

# THE GOLDEN GOURD

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

VOLUME I, issue 1

Spring 1997

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a grand adventure! the California chapter of the American Gourd Society is launched! On behalf of the new officers, may I welcome all the Charter Members. You are our official "Big Dippers." Charter membership will close on the first day of Spring - when all true gourd aficionados will need to turn their attention to planting at least one gourd plant! Have your friends and family send their membership applications in NOW!

Your new officers traveled hundreds of miles on Feb. 2 to meet together at the Rookstool ranch in Three Rivers and to discuss their dreams and plans for the next two years. The energy level is high, but we will need every member to help make these dreams a reality. For this first year, we plan to publish **The Golden Gourd** each quarter, have an information/support booth at 5 gourd festivals, have an informal "get-together" in each of 8 geographic regions, and launch an internet home page.

Year two will be up to all of us. Shall we meet more? Shall we meet less? Should we plan a state-wide "event"? If each member donates just one day toward planning and attending a regional event this year, we will have 1200 hours of fun and at least 300 new friendships in our shared gourd-network (if you only meet two new people at each event). I personally plan to shake hands and share hugs with every member of our organization who says hello. Our officers have pledged to have one board member attend every event this year. We hope that you will attend at least one sponsored event in your region. Please don't be shy. Keep those cards and letters coming. Above all, support your Regional Representatives as they plan mini-groups during this first year.

With great gourd gusto, welcome to CGS!  
Carol Rookstool, President

## PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF THE CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY

The leadership of the California Gourd Society will be provided by the President and a Board of Directors. (A California chapter constitution and complete description of the roles and responsibilities of each of these positions will be included in a future newsletter.) The terms of office will be two years; however, in order to stagger the terms, some of the first board members may serve three years. The current board members, are:

President: Carol Rookstool

Vice-President, Membership/Treasurer: JoAnne Sadler

Vice-President, Communications: Ginger Summit

Vice-President, Programs: Sue Buck

The Programs Vice-President will serve as coordinator and liaison between Regional Representatives. These are individuals throughout the state who have volunteered to represent the Gourd Society within local communities. Our state is very large, and the needs, interests and activities of the membership is varied as well. The Regional Reps will maintain a calendar of gourd-related events that are happening not only throughout the state, but within their own locale. When you visit various parts of the state, you are welcome to contact the Regional Reps to find activities and people who share your interests. California Gourd Society members who want to organize activities, groups, or regular meetings will be provided with the names of other members in their area. If you live in an area that is not represented at this time, why not volunteer? It is our goal to offer support, encouragement and fellowship to all gourd lovers throughout the state! The following is a list of current Regional Reps.:

A. Anne Blankenship (619-224-3001)

San Diego area

B. Jack Thorpe (310-429-3582)

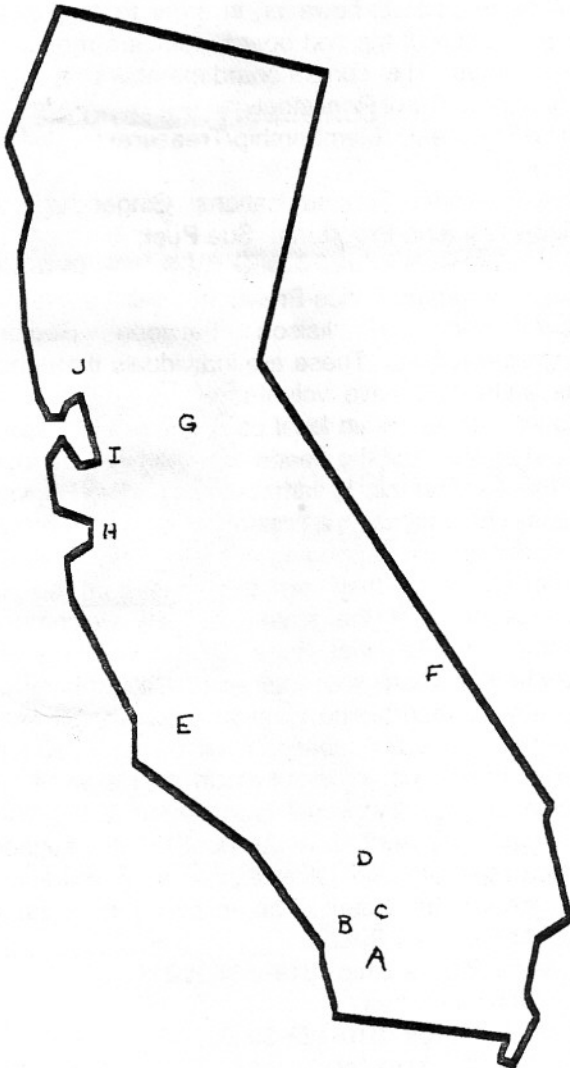
Long Beach area

C. Kathryn Savage (714-288-8799)

Orange County area

- D. Judi and Bob Bennett (805-285-3530)  
Inland Empire, San Bernadino, Antelope Valley
- E. Walt Heer (805-239-2228)  
Paso Robles, San Louis Obispo area
- F. Jeanette Whitehair, Reggie Cook  
(619-876-5679)  
Lone Pine/Bishop area
- G. Sue Buck (209-472-0889)  
Stocton/Sacramento area
- H. Ardith Wilner (408-427-3833)  
Monterey Bay area
- I. Carol Morrison (415-493-2998)  
South S.F.Bay area
- J. Linda Lehr(707-996-2080)  
Sonoma, North S.F.Bay area

*We need representatives for many additional areas throughout the state. Won't you volunteer?*



## REGIONAL ROUND-UP

In future newsletters, this section will include a brief review from each rep about what is going on in their area that might be of interest to other gourd lovers. It will also serve as a welcome to other CGS members who are visiting the area to participate in gourd related activities.

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## WHAT IS THE GOLDEN GOURD

The newsletter is intended to be a means of communicating with each other. I have outlined several potential feature columns to stimulate your thoughts. We may not have room to publish each column in every newsletter, but we will try to include a wide variety of material. The Regional Reps will be sending information about gourd-related activities in each area of the state. However, if you have additional suggestions, we will be glad to include them as space permits.

**Deadlines for submitting material for THE GOLDEN GOURD are June 1, September 1, December 1 and March 1. Many thanks in advance for your help! Send items to Ginger Summit, Box 592, Los Altos, CA 94022. (Fax: 415-941-1613).**

### LOGO DESIGN CONTEST

You may notice that our letterhead needs some embellishing. We are looking a design that is fitting for the *Golden Gourd* representing the Golden State! Some considerations to keep in mind:

- \* The design should be flexible. While it will be the masthead on the quarterly newsletter, it (part or all) may also be used on the membership cards.

- \* At some point we may want to have tee-shirts, sweatshirts, aprons, notecards, etc. It would be nice if the design could be carried through on some or all of these products.

- \* Initially at least the design should be a black-and-white line drawing that can be reproduced easily (we're trying to keep printing costs down).

- \* I have tentatively selected the color of gold as "our color"--somehow it seemed fitting with the "golden hills", "gold country", and the patina of a lovely natural gourd.

Send me your ideas as soon as possible. THE DEADLINE WILL BE SEPT. 10!

## LET'S GET ACQUAINTED

While in future issues this column will focus on gourd growers and artists throughout the state, we want to first provide a thumbnail introduction to the people behind the names listed above as officers. Next issue we will introduce the Regional Reps.

**Carol Rookstool** has been passionate about gourds for about 4 years. She works in Los Angeles Mon-Thurs, and enjoys "ranch life" in Three Rivers on Fri-Sun. In her free time she is a very enthusiastic teacher of gourdcraft and basketry. She hosts many classes at her ranch, and edits the Basket News, a quarterly newsletter for basket lovers. After attending the Ohio Gourd Show in 1995, Carol returned to the West Coast determined to establish a chapter of AGS here. We are grateful for her energy and dedication!  
45493 South Fork Dr., Three Rivers, CA 93271  
213-629-5689

**JoAnne Sadler** has been an avid promoter of gourd art in philanthropic and service clubs. She has also won many awards for her gourd artistry. A whiz on the computer, she is currently coordinating the membership roster, along with collecting dues. JoAnne would welcome a volunteer "treasurer" to share that responsibility  
3104 Kingridge Wy., Glendale, CA 91206  
818-790-6250

**Ginger Summit** has been deeply involved with gourds for many years, as an artist, teacher, lecturer, grower and co-author of The Complete Book of Gourd Craft. She has just completed another book, Gourds in Your Garden, available this fall. As VP of Communications, she will serve as editor of the *Golden Gourd*, and work with others to produce a Web Page and an e-mail address for CGS. Volunteers are very welcome.  
Box 592, Los Altos, CA 94022  
415-941-0101; fax 415-941-1613

**Sue Buck** is currently a teacher in arts education at both high school and university levels. As an active gourd artist and teacher, she will organize and support the CGS Regional Reps as they plan activities throughout the state. If you have ideas or if you would like to be a Rep in your area, please contact her. She will welcome your help.  
428 Glendora Ave., Stockton, CA 95207  
209-472-0889



## IN THE GOURD GARDEN

This column will feature not only advice from the experts, but also comments and experiences of anyone who grows gourds in California. Our single state contains a huge number of micro-climates and soil conditions. Many of us have learned through trial and error, searching through literature and local garden shops for clues to produce bigger and better crop. **Let's share our experiences.**

As Spring approaches, many of us are busy preparing the ground for planting. Keep in mind that gourds like a very fertile soil. Try to work in plenty of manure and mulch as you cultivate the soil. Many urban areas that have recycling programs offer a compost/manure mixture that is great for enriching the home garden. Keep in mind that manure will give off lots of heat as it decomposes. This can be very beneficial for warming up cold ground, but the heat will burn the roots of baby seedlings. Therefore, work the manure into the ground at least three weeks prior to planting seeds or seedlings into the ground. Keep some extra manure in a corner of the garden to make "manure tea": Put some manure in the bottom of a five gallon container, and fill with water. Stir it up, and give your plants a "pot of tea" throughout the growing season.

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## CRAFT TIPS AND TOOLS

Every gourd artist in California has experimented with new materials, tools and techniques. Some discoveries are real time savers, or produce unusual and exciting results. Won't you share your good ideas with us? Send descriptions, photos (black and white), where to buy, etc. Thanks!

## HOT OFF THE PRESS

Frequently Gourd Society members are interviewed on TV, local newspapers or in magazines. While this column will not reproduce the complete articles, we will try to share the dates,

times and issues of the material, as well as the names and addresses of individuals featured, in case other members would like to contact them for further information. Please let us know when and where you may be presented in these media, so we can share the information.

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**GOURDS IN THE  
 GALLERY**

Many gourd artists are featured in galleries throughout the state. This column will mention any special shows, openings, or gallery features. In this way we can not only support each other but also enjoy each other's work. Please don't be shy--California gourd artists are renowned! Let us know when and where your work will be shown, so we can join in the applause!



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**MARKETING TIPS**

Many gourd artists already show their gourds in art fairs, in galleries and in other shops. Very often artists are rather naive as to how to turn their hobby into a business. Suggested topics for this column could include:

- Setting yourself up as a business: getting a resale license, other important forms, what and how to report
- How to get your paperwork in order: Stationary, business cards, receipts, etc.
- What should be included in your business records
- Contracts--what to watch out for
- Different sales venues: street fairs, stores, galleries, mail order
- \*Promotion: how do you advertise yourself

It would also be useful to know just what kinds of gourd products are popular (i.e. how to be successful at an art fair).

If you would like to coordinate this column, or if you have information or experiences which may help other gourd artists, please let us know. This is one area where we can profit from each other's expertise.



**THE GOURD GOURMET**

Gourds have been used by people for well over ten thousand years. While we have evidence of gourd shells from artifacts in museums, anthropologists are confident that they were used as a food source as well. Numerous articles and conversations with people from other cultures around the world indicate that every part of the gourd has been used for food in a wide variety of ways, and often these traditions continue today.

This column will feature different ways that gourds can be prepared, including recipes and stores where ingredients can be obtained. If you have a favorite recipe for gourds, or if you know of someone who has mentioned they eat gourds, please share the details with us.

Some of the ideas which I am familiar with include:

- Indian curry
- Chinese stir-fry
- Italian cucuzzi prepared as summer squash
- Luffa
- Japanese Kampyo
- Roasted gourd seeds
- Chinese gourd (usually available as a canned drink)
- Pickled gourd rind

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**HISTORICAL NOTES**

Many people are not aware that the first gourd society in America was not the American Gourd Society, but the International Gourd Society, which was founded in 1933 in Los Angeles. While I do not have information from the original founding of that society, I do have several newsletters that were published in 1937-1939 which provide a wonderful glimpse into the vibrant and enthusiastic gourd world in that turbulent time. Several letters indicate that this group had members in many foreign countries as well as other states, including Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, and Minnesota. However, the headquarters and most activities were centered in the Los Angeles area, including an annual gourd

show. The 1937 gourd show was held in the Los Angeles Housing and Garden Exposition Building; "as huge as it is, practically every nook and cranny was occupied by a fitting exhibit...Gourds displayed, both lagenarias and ornamentals, were of exceptionally fine quality. Beyond a doubt this was the largest and most beautiful exhibition of its kind ever held."

Another article reports on the very important role that a gourd played in a significant ceremony: "The International Gourd Society has produced a gourd that has received more careful attention and more publicity than possibly any other gourd in the entire history of the world. It was the principal ceremonial object in a rite headed by the President of the United States (Franklin Roosevelt)." The occasion was the dedication of Death Valley as a public monument, and the opening of a scenic highway between Mt. Whitney and Death Valley. The "rite" referred to was a ceremonial transporting of water from the highest lake in America to the lowest body of water in America--a "wedding of the waters." The gourd selected for this honor was a "descendant from gourds that for centuries had borne water for the great Incas Indians of South America, a kind of elongated egg-shaped gourd of about a gallon capacity. It was skinned, polished, encased in a rope net, and equipped with a corn cob cork." Several people including native California Indians, a descendent of the Donner party, and the California governor, among others were given the honor of transporting the gourd from Mt. Whitney to its destination. The three-day event included parades, ceremonial dinners, even a special event staged by the Piute and Shoshone Indians in which signal fires were lit on peaks covering 200 miles in the Sierra Nevadas, and a great fire fall in Mt. Whitney! (Try doing that today!) Unfortunately, the article does not report what became of that wonderful gourd. What a legacy for California to remember!

Regional Rep. Jeanette Whitehair from Lone Pine has been doing a bit of investigation. She has found an individual who was involved in this ceremony! It seems that this is the 50th Anniversary for this big event, so Jeanette is going to check with the museums in her area to try to locate our famous gourd! Stay tuned for an update.

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## GOURDS IN OTHER PLACES

Once you become attracted to gourds, you find them throughout the world in many unexpected places. Please share these discoveries with us.

I recently returned from a trip to Europe, where I found a fabulous collection of gourds in the Natural History Museum in Copenhagen. While many gourd items were included in the beautiful "Family of Man" exhibit on the second floor, I was also delighted to discover gourd instruments in the special music exhibit, and additional gourds in the more extensive ethnographic collections on the third floor. If you are in Copenhagen, don't miss this exciting exhibit. You will become even more aware of the diverse ways that gourds have been used throughout the ages.

## COMPUTER CONNECTIONS

While many of us are relatively new to the use of computers, they are definitely going to play a significant role in the way we communicate and share information in the years ahead. The California Gourd Society plans to have a Web Page and an e-mail address. Watch this space for the address, once it is created.

Right now you may want to explore the following :

The Gourds Mailing List: An open, unmoderated e-mail list for discussion of all aspects of the growing and crafting of gourds. To contribute ideas, you can send an e-mail message to: [Gourds@chile.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu](mailto:Gourds@chile.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu)

To subscribe to the distribution list: [Gourds-request@chile.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu](mailto:Gourds-request@chile.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu)

The Gourds Archives contains past copies of the Gourds Mailing List. You can reach this at: <http://neptune.netimages.com/~chile/gourds.html>

### CLASSIFIED ADS

If you are a member of the California Gourd Society, you are welcome to place an ad in future issues of the newsletter. Format will be similar to that in the Gourd newsletter. Call for ad guidelines and rates.

## CLASSES AND GOURD RELATED EVENTS

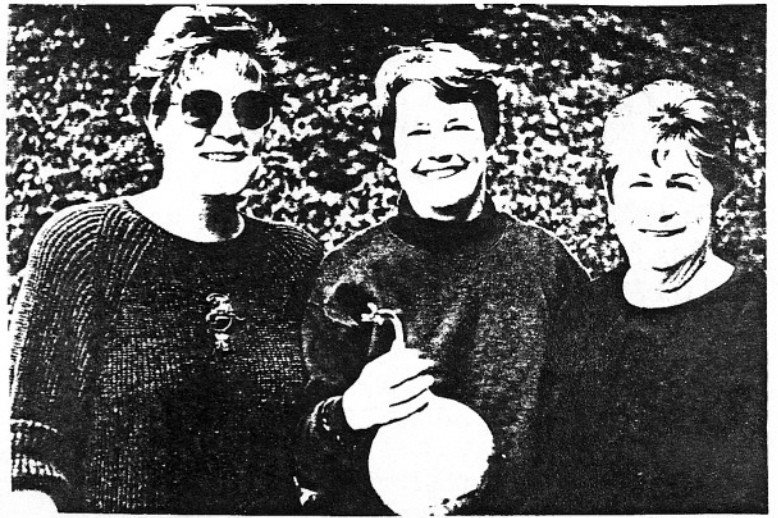
The following are classes and events covering the remainder of 1997. We are happy to announce these activities, and welcome additional listings. However, to be included, the teacher or sponsoring party must be a member of the CGS.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event and Teacher</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone</u>
3-1-97	Making Baskets w/ Gourds, Carol&Diana Rookstool	Creekside Gifts, Visalia	Suzanne Clevenger	209-734-6516
3-8-97	Transferring Designs to Gourds, Ginger Summit	Caning Shop, Berkeley	Jim Widess	510-527-5010
3-15-97	Gourd Shekerie, Orlando Hernandez	Caning Shop, Berkeley	Jim Widess	510-527-5010
3-22-97	Intro to Gourds Workshop, Dorothy&Chris Graf	Chico Art Center	Jerril Kopp	916-895-8726
4-5-97	Gourd Growing and Crafting, Carol Rookstool	UCExtension, Fresno	Pam Elam	209-456-7554
4-5-97	Gourd Basketry Workshop, Don Weeke	Welburn Gourd Farm	Doug/Sue Welburn	619-728-0269
4-26-97	Pattern Design on Gourds, Rimona Gale	Caning Shop, Berkeley	Jim Widess	510-527-5010
4-26-97	Handweavers of No.Cal.	Dunfy Hotel, San Mateo		
4-27-97	LA Basketry Guild BiAnnual Mtng	Los Angeles	Judy Mulford	
5-3-97	Painting Gourds in Spirit, Jolee Schlea	Caning Shop, Berkeley	Jim Widess	510-527-5010
5-9-97	Gourds and Basketry, Don Weeke	Caning Shop, Berkeley	Jim Widess	510-527-5010
5-24-97	Gourd Mask, Kris Thoeni	Caning Shop, Berkeley	Jim Widess	510-527-5010
6-7-97	Gourd Workshop	King City, CA	Anne Jones	209-561-3231
6-14-97	Gourds and Color, Eugenia Gwathney	Caning Shop, Berkeley	Jim Widess	510-527-5010
6-21-97	WELBURN GOURD FESTIVAL	Fallbrook	Doug/Sue Welburn	619-728-0269
6-24-97	So.Cal Handweavers Conf	Burbank	Therese Griffin	310-830-0669
6-28-97	Gourd Thumb Piano, Ginger Summit	CaningShop, Berkeley	Jim Widess	510-527-5010
6-28-97	Gourd Vessels & Pots	Living in the Rainbow Los Osos	Ann Beckman	805-528-4265
7-5-97	Gourd Crafting, Duane Teeter	Caning Shop, Berkeley	Jim Widess	510-527-5010
7-19-97	Gourd Caxixi, Chris Hoback	Caning Shop, Berkeley	Jim Widess	510-527-5010
7-26-97	Gourd Berimbau, Salih Qawi	Caning Shop, Berkeley	Jim Widess	510-527-5010
8-24-97	Misti Washington Gourd and Basket Guild	Quail Garden, Encinitas		
9-13-97	Gourds and Beads, Joy Jalanuguaha	Caning Shop, Berkeley	Jim Widess	510-527-5010
9-27/28	3rd ANNUAL GOURD FESTIVAL	Zittel Farms, Folsom	Kent Zittel	
10-4-97	BAAL GOURD FESTIVAL	Antelope Valley	Tom Baal	805-796-7392

ROUND-UP at the ROOKSTOOL RANCH, Feb. 2, 1997



Our indefatigable President, Carol Rookstool



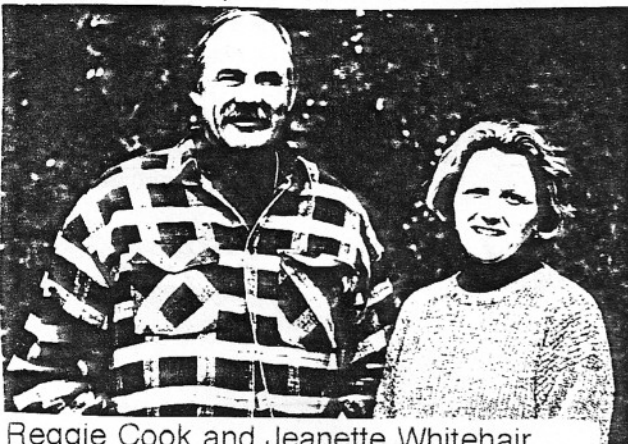
VP's Sue Buck and Ginger Summit will help Carol Rookstool this year.



Regional Rep. Carol Morrison, is eager to help in Palo Alto



Tony and Tom Baal raise gourds among Christmas trees in Antelope Valley



Reggie Cook and Jeanette Whitehair will spread the gourd word in Lone Pine



Walt and Edna Heer continue to spread gourds and good cheer in Paso Robles

The Golden Gourd  
Box 592  
Los Altos, CA 94022

Address Correction Requested

Please clip and give this application to a friend:

Clip and mail



## CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

May we publish  
your name, address,  
telephone in a  
membership roster?  
Circle one:  
  
YES NO

Mail your \$20. annual dues to: Jo Anne Sadler, 3104 Kingridge Way, Glendale, CA 91206

Current American Gourd Society expiration date \_\_\_\_\_