

THE GOLDEN GOURD

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

Volume 17, Issue 1

Spring 2015

Audrey Fontaine

Gourd Artist and Jewelry Designer

When Audrey was 6-years old, her mother took her to the local Girls Club to explore what classes might be of interest to her. The ceramic studio really caught her attention, as she was mesmerized by an artist at work on a potter's wheel. The studio also offered hand-building, sculpture and casting class options, and she was very excited about the possibilities. Her mother, however was not willing to enroll her in a ceramics class at that time, and she was signed-up to take ballet instead. Audrey comments, "This was a great source of frustration for me, as I had expressed absolutely no interest in ballet, had two left feet and felt ridiculous in a tutu!" Audrey persisted in her efforts to be enrolled in the ceramics class, until finally at the age of 8 her mother agreed (Audrey found out many years later that there was an age minimum of 8-years old to take that class; she only wishes her mother had told her that at the time).

The ceramics class each Saturday morning was the highlight of her week, and it was there that she learned a number of hand-building and casting techniques, along with how to glaze and kiln fire her creations.

As an adolescent she began studying ceramics with a woman who offered group classes in her home studio, and as a teen Audrey took her first pottery class on the wheel.



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President's Message

Hello Gourders,

We are now well into the New Year, winter is behind us what little we had and now we can think about growing all of those gourds. I hope everyone has a good crop and I hope that some of you will try to manipulate some gourds so you can enter the Jim Story contest next year. Compete details for the Jim Story Award can be found at the AGS website: <http://americangourdsociety.org/award.html>

On March 21st the Folsom Gourd Artists took a bus trip to San Francisco to see the gourd display at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. We stopped at The Caning Shop so that everyone could see it and buy all of those wonderful things that you just cannot do without. Then we made a stop on Treasure Island and had a picnic lunch. It was the most beautiful day. No wind and so clear with sail boats on the bay. We had such a wonderful time that we are planning another bus trip.

The Capital Woodcarvers & California Gourd Society's Annual Wood & Gourd Competition and Show was held May 2nd & 3rd, the Winner's are listed on page 3. CGS & AGS shared a table and many of our members had their own booths or shared with their patches.

Get busy on those gourds for the Davis Ranch Gourd Festival. We hope to make this year better than ever.

I thought that I would be telling you about my trip to Wisconsin for the AGS Annual meeting but there was a mistake as to the place and time. It was not in Wisconsin in April. It will be in Texas July 29-Aug 2. I am not sure it is better to freeze or have heat stroke. I will let you know all about the show next time.

Hope to see you at one of these events.

Barbara Rippetoe
CGS President

MISSION STATEMENT



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

Winner Listing for the
Capital Woodcarver's & California Gourd Society's
Annual Wood & Gourd Competition & Show
May 2 – 3 2015

Pyrography

Expert

1st Place Olive Moore
2nd Place Joyce Campbell
3rd Place Bill Wilson

Intermediate/Advance

1st Place Judie Burge
2nd Place Judie Burge
3rd Place Barbara Rippetoe

Filigree/Carving

Expert

1st Place Joyce Campbell
2nd Place Brenda Blackwelder
3rd Place Bill Wilson

Intermediate/Advance

1st Place Barbara Rippetoe
2nd Place Carol DesVoigoe
3rd Place Barbara Cody

Coiling

Intermediate/Advance

1st Place Carolyn Ostransky
2nd Place Marilyn Carrico

Jewelry

Intermediate/Advance

1st Place Leanne Kelly
2nd Place Barbara Cody

Distinctively Different

Expert

1st Place Joyce Campbell
2nd Place Olive Moore
3rd Place Charlotte Vincent

Intermediate/Advance

1st Place Martha Haney
2nd Place Martha Haney
3rd Place Leanne Kelly

Painted

Expert

1st Place Joyce Campbell
2nd Place Brenda Blackwelder
3rd Place Charlotte Vincent

Intermediate/Advance

1st Place Maryland O. Fallon
2nd Place Carolyn Ostransky
3rd Place Susan Deguara

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These experiences led to her pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Studio Art with a Ceramic Specialization at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, CT. It was there that she developed a love for making jewelry as well, as she took many classes in jewelry fabrication and metal-smithing. The Studio Art degree offered a well-rounded approach which included a variety of 2 and 3-dimensional hands-on courses along with art history and theory. Audrey was the ceramic studio assistant for a year, and was also involved with the University's Arts Council. It was at SCSU that she developed her interest in mixed-media applications on ceramic forms, which led to some of her current mixed-media explorations with gourd art.

After completing her BS Degree, Audrey looked into graduate school programs in ceramics, however decided to pursue (and was awarded) a Fellowship at Penland School of Crafts in Penland, North Carolina. This two-year Fellowship allowed her to study under dozens of internationally renowned instructors, each for an average of two-weeks, where she was immersed in their area of expertise. Audrey preferred this approach over studying with one or two instructors for a 2-year period, as would have been the case in a typical graduate degree program.

During her Fellowship she studied not only handbuilding and wheel-thrown ceramic sculpture (along with a variety of finishing and kiln firing techniques), but also steel and stone outdoor scale sculpture, wood-working, jewelry and metal working, silk painting, shibori, faux-finish painting, handmade paper sculpting and more.

Some other art centers Audrey has studied at in the past include Arrowmont School of Crafts in Gatlinburg, TN, and the Idyllwild Arts Academy in Idyllwild, CA (where she had the great pleasure of studying under her personal favorite gourd artist, Bill Colligen). It was at the Brookfield Craft Center where she took her first class in gourd art almost twenty years ago.



She has been a member of the California Gourd Society, and is also a member of the American Craft Council, and the Sebastopol Center for the Arts.

She relocated from Connecticut to the Monterey, California area in 2003, and to Sonoma County in 2014, where she is finding much creative inspiration.

Over the years Audrey has experimented with over 25 different craft media including gourds, clay, jewelry and metalworking, wood, fiber, leather, polymer, precious metal clay, mixed-media sculpture and driftwood art. Natural elements often make their way into her work, which tends to be earthy by design. Her gourd art which is inspired by Native American influence incorporates beads, feathers, fibers and found objects. In her more contemporary designs she has been experimenting with color and pattern juxtaposition, creating relationships between positive and negative space. Detailed patterns adorn her vessels, whereas her abstract non-functional forms allow the viewer to develop their own interpretation.

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Audrey is also enjoying great success with her beaded jewelry designs which utilize lampworked glass, natural stone and crystal beads along with pure sterling silver or 14 karat gold plated earwires, clasps and chains. Her Ocean Inspired Collection is receiving rave reviews, and is a top seller at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Audrey also has a Garden Collection, Radiance Collection, Black & White Collection and Natural Stone Collection.

Audrey Fontaine is excited to be exhibiting her gourd art in 'Art at the Source', Sonoma County's open studio tour. It will be held over two weekends, Saturdays and Sundays, June 6-7 and June 13-14, 2015. She will show her work at the studio of fused glass artist Melissa McCann, who will be displaying her beautiful glass creations. Also exhibiting at that Occidental location will be landscape, figure and portrait artist Beverly Bird. Audrey says, "Having three artists showing their work in one location on the tour creates a special energy and offers the viewer much more to see, making it well worth their visit!" Audrey's artist number is 96C, and she will be demonstrating her technique of creating intricate patterns on gourds all 4 days of the tour at 11:00 a.m. 'Art at the Source' tour maps and information on the other participating artists is available at www.artatthesource.org. For three years Audrey participated in the Monterey County Artist's Studio Tour in Monterey, CA (2011-13), and it was her favorite show each year. She is very much looking forward to her involvement with "Art at the Source", which is a very similar event.

Audrey has been represented by a number of galleries over the years. Audrey's jewelry is sold through galleries, boutiques and gift shops across the country.

Audrey says her personal favorite piece pictures here is her "Art Deco" patterned gourd covered jar, stating "I love the way the design spirals out from the central focal point, creating movement for the eye. The seed pod on the knob plays off of the pattern and shape of the lid, creating a smaller mirror image of it. The metal stand supplies good height to the gourd, allowing the viewer to see the pattern almost all the way around the gourd. Symmetry plays an important role in my patterned designs, and this piece reflects that well. I am proud to say that my "Art Deco" bowl has won a First Place Award through the California Gourd Society, and is featured on the home page of their website (upper left corner) at:

<http://www.californiagourdsociety.com>



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It is my hope that people will receive pleasure when looking at my artwork, and that it somehow speaks to their heart, lightens their spirit. Perhaps it helps them to feel a sense of connection to another culture or time. My goal is for the work I produce to draw in the eye of the beholder, and possibly instill in them a desire to introduce it into their own environment. It is a wonderful feeling for me when one of my creations finds its perfect home."

The materials Audrey uses are her greatest source of inspiration. She elaborates, "When I get my hands working on an art project, it feels like they have a mind of their own. It is as if the creativity flows through them from a deeper source. I used to feel that my hands were of a whole different entity, since I might begin working with no ideas in mind for a creative project, however in touching the materials a creative spark would ignite in me. If I am at a loss for inspiration, the best motivator is to just begin juxtaposing elements together in various combinations, and eventually I will come to that 'Aha' moment, where a work of art is born. The excitement generated by completing one piece typically inspires the next. In working on my complex patterned gourds however, I do need to begin with a plan and map things out in advance in order to maintain symmetry and cohesiveness. This is a very different process than how I work on my mixed-media projects."

Audrey's goal is to continue to evolve into a better artist, both technically and aesthetically. She says, "As I am intrigued by a variety of media, I anticipate learning some new skills in the years to come. Encaustic and shadow box collage have been calling to me for some time. I would like to revisit Penland School of Crafts for some classes, as that school holds a special place in my heart. It has been many years since I was there on Fellowship and as a scholarship student and studio assistant. I am a life-long learner, so anticipate taking classes through a number of venues. I do plan to continue creating



gourd art and jewelry for years to come however. I am at my happiest when I'm in my studio. I am proud to say that I have received multiple awards, been represented by galleries nationwide for over 35 years, and taught a variety of crafts to both adults and children."

In addition to art, Audrey is passionate about health and the environment. She also works as a Holistic Health Counselor, empowering people on their journey towards optimal health (prevention and reversal of diseases) and their ideal weight. She helps clients achieve this through nutrition (transitioning them to a whole foods plant based diet) and counseling them on creating balance in their lives.

Art is important to Audrey because she feels it is an expression of an individual's creativity and imagination. It can evoke an array of emotions. All forms of artistic expression appeal to her, and she is a great fan of many types of music, dance and dramatic performances. It also gives her great joy when she is able to support another artists' work.

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Audrey comments, "Art has been an important aspect of all cultures. Whether in the form of cave paintings or more elaborate historical creations, art seems to be a big part of our human nature. It saddens me that so many school systems are reducing or eliminating the art and music curriculums in favor of more "academic" programs, or simply because it is "not in the budget". When I was in grade school, my favorite classes were art and music, and if there was a project assigned where I could focus on the art or music of another culture, I would jump at the chance. There is just something about it that feeds the soul, and it is my hope that the key decision makers at educational institutions will realize the importance of continuing to offer such programs."

When asked where she would most like to see her work displayed in the future, Audrey answers, "It would be a great honor to have my artwork exhibited at the Renwick Gallery in Washington, D.C., which is the Smithsonian American Art Museum's craft and decorative arts venue (currently closed for renovations). My visit there a number of years ago proved to be quite inspirational, offering some of the best fine-craft objects I have ever seen on display. To have my work exhibited at the Renwick would be a sign that I have 'made it'."



In thinking about her future projects, Audrey states, "If time and money were of no object, I imagine that I would work on a much larger scale with my gourd art. I have seen some gourds up to 3-feet tall incorporating some amazing embellishments. I typically work in the 12-18" range, as that size tends to be more marketable, fitting in with the average person's home décor. With regard to my jewelry, I would use more precious metals and stones, and each piece would be one-of-a-kind (I currently offer limited edition series as well). Art has been my life-long passion, and the creative process feels like my life's purpose. I am at my happiest when creating, and receive great joy upon completion of a new project. Each new piece of art feels like the birth of a child, and it is exciting to know that my work will live on long after my time on this planet is done."

END

I would like to thank Audrey Fontaine for sending in her article and giving permission for reprint in the Golden Gourd Newsletter. And to congratulate her on being featured in the May issue of Artists Culture Magazine.

However due to the newsletters size and to allow for ease of download, I was unable to reprint the complete interview or all of the pictures. If you would like to read it on-line or order a hard copy it is featured in a 6-page article in the May issue of Artists Culture Magazine. See page 14 at http://www.magcloud.com/webviewer/918012?__r=432736&s=w

To see more of Audrey's gourd art or hand crafted jewelry visit her websites:

www.audreyfontaine.com or www.audreyfontainejewelry.com

Earlybird's Place 1st Annual Gourd and Craft Festival June 26-27-28, 2015



**Earlybird's Place
(Earl & Myrna Fincher)
15310 Chalk Hill Road
Healdsburg, CA**

Earlybird's Place is in the planning stages of our 1st Annual Gourd Festival. Please save this date on your calendar and come check us out.

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- We will have home made breakfast items for sale each morning & Snacks & beverages thru out the day
- Saturday- Agave Restaurant will be here cooking & selling lunch
- We are going to have Raffle Tickets for sale. Would you be willing to donate items for this? See form below.
- There is room available for some motor homes and you are welcome to stay here. Please confirm space availability. there is a R / campground approximately 5 miles away and motels & hotels in Healdsburg 10 mile away.

Please send your registrations by June 10th
Make checks out to:
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15310 Chalk Hill Rd
Healdsburg, Ca. 95448

Questions Call:
Myrna Fincher
707-319-1313
mfincher@wildblue.net
Website: earlybirdsfarms.com or Facebook:
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Festival hours: Friday 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, Sunday 9:00 to 4:00 pm

Fees: If you stay all 3 days the third day is Free

One day \$25.00 for a 10x10 space and a ticket worth \$5.00 for food or drink at the Snack Shack

Two days \$50.00 for a 10x10 space and a ticket worth \$10:00 for food or drink at the Snack Shack.

Table we rent cost \$20.00 Please let us know when send in your registration.

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A FAMILY OF GOURDERS

By Sylvia Nelson

Emma Poulson worked on her first gourd when she was 10 years old. A man came around her neighborhood selling gourds and her mother bought several to hang on a wreath she was making and one for Emma. Emma remembers painting hers red and yellow – she thinks it was a maranka because she remembers it had wings.

Emma now has 9 children, 51 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. Many years passed before she picked up another gourd. It was only after her children were grown she felt she had time to develop other interest. She joined the Folsom Gourd group around 2002 when it still met at Zittle's Farm. She entered her first competition at Leiser's Farm in 2010 and won a First place ribbon for a Totem pole gourd. She says she hasn't won a ribbon since.

She likes to make gourd dolls. She uses doll clay to make arms, faces, etc. She does a lot of pieces with beautiful silk flowers as she was a professional floral arranger for years.

For her, gourdng is a "whole lot of fun". She gets lost in the process. She says she is often motivated to do her art because she doesn't want to do her housework. She likes to stay busy. She paints, she sews, she does some junk art (as she calls it) – a combination of lots of things put together in pictures. She likes to create things and enjoys creating gourds that she sells in her daughter-in-laws gift shop in Marysville (Kathy's Gift Shop). She also works in the shop.

Asked "where do you get your inspiration?" she says everywhere! She sees things and thinks "I could do that on a gourd". Often the gourd looks like it could be something and in her mind she thinks that would be fun to do and then asks herself "how could I do that?"

She told me that art runs in the family. Her grandchildren are very artistic, involved in architecture, engineering, woodworking and gourds.

Her son Zane has won many ribbons for his fantastic gourd art, entralling us with his dragons making skills. Zane has been doing gourds for about 10 years. He started with the Folsom gourd that his mother went to and is currently a member of the Sutter Buttes Gourd Artist as it is closer to home. He took art classes in high school and college. Emma says "even as a little guy he liked to draw". He still likes to draw and is also a woodcarver. He has incorporated his woodcarving skills to make parts for his dragons. He likes to figure out how to put things together. The dragons are a real challenge with feet and wings and claws, sometimes he carves wood pieces to flesh out the dragons.



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He started on gourds when his mom made one that he really liked. She said she would make one for him but instead he wanted to do it himself. He began mainly making Halloween stuff with witches and caldrons. Working up to making amazing dragons and birds. Going so far one time to take the thorns off his mother's lemon tree to make a realistic and sharp ridgeback on a dragon.

He says the best part about gourding is creating things and relaxing with the work. His real job is for the State of California where he works for the State Water Resource Control Board. Zane uses carving knives to do most of the cutting on the gourds. He is very practical and mathematical and draws ideas out beforehand – always with the option to change as he gourds along. I sat with him while he used a wood carving knife (very sharp) to cut out a mask and then cut out another mask to put on the original mask. As I said, very creative.

He and his wife Kathy have 4 children, 2 boys and 2 girls. Only Katie, their youngest, has been bitten by the gourd bug. Katie is almost 15 and has been a member of the Sutter Buttes Gourd Artist group since it began in 2010. She has painted gourds with her grandmother since she was little. Mainly finger painted she says – but a fun way to start for a little one.

She also really likes to bead on gourds. And like her Dad, she has learned to carve using carving knives. She and her Dad worked on the pink dragon together (see picture) she put it in an art show at her school, getting the whole school interested in gourds.



She says the best part about gourding is that she can do anything on a gourd. She says ideas just come to her, masks, baskets, flying birds. She likes to try all different kinds of techniques. She works on her gourds on Saturdays, after school and during the summer when she is not working in her mother's shop or going to camp. She has four camping trips scheduled this summer. One to a girls camp through her church and another a pioneer trek for three days to experience what they went through and dress the period and she will also be taking turns with the other kids and adults in her group pushing a handcart. Then two backpacking/camping trips with family.

Katie loves art and is currently working on an apple gourd that she is carving. She plans to enter it in the Woodcarvers' show in Sacramento. It will be her first competition. Just before publication I learned that Katie got first place in the youth category with her apple gourd at the Wood Carver's competition in Sacramento. The judges even came up to her to tell her what a great job she did. She was very excited. She decides on an idea, draws out a pattern, which she says she can change while she is working and often does. I spent time with her while she patiently cut out a mask shape with one of her Dad's carving knives. Like her Dad, she is precise and careful. She loves being in her Mother's shop and had several of her gourds for sale in the shop. Her Dad also takes her gourds to his workplace and has sold several there.



Such a wonderful family. Three generations, three people who love gourds. What a way to keep the art form growing.



6th Annual Gourdstock

sponsored by the
San Diego County Gourd Artists

Festival Dates
Sat, Sept 19 & Sun, Sept 20
9am - 5pm

Bates Nut Farm
15954 Woods Valley Rd.
Valley Center, CA 92082

Classes

Thur - Sun, Sept 17-20

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- ✓ Gourd art, supplies, and vendors
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For more information

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CLASSES



GOURD ART FOR SALE



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RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION



2015 Brings New Award Pins to the CGS Gourd Art Competitions

CGS is very pleased to announce that we have begun awarding 1st Blue, 2nd Red, and 3rd Yellow pins in place of ribbons, starting with this years competitions.

The design being used is one of the three logos that Daniel Montano designed for CGS.

Won't these look cool on your apron or hat? Thank you CGS President Barbara Rippetoe for getting the job done!

The pins were awarded for the first time at the Capital Woodcarvers and CGS Annual Wood & Gourd Competition that was held May 2 & 3, 2015. The next opportunity is in the CGS Annual Gourd Art Competition and Exhibit, held at the Davis Gourd Festival, September 26th and 27th. Details are at the website under Events Tab.

At the competition ribbons will be on display with your piece and will be available for you to purchase.



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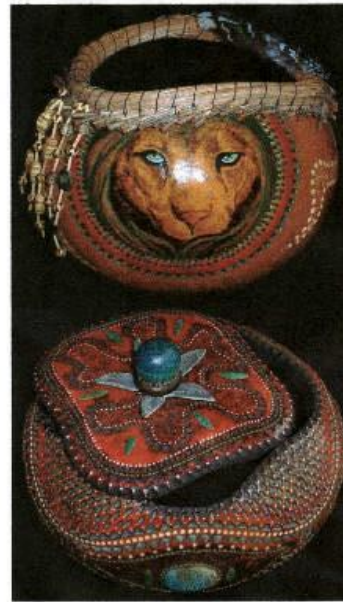


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The Easy Cleaner Ball has a durable, gravel-like surface that removes even the most stubborn dried gourd pulp in seconds flat! Choose from 4 sizes and 2 grit options (coarse and fine).

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California Gourd Society Gourd Art Show and Competition 2015

Hosted by the DAVIS RANCH AT THE 7th Annual Gourd Festival.

Sloughouse, CA

September 26th & 27th 2015



HOW TO ENTER

- The competition is open to **ALL**
- The entry fee per entry is \$6.00 for CGS members and \$10.00 for all others. One entry per entry form. **Make checks payable to CGS.** Advance registration is not taken.
- **Mailed entries** will be accepted prior to **Friday September 18th 2015.**
- Please mail to **Sylvia Nelson at 10311 Spiva Road, Sacramento, CA 95829**
- **Please see mailing instructions on page 19 of this issue.**
- Entries may be submitted in person on **Thursday, September 24th, from 8 am -5 pm or Friday, September 25th from 8 am – 12 noon ONLY. LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE JUDGED.**
- Judging will take place on Friday, September 25th at 3 pm and the display will be open for viewing on Saturday all-day until 5 pm and on Sunday until 3 pm.
- Release and pick up of entries will be **from 3 pm-5 pm on Sunday, September 27th.** All art work not picked up will become the property of CGS.
- CGS reserves the right to photograph each entry and use in promotion of CGS Art Competition.
- While every effort is made to provide security of items, Davis Ranch and The California Gourd Society are not responsible for damaged or lost items.
- It is the responsibility of the artists to place their piece in the correct **category. We have four divisions. Please read category & division descriptions carefully. Fit your art work to the categories.**

General Rules

1. Gourds must predominate
2. Gourds previously entered in a CGS competition will not be permitted.
3. Craft/artwork for each entry must be the original work of person who is the entrant.
4. Only one entry per category is permitted.
5. Judges reserve the right to disqualify or reassign entries that do not meet category criteria. **They may also change, subdivide, or combine categories as necessary to fit categories.**
6. Note: **Copyright designs such as Disney characters or copies of other artist's work may not be used on entries unless written permission is granted by the artist or copyright holder. Copyright free designs may be used.**
7. All participants agree to allow photographs to be taken of displayed items.
8. Not all categories are included in each division.
9. Category definitions may be the same for Novice; Intermediate; Advanced Division & Master Craftsmen, but will be judged according to Divisions level.

Judging

The California Gourd Society will coordinate all judging. Judging will follow the American Gourd Society judging guidelines. Scoring option "A" will be used. 1 thru 5 point system.

Ribbons will be placed for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category at the judges discretion. Pins will be awarded. A category with only one entry does not necessarily guarantee a 1st place ribbon.

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Category Awards

Best of Show – Best of Division – Judges Choice – Davis Ranch Choice
People's Choice (Votes will be collected from the viewing public both Saturday & Sunday)

Youth Divisions

Category 1 11 and under – One crafted gourd: any theme: any technique.

Category 2 17 and under – One crafted gourd: any theme: any technique

We have four Divisions. Please read their descriptions carefully. Gourd Crafting Terms and Definitions are included for your benefit. See page 18 of this issue for Gourd Crafting Terms and Definitions.

NOVICE DIVISION

This division is for gourd crafters/artists that are relatively new to gourd crafting and have not won a blue ribbon as a Novice. Once you win a blue ribbon in a **category** you must move up to the Intermediate Division. (Example if you win a blue in painting then you would move up only in that category) The Novice should not have taught a gourd class for a fee. If you won a major award in a juried art show or won Best of Novice Division you must move up to the next Division.

Category 3 Pyrography. Wood-burning must predominate, but stain, dye or a small amount of color may be added to enhance the design.

Category 4 Painted/Colored Whole or cut gourd, painting must predominate, may use any color media. See terms & definitions.

Category 5 Bowls, Vases or Containers Any technique allowed.

Category 34 Zentangle® Zentangle the use of repetitive, basic pattern drawing.

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION

The Intermediate Division is for those artists who understand and use basic techniques. Entrant should not have won a major award in a gourd show or a juried art show. They may have sold gourds but not have taught a gourd class for a fee. If you previously won Best of Open Division in this competition you must move up to the next division. (If you have won 5 blue ribbons in the prior Open Division you must enter the Advanced Division).

Category 6 Pyrography Wood-burning must predominate, but stain, dye or a small amount of color may be added to enhance the design.

Category 7 Painted/Colored Whole or cut gourd, painting must predominate, may use any color media. See terms & definitions.

Category 8 Carved Relief-carved, to create texture, chipped, chiseled or power-carved, does not penetrate or cut entirely through the shell, may embellish with color, a whole gourd or bowl-cut gourd may be used.

Category 9 Filigree or fret-work. Design that cuts entirely through the gourd shell, may embellish with color.

Category 10 Coiled Coiling, using pine needles, grasses, raffia, etc. must predominate: stain or dye may be used for embellishment.

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

Category 11 Wall hanging/Masks Any technique allowed. Gourd Masks are made to wear, display or hang on the wall. Masks without a display stand must have a loop or hanger so they may be hung for display at the show.

Category 12 Jewelry Single or sets: necklace, earrings, bracelet, brooch or barrette or tiara any technique.

Category 13 Holiday Any holiday and any combination of techniques.

Category 14 Luminary or Lamps Functional with electrical insert, shade must be made from a gourd (Shade not required) Cut gourd with light source insert. Any combination of techniques.

Category 15 Combination of Techniques Whole or cut gourd: at least 3 different techniques must be used: submit a list of the techniques you used to be displayed with your entry (3x5 card)

Category 16 Distinctively Different Your unique gourd crafting that fits no other competition class.

Category 35 Zentangle® Zentangle the use of repetitive, basic pattern drawing.

ADVANCED DIVISION

The Advance Division is for those artists who have progressed to a more complicated level of work and have a good grasp of multiple techniques and finishing skills. They are creating more distinctive, original work and are ready to compete with a wider range of competitors. They may have taught a gourd class for a fee but have not won top awards in art/gourd competitions. Once you have won Best of the Division or Best of Show in this competition, you must move up to the next division.

Category 17 Pyrography Wood-burning must predominate, but stain, dye or a small amount of color may be added to enhance the design.

Category 18 Painted/Colored Whole or cut gourd, painting must predominate, may use any color media. See terms & definitions.

Category 19 Carved Relief-carved, to create texture, chipped, chiseled or power-carved, does not penetrate or cut entirely through the shell, may embellish with color, a whole gourd or bowl-cut gourd may be used.

Category 20 Filigree or fret-work. Design that cuts entirely through the gourd shell, may embellish with color.

Category 21 Coiled Coiling, using pine needles, grasses, raffia, etc. must predominate: stain or dye may be used for embellishment.

Category 22 Wall hanging/Masks Any technique allowed. Gourd Masks are made to wear, display or hang on the wall. Masks without a display stand must have a loop or hanger so they may be hung for display at the show.

Category 23 Jewelry Single or sets: necklace, earrings, bracelet, brooch or barrette or tiara any technique.

Category 24 Holiday Any holiday and any combination of techniques.

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

Category 25 Luminary or Lamps Functional with electrical insert shade must be made from a gourd (Shade not required) Cut gourd with light source insert. Any combination of techniques.

Category 26 Combination of Techniques Whole or cut gourd: at least 3 different techniques must be used: submit a list of the techniques you used to be displayed with your entry (3x5 card).

Category 27 Distinctively Different Your unique gourd crafting that fits no other competition class.

Category 36 Zentangle® Zentangle the use of repetitive, basic pattern drawing.

MASTER CRAFTSMAN DIVISION

The Master Division artist's work shows excellent use of all techniques and finishing skills. The work is of original design. Their work may have been shown in galleries, previously won top awards in art/gourd competitions, and have reached the level of fine art. **NOTE:** Artists entering this Division are **NOT** allowed to enter Novice or Intermediate Divisions. Master Artists may include a biography with their entry form which will be displayed with the entry (Please furnish frame for display).

Category 28 Pyrography Wood-burning must predominate, but stain, dye or a small amount of color may be added to enhance the design.

Category 29 Carved Relief-carved, to create texture, chipped, chiseled or power-carved, does not penetrate or cut entirely through the shell, may embellish with color, a whole gourd or bowl-cut gourd may be used.

Category 30 Filigree or fret-work. Design that cuts entirely through the gourd shell, may embellish with color.

Category 31 Painted/Colored Whole or cut gourd, painting must predominate, may use any color media. See terms & definitions.

Category 32 Gourd Doll or Spirit Figure Constructed entirely of gourds: clay or wood filler may be used to seal or smooth joints: any ethnicity (submit card with entry identifying ethnicity or country); any combination of techniques, small amount of natural accessories allowed.

Category 33 Holiday Any holiday and any combination of techniques.

Category 37 Zentangle® Zentangle the use of repetitive, basic pattern drawing.

Class gourds are not allowed in competition

The categories below are open to all ages and divisions

Any Representation of Farming, Produce or Harvest: Special category in Honor of Davis Ranch.

Home Grown: A special category for those that love to see gourds growing in their gardens.

Jim Story Award One single gourd, hand trained, manipulated or molded.

Any questions please contact Competition Chair: Barbara Rippetoe at bjrippetoe@sbcglobal.net or phone 916-988-6599.

Gourd Crafting Terms and Definitions

Accessories or Embellishments Any material that is added to the crafted gourd to complete the exhibit.

Artificial or Man-made Accessories/Embellishments Any material that is added to the crafted gourd that is not natural, such as artificial flowers, plastics, plastic eyes, or manufactured items. (See also Natural Accessories.)

Artificial Sinew A waxed nylon imitation of natural sinew (animal tendon) used in beading, sometimes used in place of cotton thread. Artificial sinew will be allowed on all entries.

Base A support or stand that holds a gourd at the proper angle or position. It may be metal, wood or a manufactured turn-table but the base will not be considered an accessory of the crafted gourd.

Basket A gourd with the top cut off and a carrying handle attached or cut so that part of the gourd remains to function as a handle.

Beading The technique of using beads to apply a design to gourds. Beads may be set in beeswax, embedded in recessed holes, or strung and wrapped around or sewn into the gourd. Beads are made of plastic, glass and/or natural material, i.e. shell, wood, clay or seeds.

Bowl A gourd with the top cut off (or some portion of it cut off) to give the appearance of a container.

Burned using a flame (i.e., small torch) to char or change the color of the gourd surface (See also Pyrography/Wood-burning.)

Carved The removal of a portion of the outer surface of the shell of a gourd, exposing the undersurface to create a design or texture in relief, usually done with a power tool.

Chip Carving Carving done with gouging tools to “chip” out small pieces of gourd to create a pattern or design on the surface of the gourd.

Clear Finish Any furnish, such as varnish, shellac, wax or oil, which enhances the overall appearance of the gourd but adds no color (except the slight natural darkening that may occur).

Coiled Use of pine needles or grasses (or other natural materials), wrapped and held in place by thread, raffia or sinew to cover rims of bowls or create designs on gourds.

Color/Coloring Using any medium that adds to, enhances, or changes the natural appearance of the gourd’s surface. Some examples of color media are stains, dyes, inks, oil pastel pencils, crayons, colored pencils, felt tip pens, acrylic paints, oil paints, watercolors, colored waxes, etc.

Cut Gourd Cutting all the way through the gourd shell creating a hole or opening (as opposed to surface cuts as in carving). The cut or openings are incorporated into the design.

Embellishment/Accessories Any material that is added to the gourd to enhance the overall design and appearance of the gourd. (See also Artificial Accessories and Natural Accessories.)

Fretwork An intricate, interlaced decorative design (of holes or other shapes) that is cut into and through the shell of the gourd, usually done with power tools.

Functional Can be used – for example, a gourd pitcher that actually holds water and has a functional spout and handle.

Medium/Media Material used for artistic expression, such as paint, dye, ink, etc.

Natural Accessories Any material that is added to the crafted gourd that is natural. Examples include linen/cotton thread, grasses, pine needles, seeds pods, shells, stones, bone, feathers, etc.

Pyrography/Wood-burning Burning a design (lines and shading) on a gourd with the use of an electric wood-burning tool.

Predominate The word “predominate” (when used in Competition Class description to indicate the amount of medium or technique to be used on the crafted gourd) means that the majority of the crafted gourd surface should exhibit the required medium or technique.

Weaving Interlacing various materials attached to the gourd, such as grasses, cords, natural fibers, etc.





VERY IMPORTANT:
**MAILED ENTRIES THAT DO NOT FOLLOW THE
FOLLOWING GUIDELINES WILL NOT BE
ENTERED IN THE COMPETITIONS.**

**HOW TO PACKAGE YOUR MAILED ENTRY
For the CGS Gourd Art Competition 2015**

Mailed entries must be placed inside a box self-addressed to yourself with return postage affixed to the returning box (not cash, not loose stamps, not money order for stamps). Please package your gourd with enough packing protection to insure safe return. Place the box to be returned to you inside the box addressed to the address below. Only one entry per box.

You must complete an entry form with all areas of the entry form filled in, along with a check for the dollar amount to cover each entry. If you have more than one entry you may submit a check for all entries in Box 1 (please label it Box 1). Entry forms should go in the box with their entry.

Unless otherwise stated on the Entry Form please follow these instructions.

Below are the Mailing Deadline and Address.

CGS Gourd Art Competition –Davis Ranch

Complete details start on page 14 in this issue. The entry form for this competition will be in our next issue and at our website in the coming weeks.

**Mail Deadline for entries in the
CA Gourd Society
Gourd Art Show and Competition**

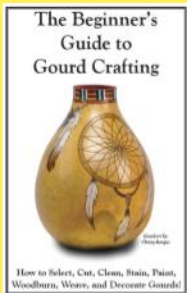
Friday September 18th, 2015

Please mail to:

Sylvia Nelson
10311 Spiva Road
Sacramento, CA 95829

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

"I received both boxes of gourds I ordered right on time. I love getting the cleaned gourds. Your service is perfect and I love the specials! Thanks again." **Carrie, Channel Islands, CA**



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Art by Christy Barajas

"I love the new low-priced gourds!! ...the Welburn 'standard quality' gourds are better than other farms' high quality ones!" - **Jan Bollins, CT**

Our **Standard Quality Gourds** arrive **CLEANED**, and they are **40%-60% cheaper** than our Premium Quality Gourds!

Shown left, a 'standard quality' gourd was used to create this beautiful pot with ginkgo leaves. The minor shell blemishes are concealed with the **use of Cordovan GourdMaster™ Transparent Acrylic** (which is still transparent but has a heavier pigment load and thus gives better coverage than GourdMaster™ Ink Dyes).

On the Web: www.WelburnGourdFarm.com
Call 1-760-728-4271 Open Mon-Fri 10am-4pm PST



Gourd Class Instructors! All Class Levels

Earlybird's Place is seeking gourd art instructors for their 1st Annual Gourd Festival. Come be apart of it! More details about the festival can be found on page 8 of this issue.

If you are interested in teaching gourd art classes please contact Myrna Fincher by phone at 707-319-1313 or by email mfincher@wildblue.net

Earlybird's Place
1st Annual Gourd and Craft Festival
June 26-27-28, 2015

(Earl & Myrna Fincher)
15310 Chalk Hill Road
Healdsburg, CA



Gourd Events 2015

Want to see your event listed? Just send me your event information!

- Feb. 13th-May 24th - The Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, CA presents a Special Curatorial Project with Rirkrit Tiravanija, The Way Things Go
- **NEW** June 26th - 28th - Earlybird's Place 1st Annual Gourd Festival
- July 10th - July 26th - CA State Fair Expo
- July 17th - August 16th - Orange County Fair
- September 4th - 27th - Los Angeles County Fair
- Sept 17th -20th - GourdStock Classes -Bates Nut Farm
- Sept 19th and 20th - Gourdstock Festival -Bates Nut Farm
- Sept 24th and 25th - Davis Pre Festival Gourd Classes
- Sept 26th and 27th - CGS Gourd Art Competition and Exhibit hosted by the Davis Gourd Festival
- Sept 26th and 27th - The Davis Ranch Annual Gourd Festival
- **NEW** October 1st -4th - CGS Retreat - Highland Springs Resort-Cherry Valley, CA
- October 10th and 11th - The Calabash Club of Silicon Valley - 4th Annual Gourd Festival

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The Gourd Tool Kit #70011



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California Gourd Society Retreat

October 1st - 4th, 2015

Highland Springs Resort

Cherry Valley, California 92223

Deposits can be paid
by check or with



Sign up Now!

Share the joy of gourding and being apart of CGS!
All members are welcome!
Cottages and **upper level** Deluxe Inn only available.
Come join the fun, relax and create.

Complete Details at our website at:
<http://www.californiagourdsociety.com/Events.html#Retreat>

CGS Membership News

CGS membership dues are \$20 a year based n a calendar year January 1- December 31

Membership applications are processed usually once a month by the CGS Membership VP, at which time you will receive a Welcome Letter and CGS Membership Card. If you have any questions regarding your membership status or dues please contact Membership VP JoAnn Clark by email at: b4gourds@yahoo.com or phone (760) 749-9410

Current Membership forms can be found at the CGS Website <http://www.californiagourdsociety.com> click Join Us.

Family/Household Membership is available and can consist of a: husband/wife, mother/daughter, father/daughter, roommates, etc. residing at the same address. (Youth - 15 Free)
This package includes only one membership card, and one email address that is shared by all at the address.

Tip: Take and keep a photo of your CGS Membership Card with your phone.

The California Gourd Society would like to encourage all our members to join the American Gourd Society.

The society publishes four issues a year of ***THE GOURD*** journal for members. This publication is a vehicle for news and information about people, events, state Chapters, books, seeds, crafting and other gourd related subjects both domestic and foreign. The AGS is the unifying body for all state Chapters and provides a network of contacts for people and organizations worldwide.

To join contact Dallas Lunsford: agsmembership@comcast.net or <http://www.americangourdsociety.org/join.html>

CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY
Board Meeting Highlights - January 10, 2015

Board Members Present: Barbara Rippetoe, President; Pamela Argo, Director at Large; Peggy Blessing, Secretary; Christina Chrivia, Treasurer; Sue Gouig, Director of Northern Programs; Janet Greene, Vice President; Sherry Hunga-Moore, Director of Southern Programs; Susan Sullivan, Director at Large **Others Present:** Mary Bliss, Editor/Golden Gourd; Olive Moore, Secretary Candidate; and Sylvia Nelson, Past President

Board Members Absent: JoAnn Clark, Vice President/Membership

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 9:20 am by President Barbara Rippetoe at the Lamp Liter Inn meeting room in Visalia, California. After reading the CGS mission statement, Barbara welcomed Secretary candidate Olive Moore.

Secretary's Report

There being no objections or changes, the Minutes of the January 4 and 5, 2014, board meetings will be filed as distributed. It was noted that, although authorized during the 2014 meeting, Sue Gouig and Janet Green declined the option to be signors on the CGS bank account and receive bank cards.

Treasurer's Report

Christina Chrivia distributed and reviewed the 2014 financial statements. Sherry Hunga-Moore explained the need to place a deposit for the proposed CGS retreat in October at Highland Springs Resort prior to the board meeting (\$4,522). She assured the board that the San Diego County Gourd Artists group would reimburse CGS if, later in this meeting, the Board decided not to authorize a CGS member retreat.

The Profit & Loss schedule showed that total income of \$10,263 was reduced by \$3,103 to adjust for the actual vs. estimated value of the McClelland estate, which was closed out during 2014. This resulted in gross profit of \$7,160. Total expenses were \$11,902; and, discounting the estate adjustment, the actual spending loss was approximately \$1,500. The budget vs. actual schedule showed unfavorable net income of \$3,576; but the year would have ended with only a \$464 unfavorable variance to budget if not for the McClelland estate adjustment,. The group reviewed the top expenses which included the *Golden Gourd*, insurance and meeting expense. It was noted that \$650 advertising revenue was expected in early 2015. A motion was made and carried to accept the report of the Treasurer.

Programs/Regional Group Report

Patch Leader Meetings. Sherry reported on the combined northern and southern patch leader meeting last April at the Lamp Liter Inn, at which the CGS budget was reviewed and a brainstorming session was held. This year, there will be separate meetings and held at a time after tickets are produced for the proposed fundraising project. In 2016, the patch leader meetings will be combined in Visalia.

2015 CGS Retreat. Sherry Hunga-Moore distributed and explained a schedule showing different expense and income scenarios for the proposed CGS retreat, October 1 through 4, 2015. She said the goal would be for it to be a self-funded event. However, if 80 people attended it would be more difficult to self-fund. Fees paid by attendees included rooms Thursday night through Sunday at 4pm, meals, classes and workshop kits. Proceeds from a raffle during the event will be used to generate a reserve fund for future retreats. If there were 40 attendees, incidental costs borne by CGS were estimated at \$2,500 (\$45 per person). Incidental expenses included: \$15 for a goodie bag, \$20 for workshops & kit materials; \$10 for 2 teacher workshop fees. Incidental costs could be reduced with the assistance of donated items.

Discussion followed as to the rationale behind holding the retreat to create a relaxing, enjoyable and classy event for our members. At the 2014 board meeting, there was a discussion as to what would be the appropriate use of our excess funds to benefit CGS members. This was a question asked of our patch leaders during the April 2014 leader meeting, and a retreat for 80 to 125 people was the brainstorm item that received the most support during that meeting. Each member would receive a written invitation to participate. Compared to the Asilomar conference, the proposed retreat was expected to be an excellent value for members and less expensive for CGS.

Pam Argo handed out information on a potential CGS cruise that included a raffle for accommodations where all CGS costs could potentially be covered. It was agreed this might be a great future retreat. She will research cabin costs/cruise ship options and said the point of departure could be out of San Francisco, offering a retreat option closer to the northern regional groups. A motion was made and carried to authorize the CGS member retreat at the Highland Springs Resort on October 1 through 4, 2015.

There was discussion about of the retreat's financial impact on CGS. Estimating incidental costs of \$45 per person, expenses would be \$2,500 for 40 attendees and \$5,000 for 80 attendees. At the patch leader meetings, they will talk about the retreat, letting the leaders know the goal is to make it self-funded.

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Membership Report

An email from JoAnn Clark was read and below are the questions posed with the Board's answers in *italics*:

- 1) How many families are eligible for the 'family plan'? Peggy responded and said that it was documented that 'family memberships need not be restricted to 2 people', *ok.*
- 2) If there is a family plan membership, I currently record only 2 family names, the primary and the secondary. If there are 3 or 4 members, am I required to record all names on the roster? The roster might get a tad busy and harder to manage. *Continue to record only two names.*
- 3) Are all family members eligible a free membership if their patch has 100% membership compliance? *Yes all family members are eligible to win free membership if their patch is compliant with 100% CGS membership; however they only win one family membership.*
- 4) What other benefits are family members eligible for: can they vote?, access to website "members only" section?, expect a newsletter?, etc. *Family member benefits: 1 newsletter; 1 email address; all vote; all enter competitions; all qualify to attend retreat.*
- 5) Should we charge \$5 more for a family plan: \$20 for single, \$25 for family? *Mary read Bylaws which state we have one class of membership. Agreed to keep the family membership fee the same as individual membership.*
- 6) Are all family members eligible for a membership card?" *One card issued to the family.*

Sherry said we have developed and started to distribute the membership welcome letter that included a cut-out membership card. The new 2015 Members Only user name and password will be effective 2/1/15 and printed on the card. A recess was called at 10:45 and the meeting reconvened at 10:55am.

Directors at Large Reports

Susan Sullivan reported the progress of the Orange County Gourd Patch in forging an alliance with the local woodcarvers group. She said there are additional opportunities for outreach, for example, colleges, art schools and garden groups. During her annual circuit of garden clubs in Orange County, she encourages audiences to grow gourds with seeds she hands out.

Discussion took place regarding the need for CGS members to participate more in county fair competitions, and the group reviewed a list of these and what regional groups were based in those counties. It was also suggested CGS regional groups partner with the missions and woodcarver groups in their areas.

Pam Argo said she will be working on the county fairs in the northern counties and has been helping to plan CGS member activities. She offered to donate half of her commission to the retreat fund if CGS members use her travel services and will advertise this in the upcoming *Golden Gourd*.

Editor Report

Mary distributed and reviewed reports on projects she completed during 2014, *Golden Gourd* expenses and advertising income, an outline of what will be covered in upcoming issues, and statistics on emails sent via Constant Contact. She welcomed input on *Golden Gourd* content. She commented on the importance of members not marking CGS emails as spam, because this could adversely affect our standing with email service providers causing problems that are difficult and time-consuming to resolve. The group complimented Mary on the excellent job that she does throughout the year.

Website Review

Janet Greene reported website information changes that have been made and items pending confirmation. Janet asked for Gourdstock, competition and Davis Ranch festival photos to be sent to her for posting. It was noted that tutorials are on the Members Only page. She commented on the CGS Facebook page, which had over 150 Likes, and encouraged board members and friends to Like us. Olive Moore agreed to take over the job of reviewing emails received through the CGS website Contact Us link. The creation of a Board Only web page was still pending. In addition to the regional patch webpage, Janet confirmed that she will take on the responsibility of updating the regional group listings on the three-fold membership brochure and the one-page member application form.

New Business

Insurance. Barbara reported her extensive review of our existing insurance policy and discussion took place regarding the possible addition of non-owned auto insurance (\$100 premium) and accident insurance (\$250 premium). Discussion followed regarding the potential implications of non-members performing tasks in CGS booths. Barbara agreed to be responsible for being the contact regarding all insurance matters, taking over the job formerly done by Peggy Blessing. Information was distributed relating to protections provided by California and Federal laws for volunteer directors and officers, and it was pointed out that this protection was only in effect if the organization carried a certain level of insurance.

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Competitions

It was proposed a change be considered regarding the requirement that CGS competitions be members-only events, considering that other AGS state chapters do not have this requirement. Discussion followed how to implement this and; after considering various scenarios, a motion was made a carried to establish a \$10 non-member entry fee for CG competitions. The \$6 member entry fee would remain the same. Following discussion about what to do with ribbons that are no longer being used because of out-of-date artwork, it was agreed to donate them to a Special Olympics group.

Barbara Rippetoe proposed that we change our awards from ribbons to pins, similar to ones used in woodcarver competitions. After looking at an example and reviewing costs, a motion was made and carried to replace competition ribbons with pins for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners and to offer ribbons for sale at a marginal profit to these winners. A recess was called at 12:45pm and the meeting reconvened at 1:15pm.

Barbara Rippetoe distributed information regarding competition opportunities and an entry form for a combined Capital Woodcarvers and CGS competition on 5/2-3/15 in the Sacramento area. Based on the woodcarvers willingness to create six gourd categories, to allow CGS to receive the \$6 entry fee, to have a free information booth, and they would cover the cost of the facility, Barbara and Janet Greene felt this was a good opportunity for CGS to partner with a well-established group. CGS would award our own pins and provide AGS accredited judges. Susan Sullivan said the Orange County woodcarvers competition will be 10/10-11/15. Janet said that the woodcarvers were looking for raffle donations. A motion was made and carried to ratify the decision to participate in the Capital Woodcarvers competition- within-a-competition on May 2-3, 2015. Barbara will take member mail-in entries and deliver these to the competition.

A motion was made and carried to ratify the electronic vote of the Board to approve the \$100 prize payable to the California State Fair in support of the gourd competition at the 7/10-26/15, State Fair in Sacramento. Four categories have been established and an AGS judge has been assigned. Entry details have not yet been posted on the State Fair's website. There will be an option for mail-in entries.

It was noted that the Davis Festival 9/25-27/15, was another CGS sanctioned competition. Barbara plans to have a Jim Story category at this competition. It was agreed to continue to contribute \$20 to the AGS Jim Story Award.

Fundraising Ideas

Discussion of the Amazon Smile program took place, which was a way for non-profits to receive a percent of all purchases if the buying session began from the link on the non-profit's website. A motion was made and carried to authorize Christina Chrivia to execute whatever paperwork necessary to register CGS with the Amazon Smile donation program.

A motion was made and carried to authorize Christina to executive whatever paperwork necessary to register CGS's non-profit status with Jo-Ann craft stores in order for members to qualify for a discount program.

Discussion took place regarding some merchandise ideas, e.g., a collapsible coozie to sell with a bottle of water at events or an inscribed stylus pen. Christina reported that the latest merchandise sales were not profitable; and, if we decide to pursue a product in the future, we will need to figure out a better distribution and inventory system. Mary said that we had some merchandise options via Cafe Press, an on-line web-store, but this received very little traffic. It was suggested we consider a web auction or ticket sales for special high-end raffle items, such as cruise tickets or tools.

Scholarship Fund

Sherry Hunga-Moore and Sue Gouig reported that they have not yet used the \$1,400 that was to be split between the northern and southern regions for education purposes at festivals, but they expected to use these funds in 2015. It was noted that this was a restricted fund and had to be used for the stated fundraising purpose.

American Gourd Society

Barbara Rippetoe reported on her attendance at the AGS board meeting in North Carolina, saying there was a good exchange of information. They asked state chapters to encourage their members to be AGS members so that the publication of the *Gourd Magazine* could continue. Photos she submitted were published in a recent issue, and Sylvia Nelson passed around an issue containing an article she wrote. Barbara described the event hosted by the North Carolina Gourd Society.

State Filings

Christina Chrivia explained the process for getting the permit to conduct our state-wide raffle, saying she needed information about these before the August filing deadline. The Secretary of State update of officers was also due this year. In answer to a question,

(Continued on Page 28)

Continued from Page 27)

Christina clarified that CGS's non-profit status and raffle permits do not cover regional groups; the only way that this could be done was if CGS controlled their finances. She said she could advise any regional group who wished to incorporate as a non-profit, saying that filing fees could be in the \$100 range, with \$10 annual fees. It was suggested we consider doing silent auctions, and Christina will look into the possibility of doing this on line.

Peggy Blessing will remain on the Square account, and Janet Greene will be invited so that she could accept credit card payments on behalf of CGS at festivals.

Secretary Election

A motion was made and carried to appoint Olive Moore to serve as CGS Secretary. She was presented with a CGS name badge and thanked for her willingness to serve in this position. Peggy Blessing reported receiving 75 votes of confidence from members during the poll that was taken during November and December 2014 (The Folsom group also cast 20 votes, but Peggy did not receive their list). Although JoAnn Clark was willing to continue her service as Vice President of Membership, the position was due for re-appointment; and nominees should have been solicited last fall. It was recommended that the board decide which officers will be up for election so that a 2-year pattern could be established.

Past Income Statements

Christina Chrvia said that she had access to CGS financial records further back than she originally thought and was able to determine expenses and income for the 2008 Asilomar conference. Gross profit was \$27,477, with \$22,995 in expenses, noting there was a beginning balance of approximately \$500. These figures represented registration fees, raffle and the silent auction.

Board Meeting Schedule

The possibility of holding a combined patch leader and board meeting was discussed. It was agreed to hold the next board meeting at the same time next year (1/9/16). Discussion took place regarding the possibility of holding short meetings via Google Plus/On Air which can be done via phone or computer. Janet Greene agreed to coordinate trainings/tests. If successful, it was suggested a board meeting be held in June using this method.

CGS Fundraising Project

Sherry Hunga-Moore showed examples of wreath, garland and sprays that will be tastefully decorated with small spinner gourds in a variety of themes decided upon by the regional group, e.g., fall, 4th of July, Christmas. These should be completed by February 2016 by the 9 northern groups and 8 southern groups. Details will be published in the *Golden Gourd* when available. Sherry reported 3,000 raffle tickets were printed for the charm string fundraising project, and CGS proceeds were \$1,427, with the regional groups receiving an equal amount. She felt that we needed to find a better way to promote sales, suggesting the possibility of selling tickets via Paypal where photos of completed projects could be posted.

CGS Cruise

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of scheduling of a patch leader/board meeting on a cruise ship with an opportunity for all CGS members to participate. This topic will be brought up at the upcoming patch leader meetings. Our bylaws will be reviewed to see if there was language preventing us from holding a board meeting in such a manner. It was suggested that broadcasting via Google Plus might be an option if members wished to attend virtually. Pam Argo will investigate the financial aspects of a cruise and suggested a raffle be held on board ship where other passengers could buy tickets. Following further discussion, it was decided to pursue the creation of a CGS cruise retreat opportunity in January 2017 and combine this with a board and patch leader meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25pm.

2015 Budget

Following a 2015 budget development meeting, a Board meeting was called to order at 5:15pm. There was a motion made and carried to approve the 2015 budget as developed during the previous meeting. Budgeted income totaled \$23,810 and Expenses totaled \$28,015, netting a budgeted loss of \$4,205 (2015 retreat income was budgeted at \$12,920 and expenses at \$15,480). The meeting adjourned at 5:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Blessing
Secretary

CGS BOARD of DIRECTORS 2015

New Terms start at the end of the January Board Meeting

President - Term 2014 - Jan 2016

Barbara Rippetoe bjrippetoe@sbcglobal.net (916) 988-6599

First Vice President -Term 2014 - Jan 2016

Janet Greene sangeeta_k@icloud.com (530) 713-3403

Secretary -Term 2015 - Jan 2017

Olive Moore secretary@californiagourdsociety.com (909) 982-7790

Treasurer-Term 2009 - Jan 2016

Christina Chrivia krisytina@cox.net (619) 890-1637

VP Membership-Term 2009 - Jan 2016

JoAnn Clark b4gourds@yahoo.com (760) 749-9410

Director of Northern Programs -Term 2012 - Jan 2016

Susan Gouig suegg51@yahoo.com (707) 433-9162

Director of Southern Programs -Term 2009 - Jan 2017

Sherry Hunga-Moore florashm@aol.com (760) 781-3311

Directors at Large -#1 Term 2014 - Jan 2017, #2 Term 2013 - Jan 2016

#1 Pamela Argo Pamela@r72.com (916) 642-6947

#2 Susan Sullivan susanSPHN@aol.com (714) 997-4482

CGS Positions

Insurance Contact - (Your contact if your gourd group needs an Insurance Certificate of Coverage for your event)

Barbara Rippetoe bjrippetoe@sbcglobal.net (916) 988-6599

Web Mistress -Term 2014 - Jan 2017, **Facebook 1st Moderator**

Janet Greene sangeeta_k@icloud.com (530) 713-3403

Travel Agent (CGS Official) -Term 2015 - Jan 2017

Pamela Argo Pamela@r72.com (916) 642-6947

Editor, The Golden Gourd Newsletter -2005 - Contract Yearly, **Facebook 2nd Moderator**

Mary Bliss editorgoldengourd@californiagourdsociety.com (714) 328-6197

Immediate Past President—2010 - Jan 2014

Sylvia Nelson sylvianelson@citlink.net (916)-682-2437

CGS Committees

Committee Chair - Competition Categories CA Gourd Competition -2013 - Yearly

Barbara Rippetoe bjrippetoe@sbcglobal.net (916) 988-6599

Committee Chair - CGS Artist Retreat— Highland Springs - 2015

Sherry Hunga-Moore florashm@aol.com (760) 781-3311

The Editor's Vine

Hello,

I would like to thank everyone that helps with the copy, pictures and ad support of the Golden Gourd Newsletter without your support we could not have this wonderful newsletter. A very special thank you to Sylvia Nelson for doing a great job proof reading for me.

You may have noticed in this issue we have many new events happening up and down our state, the CGS board continues to work hard on your behalf. In the issue look for the highlights from the board meeting, updated competition categories, and more.

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

For the most current information please visit the California Gourd Society website at: www.californiagourdsociety.com it is updated regularly.

Remember this is "YOUR" newsletter if you have anything you would like to have in the next issue please forward to me. Maybe you attended a recent festival, made something new or tried a new product?

Members are encouraged to visit the "Members Only" section at our website, there you will find all past issues of the Golden Gourd, tutorials and more. And for those of you that like a more INTERACTIVE social network you can LIKE us on our *Face Book page*.

Thank you for your continuing support!
Mary Bliss -Editor Golden Gourd



Electronic Newsletter Article/Ad Deadlines - 2015 & 2016

Summer	July 15, 2015
Fall	October 15, 2015
Winter 15/16.....	January 31, 2016
Spring.....	April 15, 2016

Ad Rates – 2015

Half Page \$25
3" X 3" \$15

Business Card (members only) \$5

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CGS On-Line

- **CGS Website** - <http://www.californiagourdsociety.com>
- **CGS Amazon Smile** - <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-2054131>
- **CGS Facebook Page** - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/California-Gourd-Society/1443536225864628>
- **CGS Logo Printing** - <http://www.cafepress.com/cagourdsociety>