

# THE GOLDEN GOURD

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY

Volume 20, Issue II

Summer 2017

## *Partnership in Action - CGS Gourder's Take Awards at State and County Fairs*



Pictured Left: Robert Swendsen - Past, Present and Future - 1st Place, Best of Division and California Gourd Award \$100  
Pictured Right: Ventura County Gourd Artists - Ventura County Fair - Agriculture & Natural Resources - Sweepstakes Winner

## From the North to the South

Inside this issue we have more fun, exciting news and pictures!

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**President's Message**

Greetings Fellow Gourd Artists,

Summer is nearly over and some of our county fairs have come and gone but there are still some yet to take place. I was unable to attend the State fair this year due to other commitments but I have heard all about it. A big thank you to Barbara Rippetoe for presenting the CGS Special Award of \$100.00 to Robert Swendsen who also won Best of Division. I saw pictures of so many beautiful gourd entries. And a special thanks to Aaron Bullock and his team for doing the demo booth. That's how we can spread the word about growing gourds and raising interest in becoming new gourd artists.

I did get a chance to visit the Orange County Fair. The OC Gourd Society had a wonderful display of eighteen wall cabinets full of beautiful gourd art. They also had an information booth the first weekend of the fair and I understand that a couple visitors at the booth have already taken a gourd class and plan to attend patch meetings. Please send pictures and information from YOUR county fair so we can include it in our newsletter.



I've seen pictures of some of the gourd gardens and they are doing well. I only planted a couple plants this year and decided to try some snake gourds because straight snake gourds for rain sticks are really hard to find! Well, I only ended up with two gourds – but they are straight since they are hanging on my trellis. I'm so excited to actually make a rain stick from a gourd I grew myself! There's a certain satisfaction in creating art from a gourd you've grown from a seed.

Don't forget to visit the CGS Facebook page and post pictures of your gourd garden and of your winning entries at the fair.

I hope you are all planning to enter our gourd competition this year. Check out the categories and see which of the three competitions is closest to you and get the dates on your calendar. A lot of work is going on to have festivals and competitions for our members. Please support your local patch and festival.

I will be at the festivals at the CGS booth. Please stop by and introduce yourself. I would love to meet you and chat about what CGS can do for you!

Olive Moore, CGS President

## Your California Gourd Society Competition and Festival Guide and Check List

Since all 3 of the CGS Gourd Art Competitions have had their "How To Enter" details published and sent to each of you previously in the Golden Gourd Newsletter, or CGS - Shout Out and our website, they are not included in this issue because of the space needed. Scanning each of the QR codes below with your smart phone will download a pdf with complete competition and festival details.

**Sept. 29 –Oct. 1**

***Northern Gourd Art Competition and Gourd Exhibit***  
*Hosted by the Folsom Gourd Artists and Amador Gourd Artists*  
*Orangevale Community Center, Orangevale, CA*

### Important Dates and Check List



QR code

- \_\_ Entries may be submitted in person on *Friday, September 29* from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- \_\_ **Mailed entries** must be received by *September 27th*. Scan RQ code for **Complete Competition details and DIRECTIONS FOR MAILED ENTRIES.**
- \_\_ Judging will take place on *Saturday* from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Release and pick up of entries will be from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. on *Sunday, October 1, 2017.*

**October 5-8**

***CA Bay Area Gourd Art Competition and Gourd Exhibit***  
*Hosted by The Calabash Club of Silicon Valley - 6th Annual Gourd Festival*  
*Uesugi Farms, San Martin, CA*

### Important Dates and Check List



QR code

- \_\_ Entries may be submitted in person on *Thursday, October 5th* from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and *Friday, October 6th* from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.
- \_\_ Mailed entries must be received by *September 4th*. Scan RQ code for **Complete Competition details and DIRECTIONS FOR MAILED ENTRIES.**
- \_\_ Judging will take place on *Friday October 6th* from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Release and pick up of entries will be from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. on *Sunday, October 8, 2017.*

**October 14-15**

***Southern Gourd Art Competition and Gourd Exhibit***  
*Hosted by the Orange County Gourd Society*  
*in collaboration with Orange County Carvers Guild*  
*Elk's Lodge, Santa Ana, CA*

### Important Dates and Check List



QR code

- \_\_ Entries may be submitted in person on *Saturday, October 14, 2017,* from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. Scan RQ code for **Complete Competition details.**
- \_\_ Judging will take place on *Saturday* at 8:30 a.m. and the display will be open for viewing on *Saturday,* from completion of judging until 5 p.m. and on *Sunday* 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.
- \_\_ Release and pick up of entries will be from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. on *Sunday, October 15, 2017.*

## Tips & Tricks by Betty Finch

Since the American Gourd Society Jim Story Committee has endorsed Hat Parades they are becoming quite the rage. The California Gourd Society will have a hat parade during the September 29 - Oct 1 Northern Gourd Art Competition & Exhibit in Orangevale, CA. There will also be a hat parade at the CGS Retreat in Oakhurst August 9 - 12. CGS members attending are encouraged to make and wear a gourd hat. Photographs of the top gourd hats will be published in "The Gourd Magazine", a national publication of the American Gourd Society. This weeks Tips & Tricks is therefore devoted to gourd hats.

Here is a tip about attending events with hat parades. Make two hats. Wear one around the festival and save your best or funniest one as a surprise for the hat parade. A little history - hat parades came into existence at the Indiana Gourd Festivals, a product of Jim Story who privately encouraged the craftiest people to make and wear a gourd hat and jewelry to the festival. Then at the well-attended Sunday Breakfast Jim would ask all the people wearing hats to come up to the front of the room for a round of applause. Jim would stand behind the top

hats with his arm raised and ask by applause to choose a favorite. Sometimes the participants would be asked to walk around the room so people in the back could see their hat up close. The ritual evolved over the years as more and more participants joined in. So many people started participating that Jim began breaking it down into separate kids, men and women parades and asking each group to circle the room twice before the individual applause.

Eventually prizes were added. Jim continued contacting talented individuals well before the festivals saying things like "I can't wait to see what kind of hat you make for the hat parade this year!" The eventual result was more participants than spectators!. The fun was contagious and hat parades sprang up in other state gourd festivals. Now the tradition has made it to the West!

I can still remember how welcomed and included I felt the year Jim whispered to me, "The old timers keep their new hat hidden until the last minute". Clued in, I removed my parade hat and hid it in a paper bag until the breakfast parade. So I'm sharing that bit of advice from Jim Story with you. Make two hats and save your special one as a surprise for the hat parade.

Many regular gourd festival attendees make a signature hat they wear every year during all the gourd festivals. It helps people recognize you. They make great conversation pieces. The practice adds a charming atmosphere and conveys a message to the general public that gourd crafters are light-hearted, fun-loving people. The hats also provide great photo opportunities for everyone. I've actually had people purchase the hat I was wearing right off my head.

The hat you plan on wearing all day should be comfortable and not interfere with the tasks you need to perform. This is not difficult because gourd hats are naturally lightweight and provide excellent insulation qualities. They can make shade to keep you cool in the Summer and they can keep your head warm in the winter. To keep your hair clean and to keep them from dribbling debris you will want to finish the interior of your all-day hat. This can be as simple as a coat of sprayed-on paint or as complicated as a sewn liner. I like to line mine with strips of paper decoupaged on and attach a soft foam piece where my head touches. A ribbon tie can be used to hold your hat on securely or you can construct your hat in such a way that it fits your head so perfectly it won't fall off when you bend over.

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To cut a hole in a gourd for a Perfectly-Fitting Gourd Hat. Wrap a wire around your head where the hatband would fit. Twist to secure. Trace a pattern of it on a piece of paper. Cut out the shape. Both the center piece and the hole can be used as a patterns to trace your head shape on to a gourd before you cut. Use a rat-tail file or sandpaper to fine-tune the fit if needed. I encourage each of you to participate in the California Gourd Society's upcoming hat parades. Beautiful, realistic, "serious" hats, funny, goofy, comical hats, hats with moving parts, multiple gourd hats, huge hats tiny hats, colorful hats and gourd colored hats, all are welcome in hat parades. Put on your thinking caps, get innovative. Originality is encouraged, nothing is too far out there. Start thinking and planning now... "I can't wait to see what will you make" whisper, whisper.

From this link you can look back to the last CGS Gourd Wearable Parade held at the Asilomar Gourd Conference held in 2008 at: <https://youtu.be/1RYU7KWic6g>



## California State Fair - Recap by Barbara Rippetoe

The Folsom Gourd Artists and the Amador Gourd Artists were very proud to have won so many ribbons this year. Robert Swendsen won first in Other Gourd Art and best of division plus the CGS Special Award Folsom and Amador did a two day demonstration that was very well received by all. We are looking forward to next year. I hope more people will participate. It really is a lot of fun.

California Crafts Competition 2017 Awards			
Department: Handcrafts			
Division 112: Gourds			
Class 2: Painted/Colored			
Name	Title	Place	Special Award
Sharon King	Hypnogourd	1 <sup>st</sup>	
Heather Hopman	Lynx	2 <sup>nd</sup>	
Chris Crady	Tuscan Winery	3 <sup>rd</sup>	
Chris Crady	Golden Wing	4 <sup>th</sup>	
Class 3: Carved/Filigree			
Name	Title	Place	Special Award
Maryland Fallon	Study in Black	1 <sup>st</sup>	
Sharon King	Garden Basket	2 <sup>nd</sup>	
Pamela Argo	Dream	3 <sup>rd</sup>	
Dawnelle Sauve	Spring Has Sprung	4 <sup>th</sup>	
Class 4: Coiling			
Name	Title	Place	Special Award
Marilyn Carrico	From Sea to Tree	1 <sup>st</sup>	
Barbara Rippetoe	Antler Turquoise Entwined	2 <sup>nd</sup>	
Leanne Kelly	Triple Sisters	3 <sup>rd</sup>	
Class 5: Other Gourd Art			
Name	Title	Place	Special Award
Robert Swendsen	Past, Present, Future	1 <sup>st</sup>	CA Gourd Society Award
Aaron Bullock	Past and Future	2 <sup>nd</sup>	
Leanne Kelly	Flowers	3 <sup>rd</sup>	
Marilyn Carrico	"Roxie"	4 <sup>th</sup>	
Gourds Best of Division			
Robert Swendsen	Past, Present, Future		



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Thank you Chris Crady and Barbara Rippetoe for submitting pictures.

# NorCal Gourd Art & Competition Festival

*presented by*

**Folsom Gourd Artists & Amador Gourd Artists  
with California Gourd Society Competition**



**September 30th 10am - 5pm  
October 1st 10am - 4pm**



**Orangevale Community Center  
6826 Hazel Ave., Orangevale, Ca.**



- Beautiful Artwork for Sale
- Make & Take
- Classes 9/29, 9/30, 10/1
- Gourd Supplies
- Raffles
- Demonstrations
- Food Vendors
- Jim Story Competition



**Enjoy our Gourd Hat Parade! • Learn About Manipulated Gourds**

**Free Admission! Free Parking!**

[www.FolsomGourdArtists.com](http://www.FolsomGourdArtists.com) • [www.CaliforniaGourdSociety.com](http://www.CaliforniaGourdSociety.com)

## Fall in The Gourd Garden and Gourd Festivals! by Cecile Garrison

By this time we all know what we did wrong in the Gourd garden and there is no turning back to make the 2017 crop better!

I have always discouraged overhead watering of gourd vines but this year I did it myself without thinking. I was very busy with family matters and thought I would take advantage of my son's overhead lawn sprinkler to water my adjacent arbor. I came to my senses when I noticed blooms were not opening. It seems when the sprinkler hit the pending blooms they changed their mind and rotted instead. I stopped but not before losing many potential dippers.

Next year I may have to apply a fertilizer with phosphorus and potassium to encourage more flower and fruit production. My only fertilizer has been steer manure for years and I think my soil yearns for more. It is too late to help this year's crop!

Next February I will start dipper gourd seeds inside. When volunteers show up in April I plan to yank them all out! I am sick of these imposters mingling with the ones I planted. They rob the chosen ones of light, water and air. I also have a history of planting too many and too close. At least six hours of sun is required for healthy plants and fruit and my haphazard planting has prevented air and light from reaching the plants.

It has not been all bad! I am closing in on last year's record twenty-five knotted gourds even though the overhead sprinkling destroyed a lot of the early crop preventing many more knot opportunities. I also have at least ten successful gourds growing nicely in various molds. We shall see how many make it through the maturing, drying and green cleaning process.

I hope to see many Art and Jim Story entries in festivals this fall. I plan to attend at least three festivals! If you are passing through Visalia, California stop by! We will talk gourds, techniques, tools, paints, embellishments and more!



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## NorCal Gourd Art & Competition Festival – Gourd Classes

Presented by the Folsom and Amador Gourd Artist Groups

For complete details: [http://www.californiagourdsociety.com/NorCal\\_Gourd\\_Classes.html](http://www.californiagourdsociety.com/NorCal_Gourd_Classes.html)

### Friday September 29, 2017

#### **FRI M (J) 1**

How to make and use alcohol inks to enhance your work.

Joyce Campbell

Cost: \$40.00

9:00am-12:00pm

All Levels, especially valuable for beginners.

#### **FRI A (J) 2**

How to make and use alcohol inks to enhance your work.

Joyce Campbell

Cost: \$40.00

1:00am-4:00pm

All Levels, especially valuable for beginners.

#### **FRI (B) 3**

Getting to know the wood burning tool

Bettie Lake

Cost: \$65.00

9:00am-12:00pm

All levels

#### **FRI A (B) 4**

Composing and Abstract Design on a Gourd

Bettie Lake

Cost: \$50.00

1:00am-5:00pm

All levels

#### **FRI (T) 5**

Undulating Coils

Toni Best

Cost: \$85.00

9:30am – 4:00pm

All levels

#### **FRI (V) 6**

Mini Black Lidded Gourd

Vickie Echols

Cost: \$60.00

9:30am – 4:00pm

All Levels

### Saturday September 30, 2017

#### **SAT (B) 7**

Double Shard Necklace

Bettie Lake

Cost: \$65.00

9:00am-4:00pm

All Levels

#### **SAT (T) 8**

Free Form

Toni Best

Cost: \$85.00

9:30am-4:00pm

All Levels

#### **SAT (V) 9**

Double Handle Basket with

Copper Beads

Vickie Echols

Cost: \$70.00

9:30am-5:00pm

All levels

### Sunday October 1, 2017

#### **SUN (B) 10**

“Little Gem” Gourd

Bettie Lake

Cost: \$65.00

9:30am-4:00pm

All Levels

#### **SUN (T) 11**

Filling the Gap

Toni Best

Cost: \$85.00

9:30am-4:00pm

All Levels

#### **SUN (V) 12**

Rainbow Swirl

Vickie Echols

Cost: \$77.00

9:30am-4:00pm

All Levels



*California Gourd Society*  
*Northern California*  
*Gourd Art Competition*

**Sept 30-Oct 1, 2017**

**Orangevale Community Center**  
**6826 Hazel Ave. ORANGEVALE, CA**

*Competition Categories:*

*Pyrography, Carving, Painting, Fiber Art,  
Jewelry, Beading, Mixed Media, Class Gourds,  
Anything Goes, Embellishments, Weaving,  
Jim Story and a Hat Parade*

**For More Information visit the CGS Website:**  
**[www.californiagourdsociety.com](http://www.californiagourdsociety.com)**

*Hosted by*  
*Folsom Gourd Artists &*  
*Amador Gourd Artists*



*California Gourd Society*  
*CA Bay Area Gourd Art*  
*Competition*  
*October 7-8, 2017*

*Hosted by*  
*The Calabash Club of Silicon Valley*

*Held at Uesugi Farms*  
*14485 Monterey Rd, San Martin, CA 95046*

*Competition Categories:*

*Pyrography, Carving, Painting, Fiber Art,*  
*Jewelry, Mixed Media, Class Gourds, Weaving,*  
*Anything Goes, Embellishments, Assemblage,*  
*and Natural Arrangements*

*For More Information:*  
[www.californiagourdsociety.com](http://www.californiagourdsociety.com)



# Gourd Fest 2017

*Presented by the Calabash Club of Silicon Valley*



**Don Weeke  
Friday Class**

**Bette Lake  
Thursday Class**

**Sue Brogdon  
Friday Class**

**Bette Lake  
Friday Class**

**Classes Thursday,  
Oct 5 & Friday, Oct 6**

**Vickie Echols  
Friday Class**

**Vickie Echols  
Thursday Class**

**Sue Brogdon  
Thursday Class**

**Don Weeke  
Thursday Class**

## Calabash Gourd Festival October 7th & 8th

At Uesugi Pumpkin Patch,  
14485 Monterey Highway,  
San Martin, CA 95046

*Featuring Demonstrations  
Gourd Art for Sale  
Vendor Booths and  
Make & Take Activities  
for Kids & Adults*

[www.GourdFest.com](http://www.GourdFest.com)



Calabash Club of Silicon Valley  
 Gourd Fest 2017 - Gourd Classes  
 October 5th & 6th

For complete details visit: <http://www.gourdfest.com/the%20course%20catalog/catalogcover.html>

October 5th Thursday Classes

Sue Brogdon

\$85

Wire-Wrapped Agate Rim Treatment

Vickie Echols

\$75

Oval Twisty Rim & Porcelain Beads

Bettie Lake

\$75

Tangling on a Gourd

Don Weeke

\$85

Gourd Mask

October 6th Friday Classes

Sue Brogdon

\$85

Alcohol Ink Finishes

Vickie Echols

\$75

Sand Dollar Lidded Basket

Bettie Lake

\$75

The Narwhal Tangled Gourd

Don Weeke

\$85

Couching on a Gourd

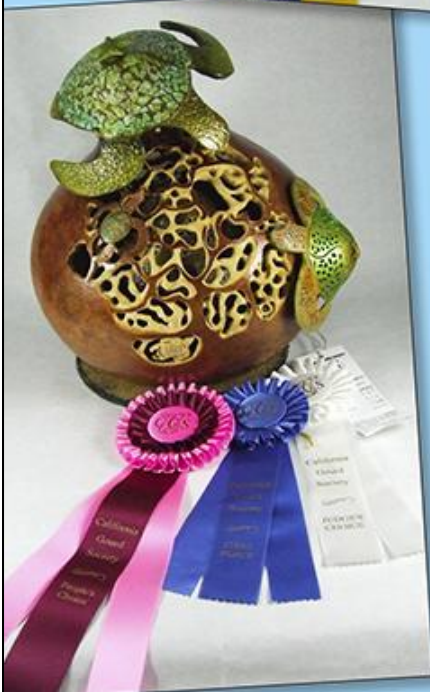


**CGS is currently Seeking Nominations for the Position of Treasurer**  
**Duties listed below:**

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

If you would like to volunteer or have questions regarding this position please contact Secretary Peggy Blessing at: (858) 292-9219 or email [secretary@californiagourdsociety.com](mailto:secretary@californiagourdsociety.com)





# California Gourd Society

## So. Cal. Gourd Art Competition

in collaboration with  
*Orange County Woodcarvers*

**October 14 and 15 2017**

Elk's Club  
212 Elk Lane, Santa Ana, CA

### Categories

Pyrography, Carving, Filigree/Fretwork,  
Painted or Colored, Mixed Media,  
Fiber/Weaving/Coiled

Hosted by  
**Orange County**  
**Gourd Society**

Entry information can be found at:

**[www.ocgourdsociety.com](http://www.ocgourdsociety.com) or**  
**<http://www.californiagourdsociety.com/>**

CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY  
Board Meeting Highlights - January 7, 2017

**Board Members Present:** Olive Moore, President; Pamela Argo, Vice President; Peggy Blessing, Secretary; JoAnn Clark, Vice President/Membership; Betty Finch, Director at Large; Rosalie Gochnour, Treasurer; Sue Gouig, Director of Northern Programs; Elaine Linton, Director of Southern Programs; and Susan Sullivan, Director at Large

**Others Present:** Mary Bliss, Editor/Golden Gourd; Christina Chrivia [left at 11:30pm]; Sherry Hunga-Moore, Creative Projects Chair; Debra Zimmerman.

President Olive Moore called the meeting to order at 9:05am at the home of JoAnn Clark in Valley Center, CA, and introductions were made. Olive reviewed the information packet she distributed.

### Secretary Report

A motion was carried to approve the board meeting Minutes of the January 9 and 10, 2016, meetings as distributed. Motions that were approved electronically throughout 2016 were ratified by the Board: 1) On 2/17/16, hold a competition in conjunction with the Orange County Woodcarvers at the Elks Lodge in Santa Ana, CA, on 10/15-16/16; 2) On 2/17/16, to not charge a fee to advertise in Golden Gourd for CGS competition-only events; 3) On 2/16/16, to file an insurance claim to settle a copyright infringement dispute. Peggy clarified that CGS was responsible for any image published on our website whether or not we were aware it required permission as a copyrighted image. To avoid future liability in this area, there was consensus that we not publish flyers and brochures for others, but we will provide a link to the group's website instead. Peggy was asked to write up a statement to include in the policy document being developed.

It was clarified that the Golden Gourd (GG) no-cost advertisement policy applied to regional group events held on behalf of CGS that did not have revenue opportunities to offset costs. Pam offered to write up guidelines regarding this to include with the CGS policy documents being discussed later today.

Discussion followed regarding revisions to the membership brochure and application form due to regional group changes. Peggy will take responsibility for updating these documents.

### Treasurer Report

Olive thanked Rosalie Gochnour for her work and for spending time with her last August to answer questions. She said we all put the Treasurer in a difficult position when we do not supply her with receipts in a timely manner or do not provide her enough details so that expenses can be categorized properly. After Rosalie answered her many questions this past week, Olive took the liberty to provide a marked-up copy of the 2016 financial statements to help Board members better understand what expenses made up various line items. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the 2016 financial statements. Total income was \$10,269, \$332 unfavorable to budget. Total expense was \$12,252.40, resulting in a net loss for 2016 of \$1,983.55 (\$976.45 better than the budgeted loss). The Balance Sheet was reviewed and various questions were answered. Assets totaled \$26,175.32 at the end of 2016.

Following discussion regarding Square account issues, it was suggested a formal Board authorization be made. A motion was carried to transfer the California Gourd Society Square account from Christina Chrivia to Rosalie Gochnour. Everyone was reminded to use Amazon Smile for their online purchases, naming CGS as a donation beneficiary.

### Vice President's Report

Pam Argo said the new Rio Linda Gourd Artists group was now up and running. Discussion took place regarding the Northern CGS competition. It was reported that the Folsom Gourd Artists group did not want to bear responsibility for the 2017 CGS competition if it were held at the Calabash festival for a variety of reasons. The Folsom group was investigating an indoor facility to conduct an art festival (vs. craft fair) and would be willing to host and fully support the 2017 CGS competition. It was noted that Davis Ranch will no longer be holding a Fall festival. It was noted that we have allocated \$500 each for a northern and a southern competition.

A 2018 CGS cruise retreat option was discussed, and Pam gave cost estimates (3-night event, under \$400 per person, including all meals, parking, a dedicated craft room and 3 free cabins). She offered to donate her portion of the commission to CGS, which could be added to the fund for future retreats.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:30am. [Christina Chrivia left.] The meeting reconvened at 12:30pm.

Discussion resumed regarding the best time of year to hold the retreat, as well as ideas about activities that could take place. A motion was carried to proceed with plans to have a CGS cruise retreat in August 2018. It was recommended that a maximum of 80 CGS members have access to the retreat craft room.



*(Continued from Page 16)*

### **Membership Report**

JoAnn Clark reported a current membership total of 438 (407 single and 31 family members). Of the total, 176 were either new or renewing in 2017, and some of these extend through 2018. JoAnn will contact patches to find out which are eligible for the free membership for being compliant with 100% of their group being CGS members during 2016. She reported that last year 6 patches received a free membership for being compliant during 2015. The bulk membership welcome letter with member card will be emailed in February. After that time, JoAnn will generate the letter and send it via US mail. Our Members Only webpage password will be valid through January 31, and a new one will be sent via email to current members. It was suggested that we consider at some future time the possibility of raising the family membership to \$25.

### **Directors of Northern and Southern Programs Combined Report**

Sue Gouig reviewed a written report of the April 22 combined Patch Leaders meeting in Visalia prepared by Sherry Hunga-Moore. There were 13 patches out of 15 represented, and it was great to have Carol Rookstool in attendance. She thanked Elaine Linton for conducting a great Earth Day project. The patch leader group decided that the next fundraising project will be totems. Sherry had showed them a wonderful example of the stacked gourd concept, which they were excited about. There will be separate leader meetings in 2017. Elaine reported visiting the Ventura and GALA patch meetings and plans to attend an Orange County meeting soon. The 2018 patch leader meeting will take place jointly in Visalia prior to the basket and gourd conference.

It was noted that funds of \$680 remained in the northern region's scholarship fund. Pam was familiar with the school that recently inquired via the website, which may result in use of some of the available scholarship funds. If and when funds are spent, a report on how these monies were used will be published in the Golden Gourd.

### **Directors at Large/Ambassadors Report**

Susan Sullivan noted there are many gourd artists in California that are not members of CGS and suggested we find ways to interest them to join. She said the Orange County group has learned the benefits of having an alliance like they have with the Orange County Woodcarvers. Ideas of other groups to partner with were discussed, such as Dremel groups, decorative painters, weavers, and Rockler Woodworking and Hardware stores. Susan gave left-over ribbons to each of the patches so they could make presentations at their local state fair or other competition events along these lines, with the goal to document the winner with photo and short article in the Golden Gourd to generate some interest and memberships. She said we should continue to promote CGS through public speaking, teaching at local libraries, showing our work and providing member brochures to all patches and instructors.

Betty Finch said there are significant cash prizes for the AGS Jim Story manipulated gourd competition. She explained the multi-year entry process, which has recently been updated to open up the competition more and was outlined on the AGS website. Another change is that the competition will be open to international entries. She talked about past gourd hat competitions and how this tradition started, and passed around photos. She suggested this activity be considered at the retreat and volunteered to organize it. Betty talked about her activities at the Heirloom Expo, where she passed out seeds and had a display about gourds with CGS and AGS website information. She suggested a multiple patch get together be organized, with an activity for work with damaged gourds ("holy gourds"). She offered to visit patches to talk about gourd manipulation and gourd hats or etching on gourds with coffee. She encouraged experimenting with other types of crafts, trying new tools, or observing how others work their craft. Sue G. showed a seed expo catalog with a picture of Betty and her sculptural gourd.

### **Golden Gourd Editor Report**

Mary Bliss said 2016 Golden Gourd expense was \$2,400 for her contract and income was \$695. She said we may need to seek new advertisers to keep income at this level. She emailed the Constant Contact reports to the Board prior to the meeting, noting that we have a high rating of opened emails. She reviewed the communication emails that had been sent to members and the plan for Golden Gourd 2017 content and schedule. Board members volunteered to submit articles, tutorials or to follow up on ideas and get pictures to Mary.

Olive complimented Mary on the special issue on CGS members' participation at state and county fairs, and thought this issue would be good to have available at festivals or fairs. A letter was read complementing Mary on the quality of the newsletter and the hope that she continues to manage this important communication for CGS.

### **Creative Projects Chairperson Report**

Sherry Hunga-Moore was thanked for accepting this position. She said that showing an example the totem fundraising project at the patch leader meeting helped sell the idea. She distributed a flier and sample ticket. We were not sure why the 2015/2016 wreath project proceeds were down from previous fundraisers (grossed \$1,133). The information about the current project is on the website, and she felt it was important to get tickets distributed and have the patch leaders get this rolling. Patches need to understand this is the ideal way to raise funds to support their leaders attendance at patch leader meetings (patches pay \$.50 and sell tickets for \$1). It was suggested we sell items such as aprons, luggage tags, window decals ("Gourds on Board" in yellow warning sign). Sherry said she will look into the decal idea.

*(Continued on Page 18)*

*(Continued from Page 17)*

### **Website/Facebook Report**

Mary showed the website that will be on the new server. She asked that suggested changes be sent to her. She said the new site has a store with an inventory feature, which may work more efficiently with a different merchant provider other than PayPal. Mary was authorized to transfer the CGS website to the new Squarespace platform at her discretion.

She reported that we have gotten quite a bit of interest on the CGS Facebook page. She said the gourd contest idea was not very successful. In order to increase traffic, she recommended we all invite our Facebook friends to the website. Mary was thanked for her many hours of work in support of CGS.

### **Competition Report**

Debra Zimmerman was invited to attend this meeting, because she worked closely with Susan Sullivan and Jack Thorpe on the Southern CGS competition. Debra created detail notes to document the process of the joint competition with the Orange County Woodcarvers for future reference and will create a generic format for others to use for joint competitions and make it available on the CGS website. This pilot program had a limited number of categories and was a factor in the small number of entries, and she acknowledged Olive's help in gathering entries. Jack Thorpe was in charge of the judges and clerks and more volunteers were needed. Discussion followed on how categories are developed. Pam said she was working on gathering input and documenting the general competition process. Olive suggested there be discussion another time about the issue of entries that are class projects.

Olive said the Board needs to decide whether or not to hold a competition in the north at the Calabash gourd festival or at the new art festival indoor venue being sought by the Folsom group. Concerns that occurred in 2016 at the Calabash festival were discussed. Considering that the northern members that managed and ran the competition were not willing to do it in 2017 due to expenses incurred, a motion was carried to discontinue the CGS northern competition at the Calabash festival and approve proceeding with a competition at another location; and to hold a southern competition in cooperation with the Orange County Woodcarvers. The timing of these two competitions in the Fall would not conflict with each other. It was agreed that we would decide the funding support level for the northern competition facility during the budget discussion later today. It was clarified that the southern competition was not a festival and, except for collecting entry fees, it was not a revenue-generator with sales opportunities. Sherry said we should consider purchasing custom competition table cloths. A revenue and expense summary of the 2016 northern and southern competitions was distributed.

Mary said she would like to have all AGS trained judges listed on the website so that they can be accessed by anyone, even by out-of-state competitions.

### **Terms of Office**

Olive said we didn't put a call for volunteers for Board positions last Fall. Discussion followed regarding processes to fill officer and board member positions. The current status of Board two-year positions are as follows: Olive Moore as President through January 2018, Pam Argo as Vice President through January 2018, Peggy Blessing as Secretary through January 2017, Sue Gouig as Director of Northern Programs through January 2018, Rosalie Gochnour as Treasurer through January 2018, Elaine Linton as Director of Southern Programs through January 2018, Susan Sullivan as Director at Large/Ambassador through January 2018, and Betty Finch as Director at Large/Ambassador through January 2018, and JoAnn Clark as Vice President of Membership through January 2018. It was agreed that the office of Vice President, Secretary, Vice President of Membership and Director of Northern Programs be opened up for nomination the Fall of 2017; and to open up the other five positions for nomination in the Fall of 2018.

### **Bylaws**

Pam said last year the Board spent four hours reviewing bylaw revisions that had been proposed to align with current practices and to streamline the wording. The document distributed prior to today's board meeting for review reflected input from last year's discussion. Pam acknowledged the countless hours that Sylvia spent on this project, and she felt this latest revision incorporated the comments and concerns that were expressed last year. She asked that comments or suggested changes be emailed to her within the next two weeks and asked board members to check their position duties to be sure it was accurate. It was noted that the new position Sherry assumed, Creative Projects Coordinator, was not a voting position and, therefore, should not be listed in Section 4 of the bylaws. It was suggested that the policies/ procedures and job descriptions be separated from the bylaws and not attached as an addendum, thus allowing changes from time-to-time without having to file these changes with the State of California. She said the revised bylaws could be approved electronically later in the year. It was noted that title changes were published prior to the approval of the revised bylaws.

### **New Business**

Internal Audit: Olive said she was to appoint an internal audit committee in 2016 but hadn't done this yet. She asked for suggestions on the best way to support this effort. It was noted that the Treasurer and President cannot serve on this committee. The committee would be charged with developing the types of documents (e.g., bank statements, invoices) that should be reviewed and the processes and frequency for review. Committee member suggestions included asking Elaine, Gail Shell and Grace Swanson.

*(Continued on Page 19)*

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**Travel Reimbursement:** It was clarified that only the northern and southern directors get reimbursed for travel expenses in connection with the patch leader meetings.

The meeting recessed at 5:15pm for dinner and budget meeting.

Following a budget development meeting that began at 7:40pm, the Board meeting reconvened at 9:10pm. A motion carried to approve the 2017 budget as proposed during the budget development meeting. The budget worksheet reflected \$9,226 income, \$12,747 expense and net income loss of (\$3,521).

The meeting adjourned at 9:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Blessing, Secretary

*[NOTE: After checking spreadsheet calculations in the budget worksheet following the Board meeting, expense omissions were discovered. On January 15, 2017, Olive Moore distributed a corrected 2017 budget showing \$9,226 income, \$12,902 expense and net income loss of \$3,676. The revised budget was approved electronically on January 16, 2017.]*

## *Partnership in Action - CGS Gourder's Take Awards at State and County Fairs*

The Orange County Gourd Society has been busy at the Orange County Fair this month.



We have 18 display windows filled with gourd art for the public to view throughout the fair in Gallery 15.

The theme was Farm, Fresh, Fun so members contributed gourds that reflected the theme. We had lots of comments on Olive Moore's Frog gourd and "Biggy Yellow" a gourd chicken made by Lauren Lee who is an art student.



We had a display of growing gourds which was well received and many helped themselves to the packets of free seeds. There were members who demonstrated techniques for the public during the three days that we had a booth next to the display windows. Gallery 15 is adjacent to the demonstration gardens so the public can go out to the gardens to look at gourds growing on the trellis. We already have a plan to do more demonstrations for the next fair. We feel it was beneficial and have recruited new people to the art of gourds.

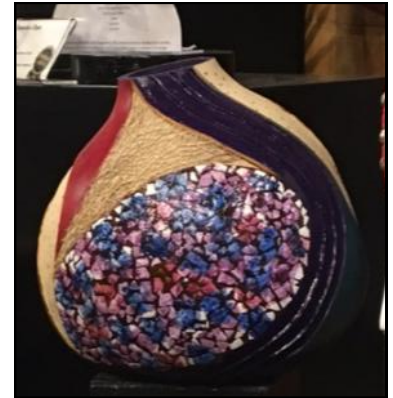
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In the Fair competition we had more entries this year. We had a larger and more central display. The winners are:

Awards	Carved -1st Row	Painted –2nd Row	Other Techniques - 3rd Row
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Robin Erickson	Marie Herman	Olive Moore
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Pamela Watson	Janet Fagner	Karen Krajzynski
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Leslie Hargrove	Leslie Hargrove	Elizabeth Sykes

We were happy to see some young people participating in the Youth section. There were some entries by four youth, all which received awards.



Bottom Left: Pitchers & Bowls  
Were part of the Youth submissions.

## Ventura County Gourd Artists - Ventura County Fair

VCGA have out done themselves again! Taking a 1st Place award as feature exhibit in the Ag Building at the Ventura County Fair.

But wait we did not stop there with awards. VCGA captures the overall feature exhibit SWEEPSTAKES award for the entire Ag Building! That's what we did this year, folks!

Ventura County Gourd Artists members were busy this summer preparing a booth at the VC Fair held this past August. The 10x20-foot booth included a wall of gourd utensils and instruments folks can touch. Another wall featured gourd varieties, and another showcased finished gourds exemplifying various techniques used on a gourd.

Two tables invite youngsters 12 and under to use colored pens on small gourds provided by the club. Huge photos of gourd vines, a progressive gourd of California sites and symbols, a video about growing and using gourds and posters on VCGA's involvement at the fair and outreach in the community round out the booth. Club members manned the booth from 11a.m. to 7 p.m. daily and gave a demo each day at 1:30 p.m.

A busy summer indeed!  
Karen Hibdon

Pictured Below:

Vice President Kathleen Johnston, left, and fair chairwoman Arline Erickson making signs for the VCGA booth at the Ventura County Fair



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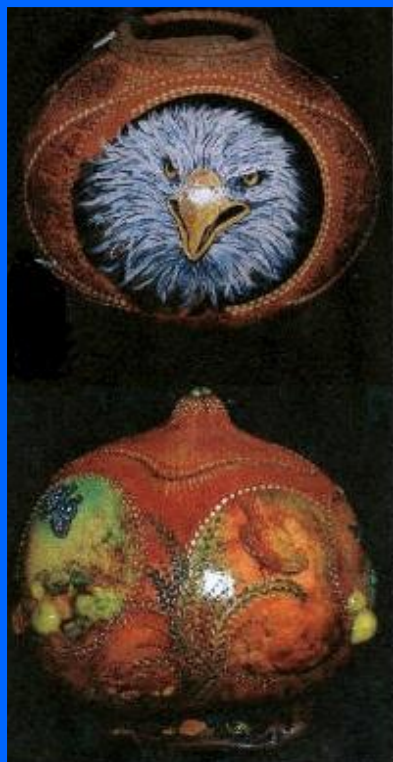
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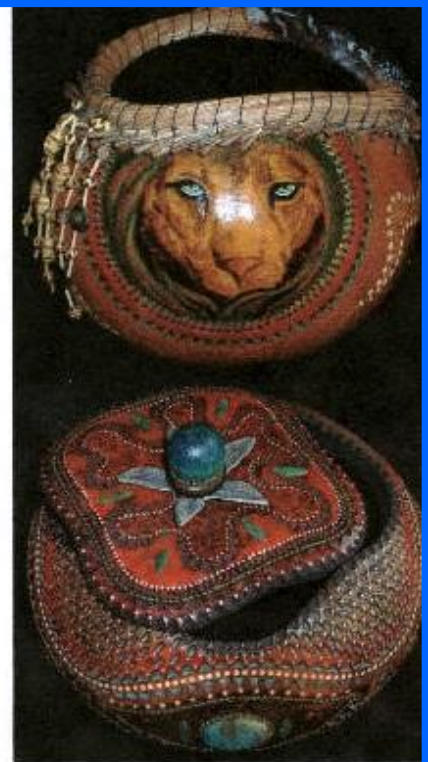
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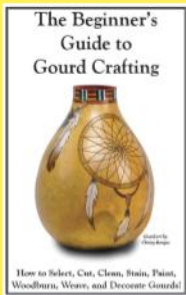
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**The Editors Vine**

Hello,

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

I also want to give a special shout out and thank you to all members for working with me and our email sever Constant Contact. You may have noticed in this issue we have a new events happening up and down our state. The CGS board and patch leadership continue to work hard on your behalf. If you are interested in volunteering , being a teacher or vendor please contact the host patch or festival host directly.

For the most current information please visit the California Gourd Society website at: [www.californiagourdsociety.com](http://www.californiagourdsociety.com) we will be updating it in the coming days and weeks.

Remember this is “YOUR” newsletter if you have anything you would like to have in the next issue please forward to me. Maybe you attended a recent festival, made something new or tried a new product? The deadline for the Fall issue is October 15, 2017.

Members are encouraged to use the “Members Only” section at our website or for those of you that like a more INTERACTIVE social network you can LIKE us on our *Face Book page* at: <https://www.facebook.com/californiagourdsociety/>

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](mailto:editorgoldengourd@californiagourdsociety.com)

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

080917

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**Article/Ad Deadlines - 2017 & 2018**

- Summer .....July 15, 2017
- Fall .....October 15, 2017
- Winter 14/15.....January 31, 2018
- Spring.....April 15, 2018

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

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