

THE GOLDEN GOURD

The Newsletter of the California Chapter of the American Gourd Society



The sun is out, and with it, one of the silver linings I like to think on. Since we were all practicing SIP, many of us have been able to focus on our gourds and gardens.

When the call went out, asking California Gourders to share what you've been up to while sheltering in place, a few of you sent in photos of your lovely gardens. I am truly envious of your gourd gardens and green thumbs. Especially, those with flat land and a long growing season. Perhaps we should add a new section to the Golden Gourd, and we can title it: "Gourding Green with Envy."

To get things started, here's what some of you've been up to "in the garden."



Starting with the Queen of Arbors, Cecile Garrison. Here is the beginning of her gourd garden on Garrison Farm, in Visalia.

More evidence of Cecile's green thumb.



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“Gourding Green with Envy”



Another Gardening Queen, Sylvia Nelson of Sacramento and the Amador Patch.



From large fields to container gardening; on the left are Egg gourds and to the right, a Dipper gourd plant from Libbi Salvo, of Escondido and the SDCGA.



Sugi Karuppiha and Jega Aravandy from Los Gatos, and the Calabash Patch, have a new Gourd Arbor.

They too, experience the challenges of a shorter growing season. Time will tell if this year's crop will be a good one. The Arbor sure looks good!



~ Continue pg. 3



This is a new garden, and home for Cyndee Newick of Campbell, also a Calabash Patch member. She is hoping to win the war being waged with the resident ground squirrel family. Good luck Cyndee.



"Little Ninja Terror"



Gardens are not just for plants. Pam Watson, of Long Beach and the Orange County Patch, has been experimenting with "Hypertufa" or light cement to create, (Left) colorful mushrooms and (right) a faux stone planter pot.



Lastly, we venture to the driveway of Terrye Temple, from Placerville and the Foothill Gourders. Inspired by the free gourds that Welburn gave out during the SIP, Terrye parked herself in her driveway and shared her love of gourds with the children in her neighborhood. "We live in a homeowners association so I posted on our boards that I would be doing a free gourd giveaway, a gourd a day and demonstrating what can be done with them." Terrye gave away 14 gourds, 9 from Welburn, and 5 of her own. Way to go, Terrye!



The story continues on [page 5](#), with SIP photos of Gourd Art pieces, from up and down California.

Greetings Fellow Gourders,

My foremost hope is that you are staying healthy and being careful not to get exposed to COVID-19. My thoughts and prayers are for those who have faced difficult times because of the loss of loved ones or loss of employment.

Who would ever dream that we'd be given extra time to create gourd art? I have greatly missed getting together with my gourd buddies to share ideas and talk about gourds. I'm anxious to get back to normal even if it is a "new" normal. We have had so many cancellations or postponements. I am glad that the Baskets and Gourds, Containers of our Culture has rescheduled for the same time next year. It gives all of our patches more time to make more tile/quilt projects for our CGS raffle. I've already seen pictures of some that make me want to buy more tickets so I will win. Continue to send in pictures to Lisa for her to include in future newsletters and Mary Bliss can post them on the CGS website as well as Facebook.

Unfortunately, the Folsom's 20/20 Vision of Gourds had to be canceled for June and the decision has just recently been made to cancel the Amador Flower Farm Festival on Labor Day weekend. So, the only CGS competition this year will be in Southern California. It is a drop-off/mail-in competition only (see flyer in this newsletter). A video will be taken and posted on the CGS website to announce the winners and to view all entries.

I started some gourd seeds in peat pots. I only have a couple of places I can plant gourds so this year I'm trying the above-ground planting in "grow-bags" for a couple of my plants. I am finally getting some blossoms but no baby gourds yet. I know I'm a bit behind, but we don't get freezing temps like many areas in California, so they can keep growing as long as they want.

Let's keep in touch! Several of the patches are having virtual meetings on Zoom. If your patch hasn't done it yet, give it a try. It's really fun and a good way to stay connected.

Check out our website for details on our [gourd competition](#) and [tile projects](#). And don't forget to post some pictures on Facebook.

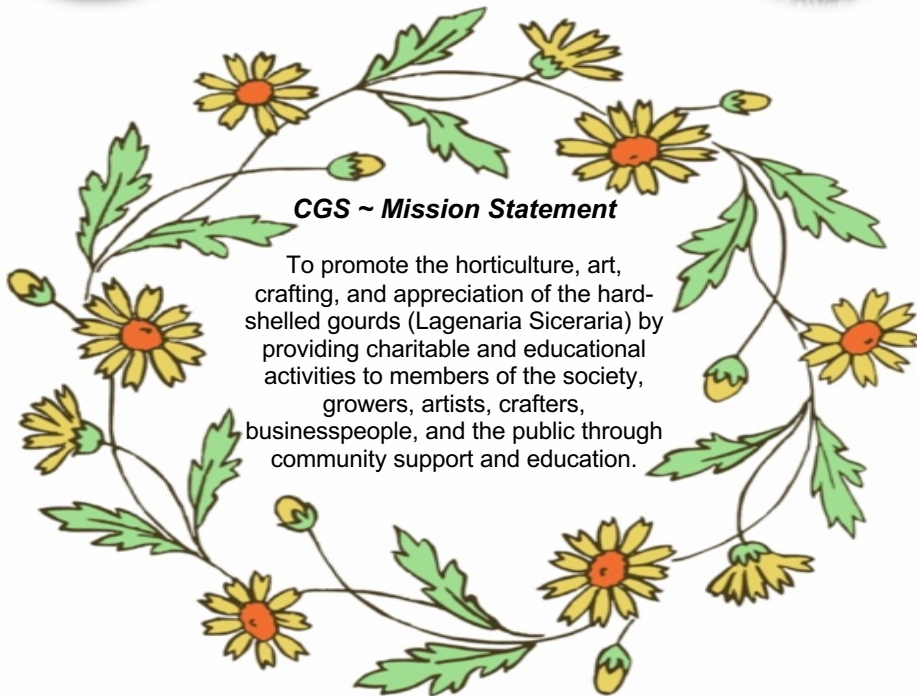


**Your President,
Olive Moore**



CGS ~ Mission Statement

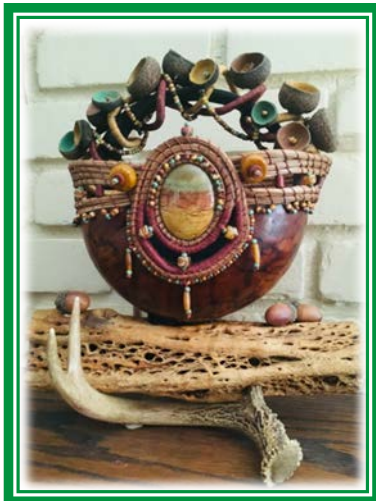
To promote the horticulture, art, crafting, and appreciation of the hard-shelled gourds (*Lagenaria Siceraria*) by providing charitable and educational activities to members of the society, growers, artists, crafters, businesspeople, and the public through community support and education.



We asked and you came through! See what some of California Gourders have been up to while in S.I.P. mode.



We will start with this fun trio of whimsical girls from, **Brigitte Bearden**, who is 85 years young, from Twain Harte. Janeil Baker, Brigitte's daughter, says, "she is doing a great job staying home during this crazy time. I am happy she is." Looks like she's keeping busy.



(Left) **Camilla Hanson** - San Diego Patch living in Escondido. She just completed her gourd entry "DESERT MYSYIC" for the San Diego County Fair, which of course was canceled.

(Right) A beautifully carved piece from **Susan Fuller** of Westminster and OCGS



Stacy Day of Valley Center, part of the San Diego County Gourd Artists

"I took a class from Vickie Echols on the 2nd of March (Shards into Stone) and have gotten a little carried away! None of my pieces are completed; I'm up to around 20 now. This process is quite addicting and FUN!"



(Above) Here is a pretty Thunder Gourd by Joyce Kreiner of Riverside.

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Nadiya Littlewarrior of Santa Clarita has been working on this Pine Needle and Gourd Lamp.



(Above) A nice earth toned, mix media piece from Barbara Rippetoe of Orangevale, and the Folsom and Amador Gourd Artists.

Mary Lou Linton, from Julian and the SDCGA has been busy. Below are some of the gourds she's created.



~ Continue pg. 7

Natalie Kuhlman - Misty Washington Gourd and Basket Guild in San Diego



Robert Swendsen's beautiful bead-worked Gourds. Robert is with the Amador Patch and lives in Pine Grove.



Kennie Winter of Los Altos and Lakeport. She belongs to both the Calabash and Lake County Patches. Kennie has been using her SIP time to revisit tutorials from previous classes taken.



~ Continue pg. 8

Lastly, we have the Folsom Patch's contribution. Marilyn Phelps, patch President, shared with us how they continued their club's challenge during SIP. "Every 3 months we have a challenge, this past May's challenge was Mandalas".

Not being able to hold their club meeting to vote on entries did not stop this patch. Members emailed in their creation and the club voted that way. Below are those entries.



***Great job Folsom, for keeping the club spirit alive.
Also, a big thank you to all who took the time
to send in your photos.***

***Much appreciated!
~ CGS***



Runner ups: Janice Horner for her bird and Marilyn Carrico for a Mandala on a 45 rpm.

Winner: Susan Deguara with her Mandala gourd pot.



Other entries - from left to right: Bill Wilson, Chris Crady, Marilyn Carrico and Marilyn Phelps.

Golden Gourd's Artist Profile

Written by: Libbi Salvo

This quarter's featured artist is Grace Swanson, a member of the San Diego County Gourd Artists and CGS. Grace's interest in gourds began as a small child, born and raised in Nigeria. Her parents were missionaries who went to Nigeria separately during WW II, married, and had three children. As a child, she lived "way out in the bush," and her playmates were the neighborhood kids. Grace lived in Nigeria until she was 16 and a junior in high school.

Grace shares that the Nigerian people use gourds for everything from storing food to spoons to holding cosmetics. Gourds are very much a part of the Nigerian culture. It was commonplace to see people burning designs into gourds, called Calabash in Nigeria. Every bride is given a large collection of newly burned gourds. They even grow huge gourds to be used as personal floatation devices to cross streams.

"When I saw a class on gourd art offered by the San Diego Botanic Garden ten years ago, I decided to give it a try. The feel and smell of the burning gourd just took me 'home.' I was hooked."



For many years Grace was a watercolor artist. She sold many paintings through galleries and outdoor shows. She states, "for a while, I sold a few gourd art pieces when I did outdoor shows. The gourds began to take over. They were so much easier to sell than watercolors." Now, Grace focuses exclusively on gourd art.

Grace purchases her gourds from Welburn Gourd Farm — uncleaned and uncut. First, she soaks and scrubs farm dirt and the mold off of the gourds. Then she looks at each gourd carefully for any flaws or cracks. Each gourd has its own personality, and that often dictates what design she will burn into the



gourd and whether it will stay whole or become an opened vessel. The mold that forms on the gourds makes patterns that can be used or disregarded depending on the design. Sometimes she says that she has a very definite design in mind when she begins, and sometimes she makes it up as she goes along. Some gourds may take as little as two or three hours to complete. Others may take days or weeks.

Some of Grace's gourds may serve a function as vessels and bowls. However, most of her designs are meant to be appreciated for its own sake.

Gourds can easily slip into the area of craft — painted to look like snowmen, Santas, and little animals — or made into lamps and birdhouses.

This, however, does not appeal to her. She prefers to see how elegant, simple, and sophisticated the lowly gourd can become.

"Gourds have taken over my life. My brushes, paints and canvas have been pushed to one side as I explore the wonderfully tactile, three-dimensional world of gourds."



~ Continue pg. 10



Grace is an active member of the San Diego County Gourd Artists. She is involved in outreach efforts as publicity chair, frequently placing feature articles about events in local newspapers. She also coordinates efforts for the club to show and demonstrate at the San Diego County fair and has been able to get art featured in various venues in her hometown of Encinitas.

Grace's gourds are sold through the Off Track Gallery in Encinitas, CA and in-person at many outdoor shows throughout Southern California.



All current gourds available for purchase can be viewed at GourdsByGrace.com. Email swanson121@cox.net for prices and more information.



Everyone in the patch is inspired by her varied and creative techniques and generous, sharing nature. We were thrilled when a few years ago, she began teaching classes. These classes are much in demand and always incredible fun.

"Gourds have taken over my life. My brushes, paints, and canvas have been pushed to one side (I was a watercolor painter for 20 years) as I explore the wonderfully tactile, three-dimensional world of gourds."



Keep Your Lights On!



A Tutorial on Making a Gourd Luminary.

By: Sarah Phelan, East Bay Gourd Patch

I got bitten by the luminary bug some years ago, while volunteering at the Gardens at Lake Merritt, a collection of themed gardens in Lakeside Park, at the heart of Oakland. This seven-acre space is home to formal flower gardens, a wild area that grows habitat for Monarch butterflies, and a trial garden that tests out vegetables and fruits for compatibility with our local microclimate. Cherry tomatoes thrive here, as does a climbing squash called Trombetta that produces delicate artichoke-flavored fruits/ But gourds? Gourds tend to be non-starters due to fog that creeps in from the ocean throughout the Bay Area each summer.

So, I was a tad surprised, one afternoon in fall 2013, when then Park director Tora Rocha handed me a sack full of gourds. As I soon learned, expert gourd crafter Jim Widess had donated these gourds to the gardens to be made into luminaries for the 2012 Autumn Light's Festival, an annual fundraiser that the Friends of the Gardens at Lake Merritt presents in partnership with the City of Oakland.

As it happened, the gourds had already been cleaned, hollowed, and drilled with patterned holes. If I'd accept the challenge, I was to install luminaries around the garden and light them up with puck lights for the 2013 Autumn Lights Festival. Intrigued by the idea of growing and decorating your own art canvas, I accepted Rocha's invite. Nothing prepared me for the magical transformation when we turned on the puck lights inside the gourds' interiors at night. Suddenly, the darkened gardens were awash with dancing flowers and sparking animals—and people adored them, stopping to share stories of how their families used gourds—as water and seed carriers and butter churners—when they were growing up.

In the ensuing years, Autumn Lights Festival has become very popular, in October 2019, 9,000 people attended over three nights—and I've become involved in luminary-making for the show, with the help of the wonderful members of the Berkeley-based East Bay Gourd Patch. The experience has been phenomenal, and in 2019, the Oakland A's awarded our collection with its "Rooted in Oakland" award.

Last year, I planned to grow the festival's gourd collection to 200-strong by October 2020. But in March, as the pandemic uprooted life, I refocused and began lighting luminaries in my window at night, to keep hope alive. My neighbors love them. Yours will, too. And it's a way to keep hope alive while keeping social distancing. **Now on to the Project!**

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To Get Started:

MATERIALS NEEDED

- A hard-shelled gourd, cleaned inside and out and cut to fit a cork (or other) base
- A cork base or preferred base
- Leather dye or finish
- Elastic band
- Template of flying bird (or image of your choice)
- Length of cord (if planning to hang luminary from a hook)
- Puck light with rechargeable batteries
- A collection of 3 mm and 4mm glass beads. (Bicone beads work well.)
- Gourd glue.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Gourd saw
- Tapered awl
- Wood burning tool and spear or skew tip
- Scissors
- Tape
- HB2 Pencil
- Eraser
- Gourd glue

Step 1. Base

- Place cork on the base of the gourd.
- Use a pencil to draw around outside of the cork
- Use a gourd saw, place the blade on the inside of the line. Following the pencil line, cut open the base. Cork should fit snugly into the gourd base.
- Remove the seeds and pulp and clean the gourd inside and out.
- Make a hole on either side of the gourd neck to accommodate a cord for hanging.
- Thread cord through holes and tie cord to make a hanging loop.

Step 2. Color (Optional)

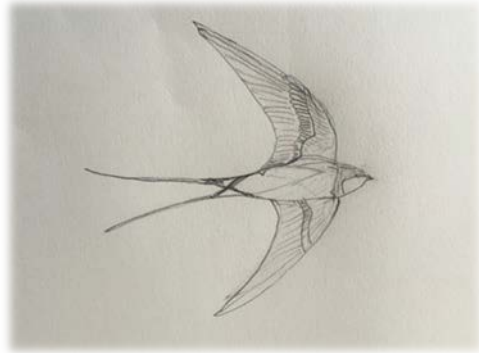
- Use leather dye to color gourd's exterior.



~ Continue pg. 13

Step 3

- Place an elastic band around the gourd and draw a line to mark gourd's "equator."
- Use tape to stick your template onto the gourd surface, starting on its equator.
- Trace around the template with a pencil.
- Repeat this step until you have the desired design. Of course, with this example, the number of birds will vary depending on the size and shape of your gourd. (Note: you can also resize the image to accommodate your specific gourd.)



Step 4

- Use a tapered awl to make holes along the outer edges of traced designs.
- Start with small holes, you can always enlarge them later.
- (Place a puck light inside gourd to "see" the pattern as it emerges. It helps to place the luminary into a darkened room so you can see how the design is unfolding and to make any adjustments.)

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Step 5. Outlining your image
(Optional)

- Slide your burning tip across gourd connecting outer holes of template design to create a silhouette of each bird.

Step 6. Details (Optional)

- Use burning tip, to burn feather lines inside bird silhouette.



Step 7. Beads

- Use an awl to open an arc-shaped series of holes across each bird's wingspan. Open some holes to accommodate 3 mm beads, and some for 4 mm beads. Tap beads individually into each hole, using the wooden end of the awl. Secure beads in place with a dab of gourd glue, if necessary.



Step 8.

- Insert rechargeable batteries into puck light. Turn light on.
- Insert puck light into your gourd. Insert cork into gourd base. Voila!



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Common questions when making a Gourd Luminary.

Q: Being that it is a luminary, are there any restrictions for the type of paint you use?

- Not really, it would depend on where you use it; inside or outside.
- I recommend using gloves to apply paints, dyes, etc.,
- **Never use candles or live flames inside the luminary**—gourds can burn, especially in their dried state.
- I recommend when you first light a luminary, you test the gourd shell after a few minutes to make sure it doesn't overheat.
- I've never had this problem with puck lights, but it could be a potential issue with other light fixtures.

Q: What, if anything should you do to the inside?

- Don't use anything for fear it could interfere with the brightness of the luminary and the hue of the beads
- Some artists spray the interior surface of gourds with (non-flammable) black or dark spray paint.

Q: Do you recommend laying out your design first?

- Yes, I hand draw images to size, cut them out and I tape them onto the gourd until I like the look of my design.
- You can also use a photocopier to enlarge or reduce template to fit your gourd and make multiple copies of your drawings.

Q: Are you saying that they don't need glue? How do the beads stay?

- It depends on the bead. I use multifaceted bicone beads. This means, when you make a hole and tap a bead into that hole, the facets of the bicone-shaped bead dig into the gourd flesh, thus helping to wedge the bead in place.
- I find this works well with 3mm and 4 mm beads.
- When in doubt use a dab of "clear drying" glue in hole and on bead.
- I recommend putting a sheet under your workspace during this step, so when a bead falls to the ground, as they doubtless will, it's more easily recovered.

Q. Regarding the cork base, how snugly should it fit since I will be removing it in order to turn the puck light off and on?

- It's key that the cork fit snugly into the gourd. It keeps the puck lights and batteries in and creates a flat base, which allows you to display the luminary on a flat surface; an alternative to hanging it.
- I use stopper corks for mason jars. These are tapered corks; the top diameter is bigger than the bottom diameter. For example, a size 48 jar has a top diameter of 3 ½ inches and a bottom diameter of 3 ¼ inches.
- Sizes 48 through size 52 works well with tall and medium-sized gourds.
- It's important to place the cork on the gourd with its narrower diameter touching the surface base of the gourd. For example, if using a size 48 cork, place the cork's 3 ¼ inch diameter side onto the base of your gourd.
- Use a sharp pencil to draw a tight circle around the 3 ¼ diameter end of cork.
- Cut along this line using a gourd saw.

ElGourdo's Rambling

Greetings my Gourdy friends,

For this article, I will try to suppress my deception and vagary regarding the worst kept secret around. That, of course, is my true identity, which still alludes many of you. I remember promising you a picture but decided I don't want to add to the depression going on right now. So, it hangs in my massive garden, turning and twisting about in the breezes terrifying any trespassing, and uninvited diners be they feather or fur. And someday it or one like it will make it here. Let that thought loom in your future.

My how our world has changed the past few months. Overnight we went from LALA land to another Galaxy far away. Strange and challenging times for all of us. It's serious, and we smart ones are treating it accordingly. Our gourd society demographics show we have a high percentage of members who represent the senior citizen group. Our senior numbers are increasing, meaning what? We aren't out there doing dumb things. Right?

I think we have all experienced the same feeling of the unknown during this time, and I know many of you are using this time in a positive way. Sure, our activities such as festivals and patch meetings have been put on hold at least temporarily. So now what? I have noticed many of my friends and family haven't missed a beat, and, have put their lives in a higher gear.

Get ready to see some incredible work when we are able to get together again. Many of us are focusing on doing our best piece ever, and I am seeing amazing things coming over Facebook and other communication media.

Not only is our art getting better, but many of us are beginning to excel in many other areas, including the culinary arts in our own kitchens, which will soon be supplied from our own gardens. More gardens being planted this year, and of course, more gourds are being planted as well. Future competition pieces. Right?

Sure, we have lost events that enrich our lives, again, temporarily. But the gains can far outdo the losses in many cases. Myself, I've taken this time to get myself in a little better physical condition and feeling better. I've also reset my priorities. Among them is when I do a new piece, it's to make me happy first and not judges or potential buyers. This gives me more freedom to experiment and, in doing so, have dared stray outside the lines with some pleasing results—kind of like taking the cuffs off if you will.

Of course, one of the losses which I deeply appreciate is the lack of politics on our media. So, behind every cloud—

And as I am putting finishing touches on this writing, a large shadow (perhaps that of my better half) looms behind me. It must be lunchtime. This is the second visitation since 20 minutes ago, at which time I issued a stern directive; "Back to your cave!"

I wish you health and happiness and look forward to seeing your new creations.

Remember: Since some of the expectations of the 2020 gourd year appeared, 2021 promises to do more than make up for any lost fun.

If you have topics or anything you would like to add or ask email me at: ElGourdoArt@gmail.com

Enjoy
ElGourdo aka EG

~ *ElGourdo*



Update on California's Festival & Competition Scene



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

**"2020 Wasn't Kind, But Do We Mind? Heck No,
2021 Will Be Way More Fun!"**

*A message from Aaron Bullock, Amador Gourd Festival
Event Chairperson*

We held off till as late as we could, but with the input from many friends and colleagues, we felt we had to cancel our Amador Gourd and Fine Art Festival for 2020.

The owners and management of the Amador Flower Farm have assured me they are motivated to make this a top Gourd venue. They are committed to letting the event evolve into something we can be proud of and all can enjoy.

We are already committed to charging full speed ahead for 2021, and an added incentive is the Farm is working on an event center that will significantly enhance our Festival.

We, of the Amador Gourd Patch, send our regrets to those of you who were excited, like us, but now receive this sad news. But rest assured, we will come roaring back bigger and stronger than ever. As soon as we have a new date, it will be posted so you can all mark it on your calendars.

Your friends,

Amador Gourd Patch and Amador Flower Farm.



California Gourd Society

So. Cal. Gourd Art Competition

October 17, 2020

Drop-Off and Mail-In Only

Drop-Off Locations:

Sept 16, 2020

Ventura County Gourd Artists Meeting

Sept 21-23, 2020

San Diego County Gourd Artist Retreat

For Other Arrangements please contact:

Debra Zimmerman, Orange Co. Patch Leader
dzgourd@gmail.com/562-822-6940

Categories

Pyrography, Carved/Filigree, Painted,
Dolls/Figures, Weaving, Anything Goes
Special Category: Class Gourd

Hosted by

Orange County
Gourd Society

Entry information can be found at:
www.ocgourdsociety.com or
www.californiagourdsociety.com

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More Information On How To Enter The Orange County Competition

- **Rules** for the CGS So. Cal Competition can be found on CGS's Competition Page
- **Entry Form:** There are two ways to submit your Entry Form.
 - 1) Via a Google Forms link, once the form is filled out, it will then be forwarded directly to Debra Zimmerman. Here is the link <https://forms.gle/sy4J6XQC2GmHU68PA>
 - 2) There is also a printable entry form which you can find on CGS's Competition Page.

Note: We have four divisions. Please read category and division descriptions carefully. Fit your artwork to the proper categories.

- **Packing – Gourds will be transported multiple times before reaching the competition. It is imperative that you PLEASE PACK YOUR GOURDS SAFELY for transport and handling. If you have multiple entries or entries with stands, please enclose a picture or diagram of how your gourd should be displayed.**
- **Deadline for online entry is midnight Oct. 15, 2020**
- **Direction for Mailed Entries – Please mail to:**
Debra Zimmerman
5636 Campo Walk
Long Beach, CA 90803
Phone 562 822-6940 (ok to text)
Email: dzgourd@gmail.com



Here is your SHOUT OUT, your last opportunity to participate in a CGS Competition for 2020! Let's show COVID-19 and any other VIRUS that comes knocking on our doors that we won't go down without a fight! Or in this case, without at least one Gourd Competition!

***THANK YOU, ORANGE COUNTY,
for giving us the opportunity to compete!***

California Gourd Society **2021** Fundraiser Gourd Quilt or Mosaic Tiles

Projects will be offered at the
"Gourds and Baskets Containers of our Culture"
Visalia, California Saturday, April 25, 2021

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. Each Patch is encouraged to make one or more gourd project(s).
3. Size/Dimension limitations; **NO larger than 24" X 30" (Flip Chart size)**
(Keep in mind we have to be able to display your projects on the tables,
provide stands if needed)

4. Projects are due *on or prior* to start of event in Visalia, Friday 24, 2021.

5. Attach tag with name of patch.

6. Mail or deliver to:

*Jody Dingivan 12140 Steffs, San Martin, CA 95046 {Northern members}

*Libby Salvo 2927 Sunset Hills, Escondido, CA 92028 {Southern members}



(Inspiration's from Pinterest)

Each ticket bought from CGS cost the Patch 50 cents and re-sells them for \$1.
The Patch keeps proceeds from their own ticket sales, which should help fund your leader's expenses
while attending required CGS functions.

*Send pictures to Mary Bliss to post on CGS WEB, webmaster@californiagourdsociety.com and
Lisa Baurmeister for our Golden Gourd Newsletter!

~ Continue pg. 21

~ Just a Sampling of 2021 Fundraiser Prizes ~

As with all this year's events, our [CGS Fundraiser](#) had to be postponed and will take place next year in Visalia, at the [Baskets and Gourds, Containers of Our Culture event](#), April 25, 2021. And like everything else, there are always silver linings to be had in all the madness. Our fundraiser's silver lining is that we now have more time to make a second gourd quilt or framed tiles AND, we have time to sell/purchase more tickets. Now that is a big SILVER LINING if I ever saw one!

So, we thought we would give you a peek at some of the Patch projects already completed. We hope that these beautiful works of art will excite you and your Club to make another one and sell more tickets! To learn more about how to purchase tickets for your Club to sell, please visit our website's fundraiser page. Also, remember to add this information to your Club's meeting agenda, when next you meet up! Proceeds benefit the statewide educational outreach of CGS and its members.

San Diego County Gourd Artists



Amador Patch



~ Continue pg. 22



Foothill Gourders Patch



Calabash Patch



To purchase more fundraiser tickets, contact your patch president.

THANK YOU, CALIFORNIA GOURD PATCHES!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING MORE OF YOUR BEAUTIFUL WORK!

CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY

Board Meeting Highlights - January 4, 2020

Board Members Present: Olive Moore, President; Pamela Argo, Vice President; Peggy Blessing, Secretary; Christina Chrivia, Treasurer [via phone 9:40am – 10:10am]; Jody Dingivan, Director at Large [Director of Northern Regional Groups elect]; Sue Gouig, Director of Northern Regional Groups [Ambassador at Large elect]; Libbi Salvo, Director of Southern Regional Groups.

Others Present: Lisa Baurmeister, Editor; Mary Bliss, Webmaster; Janice Horner [Ambassador at Large elect]; Sherry Hunga-Moore, Creative Projects Chair; Sylvia Nelson, Competition Committee Chair; Marilyn Phelps [Vice President elect].

Board Members Absent: JoAnn Clark, Director of Membership; Susan Sullivan, Ambassador at Large

Following introductions of those present and with a quorum present, President Olive Moore called the meeting to order at 9:10am in the banquet room of the Lamp Liter Inn, Visalia, CA. Sherry Hunga-Moore was appointed meeting timekeeper.

Secretary Report

The Minutes of the 1/5/19 Board Meeting were approved as distributed. Motions that were approved electronically since the 2019 meeting were ratified by the Board: 1) on 3/30/19, approved support of a CGS competition at the Amador Flower Festival; 2) on 4/23/19, approved the restated bylaws as presented to the CGS membership; 3) on 9/3/19, appointed Lisa Baurmeister Editor of the *Golden Gourd* with compensation of \$2,400/year for publishing a minimum of four issues per year effective January 1, 2020. Olive commented that the competition at the Amador Flower Farm was not approved at the January 2019 Board meeting, because the Board did not yet have enough information about the event. It was suggested an article be included in a future *Golden Gourd* issue outlining the process and steps to request a sanctioned CGS competition and also in an update of the regional group leader guidebook.

It was reported that Peggy Blessing did not receive any responses to the call for nominations for the following positions: President, Treasurer, Vice President, Director of Northern Regional Groups, Ambassador at Large. Olive noted that Cookie Cala would consider serving as an Ambassador at Large at a future time.

Peggy expected insurance premiums to be about the same and was not sure about the status of the typical \$100 rebate. With respect to events that might need certificates of insurance, the following were mentioned: Folsom festival June 4, 5, 6 and 7; Amador Flower Fields event; SD County Gourd Artists Play Day event at Whispering Winds; and Folsom booth at the San Fran – NorCal Flower and Garden Show.

Treasurer Report

Christina Chrivia joined the meeting via phone. She reviewed the Budget vs. Actuals report for fiscal year 2019. Overall, net revenue results were favorable to budget by \$3,924 (Actual revenue \$8,062; expenses \$5,633; net revenue \$2,428). However, there were some expenses not yet accounted for, which will be added to 2019 liabilities and included in the final 2019 financial statements. The group reviewed and discussed details regarding various income and expense items in the report. Christina reviewed the Statement of Financial Position (Assets/Liabilities \$31,061), noting that a few minor adjustments will be made. Restricted fund balances were reviewed, and Sue Gouig had an idea how to spend the balance of the scholarship fund allocated to Northern Programs in 2020. [Conference call with Christina ended.] A motion was carried to accept the Treasurer's report with the inclusion of the additional liabilities discussed into a final report.

~ Continue pg. 24

Vice President Report

Pam Argo reviewed the current status of ribbons and pins and estimated needs for 2020. She acknowledged the key players in the success of the CGS Bay Area competition hosted by the Calabash Club and noted the lack of judges available for this event. Discussion followed regarding ways to ensure sufficient number of judges are available, e.g., Northern and Southern judges provide services to each other, recruit judges as soon as competition is established, local CGS members offer to host judges in their homes.

Pam said the new fitted tablecloths were terrific. Discussion followed regarding what to do with the black material owned by CGS. Once Janice Horner reviews the condition and possibilities, she will contact Olive, and they can decide what should be done. If not practical to create fitted tablecloths for sale or use by CGS, material could still be sold or given away.

Discussion followed as to quantities of ribbons to order for 2020. It was suggested we offer the winners an opportunity to donate their ribbons back to CGS. This concept will be discussed at the upcoming Patch Leader meeting, and Lisa will include a notice in an upcoming newsletter.

It was noted that the cost of award pins was the same no matter the quantity ordered and that they were made in China. Sylvia will look into the possibility of having pins created by her local shop that does our badges, aprons and shirts. Pam added that she had other companies she could check into if Sylvia's vendor didn't do this type of work. Details of what to order will be discussed during the budget discussion later today.

The meeting recessed at 10:45am. Sylvia handed out jewelry gourds she grew to everyone present. The meeting reconvened at 11:00am.

Director of Membership Report

In the absence of JoAnn Clark, Olive reported there were 389 members at the end of 2019, which included 20 family memberships. To date, 140 have renewed for 2020, and the February 1 member roster will reflect only those that have renewed. Discussion followed regarding the notification process for renewing members, and it was noted that acknowledgement letters and cards are sent via email for the first three months of the year; after that, JoAnn sends letters via USPS mail. The draft 2020 membership acknowledgement letter was reviewed. Discussion followed regarding the ability to acknowledge new members promptly, and Olive will discuss possibilities with JoAnn. Mary Bliss will research if an auto-reply could be sent to those paying via PayPal.

Olive reported that the following regional groups were awarded a free membership for complying with the requirement that 100% of their members are CGS members: Calabash, Orange County, San Diego County, Tulare/Sequoia, Ventura. Olive reported that the following groups received a free membership in 2019 for submitting 15 or more entries into CGS competitions: Amador, Calabash, Orange County, San Diego County, Ventura. Only those entering into the competition are to be eligible to win the free membership, and it was suggested the number of chances to win should equal the number of pieces entered. Olive said that JoAnn is no longer distributing sorted membership rosters to patch leaders and will continue distribution in this manner. It was confirmed that, following a hiatus, the Bachelor Valley Gourd Club will once again begin meeting and shall be considered a valid regional group.

Director of Northern Regional Groups Report

Sue Gouig handed out and reviewed a report on the northern regional leader meeting that took place on 3/30/19 in Granite Bay, CA. Seven of eight groups were in attendance. The theme of the meeting was "working together," encouraging groups to reach out and help each other with events, competitions, classes, etc. They also discussed ethics at length.

~ Continue pg. 25

Director of Southern Regional Groups Report

Libbi Salvo reported on the southern regional leader meeting that took place on 3/30/19 in Costa Mesa, CA. Representatives from all regional groups were in attendance. They reviewed the CGS mission statement and Board activities, and encouraged submitting newsletter articles, seeking younger members and inviting non-members to events. They were reminded about members participating in Amazon Smile, Facebook and competitions. Discussion followed regarding some of the outreach activities the regional groups were doing, and it was thought that these activities would be good topics in the *Golden Gourd*.

The meeting recessed at 12:00 and reconvened at 1:10.

Ambassador at Large Report

Jody Dingivan reported on activities she has pursued to engage children to learn about the history and growing of gourds and bring out their creativity in working with gourds. In addition to schools, she has been invited to teach to 4H clubs based on their participation at a county fair, and she will look into the possibility of working with the Girl Scouts.

Jody expressed interest in swapping Board positions with Sue Gouig. Olive confirmed that Susan Sullivan asked to be replaced after her long service as Ambassador at Large. She said it would be good to have someone to champion growing gourds as well as manipulating techniques and creating artwork using these types of gourds. It would also be great to have representation at the National Heirloom Expo in September.

Editor, Website and Facebook Administrator's Report

Mary Bliss said *Golden Gourd* expense was \$600/issue and Constant Contact was \$20/month. She reported there were very few new email bounce-backs reported. When these occur, she said JoAnn Clark is notified and works with that member. She will continue to maintain the CGS website and noted that each patch has their own page with general information about meeting times and events, which could link to a patch's own website if they had one. She needs to be given accurate information in order to make this a more useful feature of the website. She also needs to be given updates on patch contacts and events. Olive had told Lisa Baurmeister that, as the new Editor, she was free to determine the format of the newsletter and only requested the masthead be kept the same. Mary will publish her last newsletter in the near future, and it will incorporate competition results. Olive thanked Mary for doing such a great job with the CGS Facebook account which was now at 500 friends. It was noted that anyone of us could post to the CGS Facebook page. A new members-only webpage password was chosen that will be effective February 1.

Sherry distributed and reviewed a report on 2019 *Golden Gourd* ad revenue which totaled \$505, noting it included revenue for issues yet to be published.

Lisa's first newsletter is expected to be published in March, and she requested newsletter submissions. Discussion followed regarding content ideas, and assignments were given to various Board members.

Creative Projects Chair's Report

Fundraising Project: Sherry Hunga-Moore distributed and reviewed a flyer she developed for the tile project fundraiser summarizing the criteria, guidelines and deadlines for regional groups to participate in the drawing that will take place at the Visalia conference. In response to past complaints, she noted that a restriction of "1 prize per person" was printed on the tickets. It will be emphasized at the patch leaders' meeting that the proceeds of CGS opportunity drawing tickets sold by the patches (bought for 50¢; sold for \$1) are to be used to pay expenses for their leader to attend the annual patch meetings. Tickets sold at the Visalia conference will benefit CGS solely.

~ Continue pg. 26

CGS Retreat: Sherry said it had been thought it would be better to alternate the location of CGS retreats, and we had discussed holding one in 2021. She distributed and reviewed information about Whispering Winds located in the mountains near San Diego. Discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of the facility's location and scheduling. Sherry reported results of information she gathered to hold the retreat at the Lamp Litter Inn in Visalia, with the prime benefit of being more accessible for members traveling from the north. Check-in would be Thursday, check-out on Sunday. The banquet room could handle 80 people and pricing would include brunches and dinners, ideally keeping registration fee around \$375/person; double occupancy. Pam Argo felt we could negotiate better room pricing than initially offered and noted that, for every 40 rooms booked, we would receive 2 comp rooms. Discussion followed regarding costs, and it was noted use of the banquet room was \$1,000, plus food (\$20/brunch; \$30 dinner). A balance of \$1,700 remained in the Retreat Fund, and it was suggested we ask each patch to donate a high quality gift basket for the fundraiser to take place during the retreat. After discussing potential dates, a motion was carried to proceed with planning a CGS retreat on Thursday, August 12 through Sunday, August 15, 2021, at the Lamp Litter Inn in Visalia.

Old Business

Competitions: Olive said four festivals were proposed for 2020, and it appears that our members are not able or willing to travel for competitions. She was not opposed to this concept but noted that other states typically only have one competition. She will clarify with AGS to be sure that, if we have multiple Best of Show winners, California would not be restricted to one entry into the AGS Artistry Award competition. The winning piece of this competition is published in the AGS magazine. Olive said we need to encourage CGS members who win Best of Show and People's Choice to enter into the AGS competition.

Olive distributed and reviewed 2019 CGS expense and revenue statistics for the Northern California/Amador Flower Fields, Bay Area/Calabash, and Southern California/woodcarvers competitions. Because of a higher number of entries and not spending a lot of money on judges' meals, some competitions are making a profit or coming close to break-even. She thanked Jody Dingivan for inviting Bay Area judges to join the dinner party she hosted for all festival volunteers and Sylvia for donating food for the Amador competition. Olive proposed we consider offering incentive to patches that sponsor CGS competitions by splitting profit, if any. Following discussion, it was agreed to table this discussion for another year to see if the profit trend continued.

Discussion followed regarding the four festivals that would like to host CGS competitions in 2019. Sue suggested we consider alternating the location of CGS competitions in the north, and discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of this concept. It was hoped the northern groups would work together to help make each other's event a success. A motion was carried to accept all four proposed CGS competition opportunities (Folsom 20/20 Vision of Gourds, Amador Flower Fields, Bay Area/Calabash, Southern California/woodcarvers) and to allow the northern groups to decide whether or not they would like to alternate years of competition locations.

Olive said that Pam is interested in taking on more responsibility with regard to competitions so that Sylvia can be relieved of some the tasks she's been doing for a number of years. Sylvia will conduct judges' training sessions, maintain the database and report this to AGS and will continue to support Pam in other competition matters. Sylvia would like the patches that sponsor competitions to work with Pam on developing the competition categories.

Pins/Aprons/Sweatshirts Inventory: Olive reviewed the merchandise inventory schedule, which also showed the average number of ribbons used per competition and the costs. It was noted the sweatshirts sold quickly, except for red ones. It was suggested we consider buying hoodies in two basic colors, and Sylvia will investigate this item with the vendor she has been using.

~ Continue pg. 27

Open Board Positions/Committee Chair Assignments: Pam Argo agreed to resign as Vice President in order to be Competition Committee Chair. Sylvia Nelson agreed to be the Judging Liaison with AGS. Olive outlined the responsibilities of the Vice President position. Sue Gouig expressed her willingness to move from Director of Northern Regional Groups to Ambassador at Large, but will remain involved in the 2020 patch leader meeting in Visalia during the transition and will think about what area she plans to focus on during her term. There was yet another vacant Ambassador at Large position; and, following some discussion, Janice Horner was asked to consider taking on this role, with her determining what her area of focus will be.

San Fran – Nor Cal Flower & Garden Show (4/2 – 5/20): Discussion followed about some of the great work done by the northern CGS members at the 2011 northern California flower and garden show. This year the Folsom patch has agreed to have a booth there. Olive said the activities at this event would make a great newsletter article. Sue encouraged the Folsom group to reach out to the East Bay group for help.

AGS: Olive asked that all CGS board members be members of AGS. She distributed an article on a new AGS Manipulated Gourd Crafting Contest and said that we needed to help encourage participation and to add this as a topic at the upcoming patch leaders meeting. She noted that entries do not need to include gourds grown by the artist and could be made with purchased manipulated gourds. Sylvia said this contest is separate from the Jim Story award.

Next meeting: It was agreed that the next CGS Board meeting take place on Saturday, January 9, 2021. She asked that all board members make attendance a priority at this important meeting.

The meeting recessed at 4:25pm for a 2020 budget discussion. The meeting reconvened at 5:30pm.

2020 Budget

A motion carried to accept the 2020 budget as developed during today's Budget Committee meeting. *[Expenditures: \$10,487; Revenue: \$7,303; Net Loss: \$3,184.]*

Board Positions

Motions were carried to appoint the following to Board positions: 1) Marilyn Phelps as Vice President for a two-year term, 2020-2021; 2) Jody Dingivan as Director of Northern Regional Groups for a two-year term, 2020-2021; 3) Janice Horner as Ambassador at Large for a two-year term, 2020-2021; 4) Sue Gouig as Ambassador at Large for a two-year term, 2020-2021.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Blessing, Secretary



Golden Gourd Editor's Note ~ Summer 2020

~ Only Time Will Tell ~

It has been a strange and uneasy first half of our 2020 year. We have all been on pins and needles for one reason or another. From the instant popularity of a particular paper product to nervously wondering if you have the COVID, our Nation's fight for justice in Black America, and last but certainly not least, the question of whether or not we'll have a gourd festival or competition in California. But no matter how big or small your problems are, they are all genuine for you, and no matter where you stand on an issue, we are all affected by them in one way or another. I keep hearing the saying, "only time will tell." It is a very true statement because it's all about time.



We all have it, and we all use it in different ways. But, no matter how you use it, it will not stop marching on, and thank goodness it does. Time does not shelter-in-place, nor does it wait for us to make up our minds on the world's issues. It just continues to march on like our young protesters.

There is another saying that comes to mind, "time stops for no one," this too is true, because no matter who you are, or what is going on in your life, time does not stop; if it did, we would not see tomorrow. I like tomorrow's, they mean I am alive and well to move on to my next art project!

What will you do with your time now that some restrictions have been lifted, and all festivals have canceled? As you can see from this issue, some of us have been hard at work on our gourds and some in their gardens. And some have had trouble dealing with stress and having too much time on their hands. Will you choose to go to your favorite restaurant or shop at your favorite store?

No matter how you choose to use your time, this we know for sure, time waits for no one. So, use your time wisely and safely; don't be one of the ones who say, "should-a, could-a, would-a." Hug your loved ones before they/you leave the house, have fun, and don't forget to work on that gourd you've been thinking of doing or use this time to finish the unfinished class gourds sitting on the shelf. As for me, I will start working on my project for the only CGS Competition in 2020, hosted by Orange County!

Live in the moment and do what makes you happy, because in the end, "ONLY TIME WILL TELL."

How would you like to see your Gourd Art Tutorial in the Golden Gourd?

We'd love to showcase your tutorials or new techniques. If you'd like to share, please send me an email at: cgsnewslettereditor@gmail.com. I would love to hear from you!

~ 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

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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

760-781-3311

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advertising placement contact:**

Lisa Baurmeister

~ Newsletter Editor ~

cgsnewslettereditor@gmail.com

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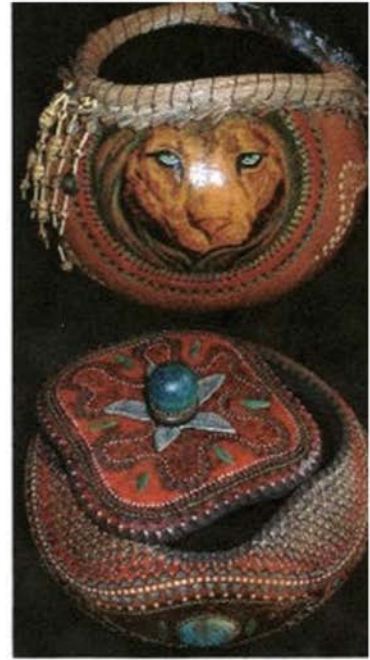
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