

*WELCOME to the 2020 Convention of the
California Straw Arts Guild*

Midwest Meets West

February 21-23, 2020
at the Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites
155 Ferrari Ranch Road
Lincoln, CA 95648

**REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED by FEBRUARY 5
HOTEL RESERVATION MUST BE MADE by FEBRUARY 5**

Following is all the information you will need to register for the 2020 convention. This year our convention format continues: three full-day classes and the option for one-, two- or three-day attendance. Return your completed registration materials no later than February 5, 2020. This year's theme, Midwest Meets West, is reflected in our classes: two Belarusian-based projects taught by our Nonie McFarlane Educational Fund guest instructor from Kansas, Dianne Gardner, and one project taught by our own Tatyana Bychkov.

On Friday, February 21, Dianne Gardner will offer a course called **Spring Fling**, which will teach a number of different weaving elements from the Belarusian straw tradition. This class is open to advanced weavers with a solid background in 5- or 6-part spiral weaving. You will need to purchase a kit in class, in addition to bringing some specific tools which are listed in the course description. The entire project will probably take longer than the allotted 6 hours to complete, so the classroom will be open from 7:00-9:00 PM (after a two-hour dinner break) for any interested student who wants to spend some more time on making pieces for the project.

On Saturday, February 22, Dianne Gardner will offer a course called **Belarusian Flower for CSAG**, which will continue to reinforce some of the Belarusian elements from Friday's class and teach a couple of new things. This class is open to intermediate weavers with a solid background in 5- or 6-part spiral weaving. There are fewer elements to complete in this class, so intermediate weavers should be successful in the course. You will need to purchase a kit in class, in addition to bringing some specific tools which are listed in the course description.

On Sunday, February 23, Tatyana Bychkov will teach a class called **Wildflowers** which combines marquetry elements with a couple of Belarusian plaiting techniques. This course is for weavers with plaiting background. Some background working with marquetry is preferred as well. You will need to purchase a kit in class, as well as bring some specific tools which are listed in the course description.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY: New CSAG members, or members who have never before attended a CSAG convention, may apply for a scholarship to help defray convention costs. See the Scholarship form for eligibility criteria. There is a separate form to print out and mail in (or scan and email to strawtalk@sbcglobal.net) **no later than January 21**. You will be notified (by phone and by email) in time to meet the February 5th registration deadline.

Please read through all the following information carefully and return your registration form (and check!) no later than **February 5, 2020** (the form must be RECEIVED by February 5th). New this year, hotel room reservations need to be made by the same date: **February 5, 2020**, to get the room rates mentioned below. You **must** be a 2020 member of CSAG to be eligible for the prices listed on the registration form. If you have not already renewed for 2020, you may renew via the convention registration form. And if you can't remember if you have already renewed or not, please contact Carol before sending in your registration form (strawtalk@sbcglobal.net).

HOTEL INFORMATION: FOR RESERVATIONS call 916-644-3440 (direct to the hotel)

Rooms with special convention room rates have been reserved for early arrivals on Thursday, February 20 through Sunday, February 23, in case anyone is arriving early or staying an extra day. The rate is \$109.99 per night plus applicable taxes (10% occupancy plus \$6.50 Placer County room tax). This rate is for two people per room with either two queen beds or one king bed. Additional room upgrades are available including Jacuzzi King Suites and extended-size Queen or King rooms, at a higher rate. Call the hotel for pricing for those upgrades. The hotel is entirely non-smoking and includes the following amenities: full hot breakfast buffet, free parking, free guest washer and dryer, fitness center, pool and spa, and for those with extra time (ha!) there is free shuttle service to and from Thunder Valley Casino. All rooms have a small refrigerator and a microwave.

CALL BY FEBRUARY 5, 2020 for guaranteed room rate. Be sure to mention "Straw Arts Guild."

HOSPITALITY: Friday we will be eating lunch out (see below). Sunday lunch will be provided. You are responsible for your own lunch on Saturday. (There are a number of dining establishments within walking distance of the hotel.) There will be bottled water available (there are soda machines on each level of the hotel near the elevator for those who prefer purchasing a soft drink) as well as some snacks in the classroom throughout the weekend.

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER HAS BEEN CHANGED TO FRIDAY LUNCH: On Friday, February 21, we will eat lunch out instead of going out for dinner. We will be eating lunch at Siino's Restaurant in Lincoln. We want to get there early before the lunch rush starts and return to resume class by 1:00(ish), so meet in the lobby of the hotel for an 11:15 car pool departure. Each person is responsible for their own bill at the restaurant. If you want to check out their menu in advance, it is available online at www.siinosrestaurant.com. Last year many people had enough left over from lunch to have again for dinner that evening (or saved it for Saturday lunch)! Anyone needing something else in the evening can visit any of the following within walking distance of the hotel: In & Out Burger, Panda Express, Starbucks inside Target, or get something in the Target grocery section to microwave in your room. Or you can go further afield.

TRADE SHOW/SALES TABLE: The Trade Show/Sales Table will be offered on Saturday, February 22, from 1:30 to 4:30. If you intend to bring items for sale, be sure to print and complete the Trade Show agreement page and return it with your registration. As usual, 10% of all your sales (to a maximum of \$30.00 – whichever is the lesser amount) will go into the general fund of CSAG to help build our balance for future conventions. There will again be some items available from the Judy Laird legacy.

RAFFLE AND SILENT AUCTION: We will be offering a raffle again this year with items donated to or purchased by CSAG. Each member in attendance at the banquet will get one raffle ticket and be eligible to win one of the items available. The silent auction will take place as well, so please bring an item if you can, to donate towards the silent auction. Both the raffle and the silent auction will be

offered at the banquet Saturday night, and you must be present to win. There is a place on the registration form where you can indicate if you will be bringing something to donate.

BANQUET/ANNUAL MEETING: The annual banquet will be Saturday night in the Solarium at Meridians Restaurant at Orchard Creek Lodge in Sun City Lincoln Hills, Lincoln. The banquet will begin at 6:00, followed by the annual business meeting. The dinner rate is \$30.00 (tax and tip included). Current CSAG members pay \$15.00 towards the banquet and the Guild will cover the rest of the amount. Be prepared to pay for any alcoholic drinks on your own. If you will be bringing a guest, or guests, you do need to pay the full amount (\$30.00) for their meal(s), so indicate that on the registration form and include that amount in your total.

You need to indicate your choice on the registration form (or choices, if bringing guests) from the following three menu selections. All plated dinners include strawberry spinach salad, warm dinner rolls and whipped butter, coffee, iced tea, water and Tres Leches cake for dessert.

Grilled Mahi Mahi with Pineapple Mango Salsa (4 oz): Includes chef's choice of seasonal vegetables and herb roasted potatoes.

Grilled Champagne Chicken: Includes chef's choice of seasonal vegetables and herb roasted potatoes.

Tree Cheese Tortellini with Spinach Pesto Cream: This selection does not include vegetables or potatoes.

BASIC TOOL KIT: Each student needs to bring a basic set of tools to convention. This includes: scissors, natural/cream-colored carpet/button thread, 12 inch ruler, pin board, straight pins, hand towel(s), Hindenburg or other straw smoother, a small paintbrush and craft glue. Additional tools that may be needed for a particular class will be indicated in each course description. Soaking trays will be available if you need one.

KIT FEES: If a class kit is offered for a class, you are required to purchase it. Purchase will be done at the beginning of the class via the instructor or designated representative. Exact change or a check for the exact amount (made out to the instructor) is greatly appreciated.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE: This fee will cover one convention workbook per registered attendee (additional workbooks may be ordered via the registration form). ***IMPORTANT TO NOTE: only the number of workbooks that have been pre-ordered and pre-paid will be printed. Members not attending the convention who want to order a workbook, must use the registration form and submit it no later than February 5 to guarantee a workbook. NO EXTRA WORKBOOKS WILL BE PRINTED.*** The registration fee also applies towards classroom goodies & bottled water, as well as classroom rental costs, for all three days.

CONFIRMATION: Confirmation of class enrollment will be made via email only. If you do not have email, a confirmation will be mailed to you as long as you include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your registration form.

REFUND POLICY: If a written request for a refund (a request made via email is fine) is made by Friday, February 14, you may receive a 50% refund of total fees paid (less dues, if being paid via convention registration). No refunds after February 14. (email strawtalk@sbcglobal.net to request a refund).

TRAVEL OPTIONS: Air: Call Carol to arrange for pickup up (916-295-1912) at Sacramento International.

Driving directions to Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites in Lincoln: Take Interstate 80 going east towards Reno (or going west if coming from Reno). Head north on Hwy 65 (the only way the road goes off of I-80). Exit onto Ferrari Ranch Road (the exit immediately after the Lincoln Blvd. exit). Turn right at the bottom of the exit and turn at the first right once on Ferrari Ranch. The driveway entrance to the hotel is will be the first right once you turn into the parking lot.