

THE GOLDEN GOURD

The Newsletter of the California Chapter of the American Gourd Society



Spring 2022 is here, and for some it feels like a time to recharge, and put behind the very long, two-years of worry and isolation. Though not completely gone, the scourge we've all been dealing with feels like it's rounding the corner or at least slowing down enough for us to hold and attend events again. SO YEAH!

While our hearts go out to those in turmoil on the other side of the world, time still marches on. For us here in California, it's time to dust off our tools and start ramping up our gourding skills. There are events in the works, some are still finalizing their details, while others are on the calendar. So, be on the lookout for our "Shout Outs" and emails! **See page 16** for the most current information.

Many of us will be meeting up for the first time in two years at the Baskets and Gourds Conference in Visalia. CGS will be there so don't forget to stop by and say hi! If you've not purchased your raffle tickets for our CGS Fundraiser, you can purchase them there before Saturday night's dinner.

We look forward to seeing you in person this year!

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President's Message

Greetings Gourders,

Happy Spring! It is time to get excited about all the upcoming events.

CGS has been invited to participate in the San Francisco Bay Flower and Garden Show on April 7 through 10 in Pleasanton at the Alameda County Fair Grounds. Northern California patches will be stepping up to give demonstrations and make and takes. It is an excellent opportunity to promote CGS.

"Baskets and Gourds" in Visalia is going to happen. This will be my third time attending, and I know I will have a great time. I'm looking forward to meeting all of you in person.

The State Fair is supposed to happen. I discovered our contacts from past fairs were laid off when the pandemic canceled the fair. We were asked to check back at the end of March. That does not leave us much time for planning. Let's hope it all works out.

CGS held its annual board meeting on January 8, via Zoom. The minutes can be found on page 4. JoAnn Clark, our long-time Director of Membership, announced her retirement. JoAnn Clark has been in the position since 2008. That is an over 14 -year commitment. A huge THANK YOU to JoAnn for her precious time to keep our membership in shipshape for all those years.

Nominations were requested for four positions on the board, with only one nomination received for the Director of Membership. Sue Gouig, Jody Dingivan, and Peggy Blessing, incumbents of the other three positions, agreed to continue in office. Debbie Zimmermann (with two n's) from Ventura County was unanimously voted in. We are happy to have her on the board. Please join me in welcoming Debbie!

Notice the new hairstyle in my picture. I hope this helps you find me at "Baskets and Gourds in Visalia."



Your President, Marilyn Phelps



CGS ~ Mission Statement



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

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

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

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

Southern Region
Libbi Salvo:
Libbi_salvo@yahoo.com

Golden Gourd Editor
Lisa Baurmeister:
cgsnewslettereditor@gmail.com

Northern Region
Jody Dingivan:
adollplace@hotmail.com



CGS Board Meeting Minutes

By CGS Secretary, Peggy



CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY

Board Meeting Highlights - January 8, 2022

Board Members Present: Marilyn Phelps, President; Peggy Blessing, Secretary; JoAnn Clark, Director of Membership [*left at 11:50am*]; Jody Dingivan, Director of Northern Regional Groups [*arrived prox. 9:15am*]; Sue Gouig, Ambassador at Large; Janice Horner, Vice President; Olive Moore, Treasurer; Libbi Salvo, Director of Southern Regional Groups; Debra Zimmerman, Ambassador at Large

Others Present: Pamela Argo, Competition Committee Chair; Lisa Baurmeister, Editor; Mary Bliss, Web Administrator; Sherry Hunga-Moore, Creative Projects Chair; Debbie Zimmermann [*Director of Membership Candidate; arrived at 10:50am*]

Board/Committee Members Absent: Sylvia Nelson, Competition Committee

President Marilyn Phelps called the meeting to order at 9:02am via ZOOM video conference. Because JoAnn Clark had expressed her desire to resign as Director of Membership, Olive Moore invited Debbie Zimmermann to join the meeting, because she had expressed interest in taking over JoAnn's position.

Secretary Report

The Minutes of the January 9, 2021, approved. The group discussed ways to balance the Board position terms so that the majority no longer expire at the same time, and a strategy was developed to adjust terms of service of some positions. [*Jody Dingivan arrived.*] For a variety of reasons, a call for nominations did not take place last fall as we have done in the past. The group identified positions with terms expiring in January 22 to include in an email calling for nominations: Secretary (Blessing), Ambassador at Large (Gouig), Director of Northern Regional Groups (Dingivan), Director of Membership (Clark). Except for JoAnn, all these individuals stated they would be willing to continue to serve in their positions. Should there be multiple candidates, CGS members will then be asked to cast a "vote of confidence" for their candidate of choice. Following this process, the Board will then conduct the official election. [*Note: Due to a typographical error on the part of the Secretary, the Call for Nominations email to members erroneously reported one of the Ambassador at Large positions as being open instead of the Director of Northern Programs.*] Following discussion of ways to encourage more members to consider leadership roles, it was agreed to form a Nominating Committee, naming the Regional Directors to service as Co-Chairs who will seek members to serve on the Committee.

There was a discussion of possible events that might require certificates of insurance. Marilyn reported she has not received any Competition Request Forms to date and will follow up with Amador regarding their Gourd Artists Festival at Amador Flower Farm (possibly in June). [*Note: Following the Board meeting, Amador decided to not have a festival but intend to have a CGS virtual competition instead.*]

Golden Gourd Editor Report

Lisa Baurmeister reviewed Constant Contact statistics and graphs concerning the *Golden Gourd* distribution and discussed content needs, deadlines, and advertising pricing and new strategies. Discussion followed regarding email addresses that bounced and the process to investigate the reasons they occurred, which may or may not involve contacting the patch leaders. After a certain number of times, these addresses get put into a "suspended" status and no more emails will be sent. Discussion followed regarding the 30 unsubscribed members, and it was recommended the patch leaders be contacted to have a conversation with that member, so they understand the implications of this. An unsubscribed list will be sent to the regional directors for follow up with patch leaders.

Discussion followed regarding a proposal made by Blue Whale Arts to provide \$100 worth of gift certificates in lieu of paying cash to advertise in the *Golden Gourd* for one year. A motion carried allowing the acceptance of gift certificates when offered by a vendor as payment for *Golden Gourd* advertising in lieu of cash.

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A tracking method will be developed. In consideration of the impact the pandemic has had on small businesses, Lisa would like to begin soliciting smaller vendors like Blue Whale Arts to advertise so that we can encourage our members to support these types of operations vs. the bigger corporate vendors. The group agreed with this strategy.

The meeting recessed at 9:58am and reconvened at 10:05am.

Lisa said the newsletter is her top priority, which allows her to pace her time on the computer, but she may need to ask for assistance with matters requiring immediate action due to her injured hand. Many expressed their appreciation for the work she's done on producing wonderful newsletters. Lisa said she has received good feedback and was pleased with the participation in the Winter ornament issue. Everyone loved the new Shout Out banner that Lisa designed and heartily approved its use. It was understood that she would hold the copyright on the artwork.

Sherry Hunga-Moore reported *Golden Gourd* ad revenue of \$325, noting she was yet to deposit a \$25 check. Olive Moore thanked Sherry for her diligence in making sure ad revenue was being received in a timely manner.

Treasurer's Report

Olive Moore referred the group to the report she distributed showing 2021 Amazon Smile revenue (\$195.64) and the total CGS received since its inception (\$517.57). She encouraged all Board members to name CGS as their AmazonSmile designee if they haven't already done so. Libbi will add this to the agenda for the 2022 patch leader meeting so that the leaders can promote this to the members.

Olive reviewed the January 1-December 31, 2021, financial statements she distributed prior to the meeting. She noted additional detail schedules were given to the Secretary for filing with the Board Minutes. One of the many details discussed included the increased expense associated with PayPal payments, costing CGS several hundred dollars. A motion carried to charge a \$1.00 service fee for online membership payments effective September 2022. The Budget vs. Actual schedule showed 2021 Revenue of \$10,184.17; Expenses of \$6,204.58; net revenue of \$3,979.59. Board members absorbed office related expenses in 2021, but Olive reminded everyone this is not expected and to submit expenses using the reimbursement form. She noted that holding virtual meetings saved a lot of money as well. Everyone thanked Lisa for producing the fabulous quarterly newsletter and numerous Shout Outs throughout the year and to Mary Bliss for creating and maintaining the great website and handling membership-related Shout Outs. A motion was carried to accept the financial report as presented by the Treasurer. The group discussed bank account authorizations and will investigate if the bank signature card could be executed virtually instead of in person. [Debbie Zimmermann arrived.]

Director of Membership Report

JoAnn Clark said she would provide detail job duties for her replacement. The group discussed the draft membership welcome letter, and edits were suggested. JoAnn will re-draft the letter and send it out for review. It was agreed that all CGS emails consistently use the new CGS Shout Out banner designed by Lisa.

JoAnn reported we have 300 members (302 including family memberships) and pointed out the latest version of the member roster includes 2021 members. In February, the roster will drop off the 2021 members that have not renewed and be moved to an "expired" tab on spreadsheet. Lisa said the next newsletter distribution is on March 20, and it was agreed the expired members should be dropped before that time. It was recommended we recruit younger people to be CGS members. JoAnn reported the groups who received a free membership for having 100% of their members as CGS members in 2021 (San Diego, Orange, Ventura, Tulare/Sequoia). It was suggested patch leaders be reminded of this program at the April meeting. JoAnn reported the patches that received a free membership for having 15 or more entries in a 2021 competition (Orange, San Diego, Ventura, Amador, Folsom). Marilyn Phelps needs to be notified of patch name changes/ additions/removals and changes to leadership contact info, as she will continue to update the 3-fold membership promotional brochure, the 1-sheet membership application form posted on the Join Us webpage and inform the Webmaster.

The group discussed the distribution of the membership roster via email and posting to the Leadership webpage on the website. The file is now encrypted with a password (to be changed whenever there is a change in leadership). It was strongly felt that the fraudulent emails pretending to be the President that were recently received for the first time by some people were not due to the hacking of the membership roster. They were contacted due to email addresses available to the public on our website, i.e., board and committee members and patch leaders.

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Vice President Report

Janice Horner reported her involvement with the Sacramento Woodcarvers who have an event May 20-22, 2022. The Folsom Gourd Artists and Rio Linda Gourd Artists groups will participate in their competition, and there will be sales booths. Discussion followed regarding the State Fair (7/15–31/22). Janice was not sure the status of demos, but anyone can be involved in the state-wide art competition. Janice offered to receive mailed entries and deliver/pick-up from the fairgrounds. She will send entry information to Lisa for a future email Shout Out. Members can also bring entries to the Patch Leader meeting for Janice to deliver to the fair. Olive said CGS has given a \$100 special award to a gourd entry in the past, and Janice will ask her State Fair contact to email Olive to confirm the special award process.

Director of Northern Programs Report

Jody Dingivan reported that each of the regional groups have lost membership for a variety of reasons, much of which was related to the pandemic. Following discussion about the East Bay group considering dissolving their group as their interests have expanded beyond gourds, it was agreed that Jody Dingivan should let them know that, as long as one of their meetings during the year has a gourd focus, they could keep their CGS regional group status.

Director of Southern Regional Groups

Libbi Salvo highlighted some of the Southern California activities shown in her written report. The main one was the virtual competition hosted by Orange County Gourd Society. San Diego County Gourd Artists hosted a Playday Get-A-Way in Julian, which was attended by members of other patches. The joint virtual Patch Leader meeting took place in April 2021 via Zoom and was successful. Libbi explained an idea that CGS consider offering 2-hour quarterly Zoom presentations to encourage more engagement and publishing the related tutorial in the newsletter. She will bring this up for discussion at the April patch leader meeting.

Ambassador At Large Report – Sue Gouig

Sue Gouig worked with a farmer who wanted to grow jewelry gourds, providing them seeds. She brought free gourd plants to give-away during the Folsom Festival and planned to write up information and provide photos for the newsletter. She just joined a garden club and will be attending a meeting next week and will promote the growing of gourds to the group.

Ambassador At Large Report – Debra Zimmerman

Debra reported the publication of her article on virtual competitions in conjunction with YouTube in the *AGS Gourd Magazine*. She said over 935 people viewed the 2020 video, which grew by a few hundred after the 2021 competition video was posted, which currently has over 300 views. She believes these numbers will continue to grow; and, considering only a few hundred viewed the previous Woodcarvers competition entries, this new development has been exciting. She encouraged us all to share the video link with friends, family, or anyone they encounter who expresses interest. *[JoAnn Clark left.]*

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:50am and was reconvened at 12:18pm.

Website/Facebook Report

Mary Bliss referred to the draft Video Release Form she distributed. She felt we need to consider an agreement of this type, especially since we are exploring the development of our YouTube Channel. She noted YouTube has their own set of rules. Mary reported that we have 509 followers on the CGS Facebook page and referred to the statistic report she distributed. She reviewed the website statistic report and explained some of the terminology. 2021 Revenue generated via the website was \$1,405, consisting of memberships, plus 1 tutorial. Discussion followed regarding the free tutorials on the Members Only webpage and the logistics involved in the online sale of tutorials to the public.

Creative Projects Chairperson Report

Sherry Hunga-Moore showed two San Diego County Gourd Artists mosaic gourd tile shadow boxes that will be prizes for the CGS fundraiser, and Olive showed one she is donating. The drawing will take place at the Visalia conference dinner event 4/23/22 (unsold tickets were hand-corrected to reflect the new drawing date). Currently, there were 695 wholesale tickets yet to be purchased by the patches (\$.50 wholesale; \$1.00 retail price). Any remaining wholesale tickets will be sold to benefit CGS at retail price at the Visalia conference. Sherry reported depositing \$652.50 since the project began in 2019. She printed 2,000 tickets at a cost of \$77. It was agreed to repeat the raffle drawing process used last time, which announced winners before, during and after dinner. Sherry will get as many winner photos as possible and will write an article for the *Golden Gourd*. It was noted that the tickets state that if winner not present, a member of their patch will deliver the piece. Marilyn will ask Toni if CGS can have a table set up inside during the Visalia conference.

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Sherry reported on the status of the CGS Gourd Blossom Retreat scheduled for June 16, 17, 18, 2023. Price will include brunch, dinner, projects, and lodging. She suggests a cap of 60 participants (need 50 in order to get free banquet room). A block of first floor, double-occupancy rooms will be available, possibly with an optional Sunday stay-over with planned group activity on Monday. Pricing quotes she received were \$110/room; \$120/meals, and Sherry hopes to keep the CGS food and room cost close to \$250, and participant cost would be closer to \$300.

Competitions Report

Pam Argo reviewed ribbon pricing. She reported our past vendor Ribbons Galore has gone out of business and tested a new one, Carousel Ribbons. The CGS logo was not printed on the latest batch of ribbons ordered from Carousel Ribbons, because she wanted to save the \$50 set-up fee in case the Board wanted to pursue a different vendor. This small business does not give quantity price breaks, but pricing is reasonable, so we could order only what we need for a particular year.

Pam said she would like to relinquish full responsibility for competitions. She is happy to help out and can keep supplies but wants to take a year or two break from this job. Pam will share with her replacement very good documentation on the competition process, which is more detailed than what is in the Leader Handbook. She will share this information with Debra to see if there's something she could apply to the Southern competition. Marilyn will reach out to the Amador and Folsom groups to help find a replacement.

Pam reported an error that occurred at the Northern California competition, which involved a mix-up in one category's master and advanced divisions. Debra said the spreadsheet created from the online Google form for entry into the Southern competition was extremely helpful, and they added color coding of entry tags to more easily see what entries belonged where for judging. It was suggested that the tracking of blue-ribbon winners could help avoid the problem of former first-place winners who accidentally don't move up to the next division level as required.

Old Business

2021 Competition Results: Debra Zimmerman reported on the Southern California virtual competition hosted by the Orange County Gourd Society. Although there is a willingness to enter, it does require some effort to collect entries and return them. She recommended we consider changing some of the categories. Following discussion of the increased cost of ribbons, it was agreed to raise the cost from \$3 to \$5 for award winners who wish to purchase a second pin or ribbon (CGS covers the cost of one of these choices). Olive expressed her appreciation to the Ventura and San Diego groups for sending judges for this one-day event.

Marilyn Phelps reported on the Northern California competition hosted by the Folsom Gourd Artists at Mills Station Culture Center, a great venue that was provided to them free of charge. Marilyn said Folsom will not have a festival in 2022 in order to trade off with Amador who plan to have a festival and competition this year. She felt that the Northern California groups should alternate locations and do a competition together each year. *[Note: Following the Board meeting, Amador has decided to not have a festival but intend to have a CGS virtual competition instead.]*

New Business

Elections: As discussed previously during meeting, it was agreed to call a vote today for the Director of Southern Regional Groups to serve a one-year term so the terms of the northern and southern directors will be on alternate years. It was also agreed to call for a vote for the Vice President who just completed serving a one-year term. There being no further nominations, a motion carried to elect Janice Horner to serve as Vice President for the 2-year term 2022 through January 2024. There being no further nominations, a motion carried to elect Libbi Salvo to serve as Director of Southern Regional Groups for a 1-year term 2022 through January 2023.

American Gourd Society: Marilyn called attention to an AGS email she forwarded to the Board last fall about a photo class offer. She asked the group to keep in mind similar AGS resources we could take advantage of.

Website Links: Discussion followed regarding a request to publish a non-member link on the CGS website. It was agreed the Bette Lake blog fits the criteria as a resource to our members and the public. It was, therefore, agreed it would be o.k. to publish her link on our website.

Next Meeting: It was agreed to schedule the next CGS virtual Board meeting for Sunday, January 8, 2023.

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Passwords: The group agreed on a Members Only webpage password and a Leadership webpage password, both to be changed 2/1/22.

The meeting recessed at 2:19pm to develop the 2022 budget and reconvened at 3:24pm.

A motion carried to accept the 2022 budget as finalized during the budget development meeting. *[As reported during the budget meeting: Total Revenue: \$6,678; Total Expenses: \$8,708; net loss -\$2,030.]*

Meeting adjourned at 3:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peggy Blessing, Secretary

Who's Who on Our Board

CGS Board of Directors - A/O March 2022

President – Marilyn Phelps
Term 2021 – January 2023

Vice President – Janice Horner
Term 2022 – January 2024

Secretary – Peggy Blessing
Term 2022 – January 2024

Treasurer – Olive Moore
Term 2021 – January 2023

Ambassador at Large #1
– Debra Zimmerman
Term 2021 – January 2023

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

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

Director of Southern Regional Groups – Libbi Salvo
Term 2022 – January 2023

Beyond the Board - A/O March 2022

Web Master - Mary Bliss

Editor, Golden Gourd Newsletter
- Lisa Baurmeister

Projects Coordinator
- Sherry Hunga-Moore

Committee Chair - Competition
Categories, Pamela Argo

CGS Insurance Contact
- Peggy Blessing

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

Competition Coordinators
– Debra Zimmerman, SOCAL
and Pamela Argo, NORCAL



thank you volunteers

Changing of the Guard

After 14 years of being on the board as Director of Membership, JoAnn Clark has retired. JoAnn, it's been a pleasure! Please, join us in sending out a HUGE thank you to JoAnn for the great work she's done for CGS in managing memberships all those years!

We would like to welcome Debbie Zimmermann to the position of Director of Membership and the CGS board. We are looking forward to working with you Debbie. Thank you for volunteering!



JoAnn Clark



Debbie Zimmermann



Featured Artist Profile

Our featured artist for this quarter is **Jessica Einboden** of the Ventura County Gourd Artists.

By Evy Eisele and Libbi Salvo,
and Jessica Einboden

How it began:

Jessica is in her third year as Vice President of the Ventura County Gourd Artists. Ventura is the third gourd group she has had the pleasure of being a part of. Her interest in gourds began over 12 years ago when she would accompany her mom to Patch meetings. During that time, she learned so many fun ways to make gourd art and is still, to this day, excited to learn more, even though her true passion is sewing, everything from her own clothes to handbags and quilts.



An Adventurous Gourder:

Jessica started gourding by working on small projects at the gourd meetings. Her favorite mediums when working on gourds is anything untraditional, mediums not generally used on gourds. Jessica also likes scrapbooking and uses scrapbooking techniques and materials, such as embossing powders, grit paste, embellishments, and even metal or cardboard on gourds. She also likes to incorporate fiber arts in her pieces, such as weaving, knotless netting, twining. Given her adventurous nature, it is no surprise that Jessica is currently trying to figure out ways to incorporate quilting into her gourd art but hasn't quite sorted that out yet. "I enjoy trying new things that are not traditionally gourd art techniques or those that are not commonly used on gourds."



We look forward to seeing Jessica's "quilted gourd" in the future!

Health Issues:

In 2013, after a great many years of health issues, Jessica was finally diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis, an autoimmune disease that attacks the joints, soft tissue, and major organs. Then in 2015, she suffered a severe back condition requiring emergency surgery. Skip to 2022, Jessica has now had ten surgeries related to her back or R.A. and is now permanently disabled. "My health is something I struggle with every day, some days more than others."



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New Beginnings:

Jessica recently acquired a new puppy, Hazel, an intelligent, fun-loving, deeply devoted little furry girl. She is a service dog in training, and it takes years to become a fully trained service dog. Task training alone cannot be taught until the dog is 1.5-2 years. So, Jessica and Hazel have a way to go. But Hazel is a star and has shown both the desire to learn and the ability to alert Jessica when she's not feeling well or of something that is not quite right. "Alerting is not something that can be taught; it must be an innate ability. Since Hazel is a rescue, I got unbelievably lucky with her."

One day at a January patch meeting, Hazel proved her abilities when she alerted Jessica for the first time in public. "With so much going on and me not feeling good, she got a bit overwhelmed and very nervous, just like a child might know something is wrong with a parent."



Hazel and Jessica

Hazel will allow Jessica to be more independent and safer in her day-to-day life. Though still a puppy, and due to the pandemic and Jessica's disability, they could not go out and train in public as much as they would like. Training in public is crucial to Hazel's learning; gourd group meetings have helped them tremendously! "Being in a safe environment among trusted friends has given us both great practice and more confidence in our training. I want to thank everyone at the meetings for being so understanding and patient with us, especially when she gets a bit overwhelmed or acts like the puppy she is." "Everyone's continued help and support will ensure that in time Hazel will be the perfect service animal. I am excited for our future and the opportunities that will be possible because she is by my side."



Jessica Einboden



ElGourdo's Rambling

Greeting to you my fellow gourd lovers.

How often have we heard the question, "**what is a gourd**" whenever new people see one? Of course, we all give our best description of what we think a gourd is.

What would **YOU** say when asked to describe a gourd in one word – uh, ah, uh. Okay, that's a hard one; how about two words – uh, not any easier, is it. How about a one-sentence description of what a gourd might look like and what we use them for? Then, it hit me, POW, SHAZAAM, BOOM!!! **"A gourd is a Magnet!"**.

I know what you're thinking, "EG is missing a few marbles." Well, not so fast; Mr. Webster will tell you (after the iron steel and pole descriptions) a magnet is, **"a person or thing that attracts."** I like my definition, **"to pull or attract to"**, other verifications are "powerfully attractive, great personality, and so on." So, as Mr. Webster proved, there are many ways to look at it.

Remember your first introduction to gourds? We all experienced it, you remember - that moment when something pulled you to this hard-shelled curiosity, we lovingly call a Gourd. Remember the thrill of being shown the beautiful creations they became? Undoubtedly, the person's enthusiasm for introducing you to your first gourd pulled you further towards it. Then we meet others who feel the same and the pull is enhanced by sharing, caring, and doing! The magnetic force planted the seed, the sharing and enthusiasm nurtured it and encouraged us to grow and feed our excitement by completing a gourd art piece of our own. As I think about what was happening while being drawn to the gourd, I remember joy, fun, togetherness, and purpose. Soon after, I was compelled to share this with others as well. Remember all that? I know you do; most of us still bask in those memories, don't we?

During this horrid Covid period, many groups and gourd clubs have experienced shrinking numbers, fewer or no events, and for us gourders, in general, a lull in our gourd journeys. I know of at least one popular festival that has been put off a year, not for fear of covid but because they have too few worker bees to help make such an event successful. This seems to be happening everywhere!

Because of this, I am issuing a challenge to our gourd armies out there. As we grow wiser in avoiding this distracting annoyance known as Covid, we must find new ways to rebuild our numbers. It's time to recharge our magnets, people! Think back on what brought you/us into this gourd world. Learn from the patches that didn't shrink and make your/our get-togethers fun, safe and exciting.

And now that I think about it, there are many one-word descriptions surrounding the common gourd.

"Happiness, friendships, creativity, sharing, and pure joy!"

Now is a great time to bring others into the fold so they can experience the magnetic pull and the joys of gourding we have experienced. Let's all share in rebuilding our patches and keep the good, **GOURD**, times rolling.

March on Gourd soldiers, and I'll see you at Visalia!

ElGourdo, AKA EG





Patch Happenings ~ Happy to Be Meeting Up Again



~ Calabash's March 10th, Club Meeting ~ Demo given by – Kennie Winter

In every patch, club, or group, you will find members with varied backgrounds, different levels of ability and differing opinions in general and thank goodness for it. It would be a boring world if we agreed on everything and had the same opinions.

One thing's for sure, when it comes to meet-ups and enjoying the company of other gourd lovers, we are all on the same page! The common thread at Calabash's meeting was, ***"it's so great to see everyone in person, I missed this!"***.

We are social creatures and no matter our differences, we love talking over each other, sharing our latest creations and nibbles, and learning from one another.

At Calabash's March meeting Kennie Winter shared her love of accessorizing her gourd pieces with beautiful beads. Here are some examples of her work and Calabash members learning. Enjoy!



First things first, must get the club business out of the way. Then, on to the demo given by Kennie Winter, below.

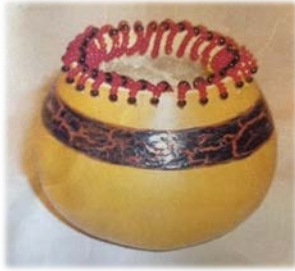


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Demo On Looped Beading – By Kennie Winter

1. Prepare gourd shard for small bowl, dye and seal.
2. Mark and drill holes 3/16" to 1/4" apart at least 3/16" down from edge with a 1/32" or similar tiny drill bit. The 26-to-28-gauge wire must go through comfortably.
3. Count the number of holes and multiply by 3/4". Cut wire to that length plus some extra. You don't want to add extra halfway through.
4. Tie a tiny bead at the end of the wire with a double knot.
5. Push the free end of the wire through the hole from the inside to the outside.
6. Thread on 7 to 10 beads (size #8 to #12) of your choice. You may create a pattern or just random. Try one loop to establish pattern and adjust size.
7. Loop wire over edge and stick in from back to front. Pulling snug. Pull gently and slowly to avoid kinking the wire. If your holes are farther from the edge, you may need more beads per loop.
8. Continue repeating until the last loop. Be sure to pull snug each time.
9. If on a bowl, pull the last loop to inside and through the inside of the first loop (with the starter bead). Feed through again and snip off tail, leaving about 1/2".
10. If on the straight edge, pull through inside of the last loop a couple of times to tie off.
11. Push tails against the wall of the gourd and place a drop of glue to help tie off.
12. ENJOY AND HAVE FUN WITH IT!



All samples made by Kennie Winter

~ Continued pg. 15

The Folsom Gourd Artists have been taking care of business to! Submitted by Janice Horner



< Some of the Folsom members making tiles for a shadow box for the CGS Fundraiser at Gourds and Baskets Conference in Visalia. (See page 18 for more details)



Members drilling holes in egg gourds supplied by Sylvia Nelson and the late Barbara Rippitoe. These are for the make and take being held at the San Francisco Flower Show at the Alameda Fairgrounds in April. (see page 15 for more detail) >

Fun Times!

We'd love to report your patch happenings in the Golden Gourd! Share what's happening; ask your patch leaders to let us know what you and your gourd club have been up to. Take photos of your meeting and get-togethers and we will share it in the newsletter. 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.

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

Up Coming Events



San Francisco Bay Area Flower and Garden Show

CGS will have a booth at this show, with members from different patches working it. Those who participate and or demo in the booth are eligible to sell their gourds there. This show is visited by thousands and a great opportunity for us to educate on gourds and recruit new members. If you would like to participate, please contact your patch president or Marilyn Phelps at pres@californiagourdsociety.com.

You can browse a wide selection of specialty shops featuring unique flowers, plant gifts, tools, and more. Lots to learn in the gardening field. Fun for the whole family. Check it out at www.norcalgardenshow.com

When:
APRIL 7-10, 2022

Where:
Alameda County Fairgrounds
4501 Pleasanton Avenue
Entry: Valley Ave. Gate 8 or Gate 12
Pleasanton, CA 94566

Hours:
Thursday - 10 am - 6 pm
Friday - 10 am - 7 pm
Saturday - 10 am - 7 pm
Sunday - 10 am - 6 pm

Please note - This is the information we were given at the time of publishing. As with everything these days, all is subject to change based on pandemic condition and rules for California.

~ Continue pg. 17

Wood Carving & Gourd Show ~ Competition

CAPITAL WOODCRAFTERS' ASSOCIATION 2022 WOODCARVING & GOURD SHOW AND COMPETITION MAY 21st and 22nd, 2022 Scottish Rite Center – Sacramento, Ca

Highlights

- **Categories:** Coiling, Gourd Jewelry, Burned, Painted, Carved, Filigree and Distinctly Different. (Limit two items per category)
- **Judging Divisions:** Novice, Advanced and Expert
- **Deadline for entries:** by May 10th (not confirmed)
- **Hourly Door Prizes** Included with Admission, Grand Raffle Prizes
- **Fine Wood and Gourd Art** for sale, Silent Auction, Artisan Products for Sale, Supplies for Sale: Tools, Wood, Gourds & Books
- **Demonstrations:** Woodcarving Techniques, Soap Carving, Gourd Art Techniques and Burning demonstration, (**carving** demos can only be done outside)

This show is still finalizing details. They will be updating their website and Facebook once they do. If the site has not been updated at the time of your visit, keep checking back or contact our liaison for the show, CGS V.P. Janice Horner at: designsbyjliz@gmail.com if you have questions.

Note: this is not a CGS sponsored competition and therefore may have different rules. Again, check with them before entering.

California State Fair

Crafts Competition – GOURDS: Division #112. All California residents, 18 and over, are eligible to enter the Craft Competition and showcase their crafts. Entry Fee: 20.00 per item.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Dates have not been confirmed and are subject to change.

June 12th – Accepted Artwork Is Announced

June 27th – Hand Deliver Your Artwork - 9AM - 5PM

June 27th – Shipped Artwork Accepted Until 5PM

July 25th – Awards Ceremony

August 8th – Pick Up Your Artwork 9AM – 5PM

(Note: The CA STATE FAIR website competition/crafts page is closed and still says 2020. They have yet to update their site. However, the information there is still relevant to 2022.)

Division 112: Gourds

Class 1 - Pyrography Class 2 - Painted/Colored
Class 3 - Carved/Filigree Class 4 - Coiling
Class 5 - Other Gourd Art

Notes and Special Rules for Division 112:

a. **Class 5:** includes but is not limited to embellished, mixed media, masks, etc.



Gourd by Joyce Campbell

It's Finally Here – After a Two-Year Wait the CGS 2022 Fundraiser Raffle!

**Held During the Containers and Gourds Conference at the
Elks Lodge in Visalia, April 22nd – 24th 2022**

Don't forget, CGS will be holding its fundraiser raffle on Saturday the 23rd at the **Basket and Gourds, Containers of Our Culture** event's dinner. The beautiful **Tiled Gourd Art** pieces made by California's patches will be the raffle prizes. **See page 19** for more details or go to our CGS events page. <https://www.californiagourdsociety.com/events>

We still have raffle tickets available. They will also be sold at the event. Contact your patch leader regarding purchasing tickets. All proceeds benefit the statewide educational outreach of CGS and its members.

San Diego County Gourd Artists



Calabash Patch



Amador



~ Continue pg. 19

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.

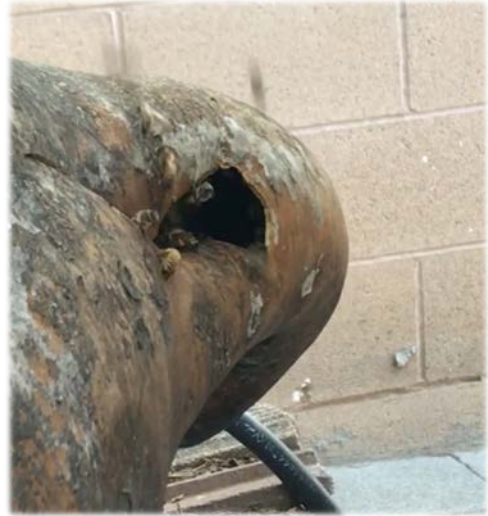
All A Buzz in The Garden

By Olive Moore

One afternoon this past summer, our gardener asked if we knew there was a swarm of bees out in the back of Art's garage where I store my larger gourds. We had no idea since I hadn't been out there for some time. Sure enough, I found a large gourd that had a hole in it near the top about two inches in diameter and the honeybees were very busy going in and out.

I know we need our honeybees and would never think of exterminating them, but honestly, I really don't want them taking up residence in our yard. I have always had a deep respect (or putting it another way – FEAR) for them and have really freaked out a time or two in their presence.

Fortunately, we have friends who have had beehives on their property for several years and they were the first ones we called. "Hey, Colleen and James, how would you like a large gourd full of bees?" To our surprise, they were delighted. They had experienced some issues with one of their hives and the bees had vacated. They could hardly wait to come and see what we had. I expected them to show up with all their bee gear that looks like a hazmat suit, but they insisted they didn't need it.



We waited until dusk when the bees had all settled into the gourd for the night, and they *gently* lifted it off the table and put it in a large black trash bag. The buzzing began immediately, and you could tell they were not happy bees!

~ Continue pg. 21

The following day they put some lemongrass in the empty hive and cut the gourd open. Within a short time, the queen bee made her way to the hive and all the other bees followed. I guess they are attracted to lemongrass because it worked. I couldn't believe how much honeycomb was in that gourd.



It was definitely a win-win situation. We were so glad to be rid of the bees and our friends were just as happy to have them and a jar of honey is forthcoming!



CGS Members Participate at Wuertz

By Olive Moore

While attending the 2022 Wuertz Festival in February I saw so many familiar faces that I know from California. CGS was well represented. Most every class I peeked in on I saw friends from California. Some CGS members were even teachers. I taught classes as did Robin Bryson and Grace Swanson. There were others who live in California that taught but not CGS members.

I went through the competition building specifically to take note of any entries from CGS members. Sue Fuller entered in the Masters Division and won a 2nd place ribbon. The only other current member that I saw was Deborah Baum-Lish. She entered in the Advanced Division and won two 1st place ribbons. Deborah has moved to Arizona but maintains her CGS membership. There were a couple of other past members who entered but now live in Arizona and have not continued their CGS membership.

Congratulations to Sue and Deborah!



CGS Members Stand Out in the AGS Magazine

Judging continued

or be included with weaving, terrific and/or luminescent and braiding. Other techniques are normally allowed, but should access but not overpower the coiling, but in all cases, the gourd must be visible. Entrants should carefully read the entry guidelines and rules to be disqualified and judges should read them too to be consistent and fair.

What is the Process for Moving or Disqualifying an Entry?

- No moving or disqualification can be made without the knowledge and agreement of the Head Judge.
- Checks at Registration Table may ask Head Judge about moving an entry they question.
- Judging Team may recommend moving an entry that does not meet category description. Head Judge makes final decision.
- Category that received the moved piece would be re-final decision.
- The Head Judge may disqualify an entry that cannot be judged.
- The Head Judge will notify the entrant of the move or disqualification as soon as practical.

Reminder: Dominance is the first criteria that an entry will be judged by when you present it for a competition. You select the category, but be advised that if you place it in a coiling or weaving category and it is not the dominant technique it will be moved to the appropriate category or disqualified. Here's an example. The gourd is clearly dominated with a pyrographic design and bowl is clearly dominated with a ruffa finishing technique but the coiling on the rim is a nice finishing technique but not the focal point. It will be moved to the pyrography category. However, disqualification occurs when the entrant already has a gourd in the category where it should be moved to. The only possible exception is when the show permits entrants to submit multiple gourds in a category.

So, what are Judges looking for in the Coiling category?

The Gourd

- Are the holes dyed to match the gourd's color? They should not be white.
- Is the spacing between the holes uniform? It should be, unless it is a specific part of a pattern.

Stitching

- Are the stitches placed uniformly/evenly spaced?
- Is the stitching/wrapping of the coil neat? Are threads overlapped?
- Are the stitches tight? They should not be able to be moved.
- What is the complexity of stitches? Complexity should be recognized.
- Is the stitching on the inside as neat as that on the outside?
- If stitches were added or decreased, was it spaced evenly?
- Are knots visible? They should be hidden.
- Are knots visible? They should be hidden.

Stitching Material

Note: As long as the stitching is neat, it should not matter what leader material is used.

- Do you see scuff marks on the gourd surface from wood linen due to excess wax? (It should have been removed with the use of a hair dryer)
- Was the ruffa split so that the size of the weaver is consistent?
- Has the artificial sinew weaver split or are there feathers or thin threads on the sides?

Fasciae (pine needles with tips)

- Is the design using the fasciae (tips) consistent?
- Is the length of fasciae (tips) consistent?
- Are the fasciae on the side of the coil so that they can be seen? (Fasciae should not be hidden on the top of the coils) * Note: These points do not apply to pine needle coiling without tips

Coils

- Are the coils uniform in diameter?
- Are the pine needles in the coil twisted? They should not be twisted.

Coiled Coil

- Is the core of coil visible in a closed coil? (It should not be)
- If a pattern is used for the closed coil design, is it consistent?
- Is the wrapping of the coil neat and consistent? (The wrapping material should not overlap itself)

Scoring Criteria

With all of the factors presented above that are to be taken into consideration how does it translate into the AGS Scoring Criteria. Originality of design differentiates

Coiled Coil

- Are the ends of pine needles (without tips) sticking out of the coil? They should not, unless it is part of the design.
- Pine needle handle should be able to be held and followed coil? It should be.
- Is the beginning of the coil hidden or covered with the including pine needles, should be feathered tapered so it does not suddenly stop.
- Is the ending of coil sharp? It should not be. The coil should not suddenly stop.

Coiled Coil

- Is the core of coil visible in a closed coil? (It should not be)
- If a pattern is used for the closed coil design, is it consistent?
- Is the wrapping of the coil neat and consistent? (The wrapping material should not overlap itself)

Scoring Criteria

With all of the factors presented above that are to be taken into consideration how does it translate into the AGS Scoring Criteria. Originality of design differentiates

between those based on patterns and/or created in a class or from a tutorial from those that were designed by the entrant. Craftsmanship is the details covered above. Things like attention to detail for the stitching, flow, it is even, neat and has a finished appearance. Color, finish, aesthetics & decorations is how well the Coiling & activity is the Work factor and overall appeal. The gourd shape, color, embellishments that add to the something but do not become the feature or take away from the coiling, in this case. Finally, adaptability for category is referring to what was mentioned at the beginning. A nice rim treatment to almost any gourd is desirable to give it that finished look. BUT in this category the coiling should predominate.

What is the main difference when judging coiling entries in the Novice, Intermediate and Advanced divisions? It is in the Craftsmanship. As the entrants advance from one division to the next, so too is the expectation that the amount of complexity. Entries are properly separated into these divisions so entries are judged among those of similar degrees of prior experience.

Conclusion

Many of these guidelines will apply to other techniques, such as pyrography, carving and painting. It may seem redundant but repetition will lead to a better understanding and a consistent application of these judging guidelines. Focus on the originality, quality of craftsmanship and overall impact of design of your entries.

One last word. Take the time to enter your gourd art in the proper category and at the appropriate level. Don't be afraid to enter at the higher level if you are on the cusp of two levels. Challenge yourself. Recognize that you are likely to be more accomplished than you give yourself credit for!

Toni Best

Toni Best

Manipulated Gourd Crafting Contest

by Tony Narel, Contest Coordinator

The manipulated gourd contest theme for this Spring 2022 issue was "Manipulated Gourd – Floral Containers." The category was broad... involved the incorporation of a manipulated gourd in the creation of a container for plants, cut flowers or a dried floral arrangement! Thank you to all who participated in the challenge. And those who thought about it – give it a try, because these contests are fun.

The judges tell me it isn't an easy decision because the entries are unique, clever and well-executed. For all contests, originality, creativity as well as appropriateness to the category, skill and overall craftsmanship will be considered when judging each entry. All contestants and judges should remember that the entries are judged by the ART i.e., workmanship & originality/creativity, not the manipulation.

1st place: Our 1st place winner for this contest was Cecile Garrison, from Visalia, California. She is not only a fan of growing and manipulating gourds but she is a cheerleader for everything gourds. Cecile hosts gourd instructors to teach any number of classes at her workshop. The gourds in her entry were grown together – all three were on the same vine which made it an easy decision to intentionally loop them together as they grew. Cecile called this arrangement "Happy Valentine's Day." She carved a hole in the back and inserted floral tubes to provide water for the roses. A hanger is on the back of the largest gourd for this wall hanging. Metallic Silver textured paint was chosen to be the perfect backdrop for the blood red roses and this wall sculpture.

Christy Tsai, our 2nd place winner, is from Saratoga, California. She is an active member of the Calabash Club, CA. "I grew and manipulated this gourd a long, long time ago. Until now I had not figured out what to do with it until the "stay at home" orders were instituted for COVID. Using this gourd as a container for my ancestral family seem to be a good match. Our judges agreed. Christy titled this piece: Longing.

Christy Tsai

Cecile Garrison



2nd place Christy Tsai, Saratoga, CA
Cecile Shoneyfelt of Old Fort Tennessee is our 3rd place winner. Cecile manipulated and decorated this gourd using alcohol inks applied with a sea sponge. The glass insert will permit the arrangement to go from dried flowers to cut flowers as the seasons change.

~ Golden Gourd Editor's Note ~



The theme flowing through this Spring newsletter of 2022 is new beginnings, rejuvenating, start over, and being positive, which is quintessential Spring.

The word Spring means:

~ Verb: Move or jump suddenly or rapidly upward or forward. Like, leap, jump, bound, vault, hop, etc.

~ Noun: Originate or arise from, like Springtime, Eastertide, Springtide.

The season after winter and before summer, in which vegetation begins to appear, in the northern hemisphere from March to May and in the southern hemisphere from September to November.

At times, we can feel a bit overwhelmed by current events happening in our world and what we've experienced the last two years. Then, when you factor in the day-to-day wows we sometimes experience, and well, things can get a bit daunting.

Personally, when I start feeling overwhelmed, or more recently, extremely sadden by the loss of a beloved pet, I feel those worldly events more intensely. That's when I turn to art and actively create to get out of the funk I'm in. "Positivity through Creativity." Whether it's sketching in a book, drawing in Procreate (see above gourd and flowers and below sketch of Bella), designing a gourd, or laying out and writing a newsletter, all are ways to be creative. Working in the garden, laying out planting beds, and organizing flowerpots are also ways to create. That brings me back to Spring. Spring, or springtime, when used as a noun, means to "rise-up" to start anew, to create!

This year, there are many opportunities on the calendar to get out and meet up with others, to raise our game. Help with the make and takes, give a demo, take classes, or enter a competition and be creative; one can't help but be positive and feel better about things. It works for me, and it could work for you too if you are feeling down.

We are human, and as such, it is in our nature to "Spring back" from our troubles to rise-up. It's springtime, people, time to get those gourds dusted off and tools tuned up, and let's start getting creative.

"Positivity through Creativity!"

***In loving
memory
of my Bella
Girl. She
made every
day new,
spring like,
and
positive!***





**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:

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 1½ by 2½ in - \$5 (CGS members only)

CGS Competitions (if no revenue is earned) - Free

Publishing Dates & Deadlines:

Spring Issue

- Deadline for Articles/Ads **Feb. 15th.**

- GG emailed **Mar. 20th**

Summer Issue

- Deadline for Articles/Ads **May 15th.**

- GG emailed **Jun. 20th**

Fall Issue:

- Deadline for Articles/Ads **Aug. 15th.**

- GG emailed **Sept. 20th**

Winter Issue:

- Deadline for Articles/Ads **Nov. 15th.**

- GG emailed **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:

cgsnewslettereditor@gmail.com *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.

Baskets and Gourds

April 23-24, 2022



**CREATE
BASKET OR GOURD ART
IN JUST ONE DAY
CONTAINERS OF OUR CULTURE VIII**

To register for a class, call: Toni Best - 559.627.5430
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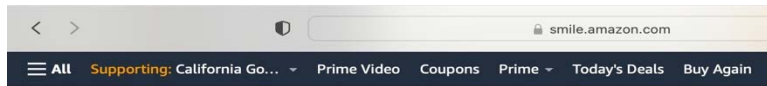


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September 9, 10 & 11

Gourds, Fine Art & Fine Crafts

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Submit your application before **April 15th**.

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Gourd Scribe

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