

# THE GOLDEN GOURD

The Newsletter of the California Chapter of the American Gourd Society

Welcome to our winter edition of the Golden Gourd. This is also our Gourd Ornament Parade edition. A big thank you to those who sent photos of their ornaments. They are much appreciated and so much fun to look at. So, let's get started!



It's our Ornament Parade Issue and here is a quick peek at a few. The parade starts on page 8.



*Smruti Kurse*

*Sylvia Nelson*



*Toni Best*

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## President's Message



New Year is almost here!

There is much to look forward to in 2023. Planning for festivals, competitions, and the CGS retreat is getting closer to name a few. I'm ready!

In the past year a couple of our Northern California patches worked together on 7 – 3' by 4' trifold story boards on the "History of Gourds." The boards display pictures and writings on types of hard gourds, shapes, sizes, and historical uses across the world. There is also a write up about Jim Story. The history was originally researched by the late Barbara Rippetoe and displayed at the State Fair for several years. After Barbara passed, they were donated to the Folsom Gourd Artists. Kim Powell from Amador Gourd Artists volunteered to put the information on the trifolds for display at a gourd event. Since then, the trifolds have been displayed at a regional flower show and a gourd artists' open studio tour. They are going to be utilized soon at a Christmas show, two art shows and a garden club talk. The gourd history attracts a lot of attention at these events.

Thank you to the organizers, judges, and helpers for the two well organized sanctioned competitions in 2022. There were many wonderful submissions and a good showing of beginners. Let's keep encouraging our newest members to participate.

I'm submitting a picture of our VP Janice Horner talking at a meeting of the Capital Woodcarvers in Sacramento. I was fortunate to attend and encourage Janice, but she doesn't need it. She is passionate about gourds.

Finally, I would love to hear from any of you what you love most about being a member of the California Gourd Society. Email me at [mphelps10@gmail.com](mailto:mphelps10@gmail.com).



*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](mailto:Libbi_salvo@yahoo.com)

**Golden Gourd Editor**  
**Lisa Baurmeister:**  
[cgsnewslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:cgsnewslettereditor@gmail.com)

**Northern Region**  
**Jody Dingivan:**  
[adollplace@hotmail.com](mailto:adollplace@hotmail.com)



## Featured Artist Profile



Our featured artist for this quarter is **Bill Wilson** of the Folsom Gourd Artists.

By Lisa Baurmeister

Contrary to what some might believe, we do have a sprinkle of male gourd artists. They are a rare species, but they do exist. Our gourd artist for this winter is the very talented Bill Wilson and some of his story should sound familiar.

As with many of us gourders, our first introduction to gourds is seeing them at a festival or a booth at a fair. Bill's experience was no different. "I was invited to a gourd festival in 2002 and was fascinated by all the different techniques that could be used on gourds. I picked up a few gourds and started playing. A year later I had 50 gourds sitting in my house. So, I either had to stop or get good enough to pass them on." We all can relate, can't we?

Bill's previous career was in teaching, he says nothing prepared him for gourd art. However, he had been taking a few classes and workshops in drawing, watercolor, pastel, and woodcarving. In 2004 Bill joined Folsom Gourd Artists, the California Gourd Society and American Gourd Society. He enjoys the club's monthly gourd meetings because they almost always have a class or demonstration. He has also been learning through books and has taken classes from several of our fine expert gourd artists. He credits his success with a lot of practice.



In the beginning Bill used a wide variety of techniques for coloring gourds. He finally settled on just a few, mostly ink dyes and transparent acrylics. He also uses acrylic paints, Inktense pencils, metal leafing and likes to carve.

When asked if he has a particular style Bill's reply was, "I tend to use a high gloss finish on all my pieces except for the carved or texture areas. I do have several motifs I repeat frequently including Autumn leaves, hibiscus, dogwoods, sunflowers, holly, and poinsettias for Christmas, and Zentangle patterns. However, Autumn leaves is my signature theme."

Bill's favorite technique is to cut out Black Oak leaves, "I love carving while maintaining the integrity of the gourd. And I love making the spines on the edges of the leaves as sharp as possible."



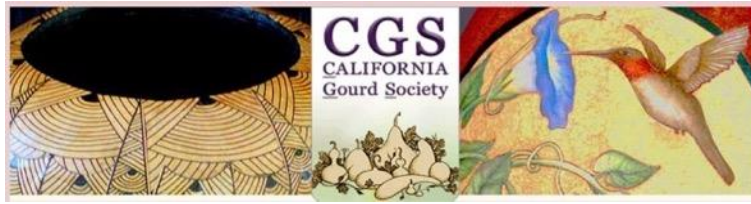
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**Here are more beautiful pieces from Bill!**



**Thank you for your beautiful work, Bill!**





## 2022 CGS Board of Directors and Beyond

### CGS Board of Directors

**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

**Director Of Membership**  
– Debbie Zimmermann  
Term 2022 – January 2024

**Ambassador at Large #1**  
– Susan Gouig  
Term 2022 – January 2024

**Ambassador at Large #2**  
– Debra Zimmerman  
Term 2021 – January 2023

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

**Director of Southern Regional Groups** – Libbi Salvo  
Term 2021 – January 2023

### Beyond the Board

**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 Mary Hufft and Colleen Ballard,  
NORCAL

**YouTube Channel Coordinator**  
- Debra Zimmerman

*thank you volunteers*



## CGS Gourd Blossom Retreat 2023



**June 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> with a stay over option for the 19<sup>th</sup>.**

If you've not signed up for this fun, relaxing, and all-around good time retreat, what are you waiting for? There are over 50 confirmed attendees and space is limited.

There will be raffles, take-away bags full of fun items and projects, demos, and many opportunities to learn, share, and have fun with like-minded people. You get all that and you are fed and watered! What more can you ask for; no stress of having to drive home after an event and think about what's for dinner!

For more information go to the CGS Website's [Gourd Blossom Retreat](#) page. You can also contact:

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

Contact **Mary Bliss**, Retreat  
Reservations Coordinator for  
reservation information  
at **webmaster@californiagourd  
society.com**



IT'S OUR ANNUAL

# Gourd Ornament Parade

Feast your eyes on all these beauties!



Toni Best



Carolyn Medlin



Dawnelle Sauve



Cathy Warrick



Kennie Winter



Devon Day



Grace Swanson



~ Continue pg. 9



Maria Davis



Olive Moore



Kennie Winter



Michele Smith

Lisa Baurmeister



Devon Day

Olive Moore



Iris Gach



Maria Davis



Elise Cogswell



~ Continue pg. 10





Michele Smith



Grace Swanson



Carolyn Medlin



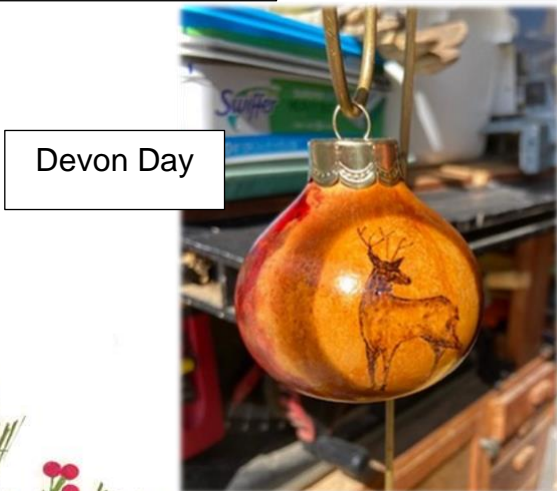
Olive Moore



Toni Best



Lisa Baurmeister



Devon Day



Smruti Kurse

~ Continue pg. 11



Carolyn Medlin



Grace Swanson



Devon Day



Toni Best

Smruti Kurse



Elise Cogswell



Lisa Baurmeister



Carolyn Medlin





## *ElGourdo's Rambling*

Greetings, salutations, happiest of coming holidays. May the Blue Bird of Happiness start your day full of sunshine and cheer. Tis the season after all: You all deserve the very best.

CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS? If my math is right this is my 16th edition of El Gourdo Ramblings. It all started with my Southern Cal and Northern Cal mentors, Betty Finch and Sylvia Nelson, who in idle conversation encouraged me to write an article for the GG. (Golden Gourd). Being like many of my artist friends, a needy and somewhat insecure person, I decided to give it a try (anonymously of course). So, at the end of four years what have I learned during this fun journey?

My first two associates were the amazing Mary Bliss and Olive Moore. Their patience and kindness warm me to this very day and I'm sure will for as long as my brain works. My old motto was: "I would have written you a short letter but didn't have time to." Seems to have been a saying with Mark Twain and a few others as well; of this Sylvia reminded me. My first set of mentors sweetly suggested something that took up less space in the newsletter would be nice. This person (me) who can't say good morning in less than half a page kinda got the message and struggled with moderate success. Things went pretty well with their kind tutoring and then it was time for a change. After having earned their time for a break, a new regime began. In came Lisa who picked up the ball and didn't miss a beat. With a solid foundation to build on the publication continued its upward trend. "Golly Gee, EG, do you think we can get this down to 500 words?" That was the most humorous thing I heard for a while until I realized I was the only one laughing. That needy, insecure fear temporarily took over with my naturally curly hair straightening out. After regaining my composure and naturally curly hair, I saw the light. So my new mantra is 500 words, no more no less. By now you are wondering: "Why is this so long? Where are the 'gourdy' words?" Perfect timing readers.

Let us carry this ideology over to our gourd craft. Editing! At times less is often more. I've found that "editing" works in so many aspects of my life. It usually takes only a brief step back and a quick reevaluation to get on the right path again.

Folks - something just dawned on me. It's the holiday season and it seems I have lost some credibility after all these years. Some years ago, I promised to reveal my anonymous identity for those few of you who haven't guessed it by now. So, my apologies and here we go.

My name is \_ \_ \_

BEEP, BEEP, WARNING! THE EG ARTICLE HAS EXCEEDED EG'S SELF-IMPOSED 500-WORD MAXIMUM. WARNING! WARNING! - TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND THANK YOU.

*ElGourdo, AKA EG*



## ~ Patch Happenings ~

### Calabash Club Update *By: Lisa Baurmeister*

Calabash held their Potluck Holiday party on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Before chowing down, they had a short meeting, discussing the past year, and their goals for 2023 which include some community outreach presentations already on the calendar. With full bellies they got down to the White Elephant Ornament exchange which put smiles on everyone's face.



From L to R, Diane Guerin, Pam Eckert, Sugi Karuppiah, Alice Caperton, Smruti Kurse, Susan Nye, Bill Knowles



Club President, Sugi Karuppiah

From L to R, Bill Knowles, Pam Eckert, Virginia Knowles, Cathy Warrick, Kennie Winter, Iris Gach



Kennie Winter admiring Diane Guerin's ornament pick.



Some of the ornaments at home on our club tree.

~ Continue pg. 14



## Ventura County Gourd Artists Update

*Designed by Evy Eisele, VCGA President*

A bit of show and tell from the talented Ventura County Gourd Artists! First published in the Ventura County Newsletter in Nov.



~ Continue pg. 15



### San Diego County Gourd Artists Update

San Diego County also got into the holiday spirit and can be seen here at their Christmas party, showing off their Christmas Ornament. *(Photos by Stacy Day)*



Olive Moore



Vickie Hunga-Murphy



Elaine Linton



Sherry Hunga-Moore



Stacy Day

*Merry Christmas*



Christina Chrivia



You can send your info to your patch leader, Regional Directors Libbi Salvo, [libbi\\_salvo@yahoo.com](mailto:libbi_salvo@yahoo.com) or Jody Dingivan, [adollplace@hotmail.com](mailto:adollplace@hotmail.com) or to me Lisa Baurmeister: [cgsnewslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:cgsnewslettereditor@gmail.com).

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

## ~ Golden Gourd Editor's Take ~

**The most wonderful time of the year, and the busiest.**

I just love the holiday season; and if you think about it, they really start in the fall. We run around enjoying the crisp weather and a bit of changing leaves. We carve on pumpkins and give out sweets to children in costumes. We bake pies and yummy casseroles all while trying to figure out who will be hosting Thanksgiving. Before you know it, you are bouncing around the web looking for the best Black Friday deals and again trying to figure out who will be hosting the Christmas Eve family get together. Then it's wrapping gifts and more cooking and baking.



But for some of us gourd artists it's also time to dust off the tables, shelves, and chairs, count and tag our inventory and find a puppy sitter for the new pup, or at least in my case it is. It's the holiday fair season and I participate in two along with other gourd artists: one sponsored by a church and the other a juried cooperative. They are very different, and both have their pros and cons. But all that aside, they are fun; it's fun to meet people and talk gourds. It's a blast when they say, "I was hoping you'd be here, I purchased an ornament from you before and want another," It's the best, but it also can be stressful and is a lot of work. It's really bringing to life the "It's a labor of love," quote! Throw in a couple of newsletters and you have yourself a very packed December, and I love it. I can always manage things better, but I love it.



As I contemplate 2023, I look forward to seeing more of your amazing work and being able to share your beautiful photos with the rest of California. It's my pleasure to write about your gourd stories and hopefully inspire you all to go out and make more gourd art!  
Cheers, Lisa

*Wishing you all the best for a happy and healthy holiday and wonderful 2023!*



Part of my Angels Around the World ornament series



## ***Don't forget to renew your CGS Membership!***

***Read below to learn more about CGS and the benefits of being a CGS Member!***

***A membership is a great way to share the joy of gourds with loved ones and friends!***



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

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

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

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

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

**<https://www.california gourdsociety.com/membership-form-mail-in>**

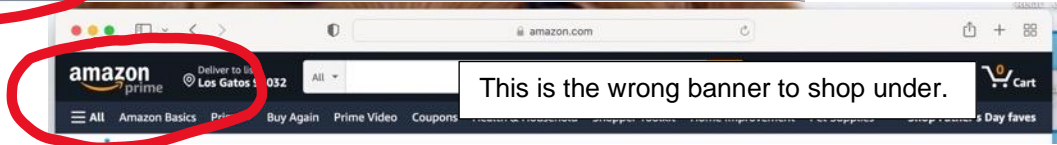
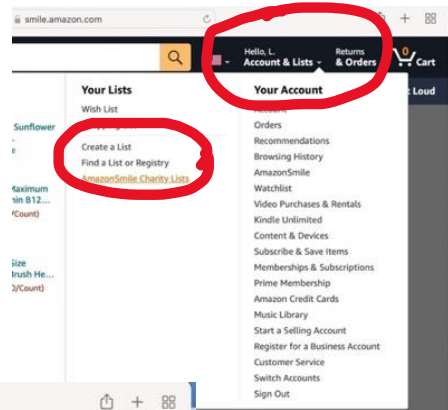


## Here's a Way You Can Support CGS

When you shop amazon, shop "smile.amazon.com"

If you shop on Amazon, there's no easier way to give back and support CGS than to shop AmazonSmile. The difference is, by starting your shopping on smile.amazon.com you can support the CGS. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your purchases to the charitable organization you choose to support!

How do you know you are on the right site, shopping using Amazon Smile? Look to the left corner of the tool bar and it should say amazon smile – supporting: California Gourd Society.



*Lisa Baurmeister  
Fine Art Gourds  
www.lisabaurmeister.com*

*You can also find me on etsy at,  
www.etsy.com/shop/LBfineartgourds*

*I am now taking commissions for 2023. email me at lisabaurmeister@gmail.com*



# Blue Whale Arts

Gourd, Basket, Art Tools and Supplies



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Gourd Scribe



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"Best customer service EVER!" Kathy Kelley



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