



The Newsletter of the California Chapter of the American Gourd Society

Spring is on the way, and for some of us, not soon enough. We have had an exciting winter, from Atmospheric Rivers to unprecedented snowfall. California is being hit hard. We hope you are all safe and using caution when on the roads, staying dry.

Soon enough, we'll plant our gourds and gardens and enjoy springtime weather.

We have much to cover in our 2023 Spring Issue, from board meeting highlights to a faux turquoise tutorial and Patch Happenings; we have it all. As always, we would love to hear from you and hope you enjoy this issue of the Golden Gourd!

In this issue:

Spring Intro	Cover
President's Message	pg. 2
Board Meeting Notes	pg. 4
Featured Artist	pg. 10
2023 CGS Gourd Blossom Retreat	pg. 13
2024 Fundraiser Update	pg. 15
El Gourdo's Ramblings	pg. 16
Fun Faux Turquoise Tutorial	pg. 17
Competition News	pg. 19
Patch Happenings	pg. 20
California Gourders in the AGS Magazine	pg. 23
Editor's Take	pg. 24
Gourd I.D. Refresher	pg. 25
Advertising	pg. 26



Adobe stock image, Gourdified and modified by Lisa Baurmeister



President's Message



Thank you, Sherry Hunga-Moore! You are our hero.

CGS made a reservation and gave a deposit before Covid shut the state down for the 2023 Gourd Blossom Retreat. Apparently, due to the sale of the banquet portion, the venue canceled us!

In just three days, Sherry secured a beautiful new venue for our retreat. That was a challenging feat. Unfortunately, the retreat date had to change due to the short notice. I think we now have a better location! The St. Anthony Retreat Center is in a beautiful, peaceful setting. It will be perfect, and I can't wait to see you there.

The CGS board met via Zoom on January 8th. Our dedicated secretary, Peggy Blessing, keeps excellent minutes. You have a synopsis of the minutes in this edition. We meet once a year to vote on the year's budget, competition requests, and any other items of importance. It is also great to see my fellow board member's and beyond-the-board folks' faces and get a few laughs. This year we welcomed Mary Hufft and Colleen Ballard, both from the Folsom Gourd Artists, as our new Northern Competition Coordinators. There will be two CGS-sanctioned competitions this year—one in the South and the other in Northern California, both in October. The Folsom Gourd Artists are hosting a festival along with a competition. Keep an eye out for details.

Lastly, San Diego County Gourd Artists sent volunteer members to the Wuertz Festival in Arizona in February. They had a beautiful display and represented California proudly. Thank you, San Diego County Gourd Artists!

Note: Please read the "Shoutouts" when you see them in your email to keep up with CGS announcements about competitions, events, and the retreat.

Your President,

Marilyn



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.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT FOR US TO COME KNOCKING. CONTACT US AND SHARE YOUR GOURD STORY!

Do you have a gourd story to share or know of someone doing community work using gourds? Whether in the past or present, we would love to hear what you or your patch members have been up to and profile it in the Golden Gourd!

You don't have to be a writer to be profiled or submit something. Just contact your Regional Director, Patch Leader, or me. Tell us your story and we will be happy to help write it! Send your story outline and photos to either:

Southern Region
Libbi Salvo:
Libbi_salvo@yahoo.com

Golden Gourd Editor
Lisa Baurmeister:
cgsnewslettereditor@gmail.com

Northern Region
Jody Dingivan:
adollplace@hotmail.com

CGS 2023 Board Meeting Highlights

CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY

Board Meeting Highlights - January 8, 2023

Board Members Present: Marilyn Phelps, President; Peggy Blessing, Secretary; Jody Dingivan, Director of Northern Regional Groups; Sue Gouig, Ambassador at Large; Janice Horner, Vice President *[arrived 9:25am]*; Olive Moore, Treasurer; Libbi Salvo, Director of Southern Regional Groups; Debra Zimmerman, Ambassador at Large; Debbie Zimmermann, Director of Membership

Others Present: Colleen Ballard, Competition Co-Leader; Lisa Baurmeister, Editor; Mary Bliss, Web Administrator; Sherry Hunga-Moore, Creative Projects Chair; Mary Hufft, Competition Co-Leader; Sylvia Nelson, Competition Committee

President Marilyn Phelps called the meeting to order at 9:07am via ZOOM video conference. She introduced Colleen Ballard and Mary Hufft, the new Co-Leaders for the Northern California competitions, filling the vacancy left by Pam Argo. They will also manage the inventory and distribution of ribbons and pins for both Northern and Southern competitions.

Secretary Report

The Minutes of the January 8, 2022, were approved. A motion was carried to ratify the following motions that were voted on electronically and carried unanimously. On February 15, 2022, the following were elected to serve 2-year terms starting 2022 through January 2024: Sue Gouig, Director at Large; Jody Dingivan, Director of Northern Regional Groups; Debbie Zimmermann, Director of Membership; Peggy Blessing, Secretary. On April 7, 2022, the following were authorized signers on the CGS Bank of America account: Pamela Argo, Sherry Hunga-Moore, Olive Moore, Marilyn Phelps, Elizabeth B. Salvo, and Debbie R. Zimmermann. Events that may require CGS proof of insurance certificates were identified, which included the proposed competition venues. The CGS Retreat will also require proof of insurance. [Janice Horner arrived.]

Treasurer's Report

Olive Moore reviewed details of the 2022 financial statements. Income reported was \$21,543 (\$15,856 Retreat-related). She noted that sales tax on merchandise income (\$192) will be paid in 2023, some advertising income was for 2021 ads; and CGS raffle income represented 2022 sales only *[total 2019-2022 fundraising campaign results reported in Creative Projects Chairperson Report]*. Discussion followed about the lower than budgeted membership revenue and the slow rate of 2023 member renewals. She thanked all those who have named CGS to receive donations from Amazon Smile (\$259 in 2022; grand total \$777). Olive complimented Mary Bliss for her efforts in setting up the payment plan and collecting Gourd Blossom Retreat payments.

Expenses reported were \$8,985 (\$1,000 Retreat-related). Olive noted that a multi-year supply of pins was incurred, and expenses for ribbons/pins use will be allocated to the Northern and Southern Competitions beginning 2023. PayPal Fees were higher than usual due to Retreat payments. Everyone agreed the printing of small CGS information sheet handouts was well worth the expense. The Patch Leaders Project expense was a negative figure (-\$71) because left-over kits and supplies were sold at the event (\$400 collected). A motion carried to accept the report of the Treasurer.

Since Pam Argo was no longer a member of the leadership team, a motion carried to change the authorized signers on the CGS Bank of America account to: Sherry Hunga-Moore, Olive Moore, Marilyn Phelps, Elizabeth B. Salvo, and Debbie R. Zimmermann.

Olive reviewed the number of sweatshirts/hoodies remaining in inventory (approximately 5) and discussion followed regarding the search for a new vendor because the company we used was no longer in business. *[During the budget development session following the Board meeting, income/expense funds were allocated for new merchandise to be available at upcoming events.]*

The meeting recessed at 10:05am and reconvened at 10:15am.

~ Continue pg. 5

Vice President Report

Janice Horner reported on the many activities being planned to promote appreciation of gourds and generate memberships. *[She has a 45-minute presentation prepared for any regional group that may want to find out more about their promotional program.]* She gave examples of methods used to collect email addresses for use in promoting regional group activities, one of which was a contest to guess how many pins were inserted into a gourd decorated to look like a turkey at the Amador Festival. Northern regional groups participated in the State Fair (7/14-30/22) at the demo/sales booth (4 Saturdays; 3 Sundays) and Southern California members are encouraged to participate in this State-wide event. She reported on planning for the Folsom Gourd Festival 10/6-8/23, the site of the CGS Northern completion *[pending approval later in the meeting]*. There will be a call for teachers, people to do demos, and vendors in the near future.

Director of Membership Report

Debbie Zimmermann reported on membership status, and those not renewing by February 1 will be removed from the roster. Northern and Southern Regional Directors were asked to contact their respective patch presidents and encourage them to reach out to their members who have not renewed. Discussion followed regarding a discrepancy between the number of email addresses on various lists; and Lisa, Debbie and Mary will look into resolving this matter.

Discussion followed regarding the distribution and timeline for issuing member welcome letters/membership cards. Debbie will confirm free memberships awarded to patches with 15 or more competition entries. Following discussion, it was agreed that now and for the future those who enroll September 1 or later will have their memberships valid through the following year.

The timing of payments to CGS for regional groups combining their membership dues with CGS dues was discussed, a practice used by Folsom, Calabash, Amador, Ventura and San Diego regional groups. Timing of payments to CGS, needs to be done prior to the February 1 cut-off date to ensure members are not dropped from communications. Debbie clarified that the patch name listed first on a member's record is their home-base patch, followed by other patches they belong to; and the home-base patch is the one through which membership gets paid.

Director of Northern Programs Report

Jody Dingivan reported on her activities to visit regional groups and promotional events. There have been promotional opportunities at Smith Family Farm to generate interest in gourds, and she has encouraged them to grow gourds to supply northern California artists. The Calabash club is exploring ideas to reach out to the general public via presentations at libraries, community centers, YWCA, and garden clubs and have presentations scheduled. She recommended patches explore reaching out to places such as these to generate awareness of gourd crafting.

Director of Southern Regional Groups

Libbi Salvo reviewed her written report of 2022 activities. The joint southern/northern patch leader meeting in Visalia was well attended, and there was good discussion amongst patch leaders on challenges and potential solutions to being a successful, active group. She was pleased that patch activities have been regularly submitted to the *Golden Gourd*. She and Jody are in the process of developing the agenda for a joint patch meeting via Zoom in 2023, tentatively in early March.

Ambassador At Large Report – Sue Gouig

Sue Gouig reported on her activities with a garden club and hopes to book a 2023 presentation with them. She was able to bring small gourds grown locally to the Folsom festival as giveaways and gave examples of ways she is generating interest in gourds with a local handweavers guild.

Ambassador At Large Report – Debra Zimmerman

Debra Zimmerman said the bulk of her focus has been the Southern Virtual Competition, noting the 2022 competition video on YouTube had 258 views to date, the 2021 video had over 600, the 2020 video had 1,300 views.

~ Continue pg. 6

The artist interviews have been well received. When doing a virtual competition, she suggested the artist's release form be accessible to patch leaders and/or competition coordinators, explaining why it's important. In addition to getting permission from an interviewee, the competition coordinator needs to be aware of potential issues if an artist incorporates into their work an image that has a copyright. She reported other activities such as a presentation on gourds to a women's leadership group and efforts she makes to stay in touch with others she has been in contact with throughout the year.

Golden Gourd Report

Lisa Baurmeister reviewed the *Golden Gourd* Editor report she had distributed which included Constant Contact statistics for the 21 email campaigns done in 2022 by Lisa and Mary, analyzing engagement and trends. She thanked Debbie for her help resolving email bounce issues, which now average 1%. The email open rate remains very high, particularly the newsletter notice. Because photos and information on patch activities are very important, she asked that patch members be reminded to take pictures during events and send them to her with a short write-up of the event.

Discussion followed regarding copyrights and ethics, and Lisa agreed to write an article about these topics, so members understand their importance. This will cover teaching someone else's class and either not getting permission or not changing the technique/project/ materials enough to consider it a new class and pointing out there's a difference between using a technique vs. copying a design. The group brainstormed ideas to generate more tutorial submissions and tips and tricks. Each patch leader will be asked to challenge their members to submit these types of items. Lisa appreciated the tutorial resources the group suggested and said she has discussed a quid pro quo agreement with AGS to exchange these types of items.

Advertising: Sherry Hunga-Moore reviewed a report summarizing 2022 newsletter ad placements, which included \$100 worth of gift certificates in lieu of cash. Discussion followed regarding use of the certificates for the Retreat raffle, and it was concluded that it be tracked as a retreat expense. Following discussion of ideas to generate advertisers, Libbi Salvo and Sue Gouig volunteered to help with this effort. Sue will add Golden Gourd advertising information in raffle donation solicitations for the Retreat. Libbi will add CGS raffle donation information to advertising solicitations to Wuertz Festival vendors.

Website/Facebook Report

Mary highlighted website and Facebook reports, noting the sources of our webpage visits and top page views and Facebook follower statistics. Patch leaders will be sent the new leadership login information after Marilyn Phelps validates the list.

- The meeting recessed at 12:09 and reconvened at 12:51 -

Creative Projects Chairperson Report

Fundraiser: Sherry Hunga-Moore reported the conclusion of the tile fundraiser project during the April 2022 Visalia Basket and Gourd Conference. Expenses were \$75, and CGS received \$1,151.50 income over the four-year project. The next fundraiser theme is wall art, which does not need to be macramé as previous examples had shown. The drawing will occur in Visalia in 2024. Sherry will plan to print 2,000 tickets and begin receiving orders during this year's virtual patch leader meeting. Sherry is revising the 2023-24 fundraiser flyer and will be sending it to Mary, Marilyn, Lisa, Jody and Libbi.

Retreat: Based on a sliding scale of 50 to 70 attendees, Sherry explained the process she has undertaken to cut costs as much as possible as she reviewed the Gourd Blossom Retreat budget she distributed. *[Estimated silent auction, gift basket raffle and misc. sales income were not included in totals]*. It was noted that \$1,775 in profit carries over from the previous Retreat. There were currently 53 registrants. Considering hard costs for rooms, food, table rentals; there remains approximately \$8/per person to spend on extras such as general supplies, raffle gift baskets, speaker honorarium, participant kits, and meet-and-greet reception at the cottages. Although kits and demos are free, it was agreed to charge a fee for mini-workshops and the centerpieces will be silent auctioned after use.

~ Continue pg. 7

Sue said she needs only \$200 for gift basket expense instead of the estimated \$450. Jody offered to purchase and donate gourds and get them to Sue for gift baskets. In lieu of an honorarium (est. \$200), Debra suggested we offer the keynote speaker a write-up in the *Golden Gourd* to include information about her unusual gourds that are for sale. It was also suggested there be an opportunity for participants to make donations. Sue offered to donate wine for the meet-and-greet, and everyone agreed that the rest of us would be willing to donate finger food. Sherry will limit the set-up crew for simplicity's sake and limit costs since CGS will cover 1 night's lodging for them. After considering the suggested savings discussed, Sherry figured she will have \$1,200 to cover kits and supplies expense. Net profits from the raffle and silent auction will go toward the next Retreat.

Competition Judging Report

Sylvia Nelson lead a discussion on the need to create a Grand Masters Division for CGS competitions. This would allow those who have achieved multiple awards in the Masters Division to move up the scale and allow other members the opportunity to achieve award status in Masters. Ways to implement this were discussed, and the following people agreed to serve on a task force to develop a Board recommendation: Colleen Ballard, Lisa Baurmeister, Janice Horner, Mary Hufft, Sylvia Nelson (Task Force Chair), Marilyn Phelps and Debra Zimmerman [*Olive Moore added following meeting*]. Sylvia will do more research and discuss this matter with AGS.

Sylvia reported the forms used by judges have been revised, which are much like the form used by Arizona. She will be asking all CGS judges to read the AGS judging information. Names of those who judged will be sent to Sylvia for tracking. Mary Hufft said she and Colleen Ballard will be offering a judge training session.

Old Business

Southern Competition: Debra Zimmerman highlighted statistics from the report she had distributed. She was pleased about the representation from all the southern patches and reported a profit of almost \$48, noting the good discount the videographer offers CGS. There was good participation in the new functional/wearable art category (a change from the doll/figure category) and in the simple and complex class categories. The judges were in teams of three and followed a consensus strategy, providing feedback to the participants. She commented on the benefit of the virtual competition, which allows for larger exposure than short-term competitions. Because some artists feel they are missing out on interactions, ideas to remedy this are being considered, such as a reception opportunity. The online entry process has greatly streamlined the process, as information gets populated to a spreadsheet with statistics readily available.

Northern Competition: Sylvia said the Northern California competition was completed over a day and a half and the crew had a good time. A few people showed up to see the entries, which evolved into an open house, one of which was the vendor who created our ribbons. Considering the location was far away from other patches, the competition was a success. Colleen Ballard reported there were more Novice and Masters entries than they have ever had. Marilyn suggested the Northern competition consider doing a combination virtual and in-person competition. Olive complimented Tony Linde on doing such a great job on the PowerPoint presentation. Sylvia said the photos were taken by the husband of a CGS member. She really liked the addition of artist interviews in the southern competition video and thought we might be able to combine a Northern and Southern virtual competition at some point. Mary Bliss offered to have a short information session at the Retreat explaining the process of posting videos on YouTube.

Patch leader handbook: Marilyn will make needed updates to the patch leader handbook.

New Business

Committee Chair Assignments: Sylvia and the Board members thanked Colleen Ballard and Mary Hufft for agreeing to serve as Competition Co-Leaders for Northern California and for overseeing ribbons and pins inventory.

Board Positions: There being no new nominations received and all those with expiring terms agreeing to continue their service, motions were made and carried to elect the following to serve a two-year term 2023 through January 2025: 1) Marilyn Phelps to fill the position of President, 2) Olive Moore to fill the position of Treasurer, 3) Debra Zimmerman to fill the position of Ambassador At Large, 4) Libbi Salvo to fill the position of Director of Southern Regional Groups.

It was agreed that a Nominating Committee be formed to work on potential nominations for positions opening in January 2024 (Vice President, Secretary, Ambassador At Large/Gouig, Director of Northern Regional Groups, and Director of Membership). This will be a topic of discussion at the upcoming patch leader meeting.

Competition Requests: Request forms were received from the Orange County Gourd Society and Folsom Gourd Artists to host CGS Competitions. A motion was made and carried to approve the CGS Southern California Virtual Gourd Competition, October 21-22, 2023, in Upland. A motion was made and carried to approve the Northern California Gourd Competition, October 6-8, 2023, at the Robert H. Miller Rotary Clubhouse in Folsom.

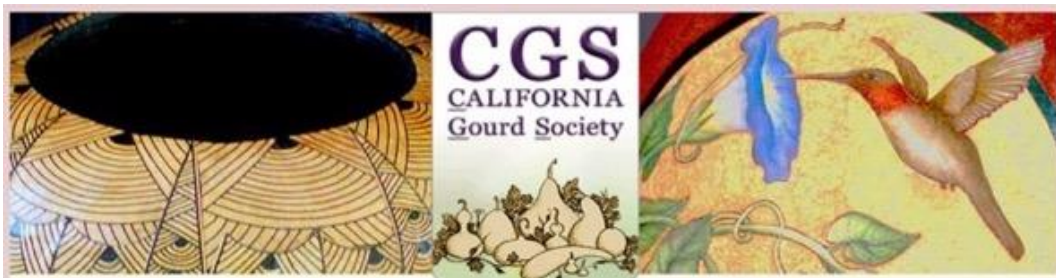
Next Meeting: It was agreed to keep the CGS Board meetings virtual to save expenses. The date of the next meeting will be Saturday, January 13, 2024.

The meeting recessed at 2:24pm into the 2023 budget development session and reconvened at 3:37pm.

A motion was made and carried to accept the 2023 budget as discussed during the budget development session. *[Total Revenue budget: \$12,253 (\$6,600 Retreat-related); Total Expenses budget: \$38,634 (\$30,000 Retreat-related); net loss of -\$26,381 (Removing Retreat Revenue/Expense, net loss of -\$2,981)].*

Meeting adjourned at 3:39pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peggy Blessing, Secretary



2023 CGS Board of Directors and Beyond

CGS Board of Directors

President – Marilyn Phelps
Term 2023 – January 2025

Vice President – Janice Horner
Term 2022 – January 2024

Secretary – Peggy Blessing
Term 2022 – January 2024

Treasurer – Olive Moore
Term 2023 – January 2025

Ambassador at Large #1
– Debra Zimmerman
Term 2023 – January 2025

Ambassador at Large #2
– Susan Gouig
Term 2022 – January 2024

Director of Northern Regional Groups – Jody Dingivan
Term 2022 – January 2024

Director of Southern Regional Groups – Libbi Salvo
Term 2023 – January 2025

Director of Membership
– Debbie Zimmermann
Term 2022 – January 2024

Beyond the Board

CGS Positions and Committee Chairs

Webmaster - Mary Bliss

Editor, Golden Gourd Newsletter
- Lisa Baurmeister

Projects Coordinator
- Sherry Hunga-Moore

Competition Coordinators
– Debra Zimmerman, SOCAL
and Mary Hufft and Colleen Ballard, NORCAL

CGS Insurance Contact
- Peggy Blessing

Judging Liaison with American Gourd Society (AGS)
- Sylvia Nelson

YouTube Channel Coordinator
- Debra Zimmerman

THANK YOU
volunteers



Featured Artist Profile

Our Featured Artist is Debby Curnett from the Ventura County Gourd Artist

By Debby Curnett and Evy Eisele

I graduated from Fillmore High School (just like my parents) and have lived in Fillmore all my life. My husband, Tom, and I started dating during his senior year (yes, he's from Fillmore, too), but I have known him since he and my brother were in the third grade, he came to the ranch to play with my brother, and he remembers me chasing them into an orange tree with my horse.



Tom and I were married in 1970, a year after I graduated. I was 18; he was 20; such babies! We have two beautiful daughters who have blessed us with three wonderful grandchildren (Kyle, 25, Emily, 22, and Greyson, 14). Tom was a policeman at Ventura Police Department for almost 25 years, and I worked for 33 years at Fillmore High School. I started a full-time job in 1980 as the Registrar at FHS, where I had the best memories ever as a teenager attending high school and made lasting friendships with co-workers and students over the three decades I worked there. The friendships of co-workers and students from my time at the "Home of the Flashes" are long-lasting.



Debby and her daughters Denae (L) and LeAnna (R)

I did not start learning about gourd art until Michele Smith (whom I've known for at least 40 years) got me started. I had taken tole painting classes with her as the teacher in the '80s. Michele taught me a lot about blending colors, shading and giving depth to a piece. In 2012, Michele told me how much fun gourding was and wanted me to learn, but I did not have free time for hobbies until I retired. So, she pestered me to "hurry up and retire" so I could go to class with her. When that finally happened, I joined Charlene Smith's classes at the Fillmore Adult Center. After one or two classes, I was hooked. I love all the different techniques to create beautiful works of art, and I credit Charlene with being the "Obi-Wan" for me.

I enjoy learning new techniques and am comfortable working on projects so long as someone else comes up with the idea. My creative gene is something I struggle with; it helps to keep taking classes and learning from all of you pros who have been gourding for so much longer than myself. I love that gourders are so helpful to others and so willing to teach the craft.

Let's keep gourding, friends!



Debby and Husband Tom

~ Continue pg. 11

More of Debby's beautiful work!

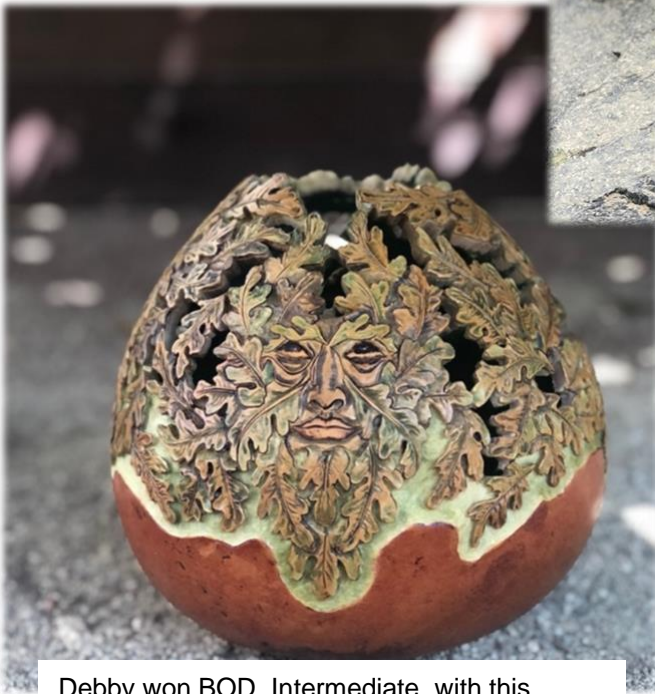


Debby Curnell and Michele Smith



~ Continue pg. 12

Thank you,
Debby, for
sharing your
work with us!



Debby won BOD, Intermediate, with this gourd in the 2021 Southern Cal Competition



NOTICE: Change of venue, please read!
CGS Gourd Blossom Retreat 2023 ~ Update



Attendance Status ~ "Sold Out" ~ Wait List Available

Our retreat this year, the CGS Gourd Blossom Retreat 2023 has been modified. Unfortunate circumstances have risen with the original venue at the **Lamp Liter Inn in Visalia**. The banquet portion of the business was sold, and they canceled our contract. We are sorry for any inconvenience and for the change in location and date.

We have managed to locate another facility that can accommodate our needs at this short notice, **St Anthony's Retreat in Three Rivers**.

New Date: June 29 – July 2, 2023
St Antony's Retreat, Three Rivers, CA

43816 Sierra Drive
Three Rivers, CA 93271
<https://www.stanthonyretreat.org>

Relax in this peaceful atmosphere and get inspired, share laughs and catch up with friends. The work area is large enough to seat all members in air conditioning with 2 people per table. There will be an area on the patio for sanding & drilling dirty work.

Meals are included, rooms have 2 twin beds with complimentary coffee and tea. Our schedule includes Demos, DIY projects and 2 mini-Classes for which you can sign up. One activity includes a UFO table (Un-Finished Objects) where you exchange UFOs with others. We are also offering the infamous Raffle Baskets that are so exciting to win! A new addition to the venue is a Silent Auction with unique Center Pieces that artisans have created with whimsical designs.

~ Continue pg. 14

Cradled in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, St. Anthony Retreat Center is located off of Hwy 198 in Three Rivers, CA, just three miles before the entrance of the Sequoia National Park. St. Anthony's is about 45 minutes from Visalia, and an hour and a half from Fresno, CA Elevation: Approx. 1500 ft.



FOR WAITLIST INFO.

Contact **Mary Bliss**,
Retreat Reservations
Coordinator at
**webmaster@california
gourdsociety.com** or
go to the retreat page on
the CGS website and fill
out the form to be
waitlisted.



Retreat Chairman,
Sherry Hunga-Moore
for general questions
at
Florashm@aol.com



California Gourd Society 2024 Fundraiser

"Wall Art"



Art work with creative designs incorporating gourd, shards & shapes that can be hung on the wall.

Projects will be raffled at the

"Gourds and Baskets Containers of our Culture"

Visalia, California Saturday April 27, 2024

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 projects.
3. Size/Dimension limitations: **NO larger than 24" X 30" (Flip Chart size)**
4. Projects are due *on or prior* to start of event in Visalia, Friday 26, 2024.
5. Attach tag with name of patch.



Mail or deliver to:

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

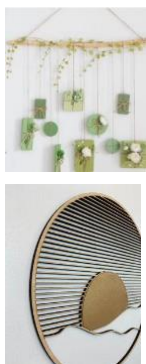
***Libbi Salvo** 2927 Sunset Hills, Escondido, CA 92028 {Southern members}

Each ticket bought from CGS costs the Patch 50 cents and then 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.

Inspirations can be found at:

Pinterest.com or Thrift stores, repurposed found treasures



ALL INSPIRATIONS/IDEAS ARE FROM THE PINTEREST WEBSITE.

ElGourdo's Rambling

THE EPIDEMIC IS BACK?

Happy 2023 and good wishes for you all in making it a year of incredible joy. May it be one of learning, sharing, and making great memories.

Hey friends; I'm pretty sure you have heard about and probably experienced the current epidemic which is rampaging through the Gourd world like wildfire. We have been exposed to it numerous times in the past and it's here again. Not to worry, it's not something unknown to us. It's simply been a bit on the down low these past few years since the "THING", that shall not be mentioned, hit us and oldies like me hid under the bed until it was safe to come out. So, just what is this epidemic you may ask? It's **EXCITEMENT** and highly contagious, but in a good way! Everybody has experienced it and, in most cases, enjoy it. In fact, we look forward to more of it. It's something all of us can share in and are usually very willing to both give and receive it.

This **EXCITEMENT** epidemic is rapidly replacing the one, who shall not be mentioned. The best part is we all look forward to this kind of epidemic. Most of us missed it terribly wishing it would come back to the levels we loved. Well, our wishes are coming true as it's roaring back like wildfire in the gourd world and when/if it does slow down, it can be easily rekindled.

There are so many ways to keep the fire going, and many of you kept the flames fanned during the pandemic, that shall not be named. For me, the embers were kept fanned at patch meetings, even when our numbers dropped. Some patches didn't miss a beat! Something I noticed when went to Visalia last year. The excitement of old friends and associates was at a high! And now we are planning festival and events at new venues, and our patches are regaining some of their numbers which is very encouraging.

There is a Blossom Festival coming up this summer in Three Rivers and it's sold out. Our patches are calling for outside instructors to teach classes for their groups. Small groups of friends are getting together in their garages or studios for play dates. It's exciting!

Though I got sidetracked and began writing books while still dabbling in gourds, it's hard to ignore the fun and enthusiasm surrounding you without jumping back in. I'm even designing new gourd projects and trying to finish abandoned ones. Yep, having fun is contagious, especially when you are surrounded by fun loving people. Me thinks I've "wrote" this about Gourders before, but it bears repeating; "Wherever you find four of us there's often a fifth." However, in my case, it's a bottle of wine.

SO, Kudos to you all for keeping the flames fanned. **EXCITEMENT IS OUR BUILDING BLOCKS.....** Oops, I was supposed to reveal my identity in this issue. But I've hit my 500-word limit, argh. I'll just say my initials are AB. Hope to see you at the 2023 Gourd Blossom Retreat event.

El Gourdo, AKA EG



~ Fun Spring Tutorial ~

**Faux Turquoise
Inlay Painting
by Kennie Winter**



To Start: Pick out a gourd shard or other gourd piece.

1. Choose a design to either wood burn or transfer onto the gourd. You can outline the design with a Sharpie pen, Stick and Burn design or print a design onto paper then transfer it onto the gourd.
2. Once design is transferred or free hand drawn onto gourd, time to wood burn it onto gourd or go over lines with Sharpie. It looks best with small mosaic-like sections.
3. Choose three colors of turquoise paint and one green. I use Delta's - Tropic Bay Blue, Turquoise and Laguna Blue and Delta's - Timberline Green. The basic rule is three different shades of turquoise: light, medium, dark, and one forest/olive grayish green. These paints will be applied with a toothpick. Pour a small portion of each color onto a paper plate or pallet.
4. Starting with the lightest turquoise color, dab a toothpick into the paint then dab onto the design. Continue to dab until the section (area in between the lines) is covered.
5. In the same area, apply medium turquoise paint and finally the darkest turquoise color; dabbing in but not covering other colors; apply just enough to vary the color.
6. Next, use the green and dab on a tiny amount in one or two places. Swirl it around a bit with the toothpick to achieve a turquoise veining look.
7. When one section is complete to your satisfaction, move onto the next until your piece is complete.
8. Let dry thoroughly. Dab on Triple Thick Glaze with a clean toothpick, letting it mound up to give dimension to each section, so it looks like inlay.
9. Let dry completely (4 to 5 hours).

~ Continue pg. 18

For an alternative Stone Color: Lapis Lazuli

If you want to try for a Lapis Lazuli look, try these colors:

- **Delta's** Azure Blue and Copen Blue
- **Apple Barrel's** - True Navy and Royal Violet
- Then drop tiny slivers of gold confetti into **Triple Thick Glaze** at the end. (See lizard's legs.)



**Kennie, and thanks
for sharing!**

~ Looking Forward ~ 2023 Competition Events ~

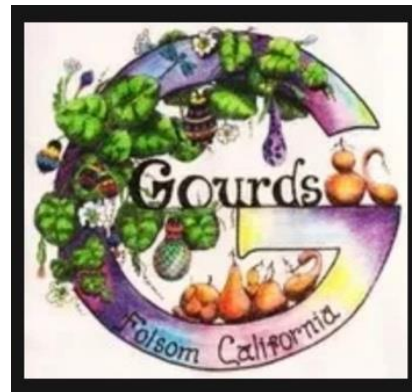


This Fall we will have two CGS Competitions!

The first is the CGS Northern California Gourd Competition which will be held on October 6-8, 2023, at the Robert H. Miller Rotary Clubhouse in Folsom. This competition will be hosted by the Folsom Gourd Artists.

<https://folsomgourdartists.com>

Competition Coordinators, Colleen Ballard and Mary Hufft



The Second is the CGS Southern California "Virtual" Gourd Competition on October 21-22, 2023, in Upland. This competition will be hosted by Orange County Gourd Society.

<http://www.ocgourdsociety.org/>

Competition Coordinator, Debra Zimmerman



Stay tuned for more detailed information in our summer issue of the Golden Gourd and in our CGS Shout-Out emails!

~ Patch Happenings ~

Wuertz Festival Adventure 2023 By the San Diego County Gourd Artists

Submitted by: Sherry Hunga-Moore



One of our yearly adventures for our San Diego Patch is to send a caravan of volunteer members and their gourd art to the Wuertz Festival in Arizona. Our Patch pays for the booth and table rentals as an “opportunity” we provide to our members. It is a great venue to sell our gourd art. Our Patch has three booths with tables to display and sell the items for the three days. We have participated in the festival several years now.

The festival has classes, vendors, good food, nice gourds for sale from the Wuertz family and an art competition. The Arizona Gourd Society competition has judging by certified American Gourd Society judges. You don't have to be a member of the Arizona Gourd Society to participate. It is a great place to get inspirations and meet new people.



This event is a great gathering place for gourd enthusiasts. It is something we try to encourage folks to put on their bucket list. Hope to see you there next year! Stop in and sit a spell at our booth!

~ Continue pg. 21

Ventura County Gourd Artists "Show & Tell"

By Evy Eisele, VCGA President

CHRIS GARCIA



Show & Tell



ARLINE ERICKSON

Wuertz class projects



BOTTOM BOTH CAMILLE KING

~ Continue pg. 22

Calabash Club of Silicon Valley Reaching out in their Community

Calabash members presented at three community outings this quarter. “We are working hard to recruit new members and getting the word out about gourds.” – *Sugi Karrupiah, Club President*

- **Hillsborough Garden Club – 25 people** - Presentation done by *Kennie Winter*, with help from *Smruti Kurse* and *Iris Gach*
- **Los Altos Art Club – 16 people** – Presentation and demo given by *Lisa Baurmeister*
- **Saratoga Library – 60 people** – Presentation given by *Christy Tsai* with help from *Cyndee Newick*



Christy Tsai



Kennie Winter



Photos of Wuertz taken by Alice Caperton. Thanks for sharing, Alice!



You can send your info to your patch leader, Regional Directors *Libbi Salvo*, libbi_salvo@yahoo.com or *Jody Dingivan*, adollplace@hotmail.com or to me *Lisa Baurmeister*: cgsnewslettereditor@gmail.com.

DON'T FORGET TO SHARE WITH US. WE LOVE HEARING FROM YOU!

~ California Gourders in the AGS Magazine ~

2022 BOS Artistry Entries for California

Lisa Baurmeister - 2020 So Cal, Patti Fisher - 2021 Nor Cal, Sue Fuller - 2021 So Cal, Joyce Campbell - 2022 Nor Cal, Bill Wilson - PC Sacramento Woodcarvers and Gourd show 2022 Nor Cal



"Let 2023 be the year of sharing the gourd glow!"

~ AGS President, Reagan Bitler

Southern California Virtual Competition 2022

Gourd Show: Southern California Virtual Competition
by Debra Zimmerman, CGS Ambassador at Large

The 2022 CGS Southern California Competition hosted by the Orange County Gourd Society wrapped up October 15th with awards going to incredibly creative pieces and a new Functional/Wearable category. The virtual competition drew 107 entries with wide representation from the Ventura, San Diego, Orange County and Calabasas chapters, plus entries from Missi Washington Gourd and Basket Guild and the public. A special thanks goes to all those who entered, helped set-up, and/or judged the show.

The quality of the entries was very good and something to be proud of. The Best of Show award went to Roy Ponce of Santa Clarita, who also took Best in Category for Pyrography. His piece, inspired by the artist Frida Kahlo, featured hummingbirds and flowers.

Some of this year's other highlights:

- Our new Functional/Wearable category clearly inspired artists' imaginations, with some notable and unusual items such as a plastic shopping bag holder and a pair of luffs and gourd leathers.
- Clever, brightly colored animals made from gourds and gourd pieces were produced by members of the Ventura patch, who had participated in a Mexican Folk Art Challenge to stimulate creativity.
- Pam Watson of Orange County patch won First Place in the Master Craftman Anything Goes category with a sculpture of a rhinoceros. Her large and impressive sculpture used gourd pieces attached to an armature made from wire used in Africa to snare rhinoceroses. Pam wanted to bring attention to the subject of rhinoceros poaching. She will explain the process she used to create the piece in the final video from the show.

Please view the video of the complete show by going to YouTube and searching California Gourd Society. You will see the video from 2022 and you can also view the video from the Northern California Competition as well as previous competitions.



Left page, left column: Best of Show, Roy Ponce; Functional/Wearable category - Stacy Holtz; Mexican Folk Art Challenge - Eliza Capwell; right column: Pam Watson, 1st place, Master Craftman Anything Goes category; Camille King
This page, left column: Maria Davis, Diana Whitaker, Debbie Zimmerman; middle column: Ernie Bragg, Best of Division - Novice - Diane Gwinn; right column: Best of Division - Advanced - Cathy Agnew; Best of Division - Intermediate - Karen Edener; Michele Smith

~ Golden Gourd Editor's Take ~

From Waterfalls to Snow fall ~ Mother Nature is not playing around!

In one year, we went from drought conditions to levees breaking, towns flooding, and tree branches breaking due to the weight of Snow. We have waterfalls and mini rivers running through our Santa Cruz Mountain property. Two weeks ago, we had 8 to 10 inches of unprecedented Snow! The photo is from my front porch.

It, indeed, has been a wild winter. With weather like this, and I'm not out cutting tree limbs or shoveling Snow, I tend to spend more time in my studio, working on gourds. This time was/is no different.

I hope you have also been working on your gourds this winter. Whether for yourself, a friend, a commission, or a competition piece, just making gourd art is good for the soul, and I hope you all are feeding your soul.

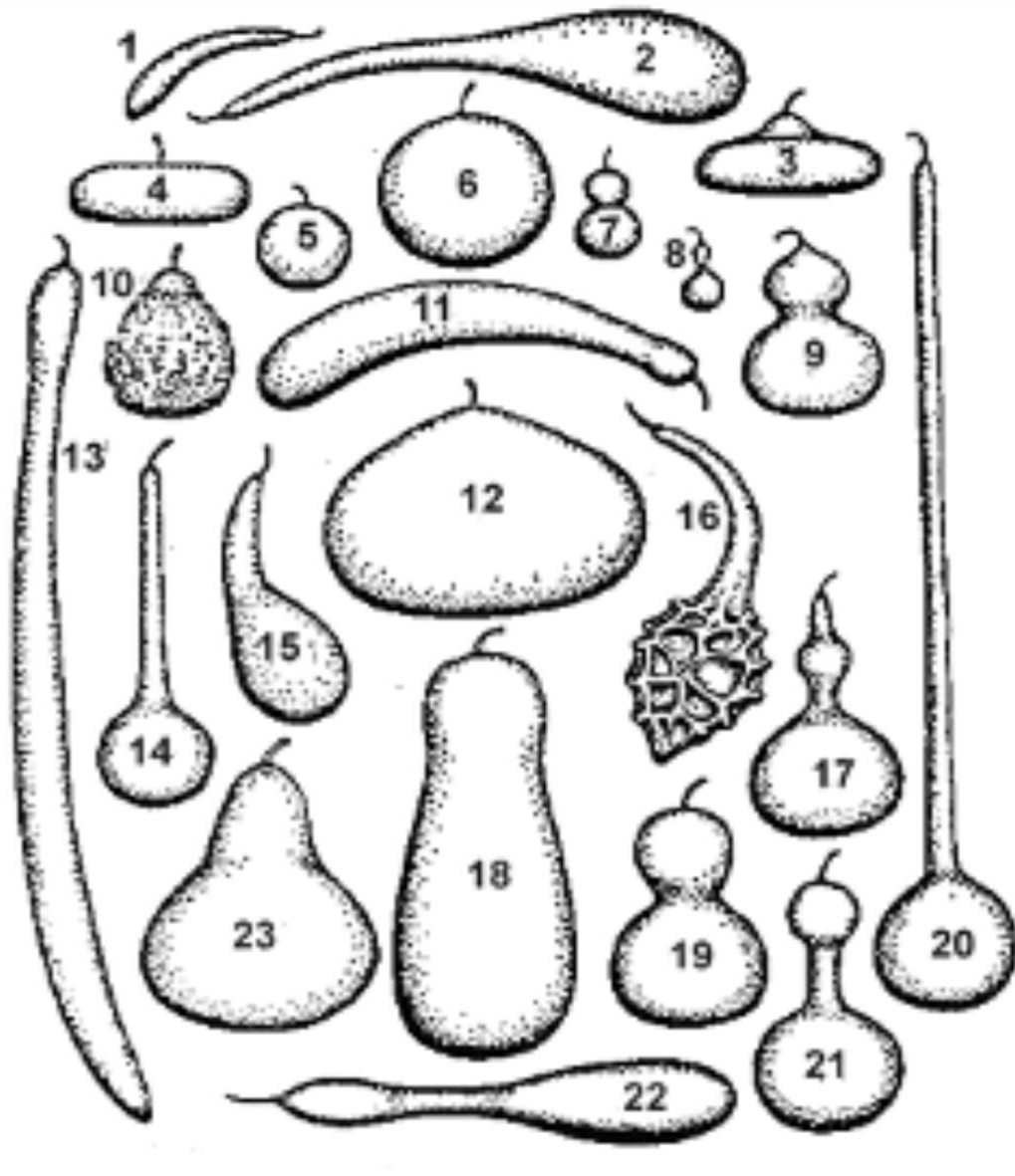
This past February, I had the pleasure of giving a Gourd presentation/demo to the Los Altos Art Club. I had fun, and it was well received. They asked many questions; my biggest takeaway was that the audience was excited; they could see themselves making their next art project using gourds. Most knew nothing about gourds and were fascinated by their versatility. The other takeaway was that we must do more to reach out to other clubs, libraries, garden centers, and schools to spread the word about gourd. They don't know it yet, but gourds will be their next obsession; we must show them!



Here's what I've been up to while rain bound at home. I hope you will share your work with us too!



~ A Refresher Gourd I.D. Chart ~



- 1. Banana
- 2. Club, Cave Man's Club
- 3. Tobacco Box, Sugar Bowl
- 4. Canteen, Sugar Bowl
- 5. Cannon Ball
- 6. Basketball
- 7. Mini-bottle
- 8. Sennari

- 9. Mexican Bottle
- 10. Hardshell Warty
- 11. Hercules Club
- 12. Bushel Basket
- 13. Baton, Snake, Longissima
- 14. Short Handled Dipper
- 15. Powder Horn, Penguin
- 16. French Dolphin, Maranka, Monkey

- 17. Lump in the neck Bottle
- 18. Zucca
- 19. Chinese Bottle
- 20. Long Handled Dipper
- 21. Indonesian Bottle, Costa Rican Bottle
- 22. Japanese Bottle, Siphon
- 23. Kettle

This chart is used curtesy of AmishGourds.com



Your One-Stop Shop for Thick-Shelled Gourds, Gourd Colors and Finishes, Tools and Supplies!

www.WelburnGourdFarm.com

For all of your gourd crafting needs, Welburn Gourd Farm has you covered! Come to the Farm or visit our web site for quality, organic gourds, tools, supplies, FREE video tutorials, instant-access digital patterns, gourd classes, and more.



Growing Nearly 200,000 Gourds Per Year!



Co-Founder Doug Welburn in 1996.

"Greetings! I have to say that of all the gourds I've EVER purchased, Welburn Farm gourds are THE nicest, thickest, smoothest, most symmetrical... and did I mention THICKEST? Super gourds!"- **Cynthia, Picture Rocks Art**

Known for their **thick shells** and beautiful, natural markings, the Welburn Gourd is the gourd of choice for those who want quality above all else.



All gourds are shipped clean and ready to craft.

For the lowest prices and best selection, visit our farm (address below). Can't make it to the Farm? Shop our large selection of pre-boxed gourds available online!

40635 De Luz Road, Fallbrook, CA 92028. Wed-Sat, 10am-3pm PST

Call 760-728-4271 or visit www.WelburnGourdFarm.com



Gourd Workshops
Private classes for
1-4 friends
All skill levels,
supplies included,
gourds available.
Classes at your
convenience any day
by appointment.
\$35 per day, 11-3 pm
JoyceCampbellgourds
@gmail.com

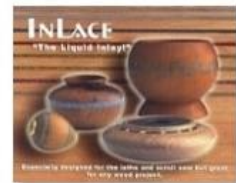


ARIZONA GOURDS
GOURD CRAFTING TOOLS

Tools and Embellishments for Gourd and Wood Crafting

Horse Hair, InLace, Tools, Ink Dyes and more!

www.arizonagourds.com 319 855-9665



Lisa Baurmeister Fine Art Gourds



You can also
find me at
[Etsy.com/shop/
lbfineartgourds](https://www.etsy.com/shop/lbfineartgourds)

lisabaurmeister@gmail.com

Commissions Accepted!

408-656-7124