

NEWSLETTER FOR THE

**GUILD OF  
OREGON  
WOODWORKERS**

**OREGON  
WOOD  
WORKS**

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Portland Oregon

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**NEXT GENERAL MEETING: ONLINE WITH ZOOM**

*The online invitation will be sent out 24 hours before the event.*

**BUILD WITH PURPOSE  
LYNN MORGAN  
OF SUSTAINABLE NORTHWEST WOOD**

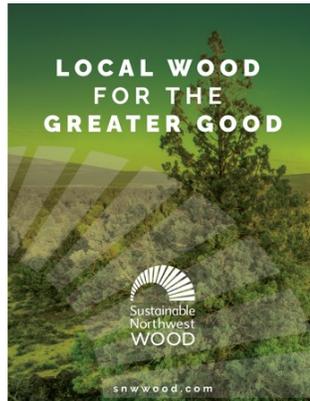
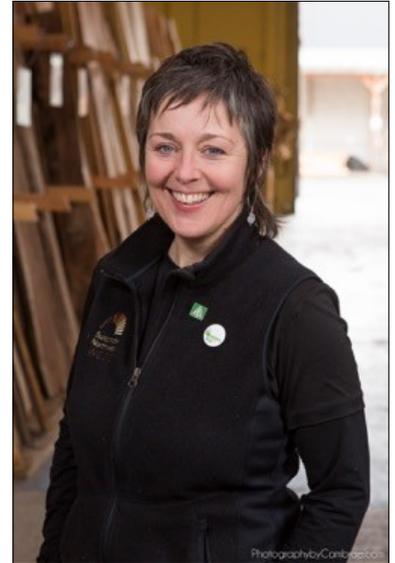
**Tuesday, April 20, 2021**

**Social Time begins at 6:30pm, Meeting begins 7:00pm**

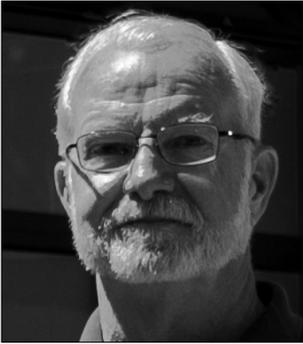
Lynn Morgan is the Marketing Manager at **Sustainable Northwest Wood (SNW)** a local woodyard at 2701 SE 14th Ave in Portland. Lynn grew up at the feet of a master carpenter, has a degree in Interior Design and has been in the building industry her entire life. She's a self-proclaimed "wood geek" with a passion for sustainable living and helping people **Build with Purpose**, the motto of SNW.

Lynn will share her expertise and love of wood and woodworking at our annual meeting on April 20 at 7:00pm. Join her for her presentation on **Wood Species of the Pacific Northwest**. She'll share where our local wood grows, the qualities and characteristics

that make each species unique, the issues and threats to habitat and ecosystems, and some of the beautiful things craftspeople and woodworkers are creating with our local wood.



## NOTES FROM THE GUILD PRESIDENT



*By Steve Poland*

Just a few weeks ago Gig Lewis was at the shop for his beloved Toy Build session. And now we learn his battle with cancer is over. His wife, Linda Howarth, let us know he passed away at home just after midnight on Saturday, March 27. Linda believes he understood and appreciated the Lifetime Achievement Award we

presented for his long dedication to the Guild.

For those who may not have had the privilege of knowing Gig, he was a long-time member; he championed the education program and instructed classes such as the classic Basics of Fine Woodworking, that was for many members their first contact with the Guild. Gig served on the Board for many years as Vice President, and President. He was instrumental in pushing for and seeking out a space for our own Guild Shop. Gig recognized the terrific community the Guild has become, and pointed out our need to value and encourage everyone regardless of age, expertise, gender or any other example of the growing diversity of folks drawn to woodworking with us.

Gig worked closely with a group of members who worked hard to prepare the shop space for our use, and very importantly to establish safe machine use standards, and develop a series of safety certification classes, along with a training a cadre of Shop Attendants to insure users follow these safe practices.

His Toy Build sessions have produced many thousands of toys distributed through social service agencies to children living in difficult situations. As importantly, these sessions have provided valuable mentorship to many novice woodworkers, and warm camaraderie among everyone who participates.

Gig really understood that the Guild is so much more than just a woodshop, it is very much a community, built on

volunteers, who give as much as they get. He personally asked many of your past and current Board members to step up and contribute to the Guild. He could lead and he could subtly push, and we owe Gig tremendously for the result.

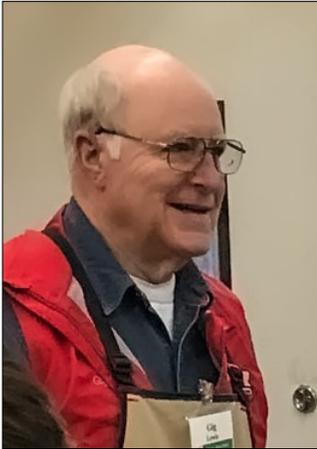
See page 3 for the complete version of the Lifetime Achievement Award that we gave him.



# LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

## IN APPRECIATION FOR GIG LEWIS

(LEON GUILFORD LEWIS III 1942 — 2021)



*By Steven Poland*

The Guild of Oregon Woodworkers owes immense gratitude to Gig Lewis, whose get-it-done attitude moved us from three hundred members surfing among various borrowed spaces, to as many as twelve hundred members having access to a professional shop space, hundreds of expert-led classes and a very welcoming community of like-minded woodworkers.

We have benefited incredibly from Gig's straight spoken drive for safety in operations. Our Guild has become an example and resource for several similar groups around the country who have been able to build from the highly organized protocols developed under Gig's leadership.

Gig formed and led the Education Committee for many years. He ran and instructed for the Basics of Fine Woodworking program. Gig has served as Guild Vice President, and as President for quite a few years, all of which saw sub-

stantial improvements in the Guild's organization and growth.

He pointed out to us that we clearly value the community and camaraderie of working together in the shop as much as we do the mutual mentorship in woodworking skills.

Gig was the first to stress to us that we need to overtly respect and welcome everyone across our diverse membership, regardless of experience or ability level, regardless of age, gender or orientation. And the result of all this is seen in the way the look of the Guild has grown and diversified beyond mostly "old retired guys" to include a more representative cross section of our community.

And then there is Gig's favorite: Toy Build team. Recognizing that there are so many children who live in challenging situations and may have little to call their own, Gig's initiative has produced a couple thousand toys per year, probably approaching 10,000 toys. These toys have been appreciatively received by a long list of social service agencies, and joyously so by all those children.

Along the way many novice woodworkers have benefitted from Gig's mentorship and encouragement. No doubt this and the warm community he created in the Toy Build ses-

sions have helped a lot of tentative novices to persevere and continue to grow into skilled craftspeople.

We could say so much more, recognizing Gig's drive to assist families constructively resolve woodshop estates; appreciating his subtle encouragement for volunteers to become involved in committees and the Board of Directors; and just being a great friend to so many of us.

Thank you Gig for being a friend to us all!



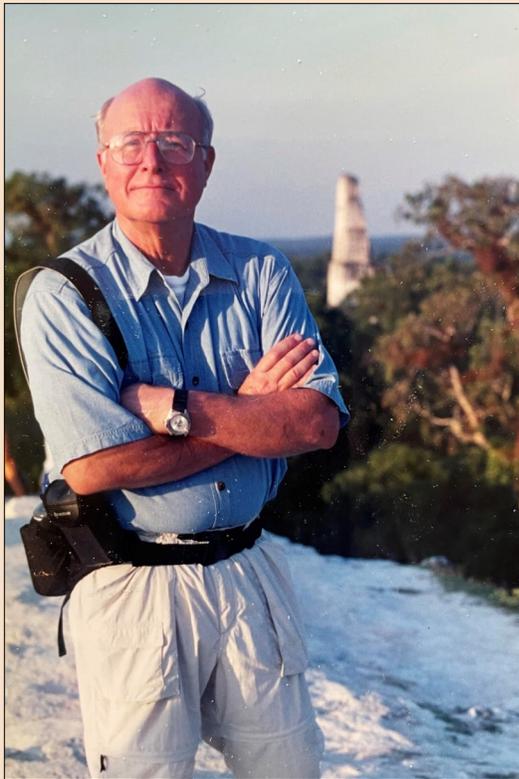
*Editor's Note:*

*Thank you all for your kind words, letters, and cards sent to my husband Gig. I read each of them to him and I believe he heard and understood. Thank you also to the folks who came by and visited with him or sat with him while I took a much needed walk with our dog Tula.*

*He was an amazing man: kind, generous, and always a gentleman. He was a Marine to the end. Would not give up. But at last he did. It is good to know that others recognized the leader that he was.*

*This is a photo of the man I fell in love with. We were at the top of a pyramid in Tikal, Guatemala at the time.*

*Folks have been asking whether there will be a funeral or celebration of life for him. Each year he liked to have a birthday celebration in mid-July—his birthday and others with July birthdays. I think it would be good to have an open house in July to celebrate Gig—we can have it outside on the deck and in the garden. Come drink a toast to Gig at that time.*



### **The Guild of Oregon Woodworkers is...**

... a group of amateur and professional woodworkers committed to developing our craftsmanship.  
*Our Mission: To promote the craft of woodworking to the woodworkers of today and tomorrow.*

*Our Vision: A community of woodworkers that provide significant opportunities to develop, practice, enhance, and share skills.*

*The Guild offers many benefits for members, including:*

- ◆ Monthly programs
- ◆ Monthly newsletter
- ◆ Weekly Volunteer Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
- ◆ An education program to help members develop woodworking skills through a variety of hands-on and lecture classes
- ◆ Sponsor discounts
- ◆ Woodworking shows (such as Gathering of the Guilds)
- ◆ Network of business partners.
- ◆ A woodworking shop
- ◆ A network of friends and opportunities to volunteer and make a difference in our community

*What you can do for the Guild*

- ◆ Volunteer your time to contribute, assist, organize, lead, teach
- ◆ Take a class
- ◆ Contribute your knowledge

*For more information see the Guild website or visit the shop.*

*Guild Shop - 7634 SW 34th St, Portland, OR 97219*

[Guildoforegonwoodworkers.org](http://Guildoforegonwoodworkers.org)



Many Guild members recognize that woodworking can be a lonely avocation. It's fun to get together with other woodworker's to swap stories, share successes and failures, and to ask questions. Come join the fun at the next MEET-UP ...

**NOW ON-LINE**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 5 AT 11:30 AM**  
**On-Line - ZOOM**

In an effort to allow members to keep the comradery of our monthly lunch meetings going, we will be hosting a Zoom get together.

Since it's going to be difficult to eat lunch together in a restaurant, we thought we could go around the gathered group and briefly discuss what we may or may not have been doing in your shop. If you have any pictures of items you'd like to share, have them available on your PC or Phone (depending on what you're connecting to the meeting with), and we'll be able to share your screen.

For security reasons we do not publish the meeting information on the website. We will send out the invite by email the day before—watch for it.

For information on using Zoom, click [HERE](#)

Remember to have your favorite beverage and eats too.



## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Welcome to our newest **25** members. We're happy to have you with us and hope you'll make a regular appearance at the monthly program (online at present), contribute articles to the newsletter, and volunteer in other ways.

Rebecca Amann, Paul Amort, Rich Bader, Josh Carnahan, Brian Conroy, Mike Denham, Zackary Fravel, Chris Fuller, Brisa Gonzalez, Shelby Hebel, Daniel Jaung, Diane Jenkins, Mark Jenkins, Sam Jenkins, Travis Johnsen, Matthew Jones, Stephanie Korbas, Jay Kosik, Ryan Liedkie, Ivan Lobachev, Denny McDonald, Manuel Roman, Parthasarathy Sarangaqm, Josephine Wallace, Mia Webster

## AFFILIATE CLASSES

### NORTHWEST WOODWORKING

Saturdays Apr. 17 – June 5

*Online Build Along Session: Floating Top Table*

<https://northwestwoodworking.com/>

## BENT STOOL

With the Guild shop re-opening John Sheridan again is offering to teach members about cold press, curved laminating. He has a choice of two forms. One for sitting, 18" high, and one, shown, as step-stool. The materials are flexible Italian Poplar plywood and outer skins of a mahogany. The laminating is at John's garage and the trimming, edge cutting is completed at the Guild shop, so you have to be qualified on the table saw. The materials cost is \$30. Call him at 415-647-9190.



## CARVING SIG

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

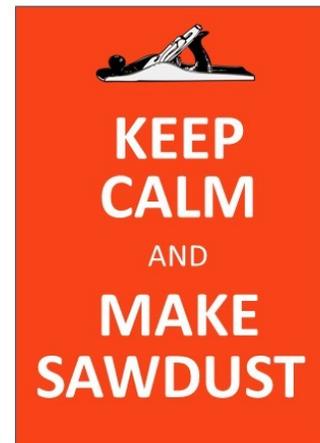
**POWER CARVING TOOLS 101** - April 13th @ 7:00, [click here](#)

**FINISHING WITH ACRYLICS FOR CARVERS** - May 11 & 18 @ 7:00, [click here](#)

### UPCOMING CLASSES

**RELIEF CARVING** - six weekly sessions starting Monday April 19th @ 1:00, [click here](#)

**CARVING WOOD SPIRITS** - two evenings Thursdays April 15 & 22 @ 7:00, [click here](#)



## FASTENING SYSTEM

If anyone would like to learn how to use the Lamello fastening system, which is terrific for cabinet and bookcase work, by making a "Scoot Stool" in the shop please get in touch with Guild member, John Sheridan, 415-647-9190.



If a few people are interested we will ask the Education Committee for some shop time, maybe 3 or 4 sessions. The piece can be made in plywood or hardwood. Detailed instructions will be provided.



## How Did He Build It?

### By Dick Harbert

Six years ago, I was in a couple's house admiring a beautiful handmade dining room table that had three wavy curved inlays crossing the top from end to end. The inlays were overlapping and went all the way through the tabletop. It made an impression on me and I wondered how did the woodworker build that?

Two years later, I found a Fine Woodworking article (issue #233 page 68) and a YouTube video by Scott Lewis describing a clever process to make interwoven inlays that extend entirely through the board. This month I made a cutting board for my niece using Lewis's approach for a unique interwoven, through-inlay design. The cutting board is made of birch with laminated inlays of walnut, mahogany, and bloodwood. The tools I used were my track saw, jointer/planer, handheld router, bandsaw, table router, clamps, hand planes, and random orbital sander. The finish is three coats of Tried & True Original Wood Finish. My niece thinks her cutting board is beautiful and wonders how her uncle built it?

*Dick Harbert is an advanced woodworker who has been a member of the Guild for six years, a Shop Attendant, and a member of the Guild Safety Committee.*



## Breaking News From The Past



*By Gary Weeber*

In each newsletter, we are going to bring you news from the past. In this era of being 'in the moment' many of us know that there are many 'teachables' in our past. This includes lessons we can learn from the woodworker experiences in the past. Ready to see what is behind you?

On our website, you can find newsletters for each month going back to 2007. This resource is a gold mine. From that gold mine, we will be bringing you one article from a past newsletter. We hope you enjoy it.

### Newsletter: December 2010

*By Bob Oswald*

*I wrote about the woodworking show, about learning that the perfect finish, where light reflects off the rays of the wood in the best possible way. And it comes from preparing the surface with a plane, not sandpaper. Sandpaper produces scratches, fine for sure, but there none-the-less.*

*There is a point of diminishing returns for sure, where the sandpaper is fine enough that, for all practical purposes, it doesn't get any better at reflecting light. But there is a curious satisfaction that Lee Johnson has long preached, about the whisper of curls, the plane slicing fibers. I found this sketch I did years ago, another marginally developed talent to draw. It represents what I was doing*

*with my latest table top. There are a lot of walnut curls lying on the shop floor. They're beautiful. They come from a new plane well tuned and sharp. You really CAN plane in any direction without tearing!*



*After some practice on the rough boards, it went through the planer to flatten it, then the drum sander to eliminate a couple tear outs. Finally back to the plane to fine tune the chatoyance!!*

*Obscene in perfection? For sure. Perfect? Far from it. Enjoying the process? Totally.*

## REMINDER: FINANCIAL AID IS AVAILABLE

*By Tim Moore, Guild Scholarship Coordinator*

There are times, in the rush to get into the shop and shape wood, that Guild members pass over our information sources too quickly. It could be worth your while to take the time to dig through the website, and read the newsletters carefully. For example, the second item under the Community Outreach tab is [Scholarships](#), which briefly describes our programs and tells you how to apply.

I would like to emphasize that the Guild is very serious about our mission statement, to promote the craft of woodworking to the woodworkers of today and tomorrow. We offer classes, friendly counsel and expert instruction, but we also want to help our members move forward, whether they are beginners or interested in a professional career in woodworking. We have several thousand dollars available to help fund these efforts.

If you believe you or a friend needs financial assistance, please don't be shy - go ahead and apply! The process is

straightforward, we try to reach decisions quickly, and there is a range of possible solutions. In the past we have paid for individual classes, series of classes in areas such as carving and design, free use of the shop and even complimentary storage space. Most of the money is spent inside the Guild itself, on our own classes, etc. but in the case of young professionals we have contributed towards a year-long course at the Krenov school and online classes at the Rhode Island School of Design. For the last couple of years the Oregon Community Foundation has generously funded larger grants for aspiring professionals. This year they have again given us \$2,500, asking only that it go to one or two individuals, rather than be broken up into a bunch of smaller awards. We urge those who think they qualify, or know someone else who might qualify, to contact the Scholarship Committee at [scholarship@guildoforegonwoodworkers.org](mailto:scholarship@guildoforegonwoodworkers.org).

And we hope to see you in the shop very soon!

## DEVELOPING CORE STRENGTH

*By Gary Weeber, Education Vice Chair*

With the re-opening of the Shop, there has been a significant effort to progressively move operations into our 'new normal' of operations. To do so properly, representatives of our education, operations, and safety programs have been meeting in an effort to ensure that safety training of newer members is an early priority.

That being said, we have been holding *Intro to the Guild* training and will start soon with *Getting Started* training thanks to Trainer Jeff Hilber in an effort to move members into *Core Tools Certification* so that they will be eligible to use this well outfitted Shop we work so hard to safely operate and maintain. If you are eligible to take the certification training, please check the website calendar for dates and sign-up.

As you may know, our new approach to *Core Tool Certification* is the completion of an 8-hour training course on the *Core Tools of the Shop*. These tools include the Chop Saw, Bandsaws, Planers, Jointers, Table Saw, Sanders, and Drill Press. The training is held in two 4-hour sessions within the same week. Once the member has successfully completed the second session, they are awarded their Shop Card. Easy-peasy.

We have a core (yuk, yuk) of Trainers right now but could always use more. We also have a position titled HELPER that assists the trainer in the session.

It was my privilege on Tuesday night, March 23, to serve as the HELPER in a training session with Trainer Dick Rohrbaugh. We were joined by member trainees Michael Palmer, Brennan Marshall and Ben Doran. What a pleasure and what fun!

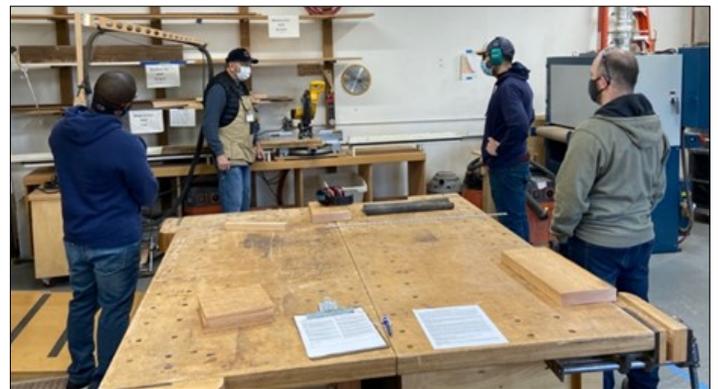


Within the training framework of basic milling, the trainees were introduced to the general safety guidelines for the use of machines and the basic operational information on each of the Core tools. After demonstration, the trainees then prove their ability to use each machine consistent with these directions.

It was a lot of information to absorb but the presentation was focused and effective. The trainees were also encouraged to recognize that they have a safety-operations resource every time they use the shop...and that resource is the Shop Attendant. Our quality group of Shop Attendants commit their personal time to be there and help...so use them!

The HELPER role is a new approach in our safety training for this series. A member must have their basic certification to be a Helper and they get volunteer points for serving. We are encouraging Shop Attendants to volunteer for this at present since it is a great way to personally see how members are being trained. I know I learned things while there that will help me as I return to being a Shop Attendant in April. If you have your Shop Card and are interested, please contact either Doug Drake, Education Director or Paul Ehrlich, Lead SA.

A special shout-out to Don, Brennan and Michael. They were great learners and I look forward to spending time with them in the shop.



## LOOKING FOR SOME OLD TOOLS?

By *Tim Moore*

Are you looking for some old tools? You might find some in Hillsboro on Saturday, April 17.

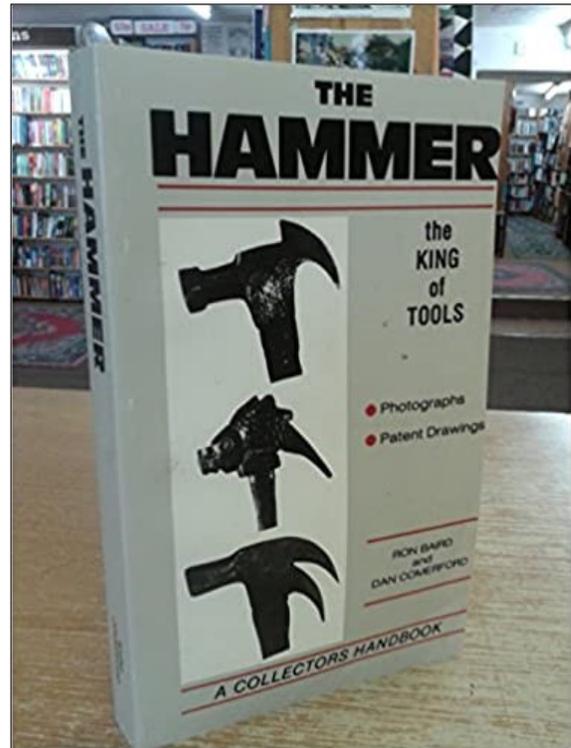
One of the best ways to pick up old hand tools is to attend one of the regular meetings of the PNTC, the Pacific Northwest Tool Collectors group. You can find out all about them here: <https://pntc.website>

As the name suggests, the group covers the Northwest, with most of the members living in Oregon and Washington. To accommodate them, monthly meetings rotate between various sites in Washington and Bill Racine's palace in Hillsboro. The latter is well worth visiting on its own, by the way; Bill has three barns full of old tools, which almost qualifies as a museum.

Meetings consist of buying and selling, an auction, presentations and exhibits, and used to finish with a lunch, before Covid-19 reached us.

The Guild has gotten several of its planes from PNTC meetings, and there is a small overlap in membership.

Whenever the PNTC manages to start up again, the Saturday meetings are a great place to learn more about vintage tools, both user-grade and the rarities that appeal to collectors. PNTC members are friendly, have a ton of knowledge, and the prices are generally fair.



## A REMEMBRANCE OF GIG LEWIS

When I joined the Guild, I was often the only woman at the meetings. Gig always made it a point to introduce me to everyone around. He didn't babysit me, but made sure I felt welcome and part of the group. It's one of the reasons I kept coming back to the meetings.

Later, when the Guild moved to the new shop, he met my son who was making decisions about his future. He thought woodworking might be the path for him, however, he needed a little more structure in his life so signed up for the army. He ultimately joined the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne and was deployed to Afghanistan. Gig went out of his way to congratulate him and offer to listen to Garrick at any time if Garrick needed a person to talk to.

Over the years that Garrick was gone, every single time that Gig saw me he'd inquire how Garrick was doing, and then sincerely ask, "And how is Mom doing?" I can't say how much that meant to me! It still brings up tears.

When Garrick returned from his service, Gig continued to ask about him and offer his help should Garrick ever need support. My husband and I had a brief chat with Gig about 3 weeks ago in his driveway and he, again, asked how Garrick was doing. He seemed happy and relieved to hear, today, Garrick is a fine young man of 30, happily

married, and successfully operating his own construction company in The Dalles.

I actually didn't make any sawdust with Gig, over these last 10-12 years, but served on several committees with him. He always made what might have been a dry, long meeting into a productive and informative meeting in which we actually got things accomplished. I love that about him.

I consider Gig a friend, and a mentor. He expects all of us to do our best in every aspect of life and he's the kind of individual that you just don't want to let down. I believe I am, the Guild is, the community is, and the world is, a better place because of Gig Lewis!

~*Julie Niemeyer Gredvig*

P. S. When I joined the Guild, I used 'Gredvig' as my last name but after all of the homeland security issues had to go back to using my given name, 'Niemeyer'. Gig comes to me and says, "Just exactly who are you?". Can't you just hear him say that?

**THE GUILD IS PROUD TO BE SPONSORED BY:**

The Guild is grateful to be supported by numerous local businesses, our sponsors. Please patronize them when you can. Most offer some kind of discount to members, with some restrictions. We hope you will thank them for their support when you are at the cash register. *Click on their logos below to go directly to their website.*

