



YOU HEARD IT THROUGH THE GOURD VINE

CHANNEL ISLANDS GOURD SOCIETY
A CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA AND AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETIES

Visit our website at
www.channelislandsgourdsociety.com

NOVEMBER 2011

Presidents Message

Hi Everyone,

Welcome new member Mary James, make her welcome and help her get involved.

With October and all the pumpkin festivals over with we can now concentrate on the holidays. Those of us who participated in the pumpkin festivals were very successful and had some fun in the sun. This is such good exposure for our patch. Thanks to all of you.

Our **Christmas party will be Dec. 17th** at the home of Elsie Cogswell. A pot luck as usual and CIGS will provide the meat. Elsie will have a sign up list for the dish you want to bring. Bring an exchange gift for the party highlight (and sometimes a few tears) and one for your guest as well so they can join in on the fun. I'm sure Elsie will have some last minute info for us at the meeting.

The American Gourd Society is having a dolls and spirit figure contest that fits in really well with our challenge for November. I am encouraging all of you who are making dolls and figures to send pictures and a little info. for this competition. The dead line for entry is Jan. 15, 2012. Wouldn't it be fun to see one of our gourds in the national magazine. Sooooo don't forget to bring your challenge for November back this month.

November is also the month we have election of officers. If you wish to run for office or know someone who is willing to help out by serving in one of the offices positions please speak up at this months meeting. Anthony will handle this process and we will vote on the nominations.

This is also a raffle month, the last one of the year so lets bring in those worthwhile items that someone else might

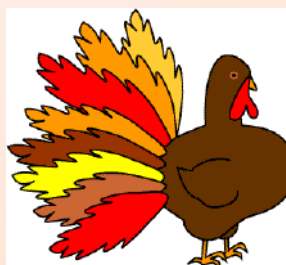
Lisa Toth Receives Award



California State Gourd Society Pres. Sylvia Nelson presents Lisa Toth with a plaque in recognition and honor for her contributions to CGS as Webmistress and as VP of Communications. Lisa is also CIGS webmistress and does a great job with our website.

WELCOME New Member

Mary James
797 Tioga Place
Newbury Park, CA 91320
(805) 300-1655



**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**

take advantage of. If you have good items that no longer interest you or something you think you will never use let one of our members use it on their gourd.

Food Share is an on going project that CIGS is proud to be a part of and we need to keep this front and center as the holidays approach as many families are not as fortunate as we are. If each of us brings one or two items it will help a lot, so lets show our community that we are a civic minded organization and willing to do our part.

Don't forget **ink cartridges** for Cathy, they help pay for the printed copies of our newsletter she has to produce every month.

I have some exciting news about the judging at the Ventura County Fair I will share with you at the meeting. I know this is a subject that we all have discussed more than once and now I may have a solution. Having a qualified judge would certainly be to our advantage.

See you at the meeting
Charlene

Faulkner Farms Pumpkin Patch

The CIGS booth at Faulkner Farms recent pumpkin patch created a lot of interest. Pictured are Camille King, Charlene Smith and Michele Smith. Thanks to all our members who participated.



Underwood Farms Harvest Festival



Christine Watte and Cathy Agnew supported CIGS at the Underwood Farms booth on the weekend of Oct. 15-16. That is also the Tractor weekend so we got a picture of Christine's husband, Walt on one of his tractors!!



The following weekend, Sharon Harvey and Cathy Agnew worked the booth. We were told by the owner of the farm that the CIGS booth was very attractive and eye catching. They were very pleased with the representation of CIGS.

I think everyone enjoyed working the festival and thank you to all those who participated. CIGS is getting a good reputation for the quality of our work and art pieces. It is a perfect venue for our members to showcase their talent plus the fun side of gourds!



October CIGS Meeting

The Oct. CIGS meeting was a lot of fun for all those who participated in the “Halloween Gourd” challenge. Besides the challenge we had a special guest visitor, Sylvia Nelson, the California Gourd Society President.

During the break members were given 4 pieces of paper to put in the ballot cups to vote for their favorite in each category. While Sylvia did her presentation, Lisa Toth’s husband, Andy was given the task of counting the ballots.

After our break, Charlene turned the meeting over to Sylvia Nelson, CGS President. Sylvia brought gourd and other items from the things Larry McClellan left to CGS and conducted a raffle with the proceeds going to CSG. Karen Hibdon (lucky girl!) was the winner of a black Larry McClellan gourd which was covered with geodes and crystals. Other members won pieces of geodes, beads, T shirts, apron and tools.

Sylvia spoke on the importance of the state organization and how we all contribute to the success of the gourd society. She also told us how she got involved in gourds. She was very impressed with the Channel Islands patch because of our involvement in the community and the activities we participate in. She brought a bag of little gourds and invited everyone to take one. The remaining gourds she donated to Karen Hibdon for the art project she would be conducting in Nov. CIGS wants to thank Sylvia to taking the time to make a trip to Ventura County to visit us. Come Again!

The winners of the halloween challenge were: for Best Jack-o-Lanterns, Pat Barbour, Best mask went to Kendra, Camille King won for scariest mask and Cheryl Townsend won the prize for cutest. Elsie actually won for cutest but since she was giving out the prizes, Cheryl was next in votes and won the prize.



Karen with Sylvia and the Geode gourd



Kendra’s Best Mask Entry



Andy announcing Cheryl's winning gourd



Elsie and her cutest gourd



Camille with the Scariest Mask



Pat holding her Best Jack-o-Lantern winner

CGS President, Sylvia Nelson



I first noticed gourds on a trip to Peru where I was fascinated by the intricate carving the artist did on small gourds with a tool made from a nail. I bought some of these gourds home and planted seeds from them in my garden just because I like growing unusual things. My niece from San Jose came up for a visit and noticed the Peruvian gourds and asked if she could have some. Of course, but I wanted to know why. She said she wanted to do a little of this and a little of that on the gourds. I decided I wanted to do a little of this and a little of that. That was about 9 years ago. Now I admit I am hooked on gourds. I love to grow them, look at them, decorate them, and make art on them. I have taken many classes to learn various methods of working with gourds. I even took a class to learn how to do the carving I saw in Peru, and the tool was a nail. My three favorite techniques are pyrography, carving and beading.

Since those little Peruvian gourds I have planted many different kinds of gourds. All of the gourds I use are grown in my garden in Sacramento. In fact gourds took over what once was a large vegetable garden.

I first went to the Folsom festival while it was still at Zittle's Farm and joined the Folsom Patch. Went to the Leiser Festival next and joined the Amador Patch I met there. And then I joined the Bachelor Valley Patch. I became an assistant coordinator of the Amador Patch. I guess you could say I am pretty involved and that is one of the reasons Jill asked me to consider the Presidency. I feel very strongly about supporting the organizations you are involved in and I couldn't say no. I worried for a while because I really didn't know much about the running of the CGS but I have had lots of help, support and encouragement from the Board and all the wonderful members. It is one of my favorite jobs! Meeting gourders up and down the state is my favorite part of the job.

I am a retired school counselor and besides playing with gourds I love to work in my garden. And then there are my four grandchildren and two great grandchildren that fill up my life. My husband Tom and I will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary early next year.



Beads Celtic



Love Gourd



Piano



Celtic Tree

CIGS Outreach Program

New Members Information

We have a group of new members that might not know that CIGS has had an established Community Outreach Program since 2009.

It consists of two parts: Presentations to community groups and Education to children and seniors. The coordinator for presentations this year was Shirley Gorman who is responsible for booking and adding new opportunities for CIGS to share the history and use of gourds. Cathy Agnew continues to be the energizer bunny with the classes, and has a group of 11 members who assist her. As the community learns about us, the interest is growing by leaps and bounds.

If you want to know more about this program, contact one of your Board members or ask to see our procedures book. The book also includes duty statements on steps to take when chairing on a committee or acting as a committee member on a project. Shirley and I worked very hard to give this structure to the group and are happy that it is being utilized. Sylvia, California Gourd Society President visited us recently and is very excited about the work our group is doing.

I personally want to thank the coordinators for their continued efforts this past year, as well as, those members who helped make these projects possible. We have several new members who have jumped right in to help. That is what makes us so effective.

We are looking for a new Chairperson for the Community Presentations for 2012. Please see Charlene if you can contribute. Thank you, Cathy for staying on as our Community Educator Chair, and continuing to provide us with a great newsletter.

Janie Knappenberger, past Community Outreach Coordinator, 2009,2010

For Sale: 3Dsander



\$40.00 - New in the box. My husband found me 6 of these great 3D sanders and had to buy all 6 to get a good price.. Sears has discontinued these but he's always looking for them because he knows us gourders love them

Call or email Cathy Agnew - themimi@roadrunner.com or 805-796-1612

Upcoming Classes

CIGS has another class at ARC in Nov. Our outreach program has been very active this month as people are learning how much fun it is to play gourds!!

Two Classes on Nov. 18 at ARC of Simi Valley at 10:45 & 1:00

With this being close to Thanksgiving we could do a pumpkin with leaves cut out of gourds for a Thanksgiving decoration.

If you would like to come and help with these classes please contact me at themimi@roadrunner.com or 805-796-1612.

Thanks,
Cathy

Oceanview Pavilion Class in Oct.



CIGS members had a great time at Oceanview Pavilion making jack-o-lanterns with the people there. There were smiles all around when we showed up. They are always so excited to see us and make us all feel so important. I want to thank Paula Lasiter, Cindy Ray and Shirley Gorman for volunteering to help me with this project. The folks did a great job with their gourds and We all received a blessing!



Cindy Ray discussing the project.



Paula Lasiter working with these folks.



Shirley Gorman overseeing this table

CGS Minutes

Oct. 19, 2011 Meeting

10/19/11 Meeting Called to order @ 7:05 p.m. by Charlene Smith

Guests: Sylvia Nelson - President of CGS and Andy Toth - Lisa's husband

Stephanie thanked everyone who helped work on the booth for this year's county fair. Karen Hibdon showed the awards to the membership. Our gourd fruits and vegetables went to Olivias Adobe. Our marine display went to the Leo Carrillo State Beach, for an exhibit which has yet to be set up. Stephanie gave a special presentation to Cathy Agnew, for sharing her house so we could work on the booth.

A big welcome back was given to Eileen Logan. Charlene asked for a volunteer to cut the handle for the Easter basket the members will make, for Visalia next year. Arline volunteered. The basket needs to be returned in November.

Karen Hibdon shared the certificate we received, for participating in History Day. She shared a letter she received, from the Weavers Guild, thanking us for sending Pat Lelie to speak about gourds. Karen and Arline will be getting together in November to work on the scrapbook. Karen asked if anyone would like to donate their pictures to the scrapbook.

Cathy Agnew asked for volunteers, to help at Oceanview Pavillion on Wednesday 10/26. She also needs volunteers for Friday, 11/18 at ARC. This group will be making Thanksgiving Pumpkins with leaves out of gourds.

Janie Knappenberger made an announcement about Ramona Day in Piru. If anyone wants to attend, it's a "do it yourself" event. Set up is from 7:30-9:30 a.m. Breakdown is from 4-6 p.m. The cost is \$25.00 if you sell something. There is no fee, if you don't sell anything.

Conejo Valley Adult School is offering a class on Nov. 12th 9:00-noon. The class is to make a Harvest Bowl. The cost is \$35.00 plus \$25.00 for materials. If interested, call CVAE @ [805-497-2761](tel:805-497-2761).

On 11/5, the Simi Valley Senior Center will host the AAUW. Karen is going to be the speaker.

Lisa Toth is the webmistress for CGS. She is also the go between for our patch and CGS and the American Gourd Society. Lisa requested that when sending notes and pictures to her, for CGS or AGS, to please put her name on the back of them. Pictures need to be in .jpeg with 72 resolution. Tell her where you want the notes and pictures to go, i.e. CGS or AGS. Please put your name and a brief description, of the gourd, on the back of the picture.

We took our break, at which time Sylvia Nelson sold raffle tickets. After our break, Charlene turned the meeting over to Sylvia Nelson, CGS President. Sylvia conducted the raffle which included a gourd and other objects from the things Larry McClellan left to CGS. Sylvia showed the suggestion box she carries around with her and asked for suggestions on how to improve CGS. She discussed the value of CGS and the importance of dues, i.e. to cover the insurance. Anytime anyone has a booth at an event, or goes to a speaking engagement, and is representing the gourd society, they are covered by the liability insurance that CGS buys.

Sylvia reminded everyone about next year's event in Visalia: Baskets & Gourds of our Culture. She reiterated the importance of sending information to Lisa, so she can post it on the CGS website. Sylvia thanked everyone for welcoming her to our patch suggested that our members go to visit other patches, and share info. about who we are and what we do. Sylvia passed out egg gourds that she grew in her garden.

Next on the agenda was the Halloween gourd contest. Members got to vote on the favorite gourds. Those people who brought Halloween gourds shared how they got their project came about. The categories were Jack-o-Lanterns, masks, scariest gourd, cutest gourd. Pat Barbout won for best Jack-o-Lantern. Kendra won for best mask. Camille King won for scariest, and Cheryl Townsend won for cutest.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 ish.

Respectfully submitted,
Arline Erickson for Shirley Gorman



CIGS Annual Christmas Party and Dinner

Sat. DEC. 17 6:00 p.m.

**Elsie Cogswell's Home
11030 E. Las Posas Rd.
Santa Rosa Valley**

**Bring your Spouse, Kids,
Guest or Significant Other**

**Bring a covered dish for the Dinner.
The Club will provide the main
course.**

**Bring a gourd ornament, gourd art
piece or gourd related item for the
gift exchange for yourself and your
guest!**

**The gift exchange is the highlight of the
evening and a lot of fun for everyone!!!**

Channel Islands Gourd Society
Elsie Cogswell, Treasurer
11030 E. Las Posas Rd.
Santa Rosa Valley, CA 93012

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"THE GOURD VINE"
CHANNEL ISLANDS GOURD SOCIETY
NOVEMBER 2011

- Nov. 16 CIGS regular meeting bring your
"Creature" challenge gourd
- Dec. 17 CIGS Christmas Party @ Elsie's
6:00 p.m. Bring food and gift
exchange

Channel Islands Gourd Society is dedicated to the education and instruction of those persons interested in the culture, use, history, horticulture and/or crafting of gourds.

We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Santa Rosa Valley Community Clubhouse 11701 E. Las Posas Road, Santa Rosa Valley (Camarillo) CA
For more information contact:

President: Charlene Smith, 805-649-9868 or
ojairedhead@hotmail.com

VP. Anthony Hepton
heptonpac@aol.com

Editor: Cathy Agnew 805-796-1612 or
themimi@roadrunner.com

