



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

JANUARY 2011

Presidents Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Hi Everyone,

A heart felt thank you to Elsie for having our Christmas party at her house again this year. She never fails to WOW us with her beautiful decorations and lights. She is the hostess with the mostest that's for sure. We had a good turnout of members and guests even in the rain storm that refused to go away. The food was fantastic as always and the gift exchange was the highlight of the night. JOE LOVES THOSE BEADS.

The **January meeting will be a raffle night** so lets bring some quality items to spark someone's interest. Elsie and Helen will be conducting the raffles this year so it should be exciting.

Our new officers are busy looking for volunteers to head our many committees, so if you would like to volunteer on one of our board members calls you, please do your part and help make 2011 a successful year for CIGS. If you are a committee chairman you pick your own committee members to do the best job possible. We have lots of talent and cooperation so I have no doubt this will be an exciting year and I can hardly wait to get started.

How that the holidays are over and 2011 is here, lets have some fun. Be sure to attend the January meeting for the **first challenge of the year**. I will bring the gourds and you bring the imagination. This will be a fun project and I hope all of you will participate. You will have one month to complete your project and bring it back to the February meeting for show and tell. Get those creative juices flowing and show me the talent I know you have.

If you have some new pieces you have been working on bring them to share your ideas with our members. It's always fun to see what other people are working on.

See you January 19th at the meeting.

HAPPY GOURDING

Charlene

Channel Islands Gourd Society 2011 Officers



Meet the 2011 Channel Islands Gourd Society Officers

The 2011 officers donned reindeer antlers for their "kodak moment" during the Annual Christmas Party. I think we are in for a fun new year with this bunch!! Pictured left to right are: Shirley Gorman, Secretary, Cathy Agnew, Director/Editor, Anthony Hepton, Vice President, Charlene Smith, President and Elsie Cogswell, Treasurer. So lets all get behind these guys and support them this year!

General Meeting January 19 Demo

At our first meeting of 2011, Anthony will demonstrate how he assembles different pieces on his gourds to make all the tortoise's and the other wonderful configurations he comes up with!!

CIGS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thirty five or so members and their spouses and kids made it to the Annual Christmas Party in spite of the rain storm. It was definitely not a night to be out if you didn't have to be but who could miss such a great party. Once again, Elsie was gracious enough to host the party at her house. Everyone loves Elsie's house!!

We had lots of great food and some wonderful desserts before we started the gift "getting and taking"!!! The gift stealing is the best part of the evening. You never know what you will get and chances are if it's something you really like or really wanted you won't get to keep it because "someone" (probably your best friend) will steal it from you and make you draw another gift. But it's all in fun and everyone had a great time.

We had a real new comer to the gourding family this time. Peter, Camille Kings son joined the gift exchange with his 3 little gourd Christmas ornaments . I was lucky enough to have drawn his gift that included a Christmas penguin, a reindeer and a Santa Clause. They looked great on my Christmas tree!!!



Here I am with my husband Wayne showing off my newly acquired Christmas Penguin!



Mark with what's left of his "Flam-ulous" dessert.



Stephanie & Elsie



Leni showing off her new gourd ornament



Stephanie got to keep this beautiful bowl



"How the heck do you work this??"



"OK, I'm ready...let's open gifts"



That's the gourd Charlene "STOLE" from me!



Peter, Camille, Kendra, Shirley and Jan all smiling for the camera.



There's always a few clowns in the group!! Arline and her sexy Merry Christmas pose!



Anthony & Janie sharing a laugh

Pictures courtesy of Mark Welnak

Ventura County Fair

AUGUST 3 - 14, 2011



It's not too soon to start thinking about the Ventura County Fair. The fair dates for 2011 are August 3-14. This year the theme is "The Bounty of the County". So start thinking of ideas for a gourd to enter in the "Fair Theme" category. We will also have to come up with ideas for our fair booth with the theme in mind. This may be a real challengeBut I bet our Fair Committee comes up with some great ideas, they always do.

Treasure Box BUY, SELL, TRADE

"Treasure Box" is a new section of the newsletter for our members to post items that they want to buy, sell or trade. So if you want to post something please email me at :
themimi@roadrunner.com
by the 5th of each month to make sure you get it in that months newsletter . I think this will be fun and I hope our members participate!!!

5 -Craftsman 3 D sanders. Brand New in the box never been opened. \$35.00 each. Contact Cathy Agnew at 796-1612 or email themimi@roadrunner.com

Paula Lasiter has a drill she wants to sell. Call or email her for more details
paula_c_lasiter@hotmail.com

FOOD SHARE

The board has decided to continue with our "food share" project again for 2011. We use the term "food share" to indicate that we are collecting non-perishable food items to be donated to the food pantries in different communities and different organizations. At each meeting a volunteer will collect the goods and take them to their local food pantry for distribution.

Upcoming Festivals & Competitions

Visit: <http://www.calgourd.com/gg/index.htm>

Misti Washington Gourd and Basket Guild
CLASSES IN THE GARDEN
San Diego Botanic Garden
Saturday and Sunday April 30 & May 1, 2011
<http://baskets-gourds.com>.

9TH ANNUAL GOURD ART FESTIVAL
MAY 14TH & 15TH, 2011
GREG LEISER FARMS
21886 Knights Road,
Knights Landing CA 95645
(530) 735-6677
www.GourdFarmer.com

The **final Competition at Welburn Gourd Festival**
will be held at Welburn Farms
June 25th and 26th, 2011.

2011 CIGS CLASS IDEAS

I will be setting up demos and classes again for next year. If there is any special technique you would like to see or if you are willing to do a demo at a meeting I appreciate it.

I'm taking suggestions for classes also. Let me know of teachers and classes that you would like to have come in to teach us.

I am also setting up member taught classes. These will be skills or projects that need a few hours to teach. Let me know what you can teach and what you would like to be taught.

Happy Gourding.

Paula Lasiter

paula_c_lasiter@hotmail.com

Artist of the Month

Norma Hogan



Norma is one of our newest members. She was born and raised in a small blue collar town in western Pa. From an early age, Norma always wondered what was over the next hill or around the bend.

After college, the door was opened and she started looking over those hills and around the bends. First moving to Lexington, KY, then on to Hampton, VA, where she met her husband, Mike. Together they have lived and explored various places around the country, settling now in So Cal with their dog, Souvie. Their son Jake is currently attending the University of MA at Amherst.

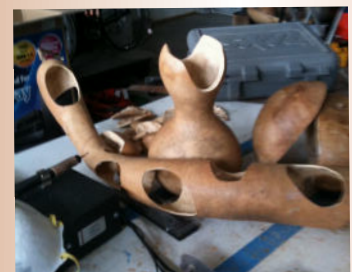
After 'retiring' to raise her son, she slowly ventured into the right brain world of creativity. Starting with doll and teddy bear making, she then ventured into quilting. Could be a short attention span or the attraction of learning something new, she eventually moved into the world of cold and hot glass art. Jewelry making became the next challenge which led to polymer clay and seed beads.

Being a member of the Lexington Arts and Crafts Society (while living in MA) she was exposed to many other artists of different media including painters, potters, woodcrafters, basket makers, metalworkers and fiber artists all willing to share ideas and techniques. Norma concentrated on polymer clay and fiber arts as a member of this organization. She was known as 'the' felter (both wet and needle) in the organization. Mostly because she was the only felter.

While in MA she became interested in gourd art and was able to pursue this interest thanks to the Internet. Having no luck in finding local instructors, Norma's venture into gourding was by books, websites and personal past experience with other crafts. Being self taught is okay but she is looking forward to taking classes to advance her knowledge and skills.

Norma actually found the Channel Island Gourd Society though the internet a couple months before she moved to So Cal. She was reminded about them after meeting a gourder or two through the Ventura County Master Gardener Organization. Of course one can't be a member of the gourd society without knowing about Pat's Moorpark class Norma joined that group the day after joining the Society. The 'bar' has been raised after seeing, and admiring, such work as is produced by members.

Although Norma loves the Southwest and is greatly influenced by it and all of nature, she is influenced daily by the general color, sights and sounds of life. Living now between the ocean and the mountains, the challenge is to capture the new environment in gourds and fiber art. As a volunteer at the Channel Islands National Park she is exposed to the ever-changing environment of the islands and is working hard to preserve that influence in her art.



Does this look familiar? I think we all have a pile like this!!

"Gettin' Old....And Lovin' it!!"

I would never trade my amazing friends, my wonderful life, my loving family for less gray hair or a flatter belly. As I've aged, I've become kinder to myself, and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend. I don't chide myself for eating that extra cookie, or for not making my bed, or for buying that silly cement gecko that I didn't need, but looks so avante garde on my patio. I am entitled to a treat, to be messy, to be extravagant.

I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon; before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it if I choose to paint or carve on gourds until 4 AM and sleep until noon? I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 60 & 70's, and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love I will.

I will walk the beach in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves with abandon if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the jet set. They, too, will get old.

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten. And I eventually remember the important things.

Sure, over the years my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when somebody cracks a gourd ? But broken hearts are what give us strength and understanding and compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turning gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver.

As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think.. I don't question myself anymore. I've even earned the right to be wrong.

So, to answer your question, I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day (if I feel like it)

MAY OUR FRIENDSHIP NEVER COME APART, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART!

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

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CHANNEL ISLANDS GOURD SOCIETY

JANUARY 2011

Upcoming Events

Jan. Regular Club meeting 7:00-9:00 be prepared to accept a challenge at the very first meeting

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:

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