



THE GOLDEN GOURD

The Newsletter of the California Chapter of the American Gourd Society



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Our winter Golden Gourd issue is easily one of my favorite issues to produce. While being full of the joy that the holiday season evokes, it never fails to put me in the holiday spirit.

I hope you all enjoy this issue as much as I do. We have a great featured artist, Iris Gach, a fun ornament tutorial by, Grace Swanson and a fantastic "2021 Parade of Ornaments". I can't thank you enough for the incredible ornament submissions this year!

So, please, sit back and relax, all warm and toasty, while you enjoy our CGS Golden Gourd, 2021 Winter edition!

Happy holidays to you and you families!

The California Gourd Society

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President's Message

Greetings Gourders,

First, I want to I wish you a happy, joyful, peaceful holiday and a healthy, bustling, gourd, enthusiastic New Year! I'm a little behind in my gourd undertakings after being evacuated from our home due to wildfire this past summer. We were out for 18 days but very fortunate to come back to an undamaged house. On a better note, I took my first trip to Hawaii. It is so good to be able to travel and enjoy gatherings again; hence I am looking forward to traveling to Visalia in the spring for the "Containers of our Culture Conference" and getting to meet with the CGS members in person.

Congratulations to Susan Fuller for winning "Best of Show" at the Southern California Virtual Gourd Competition. You can see the results here, in our Golden Gourd newsletter, on our website, and view all the entries on our YouTube Channel. Again, this well-executed event drew a large number of participants. Thank you, Debra Zimmerman!

Patch News: Our East Bay Gourd Patch participated this last October for the second time in the Autumn Lights Festival held in Oakland, CA. It is an annual event that includes 200 luminaires. EGBP was honored to provide about two dozen delightful gourd lanterns from supplies donated by the Caning Shop. What a beautiful sight that must have been!

Calabash Club of Silicon Valley has by-monthly meetings and has been organizing group classes at Joyce Campbell's house. They are looking to have booths at art and wine festivals in their area and other venues. They will also be having a holiday and gourd exchange party and are looking forward to attending the Visalia event.

Orange County Gourd Society hopes to have three days of classes with Bonnie Gibson, hosting teachers from the local area and having workshops together. Many of their members will be attending the Containers of our Culture Conference and more activities are in the works.

San Diego Gourd Patch members will have sales booths at Wuertz, patch meetings every other month, and quarterly sponsored classes. They have Weekend Frenzy sleepovers, Holiday sales booths at a local farm, and will have a Christmas party this month. Many of their members will also be attending Containers of our Culture Conference.

Amador Gourd Artists President Toni Linde is very active in the Arts community of Amador County. Her patch is looking into participating in the Harvest Fest, Winefest, and Winter Wonderland event along with Cruisin' the lights. They will be very busy this holiday season.



**Your President,
Marilyn Phelps**

Folsom Gourd Artists are having a gourdament exchange Christmas party in December. They meet every month and work on new projects together. There are plans to have small classes at Joyce Campbell's house and hope to schedule other classes with local teachers. FGA will be working with the Sacramento Wood Carvers and will participate in their annual show in May 2022.

If your patch was not mentioned here and you would like to be included, please contact me and let me know what's happening.

REMINDER WARNING! IT APPEARS THE CGS EMAIL LIST MAY HAVE BEEN HACKED. IF YOU RECIEVE ANY MESSAGE FROM CGS PRESIDENT OR ANY OTHER MEMBER ASKING YOU TO BUY GIFT CARDS OR ANY OTHER UNUSUAL REQUEST PLEASE IGNORE IT. ANOTHER CLUE TO LOOK FOR IS THE EMAIL ADDRESS IS NOT COMING FROM AN OFFICIAL CGS ADDRESS. THE BOARD IS LOOKING INTO HOW WE CAN AVOID THIS HAPPENING IN THE FUTURE. SEE PAGE 22 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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.

YOUR 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

Northern Region
Jody Dingivan:
adollplace@hotmail.com

Golden Gourd Editor
Lisa Baurmeister:
cgsnewslettereditor@gmail.com

ElGourdo's Rambling

911 OPERATOR, WHAT IS YOUR EMERGENCY?

Long pause, whimpering in the background. Now a more concerned operator.

911 OPERATOR, WHAT IS YOUR EMERGENCY!? More whimpering in the background.

911 OPERATOR, WHAT IS-----

Caller: I'm trapped; HELP!

911 OPERATOR, WHERE ARE YOU, WHAT IS YOUR SITUATION? We will have first responders on the way immediately.

Caller: "Bah, help! I'm trapped in my basement. Piles of Gourds fell on me while I was treasure hunting. I need help! *Long silence.*

911 OPERATOR, what are gourds, are they heavy, do you have injuries?

Caller: I don't think I'm hurt; I just can't move.

911 OPERATOR, we have pinged your location, and we have first responders on the way, including law enforcement, to help protect your treasures.

Caller: Oh, I don't have "real" treasures. It's that darn El Gourdo's fault. He sent us on a treasure hunt in the last issue and dumb me; I fell for it. "BAH! HELP ME!"

Dear readers, I hope none of you had experienced such as this, as I was not thinking clearly when I issued the "Treasure Hunt" challenge. When one gives a challenge, is it not fitting that they should also participate in it? I think so. Therefore, as a fair-minded challenger, I began wading through my prospective hordes of gourd treasures when it suddenly hit me. I'm in the middle of a microclimate, and it looks like a tornado hit my basement, garage, and studio! Oh, MY GOODNESS! What have I done!

As I looked around, many horrid visions of the potential for disaster struck me like a lead marshmallow. More visions of Halloween horror danced about my brain, bringing on the guilt. Then, I was saved, all the above images were dashed when my significant other asked, "What are we having for dinner." Ah, a reprieve, there is a bright side! So, before you make little El Gourdo dolls to poke holes into, consider this; those of you who survived this experiment, you could be holding onto some soon-to-be great pieces of art that were abandoned and are now on their way to a grand fulfillment. If this is not the case, then perhaps a bigger picture may develop before our eyes.

Winter is here, and the Gourd Gods have hinted strongly that this is a great time to clean up the Tornado damage and put your work areas back in the order they deserve. Personally, I am petitioning FEMA for some disaster relief. I find it interesting how our work areas can influence the quality of work we put out. One theory is "A clean workspace is a sign of a sick mind." I don't buy into that as my workspace is rarely clean, and I'm never accused of having a healthy mind. Of course, there are those who have well-organized work areas and turn out incredible works of art. What can I say?

Whatever your thinking is, I don't find winter a dark downtime; rather, I find it a time to catch up and take advantage of the time to better our art. I wish you Happy Holidays and may one or more of your treasures adorn your Holiday table.

ElGourdo, AKA EG





Here's What Some of Our Patches Have Been Up To



San Diego County Gourd Artists Hold Annual Event By Grace Swanson

The San Diego County Gourd Artists held their annual (except for 2020) "Play Day Get Away", Monday, September 20 - Thursday, September 23 at Whispering Winds Camp & Conference Center nestled in the Cuyamaca Mountains — a few miles south of Julian. During the event the SDCGA members learned new techniques from their fellow artists, shared new materials, discussed favorite finishes, traded UFOs (unfinished objects), had a demonstration of Hawaiian tattooed green gourd process, and more.

Their mission statement is:

"Our purpose is to interact with fellow gourd enthusiasts targeting issues of sharing, education, training and decorating techniques related to gourds."

The group participates in shows, fairs, festivals, and related activities throughout the year. They meet every other month, and a newsletter is sent out before each meeting with up-coming events and classes. Several times a year the group sponsors classes by well-respected gourd artists from around the country.



The Patch had a double booth at the Christmas Arts, Crafts & Vintage Market at Bates Nut Farm in Valley Center on Friday, November 26 to November 28. The Patch members sold gourds, gourd supplies, and fabulous gourd art (including gourd tree ornaments) produced by its members.

Standing: Grace Swanson, Kat Aguilar, Sharon Dall, Nanette Wood, Debbie Zimmermann, Vickie Martinez, Libbi Salvo, Kathleen Johnson, Donna Rositani, Gail Poynter, Peggy Blessing, Robin Erickson, Elaine Linton, Reen Magante-Bigbey

Kneeling and seated: Stacy Day, Mary Lou Linton, JoAnna Hunga, Kay Byrne, Vickie Hunga, Sherry Hunga-Moore, Olive Moore, Arline Erickson

~ Continue pg. 6

San Diego Patch Meeting with a Special Treat from Stacy Day

By Sherry Hunga-Moore

We had our Patch meeting, Sat Oct 2nd at the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Discovery Center in Carlsbad. Beautiful ocean breeze. Although smaller than usual attendance it was a Great Day.

Our Agenda covered updates on our scheduled events coming up and CGS activities. We had a "Share and Tell", "White Elephant Sale" and a terrific Demo by Stacy Day, "T-Shirt Magic". We pay our Demo Artist's \$50 for a Demo at our Patch meetings. Demos make our meetings even more fun to attend. (See Stacy's Demo Below)

We are looking forward to the Visalia Basket and Gourd Conference coming up next April 2022. The CGS drawing is being held after the conference dinner and the guest speaker Bonnie Gibson, Saturday night, April 23, 2022. We are still selling more tickets for a chance to win a patch donated Tiled Gourd art piece. **Don't wait, book your rooms now at the Lamplighter Inn.**

Stacy Day "T-Shirt Magic" Demo at SD Patch Meeting

Stacy Day presenting the demo



Amazed members as they see the magic before their eyes!

Vickie Hunga, Vickie Martinez, Olive Moore, Carolyn Medlin



Olive Moore's Creation!



Fun for the whole family!

We made several different seasonal T-shirt designs for members. Using Cotton t-shirts, wooden stencils and half bleach/half water solution. (Pinterest inspired activity)

~ Continue pg. 7

Calabash's November patch meeting with a Demo on Mudding by Iris Gach

By Lisa Baurmeister

Our November Patch meeting was held at our patch member, Susan Nye's, community clubhouse. Our agenda was small and goodies abundant. Once we covered club business, i.e., what street fairs to participate in, if we will try for a festival, Visalia, our website, etc.; we moved on to the real fun stuff. Iris Gach, our winter featured artist, taught us how to do mudding on ornament gourds. We had a great time and loved this technique that looks fabulous on gourds!

Some Calabash members will be attending Visalia and are looking forward to mingling with the rest of the California gourders in attendance.



Sugi
Karuppiah
helping
Bernie
Epolite and
Jeannie
Kei-Ni

All artworks
done by
Iris Gach



**Don't see your patch happenings in the Golden Gourd?
Then it's time to share! We want to hear from you; ask
your leaders to let us know what you and your gourd
patch have been up to, and we will share it with everyone!
You can send your info to your patch leader, to our president,
Marilyn Phelps at pres@californiagourdsociety.com or to me
Lisa Baurmeister at cgsnewslettereditor@gmail.com.**



**SO DON'T FORGET TO SHARE WITH US.
WE LOVE AND WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

California Gourd Society 2022 Fundraiser

Gourd Quilt or Mosaic Tiles



Projects will be offered at the
"Gourds and Baskets Containers of our Culture"

Visalia, California Saturday April 23, 2022

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

Project criteria/guidelines for Regional Groups, (Patches)

1. Finished projects should be quality construction and last for several years.
2. Each Patch is encouraged to make one or more gourd project(s).
3. Size/Dimension limitations; **NO larger than 24" X 30" (Flip Chart size)**
(Keep in mind we must be able to display your projects on the tables, **provide stands if needed**)
4. Projects are due **on or prior** to start of event in Visalia, Friday 22, 2022.
5. Attach tag with name of patch.
6. Mail or deliver to:
 - *Jody Dingivan 12140 Steffs Ct. San Martin, CA 95046 {Northern members}
 - *Libby Salvo 2927 Sunset Hills, Escondido, CA 92028 {Southern members}



(Inspiration's from Pinterest)



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

Featured Artist Profile

Iris Gach – Calabash Club of Silicon Valley

By: Lisa Baurmeister

In this issue, we feature a gourd artist as humble as they come, who sometimes thinks she is a beginner artist, but who is very talented! I am talking about Iris Gach of the Calabash gourd patch. She is fast learning and always willing to help and share what she has learned.

When asked how she got interested in doing gourd art, Iris says, "The first time I saw a gourd was in 1993 in Folsom, Calif. I fell in love right there and then. I immediately bought a bunch of gourds and hauled them home, where they sat in my garage until 2016. That was when I retired from my job at Safeway after 42 years as a retail clerk, and finally had time to play with them. "

Iris has always loved arts and crafts, be it sewing, macrame, beading, you name it, she enjoyed doing it. Leaning along the way has been Iris's mantra. But it was when she joined the Calabash club, her work started to shine. "Learning the ins and outs of working with gourds and taking classes at different festivals and club demos helps."

As far as a preferred medium or specific style goes, Iris likes them all. "Part of the fun for me is trying out new things. I carved, wood burned for a while, then tried Dot painting, now I am on to Mudding. I work with whatever catches my interest at that moment."

Now before you ask what Mudding is, Iris will tell you:

"Mudding is creating a design using a paste like clay product. The mud I use is a special clay paste that looks like mud, hence the name. The mud was developed and created by Margot Clark/margotclark.com. It can dry rock hard and be kiln fired, but of course not on a gourd. I use a pastry bag and decorating tip to draw a line and then a small paintbrush to dip in the mud line and drag it down to my center point creating a flower petal or leaf. The mud dries fast and very hard but has a fragile look."



Iris learned the technique and then taught the club how to do it. This style looks excellent on gourds, especially ornaments, as you can see on the next page!

A giving person, Iris uses her skills in a philanthropic way as well. She makes gourd pieces to give to Sugi Karupiah, co-president of Calabash and a past featured artist (see Spring Issue 2020 of the Golden Gourd) to sell for her charity funding. "I enjoy helping Sugi and her NextVision charity. I get to practice and play with art and help a good cause like NextVision simultaneously, a win-win, in my book!

~ Continue pg. 10

Here we have some of Iris's beautiful work!



This beautiful piece won People's Choice at the 2020 Amador Festival.



~ Continue pg. 11



More of
Iris's
Beautiful
work!



Thank you, Iris!

Holiday Tutorial ***Hot Air Balloon Gourd Ornament!***

By Grace Swanson



Choose a little gourd about 3 to 3.5 inches tall in the general shape of a hot air balloon.

Draw your design on with pencil. If you want to make a quick geometric design, start by dividing the gourd into sections to make a grid. By connecting different points on your grid, you can come up with many, different patterns.



Wood-burn your designs and clean off the extraneous pencil marks. Drill a hole in the very top center of your gourd to attach the copper metal hanger later.



Drill two holes large enough to accept the ends of the basket handle you have prepared by cutting the basket handle. Some baskets tend to unravel when you cut them so a little drop of E-6000 will stop the unraveling.

To find the little baskets try searching for “doll house baskets”. You want ones that are about one inch tall — not counting the handle.



You can use dyes or paints at this point. For this sample, I have used Apple Red ink dye to color some parts (but not all) of my design. When the red dye is heat set, with a paint brush, add Gecko Green, Bright Gold, and Aqua Shimmer. All are available from Welburn Gourd Farm. Where you put Bright Gold over red you will get orange. Where you put Gecko Green over red you will get a beautiful brownish-green color.

~ Continue pg. 13

Copper wire (16 or 20 gauge will work) can be bent into any shape you wish using small pliers and then hammered flat (so that it will not uncoil) with a chasing hammer and a steel block set on a sandbag to absorb the hammer blows. These are available where jewelry supplies are sold.

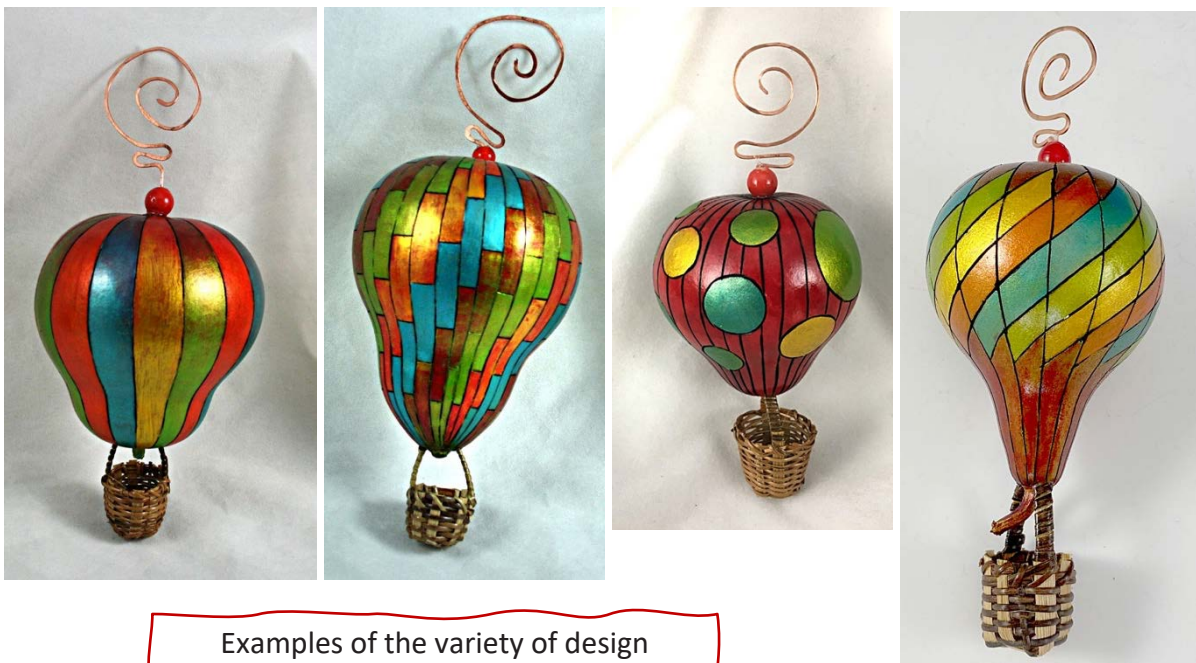


Insert the coiled copper hanger plus a bead into the hole you drilled in the top of the gourd. Glue in place with E-6000.

Attach each end of the cut basket handle into the holes you drilled in the bottom of your gourd and glue into place with E-6000.



Spray entire gourd, metal hanger, and basket all at the same time with UV protecting polyurethane spray. Let the dye set and harden for a couple of days.



Examples of the variety of design

~ Continue pg. 14

**Thank you, Grace, for sharing your knowledge
with us. Much appreciated!**



Do you have a tutorial to share, please, let us know!

One of the things we Gourd Artists are known for is our willingness to share our knowledge with others, teach new techniques, and guide new members along as they experience the joy of making gourd art.

It's in this spirit that we make this request. If you have a gourd art tutorial, demo, long or short, to share, we would love to publish it in the Golden Gourd for all members to try.

It's easy to submit a tutorial. All you do is send an email with the attachment to:

cgsnewslettereditor@gmail.com

All we ask that your images be a jpeg or psd file (please, no PDF if possible).



Thank you all in advance for sharing with California Gourders!

Don't forget to renew your CGS Membership!



CGS incorporated with the American Gourd Society in 1999. There are numerous Gourd Clubs "Patches" located throughout California which include approximately 300 members. CGS is considered a state chapter of the American Gourd Society and works in conjunction with AGS to promote gourd enthusiasm. To find out more about AGS, PLEASE visit the American Gourd Society at: www.americangourdsociety.org

CGS Member Benefits - You will get 4 Quarterly Issues of the The Golden Gourd Newsletter (via Email) and access to the "Members Only Site" on the Web!

You will be able to view online and/or download the CGS Golden Gourd Newsletter, which comes out quarterly; Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. You will receive emails from CGS notifying you of the latest happenings. We refer to them as Shout-Outs which are sent via Constant Contact. For example:

- Get the latest on Festivals and Competitions Events
- Featured Artists Profiles
- Get Gourd Tutorials
- Teachers can advertise gourd classes.
- Participate in occasional members-only State-wide events.
- Share thoughts about Growing Gourds
- Members can hold leadership roles as President, Vice President, or a variety of board member positions in our dynamic organization.
- Get Advertisements for gourd-related services/products.
- Sign up, be trained, and certified as an American Gourd Society judge – and more!

You can also check out our "Join Us" page on the CGS website for mail-in or online membership forms.

<https://www.californiagourdsociety.com/membership-form-mail-in>

Our 2nd Annual Parade of Gourdaments!



Dianne Connelly, El Cajon



Robin Erickson, Garden Grove



Kenneth Pooly, Reno, NV



Michelle McMillian, Anza



Smruti Kurse, San Jose



~ Continue pg. 17



Angela Paulson, Palm Desert



Carole Meltzer, Butte, MT



~ Continue pg. 18



Jeannie Kei-Li, San Jose



Kennie Winter, Los Altos



~ Continue pg. 19



Sylvia Nelson, Sacramento



Lisa Baurmeister, Los Gatos



~ Continue pg. 20



Amador's 2019 Holiday Ornament Exchange



Here's what's on the Schedule for Early 2022

Wuertz Farm's 19th Annual Gourd Festival February 10th-13th, 2022 Casa Grande, Arizona

Deadline to sign up for classes: January 30th, 2022. For more information go to:
https://shop.wuertzfarm.com/Festival-Classes_c8.htm



Baskets and Gourds Conference - Visalia April 22 - 24, 2022 at the Elks Lodge in Visalia.

GOOD NEWS!! The updated brochure is available
Please visit this website to download yours.

Don't forget, this is where CGS will be Raffling off those beautiful Tiled Gourd Art pieces each of the patches made! (See page 8) for more details or go to our CGS events page:

<https://www.californiagourdsociety.com/events>



How To Detect Fraudulent Emails

We recently sent you a SHOUT OUT regarding our member list and it possibly being hacked. What happened is called Phishing. Where persons unknow, from all over the world, Phish for public emails docs to hack on websites and use names of presidents, directors, and board members, to send a blanket email out under the leader's name, in hopes that someone will reply and do as they ask. Those who do not pick up on the signals that indicate it's a fraudulent email will reply, that's when they try and hook you. They make a request of you which usually involves money and you purchasing something for them. Some of the requests look like this email below:

From: Marilyn Phelps <ophaasdju2@motikitchen.com>

Subject: California Gourd Society

Date: December 6, 2021 at 10:03:25 AM PST

To: [REDACTED]

Hello Carole

Are you available for assistance? I'm out of the state now, and I have absolute confidence in you to handle this. The California Gourd Society needs electronic gift cards to make donations to Veterans in Hospice and Palliative care units to buy coronavirus disease (COVID-19) prevention items. I'm responsible for the reimbursement. Would you like further information?

Marilyn Phelps

President

California Gourd Society

As you can see by the highlighted areas, there is so much wrong with this email. First, they use Marilyn's name, but not her email account. Anytime an email does not match the sender, it's a **red flag**. Next, if anyone asks you to purchase gift cards, with no prior one-on-one conversation, it's a **red flag**. Please know that the CGS President would never ask members to purchase gift cards nor would CGS donate to another organization. We are a non-profit, and therefore, raise funds for our own organization. Asking if you "would" like more information instead of telling you then and there, is another **red flag**!

The Top 10 list of how to spot and handle a phishing email.

1. Don't trust the display name of who the email is from.
2. Look but don't click.
3. Check for grammatical errors.
4. Consider the salutation.
5. is the mail asking for personal information.
6. Be careful with attachments.
7. Beware of urgency.
8. Check the email signature.
9. Don't believe everything you see.
10. When in doubt, contact sender via the phone or via their actual email.

On the next page you will find a cheat-sheet of what to watch for. Share it, print, and file where you can find it should you need to reference later.

~ Continue pg. 23

1

Don't trust the display name of who the email is from.

Just because it says it's coming from a name of a person you know or trust doesn't mean that it truly is. Be sure to look at the email address to confirm the true sender.



2

Look but don't click.

Hover or mouse over parts of the email without clicking on anything. If the alt text looks strange or doesn't match what the link description says, don't click on it — report it.



3

Check for grammatical errors.

Anyone can make a typo mistake, but pay close attention to emails with grammatical errors. When crafting messages, scammers may use a spellchecker or translation tool, which will give them the right words but not in the proper context.



4

Consider the salutation.

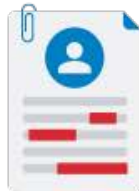
Attackers sometimes use a general or vague greeting (e.g., "Dear valued customer") that fits into an automated template. Or they may leave out the salutation entirely. It's not always an indicator for a scam, but it can be a clue if something seems off.



5

Is the email asking for personal information?

Be cautious if an email is asking for sensitive or personal information. You can always call the company's customer support or navigate to your account on their website to confirm if an action is required.



6

Be careful with attachments.

Attackers like to trick you with an enticing or seemingly normal attachment that contains malware. Never open an unsolicited email attachment that seems suspicious and call the sender to verify if necessary.



7

Beware of urgency.

These emails might try to make it sound as if there is some sort of emergency (e.g., the CFO needs a \$1M wire transfer, a Nigerian prince is in trouble, or someone only needs \$100 so they can claim their million-dollar reward).



8

Check the email signature.

Most legitimate senders will include a full signature block at the bottom of their emails.



9

Don't believe everything you see.

If something seems slightly out of the norm, it's better to be safe than sorry. If you see something off, then it's best to report it to your security operations center (SOC).



10

When in doubt, contact your SOC.

No matter the time of day, no matter the concern, most SOC's would rather have you send something that turns out to be legit than to put the organization at risk.



Southern Cal's Competition Results

The Orange County Gourd Society held their virtual Competition on October 16, 2021. The 2021 Southern California CGS Virtual Gourd Competition drew 100 entries from across the region, and now you can see all the entries on YouTube.

The contest, which was organized and hosted by the Orange County Gourd Society, attracted entries from Ventura to San Diego and as far inland as Indio. A special thanks goes out to the artists, judges and clerks who participated, as well as the team that set up and took down the show.

Two people deserve special recognition: Olive Moore, for hosting, collecting gourds, setting up the show and photographing the entries; and Melita Crowell, for her work producing the video.

Please view the video and share it with your friends, family, and fellow artists. Our video from last year has been viewed 850 times, which is really great. Let's see if we can beat that number! Keep gourding and hang in there.

Debra Zimmerman,
Orange County Gourd Society
President and Show Chair

Best of Show
Sue Fuller, Advanced



Debra Zimmerman (Head Clerk)
Olive Moore (Head Judge)
Linda Allen (Judge)
Maria Davis (Clerk)
Robin Erickson (Judge)
Chris Garcia (Clerk)
Kathleen Johnston (Judge)
Pam Watson (Judge)
Dianne Whittaker (Clerk)
Debbie Zimmermann (Judge)



Editor's Note:

CGS would like to acknowledge the efforts of Debra Zimmerman, OCGS President and Show Chair.

Debra went above and beyond to make sure those that wanted to enter a gourd could. Thank you, Debra for all you do for the OCGS and CGS!



~ Continue pg. 25

Some of the Entries and Winners



Judge's Choice - L to R Linda Shafer, Reetsie Fuller, Jack Thorp, Elaine Linton, Sue Fuller, Olive Moore, Karen Ederer



Advanced, Fiber/Weaving - L to R Camilla King, Maggie LeDuc, Sue Fuller



Intermediate, Painted - L to R Karen Ederer, Peg Boortz, Chris Garcia



Novice, Anything Goes - L to R Dianna Whittaker, Karen Fried, Maria Davis

~ Continue pg. 26

Advanced, Painted - L to R Debra Zimmerman, Elaine Linton, JaVae Ferrier



Class Gourds - L to R Debbie Zimmermann, Carolyn Medlin, Stacy Holtz



Masters, Painted - L to R Pam Watson, Robin Erickson, Grace Swanson

Advanced, Anything Goes - L to R Camille King, Sue Fuller, Elaine Linton



You can see all the entries by going to YouTube and checking out our CGS Video! Use the link below.
<https://youtu.be/ZJmpfGjkv0o>

~ Golden Gourd Editor's Note ~

Christmas Ornaments: Their Origins, History and Meaning

(Information gathered in this article were taken from various sites on the web including an article written by Katheryn Marr, Wikipida, etc.)



I love the holiday season, more specifically, I love Christmas decorating our Christmas tree. With each ornament I take from the box, I am reminded of a particular time in my past, of friends, family and how I come to have that ornament. Whether I made it myself, purchased it, or was lucky enough to be gifted it, they all have meaning.

“But where did ornaments and the tradition of decorating a tree come from?” Well, I’m so glad you asked!

The idea of decorating a tree for Christmas began in Germany, where they used to add fruits and nuts to trees once the leaves fell off to symbolize the promise of spring to come.

But in 1605, a fur tree was brought inside and adorned with paper roses, candles, nuts, and fruits, which was groundbreaking! The idea of decorating a tree indoors took off and spread across Germany.

In the 1800s, German immigrants brought the tradition to America, who made their own interpretations. Early ornaments were made from whatever items that families had available to them – fruit (especially apples), nuts, strings of popcorn and cranberries, paper streamers, candles, and metal foil. They really came to show off American inventiveness!

Fun fact: Even before Christmas lights were invented; we loved the idea of lighting up a tree. Bits of foil were often added to reflect the light in the room and make the tree glisten!

Traditional Ball Ornaments

You know those sets of round plastic ornaments you decorate your tree with? Well, those originated in Germany, too!

Hans Greiner started making glass ball ornaments (called baubles) during the 1800s, which became the first manufactured Christmas ornaments. In the late 19th century, the enterprising F.W. Woolworth brought the idea to America, where he sold more than \$25 million worth per year.

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Eventually, manufacturers began using injection molding (injecting molten material into a mold) with plastic materials, which allowed for a variety of other shapes and sizes.

Fun fact: The round shape of the bauble originates from the shape of the original decorating material – fruits and nuts.

Many people use beautiful, ornate angels to decorate the top of their tree or to hang intermixed with other ornaments. These, too, have religious connotations.

They can represent the angel that appeared in Bethlehem to announce the birth of Jesus, the angel Gabriel who told Mary she would give birth to Jesus, or even the idea of angels watching over us and protecting us.

Fun Fact: Soon after Christmas trees became popular, parents would decorate trees with streamers, telling their children that the streamers were pieces of angel hair that had been caught in the branches.

Contemporary Usage of Christmas Ornaments

So many of the Christmas traditions we observe in this country were brought to this country by European immigrants – the idea of the Christmas tree itself even, and originally, they were decorated with candles.

Now, Christmas tree ornaments have come to really represent the interests of each individual family. For example, many families collect ornaments throughout their travels as visual representations of memories. Others purchase customized ornaments with the year of anniversaries, births, or other milestones engraved or stamped on them. Ornaments representing interests have become popular too, showcasing sports, movie characters, hobbies, musicians, favorite colors, and more.

Themed trees are a relatively new Christmas trend that's quickly catching on! You'll see everything from coastal trees (shells and sand dollars) to retro trees (mercury glass and pastels), movie-themed trees (movie characters and symbols) to rustic trees (pinecones and woodland animals). They're really becoming representations of each individual family's interests and preferences.

Fun facts: Ornaments are more than just pretty baubles for our tree. They carry not only memories but meaning too. For example:

- A house ornament symbolizes family shelter and protections.
- A bird ornament reflects happiness and joy.
- A heart ornament means there's true love in the home.
- An angel ornament asks for God's guidance in the home.
- A rabbit on the tree symbolizes peace with nature.
- A fruit basket is for generosity and plenty to eat.
- An acorn ornament represents the gift of life from the birth of the Christ child and symbolizes good luck because it comes from the sacred oak tree.
- A teapot ornament symbolizes hospitality.
- Frogs are traditionally symbols of good luck because frogs can't move backwards or from side to side. They're always moving forward suggesting reaching goals and accomplishments.



As we move forward into 2022, I wish for you peace and joy; the ability to meet with your gourd patches and create beautiful gourds and lifelong memories.



**Golden Gourd Newsletter
Rates and Dates ~ 2022 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:

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CGS Competitions (if no revenue is earned) - Free

Publishing Dates & Deadlines:

Spring Issue

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

Summer Issue

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

Fall Issue:

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

Winter Issue:

- Deadline for Articles/Ads **Nov. 15th.**
- GG emailed **Dec. 20th** (Due to the holidays, publishing date is subject to change.)

**For Golden Gourd billing questions
contact:**

Sherry Hunga-Moore

~ Advertising Billing Manager ~

florashm@aol.com

760-781-3311

**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:
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