



The Newsletter of the California Chapter of the American Gourd Society



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President's Message



Happy Holidays!

I have been settling into my new home in Sun City Roseville. It is a 55+ community with over 3100 homes. I played in a bocce league this past fall and I'm learning how to play pickleball.

I walk 3 miles a day with the walking group. They have a club here called "Boomers" that I have joined, and they have get-togethers frequently. Recently I joined the Creative Arts Club and plan to learn how to do pottery. The Vice President of the club is interested in gourds so that may be another opportunity for our cause.

Recently, I had some improvements made to the inside my home; the flooring contractor was enamored with the decorated gourds displayed throughout and he shared a story from his childhood with me. I'd like to share it with you.

*He grew up in a farming community in Mexico and worked in the fields.
He was envious of the men working next to him who had gourd water jugs
that they hand crafted and used daily in the fields. He wanted one of those
jugs and told me this was a good memory from those days.
I was so pleased he shared it with me.*

I have made my reservations for the last Baskets and Gourds event in April. This is another opportunity for the north and south to get together and share our creative juices. I hope to see many of you there.



Your President,
Marilyn Phelps

CGS ~ Mission Statement



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

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 Southern Gourd Competition

By Olive Moore and Debbie Zimmerman

2023 Competition Attracts Exceptional Artists, Greatest-ever Number of Entries

The California Gourd Society Southern California Competition hosted by the Orange County Gourd Society on October 21st had a record-setting 111 entries ranging from novel and creative to artistic and highly skilled pieces.

For the first time since the pandemic, the patch hosted a reception for the artists, their families and CGS members to see the show in person. A video of the show will be available soon on the [CGS YouTube channel](#).

JaVae Ferrier, an advanced gourd artist, won the Best of Show for a beautiful piece of gold-leafed gingko leaves mixed with pyrography and decoupage art paper. JaVae was inspired to start gourd 30 years ago when she saw an article in a magazine that had a plain gourd with simple wood burning. She went on to find an Orange County Gourd Society meeting in a Tandy Leather store then attended a festival at the Welburn Gourd Farm and was hooked. In her artwork, JaVae draws on the Arts and Crafts esthetic, Asian influences and organic materials and colors. JaVae, who rescues greyhounds, also incorporates their portraits into her gourds, along with Salukis and Rhodesian Ridgebacks. Congratulations JaVae!

Other highlights from this year's competition:

- Robin Bryson won Masters Best of Division for her large, impressive piece titled "Warrior," which featured a pyrographed and carved image of a Native American with an arrow through the top of the gourd.
- Linda Allen won first place in the Advanced carving category for the gourd she created to honor our late friend, teacher, and head judge Jack Thorp, who passed away in September. Her entry included highly detailed filigree, which was one of Jack's special interests. The upcoming YouTube video will include an interview with Linda about how she created the piece.
- Evy Eisele won Intermediate Best of Division for a wood-burned and colored sunflower and raven design that was created for a stained-glass challenge.
- Molly Moore, a Novice, won Best of Division for a playfully painted snake, created for a "funny looking gourd" patch challenge, which required participants to make something from unusually shaped gourds.



The 2023 competition was well-attended, and we would like to thank everyone who assisted with setting up, judging, and taking down, as well as all the artists, who helped make the show a great success. We are looking forward to 2024!

~ Continue pg. 5

BEST OF SHOW WINNER



JaVae Ferrier, Advanced

Robin Bryson, Best of Division, Masters



Evy Eisele, Best of Division, Intermediate



Molly Moore, Best of Division, Novice

~ Continue pg. 6

First Published by Sherry Hunga Moore and Stacy Day in the SDCGA October Newsletter



CGS Northern Gourd Competition Winners

By Marylyn Phelps, CGS President



Folsom Competition judges and clerks, left to right top row - Marilyn Phelps (Folsom), Sylvia Nelson (Folsom and Amador), Sharolyn Bullock (Amador), Aaron Bullock (Amador), Marilyn Carrico (Folsom). Bottom row left to right - Colleen Ballard (Folsom), Carol Des Voigne (Folsom), Mary Huft (Folsom). Colleen and Mary are the head judges. Missing from Judges photos, Susan Deguara



Barbara Banholzer, Folsom, Best of Division, Intermediate, and Judges Choice



Kim Powell, First place, Advanced, Best of Division



Janice Horner, First place, Masters and Judges Choice

~ Continue pg. 7



Heather Hopman, "People's Choice" Winner!



Newcomer Mera Datta, Folsom,
First place, Novice, Best of Division



Non CGS member, Gene Kelly, First place



Aaron Bullock, Second Place, Advanced



Bill Willson, First Place, Masters





~ Featured Artist ~

Chris Crady, Folsom Gourd Artist

Written by Janice Horner and Marilyn Phelps



Chris's interest in Gourd Art started when she saw some gourds a friend made when she took a class through Parks and Recreation. Chris loved the thought of working with gourds so much that her friend taught her what she knew. They then went to Zittle's and picked out some gourds that her friend taught her to clean. At that time, Chris had no tools or gourd dyes, so she used Sharpies and acrylics and made crafty art on the gourds. She heard about a Gourd Festival in Folsom and went. She could not believe how other people used gourds as their art medium. Chris was hooked and wanted to pursue this unique art form further.



One day, she saw a "Woodburning" class offered at Woodcraft in Rancho Cordova. She brought her \$6.00 wood burner to the class and could not burn anything! Then the instructor educated her on professional burners, and she bought a Detail Master on the spot! She now uses a "Razertip". She learned about Leisure Farms in Knights Landing where she bought a few more gourds (she says more like 10)! Chris knew she needed a carving tool, but as it was not in her budget, she did what she could with what she had. Then, on her birthday, her husband surprised her with a "Dremel" carver and flex shaft. Her first carved gourd was a bird painted using furniture stain. That year, Leiser Farms was having a gourd festival, where she met Maria Dellos, who introduced her to Maria's dyes and finishes. The rest is History.

Chris has never had formal art training but has always been a "Crafter." She learned to paint at "Paint and Sip" events and has taken classes with Bonnie Gibson, Vickie Echols, and Joyce Campbell.

Chris's color medium of choice is gourd dyes because they do not dry fast, and with the help of Joyce Campbell, she learned how to make alcohol dyes. She still uses acrylic paints on her gourds when she wants those specific effects and coverage. As a Folsom member, Chris enjoys the "show and tell" portion of the gourd meetings and feels they are essential for new and experienced artists. Like many gourd artists, Chris gets inspiration by trying new things. "I believe that teaching members a project at the club meeting is a very valuable part of the meeting." "The little projects we do in our meetings build a base of skills for artist."



~ Continue pg. 10

Her style is “Make it as you go”; and says it’s maybe not the best way to do art, but most of her gourds start out with plan “A” art drawn on it. Then, as she moves along creating, it may turn into “Plan B”. Her favorite thing with gourds is the variety of mediums one can use on a gourd. Not being fond of repetition, Chris says she would be “Out of her gourd” if she had to make 20 of one item.

She liked the name of the Folsom 2021 Festival titled, “Visions of Gourds”, and feels it sums up what gourd art is all about. “My vision, My Creation” and thinks there are “No Limits in Gourd Art”.

Among Chris many talents, she also has a Cottage Food business where she sells baked goods under the name of “Mama Chris’ Treasured Recipes”. She sells at farm stands, craft fairs, and from her home. She is also the Web Master for the Folsom Club. Chris and 3 other club members market their art in Roseville at a recently opened store called: “Bliss”.

If you would like to contact Chris, here are her social media accounts.”



<https://www.facebook.com/chris.crazy/>
<https://www.facebook.com/cinnamonrollsandmore>
<https://www.facebook.com/gourdsbychrisrazy>
cjp3@comcast.net



~ Continue pg. 11



Congratulations
Chris!



ElGourdo's Rambling

Greetings once again, gourd friends. Can you believe this is my 20th Rambling piece? It has been a lot of fun for me. I want to extend my most profound appreciation to those who edited my work and kept me between the lines. Thank you!

The gourd fever continues to grow with festivals, patch meetings, small workgroup get-togethers, and just about any place where two or more gourders gather to have fun. My wife, Sharolyn, and I attended the recent Folsom Festival (see page 7) and were dazzled by all the work Folsom's gang did. It was first class and a lot of fun. Kudos to Janice Horner and her fantastic group. I leave each gathering more reenergized and anticipating the next time we can get together. It truly warms my heart to see the sharing and camaraderie these gatherings produce, whether large or small.

After years of analysis, I finally understand what keeps bringing us back to these events. It's the people. Of course, it is. We have developed close friendships with like-minded people and relationships. Have you ever heard the expression, "Gourd people are some of the best in the world." Sure, you have, and if you're like me, you've undoubtedly spoken those very words yourselves and often. The people and relationships keep drawing us back to one another, and I feel blessed for meeting and getting to know each gourd person along the way. My dear friend and mentor, Sylvia Nelson, impressed me some dozen years ago, telling this Newby, "I have never met a gourd person I didn't like." Years later, I have never been able to prove her wrong.

To capsule this, it's obvious we all love the gourd art world we are involved in. We love learning new things and seeing amazing things done with gourds. But it's more than that; it is the gourd families that keep bringing us back. RIGHT?

A couple of articles back, I talked about safety after observing several of our top instructors emphasizing safety in their classes. I continued to hear little stories about discomfort when working with gourds and how it is outweighed by the reaction on the faces of friends who received their work. Looking back, I remembered some annoying little reactions to discomfort of my own. Safety is a lifetime effort when working with gourds, and we must keep our safety radar on whenever and wherever we are. Whether it be the gourd material or the tools and how we use them. We have all worked long hours trying to get a project done. Those can be especially critical times as fatigue can cause temporary mental lapses, allowing accidents to happen.

An occasional break to refocus from time to time can be beneficial for your mind, eyes, and hands. The good news is incidents can be reduced to zero with a bit of thought and proper safety precautions.

Well, folks, this is a wrap, and I hope to see you at Visalia's last event in 2024. The excitement continues, gourders, so stay safe, have fun, and keep making art! Happy Holidays!



Aaron Bullock, AKA El Gourdo

Barbara Arnold



TIME FOR OUR 2023

GOURDAMENT PARADE



Grace Swanson



Colleen Kyffin-Lewis

Cathy Agnew



Eileen Logan

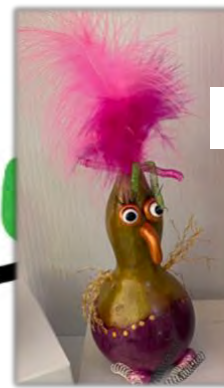
Camille King

Evy Eisele



Stacy Holtz

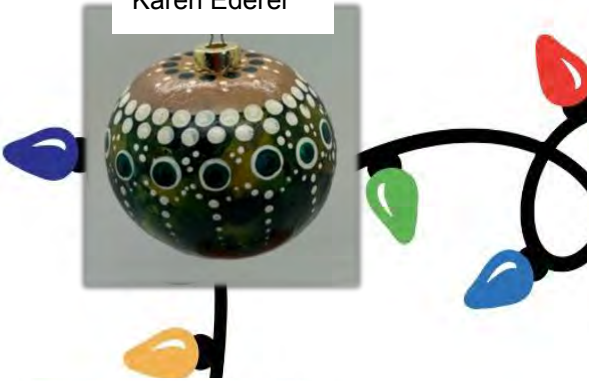
Sugi Karuppiyah



Terry Temple

~ Continue pg. 14

Karen Ederer



Dianna Whittaker



Debora Curnett

Stacy Holtz



Joyce Parker



Terry Temple



Peggy Bragg



Michele Smith

Lisa Baurmeister



Peggy Bragg



Chris Garcia



Grace Swanson

~ Continue pg. 15



Maria Davis



Lisa Baurmeister



Grace Swanson



Kennie Winter

I would like to send a huge shout-out to all of you who have contributed to our Gourdamment Parade these past few years! Thank you for making this a favorite segment of the newsletter and I look forward to many more parades!

Cheers, Lisa



Chris Garcia



Elsie Cogswell



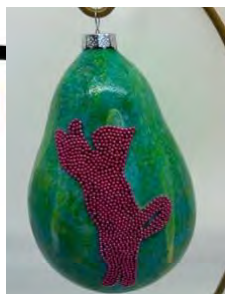
These are from last year's parade. I love them so much I put them in this year's. Thank you, Dawnelle Sauve



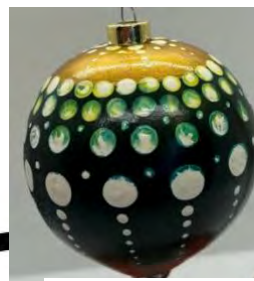
Grace Swanson



Sharon Sicanoff



Stacy Holtz



Karen Ederer



Kathleen Johnston



~ Patch Happenings ~

Folsom Gourd Artists Fine Arts Festival

By Janice Horner, Club President

October 6th, 7th, and 8th, 2023

The planning for this festival started way back in January with finding a location. We found a Rotary Clubhouse in Folsom, Ca. that was the perfect location for our event. It had two outdoor patios for the classes, a 40' by 50' room for our Raffle and our sellers, and the CGS competition was held in a 10' by 30' room, which was the perfect size.

We secured Joyce Campbell and Kennie Winter for classes. Joyce taught all three days and Kennie on Saturday only. Each class had 6-8 students.



After securing Teachers and Students, the fun began with permits. The city required permits to put up signage. After securing the permits, we had to get the resident's permission to place a sign in their yards leading guests to the clubhouse. So, Marilyn Phelps and I went knocking on doors. We found two very nice people who signed the permits; we had to take pictures of where they would go and submit those to the city for acceptance.

We set up on Friday while Joyce taught her class outside. The setup went well and looks great now; the only question left was, will the public come? Yes, they did. One was from Montana; we had a couple from Nevada and our Calabash group. They drove the distances. We had a constant flow of guests coming through.

Saturday evening, we had a reception for the teachers, students, vendors, and members. A young man walked in with a carved pumpkin, and we invited him to join us and demonstrate pumpkin carving. He and his mother want to join our club.

We secured one new member and have a couple more coming to our next meeting, and we hope they will also sign up.

It was a great festival, and we recouped 45% of our expenditures on cleaned gourd sales, the Raffle (23 baskets), books, and our Critters made by each member of Folsom Gourd Artists.

Many Thanks to my members and Amador, who contributed time to make this festival successful.



~ Continue pg. 17



**Awesome Job
Folsom!**



~ Continue pg. 18

Ventura County Gourd Artists

By Evy Eisele, VCGA President first published in "The Gourd Vine"

Ventura County Food Share Fundraiser



Michelle Hatch, Executive Assistant from the Ventura County Food Share came to our VCGA Wednesday evening meeting to share information on the organization and their Empty Bowls Fundraiser event being held the following Saturday. The empty bowls represent those who go hungry, and their bowls are empty. After the Shindig, Michelle said the support from the community was amazing! Her goal was to collect 30 bowls for the silent auction, but she ended up with 103! She only had a rough estimate of the silent auction raising nearly \$10K. Below are pictures of VCGA donated bowls to this event.



Event was held Saturday, September 23, 2023
at the Food Share Headquarters, 4156 Southbank Rd. Oxnard, CA 93036



Donated
bowls
from
VCGA
Members



No
pictures
of the 6
donated
bowls by
Arline.



~ Continue pg. 19

San Diego County Gourd Artist

By: Sherry Hunga Moore and Stacy Day – First Published in Their Newsletter

SDCGA PLAY-Day (Gourd Rain sticks)

October 7th SDCGA had a Playday at JoAnn Clark's Home

The Patch provided everything for Members to make a gourd rain stick! Sherry did a demo and provided the kits.

THANK YOU JoAnn and Sherry

It was a fun day of play, food and creating with your gourd buds!



We want to see some of these completed Rainsticks at the next Share and Tell

~ Continue pg. 20

East Bay Gourd Patch

By Sarah Phelan Abusaba

Gourdgeous Gourds!

“Wait, are those gourds?” “What are gourds, anyway?” and “I remember my grandfather carrying water to the fields in a gourd when I was a kid.” We heard these comments as visitors passed through the gourd luminary installation in the Sensory Garden at Oakland’s 2023 Autumn Lights Festival.

“Gourdgeous Gourds” is how one visitor described our installation last year—a phrase that motivated us to make each new luminary as Gourdgeous as possible.

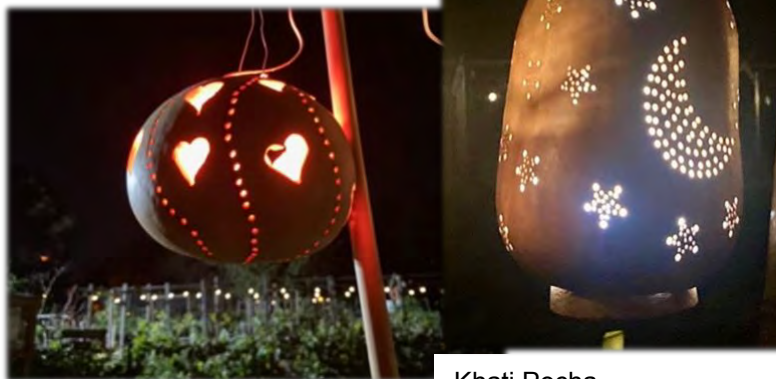
As it turned out, our efforts paid off big time. Our group won the Oakland Public Works Director’s Award at the 2023 show, held over three nights at Lake Merritt Gardens, attracting 4,000 visitors each night. The East Bay Gourd Patch’s positively gourdgeous offerings included luminaries by Michele Brown, Judie Burge, Cookie Cala, Jody Dingivan, Pam Hammerman, Chris Johnson, Sarah and Khalil Phelan Abusaba, Khati Pocha, and Zan **Turner**.



Pam Hammermann



Michele Brown



Khati Pocha



~ Continue pg. 21

Calabash Club of Silicon Valley

By Diane Guerin

Ornament Gourds at Walkathon

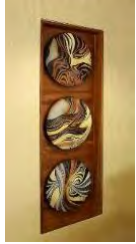
Last October, Diane Guerin from Calabash Club and Cumberland Elementary's garden club students prepared and decorated small spinner gourds that they grew in the school's garden the year before to sell at their Walkathon Fundraiser. They enthusiastically washed them in the garden's washing tubs and discussed ways to decorate them. After adding eye screws, colorful metallic paint, and sealer, they enjoyed detailing them with white acrylic paint, white chalk markers, and dotting tools. The students were so amazed to be able to make art with something grown in the garden. They loved the activity and were so proud to display and sell them at the Walkathon. The ornament gourds, as well as Cindy Tsai's (another Calabash member) variegated geraniums and succulents, were a big hit at the Garden stand. These all contributed to a very successful Walkathon!



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

You can send your info to your patch leader, Regional Directors Libbi Salvo, libbi_salvo@yahoo.com, Jody Dingivan, adolplace@hotmail.com or direct to me, Lisa Baurmeister: cgsnewslettereditor@gmail.com

California Gourd Society 2024 Fundraiser "Wall Art"



Art work with creative designs incorporating gourd, shards & shapes that can be hung on the wall.

Projects will be raffled at the

"Gourds and Baskets Containers of our Culture"

Visalia, California Saturday April 27, 2024

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

Project criteria/guidelines for Regional Groups, (Patches)

1. Finished project should be quality construction and last for several years.
2. Each Patch is encouraged to make one or more gourd projects.
3. Size/Dimension limitations; **NO larger than 24" X 30" (Flip Chart size)**
4. Projects are due *on or prior* to start of event in Visalia, Friday 26, 2024.
5. Attach tag with name of patch.



Mail or deliver to:

***Jody Dingivan** 12140 Steffs Ct. San Martin, CA 95046 {Northern members}

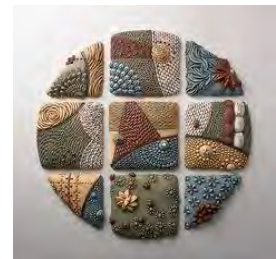
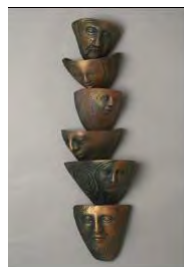
***Libbi Salvo** 2927 Sunset Hills, Escondido, CA 92028 {Southern members}

Each ticket bought from CGS costs the Patch 50 cents and then 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.

Inspirations can be found at:

Pinterest.com or Thrift stores, repurposed found treasures



ALL INSPIRATIONS/IDEAS ARE FROM THE PINTEREST WEBSITE.



The **“LAST”** Baskets and Gourds - Containers of Our Culture IX Event

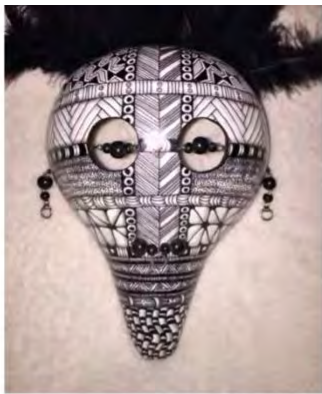
Mark your calendars for April 26 – 28, 2024



If you have a bucket-list and this event is not on it, then you are missing out! For those of you who have it on your bucket-list, this is your last chance to check it off!

This conference is hosted by the Tulare/Sequoia Gourd Patch and endorsed by the California Gourd Society. It is the ninth, and last, Baskets and Gourds Conference, and is held in the city of Visalia, California. A MUST ATTEND!

This is also where we will be raffling off our CGS Fundraiser Wall Hangings. (see page 21)



It's never too early to ask your patch President about purchasing your Raffle Tickets! See you in Visalia in 2024.



Watch your inbox for more information on this event or visit their website at, <https://basketsandgourds.com>

~ *Golden Gourd Editor's Take* ~

Lisa Baurmeister, Editor



IT HAS BEEN FUN!
but I must say goodbye

First let me say "HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL." I hope you are enjoying you December and all the goodies that come with it! Now, I'd like to say, THANK YOU for the honor of being your Golden Gourd Editor for the past 4 years. Unfortunately, due to medical issues with my right hand, I am forced to step down from this position. It has been a pleasure providing you with fun, insightful, and colorful news on the gourd happening of GCS and our California Gourders.

I want to thank all who have contributed to this wonderful newsletter these past 4 years. The newsletter is nothing without your contributions. I especially want to thank Olive Moore for her "eagle-eyes" and ability to catch even the smallest mistake that I have made, and there were many! **"Thank you, Olive, for making me look good!"**

I never planned to step down after only 4 years but needs must, and life, as it so often does, has its own way of running the show, no matter how much we plan. So, to that end, **we need a new Newsletter Editor!** If you are interested in this fun, exciting, and fulfilling (paid position), please contact Marilyn Phelps at, mphelps10@gmail.com

As editor, you will need the following skillsets:

- Computer skills (A MUST)
- Organizational skills
- Good communication skills
- Writing and editing skills
- Ability to stay up on Gourd Industry, CGS, and Patch news.
- Ability to work well with others.
- Software knowledge, i.e. MS word and/or other communication platforms
 - Working w/Constant Contact
 - Sending Email Communications
 - Adobe, AWeber, Canva, or Procreate (helpful)
- Above all, a love for all things GOURDS!!!!

Cheers, Lisa





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"Greetings! I have to say that of all the gourds I've EVER purchased, Welburn Farm gourds are THE nicest, thickest, smoothest, most symmetrical... and did I mention THICKEST? Super gourds!"- **Cynthia, Picture Rocks Art**

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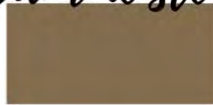
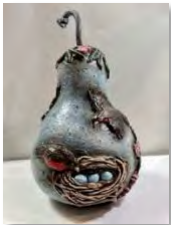
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lisabaurmeister@gmail.com

Commissions Accepted!

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