As my tenure as your new president begins, I want to thank the membership for their encouragement and support as I assume my new responsibilities. Although relatively new to the Guild, I hope to bring a great deal of enthusiasm and creative ideas to further the development of our exceptional organization. To be part of an organization replete with talent and such creative genius for me is a dream come true. When I moved to Canterbury three years ago, I never dreamed I would be next door neighbors to Furniture Masters Tom McLaughlin and David Lamb and world class turner Claude Dupuis. To say that these craftsmen have been an inspiration to me would be as gross understatement.

What I have learned in my short time here is that our guild encompasses an enormous amount of talent and diversity and that our members are always willing to share their talents and ideas with one another. As a group, I feel that this is our greatest gift, to be able to share our skills with one another and to the public, in an effort to educate one another and further our profession.

To this end, the Mentor Program that has been developed by the Steering Committee is a vehicle by which we may more efficiently accomplish this goal. It is my hope that many of you will become involved in this program and be willing to provide some of your valuable time and expertise in assisting one another—especially the newer members of our guild. We will be disseminating a survey that will assist us in the development of the Mentor program. I encourage all of you to participate as much as possible to make this program a success.

Another program is Jon Siegel’s Guild in School (GIS) initiative which will provide instructional support to students who are interested in woodworking and turning. This program has enormous potential to provide our youth with quality instructional services as well as support our educational system and instructors in varied vocational areas.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you all for your continued and future support, ideas and suggestions. Looking forward to collaborating with you all on future initiatives and projects.

Respectfully, Michael S. DiMaggio—President.
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