



*The Newsletter of the California Chapter of the American Gourd Society*



*By Peggy Blessing,  
CGS Secretary*

Please join me in expressing appreciation to Mary Bliss for her many years of service as the Golden Gourd Editor since 2005. I've known Mary through our many years of service on the CGS Board. I've concluded that the success of our newsletter is a reflection of her caring and generous nature. We were so lucky she cared so much about the organization and its people.

Because of the magnitude of this job, it was decided long ago that the Newsletter Editor was to be a paid position. However, Mary's efforts and expertise far outstripped the amount she received. She spent thousands of hours working on behalf of the California Gourd Society, all to keep its membership, as one cohesive group. Besides the effort involved in producing and distributing the newsletter, Mary also spent time thinking about the needs of our CGS organization and its members.

She organized and corralled so many of us to provide her with information about CGS events, activities of the regional groups and the Board, festivals, competitions, as well as opportunities to learn about our fellow members, provide inspirational messages, and learn new techniques.

The new Editor, Lisa Baurmeister, has said that she has big shoes to fill. . . no truer words have been said. However, it is not farewell! I'm so happy that Mary will continue to serve as CGS's Webmaster and will continue to send notices on behalf of the organization through our Constant Contact email service.

We send our deepest gratitude to Mary for her continued input and guidance as the organization moves into the future.



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*~ A Message from our President ~*

**Greetings Fellow Gourders,**

Spring is on its way. Are you thinking about what variety of gourds you want to plant this year? I saw on Facebook that some of you have already started planting seeds inside under lights. Wow! I like to start mine in peat pots first, so I know they're going to grow when I put them in the ground.

I saw several of you at the Wuertz Gourd Festival in Arizona in February. If you've never attended, put it on your wish list; you'll be glad you did. A number of our CGS members participated as teachers, competition judges, competition clerks, had vendor booths, and many attended classes. Congratulations to those who won awards in the competition!

I was really looking forward to seeing many of you at the Baskets and Gourds Conference in Visalia this coming month. As you all know by now, the event has been rescheduled because of the Coronavirus. So, we still have that to look forward to in April of 2021. Hang on to all of those mosaic tile/quilt wall hangings and we'll have our CGS raffle then. Buy more tickets at your patch meetings and you'll have even a better chance to win!

I know we are so tired of hearing about this pandemic (I am anyway) but we each need to do our part with social distancing, washing our hands often and trying to keep our hands away from our face when we need to be out and about. Hopefully it will be under control soon and we can begin to get our lives back to normal.

My wish for all of you is to stay safe and be healthy. Use any extra time you have to engage in creating more gourd art and enjoy every minute.

**Your President,**

**Olive Moore**



**CGS ~ 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, businesspeople, and the public through community support and education.



## *Changing Lives, One Gourd at A Time*



### ***More Than A New Friend***

I met Sugi, the founder of NextVision and her mother, in 2016, at my first Gourd Festival in San Martin. There I was soaking in my first festival, and there was Sugi, just as enamored with all things gourds as I was. That day, Sugi joined our Calabash club. I did not see her again until a chance meeting the following month in our local grocery store. We made plans to attend the next club meeting together. Since then, I consider myself blessed to call this smart, kind, artistic, and selfless person, my good friend.

Sugi's family welcomed me, my husband Erik and our dog Bella into their home with open arms. I soon learned that there was much more to Sugi than tending to her family, home, and craft. Sugi had a bigger passion in her life, a mission, a vision, one that her entire family shares in. Sugi, usually a soft-spoken person, has a fire in her eyes when she talks about her charity, what she'd like to accomplish and where she wants to take it. I asked her how this all came about? Here's that story.

### ***Following in Her Father's Footsteps***

"When I was a little girl, I used to accompany my father to the small farming village where he was raised, in southern India. I loved being able to join him and to watch as he helped people using the little money he had."

After her father's death, in 2003, Sugi was reluctant to visit the village without her father. But something in her said she needed to go back; she needed to continue with what her father started.

### ***In the Beginning:***

In 2006 while helping her son's Los Gatos kindergarten teacher clean up after the end of school year, Sugi collected all the used crayons that the school was going to throw away and decided to donate them to her father's village.

That summer, while waiting with her boys, Rahul 6 and Rohit 3, at the village school to donate the crayons, (It is important to note that these are kids who had never seen a crayon before), they watched as the 3rd graders came to school early so that they could carry water from the well to the bathrooms; bathrooms that had water tanks, but no plumbing lines.

While the children were beyond excited by the crayons, Sugi called the local village plumber and asked what it would cost to run the plumbing from the well to the bathroom and the kitchen. The plumber quoted \$170, including labor. Sugi decided right there and then to run the lines and, like her father did when she was a little girl, paid for it with her own money. She asked the school what other projects are there in need of getting done? The list was endless. However, once she committed to their needs, she never looked back, and NextVision was born.

*"I came to realize that helping children to succeed in life and helping my father's village to maintain a sustainable life, was/is my calling."  
~ Sugi Karuppiha*

NextVision

~ Continue pg. 4

The non-profit, NextVision Charitable Trust, was started with the help of Sugi's mother, now the trustee and immense contributor in taking care of the trust. Knowing that she needed funds to support her passion, Sugi started making jewelry with 100% of the proceeds going toward the charity; when that was not enough, she moved on and started making gourd art. It wasn't until attending a gourd festival in Folsom, she decided to get back into gourds with the hope of making money for her charity. That following year she joined Calabash.

Since joining Calabash, Sugi has been able to sell more gourd art, specifically her pyrography work which is a big hit with her community. These sales have enabled Sugi and NextVision to provide the village and surrounding areas with free health camps, job awareness seminars and dental care. NextVision also pays tuition fees for those who otherwise would have dropped out of college, due to lack of funds. They've also been instrumental in helping the local environment, planting 50 trees at the Naduvalur High School and 100 trees in Naduvalur with a goal to plant at least 10,000 trees. All this, done with the money she earns selling her gourd art. When asked, what are some of the major hurdles you've had to overcome to make NextVision successful? Sugi replied,

**“Trying to find people who have the same mindset as I do and who support my vision. Finding volunteers to work remotely, organizing the camps, and trying to keep the cost low without sacrificing the quality of the work.”**

***Giving Light!***

One day, in the summer of 2019, Sugi and her brother were told there were two families deep in the countryside who have been without electrical use for decades. They decided to visit them and witness for themselves. That week, NextVision set them up with one solar panel and five lights for night-time use. Now, the children can study, and mothers can cook by lamplight instead of just fire light or flashlight when they could get batteries. There are now plans to help others who have no choice but to live off grid.



**This two-family home now has electric.**



Now, the making and selling of her gourd art is the primary source of income for NextVision. The most Sugi has ever sold in a year was roughly \$2000.00. It might not sound like a lot in U.S. terms; however, this money goes a long way in India.

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***“I learned a lot after joining the Calabash Club and saw a potential to sell more gourd art through the club’s different venues.”***



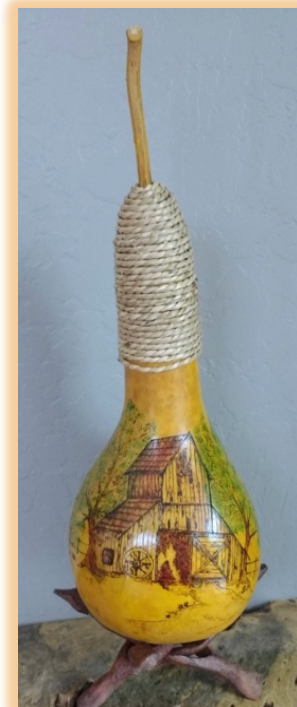
One example: The Borewell that they installed in a high school cost the charity \$2200, to drill 750 feet down. In the U.S. that would have cost over 20K to drill. Once completed, 992 students were able to benefit directly by the fresh water, as well as the local village. How many things can one person do in their lifetime, that can directly affect over 1000 people? Not many, however Sugi and NextVision are changing lives daily, one gourd at a time.

That said, Sugi still has to rely on the little donations she receives throughout the year. These donations help her to take her work to the next level. In 2019 Sugi applied for and was granted, 501 (c) 3 status, which provides her charity and her donors, with tax exemptions. This new status will hopefully encourage more people to donate to the charity.



**NextVision’s partial list of accomplishments, 2008 – 2019**

- Installed solar panels on two homes in the mountains that have no access to electricity. For generations these families have done without. NextVision plans to install panels in 8 more houses on the mountain.
- Donated books, shelving and electronics to the local Naduvalur library.
- Donated computers, printers, a projector to Schools
- Paid tuition for nursing and college students
- Held a health camp in Naduvallur for Breast Cancer Awareness.
- Drilled multiple wells and donated water tanks for schools.
- Funded a relief effort in Kerala after the floods.
- Planted 50 trees at the Naduvalur High School and 100 trees in Naduvalur.
- Helped fund the infrastructure of the local orphanage and two orphan children with their yearly living expenses.



~ Continue pg. 6

**“The fact that I can complete these projects by selling my gourd art mean so much.”**

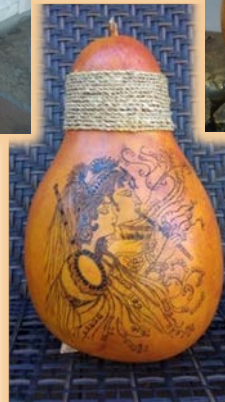
To find out more about Sugi, NextVision and to donate.  
Please go to [www.thenextvision.com](http://www.thenextvision.com), email: [sksugi@gmail.com](mailto:sksugi@gmail.com)  
Mailing address: NextVision Charity Inc.  
14341 Oak Lane,  
Los Gatos, CA 95032

That's Sugi, in the red and green Sari, conducting a breast cancer awareness workshop for village women.



*“I feel if we want to make a difference, whether it be in your life or others, it's not about how much you have; it's more about what you do, with what you have.”*

***A sampling of Sugi's Gourd Art, pieces that pay for schoolbooks, and medicine.***



## *ELGourdo's Rambling*

Yo Gourdy's:

It's press time again, and I am discovering that my anonymity is slowly eroding away as you sharp sleuths are discovering my identity. All the clever deception and misdirection are being exposed as if your XRAY vision is penetrating my deceit. I admit it has been fun deceiving you, but maybe you should know for sure. Hmmm?

As you who read my ramblings know, I have been writing a blip each month about those I think of as "Hidden Heroes." The gourd world has so many. As my dear departed friend James Perry told me several times, "Gourd people are the best in the world." He was definitely one of them.

With that said, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mary Bliss, a Hidden Hero, for her 15 years of hard work and dedication to bring joy to our gourd world through the Golden Gourd. Mary, I know fellow members of CGS must be like me, eagerly awaiting each publication that you have made so enjoyable for so many years. Thanks for your kindness in doing this and keeping it so interesting all these years.

This month, I would like to bring up a topic that is probably common among all organizations. It is a natural phenomenon that can make organizations shrink or grow. There are too many to list in one writing but allow me to suggest what may be a couple of contributing factors:

Welcoming new members and visitors- Do we properly greet new folks other than "Hi nice to see you, thanks for visiting," etc.? Or, do we welcome them and find out what they are looking for, their experience level, and so on?

Having Play Days- Believe me; I've been on both ends of this. We are a society that's into sharing and growing. Sharing creates growth.

A dear friend recently invited visitors and club members who've been around a while for a PLAY DAY. She asked my spouse and me to help her teach these folks gourd art basics. It was dynamite! Instantly we created some "born again gourders." Now they have the experience and confidence to go on with their new-found love of gourd art. This experience has the potential to recreate itself as these folks learn and want to share.

Small things make a difference and can reenergize your patch. Encourage your senior members to have a few folks over to play, share, and learn. It is a blessing in disguise as friendships develop, and we ourselves get better at our art as a bonus. Try it if you aren't already doing so.

I have a few other ideas as well, and I do know that EXCITEMENT is the lifeblood of our organization — more on this in future issues.

Remember: *Volunteering = Sharing = Excitement = Growth and Fun!*

Well, I must end now, I have decided to help you detectives bust my anonymity by sending a picture of myself in the next issue, or not. Till next time, have a "gourd-acacias" day. Nope, not in Webster, just an EG thing.

I encourage you to send me your thoughts or suggestions to [ELGourdoArt@gmail.com](mailto:ELGourdoArt@gmail.com).

~ *ELGourdo*





### Check out What's happening in the American Gourd Society!

Here are **TWO** New Reasons why you should Subscribe to The Gourd Magazine.

### They now have **TWO** Quarterly Gourd Crafting Contests!

#### General Rules for Entries

- It is easy to enter and there is no fee, so we hope that YOU will consider entering for the next contest. Show them what we Californians can do!
- You can send in your entry as soon as you are ready. Do it while you are thinking about it.
- All they ask for is a one paragraph bio that includes your home state, GO CALIFORNIA, and a brief blurb about you and the pieces you are entering. It's that simple.
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#### Why Enter? So, you can show your California Pride, and for the perks of course!

- The first-place winner of each quarterly contest receives a free 1-year membership extension of their AGS membership.
- All winners will also receive a digital copy of the magazine for sharing with family and friends
- In addition, the first-place winning artist will be profiled in a feature article the following issue. Who wouldn't want that?
- Just so you know, first-place winners may only win one membership prize during a 12-month period.
- So, what are you waiting for? Mark your calendars with deadlines to enter and get creating.

Want to plan ahead?  
The theme for Summer 2020 is  
**“Fantasy”**

*Deadline for entry: April 15.* Show us your creativity and artistry with your fantasy themed gourds – anything goes from fairy tales to futuristic themes and everything in between.

The theme for Fall 2020 is “Inks, Dyes and Watercolors.” Show us your use of ink dyes, wood dyes, alcohol inks, watercolors and watercolor pens and pencils – any medium that has a measure of transparency. (*Deadline for entry: July 15.*)

#### Gourd Crafting Contest

The theme for Summer 2020 is  
**“Manipulated Animal Gourds”**

*Deadline for entry: April 15.* A Manipulated gourd animal can be a real or fantasy animal, it can be 3D or have animal designs on it. What it must include, however, is a manipulated gourd. Put your ideas into action and start your manipulated gourd animal now and be ready to submit it no later than April 15th.

The theme for Fall 2020 is “Manipulated Gourd Non-Floral Containers.” Non-floral containers can be baskets, bowls, boxes (lids optional) and Manipulated gourd sculptures can be any assemblage using a manipulated gourd(s). (*Deadline for entry: July 15.*)

#### Manipulated Gourd Crafting Contest



Grace Swanson,  
San Diego -  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner  
2020 Spring Issue  
“Coiling on Gourds”  
Contest



Betty Finch,  
formerly from  
California -  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner  
2020 Spring Issue  
“Manipulated Gourds”  
Contest



## CGS Member Participation in the American Gourd Society

By Olive Moore, President, CGS

I just received the Spring issue of The Gourd Magazine, which is a publication of the American Gourd Society. As I thumbed through the pages, I found that many of our own CGS members are participating at the national level, and we can be very proud of them. I want to highlight a few to say "thank you" to those who have made an extra effort in contributing to this fine organization.

First of all, check out the cover – Yes, the manipulated double knotted gourd was created by CGS member Cecile Garrison/Tulare/Sequoia Patch. Later on, in the magazine, you will see that she won the 2019 Jim Story Award. What an accomplishment, Cecile!

 <p>Best of Show 2019 Nor-California's, Amador's Patti Fisher</p>	 <p>2019 Jim Story Award, Cecile Garrison from Garrison Farm, CA</p>	 <p>People's Choice 2019 Bay Area, Calabash's Frank Sausedo</p>
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Moving to the inside pages, you'll find we have members that are AGS officers: Vickie Echols and Robin Bryson both in the San Diego Patch. Additionally, we have members that are involved in The Gourd Magazine content. Lisa Baurmeister / Calabash, who researches and writes the article on "The Featured Artist" and Sylvia Nelson / Amador, who is on the judging team for the "Manipulated Gourd Crafting Contest."

I was so pleased to see how many of our members participated in the competition features of the magazine. Grace Swanson / San Diego won 1st place in the Gourd Crafting Contest with the theme of "Coiling on Gourds." Betty Finch won 3rd place in the Manipulated Gourd Crafting Contest. Betty now lives in Tennessee, but we still claim her for all of the years she lived in California.

A once a year AGS award is the "Excellence in Gourd Artistry Award." To enter this competition, you have to have won either a Best of Show or People's Choice Award in an AGS sanctioned competition within the past year and be a current member of AGS. Included in this feature are photos from Robin Erickson / Orange County, Patti Fisher / Amador, Frank Sausedo / Calabash, and Lori Conrow.

Hopefully, I haven't overlooked anyone, if I have, I am sorry; it is totally unintentional. Each quarter when the magazine is distributed, we could do the same thing because our members are willing to participate. If you are not a member of the AGS, please consider joining. This national organization supports each of the state chapters, our membership helps their support to continue. You can join online using PayPal, for more information, their website is [www.americangourdsociety.org](http://www.americangourdsociety.org).

I encourage you to take a few minutes to check out the quarterly or annual contests in the magazine and consider entering. You may be the next featured artist!

**California Gourd Society  
Northern California Gourd Competition 2020  
Hosted by the Folsom Gourd Artists and the California Gourd Society  
10191 Mills Station Road  
Rancho Cordova, CA  
June 6th – 7th, 2020**

**How to Enter**

- The competition is open to **ALL**.
- The entry fee per entry is \$6.00 for CGS members and \$10.00 for all others. One entry per entry form. **Make checks payable to CGS.**
- Mailed entries** will be accepted. See **DIRECTIONS FOR MAILED ENTRIES.**
- Mailed entries** must be received by June 2nd.
- Entries may be submitted in person on **Thursday, June 4th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Friday, June 5th from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**
- LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE JUDGED.**
- Judging will take place on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. The display will be open for viewing Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 9 am to 3 pm.
- Release and pick up of entries will be **from 3 pm to 5 pm on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.** All art work not picked up will become the property of CGS.
- While every effort is made to provide security of items, the Folsom Gourd Artist and the California Gourd Society **are not** responsible for damaged or lost item
- The artist is responsible for placing his or her piece in the correct **category.**  
**Note: Please read category and division descriptions carefully. Design your art work for the category.**

**General Rules**

1. Gourds must predominate. 50% of medium or technique to be used on the crafted gourd surface should exhibit the required medium or technique.
2. Gourds previously entered in a CGS competition are not permitted.
3. Craft/artwork for each entry must be the **original** work of person who is the entrant.
4. Only one entry per category is permitted.
5. No class gourds are permitted.
6. Judges reserve the right to disqualify or reassign entries that do not meet category criteria.
7. **Copyright designs such as Disney characters or copies of other artist's work may not be used on entries unless written permission is granted by the artist or copyright holder. Copyright free designs may be used.**
8. All participants agree to allow photographs to be taken of displayed items.
9. Category definitions are the same for Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Master Craftsman, but will be judged according to **Division** level.
10. Best of Show and People's Choice winners are eligible to enter the AGS National Artistry Award.
11. First place winner in the Jim Story manipulated gourd category is eligible to enter in the AGS Jim Story Award.

**Judging**

The California Gourd Society will coordinate all judging. Judging will follow the American Gourd Society judging guidelines and use AGS trained judges. Scoring option C (Verbal Consensus) will be used. Points will be given for originality of design, workmanship/craftsmanship, neatness and quality, color/finish, balance/scale, and overall appearance.

**Ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category at the judge's discretion. A category with only one entry does not necessarily guarantee a 1st place ribbon. Best of Division and Best of Show will be determined by all the judges.**

~ Continue pg. 11

**Divisions:**

**Novice Division** – The Novice Division is for those who are relatively new to the art form and have been working with gourds for three years or less. The entrant should have no extensive experience or expertise in any art form that has been used on an entry gourd, such as painting, carving, pyrography, etc. Thus, an entrant who has won a major award in any juried art show should move into the Intermediate Division. Once you win a Blue ribbon in this Division you must move up to the next Division.

**Intermediate Division** – The Intermediate Division is for those artists who understand and use basic techniques. Entrants should not have won a major award in a gourd show or a juried art show. They may have sold gourds but have not taught a gourd class for a fee. Once you win a Best of Division or Best of Show in this Division you must move up to the next Division.

**Advanced Division** – The Advanced Division is for artists who have progressed to a more complicated level of work and have a good grasp of multiple techniques and finishing skills. They are creating more distinctive, original work and are ready to compete with a wider range of competitors. They may have taught a gourd class for a fee.

**Master's Division** – The Master Division is for the artist whose work shows excellent use of all techniques and finishing skills. The work is of original design and not from a class (unless they have taught the class). Their work may have shown in galleries, won top awards in art/gourd competitions and have reached the level of fine art.

**PLEASE NOTE: The Categories are the same for ALL Divisions: Category definitions are the same for Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Master Craftsman, but will be judged according to Division level.**

**CATEGORIES**

1. **Pyrography** - Burning a design (line or shading) on a gourd with the use of an electric wood-burning tool.
2. **Carving/ Fretwork/Filigree** - The removal of a portion of the outer surface of the gourd, exposing the undersurface to create a design or texture in relief and/or a decorative design (of holes and other shapes) cut through the shell of the gourd.
3. **Painted/ Coloring Techniques** - Any coloring technique, using stains, dyes, inks, oil pastel pencils, crayons, colored pencils, felt tip pens, acrylic paints, oil paints, watercolors, etc.
4. **Wearable Art** - Anything wearable. Hats, jewelry, pins, name tags, purses, shoes, etc. May use multiple gourds and accessories (beads, leather, string, thread, cord clasps etc.). Any technique allowed. Jewelry should be displayed in box, case, on a board or stand, but the method of display will not be judged
5. **Weaving/Coiled** – A gourd woven or coiled using any natural, man-made or artificial fiber. Any technique allowed. You must be able to see part of the gourd. Any finish allowed. The fiber art technique must predominate.
6. **Mixed Media** – For Novice and Intermediate Division this category must include 2 or more techniques. Any type of finish or embellishments are allowed. For the Advanced or Master Division 3 or more techniques must be used.
7. **Wall Hangings** – Any gourd art that hangs on the wall. Any technique. Individual or multiple gourds may be used. Hanging material must be included.
8. **Distinctively Different** – We are looking for new, unique techniques or designs. Use your imagination.

~ Continue pg. 12

**Special Category in Honor of Jim Story**

**Manipulated Gourd** - A single dried manipulated gourd grown by the person who enters. Gourds may be grown in a mold or otherwise manipulated. Pieces should be left natural or finished with a clear finish only.

**Crafted Manipulated Gourd** - The artist does not have to grow the gourd themselves but must use at least one manipulated gourd in the piece. An emphasis would be put on how the artist uses the manipulation to their advantage and that results in the manipulation enhancing the end design.

Any questions, please contact Competition Chair Sylvia Nelson at [sylvianelson@citlink.net](mailto:sylvianelson@citlink.net) or phone 916-682-2437.

To learn more about the class offerings at 20/20 Visions of Gourds, go to: <https://folsomgourdsartists.com/the-classes>

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**Publishing Correction – We made an Oops!**

We have a correction to make regarding our cover page in the Fall, 2019 Issue titled “People’s Choice Winners.”

Marilyn Carrico, of the Folsom Gourd Artists did indeed win the People’s Choice Award; however, it was not for her Doll Gourd. She won with her Covered, Pine Needle, Basket Gourd below. Sorry for the mistake Marilyn, it’s a beautiful piece!





**AMADOR GOURD ARTISTS in partnership with  
AMADOR FLOWER FARM**

Presents

**CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA GOURD COMPETITION**

September 5 & 6, 2020

22001 Shenandoah School Rd.  
Plymouth, CA 95669



- The competition is open to ALL.
- The entry fee is \$6.00 for CGS members and \$10 for all others. One entry form needed for each entry. Make checks payable to CGS.
- Entries may be submitted in person on Thursday, September 3, between 9 am, and 4 pm and on Friday, September 4, 2020 from 9 am to 12 pm.
- Mailed entries are welcomed. See DIRECTIONS FOR MAILED ENTRIES (last page).
- Mailed entries must arrive by August 31, 2020
- LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE JUDGED.
- Judging will take place on September 4, 2020 at 1 pm. The display will be available for viewing Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm and Sunday from 10 am – 3 pm.
- Release and pick up of entries will be from 3 pm to 4 pm on Sunday, September 6, 2020. All artwork not picked up at this time will become the property of CGS.
- CGS reserves the right to photograph each entry and use it in the promotion of CGS art competition.
- While every effort is made to provide security of items, the Amador Gourd Artists, the Amador Flower Farm, and the CGS are not responsible for damaged or lost items.
- The artist is responsible for placing his or her piece in the correct category.
- Note: Please read category and division descriptions carefully. Design your artwork to fit the category entered.

**General Rules**

1. Gourds must predominate 50% of the medium or technique(s) used on the crafted gourd surface that should represent the category entered.
2. Gourd previously entered in a CGS competition and judged by AGS guidelines are not permitted.
3. Craft/artwork for each entry must be the original work of the entrant.
4. Only one entry per category is permitted.
5. Judges reserve the right to disqualify or reassign entries that do not meet category criteria.
6. Copyright designs such as Disney characters or copies of other artists' work may not be used on entries unless the artist or copyright holder grants written permission.
7. All participants agree to allow photographs to be taken of displayed items.
8. Not all categories are included in each Division.
9. Category definitions may be the same for Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Masters, but will be judged according to Division level.

**Judging**

The California Gourd Society will coordinate all judging. Judging will follow the American Gourd Society judging guidelines and use AGS trained judges. Scoring option "C" Verbal Consensus will be used. The originality of design, quality of craftsmanship, creativity and artistry, color and/or finish accessories, and decorative work will all be considered. A category with only one entry does not guarantee a 1st place ribbon.

Ribbons will be awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category. Judge's Choice, Best of Division and Best of Show will be awarded at the Judge's discretion. A People's Choice ribbon will be awarded by a vote of attendees of the Festival.

For questions regarding the competition, please contact Competition Chair Sylvia Nelson at: [sylvianelson@citlink.net](mailto:sylvianelson@citlink.net) or phone 916-682-2437.

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**YOUTH DIVISION**

There is no fee for entry in Youth Division  
 Junior - Under 12  
 Teens - Ages 13-17  
 Category - One decorated gourd using any technique.

**NOVICE DIVISION**

The Novice Division is for those who are relatively new to the art form and have been working with gourds for three years or less. The entrant should have no extensive experience or expertise in any art form that has been used on an entry gourd, such as painting, carving, pyrography, etc. Thus, an entrant who has won a major award in any juried art show should move into the Intermediate Division. Participation in the Novice Division is limited to two years. Once you win a Blue ribbon in the Novice Division, you must move up to the next Division.

**N-1 PATTERNS**

Create a piece emphasizing the use of a pattern (or patterns). It may be a repetitive pattern, a recording pattern, an overall pattern. Any technique allowed. Any finish should still allow the patterns to predominate.

**N-2 COLORING TECHNIQUES**

Any coloring technique is acceptable if it is the predominant feature of the gourd.

**N-3 EMBELLISHMENTS**

An entry in this category should be predominately decorated using items such as beads, clay, glass, stones, metal, inlay, pine needles, fiber, feathers, steampunk. Any technique allowed. Use your imagination; almost anything can be an embellishment.

**N-4 SHOW US WHAT YOU CAN DO**

This category is for a gourd that you wanted to do and does not fit in any other category. Let your imagination run free.

**INTERMEDIATE DIVISION**

The Intermediate Division is for those artists who understand and use basic techniques. Entrants should not have won a major award in a gourd show or a juried art show.

They may have sold gourds but have not taught a gourd class for a fee. If you win a Blue Ribbon in a specific category, you must move up to the next Division in that category. If you have won 5 Blue Ribbons in the Intermediate Division, you must move up to Advanced Division. Once you win a Best of Division or Best of Show in this Division, you must move up to the Advanced Division.

**I-5 PYROGRAPHY**

Burning a design (line or shading) on a gourd with the use of any wood-burning tool. Any finish should still allow the pyrography to predominate.

**I-6 CARVING / FRETWORK / FILIGREE**

The gourd may be carved, chiseled, gouged, and/or have cut designs that penetrate the gourd surface. All techniques can be utilized.

**I-7 LUMINARY/ LIGHT FIXTURES**

Cut gourd with a light source (lamp, other lighted gourds). Electrical outlets will be provided to display the lighted luminary. Any technique may be used.

**I-8 VASES, BOWLS, OR CONTAINER**

Any technique may be used. The gourd must be able to be used as a container.

**I-9 NATURE'S WONDERS**

Any technique or combination of techniques is allowed. Gourd design must represent any elements of nature.

**I-10 MAKE THE JUDGES SMILE**

Anything THAT BRINGS A SMILE TO OUR FACE OR HEART uses any technique.

**ADVANCED DIVISION**

The Advanced Division is for artists who have progressed to a more complicated level of work and have a good grasp of multiple techniques and finishing skills. They are creating more distinctive, original work and are ready to compete with a wider range of competitors. They may have taught a gourd class for a fee.

**A-11 PYROGRAPHY**

Burning a design (line or shading) on a gourd with the use of any wood-burning tool. Any finish should still allow the pyrography to predominate.

~ Continue pg. 15

**A-12 CARVING / FRETWORK / FILIGREE**

The gourd may be carved, chiseled, gouged, and/or have cut designs that penetrate the surface. All techniques can be utilized.

**A-13 COLORING TECHNIQUES**

Any coloring technique is acceptable if it is the predominant feature on the gourd.

**A-14 NATURE'S WONDERS**

Any technique or combination of techniques is allowed. Gourd design must represent any element(s) of nature.

**A-15 PIECES OF ART**

Create an art piece using multiple gourds or pieces of gourds. Any technique(s).

**A-16 NO LIMITS**

Take the gourd any direction your imagination guides you. No limits on styles, mediums, or categories.

**MASTER DIVISION**

The Master Division is for the artist whose work shows excellent use of all techniques and finishing skills. The artist should have won "Best of Advanced Division" to move up to the Master Division. The work is of original design. Their work may have shown in galleries, won to awards in art/gourd competitions, and have reached the level of fine art.

**M-17 ANY AND ALL**

Design a special gourd using pyrography, carving, fretwork, decoration, painting, fiber, clay, quickwood, epoxy, or any combination of techniques. Gourd must include at least three (3) different techniques. PLEASE SPECIFY THE VARIOUS TECHNIQUES.

**M-18 DAZZLE US**

Take the gourd any direction your imagination guides you. No limit on styles, mediums, or techniques.

**SPECIAL CATEGORY HONORING AMADOR FLOWER FARM**

Open to all Divisions. The Amador Flower Farm staff will judge these gourds. The subject should relate to the Amador Flower Farm, exhibiting flowers, the koi pond, the oak trees, even the pumpkins. AGS rules for a perfect gourd will not apply. We are looking to honor Amador Flower Farm.

**DIRECTIONS FOR MAILED ENTRIES**

**Northern California Gourd Society Competition  
Must be received by Monday, August 31, 2020**

Please mail to:

Sylvia Nelson

10311 Spiva Road

Sacramento, CA. 95829

Phone:916-682-2437

Email: [sylvianelson@citlink.net](mailto:sylvianelson@citlink.net)

**VERY IMPORTANT: MAILED ENTRIES THAT DO NOT FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES WILL NOT BE ENTERED IN THE COMPETITION.**

**HOW TO PACKAGE YOUR MAILED ENTRY - For Gourd Art Competition 2020**

Mailed entries must be placed inside a box self-addressed to yourself with return postage affixed to the returning box (not cash, not loose stamps, not money order for stamps). Please package your gourd with enough packing protection to ensure a safe return. Place the box to be returned to you inside the box addressed to the address above. Only one entry per box. You must complete an entry form with all areas of the entry form filled in, along with a check for the dollar amount to cover each entry. If you have more than one entry, you may submit a check for all entries in Box 1 (please label it Box 1). Entry forms should go in the box with their entry.



## Golden Gourd Editor's Note ~ Spring 2020

*"Hi, I'm Lisa Baurmeister, your new Golden Gourd Editor"*

For those of you who don't know me, which will be most of you, let me take this opportunity to introduce myself. I come to you from the Calabash Club of Silicon Valley, which I joined in 2016. That is also the year I fell in love with gourds. My background is in drawing and painting, both of which I now do on gourds. I've been blessed to have won three Best of Shows and second place in the 2016 AGS Artistry Award. Making Gourd Art is now my fulltime job, and I wanted to find a way to give back to the organization that's helped me map out my Artistic Path.



After being a Featured Artist in the AGS Gourd Magazine, the then AGS President, Cecile Garrison, asked me if I would consider taking over the column. I am now three years into writing that column and love every minute of it. I enjoy interviewing other gourd artists from around the United States; learning who they are, their backstories, and why they chose gourds to express themselves.

### Filling Big Shoes

Now, in 2020, I've been given another opportunity to give back. I'll admit, when I was asked by Olive Moore if I would consider taking over for retiring Golden Gourd Editor, Mary Bliss, I was both excited and a bit nervous. Mary has published the Golden Gourd Newsletter for 15 years (talking about giving back) and has done a fantastic job. Me, sure I put out my own personal Newsletter, and yes, I do write for AGS, but this, can I do this job, and more importantly, do I want to? My motto in life is simple, if I can't bring something new to the table, then why should I bother? So, I considered it, and said yes, because I believe I can bring something new to the table.

### Sharing goes both ways

So here it is, my first issue of the Golden Gourd Newsletter. It's been a steep learning curve, with still more to absorb and get used to but all in all a fun challenge. We've made a few publishing changes, mainly, with due dates and publication dates, some structural changes, etc. As things settle down and I settle in, we will have more changes down the road. But the one thing that will always remain the same is that, this Newsletter is for you. It's here to share and inform you of all the "goings-on" in and around California and the gourd world. But that sharing goes both ways. For us to provide you with the information you want, we need to hear from you, please tell us what you want to READ, SEE, and LEARN about in your Newsletter. There is a quote from one of my favorite movies, "Jerry McGuire," where the football player played by Cuba Gooding Jr. says, "Help Me, Help You"! Let me know what you want to see in your Newsletter!

### Where can you find me?

As a Certified Competition Judge, I try my best to help out with judging whenever I possible and I can usually be found taking photos of the incoming gourds. If you are at a competition, stop by, I would love to meet you. If not there, I might be teaching a class and you can catch me during my lunch break. Not attending a festival this year, then there is nothing better nor easier than sending an email. I can be reached at [cgsnewslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:cgsnewslettereditor@gmail.com).

~ Cheers, Lisa







**Golden Gourd Newsletter  
Rates and Dates ~ 2020 Calendar Year**

We publish 4 issues of our Electronic Newsletter; one each for Spring, Summer, Winter and Fall. There are also special issues from time to time. If you would like to place an Ad, please contact our Newsletter Editor, Lisa Baurmeister. She can assist you with file format, layouts and deadline dates. Sherry Hunga-Moore, our Advertising Billing Manager, can assist you with any billing and invoicing questions you have. We appreciate your continued support of CGS and our Newsletter and look forward to serving your advertising needs.

**Advertising Rates:**

**Full page - \$50.00**

*Advertising for Festivals, Retreats and Competitions*

**Half Page - \$25.00**

*All advertisers including vendors*

**3" X 3" - \$15 .00**

*All advertisers including vendors*

**Biz Card - \$5 (CGS members only)**

**CGS Competitions** (if no revenue is earned) - Free

**Publishing Dates & Deadlines:**

**Spring Issue**

- Deadline for Articles/Ads **Feb. 15th.**
- GG emailed **Mar 20th**

**Summer Issue**

- Deadline for Articles/Ads **May 15th.**
- GG emailed **Jun. 20th**

**Fall Issue:**

- Deadline for Articles/Ads **Aug 15th.**
- GG emailed **Sept. 20th**

**Winter Issue:**

- Deadline for Articles/Ads **Nov. 15th.**
- GG emailed **Jan. 20th** (due to holidays and Board meeting)

**For Golden Gourd billing questions  
contact:**

**Sherry Hunga-Moore**

**~ Advertising Billing Manager ~**

[florashm@aol.com](mailto:florashm@aol.com)

760-781-3311

**For Golden Gourd article and  
advertising placement contact:**

**Lisa Baurmeister**

**~ Newsletter Editor ~**

[cgsnewslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:cgsnewslettereditor@gmail.com)

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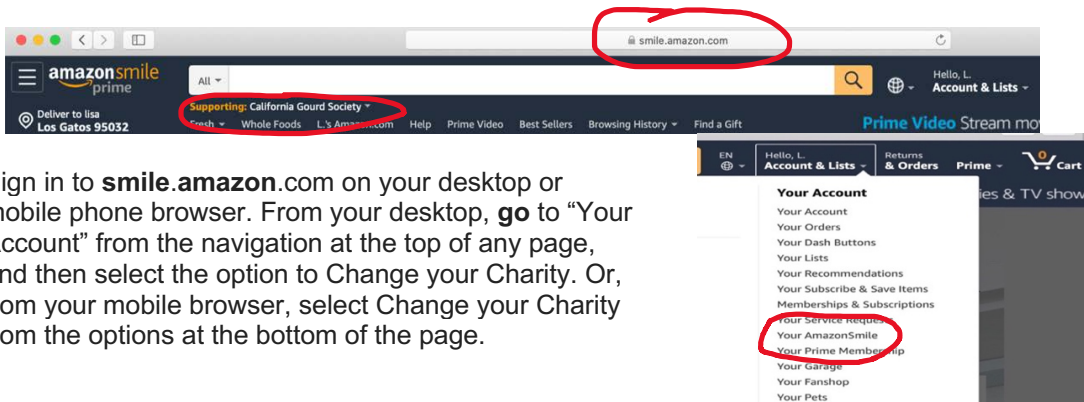
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- Cynthia, Picture Rocks Art

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Class Registration  
Barbara Cody, Chair, 530-795-2828  
[barbara.2020visionsofgourds@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.2020visionsofgourds@gmail.com)  
Or Janice Horner, Treasurer 916-214-4659  
[designsbyjiz@gmail.com](mailto:designsbyjiz@gmail.com)

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ocecile123@yahoo.com

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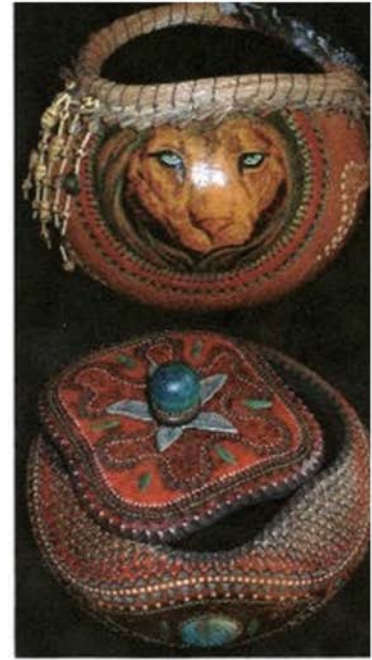
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