Volume 25, Issue 1



The Newsletter of the California Chapter of the American Gourd Society



Spring is in the air, and so is hope and a desire to see this Pandemic behind us. It's been just over a year now. There is a light, we can see it, just there, at the end of that very long tunnel we've all been through.

As we start amending our soils for planting, weeding out our gardens, and deciding which gourd seeds to plant, let us take the time to give a big thank you to all the women and men who have worked so hard to get us to where we are today!

If you are a nurse or doctor, WE THANK YOU. If you are with the Fire Department, Police Department, or Emergency Services, WE THANK YOU. If you've worked through this Pandemic as cashiers and bag our groceries, WE THANK YOU. To ALL who have, in one form or another, helped California to get to where we are today,

WE THANK YOU - WE THANK YOU - WE THANK YOU!

CGS encourages all of you to dust off your gourds, shake up your paints, polish up your burning tips and get out your carving burrs. It is time to get back to gourding and show California how we make art and how it makes people happy! It's Spring, and there is a light at the end of the tunnel!

In this issue:

Light At The End Of The Tunnel	e Cover
President's Message	Pg. 2
Thank You Olive Moore	Pg. 4
Featured Artist's Profile	Pg. 5
2021 Board Meeting Hig	ghlights Pg. 9
2021 Board Of Directors	s Pg. 14
El Gourdo's Ramblings	Pg. 15
Growing Gourds w/Kids	Pg. 16
2021 CGS Festival and Competition News	Pg. 20
Golden Gourd's Editor's	Note Pg. 25
Golden Gourd's Rates a Dates	and Pg. 26
CGS Amazon Smile Ac	count Pg. 27
Classifieds	Pg. 28



~ A Message from our President ~

Greetings!

I want to start my first message by saying thank you to Olive Moore, our past President, for your dedication these past five years, and welcome to the Treasurer's position! Thank you, Christina Chrivia, our past Treasurer, for 15 years of watching over our finances. Welcome, Janice Horner and Debra Zimmerman, our new VP, and Ambassador at Large, respectively. We encourage you to please visit the CGS website and get to know who your new and current officers and Coordinators are.

My name is Marilyn Phelps, the newly elected President of California Gourd Society. My husband Tony and I live in Pollock Pines, a small, forested area on the west slope of the Sierras about an hour west of South Lake Tahoe. We are both retired but have part-time jobs.

I'm surprised to find myself here, in this position, as I am still a newbie to this art form. I joined the Folsom Gourd Artists in 2015, with a membership to CGS and the American Gourd Society after attending a gourd festival at Davis Ranch. I was very impressed with the wonderful art made from hard shell gourds. I took a personal class with Joyce Campbell, which was a great experience. Since then, I was sold on gourds and have attended the Baskets & Gourds Conference in Visalia twice, taking classes and enjoying the camaraderie of like-minded gourd enthusiasts. A member of our local patch invited Bonnie Gibson to our area, and I was fortunate to be able to attend her classes as well. Since then, I've taken many more classes and entered a few competitions, winning a couple of ribbons. Another great experience was attending a CGS retreat where I met Society members from all over the state. Now, I'm ready to get to it with my new role, and some help from our board and membership.

I attended a Zoom AGS meeting in the first part of February. From what I gathered the entire country is looking forward to when we can start having festivals filled with eager gourd lovers again. If you don't already belong to AGS, please consider a membership. Your membership includes a quarterly full-color professional magazine. It is filled with State Chapter news from all over the US, free tutorials, articles on featured artists, and references on where to buy supplies, and much more, including many beautiful photos. Our CGS board met on January 9th via Zoom. Here are some of the subjects discussed.

- We voted on upgrading some business tools that will aid in getting information out to the membership.
- There are at least 2 CGS competitions planned this year, either virtually, in person, or a combination of both.
- Unfortunately, the California State Fair was canceled for 2021, but some County Fairs are advertising for this season. Check your local county!
- Visalia's Basket and Gourds has again been postponed to April 2022.
- We discussed the possibility of a traveling gourd.
- CGS now has a YouTube channel available for tutorials and demos.
- VP Janice Horner made some beautiful fitted black tablecloths for CGS.

- New hooded sweatshirts with the CGS logo will be available for sale soon.
- Raffle tickets are still selling for the Baskets and Gourds drawing for gourd quilts or mosaic tiles made by our patches.
- When shopping on Amazon, choose the California Gourd Society as your charity by purchasing items on Smile.Amazon.com.

On an administrative note: The formatting on some of our Welcome Letters that went out may have been off. You can re-print a revised version of the Welcome Letter from the member's only page on our website. I would like to end by encouraging all patch leaders and members to help promote membership in the California Gourd Society for 2021. Here's to a better and prosperous year! Thank you for your support.

Your President, Marilyn Phelps





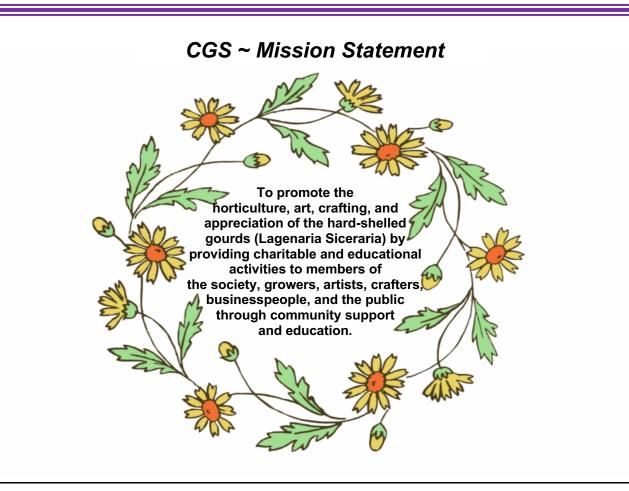
A Warm Hearted THANK YOU!

Olive Moore, our outgoing President has served in that position for over 5 years. She has worked tirelessly, and has done a great deal for CGS. She has put many miles on her car driving up and down this great state of ours in her efforts to attend all the festival and competitions she can - not an easy task with our large state.

Olive, a wizard at spelling and grammatical editing, has reviewed a great many CGS documents, articles, webpages and this newsletter for which I am very grateful. Helping us all to present a professional and cohesive message for CGS. I don't know where I would be without her. Thank goodness she is not going far.

Olive excels at a great many things, she is a gourd art teacher, and has "mad" skills in accounting. The latter will be put to good use as she embarks on her new role as our CGS Treasurer. This dedication to CGS is much admired and greatly appreciated. We are forever gratefull for your service to CGS Olive, and wish you all the best as our new Treasure.

If you wish to let Olive know how much you appreciate her service, just drop her an email. <u>olivesgourds@yahoo.com</u>.



Golden Gourd's Featured Artist

Christy Tsai, of Saratoga and the Bay Area

Written By: Lisa Baurmeister

Our Spring 2021 featured artist comes to us by way of the Calabash Club of Silicon Valley. Christy has been with Calabash since 2003, making her one of a handful of the long-timers in the club. However, that was not her first foray into the gourd world.

Many decades ago, Christy's craft-loving mom was visiting from Taiwan. Wanting to find something special for her and her mother to do together, Christy came upon a class given by the former instructor and gourd artbook writer, Ginger Summit. Christy always loved gourds' unique shape, so the



gourd class became the best entertainment for her mom's visit. "Although we did not get a chance to work on the gourd after the class, we have a wonderful memory."

Christy's background is in food and nutrition. After staying at home for eight years, she used her BS Major to secure a position at a chemical company making ion chromatography instruments and columns. "As a cancer survivor, I chose to work in a management group instead of as a hands-on chemist." She then went on to work part-time with a local vitamin mail-order company as an office manager before retiring in 2003.

Christy has volunteered at Tzu Chi Foundation and the Cupertino senior center. It was there that she took up watercolor painting. Enjoying drawing as a child, Christy won many competition prizes during her school years. While working in the chemistry field, she would experiment with different art forms in her spare time, including Chinese brush painting and fabric painting. However, she decided to focus on watercolor painting. "I found the endless combinations of color and the flow of paints to be most conducive to my creative expression." Still, the class she enjoyed with her mother, decades ago, and the gourds' unique shape, always called to her. So, she picked up that gourd left for years in the garage and combined her abstract watercolor skills with the plant world's natural canvas.

"Although I admire works by Bonnie Gibson and others who carve on gourds, I had to avoid using those techniques due to a trigger finger." Instead, Christy planned to use various coloring techniques such as marbleizing on gourds, a method learned years ago. You can see these methods in her pieces titled "Family Trip," "All Your Wishes Come True," and "Three Ladies." But still, she felt watercolors would be more controllable if she could resolve getting the watercolor to adhering to the gourd.

Wanting to not just paint her watercolor designs on flat paper, Christy wanted to make her 2D abstract watercolor painting into 3D art. During our S.I.P, Christy had more time to do experiments on gourds, and it paid off. The multi-media techniques used to paint her "Carefree Moment" gourd took BOD in the 2020 Orange County competition.

By applying acrylic, watercolor, and ink dye onto separated areas, such as the dancing ladies, the inner circle, and background, Christy is able to reach the effect she wanted to express. "I learned to pre-treat the gourd with the gesso and absorbent ground to help watercolor paints stay on the gourd from calabash member, Kennie Winter." Having resolved watercolor's issue adhering to the gourd, she then experimented with her favorite watercolor technique by using plastic wrap over wet paint to create her desired patterns.

Gourd art classes and engaging with other gourd artists is still one of Christy's favorite past times. It has served Christy well, and the evidence can be seen in Ginger Summit's book "Making Gourd Dolls & Spirit Figures."



The above three Gourd Doll Art pieces made by Christy were featured in the book titled: "Making Gourd Dolls & Spirit Figures" by Ginger Summit and Jim Widess. Printed in 2007, it can be purchased online, new and used via Amazon, eBay, and other used book sites.

Today, Christy no longer grows gourds. But she still has some homegrown manipulated gourds left in her inventory and uses them in often. For example, see Bundle Of Love on the next page. "I like its smooth and elegant curve for a perfect mom's arm. My next goal is to try flat manipulating bottle gourds in a pot for fun."

Christy still enjoys taking classes and making gourd art in gatherings around other club members. She's looking forward to when we all get together again and share each other's knowledge of gourding and having fun! If you would like to contact Christy, she can be reached at christyctsai@gmail.com.



"Carefree Moment" on watercolor Paper

In 2019 Christy took a workshop titled "Watercolor, Beyond and Obvious" from Mike Bailey. Its goal was to broaden one's vision of taking on challenges by creating art in series, painting the same images or ideas, multiple times and revising them after each repetition, to simplify and focus on essentials. Her artwork "Carefree moment" was one of the abstract paintings she painted by following this new creative guideline.

> "Blissful Moment" Watercolor on

Paper



"Carefree Moment" on Gourd







"Three Ladies"

"Call of the Wild"



"All Your Wishes Come True"





"Tender Moment"



"Bundle Of Love"



"Family Trip"

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 it be 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. Just contact your Regional Director, Patch Leader or me. Tell us your story and we will be happy to write it! Send your story outline and photos to either:

Southern Region Libbi Salvo: libbi salvo@yahoo.com Northern Region Jody Dingivan: adollplace@hotmail.com Golden Gourd Editor Lisa Baurmeister: cgsnewslettereditorlb@gmail.com

~ Our next featured Artist is Sherry Hunga-Moore of SDCGA ~

CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY

Board Meeting Highlights - January 9, 2021

Board Members Present: Olive Moore, President [*Treasurer elect*]; Marilyn Phelps, Vice President [*President elect*]; Peggy Blessing, Secretary; Christina Chrivia, Treasurer; Sue Gouig, Ambassador at Large; Janice Horner, Ambassador at Large [*Vice President elect*]; Libbi Salvo, Director of Southern Regional Groups. **Others Present:** Pamela Argo, Competition Committee Chair; Lisa Baurmeister, Editor; Sherry Hunga-Moore, Creative Projects Chair; Sylvia Nelson, Competition Committee [*left at 2:50pm*]; Debra Zimmerman, [*Ambassador at Large elect*].

Board/Committee Members Absent: Mary Bliss, Web Administrator; JoAnn Clark, Director of Membership; Jody Dingivan, Director of Northern Regional Groups

Following introductions and with a quorum present, President Olive Moore called the meeting to order at 9:13am via Zoom video conference call.

Secretary Report

The Minutes of the January 4, 2020, Board meeting were accepted for filing as distributed. A motion was carried to ratify an electronic vote of the Board conducted in January 2020 authorizing a Constant Contact account upgrade to allow more than one administrator (\$540/year). Peggy Blessing reported no response to the email sent to members on 11/19/20 calling for nominations for President and Treasurer.

Treasurer Report

Christina Chrivia reviewed the January 2020 – December 2020 financial statements distributed with the meeting materials and details about various line items were discussed. It was noted that the Folsom competition plans to have two Jim Story categories, one for manipulated gourds grown by entrant and one for manipulated crafted gourds, which does not need to be grown by the entrant. Sherry Hunga-Moore pointed out the balance of \$1,700 in the Retreat Raffle Fund. The Budget vs. Actual schedule showed 2020 Revenue of \$6,736.24; Expenses of \$10,062.39; Net Loss of (\$3,326.15), which was \$142.15 unfavorable to budget. There were no objections or changes to the financial statements as distributed.

Olive asked that we all use Amazon Smile and consider designating CGS as the donation recipient and ask members to do the same. She also gave tips on how to ensure they are using Smile when making Amazon purchases (i.e., change settings in mobile app to Amazon Smile; bookmark Amazon Smile login page in browser). CGS has received \$322 since this program was first initiated. Discussion followed regarding the process to change bank authorizations once officer changes have been approved. Christina reviewed reimbursement request and deposit protocols to ensure proper categorization of expenses/revenue and shared a number of resources available to help provide the Treasurer timely information.

Vice President Report

Marilyn Phelps reported on the status of the upcoming festival in Folsom, saying that Janice Horner and Sylvia Nelson are a part of the planning committee. There are concerns about COVID restrictions preventing it from happening. To date, they have not received a response for their call for teachers, and it's possible they may be able to have a limited event without classes. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of holding a virtual competition if an in-person event would not be possible. Debra Zimmerman has documented the process for the Southern California 2020 virtual event, and this information will be made available to others who might want to consider this option. It was noted that both Folsom and Amador are planning festival events concurrently in May and one in June and a group will be formed to discuss the possibility of holding one competition at one of these events.

The meeting recessed at 10:13am and reconvened at 10:24am.

Director of Membership Report

In the absence of JoAnn Clark, Olive Moore was pleased to report that Mary Bliss has added a feature on our new website allowing members to automatically receive a welcome letter after signing up. The possibility of setting up an auto renew feature will be explored. Due to a possible delay in welcome letters, it was agreed to extend the renewal cut-off date from February 1 to March 1. The membership totals and the status of 100% participation awards were unknown at this time. The 12/20/20 list showed 320 members (including family), which may include some that renewed for 2021. Because they had 15 or more entries, Olive reported that in 2019 Folsom, Amador, San Diego and Ventura received a free membership to award it to a competition entrant (if a person enters multiple pieces, they receive that number of chances to win the free membership). For the 2020 Southern California competition, Orange County, Ventura and San Diego were eligible for a free membership award.

Discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of waiving membership fees due to COVID restrictions preventing typical activities. Although regional groups were free to decide to waive their dues, it was concluded this was not a viable option for CGS. The group discussed ideas to encourage engagement, such as scheduling a demo at each meeting and possibly making a CGS Zoom subscription available to regional leaders.

Director of Southern Regional Groups Report

Libbi Salvo said there wasn't a lot of activity to report, but San Diego and Orange County groups have been very active. Olive reported the Ventura County group has been doing limited socially distanced classes that have gone well. Since the Visalia conference has been canceled, Libbi will aim to schedule a patch leader meeting in April. Debra was aware of a number of gourd artists in Riverside and Indio, but there are big gaps in CGS representation there. Lisa said a common denominator in her featured artist interviews is that they became involved with gourds when they encountered the craft via a festival, saw a demo, or took a class – all activities that have been greatly diminished during 2020. Olive would like to find a location to safely hold in-person patch leader meetings, with the option to cancel if restrictions increase. Items to discuss at the meeting: 1) donating ribbons back to CGS; 2) emphasizing manipulated and crafted manipulated gourds (e.g., where to purchase, AGS articles); and 3) including short report and photo of patch activities in *Golden Gourd*. If there were health concerns, a flyer could be sent to patch leaders with the high points that need to be covered and 3-way phone calls could take place – doesn't have to be via Zoom.

Ambassador at Large Report

Sue Gouig said there wasn't a lot of gourd activity in 2020 but will reach out to regional garden clubs and growers to see if there would be interest in learning more about gourds. She reported that she was able to rescue the fundraising mosaic projects she had in her possession when evacuating her home during last year's wildfires. Debra offered to share the PowerPoint presentation she has given to Los Angeles garden clubs, noting the last one she did was via Zoom. When in person, she takes gourdstarts as door prizes and packets of seeds with directions. It was noted that AGS has a lot of information on growing gourds on their website. Lisa said she has information on growing gourds with kids that she has given out with seed packets and will share the document with the group. Sherry will send to Lisa basic gourd information [created by Grace Swanson] that San Diego County makes available when doing demos and community events.

Ambassador at Large Report

Janice Horner reported there hasn't been any major activities since the last Amador festival. The *Golden Gourd* published an article on a class she conducted at a school for the mentally disabled using gourds that she had grown. Olive reminded the group that there were funds available to northern regional groups restricted for education purposes (\$680). Janice was able to make 7, 6 ft. fitted tablecloths from the old CGS material that was given to her last year and will be given more material to make additional fitted tablecloths for sale along with other CGS merchandise (recommended price \$10/ea.). With regard to the sale of CGS merchandise, it was noted that the Treasurer needs to know the exact location of the sale, as this determines the amount of sales tax CGS owes. In response to a question about sales tax responsibility of a regional group's items, Christina said that CGS is only responsible for its merchandise, not for a regional group's financial responsibilities. It was noted that a CGS donation box at competition booths was a viable revenue option, but we do not want to enter.

Golden Gourd Editor Report

Lisa Baurmeister highlighted Constant Contact statistics, noting we remain above average in opened emails and clicked links. To improve website traffic statistics, she plans to have interesting things on the website and link to them in communications. Using a Constant Contact feature, Lisa resent the newsletter to those who had not opened it up and received thanks for sending the reminder. A small group will discuss at a later time ways to send emails to distinct groups, e.g., a particular patch.

Lisa reviewed the plans for future *Golden Gourd* issues and asked for help from regional directors in identifying people for the quarterly featured artist section and offered to help write these articles. She has gotten good feedback on these as people love to see examples of other's work. Lisa said advertising rates and dates will stay the same in 2021. Sherry reported 2020 advertising revenue from 6 of 7 vendors was \$480 (1 owes \$75). The timing of the Winter issue will change and will be published at year end and the Spring issue will the first one of the new year. Discussion followed regarding content ideas, including 1) ornaments in year-end issue; 2) tool time; 3) Gourd Doctor/Dear Abby; 4) tutorials; 5) contests (this idea tried on Facebook and didn't work). Discussion followed regarding Lisa's suggestion to begin another travelling gourd project, similar to the one done in 2004. Options considered: 1) one large gourd; 2) two gourds, representing the northern and southern regions; 3) cut out pieces from one large gourd and send one to each of the regional groups and put it back together again. Lisa said she would very much appreciate ideas for the newsletter and welcomed feedback on content – good or bad. The meeting recessed at 11:55am and reconvened at 12:35pm.

Website/Facebook Report

Olive reviewed a website index prepared by Mary Bliss, including a members' website section that will be updated quarterly and news and reports to be added to the Members Login section. Mary plans to repurpose the featured artist articles by posting them on our website, and uses information in the newsletter to keep the overall website current. She has also been posting regularly on the CGS Facebook account and will be setting up a blog feature on the website. Olive expressed compliments to Mary Bliss on recreating the CGS website, which is beautiful and has many improvements over the old platform. The group agreed on a new member password for the login section.

Creative Projects Chairperson Report

Sherry Hunga-Moore said the flyer she distributed for the gourd quilt or mosaic tiles fundraiser has been updated to show the drawing will take place on April 23, 2022, and include mailing and delivery instructions. An update on the drawing and how things are being handled will be put in the *Golden Gourd* and on the website. We need to be sure to tell patch leaders that unsold tickets will need to have the drawing date manually changed, and we need to explain or track down tickets that have not been turned in for the drawing yet. Toni Best will be asked to put something about the postponement of the Visalia conference in the *Golden Gourd*. Sherry felt it was up in the air about planning any sort of retreat, noting we could request a refund for the \$300 deposit with the Lamp Liter Inn in Visalia we made a while ago. Sue will contact Lamp Liter Inn to change the date of the 2021 joint patch leader meeting to 2022. It was suggested the patch leaders event be extended to include the Friday teachers' gallery reception, and we incentivizing the extended participation by offering a special class on Friday with one of the conference teachers.

Old Business

<u>2020 Competition</u>: Debra Zimmerman described how the Southern California virtual competition worked and highlighted statistics from the 2020 competition report. She expressed her appreciation to all those who took part. It took a lot of energy and ingenuity, and it proved to be a success, with the most number of entries in a non-conference setting (117), a positive cash flow, and the video posted on the CGS YouTube channel shared the artwork with a wide variety of people. The Google Forms online entry process was a great system and allowed for manual entries and the creation of a spreadsheet. All agreed that Debra has set a new standard for competitions and that the video added to the CGS YouTube channel was absolutely wonderful.

<u>2021 Competitions:</u> There were three proposed 2021 competitions, Folsom in May, Amador in June, and Southern California in October. Debra said the 2021 SoCal competition will not have the opportunity to partner with the Woodcarvers. She gave examples of various options that will need to be explored, noting it will require support from all the southern patches, not just Orange County. Following discussion, it was agreed to approve the three 2021 proposed competitions; and, beginning in 2022, we will only sanction one CGS competition if there are multiple requests in close proximity and/or timeframe to each other. Patch leaders need to be informed that, just because their group is holding a festival, they shouldn't automatically assume there will be a CGS competition. The group reviewed the Request to Host a Certified CGS Competition form that was drafted by Sylvia and suggestions were made for inclusion in the final version. It was clarified that Pam Argo will be the point person with regard to coordination of sanctioned CGS competitions.

<u>Competition Flyers</u>: Pam Argo will take over the responsibility of creating the flyers for CGS competitions (formerly done by Olive) for posting on our website to promote the competition, not the festival itself. It was clarified that, if a competition is not associated with a money-making festival/event, advertisement for the competition in the *Golden Gourd* is free. The meeting recessed at 2:03pm and reconvened at 2:06pm.

<u>Ribbons and Pins</u>: Pam Argo reviewed the balances of competition inventory and discussion followed regarding what ribbons need to be reordered. She recently purchased First and Second place pins and will not order more Third place and not offer this option in future once pin stock is used up. Sylvia and Pam plan to get together to review what remaining competition materials and supplies need to be transferred to Pam. Sylvia will continue to work with the competition judges.

<u>Merchandise Inventory</u>: Olive and Sylvia reported that we have 28 black and 28 grey new hoodie sweatshirt/jackets in a variety of sizes, and it was suggested we sell them for \$35/ea., including tax. After discussion of the feasibility of offering shipping via the website, it was agreed to start out by splitting them up and taking them to the patch leader meetings and, when feasible, get some to regional group meetings. Lisa offered to send a photo out, giving members a heads up they will be available.

<u>Patch Leader Handbook</u>: Following discussion, Marilyn Phelps agreed to update the patch leader handbook and to see that patch leaders receive a hard copy of the updated pages of the handbook.

New Business

<u>Board Positions/Elections</u>: Motions were carried to appoint Marilyn Phelps as President, Janice Horner as Vice President, Olive Moore as Treasurer and Debra Zimmerman as Ambassador at Large.

<u>American Gourd Society</u>: Sylvia said the manipulated and the crafted manipulated gourd competition categories will qualify for entry into the AGS competition, and there was prize money for the winner of the AGS manipulated category. [Sylvia left the meeting.]

<u>YouTube Tutorials</u>: Olive reminded the group to keep in mind creating simple, short tutorials or demos to post on the CGS YouTube channel.

<u>Next Meeting</u>: Olive announced that the next meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, January 8, 2022. The meeting recessed at 2:56pm to conduct a budget development session and reconvened at 4:08pm.

2021 Budget

A motion was carried to approve the 2021 budget developed during the budget development session: Revenue \$6,353; Expense \$9,184; Net Revenue/Loss (\$2,831).

The meeting adjourned 4:11pm.

Respectfully submitted, Peggy Blessing, Secretary



Your 2021 CGS Board Of Directors

Voting Board Members

MARILYN PHELPS – President Jan 2021 – Jan 2023 pres@californiagourdsociety.com (916)-215-1677

JANICE HORNER – Vice President Jan 2021 – Jan 2023 <u>VP@californiagourdsociety.com</u> (916) 784-9437

PEGGY BLESSING - Secretary Oct 2015 – Jan 2023 secretary@californiagourdsociety.com (858) 292-9219

OLIVE MOORE - Treasurer Jan 2021 – Jan 2023 <u>olive@olivesgourds.com</u> (909) 982-7790

JODY DINGIVAN – Director of Northern Regional Groups Jan 2020 – Jan 2023 adollplace@hotmail.com (408) 234-6291

LIBBI SALVO – Director of Southern Regional Groups 2018- Jan 2023 libby_salvo@yahoo.com (505) 280-8867

SUSAN GOUIG - Ambassador at Large #1 2020 – Jan 2023 <u>suegg51@yahoo.com</u> (707) 433-9162

DEBRA ZIMMERMAN - Ambassador at Large #2 2021 – Jan 2023 dzcgsboard@gmail.com

JOANN CLARK – Director of Membership 2008 – Jan 2023 membership@californiagourdsociety.com P.O. Box 2802 Valley Center, CA 92082

Beyond the Board

Competition Coordinator - Northern PAMELA ARGO – pamela@rpargo.com

Competition Coordinator - Southern DEBRA ZIMMERMAN - <u>dzgourd@gmail.com</u>

American Gourd Society Judge Coordinator **SYLVIA NELSON** <u>sylvianelson@citylink.net</u> (916) 682-2437

Golden Gourd Newsletter - Editor LISA BAURMEISTER 2020 – Present cgsnewslettereditor@gmail.com

Golden Gourd Newsletter – Advertising Billing Coordinator SHERRY HUNGA-MOORE 2019 - 2023 florashm@aol.com (760)781-3311

Insurance CGS Contact **PEGGY BLESSING** secretary@californiagourdsociety.com (858) 292-9219

Webmaster **MARY BLISS-TANGER** 2016 – Jan 2023 <u>webmaster@californiagourdsociety.com</u> (714) 328-6197

Follow the California Gourd Society on social media by following our Facebook page, and subscribing to our YouTube Channel. You can also show your support by logging onto your Amazon Smile account, while shopping on Amazon.



ElGourdo's Rambling

WHAAAT! The Gods must be forgiving as this is the 9th EGR, and I haven't been put on the chopping block yet. Yes, forgiving as I promised to give clues to my sort of secret identity and have done so several times, though laced with some vagary and deception. Next issue, pictures, promise. Heh heh.

As our gourd world is alive and well, we remain under a cloud of doubt as to a return to normal? While Covid numbers remain up, new vaccines are encouraging and giving us hope. There remains a reluctance to go full bore at this time, and understandably so. But as I have said before, the light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter, and it isn't the Choo Choo. Better days are rapidly approaching.

We are fortunate to have a solid foundation to build our CGS house on and incredible people who have kept the energy alive by adding new exciting leaders while keeping the Mary's, Olive's, and others. Our foundation has never been stronger. I am so excited to see every aspect of our organization grow, from our amazing Golden Gourd publications all the way through the lineup. It's the PEOPLE I tell you! YOU PEOPLE!

The festival season is rapidly approaching, and many are in the planning stages. I did hear the Amador festival will downsize temporarily. However, two incredible instructors will put on classes at the Amador Flower Farm, and perhaps we'll have a few vendors too. At this time, Jelena Clay from Hawaii and Lisa Baurmeister from Northern California will be teaching excited Gourders. You should check out the Amador Gourd Artist's webpage.

Great news for this wine lover. I still have an excuse to make my yearly trek North to the Shenandoah Valley wine region and stock up on my adult beverage. You can't beat taking classes from two of the best while supporting the local wine economy. I'm told a full-fledged festival is planned for 2022. In the meantime, let me give you a challenge while we all wait breathlessly for some normalcy to return. My friend Betty Finch issued a challenge a couple of years ago to help some of us get going. "EG," she said," I challenge you to plan and create your best piece of work ever. Just something to make you happy, no one else." You know, it helped. Not being altered by a competition or sales event. That opened up a new and refreshing outlook for me.

As you know, I always try to feature one of our people, but this time I must thank all of you who are keeping the flame flickering until we can charge out of the starting gates, full speed ahead. Meantime let us count our blessings while keeping in touch with one another and anticipating the good days and tons of fun ahead.

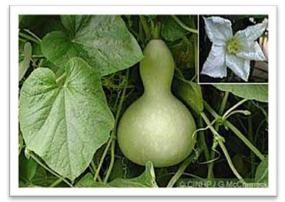
"Don't simply look for excitement; be part of the excitement."



Bless you all, El Gourdo, AKA, EG



~ Growing Gourds With Kids ~ (print and share with friends and neighbors)



Kids of all ages enjoy growing gourds, but it is especially fun to watch a youngster experience growing gourds. Plus, there are many teachable moments in growing gourds with children.

- 1. **The basics:** a seed, the sun, the earth, and water these can be introduced to a very young child, even at three.
- 2. **The process of planting the seeds:** marking the days off on the calendar until the seeds sprout this is calendar measurement, weeks, days of the week, counting. Plus, learning to wait for Nature to take her course.
- 3. **Once the seed sprouts comes the observation:** noticing how the tiny plant emerges (usually) neck first, leaving the heavy seed casing behind in the ground as it pulls itself up. Watching the first tiny true leaf form between the seed leaves.



As the young plant seems to pause, while it puts out more roots, you might discuss what is going on beneath the soil, and if you have a plant to spare, gently dig one up and wash it off to show the roots.

Other topics to discuss, depending on the age of the child, are:

- 1. **Food -** Regular watering and feeding the soil.
- 2. **Microorganisms** How the soil microorganisms interact with the minerals in the soil to make the nutrients that the plant can use.
- 3. **Photosynthesis** The role of the sun in plant growth.
- 4. **Ecology** How we all have to work to keep the water and soil clean and uncontaminated.

There may be some plant nibblers that come around at this point. Diabrotica undecimpunctata, which looks like a green ladybug, but is a beetle, is the worst. They can be found and picked off, and a discussion of chemical pesticides might happen. If you spray for the green ladybug, you might kill the real red ladybug, and that's the one that eats aphids!

Once the plant has been growing for about a month, some very interesting changes take place. You can point this out as it happens. Observation, again.

The plant will begin to send out a long shoot. At first, the shoot waves around in the air, and long graceful tendrils form and wave with it. But then it all gets too heavy, and the shoot lies down on the ground.



This shoot will grow so quickly, that you and the child can measure it daily to track its progress. Put a stick or other marker in the ground at the end of the shoot, and the next day, measure how much further the plant has grown.

At this point, you can sort of direct traffic, and point the shoot in the direction you want it to go. It needs about ten feet of running room, at least. Show the child how the plant uses its tendrils to anchor it to twigs, a weed, other plants. Put a stick in the ground next to a long tendril; and, by the next day, or even that afternoon, the tendril will have spiraled tightly around it.

You can also guide this developing shoot onto a trellis or support it with ties on a fence if space is limited.

About ten days after the long shoot beings to travel, the first flowers will form. Beautiful, tall white flowers with papery thin petals will rise above the plant. They open in the early evening and will disappear the following mid-afternoon, only to be followed by more new flowers the next evening. An older child might be led to notice this progression, by observation.



When the main shoot has grown about ten to twelve feet in length, pinch off the growing tip. If the plant has not already begun to make side shoots, it will do so now. Point that out to the child.

In about a week after the side shoots being to form, a different type of flower will appear. This flower is also white but usually grows much closer to the stem. Sometimes you have to look for them under the leaves. This flower has a small lump at its base. This is a female flower, while the taller flowers are the males. The lump at her base, if fertilized by the pollen of the male flower, will grow into a gourd.

This is a great time to introduce the concept of boy flowers and girl flowers, mommies and daddies, and the baby gourd, and how the plant needs both to make the gourd.



You might have noticed the bees in your garden. You might point out how the bees in a fruit tree, or on a yellow squash flower, are carrying the pollen from one flower to another.

But your gourd flowers only open at night, and the bees don't work at night, do they? Ask the child what he thinks is pollinating the girl flower.

If possible, wait until about an hour after sunset, when it is really dark, and shine a flashlight on a white sheet hanging near the gourd plant. Point out that there are many kinds of night flying insects that are attracted to the bright spot on the sheet. The gourd flowers are the bright spot. In the darkness, they attract the insects.

The insect will first go to the tall male flowers and dig around for the sweet nectar. Finding none, it will seek the female flower, and that is where the nectar is. In the process, the insect will have carried the pollen from the male flower to the female flower. Every seed in the mature gourd is formed by a different speck of pollen. That is why gourds have so much variability in shape.

The very best gourd pollinator is the Sphinx moth, and its close relative, the Hawk moth. Unfortunately for the home gardener, and the gourd gardener, the large tomato horn worm is what pupates into the Sphinx moth.



It is quite possible that your neighborhood may not have enough Sphinx moths, and that you may have trouble getting the gourds to be pollinated. The white female flower will drop off, and the tiny gourd is left behind to grow and mature. If this tiny gourd gets yellow and falls off, and if that happens consistently over the plant, then you may have to hand pollinate. Enjoy and happy gourd growing!



Reprinted with the permission of the Calabash Club of Silicon Valley.

CGS 2021 Competition

CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY PRESENTS

Northern California Gourd Competition

2021

Hosted by the Folsom Gourd Artists

May 8th and 9th

10191 Mills Station Road Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

SPECIAL CATEGORY: JIM STORY Manipulated Gourd Crafted Manipulated Gourd

MAIL-IN ENTRIES ACCEPTED For information go to: Californiagourdsociety.com

Competition Categories: Pyrography Carving/Fretwork/Filigree Painted/Coloring Techniques Wearable art Weaving/Coiled Mixed Media Wall Hangings Distinctively Different DI EASE NOTE: Categories are

PLEASE NOTE: Categories are the same for all divisions

California Gourd Society Northern California Gourd Competition 2021 Hosted by the Folsom Gourd Artist and the California Gourd Society 10191 Mills Station Road Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 May 8th – 9th, 2021

How to Enter

The competition is open to ALL.

The entry fee per entry is \$6.00 for CGS members and \$10.00 for all others. One entry per entry form. **Make checks payable to CGS.**

Mailed entries will be accepted. See DIRECTIONS FOR MAILED ENTRIES.

Mailed entries must be received by April 29th.

Entries may be submitted in person on **Thursday**, **May 6th from 1p.m. to 6 p.m. and on Friday**, **May 7th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m**.

LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE JUDGED.

Judging will take place on Friday, May 7th. The display will be open for viewing Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Release and pick up of entries will be **from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 9th.** All artwork not picked up will become the property of CGS.

While every effort is made to provide security of items, the Folsom Gourd Artist and the California Gourd Society **are not** responsible for damaged or lost item

The artist is responsible for placing his or her piece in the correct **category**.

Note: Please read category and division descriptions carefully. Design your artwork for the category.

General Rules

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

Any questions, please contact Competition Chair Pamela Argo at <u>pamela@rpargo.com</u> or phone 916-648-6947.

<u>Judging</u>

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

Ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category at the judge's discretion. A category with only one entry does not necessarily guarantee a 1st place ribbon.

Best of Division and Best of Show will be determined by all the judges.

Divisions:

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

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

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

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

PLEASE NOTE:

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



CATEGORIES

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

Special Category in Honor of Jim Story

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

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







ENTRY FORM CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY NORTHERN CALIFORNIA GOURD ART COMPETITION 2021		
One form per entry, please print.		
TAG # If mailing early Tag # w	ill be supplied when application is received	
Name		
Mailing address:		
City:		
State: Zip code:		
Phone: ()		
Email:		
C.G.S. Primary Patch Affiliation:		
Division: Youth Age Novice Intermediate Advanced Master Craftsman Jim Story Entry Category: (See List) Number Title Describe materials and techniques used		
l affirm this is my own original work.		
I have read the competition rules and agree to abide by them. CGS has my permission to photograph my entry to use on website/CD of entries.		
Is this gourd for sale? YESNO		
Signature:		
FEE enclosed: Member \$6.00 per entry FEE enclosed: Non-Member \$10.00 per entry Cash or Check payable to CGS	You can send in your entry forms early: send to Pamela Argo at <u>pamela@rpargo.com</u> or Pamela Argo 6836 22 nd st Rio Linda, CA 95673	

~ Golden Gourd Editor's Note ~

My First Year As Editor, And More Thanks To Go Around!

March 2021 marks my first anniversary as the Golden Gourd Editor. Little did I know that my first year as the editor would also be the first Pandemic for most Americans and the start of lockdown and S.I.P. for all.

One would think it would be hard to write a newsletter such as this without festivals or competitions to write about or fill the pages with beautiful artwork and winning gourds. Yes, it has been challenging,



especially with it being my first year, but not hard, and here's why: the fantastic people I get to work with, those who share their talent with us to make this Newsletter a success, people like "El Gourdo" who adds humor and flare to each issue, and the "Tutorial" contributors who take time to share their skills with us, our unique "Featured Artists" whose stories and love of gourds are a joy to read, and our green thumb contributors like Cecile Garrison who's photos inspire us to want to grow more gourds.

Last but certainly not least, our amazing CGS. board members and beyond who work throughout the year, behind the scenes, make CGS what it is and, therefore, provide content for the Newsletter. People like JoAnn Clark, our Director of Membership, keeps me up to date, making sure everyone gets a Newsletter, Peggy Blessing our Secretary, Mary Bliss-Tanger, our webmaster, Libbi Salvo, one of our Regional Directors, and many more who share, contribute and give of their time to CGS. (see page 14 for the complete list of board members)

Yes, I admit, I look forward to getting back to normal when I can shamelessly fill these pages with your beautiful competition pieces, as well as your smiling faces that we will see at Gourd Festivals and Patch meetings. But for now, I'd like to give an enormous thanks to all who helped to get the Golden Gourd through 2020 with no worse for wear, because as you know, "it takes a village!"

~ Lisa, Golden Gourd Editor



REMEMBER: For us to provide you with information you want, we need to hear from you. Please share with us, tell us what you want to READ, SEE, and LEARN about in your Newsletter by contacting me, Lisa Baurmeister at, cgsnewlettereditor@gmail.com.

I look forward to hearing from you!







Golden Gourd Newsletter Rates and Dates ~ 2021 Calendar Year

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

Advertising Rates:

Full page - \$50.00 Advertising for Festivals, Retreats and Competitions

Half Page - \$25.00 All advertisers including vendors

Quarter Page - \$15.00 All advertisers including vendors

Biz Card Size 1¹/₂ by 2¹/₂ in **- \$5** (CGS members only)

CGS Competitions (if no revenue is earned) - Free

For Golden Gourd billing questions contact: Sherry Hunga-Moore ~ Advertising Billing Manager ~ <u>florashm@aol.com</u> 760-781-3311

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 Dec. 20th (Due to the holidays,
- publishing date is subject to change.)

For Golden Gourd article and advertising placement contact: Lisa Baurmeister ~ Newsletter Editor ~ cgsnewslettereditor@gmail.com

~ Newsletter Content Submissions ~

Please email your newsletter submissions to the editor, Lisa Baurmeister at: <u>cgsnewslettereditor@gmail.com</u> Reminder: the deadlines above are the latest possible dates for your emailed submissions!

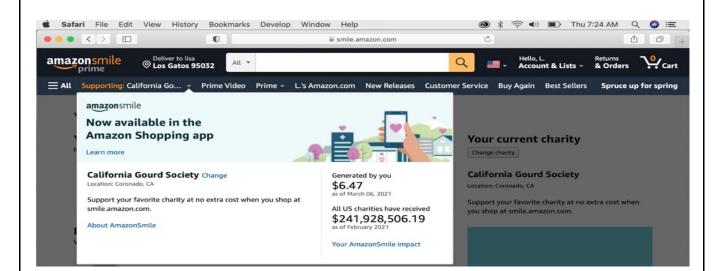
Note: Editor reserves the right to edit any contributions for content and consistency.

26



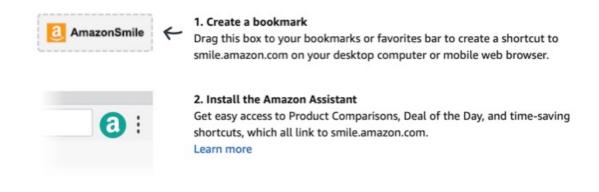


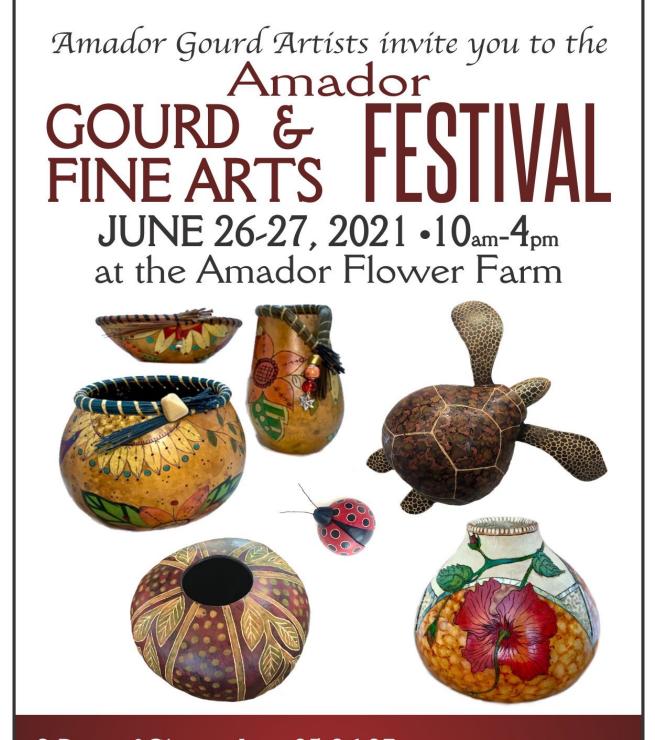
If you shop on Amazon, there's no easier way to give back and support CGS than to shop AmazonSmile. It is the same Amazon you know, same products, same prices, same service. The difference is, by starting your shopping on smile.amazon.com you can support the California Gourd Society. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization you chose to support!



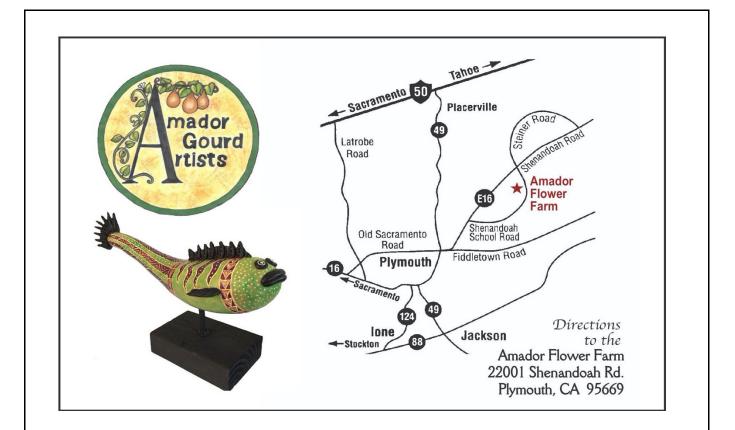
To support charity, always shop at smile.amazon.com

Try these 2 easy ways to start with a smile. Learn about AmazonSmile





3 Days of Classes June 25-26-27 (pre-registration required) Gourmet Food Booths • Vendors • Demonstrations More info: AmadorGourdArtists.com



If you haven't Subscribed to the American Gourd Society yet, you're missing out! Now it's easier than ever to subscribe.

- You can choose to **Subscribe** to The Gourd Magazine and have automatic Renewal through PayPal.
- Note: A Subscription is the same as Dues, except subscriptions include automatic renewal...so chose either Dues or Subscription
- Never miss another Issue because you forgot to renew.
- What if you want to unenroll at some future date? You can unsubscribe from automatic renewals via PayPal

SUBSCRIPTION type of Membership

Print or PDF (go online and select from Drop-Down list) *Includes automatic renewal via PayPal*. Choose from these options:

How Much are the Dues? in USD by mail (\$1 convenience fee added for payments by PayPal)

- US Membership = \$20/yr.
- Canadian Membership = \$30/yr. (#)
- All Other Countries = \$20.99/yr. PDF-only





Gourd Workshops Private classes for 1-4 friends All skill levels, everything included Classes at your convenience by appointment. \$35 per day, 10-3 pm JoyceCampbellgourds @gmail.com El Dorado Hills near Folsom Lake





Booths/Demonstrations/Raffles/Art Gallery

Open to the Public Saturday and Sunday No Admission Cost Saturday May 8th: 9am - 5pm Sunday May 9th: 9am - 3pm

Accepting competion gourds

Thursday May 6th 1pm-6pm Friday May 7th 10am -12pm

Entry forms and contest rules: www.folsomgourdartists.com



For more Information contact

Barbara Cody, Chair: 530 795-2828 barbaroic@sbcglobal.net

Janice Horner, Treasurer: 916 214-4659 designsbyjliz@gmail.com



Location RCMACC.org 10191 Mills Station Road, Rancho Cordova, 95670

Light Rail will take you straight to the venue



Gourd art is Fun and Beautiful

