

THE GOLDEN GOURD

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

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Featured Artist - Toni Best

Toni resides in Visalia CA, teaching classes in basket weaving and gourd art. She enjoys sharing her talent and knowledge with others. Her classes are always a pleasure.

Toni started her love for weaving baskets over 58 years ago in her 8th grade art class. Her love for the arts did not just hold the art of basket weaving and gourds; Toni was also an accomplished organist. In college she was not able to major in applied arts. The school only had an art history major so Toni took art studio classes and majored in music with a minor in French and art. In her senior year Toni's professor had her audition for a renowned French organist who accepted Toni as a student at her studio outside of Paris. After a year in France, Toni returned to the US and received her Masters in Classical Organ Performance. Of course, there was not much in the way of jobs, so Toni retired from being an organist and applied her art and creativity to basketry and worked on incorporating the movement of music into her pine needles while coiling.



In the early 1980's Toni lived in NC and belonged to an art club where she took a class from an elderly woman who taught her how to weave pine needle baskets. It was instant love for Toni. Coiling with pine needles was more portable than weaving with reed, since a bucket of water was not needed to soak the pine needles. Toni only wets her pine needles when she is starting a basket or sometimes when doing very sharp turns.

Even though Toni was accomplished in the art of basket weaving and pine needle basketry she still found a need to take classes. She wanted to learn more stitches and ways of making handles for her baskets. In the mid 90's, Toni took a class with Lois Rainwater and in this class she became friends with Carol Rookstool.



After meeting Carol, Carol continued to tell Toni she needed to incorporate gourds into her classes. Toni at that time was teaching pine needle basketry. (in a 6-hour pine needle class, a student can create a 3" x 1 1/2" basket. Using the same techniques of coiling on a gourd, students could coil a much larger piece).



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President's Message

Greetings Fellow Gourd Artists,

I'm back home from the Baskets and Gourds, Containers of our Culture Conference in Visalia. I enjoyed seeing many of you there. Thank you to Toni Best and Sue Winters for such a fantastic weekend. The event started for us on Friday with a meeting of all of the regional group leaders and their guests. It was a great meeting. Thank you all for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend. And thank you to Sue Gouig and Sherry Hunga-Moore for all their hard work in putting it together as well as Kennie Winter for the great project!

I am so appreciative to all of the regional groups for making so many totems for our CGS fundraiser. They were just wonderful! The raffle went well and I was especially pleased to be one of the winners (pictured on page 4).

I have a few gourd plants in the ground. How about you? Hope to hear you're planting long handled dippers so you can practice some manipulations on them. Speaking of manipulated gourds – there will be a category in the Bay Area competition this fall for manipulated gourds and they don't have to be ones that you manipulated. You can buy one that is already manipulated and make a wonderful piece of gourd art with the manipulation complimenting your creation. All the details are on the CGS website.

If you are attending the retreat there will be a gourd hat parade with a \$100 award for the Best-of-Show. So get going on your ideas for a fun time with our gourd hats.

There will also be a competition in Southern California. Check the calendar for details.

Check out your local fair to see if they have a gourd category and note the dates to apply and turn in. Many of our county fairs have gourd categories. It's a wonderful way to expose the public to gourd art.

I will be at the State Fair, Calabash Festival and the SoCal Competition. So I hope to see you at one of the events.

Happy gourding!

Olive Moore, President

California Gourd Society

(Continued from Cover)

Toni uses long leaf pine needles (southern pine) which she found an online source for out of Florida. She has used the same source for her pine needles for over 10 years. Toni stated “These needles are so pliable and flexible, that they can move and create pieces with undulations as in clay. I am basically a pine needle coiler who utilizes gourds as a medium on which to weave.”

Some of Toni’s accomplishments are:

One of Toni’s pieces was selected by the National Basketry Organization in their juried show “All Things Considered.”

Toni was invited to teach at Arrowmont’s School of the Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, TN. She was also invited to teach at Pocasin’s School of Fine Craft in Columbia, NC.

Four of Toni’s pieces will be in the Handweavers’ Guild of America juried shows that will be at the Convergence in Reno NV in July 2018.

2018 Board of Directors

President - Olive Moore

pres@californiagourdsociety.com or (909) 982-7790

Vice President - Pamela Argo

Pamela@rpargo.com or (916) 642-6947

Secretary - Peggy Blessing

secretary@californiagourdsociety.com or
(858) 292-9219

Treasurer - Christina Chrivia

treasurer@californiagourdsociety.com or
(619)890-1637

Director at Large - Ambassador - Betty Finch

ambassador@californiagourdsociety.com or
(661) 221-1633

Director at Large - Ambassador - Susan Sullivan

Susansphn@aol.com or (714) 293-4705

Director of N. Regional Groups - Susan Gouig

suegg51@yahoo.com or (707) 433-9162

Director of S. Regional Groups - Libbi Salvo

Libbi_salvo@yahoo.com or (505) 280-8867

Director of Membership - JoAnn Clark

membership@californiagourdsociety.com or
(760) 749-9410

CGS FUNDRAISER 2018 Review

"TOTEEMS"

Fabulous turnout and absolutely incredible artistic talents and imagination!

Thank you to each and every one who helped make our event a success!

A FEW OF THE VERY HAPPY WINNERS!



Pictured Winners

Left Top: Olive Moore

Left Bottom: Judy Burkett

Center: Top: Karen Hibdon

Center Bottom: Sue Winters

Right Top: Terry Temple

Right Bottom: Zan Turner

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Totals

- ◆ 38 Totems submitted
- ◆ 13 of 14 patches participated
- ◆ Total money earned **\$1,419**
- ◆ Total tickets sold Qty # 1925 (qty 1,280 sold ½ price to Patches)

THE VERY HAPPY WINNERS ARE:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Alice Caperton | Judy Burkett |
| Alice Hengst | Karen Hibdon |
| Barbara Arnold | Kay Van Hoesen |
| Barbara Cody | Kennie Winter |
| Beth McGuire | Linda Matthews |
| Carole Meltzer | Maggie Le Duc |
| Carolee Jones | Mary Hufft |
| Chris Hengst | Nancy Kiltz |
| Debbie Zimmermann | Olive Moore |
| Diana Lopez | Pam Stanley |
| Donna Rositani | Pam Watson |
| Georgette Maffei | Sandra Heildlebaugh |
| Geri Westad | Stacy Day |
| Jan Schmidt | Sue Winters |
| Jennifer Tang-Limon | Terrye Temple |
| Judi Burge | |



NOTE: Due to the number of duplicate drawings, (6) we will be revising process for next event in 2020.

2020 Fundraiser project is Gourd Quilt/Mosaic- No larger than 24" X 30"

All pieces attached, hanging, framed or in a shadowbox, (more criteria coming)

CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY

2018 REGIONAL GROUP LEADER'S MEETING

Recorded by Libbi Salvo

April 27, 2018 10 -3 at the Lamp Liter Inn, Visalia

Meeting called to order @ 10:10AM, 26 members in attendance.

Welcome from Sue Gouig, Northern Director of Programs

Introductions of CGS Board members given by Olive, our CGS President and noting all the talents each brings to the table. We currently have over 350 members. She reminded all that the Treasurer position and Southern CA Director of Programs position were available. Then all Regional Groups, (Patches) introduced themselves, 12 of the 14 Patches were represented. Northern Regional Group leader Sue, reviewed the Patch leader's meeting held in 2017 and Sherry represented Elaine Linton, the Southern Regional Group leader and reviewed the Southern Patch Leader meeting held in 2017.

Olive briefly shared the wonderfully organized "Regional Group Leader Handbook" that each Patch received noting that a sorted membership roster was included in each handbook. This was to be reviewed and verified their members were receiving the CGS Newsletter.



Fairs, Festivals and Competitions were discussed by Olive and Sylvia. Be sure to check out the Gourd Events calendar in this issue for an event near you.

Discussion about Ribbons are more preferred than Pin awards so the Pins will be discontinued. Discussion of amount of entrees for competitions for group awards (small groups left out).

For the most up to date information on events visit the CGS Web Site, www.californiagourdsociety.com

Olive asked for feedback and input on what members want to see published in the Golden Gourd. Some ideas included "Feature a Member", "Gourd Sightings", "Tips & Tricks" and "Classifieds". Of course Patch news is always wanted.



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Betty Finch, one of our CGS Directors at Large, shared information regarding the AGS Jim Story Award. She also shared that a new competition category is being added which is "crafted manipulated gourds". She brought several manipulated gourds that she had grown to share so it would encourage the patch leaders to buy one and create a piece of gourd art for the competition in October. More information can be found on the AGS website: www.americangourdsociety.org.

Pam Argo our CGS Vice President and Retreat Chair reported on the upcoming retreat at the Episcopal Conference Center Oakhurst, CA <https://eccoyosemite.org>. We only have 3 quad rooms left. She is reaching out to each patch/group for project ideas that are fun and simple. They are asking for pictures, project name and descriptions, detailed how-to guides and to submit tutorials, tips and tricks or anything you would like to have published in a Project Book for the gift bags. They are also looking for donations for the raffle at the event. If you have questions please contact Pam at Pam-ela@rpargo.com. We will also be investigating a short tour to Yosemite for additional cost for those interested.

Betty shared information regarding the **HAT PARADE** at the retreat. Special Ribbons in 6 categories: Most Original, Most Beautiful, Funniest, Most Interesting, Gourdiest and Other Special Recognition. Most popular determined by applause wins \$100!

Look closely at her gourd hat, it really spins!



Sherry Hunga-Moore led a brainstorming session for our next **Fundraiser project in 2020**. She reminded members that the Patch keeps fifty cents from each ticket sold, which should help fund your leader's expenses while attending required CGS functions.

Brain Storm Session Ideas Votes

Gourd Quilt/Mosaic tiles won

3	Stacked Dolls
0	Bouquet of (items) in a gourd vase
13	Gourd Quilt/Mosaic tiles
0	Sea Life
0	Luminaries
1	Fairy Gardens/Planter
10	Jewelry Collection
1	Wind chimes
0	Swag
0	Wreath
2	Basket
1	Tree with ornaments
0	Totems

Criteria as follows

***NO Larger than 24" X 30" (Flip Chart Size)**

(Keep in mind we have to be able to display projects on tables or stands you provide) (Inspiration's from Pinterest)



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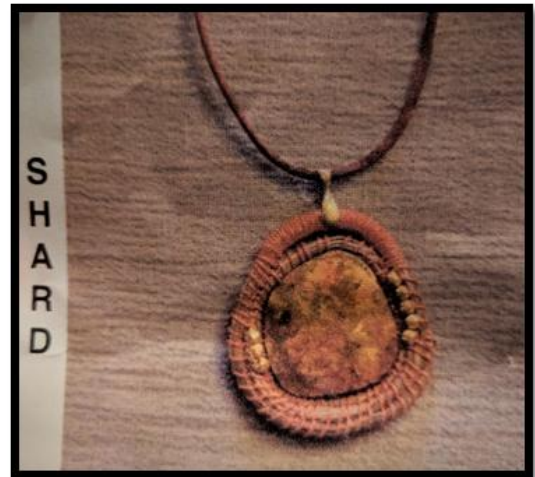
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We stopped for a lunch buffet and had time to check out some of the totems.

To view more totems visit our website at: http://www.californiagourdsociety.com/Fundraisers_2.php

After lunch break we were treated to a delightful project, "Pine Needle Pendant" as taught by Vickie Echols and refined by Kennie Winter. Using Dyed Gourd shards attached to leather and wrapped with pine needles. Thank you very much for all the preparation ahead of time Kennie and helpers!



The meeting ended around 3PM and we packed up like busy little bees and moved the totems to the Elks Lodge where the Baskets and Gourds Containers of Our Culture VII event was setting up.

The conference is sponsored by the Tulare/Sequoia Gourd Patch, and the California Gourd Society. This is the seventh Basket/Gourd Conference to be held in the city of Visalia, California. Thank you Toni and Sue from the Tulare Patch, for allowing us to raffle off the totems during dinner. Special thanks to Sue Gouig and Olive Moore for all the preparation and time spent to make this Combined North and South Patch Leaders meeting a great success!

We look forward to the next event eagerly, 2020 here we come!
PUT THIS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST

Earlybird's Place



3RD ANNUAL

Gourd & Craft Festival

707-319-1313

earlybirdsfarms.com

15310 Chalk Hill Rd, Healdsburg, Ca

**June 23-24
2018**

Sat. 9-6

Sun. 9-4



Free Admission

California Gourd Society
CA Bay Area Gourd Art
Competition
October 13-14, 2018

Hosted by
The Calabash Club of Silicon Valley
Held at Uesugi Farms
14485 Monterey Rd, San Martin, CA 95046

Competition Categories:

*Pyrography, Carving, Painting, Sculpture,
Ocean Theme, Garden, Vessels/Containers,
Embellishments, Anything Goes, Manipulated
Gourd and Crafted Manipulated Gourd*

For More Information:
www.californiagourdsociety.com



CGS Open Board Position

Seeking Nominations for the Position of Treasurer

Members are encouraged to nominate someone or submit their own name to serve as a member of the California Gourd Society Board. This is a great opportunity to give back to the organization that does much to nurture its members and promote the appreciation of gourds to the general public. As a member of the Board, you'll play a role in the leadership of the organization and will gain a greater understanding of the depth and breadth of this great group. Along the way, you will meet members from all over California and share fun activities and experiences with your fellow officers. All positions are for 2 year terms, starting immediately.

Note that most travel expenses (gas, lodging and meals) to attend the Annual Board meeting are covered by CGS (currently held in Visalia, CA).

Please submit to Peggy Blessing at secretary@californiagourdsociety.com or mail to:

CGS Secretary Peggy Blessing

3177 Mt. Tami Dr.

San Diego, CA 92111

The Position of Treasurer, duties listed below:

- Serve as a member of the Board of Directors.
- Must have financial accounting experience.
- Must have experience using QuickBooks.
- Make deposits and write checks for expenditures.
- Maintain accurate records of all deposits and disbursements.
- Maintain monthly financial statements.
- Prepare and file Federal and State annual tax returns.
- Maintain PayPal and SquareUp accounts for accepting credit card payments.
- File all forms required by State and Federal agencies.
- Respond to correspondence from State and Federal agencies.
- Prepare an annual report for the CGS Board meeting.



To view or download and print out the complete competition handout for both CGS competitions please use the links below.

Members should have received an email with the complete instructions.

October 13 - 14 CGS California Bay Area Gourd Competition - Hosted by the Calabash Club of Silicon Valley at the Uesugi Farms - San Martin, CA.

Link to website is: http://www.californiagourdsociety.com/Bay_Area_Competition.html

October 27 - 28 CGS California So. Cal Gourd Competition in collaboration with the Orange County Woodcarvers - Hosted by the Orange County Gourd Society - Santa Ana, CA.

Link to website is: http://www.californiagourdsociety.com/South_Gourd_Competition.html

Please Welcome Our Newest Board Member Libbi Salvo - CGS Director of Southern Programs



I am a transplant to the San Diego Area, originally from Connecticut; I lived 20 years in Madison, WI and moved to So Cal in 1993. I can't say I miss winter.

I am an avid gardener, and following the 2007 wildfires when I lost my backyard, my shade, and all my irrigation, I delved into the world of succulents and drought tolerant landscaping. At a local garden tour, I was given one little gourd seedling. I thought it would be fun to grow a couple of gourds to make some hummingbird houses. To my amazement, I ended up with about 40 gourds, a few small, but most huge. Trying to figure out what to do with them, I took a class at the Welburn Gourd Farm. Following that class, I signed up for a class where I met JoAnn Clark and Gail Shell. They invited me to the next meeting of the San Diego Patch, and even came and took me to the meeting. That was my first occasion to meet such a fantastic, creative and welcoming group.

I have enjoyed gourding ever since, and try to find creative ways to combine gourding with my succulents, with various levels of success. I have been the secretary for SDCGA since 2016. I live in Escondido with my husband JC, who is not involved in gourding, but infinitely tolerant of my enjoyment of it, and the mess I seem to trail in my wake with my projects.

I was invited to be a guest at the patch leaders meeting in Visalia, not knowing what to expect. I know the totems from our gourd group were fantastic and I was anxious to see all of the other totems made by other patches. I was amazed at the talent displayed in the totems. They were all so different and wonderful. I wanted to win them all!

I could see that I would enjoy being involved in the leadership of the California Gourd Society so I told Olive that I would be interested in filling in the open position of Director of Southern Programs. With a big smile on her face, she gave me a big hug. I figured that meant that she was pleased with my offer. So she took it to the CGS Board and they voted unanimously to accept my offer.

I am excited to be a part of this great organization and am looking forward to my involvement with the southern patches and CGS board as a whole.

Libbi

Libbi_salvo@yahoo.com
505-280-8867



California Gourd Society

So. Cal. Gourd Art Competition

in collaboration with
Orange County Woodcarvers
October 27 and 28, 2018

Laborers Local 652 Union Hall
1532 E. Chestnut Ave Santa Ana, CA 92701

Categories

Pyrography, Carved, Fret/Filigree, Painted,
Weaving, Anything Goes
Special Catagory: Class Gourd

Hosted by

 **Orange County**
Gourd Society

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

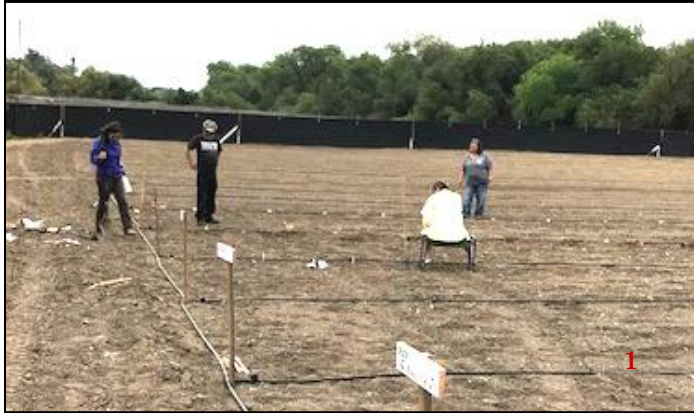
And Sow It Begins

by Kathleen Johnston - President of Ventura County Gourd Artists

Sunday May 6, 2018 started out brisk and overcast. As we headed north to Buellton the clouds lay low and the wind kicked up. Ten of us determined gourd planters were on our way to Charlie Boles' place to plant gourds.

Charlie requested us to be at his place by 9 a.m. to beat the heat. Well, that concern was a mute point. The planters in shorts were a bit chilly but planted on.

Shelly Johnson and her husband Clark, Dianna Whittaker and husband Mike, Michelle Smith, Debbie Gutzmann, Gail Sammons, Dom Vinolus, Kathleen Johnston and her father Tom, dug holes and planted seeds and seedlings. Charlie had a planting field map laid out with stakes, markers, a water drip system, everything we needed to farm our patch. The planting took about 2 hours.



Charlie then shuffled some to and from the river bottom while the rest of us relaxed at Charlie's house. In search of found objects, Debbie Gutzmann stumbled across a dead deer in the river bottom and was lucky enough to bring home a lower jaw complete with teeth - a treasure if you are into that sort of thing.

Lunch was served at noon and oh, what a delicious feast it was. We had butter tender smoked ribs, carne asada to die for, grilled corn on the cob, toasted bread, homemade macaroni salad and chips and salsa. Charlie's wife, Joan, was in charge of the food that left us begging for her recipes. We ended the feast with raspberry cheese cake served in canning jars. A marvelous time was had by all.

Joan suggested the planting project become an annual event. The suggestion received a unanimous vote.

When it's time to harvest the gourds, we are planning a harvest party. I told Charlie, when news gets out about this adventure, future gathering will certainly be more than 10 participants.



A big thank you to our gracious hosts, Charlie and Joan, for an outstanding day.

Picture # 1: Shelly Johnson, Mike Whitaker, Michelle Smith (sitting) and Diana Whitaker

Picture # 2: Clark and Sherry Johnson

Picture # 3: Gail Sammons, Charlie Boles & Debbie Gutzmann

Picture # 4: Michelle Smith & Debbie Gutzmann

Tips & Tricks

by Betty Finch



"The gourd scrap you throw away today will be the exact size and shape of the gourd scrap you need tomorrow."— Betty Finch

Save those scraps! Have you ever wished you hadn't thrown a gourd scrap away? Start tossing your gourd scraps into a bucket and searching through the bucket when you need a scrap instead of cutting up another gourd. When the bucket is so full it becomes difficult to find what you need, separate the gourds into like piles and then package similar pieces together. It will be easy for you to find your best possible match with little effort. I categorize my scraps into tops, bottoms, necks, rings, flat, round, tubes, irregular, and tiny scraps. If a particular container gets too full simply divide it into largest and smallest of that shape. Recycled clear plastic produce containers make great scrap storage because you can see into them without opening them and quickly determine if the scrap you need is inside. Keep your scrap bucket handy to toss scraps into while working.

That is just the beginning. Saving gourd scraps can boost your creativity. Challenge yourself to make something creative using your gourd scraps! Gourd stems with a bit of the top still attached lend themselves to making flowers. Cut or file the gourd top to look like sepals, paint it green and add petals. To make daisies use a tiny gourd top for the center of the daisy. To make sunflowers, use the bottom of a small gourd for the center. The flower petals can be made with paper but for very realistic, delicate, gourd petals use interior gourd lining. It is difficult to get so save any you find. The best source for gourd lining is to cut open a large gourd that has a brown stem but is not quite completely dried out. The interior should be white and shiny. Carefully strip off sheets of the damp lining clinging to the walls, it can be difficult to extract but once you have removed it from the gourd, the lining is very easy to work with. Simply use scissors to cut the lining into petals. The petals can be painted with watercolor or watered-down acrylic paint. While they are still damp they can be shaped. Allow them to dry in the desired shape before gluing them in place.

Gourd flowers look great on gourd hats. Would any of your larger scraps be suitable for a gourd hat? Wear your gourd hat to the next gourd festival you attend, I'll be watching for you!

Flowers made of gourd scraps with gourd lining petals.



Clear plastic containers filled with gourd scrap and in foreground with scissors is a scrap of gourd lining with a flower petal cut out of it.



2018 Gourd Events Calendar

May 19 - 28	San Bernardino County Fair - Victorville, CA
June 1 - July 4	San Diego County Fair - Del Mar, CA
June 14 - 17	El Dorado County Fair
June 21 - 24	Placer County Fair
June 15 - July 8	Alameda County Fair
June 23 - 24	Earlybird's Place 3rd Annual Gourd and Craft Festival - Healdsburg, CA
July 13 - July 29	California Exposition & State Fair - Sacramento, CA
July 13 - August 12	Orange County Fair - Costa Mesa, CA
July 26 - 29	Amador County Fair
August 1 - August 12	Ventura County Fair - Ventura, CA
August 2 - 5	Yuba County Fair
August 8 - 12	Nevada County Fair
August 9 - 12	*CGS 2018 Retreat - Oakhurst, CA
August 15 - 19	Yolo County Fair
August 23 - 26	Butte County Fair
Sept. 2 - 9	Gold County Fair
Sept. 15 - 16	The Silver State Art Festival - Nevada Gourd Society - Carson City, NV
August 31 - Sept. 23	Los Angeles County Fair - Pomona, CA
Sept 12 - 16	Tulare County Fair - Tulare, CA
Sept. 19 - 30	Kern County Fair - Bakersfield, CA
October 13 - 14	*CGS California Bay Area Gourd Competition - Hosted by the Calabash Club of Silicon Valley at the Uesugi Farms - San Martin, CA
October 27 - 28 County	*CGS California So. Cal Gourd Competition in collaboration with the Orange Woodcarvers - Hosted by the Orange County Gourd Society - Santa Ana, CA
*Official CGS Event	

CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY

Board Meeting Highlights - January 6, 2018

Board Members Present: Olive Moore, President; Pamela Argo, Vice President; Peggy Blessing, Secretary; Betty Finch, Director at Large; Christina Chrivia, Treasurer (*via phone 11:40am to 11:50am*); Sue Gouig, Director of Northern Programs.

Others Present: Sylvia Nelson.

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

With a quorum present, President Olive Moore called the meeting to order at 9:15am and reviewed the agenda.

Secretary's Report

A motion was carried to approve the January 7, 2017, board meeting Minutes as distributed. Motions that were approved electronically though 2017 were ratified by the Board: 1) on 1/15/17, to approve the revised 2017 budget; 2) on 1/27/17, to appoint Christina Chrivia as interim Treasurer; 3) on 3/5/17, to hold three CGS competitions in 2017, adding a central competition at the Calabash Festival.

Peggy Blessing reported that she received no responses to a call for nominations last Fall to fill board positions that were expiring in January 2018, following a two-year term. The existing board members agreed to continue their service and a motion was carried to appoint the following board members: Peggy Blessing, Secretary; Christina Chrivia, Treasurer; Pam Argo, Vice President; Sue Gouig, Director of Northern Programs; JoAnn Clark, Director of Membership.

Peggy noted that we will receive another \$100 rebate from the Non-Profit Insurance Group as part of their profit-share program and said we did not receive a rate increase as a result of the 2016 copyright issue settlement. She reviewed a list of 2017 regional group events requiring proof of insurance and asked that she be informed of 2018 events that might require similar certificates of insurance.

The group reviewed the three-fold membership brochure dated 7/2/17 and needed corrections were noted. Peggy agreed to continue to make the needed revisions and will make sure Mary Bliss has the information to update the website.

Treasurer's Report

Olive said that Christina Chrivia will be available by phone if we need to ask her any questions during the review of the financial statements that were distributed. She reviewed the income portion of the 2017 Profit and Loss Statement, calling attention to a \$250 donation received during the Calabash festival. It was noted that membership income was about \$300 less than 2016. Discussion followed regarding details of 2017 expenses. Total income was \$19,649, \$10,423 favorable to budget due to retreat income of \$10,229. Total expense was \$9,804, \$2,583 unfavorable to budget. Net income was \$9,845, \$13,006 favorable to budget. If the retreat income were taken out of consideration, there would still be a net income favorable variance. Olive said we need to continue to encourage others to use Amazon Smile and to designate CGS as the donation recipient.

A motion was carried to authorize the following individuals to have signature authority on the California Gourd Society's Bank of America account: Christina Chrivia, JoAnn Clark, Sherry Hunga-Moore and Olive Moore; and, thereby, authorize the execution of any bank documents required by Bank of America to carry out the authorization.

Christina Chrivia joined the meeting for 10 minutes via phone and answered several financial statement questions. She reminded the group of her desire to resign as Treasurer, and everyone expressed their appreciation for her patience and stepping up to help.

Vice President's Report

Pam Argo distributed a report on the CGS retreat and the group reviewed the information. She showed examples of gift bags items. There will be a separate bag distributed for projects, and we need to gather projects donated by patches. The cost for those volunteers coming early for set-up is covered by the registration fee. Betty Finch outlined details of the hat parade and the group discussed various scenarios. It was agreed to offer a \$100 Best of Show prize. It was suggested that judges pick the category winners and the Best of Show is picked from those winners by the level of applause from the audience.

A recess was called at 12:00pm and the meeting reconvened at 12:20pm.

A 2018 ribbons and pins inventory and cost schedule was distributed and reviewed. It was noted that we have stickers in stock to put on back of the ribbon to say when/where award was given.

(Continued from Page 17)

Membership Report

Olive reviewed a membership report that JoAnn Clark emailed to her. There were six Patches that qualified for the 100% CGS membership compliance free membership (Bachelor, Calabash, Orange, San Diego, Tulare/Sequoia, Ventura). As of 1/3/18, there are 199 members who have joined for 2018/2019. Olive will send suggested wording to Mary Bliss and JoAnn to customize renewing memberships and new member welcome letters. Renewal reminders are sent out by Mary in January. It was noted that a few members expressed their willingness to pay extra for a hard copy of the *Golden Gourd*; however, this would require someone willing to track and administer this membership category.

It was noted that in 2017 Olive and Sylvia sponsored six free memberships for the patches that entered 15 or more entries in the competitions. It was decided to keep the reward incentive but to absorb the cost of free memberships into the budget. JoAnn will be asked to indicate free memberships on the membership spreadsheet in the future. In her written report, JoAnn had said it's been suggested that the Family membership fee be increased by \$5, as other organizations sometimes do. Considering the small number of memberships in this category, estimated to generate \$120, it was felt that it would not be worth the effort to administer. Olive and Pam offered to sort the membership Excel spreadsheet by regional group on a quarterly basis and send information pertaining to a particular Patch Leader's group.

Director of Northern Programs Report

Sue Gouig reported all Northern groups were represented at the Patch Leaders meeting that took place at the Caning Shop. Olive and Sylvia were guests, and she described the topics covered and the name tag project activity lead by Cookie Cala. Batches of totem fundraising tickets were also sold.

The 2018 meeting will be a combined Patch Leader meeting prior to the Visalia conference. There will be a catered lunch and the project activity will be pine needle wrapped cabochon pendants. Because of the limited space and catered lunch, participants will be limited to two patch representatives at this meeting. If there is room available and others wish to join, they will be charged \$25 for lunch. Discussion followed on the most efficient methods to draw tickets for the CGS totems on Saturday evening.

Olive suggested at the Patch Leader meeting we encourage patches to submit short feature articles to the *Golden Gourd* on their activities such as gallery shows and demonstrations. She praised Betty for providing good tips and tricks articles. She would like to see more of a variety of articles such as tutorials, artist profiles, festival reports and product reviews in future issues. She has asked Susan Sullivan to provide an article on a member in the South and would like to have profiles of artists from Northern groups. Pam Argo and Sylvia offered to do articles for Spring and Summer issues. The Fall issue will feature something representing a Southern California artist or group.

Director of Southern Programs Report

Due to the resignation of Elaine Linton as Director of Southern Programs, Olive reported on the topics discussed at the Patch Leaders meeting that was held at the home of Camille King in Ventura County. Elaine did a lot of prep work for a gourd mask/shadow box project. In addition to Olive, board members Christina Chrivia, JoAnn Clark, Peggy Blessing and Susan Sullivan attended. Because of the size and activity level of the Ventura patch, it was suggested we invite someone from this group to serve as the Director of Southern Programs.

Director at Large Report -- Susan Sullivan

In Susan's absence, Olive read a report on the 2017 Southern California competition prepared by Debra Zimmerman. This cooperative effort with the woodcarvers group showed growth over last year and was a successful event. Linda Conn was given credit for her hard work on bringing the woodcarvers and gourders together.

Olive asked if we wanted to continue to supply the special award ribbons for County and State fairs, as we are almost out of stock. It was agreed to not order more of these ribbons, since the program was initiated just to use up stock that was already on hand.

Director at Large Report -- Betty Finch

Betty reported on hat parades held during the Orangevale event. She would like to see hat parades at festival competitions but thought it might be more feasible to hold these parades at retreats. She said AGS likes to publish articles related to Jim Story traditions and coverage of CGS hat parades would be good publicity. She asked for assistance with creating a list of subject matter ideas for the *Golden Gourd* tips and tricks articles. There were suggestions to have articles on paints, weaving, intricate cutting and finishes.

Betty would like to suggest for CGS competitions to add a new AGS category for art created using manipulated gourds, which would not have to be grown by the artist. AGS is suggesting that each State chapter add this category.

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Betty reported on the Heirloom Expo in Santa Rosa. Olive said she has received a request for CGS to take part in this event; however, it takes place at a time of year when festivals and CGS competitions take place. They would waive the \$2,000 booth fee. Inquiries will be made to see if there would be interest by nearby patches to coordinate volunteers.

Golden Gourd Editor Report

In Mary Bliss' absence, Olive reviewed a handout outlining Mary's 2018 *Golden Gourd* content plan and deadlines. The group discussed Mary's 2017 Constant Contact email service report. It was noted that there are some members who report they do not receive CGS emails, yet Constant Contact reports it as delivered and not opened. It was suggested that the Patch Leaders be sent a personal email advising them that a CC email has been sent and suggest they advise their membership of same and ask them to report back who did not receive CGS emails to see if the problem could be pinpointed. A new 2018 members-only password was identified and will be communicated when membership welcome emails are distributed. It was noted there were 523 followers on the CGS Facebook page.

Creative Projects Coordinator Report

The absence of Sherry Hunga-Moore was noted. Discussion followed on how to boost raffle ticket sales, which appeared to be down from previous fundraisers at this time. Sue will push sales as best she can and said it would be helpful to have more pictures of totem projects. It was agreed that the next fundraising project should be voted on at the April Patch Leader meeting. Sue asked for ideas to be sent to her and will ask Sherry for other ideas that were suggested during the Patch Leader meeting that voted on the totem project.

Old Business

Sylvia reported on the success of the Northern California competition in Orangevale. She distributed a schedule comparing the Northern, Calabash/Bay Area and Southern competitions showing number of entries by division, by Patch, number of ribbons awarded, votes for People's choice, number of member and non-member entries, resulting new members, and number of aprons sold.

She commented on a report she prepared on CGS's involvement in State and many County fairs. She credited Barbara Rippetoe for her efforts in campaigning for gourd categories at County fairs and providing Sylvia's contact information as a resource for qualified judges. This report also listed the judges for the Orangevale and Calabash competitions and an AGS competition in Santa Ana.

Discussion followed regarding competitions. An entry that won first place was lost in the return mail and ideas were suggested to avoid a future situation. Although the situation improved over the prior year and the check-in process was fantastic, it was agreed that, if the CGS competition is to continue at Calabash, there needs to be some guarantee about volunteer support as there was a lack of judges and volunteers in the competition booth on Sunday.

Discussion followed regarding possible competition categories to add new challenges and interest. Sylvia will look at the history of old categories, and Olive asked everyone to send Sylvia their ideas. It was agreed that the Southern competition should be kept moderate since it's in conjunction with the woodcarvers. Sylvia said AGS may be making some changes to their forms.

The status of ribbons and pins was discussed. Because they are not as popular a choice as ribbons, it was decided not to re-order more pins. We will continue to give both options to a winner as long as supplies last. If a participant wants both options, they can pay \$3.

The revised Bylaws draft was distributed in the information packet. A motion was carried to publish the revised Bylaws in the *Golden Gourd* as distributed, in order to notify the membership of the changes, and to call for an electronic vote of the Board after 30 days of publication for final approval. Olive thanked Pam and Sylvia for their hard work on this project.

New Business

Internal Audit Committee: It was agreed that an internal audit was a good thing, but it was not necessary at this time. However, it was agreed this should be a practice when a new Treasurer is appointed.

State Fair: There was discussion about how the winner of the \$100 CGS award be determined. It was agreed that it should be given to the Best of Gourd Division. Sylvia described accommodations the State Fair has proposed, which included their growing gourds in their garden area and allowing CGS members to promote gourds at the Fair between July 13 - 29, 2018, at no cost. This would require volunteers to be present at a booth each day between 10am and 8pm. Sylvia thought that the Amador and Folsom groups would be willing to help, and Olive said she would like other patches to be invited to bring information specific to their group. It was thought that the restricted scholarship fund could be used for children make-and-take projects. There were no objections to moving forward with the State Fair proposal. Olive called attention to the nice thank you letter CGS received from the California State Fair for our sponsorship of the \$100 award, encouraging our continued support.

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MWGBG Conference Hospitality Table: Olive reported that Debra Zimmerman had an idea to provide coffee, compliments of CGS, during the May 2017 Misti Washington Guild conference. It was very successful, and we received fabulous feedback from the students and teachers. CGS brochures were made available at the hospitality table.

Patch Leader Meeting Expense Reimbursement: It was verified that the Director of Programs North/South would be reimbursed by CGS for travel expenses related to Patch Leader meetings, including early arrival for set-up. The Patch Leaders and an additional representative are encouraged to be reimbursed by their regional group, ideally through the sale of raffle tickets.

Patch Leader Handbook: Olive pointed out that the Patch Leader Guidebook was out of date (last revised by Sylvia in 2013). Olive offered to work on the updates and distribute it to the Board and have it printed for distribution at the April Patch Leader meeting.

2019 Board Meeting: After discussing whether or not the first or second Saturday in January 2019 would be a good day to schedule the next Board meeting, it was agreed to hold it January 5, 2019, location TBD.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Blessing
 Secretary

[Following the meeting, a budget development meeting was held. It was decided to distribute the 2018 budget electronically to the Board before calling for a vote of approval to allow those absent the opportunity for input. During the discussion, it was decided to reorder long and medium aprons and to order sweatshirts like the sample Sylvia wore to the meeting. The proposed budget totals were as follows: Income \$32,681 (\$23,500 retreat-related); Expense \$33,535 (\$22,880 retreat-related); Net Ordinary Income/Loss of -\$854. When approved, the 2018 budget will be filed with these Minutes.]

Festival Highlights - Ventura County Gourd Artists Annual Gourd and Art Festival

Visitors of all ages were drawn to the Ventura County Gourd Artists' annual Gourd and Art Festival on April 21.

The park like grounds of the Santa Rosa Valley Homeowners Association clubhouse, and the sunny weather, provided an ideal day for member vendors and visitors alike.

For the second year, VCGA expanded its sales to include not only gourds, but baskets, jewelry, ceramics and other handmade items since many patch members are artists in other mediums. The festival gives them an opportunity to share their other talents.

The clubhouse was used as an exhibit hall for gourd art and folks were astounded by the creativity of our gourd artists. Exhibits included tables of animals, items made using Powertex, basketry and fracked gourd creations.

There were gourd painting activities for the children and a make and take birdhouse opportunity for those wishing to try their hand at creating a piece of gourd art. In addition, there was an hourly raffle of gourds and other handcrafts donated by those having festival booths. The raffles are always popular and a fundraiser for the patch.

Live music was provided by Old Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Association – the husband of one our members is part of the group. The brother of another member played the guitar and serenaded festival goers with old familiar songs. All-in-all, the festival was a perfect way to spend the day.



CALLING ALL ARTISTS

"Calling all Gourd Artists! California Gourd Artists have arranged to be at the CA State Fair all 19 days in the Farm Barn! We need gourders to staff the barn. The dates are July 13 to the 29th. Volunteers can bring their projects to work on and demo the many techniques working with gourds...painting, beading, carving, wood-burning....and more! If you are interested in volunteering at the fair, email Carole Meltzer at carolemeltzer@yahoo.com and she will send you all the details and get you signed up.

CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR
1600 EXPOSITION BLVD
SACRAMENTO, CA 95815

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, business people and the public through community support and education.



**Support
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Thank you all for your support this past year and for choosing the CGS AmazonSmile for your shopping needs. We hope you will continue to use our link when doing your online shopping with Amazon.

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate to the California Gourd Society.

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We've been writing books about gourds, giving classes and selling supplies and tools for gourd crafters since 1989. We've also been listening to your comments about the problems with the existing tools and your wishes for the ultimate jigsaw for cutting gourds.

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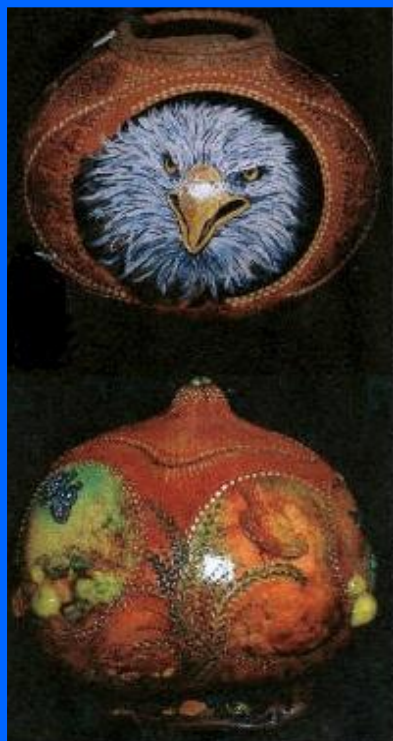
All 3 Gourd Tools are also available as a complete kit with blades, sanding sponges, engraving bits and a NEW sturdy carrying case. A 15V power supply is necessary to operate the Gourd Tools. 15V power supply with speed control is included.

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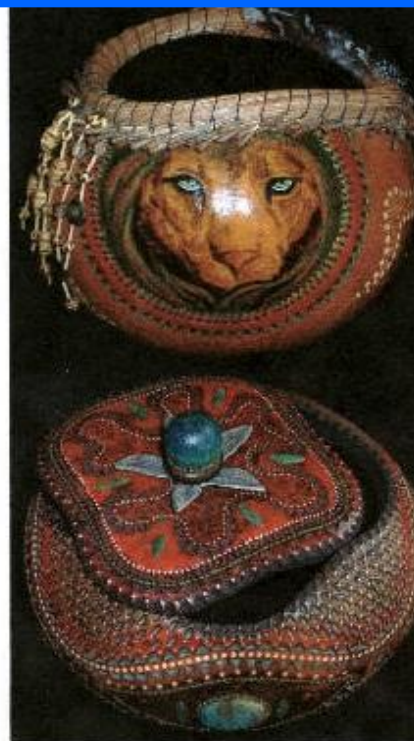
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The Editors Vine

Hello,

I would like to thank everyone that helps with the copy, pictures and ad support of the Golden Gourd Newsletter. Without your support we could not have this wonderful newsletter and to Olive Moore for proof reading for me.

The CGS board and patch leadership continue to work hard on your behalf. If you are interested in volunteering, being a teacher or vendor please contact the host patch or festival host directly.

For the most current information please visit the California Gourd Society website at: www.californiagourdsociety.com -We will be updating it in the coming days and weeks.

Remember this is “YOUR” newsletter. If you have anything you would like to have in the next issue please forward to me. Maybe you attended a recent festival, made something new or tried a new product? Now is the time to send in any dates you have for upcoming events in 2018 if you want to get them on the calendar. The deadline for submitting items for the Summer issue is July 15, 2018. The issue usually goes out mid August.

Members are encouraged to use the “Members Only” section at our website. And for those of you that like a more INTERACTIVE social network you can LIKE us on our **Face Book page**. This is a perfect place to let our members know where they can find you and your gourds for sale or on display. Our Facebook page link is at: <https://www.facebook.com/californiagourdsociety/>

This is a great time to renew your CGS Membership or give as a gift you can pay online or with check. All the information is at our website: <http://www.californiagourdsociety.com/Join-Us.html>

If you do find an error please send me an email and I will correct the archive copy and print a correction in the next issue. Please add to your address book: editorgoldengourd@californiagourdsociety.com

Thank you for your continuing support!

Mary Bliss -Editor Golden Gourd 05/15/18

The editor reserves the right to edit any submissions for content and consistency.

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Article/Ad Deadlines 2018 - 2019

Note: The newsletter is emailed to our members approximately 30 day after the deadline for content.

- SummerJuly 15, 2018
- FallOctober 15, 2018
- Winter 18/19.....January 31, 2019
- Spring.....April 15, 2019

Ad Rates 2018 - 2019

- Half Page \$25
- 1/4 Page \$15
- Business Card (members only) \$5

Golden Gourd Newsletter Annual Cost \$2,400.00

Here's another star to add to your constellation.
Welcome back to the All Stars!



CGS would like to say thank all of our members for making this All Star Award possible. Keep up the good work!!

For another year, you demonstrated exemplary engagement with your audience. Once again, you set the standard of excellence. We are thrilled to present you with the All Star Award for 2017!

Every year, the bar to All Star status gets higher and higher. Only 10% of Constant Contact customers receive it. But 65% of All Stars, like yourself, are multiple-year recipients. We're proud that more and more customers have unlocked the success formula to building better relationships with their audience!

Relationships matter to us at Constant Contact. Thanks for making yours count. Congratulations again, and we hope you have another great year in 2018.



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For all of your gourd crafting needs, Welburn Gourd Farm has you covered! Visit our web site for organic thick-shelled gourds, FREE video tutorials, FREE Beginner's Guide to Gourd Crafting, DVD's, special offers, tools, supplies, and so much more!



Take a Look at These Customer Favorites Below!

Get High Quality Organic Gourds!



"Your gourds are by far the best available, and your customer service is outstanding. I would not buy from anyone else. The high quality of your gourds makes them a joy to work with, and each of my customers has been thrilled! Thanks so much!!" - Cathy Whitehead, RI

Pictured left: Founder Doug Welburn, inspecting gourds for shipment in 1997.

Known for their **thick shells** and beautiful, natural markings, the Welburn Gourd is the gourd of choice for artists, crafters, and musicians who want quality above all else. See the **entire selection** of Welburn Gourds on the website below!



Pictured right: Happy customers at the farm. We are open to the public!



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"I LOVE THE GOURDMASTER EASY CLEANER BALL - yes I'm yelling, must let the world know. What an incredible time saver and great finish. I have tried so many tools, and none compare." -Mari E.

The GourdMaster™ Easy Cleaner Ball has a durable, gravel-like surface that removes even the most stubborn dried gourd pulp in **seconds flat!** You'll LOVE how much time and energy you'll save when using the GourdMaster™ Easy Cleaner Ball to clean the inside of your gourds!

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Before



After

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