool rests that get dinged (need to file the top smooth) and the newer tool rests with a hardened steel rod that can't get dinged.

A lively and informative discussion.









LISA



ROBERT CARPENTIER

For the April 15th meeting, we had a chapter challenge of making letter openers. Steven supplied us with copies of letter opener patterns using Steve Good as a main resource. Well, we did use his patterns, but some took them to another level.

#### SHOW AND TELL LETTER OPENER CHALLENGE

Pat and Bob combined different woods on one of the openers with a lot of fret work involved as well.

Rolf did a very difficult ornate sapele beveled inlay. It really was a complicated cut. He also pointed out a few techniques for cutting very fine fretwork, such as some of the pieces by Charles Hand.

Rob Crespolini said he had not the best tools for scrolling, but made very clean cuts on his designs, and they looked great.

Joe Pascucci showed many openers, of course all excellent.

Ed made a really eye-catching opener out of lacewood.

Charlie showed a progressive line of photos on how the process of cutting fret work is done. He also made an ornament of a design that Jerry Garcia (Grateful Dead) had on his guitar. After having sold quite a few, he says he will make some to take to his next Dead concert.

Ric Nickels had some frustrating issues with his saw, and was seeking to resolve the problems.

Jim also showed nice fret cutting on his opener.

Steven started a discussion on making adjustments, as he says he is learning with every piece he makes. Some of the adjustments were using the correct blade and changing the speed on the saw.

I showed an opener where I used canary wood, and put in a bubinga beveled inlay, and another opener using multi-layered plywood.

We all then discussed that we felt the chapter challenges kept us on our toes and is a great way to discover new techniques. Steve will send us some options for next month's challenge.



















## PUZZLE

MICHAEL R. MITTLEMAN

## Carpe Diem

1	2	3	4	5	6
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					

## Clues

## Across

1. Wattle
7. Get there
8. Quick breads
9. Have opposite
10. Anxiety
11. Davenport site

## Down

1. Jury-rig
2. Secrets
3. One confirming hypotheses
4. Type of gland or hormone
5. Be that as it may
6. Consumer Reports employee

1	7	9	6	2	8	5	3	4
4	3	2	5	1	9	6	7	8
5	6	8	7	4	3	1	2	9
7	5	3	9	8	6	4	1	2
9	2	6	4	3	1	7	8	5
8	4	1	2	5	7	9	6	3
6	1	5	3	9	2	8	4	7
3	9	7	8	6	4	2	5	1
2	8	4	1	7	5	3	9	6

Solution to April