

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

Volume 23, Issue III 2019 Competitions & Festivals Issue

# 2019 People's Choice Awards



Pictured Top Left: OC Festival - Peoples Choice - Robin Erickson Right: Amador Flower Festival - Marilyn Carrico Bottom Left: Bay Area - Frank Sausedo

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#### President's Message

Greetings Fellow Gourders,

In 2019 we had three CGS gourd competitions, which were each a big success! We had a new venue for the competition in the north. It was sponsored by the Amador County Gourd Artists and held at the Amador Flower Farm. What a wonderful location for a gourd festival and the September weather was perfect. A big thank you to Aaron Bullock as "leader of the pack". He had a fantastic team that put the festival together. There were two days of classes, vendor booths, and a raffle that was absolutely fabulous. Thanks to Sylvia Nelson who organized the competition. More about the three competitions elsewhere in the newsletter.

In October the Calabash Club of Silicon Valley put on a wonderful festival at the Uesugi Farm in San Martin. They also had classes, vendor booths and a raffle with baskets full of goodies. It was a popular weekend for families to visit the farm to pick out their favorite pumpkin and ride the rides so there was a lot of activity all weekend long. Thanks to Jeannie Kei Li for organizing the festival with the help of Jody Dingivan, patch president and many, many others that helped. Pam Argo headed up the competition part which turned out very well with over 300 votes for the people's choice award.

The very next weekend was the SoCal competition held in conjunction with the Woodcarvers of Orange County. Since it is not part of a gourd festival, it plays out a little differently. Gourd entries are gathered from local patches in the month proceeding the event and held and logged in by Debbie Zimmerman who is the competition organizer. This was quite a challenge this year with 99 entries! Thanks Debbie for all your hard work and thanks to all that helped out. It takes a village!

I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of each event and am already looking forward to 2020. Thank you to all who took the time to enter your gourd art. Phenomenal talent was exhibited in all three competitions. Keep up creating and sharing!

Olive Moore,

CGS President

#### THE CREATION OF A FESTIVAL

Submitted by Aaron Bullock

What happens when a group of gourders are gathered chatting idly about this and that? This exact thing happened at our Christmas gathering in 2018 when I opened my big mouth and wondered aloud; "Isn't it about time we put on our own Festival at the Flower Farm like we've been talking about?" The dominos began falling piece by piece; one person after another coming up excitedly asking; "Are we really going to have a Festival?" So what do you do when the gate has been opened and let, in this case, all the rumors out? You have a festival of course.

At 78 tender years I get very reluctant about loading my plate too high, but when mouth opens, thoughts pour out, ears pick it up, more talk starts, excitement builds, OMG "What have I done"? Before you know it there is an excited and happy wide eyed group forming a team to make this happen. None of us had created a Gourd Festival but we had faith in one another and marched on. You must remember we are but a small Northern California Patch, Amador, with no web page, no experience putting on major events, yet the most important thing is we had no idea or concept of failure. We found excitement, energy and hard work can penetrate most barriers. After discussing and deciding if we could make this work we set down our game-plan and marched full speed ahead. Bumps, hiccups, oh yes. We tried not to look at them as problems, merely little challenges to solve. Again, hard work, vision and incredible teamwork are a major factor in the alignment of the stars. Result: One incredibly successful Festival. Vendors were ecstatic, teachers did well, students happy and a nice large (58 pieces) quality competition occurred. "Our first time out!!!" Our great hosts, (Amador Flower Farm) also did quite well and appear to be our new large gourd farm in North-

ern California. It also helped that our event was in the heart of one of the most beautiful regions in our grand state.

The 58 gourd entries were from 7 different patches around the state. Wow! Talk about support! Some of the highlights were visitors from all over including current and past CGS presidents; Olive Moore, Sylvia Nelson, Barbara Rippetoe; Past AGS President Cecile Garrison who demonstrated manipulated gourds plus countless other dedicated energetic gourders from all over the state.





Here I am raving about the joys of Festivals when the fact is over the past few years my participation has waned as I became caught up in selling my art work more so than the residual benefits the event can provide.

Well the older we get the wiser, hopefully. The light came on for me while organizing our big show. I had to admit I really love what the festivals do for our gourd world and specifically all of the smiling people in attendance. We bring new people in with the excitement, fun, sharing, learning, creating and meeting new gourd friends. Wow! What a mouthful. I realize that measuring success is not just what we sell but what we experience. Next event you go to just observe the faces of everybody involved. What I see a lot of and I'm going to use that "E" word for the umpteenth time—-"EXCITEMENT".

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And yes our Festival was a huge success. And yes we paid our bills and had some left over for next year. But, the best thing was the memories and good times we experienced while creating our event.

I would like to suggest a way to possibly enhance your festival experience even more. That is to participate with the committee and be part of building your festival. There are always major workers for every event but the thing is every single effort no matter how big or small is essential to the success of your event.

Again we at our small Amador Patch knew little about such things but worked together and learning from successful endeavors by other patches around the State we went in with a few simple rules.

- 1. Agree to disagree: There is more than one way to do things. Discuss as a group, make a decision and move on. Get rid of the two words "Never and Always". There is usually a way to make it work. The majority feeling is usually the correct one. There is no "I" in "TEAM".
- 2. Assign lead persons in each category: Competition, Vendors, so on. If there is a tie on how to do one of the functions, the lead person or chairperson has the final say. We had very little of that.
- 3. Make sure every person who contributes in any way knows how much they are appreciated. These things don't just happen with just a few folks doing all the work, they are successful because many took time and effort in some measure to help.
- 4. Above all have fun and make sure the team is as well.

Of course this is just an overview of the big picture but when you do your event no matter how big or small be prepared to have an experience you may not have expected. And don't measure success on sales or profit, even though those things are nice, instead try to measure your success on the smiles and enthusiasm and the wonderful team that pitched in to help it work. A smile can be priceless.

#### **Pictured**

Top Left Robert Swenson in his booth.

Top Right: Grand Raffle Winner - Carol Silva

Bottom Left: Brenda Blackwelder's Class

Bottom Right: Farm Tram











### Nor-Cal Competition 2019

A new location for Northern California gourd competition and it was an excellent choice. It was part of a gourd festival at the Amador Flower Farm put on by the Amador County Gourd Artists. A big thank you to Sylvia Nelson for heading up the CGS competition. Thank you to Marilyn Carrico for tending the competition area and handing out People's Choice ballots throughout Saturday and Sunday.



**Marilyn Taylor** 

Flower Farm Award

There were 58 entries in three divisions: Novice-8, Intermediate-23, and Advanced-20. There was also a special category to honor the flower farm. It was not part of the CGS judging but the owners of the farm chose their favorite. Seven patches participated in the competition: Amador-31, Folsom-14, Sequoia/Tulaire-2, Rio Linda-1, Foothill-5, Orange County-1, Calabash-1, and no patch affiliation-3.

The weather was great and we had good participation in People's Choice ballots with the winner of People's Choice being Marilyn Carrico in the Advanced Division. The highest award went to Patti Fisher in the Amador patch also in the Advanced Division for Best of Show.

Marilyn Taylor

Novice: Best of Division

Shagna Chrislei Intermediate: Best of Division Patti Fisher

Advanced: Best of Division

Best of Show







#### 2019 Nor Cal Competition Winners

#### **Novice Division**

#### **Coloring Techniques**

1st-Kat Powell 2nd- Diana Inslee

#### **Embellishments**

1st-Marilyn Taylor (Best of Division) 2nd-Diane Inslee 3rd-Cindy Egloff

#### Show Us What You Can Do

1<sup>st</sup>-Marilyn Taylor 2<sup>nd</sup>-Mousie Brown 3<sup>rd</sup>-Diana Inslee

#### **Intermediate Division**

#### **Pyrography**

1st-Carole Meltzer

#### Carving/Fretwork/Filigree

1st-Shagna Chrislei 2nd-Barbara Cody 3rd-Carla O'Dell

#### **Coloring Techniques**

 $1^{\mathrm{st}} ext{-Nancy Hawkins}$   $2^{\mathrm{nd}} ext{-Kim Powell}$   $3^{\mathrm{rd}} ext{-Carole Meltzer}$ 

#### Natural and Fiber Art

 $1^{\mathrm{st}} ext{-}\mathrm{Fran}$  Ford  $2^{\mathrm{nd}} ext{-}\mathrm{Sharolyn}$  Bullock  $3^{\mathrm{rd}} ext{-}\mathrm{Kim}$  Powell

#### Wildlife

1st-Shagna Chrislei (Best of Division and Judge's Choice)
 2nd-Kim Powell
 3rd-Joni Canada

#### **Distinctly Yours**

 $1^{\mathrm{st}}$ -Kim Powell (Judge's Choice)  $2^{\mathrm{nd}}$ -Sharolyn Bullock  $3^{\mathrm{rd}}$ -Barbara Cody

#### **Advanced Division**

#### **Pyrography**

1st-Sugi Karuppiah

#### Carving/Fretwork/Filigree

1<sup>st</sup>-Sylvia Nelson (Judges Choice) 2<sup>nd</sup>-Dawnelle Sauve

#### **Advanced Division**

#### Coloring Techniques

1st-Dawnelle Sauve 2nd-Marilyn Carrico

#### **Embellishments**

1st-Colleen Ballard 2nd-Patti Fisher 3rd-Marilyn Carrico

#### Wildlife

 $1^{\mathrm{st}}$ -Dawnelle Sauve (Judges Choice)  $2^{\mathrm{nd}}$ -Patti Fisher  $3^{\mathrm{rd}}$ -Aaron Bullock

#### No Limits

 $1^{\mathrm{st}}$ -Patti Fisher (Best of Division, Best of Show, Judge's Choice)

#### **Special Category**

#### **Honoring Amador Flower Farm**

Pictured Below

Winner - Marilyn Taylor



#### EL GOURDO'S RAMBLINGS

It's a time to celebrate! My goodness; there is so much going on this time of the year. One fun festival after another and the promise of more fun on the horizon. It is amazing how many "Festival Followers" we have in California. At this point I have managed to attend several with more in my sights. Am I imagining things or are our festivals growing in popularity? Example: The little Amador Patch up north put on their first event and it was a smashing success. Yes, it is in a beautiful location with stunning gardens, giant oaks, koi ponds, and no, I won't forget, Incredible Wineries to mention just a tad of what the area has to offer. As I wandered about this event, in my stealth mode of course, it was hard not to feel and see the excitement in every part of this event. Yes, I was able to meet most of the organizers and talk to them including Aaron Bullock, the chairperson, though he denied that position saying it was a team not a person who made this work. Other team members were quick to point to the team causing the success. What a great time I had there and afterwards of course. This Festival gave me an excuse to hang around the area for the week at which time I made the little two-hour drive over the hill to the wonderful Silver State Festival. Only after visiting some the numerous and wonderful wineries of course. Those Silver State folks are pros and the drive through the Sierras is worth the trip alone. My cargo of cases did smooth the ride in my SUV. They had no competition but great classes and many fine vendors. And I saw many familiar faces from the Amador event.

And then there was Calabash, those folks have been doing this for a few years now and they had a great success as well. I understand that SoCal was a big success as well with nearly 100 entries, although I was unable to attend. And yes there is wine in the area as well. In fact, we can pretty much call these festivals a wine/wine situation.

Oh! Allow me to regress a little. Remember the last issue I spoke of the Joys of Volunteering? Our gourd life would be flat and empty without those who pitch in and help. VOLUNTEERS! I have personally witnessed hundreds and hundreds of fine folks having the times of their lives at all of the above mentioned events. Volunteers; you make so many things possible. You help create places for sharing, learning, camaraderie, and pure joy to happen. Without you it would be less. Plus, it feels so good when you have helped to bring success and joy to so many. Pat yourselves on the back volunteers.

As in my first three Ramblings I have featured a person or two to highlight as the Gourd World's "Silent All Stars." This month it dawned on me while there are several of you who fit this description I keep bumping into a wonderful person who is virtually everywhere. Terrye Temple is a product of the NORCAL area, living in Shingle Springs actually and I bumped into her again, this time at the Amador Festival. I really had it in my head that she was a SOCAL neighbor because over the years she has been in the area taking classes, attending Festivals and involved fully in the gourd world. How involved you might ask? Well if I'm told right she belongs to no less than 5 and maybe more Patches from one end of the state to the other. Yes, San Diego all the way north to Lake county, Bay area and the Motherlode country. Nobody I have met is more in love with gourd art. Her work is eye popping and her sharing with others is second to none. And she is one who is absolutely loved by everyone she's around. One of our great Ambassadors of everything Gourdly. Kudos and thank you Terrye for all you mean to the countless gourders.

Of course everywhere I go gourd wise there are candidates who meet this description. The words I hear coming from the majority of gourd nuts is "You meet the nicest people in the gourd world." So true.

Last issue I brought up some of the things we might do to keep our society on the upswing and judging was one of the topics near and dear to my heart. I was a little worried being involved with gourds for less than 10 years some might think me presumptuous; thinking ahead of my ranking and status. But one thing about being EG I must step into areas and say things which can cause a little backlash and ultimately, humbling me even more. So, having said that did any of you read the past American Gourd Society magazine, specifically the article by Bonne Gibson? Yes, that Bonnie Gibson is one of the true dignitaries of all Gourdom. She talked about judging and was very much in line with what I was trying to say. No, she didn't copy me, nor does she even know me, though I know of her. Took a couple of classes from her in the past. And yes she is definitely one of the E.F. Hudsons of our gourd galaxy. When she or someone like her talks, we tend to listen. To get better we need to make changes as they are needed. Oh, and I didn't copy Bonnie either.—Honestly!

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In the last issue of Golden Gourd I threatened you with a picture of myself in this issue. Well—it seems I lied again. All of my existing pictures are hanging in my garden to scare the garden eaters away. But I will try again in future issues — that is if the editors and influential guidance committee of this fine newsletter don't come to their senses and abolish it beforehand.

From day one of my gourd experience one of the most interesting and yes, sometimes sad things I've witnessed is Artist's evaluation of their own work. We artists tend to be our own worst critics, and often to a fault. Those who are happy and understand they are where they need to be are right on. The rest of us who compare our work to others might need to reevaluate our motives and where we are artistically. For the first two years I was very reluctant to take my work to our "show and tell" time at the Patch meetings and perish the thought that I might show my hideous work. It took me a few years to realize art is not a competition but a path to open the door to our own creativity. I've witnessed people slide away from art because they just couldn't be happy with what they were doing, always comparing it to the person setting next to them. How sad; we deny ourselves the chance to do something we may love by quitting. I saw a sign recently that said; "Life isn't about finding yourself, Life is about creating yourself." I think that is true in every aspect. We need to venture out and find what interests us and work at it until we are happy. We can't be happy if we are like the amateur golfer who plays occasionally but expects to play like a pro. We need to be nicer to ourselves and learn to be happy where we are. If we do something we haven't done before and maybe it better than our norm, is that not art and success. I think so. Baby steps, and love the creating and growth as much as the final product.

Do it for you first and above all find joy in the doing.

Until we meet the next time El Gourdo. Aka EG ElGourdoArt@gmail.com

# **MISSION STATEMENT**

To promote the horticulture, art, crafting and appreciation of the hard-shelled gourds (Lagenaria Siceraria) by providing charitable and educational activities to members of the society, growers, artists, crafters, business people and the public through community support and education.

#### San Diego County Gourd Artists

#### Retreat at Whispering Winds facility in Julian

The San Diego County Gourd Artists gathered once again for their annual Retreat. 30 members attended the 5 day event located in Julian CA. The facility had large spacious hall for all to gather and work in. The spectacular fireplace in the lobby proved to be a cozy story telling spot.

The sleeping accommodations were a combination of dorm style and hotel style. And the cafeteria had fabulous food! The facility is nestled in the foothills of Cuyamaca Mountains spreading over 161 acres providing walking trails and areas to meditate and reflect. Too cold for our pool party this time but we did take advantage of our Zip Line adventure!

We had Kits, Swag bags, Raffles, UFOs, Bingo, Classes, Demos, entertainment by the Gourdette Singers, Masseuse, golf carts for easy transport, Sale and Trade tables and fabulous food! A whole lot of laughter, catching up, and sharing!

5 days seems like a long time for a retreat but it came and went just like that! As usual before it was over we started planning our next adventure, stay tuned....



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### SoCal Competition - 2019

Debbie Zimmerman did an outstanding job of organizing and carrying out all aspects of the So-Cal Gourd Competition. This event is different from the other two CGS competitions in the state in that it is not a festival but only a competition. It is held in conjunction with the Orange County Woodcarvers Show and Competition in Orange County. It was a very successful event thanks to all the volunteers that helped transport entries, set up, monitor and take down at the end. Gourd entries are collected in advance from various gourd patches and groups and were transported to the event the day before the judging. Only a few entries arrive in the morning just before the judging takes place. Thanks to Debbie Zimmerman and Olive Moore for picking up and returning entries from several patches throughout Southern California. This competition ended up having the largest number of entries out of the three competitions.

There were 99 entries in four divisions: Novice-36, Intermediate-17, Advanced-17, Masters-14 and the special category of Class Gourds-15. Four patches participated in the competition: Orange County-26, Ventura County-35, San Diego County-15, Sequoia/Tulare-1, no patch affiliation-22.





Since the Competition was with the Woodcarvers Show, the attendance was fantastic. Many woodcarvers and local attendees were introduced to gourd art for the first time. Everyone enjoyed being able to choose their favorite entry with the winner (pictured left) of People's Choice being Robin Erickson in the Masters Division. Her beautiful honey bees also won in Master's Division for Best of Show.

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Pictured left:

Leslie Hargrove Best of Division -Intermediate

Pictured below:

Claudia Mutialu Best of Division - Advanced



Pictured above:

Donna Shafer Best of Division -Novice

#### S

#### PAGE 13 THE GOLDEN GOURD (Continued from Page 12) **Novice Division Pyrography** 1stDom Vinolus Peg Boortz 2nd Kathleeen Johnston 3rd Carved or Filigree/Fretwork 1st, Best Of Division Donna Shafer 2ndMaria Davis Karen Ederer 3rd Dolls, Spirit Dolls/Figure Dianna Whittaker 1st2ndDom Vinolus Painted or Colored Linda Shafer 1st2nd Donna Shafer 3rd Peg Boortz Fiber/Weaving/Coiled 1st Alice Hengst Gail Sammons 2nd Dianna Whittaker 3rd

#### **Intermediate Division Pyrography** Leslie Hargrove 1stCarved/ Filigree/Fretwork 1st, Best Of Division Leslie Hargrove

**Anything Goes** 

Maria Davis

Joyce Kierner

1st

2nd

3rd

Kathy Tomassi

>	D ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER - 2019 COMPET			
o-Cal Competition Winners				
	Intern	nediate Division		
	Do	olls/Spirit Dolls/Figures		
	1st	Chris Garcia		
	2nd	Elsie Cogswell		
	3rd	Peggy Blessing		
	]	Painted or Colored		
	1st	Chris Garcia		
	2nd	Elsie Cogswell		
	3rd	Stasia Day		
	]	Fiber/Weaving/Coiled		
	1st	JoAnn Clark		
	A	Anything Goes		
	1st	Marilyn Goldberg		
	2nd	Evy Eisele		
	3rd	Elsie Cogswell		
	Advar	nced Division		
		Pyrography		
	1st	JaVae Ferrier		
	I			

## Carved/Filigree/Fretwork Maggie LeDuc 1stCharlene Smith 2nd Dolls, Spirit Dolls, Figures

1st	Sue Fuller	
2nd	Cathy Agnew	
	Painted or Colored	
1st	Olive Moore	

2nd	Cathy Agnew
3rd	Sherry Hunga-Moore
	Fiber/Weaving/Coiled
1st	Sue Fuller

## **Anything Goes**

1st, Best of Division Claudia Mutialu

Olive Moore 2nd

JaVae Ferrier 3rd

#### **Masters Division**

#### **Pyrography**

Reetsie Fuller 1st

Grace Swanson 2nd

#### Carved/Filigree/Fretwork

1st/BOD/BOS/PC

Robin Erickson

2nd Pamela Watson

Camille King 3rd

#### Painted or Colored

Grace Swanson 1st

#### Fiber/Weaving/Coiled

1stCamille King

Grace Swanson 2nd

Cookie Hanson 3rd

#### **Anything Goes**

Roberto Castro 1st

2nd Robin Erickson

3rdGrace Swanson

#### **Class Gourd Division**

#### Simple

Deborah Lish 1st

2ndSherry Hunga Moore

3rd Stasia Day

#### Complex

Donna Shafer 1st

Stacy Holtz 2nd

Olive Moore 3rd

#### 2019 - Bay Area Competition

A big thank you to Pam Argo for heading up the CGS gourd competition. And a special thank you goes to Sharon Sausedo for checking in the gourd competition entries with help from her husband Frank. Olive Moore and Jega Aravandy tended the competition tent handing out People's Choice ballots throughout Saturday and Sunday with several others taking their turn for a short while.

There were 62 entries in five divisions: Youth-4, Novice-15, Intermediate-20, Advanced-16, Masters-4 and Jim Story-3. Six patches participated in the competition: Calabash-35, East Bay-12, Tulare/Sequoia-4, San Diego County-1, Orange County-1 and no patch affiliation-7.

The weather was great and we had over 300 People's Choice ballots with the winner of People's Choice being Frank Sausedo in the Advanced Division. The highest award went to Lori Conrow, a CGS member from Los Gatos, in the Master's Division for Best of Show.









Pictured Top Left: Lisa Baurmeister's Class.

Top Right: Iris Gach Intermediate Pyrography 1st Place, Best of Division and Judges Choice.

Bottom Left: Pamela Hammermann Novice Coloring Techniques 1st Place and Best of Division.

Bottom Right: Demo Booth Smruti Kurse and Lisa Baurmeister.

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#### 2019 Bay Area Competition Winners

#### **Youth Division - Junior-Under 12**

1st-Emily

2<sup>nd</sup>-Noah

3<sup>rd</sup>-Leah

3<sup>rd</sup>-Melody

#### **Novice Division**

#### **Pyrography**

1st-Pam Echkert

#### **Painted/Coloring Techniques**

1<sup>st</sup>-Pamela Hammermann (Best of Division)

2<sup>nd</sup>-Cathy Warrick

3<sup>rd</sup>-Pam Eckert

#### **Class Gourd**

1st-Zan Turner

2<sup>nd</sup>-Pam Eckert

3<sup>rd</sup>-Pam Hammermann

#### **Something Else**

1st-Pat Rusch

2<sup>nd</sup>-Sharon Sausedo

3<sup>rd</sup>-Cathy Warrick

#### **Intermediate Division**

#### **Pyrography**

1<sup>st</sup>-Iris Gach (Best of Division & Judge's Choice)

#### Carving/Fretwork/Filigree

1st-Margaret Partain

2<sup>nd</sup>-Cherie Savory

3<sup>rd</sup>-Michele Brown

#### Painted/Coloring Techniques

1<sup>st</sup>-Michele Brown

2<sup>nd</sup>-Alice Caperton

#### **Embellishments**

1st-Michele Brown

#### **Intermediate Division**

#### Wearable Art

1st-Alice Caperton

2<sup>nd</sup>-Michele Brown

3<sup>rd</sup>-Jeannie Kei Li

#### **Class Gourd**

1st-Iris Gach

2<sup>nd</sup>-Jeannie Kei Li

3<sup>rd</sup>-Margaret Partain

#### **Anything Goes**

1<sup>st</sup>-Iris Gach

2<sup>nd</sup>-Michele Brown

#### **Pyrography**

1st-Sugi Karuppiah

2<sup>nd</sup>-Kennie Winter

#### **Advanced Division**

#### Carving/Fredwork/Filigree

1st-Frank Sausedo

#### **Painted/Coloring Techniques**

1<sup>st</sup>-Pam Argo

2<sup>nd</sup>-Julianne Burge

#### Weaving/Coiled

1st-Jody Dingivan

2<sup>nd</sup>-Marilyn Carrico

#### **Class Gourd**

1st-Carole Dwinell

2<sup>nd</sup>-Sugi Karuppiah

3<sup>rd</sup>-Jody Dingivan

#### **Anything Goes**

1<sup>st</sup>-Frank Sausedo (Best of Division & People's Choice)

2<sup>nd</sup>-Cecile Garrison

3<sup>rd</sup>-Kennie Winter

#### **Masters Division**

#### **Pyrography**

1st-Smruti Kurse

#### Carving/Fretwork/Filigree

1st-Grace Swanson

#### **Distinctively Different**

1<sup>st</sup>-Lori Conrow (Best of Division and Best of Show)

2<sup>nd</sup>-Lisa Baurmeister

**Special Category: Jim Story** 

Manipulated Gourd-Cecile Garrison

**Crafted Manipulated Gourd**-Cecile Garrison



Pictured Above: Lori Conrow

Masters - Distinctively Different 1st Place, Best of Division, Best of Show, Judges Choice.

# James D. Perry October 6, 1946 - November 10, 2019





The world has lost a great man who touched so many lives with his kindness, sharing and and humility.

James Perry's passing has left a deep void in so many lives. He was the most generous, caring and decent human anyone could hope to know. He loved his art world and the countless artists friends all of who held him in such high esteem. There has never been a better person or better American and he was a man who served his country proudly and gave it everything he had. I know I loved him like a brother and like so many others am mourning deeply over our loss. We didn't just lose a premier artist, we lost a premier friend, brother, father, and so much more.

RIP my dear brother. Aaron and Sharolyn Bullock

Jim Widess was one of the first to get this sad news and sent out a request for those who knew and loved James Perry to write a short Eulogy. I was privileged to call James a friend, just one of his many as everybody who met him and got to know him felt the same.

Jim Widess and I collaborated on this writing to let James's Art world friends know of this sad time.

Perry, as his family and closer friends called him, lived a life of a father, family man, soldier, friend, and we knew him in the gourd community, as a world class gourd artist. James was one of a kind, period.

James joined the Marine Corps in 1967 and was honorably discharged in 1969. He was a PROUD decorated Marine from the Viet Nam era and a recipient of the Purple Heart Medal, National Defense Service, Vietnam Service and Campaign as well as marksmanship badges.

Born in Shreveport Louisiana October 6th, 1946 his family relocated to Los Angeles in 1954 where he graduated from High School.

He then worked for the US Postal Service for 31 years, retiring in 2005 and being a creative person all his life found gourd art and soon after he found Jim Widess who became best of friends and James's mentor. James was self taught in every phase of his art and became well known for his pyrography or "Painting with Heat" as he liked to call it. Many time award winner he also taught to full classes wanting to further share his love of the gourd.

I last saw James at Wuertz where he was demonstrating his Pyrography skills to new artists when the wind picked up and began blowing his shelter around. Instantly there were several passerby's who came to his aid and helped anchor it down. After the dust settled James and I sat there and a warm expression came over his face and he said "Gourd People are the best in the world." I heard that comment from him several times over the years I knew him and I hope now that he knew his world and the people in it felt that exact way about him. James you have left a legacy of love with so many. When we think of you a warmth enters into us bringing back beautiful memories of the man you were. God loves you and so do we.

# California Gourd Society 2020 Fundraiser

# Gourd Quilt or Mosaic Tiles



Projects will be offered at the

"Gourds and Baskets Containers of our Culture" Visalia, California Saturday April 25, 2020

Proceeds benefit the statewide educational outreach of CGS and its members.

### Project criteria/guidelines for Regional Groups, (Patches)

- 1. Finished project should be quality construction and last for several years.
- 2. You are encouraged to make one or more gourd project.
- Size/Dimension limitations; NO larger than 24" X 30" (Flip Chart size)
   (Keep in mind we have to be able to display projects on tables or stands you provide)
- 4. Projects are due on or prior to start of event in Visalia, Friday 24, 2020.
- 5. Attach tag with name of patch and artist's names.
- 6 Mail or deliver to:
  - \*Susan Gouig P.O. Box 1186, Healdsburg, CA 95448 (Northern members)
  - \*Libby Salvo 2927 Sunset Hills, Escondido, CA 92028 (Southern members)











# 20/20 Vision of Gourds Festival

June 4th - June 7th, 2020

MACC Gallery 10191 Mills Station Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670



Class dates Thursday, Friday, Saturday June 4, 5, 6,2020. Most classes will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the gallery, accessible by elevator or stairs. Some will be outside under a roof.

With your proposal, please include

- Your contact information, high resolution photo of your project on CD, Flash Drive, or email attachment.
- There will be a Friday night reception, for which we solicit examples of your art for exhibit.
- Also we would be gratefulfor a donation of your art for raffle.

#### CALL FOR VENDORS AND ARTISTS

- The gallery is located near freeway access and a Regional Transit Station. The Gallery has excellent lighting and security system, free admittance and free parking.
- VendorFees for Saturday June 6 & Sunday June 7: \$50.00 for 10'x10' space

\$30.00 for 6' table space Table rental \$5.00 each.



For more information contactJanice.2020vi<u>2020visionofgourds@gmail.com</u>
Show Chairman: Barbara Cody, 530-795-2828, Barbara.2020visionsofgourds@gmail.com

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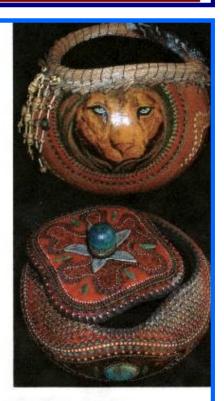
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### The American Gourd Society



The society publishes four issues a year of <u>THE GOURD Magazine</u> journal for members. This publication is a vehicle for news and information about people, events, state Chapters, books, seeds, crafting and other gourd related subjects both domestic and foreign. The AGS is the unifying body for all state Chapters and provides a network of contacts for people and organizations worldwide.

To join contact Dallas Lunsford: <a href="mailto:agsmembership@comcast.net">agsmembership@comcast.net</a> or http://www.americangourdsociety.org/join.html



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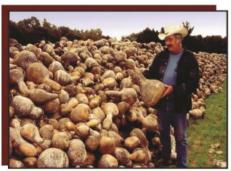
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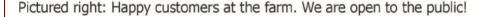


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Pictured left: Founder Doug Welburn, inspecting gourds for shipment in 1997.

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