

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am hoping that you or anyone in your family have not been plagued with Covid19. Life has certainly changed so much for everyone recently. My family and I are fine; fortunately, the village of Lakefield has been free of the virus; fingers crossed that we continue to stay this way. Social distancing continues nonetheless, masks are worn in stores, curbside pick-up is common and life continues in a new way. The '*new normal*' they call it.

Meanwhile, I have actually enjoyed this time at home. I figure it is what retirement actually is when you do not get yourself involved in other activities outside the home. Who would have thought that sleeping in, staying up late, eating breakfast and lunch when you want, and getting together with your husband and son for dinner could be so nice? I have spent more time in my studio in the past 3 months than in the past couple of years. I am slowly getting through my UFO shelf, finishing off those gourds that haunted me yet I could not throw away. Well, there is one on my shelf that may yet go in the garbage. Fortunately, I did not date these projects as it can be discouraging realizing how much I can procrastinate. I have started new gourds as well, working up new classes for the Kawartha Gourders when the patch is able to be active again.

Other things also keep me busy; I read books on my computer with the libraries closed. I challenge myself with Sudoku every day in hopes it will keep my brain active and thinking, not sure it is working. I have pulled out my sewing machine and piles of material and elastic to sew masks for the hospital and the local people. Items keep arriving on my sewing table needing mending, where do they all come from? I spend time on the telephone to chat with older single friends in the village to share bits of life with them and see if and what they may need. We are talking about meeting outdoors, bringing our own chairs to social distance, and chat in person on one of these lovely warm days. Sometimes I wish I had a dog to get me outdoors walking more often, though I would not like the allergic reactions I would have to deal with indoors! Petless I will remain.

I hope you have a good supply of gourds to help you get through your time at home. Enjoy this unique time in every way that you can. When it is over, we will all find ourselves having to make hard choices about what and how much we want to get involved in previous activities. I am looking forward to seeing more of my family again, my friends, and my gourding patch members.

Happy Gourding!

Barbara

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMBERSHIP.....

Just a reminder that if any of your personal information (address, phone number, email address) has changed, please let us know. *Thank you.*

If you wish to communicate via *snail-mail* the address is: Canadian Gourd Society, c/o Artisans Centre Peterborough, Unit 3, 360 George St. N., Peterborough Square, Peterborough ON, K9H 7E7 (Phone: 705-775-1797). If you are in the area, drop in and visit. Gourd workshops are posted on the CGS website (www.canadiangourdsociety.ca), the Kawartha Gourder Facebook page (www.facebook.com/kawartha.gourders) and, along with wood-turning and fibre workshops, on the ACP website (www.acp35.wildapricot.org) or (info@artisanscentre.ca).

Due to the pandemic, some members might not have remembered to renew their 2020 CGS membership by the end of March deadline. If you would still like to renew, please send a cheque to the above address or an e-transfer to Barbara Bellchambers (bellcham@nexicom.net). This newsletter is a complementary final copy if membership dues are not received by the end of July. We certainly hope you will rejoin!

As always, we are still looking for creative ways to maintain and increase the membership and welcome any suggestions/ideas that would involve the entire CGS membership. *If you have any ideas for a project/challenge for society members across the country, please email your thoughts and ideas to sharron.anstey19@gmail.com.*

WEBSITE.....

Don't forget, If you have a website and/or gallery and would like to advertise it on the CGS website, (www.canadiangourdsociety.ca) send the web address to canadiangourders@gmail.com for consideration.

ACP ON-LINE GIFT SHOP.....

The Kawartha Gourders is a founding group of Artisans Centre Peterborough. As such, its members are able to participate as vendors in the new online Gift Shop pilot project. In addition to gourd art, there are wood-turned items, pottery, weaving and other member articles. To access the gift shop go to the ACP website at www.artisanscentre.ca.

AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY CONTEST...

The following article and information were sent from Terry Noxel of AGS. Members of the CGS have been invited to participate in this contest. *This information was also in the last newsletter. It is not too late to participate in the Fall 2020 contest - "Manipulated Gourd Non-Floral Containers"- Entry deadline is July 15. Winter 2020 contest - "Manipulated Gourd Sculpture" - Entry deadline is October 15, 2020*

NEW: Manipulated Gourd Crafting Contest by Terry Noxel

For 10 years the American Gourd Society has been encouraging growers to manipulate and mold their gourds and enter them in competitions at the local gourd shows and the national AGS Jim Story Award contest. Over the years several chapters have added categories in their competitions to include manipulated gourd art. Now we'd like to make it part of the AGS magazine with a quarterly contest along the lines of the quarterly crafted gourd contest.

What will be the parameters of the Manipulated Gourd Crafting Contest? First, the artist does not have to be grower of the manipulated or molded gourd. One or more gourds may be incorporated in the art work, as long as a minimum of one is a manipulated gourd. You can incorporate single or multiple crafting techniques and embellishments of your choice in the piece, but gourds must predominate. All work must be the original work of the person submitting the entry; partnership or group entries are not allowed. Each person is limited to ONE entry per issue.

Judging. While the judges will consider the overall artistry of the piece, they will also be focused on how the manipulated gourd is incorporated and compliments the work. For all contests, originality, creativity, as well as appropriateness to the category, skill and overall craftsmanship will be considered when judging each entry. Other considerations are technical difficulty, effective use of materials and overall construction. The judges will be three (3) highly respected professional gourd artists, AGS certified judges and/or multiple award winners.

Photography. It is important to remember that while it is the GOURD that will be judged, and NOT the photography, it is very important to submit a large, high resolution, quality photograph with good detail, lighting and an uncluttered background. Photographs of poor quality are not suitable for magazine reproduction.

Why Enter? The first-place winner of each quarterly contest will receive a free 1-year membership extension of their AGS membership, and all winners will also receive a digital copy of the magazine for sharing with family and friends. In addition, the first-place artist will be profiled in a feature article the following issue. **Note: First place winners may only win one membership prize during a 12-month period.*

How to Enter:

It is easy to enter and there is no fee, so we hope that YOU will consider entering for the next contest. You can send in your entry as soon as you are ready. Do it while you are thinking about it!

Artist's info: Please send a one paragraph bio that includes your home state, and brief information about you and/or your gourd entry.

Photo info: Submit TWO photos of the entry, from different angles and ONE of the uncrafted, manipulated gourd before its transformation into art. JPG format is preferred and the largest file size possible.

Email info: Send artist info and photos to noxel.terry@gmail.com Photos must be submitted as ATTACHMENTS, not embed into your email, pdf or word document. Please note "Gourd Contest Entry" in the subject line.

Entries by USPS mail: Send artist info and photos to Terry Noxel, 100 Barton Rd, Windsor, NY 13865-2501. Photos will not be returned unless a self-addressed/stamped envelope is included.

Manipulated Gourd Contest Themes and Deadlines

Fall 2020	"Manipulated Gourd Non-Floral Containers"	Entry deadline is July 15, 2020
Winter 2020	"Manipulated Gourd Sculpture"	Entry deadline is October 15, 2020

These are pretty broad categories and any manipulated or molded gourd can be used to create your entry. Manipulated gourd floral containers include vases and planters for dried, live or artificial flowers or plants. Manipulated gourd animals can be a real or fantasy animal, it can be 3D or have animal designs on it. Non-floral containers can be baskets, bowls, boxes (lids optional) and Manipulated gourd sculptures can be any assemblage using a manipulated gourd(s).

Sample Photos



PATCH REPORTS

KAWARTHA GOURDERS

Due to COVID-19, the Kawartha Gourders have not met as a group since March 2nd. Several of the members have been working, not only on gourds, but also making PPE for health care and frontline workers, shopping for elderly and those who can't get out, on-line babysitting so parents can work at home, and so much more. Reorganization of the home front seems to be a frequent pastime and of course, with the onset of spring and summer, there is always gardening and yard work. Pictures in this newsletter gallery have several non-gourd projects. Although the quarantining and social distancing has been very stressful and lengthy, it has provided an opportunity to tackle those projects and menial jobs which we seem to put on the back-burner.

SPECIAL COVID-19 SECTION

Anna Petek says she is – “*Keeping Myself Sane*” – by creating gourd purses, poppy gourd using clay leaves, clay brooches, crocheting, sewing while at home during the pandemic.



Clay Brooches



Matching masks & hat

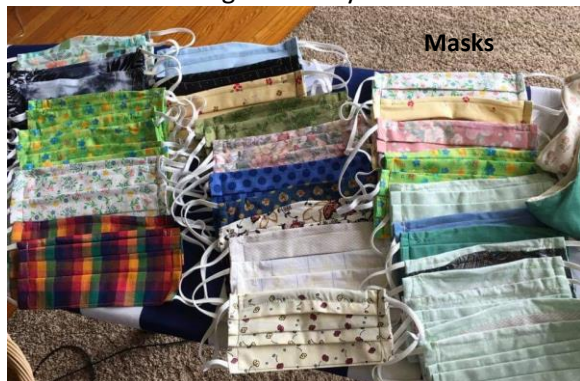


Beautiful decorated visor cap



Crocheted dress

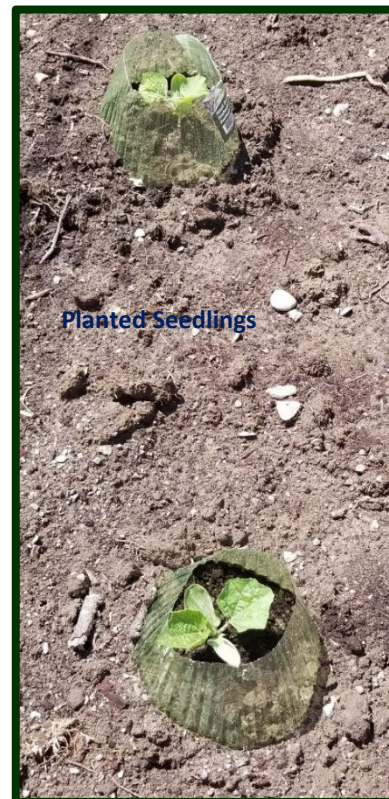
Dorothy Hawkins stayed busy during COVID by: "I Made 12 gourd birdhouses and started to finish off projects that have been laying around too darn long. Cleaned 12 gourds I grew last year and planted seeds and seedlings for this year.



Masks

I am now busy with Quinte Sewing for Covid-19. We sew, knit and crochet PPE for healthcare and frontline workers. There are hundreds of us participating. In just the last 2 days 2500 masks have been dropped off along with scrub caps, ear savers, gowns, laundry bags and even pocket bears for seniors. All materials are donated.

So grateful we are not stuck in a city and can enjoy the open spaces around us."



Planted Seedlings



Pocket Bears



Ear Savers



Cleaned gourds



Scrub Caps



Thomas

Julia Hayes adopted two new friends to keep her company and busy.



Geraldine

Len De Graaf demonstrates exemplary organizational skills and says the following: -

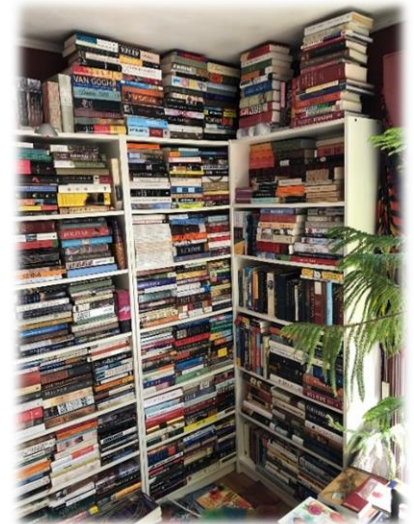
"My lockdown experience has made me realize how busy I was 5 days a week going to my gourd group, Bunka class, my weaving open studio and rug Hooking groups. It was a very hectic schedule..... until everything came to a grinding halt over 3 months ago. This time in isolation allowed me to have time for myself without keeping up a frenetic pace. I had so many things to finish and tackle but the one good thing was to have time to get my house in order! I was able to organize my craft supplies in bins and separate my materials according to the craft in different rooms of my house.

So, I am going to share a couple of pictures of how I organized my library. I admit that I love books and I even have books that I got as a child. All around my library I have these IKEA bookcases. My books were stacked in double rows horizontally. I could never find the book I wanted! So, all the books came off the shelves and I stacked them vertically! Now I can read the titles and it takes me no time to find the book I want! Looks odd.... but hey it works for me.

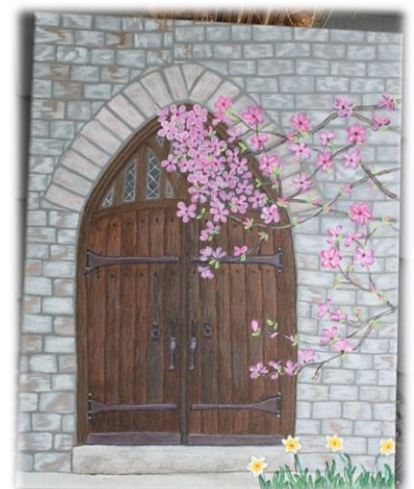


Because I am also a rug hooker and yarn painter, I design a lot of my own patterns. So, I thought.... what if I got a drafting table to draw my designs on? This is what I came up with! This table is perfect for me..... and I was able to fit it in nicely because by organizing my library I created extra space for this table!

So, in this vein I am moving from room to room because I now have the time...and boy do I ever feel good about it!"



Michelle Adams says "I have been busy getting the house more organized, going through old photos and finding a lot of items that I wondered about. I had finished a beginner acrylic painting class and finally got my piece finished. I also painted a gourd and titled it seasons, finished my zipper gourd and just this week made a couple of necklaces for my 7-year old granddaughter's birthday. We also have some gourd seeds planted indoors and will hopefully plant them outdoors in a few weeks. Will see how it goes. I only have one gourd that I can work on but perhaps I will do something with my scrap gourd pieces."



Julie-Anne Wallewin: "I have gourd's block. Can't seem to come up with any creations so have turned to doing other projects for a while. Sewing, knitting, crocheting, and flower arranging are just a few things that have occupied my time."



Icelandic sweater for great nieces and nephews. Expecting 5 additions this year. Working on sweater #5.



Flowers for Mom's day



One of many shopping bags



Streetcar Bag



Reusable produce bags

Barb Powell says: "With all this Covid =^%&%\$, I'm finding my brain is needing simple things to do. I've made tags for Christmas presents, a few styles of masks, dots on rocks, and Mini gourds, and crocheted a few wash cloths. We've been in our new home since Christmas, so there is a lot of yard work to get done."



Masks



Wash Cloths



Dots on Rocks



Christmas Tags

Barbara Bellchambers says: "Here are the gourds I have worked on during the pandemic. Finally finished the African Fern started in 2014 with Karen Brown; Carved Iris started in 2017 with Rosario at Wuertz; added bases and finished the Doodle Fun and Doodling; Corona Virus necklaces, now have made 7; Huichol Beaded bowls are ready to be taught as a class one of these days; Etched trees started as a red dyed gourd when I taught the braided leather rim years ago, it then was covered with knotless netting which I removed and during the pandemic I etched trees into the gourd all the way around; the Gnome is one of many I have made for the fall sale; the Seagrass Rim may be a class for sometime by one of us; Leather Look is the model for a class sometime, just finished it today; Snowbirds are the start of decorations for the Winterfest tree. Would like to challenge everyone at home to do some decorations on gourds or gourd shards for the tree while they are at home. And I think that is it for my productivity on gourds. Have also been sewing up masks for the hospital and for the local market that started last week."

Note: All pictures of Barbara's gourd work are in the gallery.

TUTORIAL

FAUX BEADING ON ORNAMENTAL GOURD

Barbara Bellchambers

bellcham@nexicom.net



MATERIALS

Small, ornamental gourd	1/8" round elastic (approximately)
Wood burner with tip for burning lines	or narrow tape
Acrylic paints or fabric paints	Masking tape
Stylus, tiny rounded end of paintbrush, or blunt toothpick	Eye screw
Ruler	Hobby knife
Pencil	

MARKING THE GRID

I chose to work on a small, ornamental gourd so you can experiment with this technique without committing to a large project. I enjoyed doing this technique, and have made many small decorations trying different patterns. You will be able to make your own patterns based on how many spaces you have around the gourd. You are going to make a grid with 5 spaces, so you will need to have 6 lines. Choose from the following two methods to make your horizontal lines.

HORIZONTAL LINES

Method 1:

I used an elastic, a regular elastic that comes on vegetables, that just happened to be approximately 1/8" wide.

- Stretch your elastic around the centre of your gourd.
- Run your finger around the top or bottom of the elastic to make your line fairly straight.
- With a sharp pencil, use a light touch to draw a line at the top of the elastic all the way around the gourd.
- After checking that the elastic is still touching the line, turn the gourd over and draw a line on the other side of the elastic.
- Continue to move your elastic up or down along a line, marking the line as you go, until you have 6 lines.
- Remove the elastic to check if your lines are fairly even. If they are not, adjust.

Method 2:

- Draw a line around the centre of your gourd. You may want to use narrow tape to help you do this.
- Using a 1 1/4" of masking tape, make a mark at 1/4". Make 5 more marks, each 1/8" past the last.
- You should now have 6 marks that you will use to mark your lines.

Tutorial - cont'd

4. Place the marked tape vertically across the centre line, making sure that one of the marks lies on the line.
 - Mark all 6 lines.
 - Keep moving the tape around the gourd, placing it an inch or so past the last line of marks, to show where your lines will go.
 - Use your pencil to draw the lines you have marked.

VERTICAL LINES

You have all your horizontal lines made. Now you will make your vertical lines. If you have a good judge of distance, just go ahead and hand draw all your vertical lines. If you have too much or too little space left when you get back to the beginning, go back a few spaces and make the last few spaces a bit wider, or a bit smaller so you have an even number of spaces.

- If you need to have exact lines, those who used Method 2 above will have a pattern they can use. Those who used Method 1, see Number 2 in Method 2 to make a pattern
- You can place your pattern on top of the first line to mark 6 spaces, then move the tape and mark 6 more, Until you have finished and are back to the beginning. Adjust your spaces as needed at the end unless your spaces fit perfectly!
- Most patterns work well with an even number of spaces.

BURNING YOUR LINES

Now for the easy part, use your burner and line burning pen to go over all the vertical and horizontal lines.

- ◆ Use a wet cloth to clean off all the pencil lines.

PATTERNING

Count how many spaces you have around your gourd. You will need to plan your pattern based on the number of spaces you have available. If you have too few or too many spaces for the pattern you want to do, see if adding extra spaces between patterns will work.

- Draw your pattern on graph paper and count how many spaces in the repeating pattern.
- Be creative, see what you can design.

COLOURING YOUR DESIGN

You have your pattern designed, now you need to choose your colours to paint it.

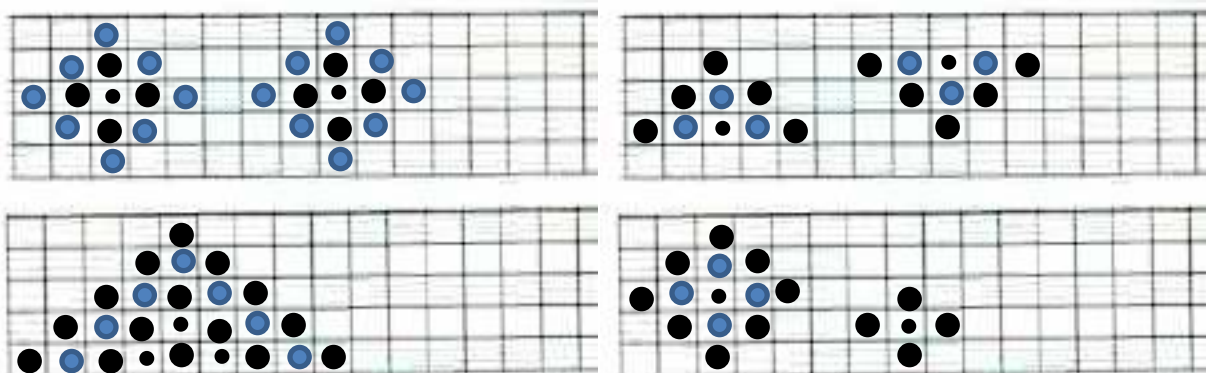
- Practice with the paints you have chosen on a scrap piece of gourd.
 - For the fabric paint, practice until you feel comfortable with how much pressure you need to use to get fairly uniform dots.
 - For those using acrylic paints, squeeze a small amount on a waxed paper square or something similar. Dip your stylus into the paint, then touch the stylus to the gourd. Again, practice until you feel comfortable. I found I needed to re-dip for each 'bead'.
 - Paint the main parts of the pattern first before filling in the background.
- BE CAREFUL NOT TO SMEAR YOUR PAINT! If you do, let it dry before trying to remove it with an x-acto or 399similar knife.

FINISHING

When your decoration is all dry, you can varnish over the whole gourd.

Drill a hole in the top, add the eye screw, and you are done!

Here are a few designs to get you started. Use the spaces left to try out colours in the boxes or to create your own designs. Have fun!



MEMBER GALLERY



Anna Petek



Marilyn Van Gerven



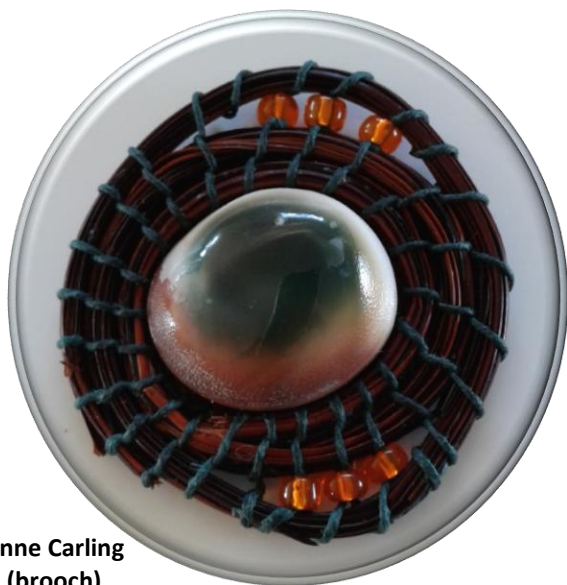
Michelle Adams



Barbara Bellchambers
(African fern)



Michelle Adams



Anne Carling
(brooch)



Len De Graaf

punch hooked
COVID-19 piece....
a fractured world
that can only be
mended by love
and compassion!



Anne Carling
(tea light)



Anna Petek
(purse)



Marilyn Van Gerven



Anna Petek



Sharron Anstey
(thunder drum)



Marilyn
Van Gerven



Barb Powell



Barbara Bellchambers "Native Doll"



Anne Carling
(rain stick)



Dorothy Hawkins



Barbara Bellchambers



Dorothy Hawkins



Barbara Bellchambers
'rain stick'



Anna Petek

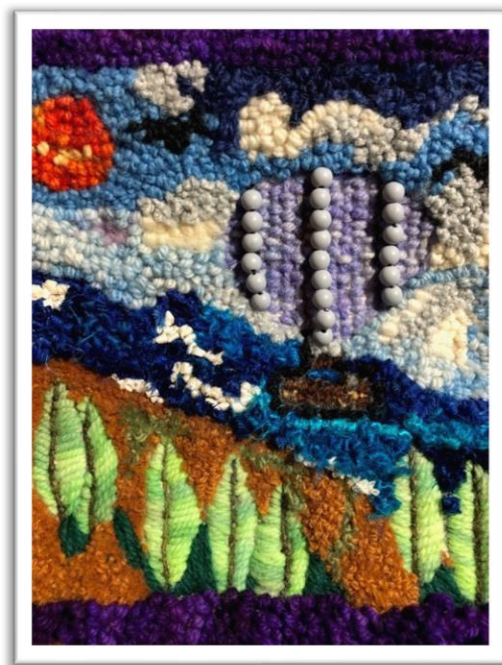
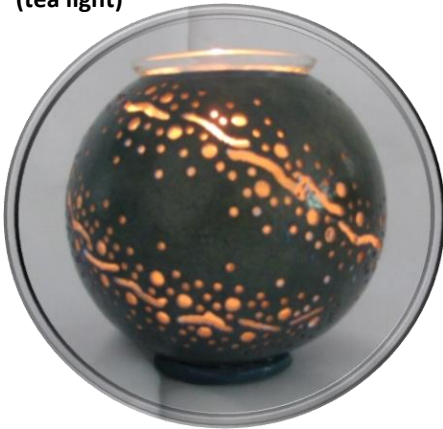


Barbara Bellchambers



Marilyn Van Gerven

Anne Carling
(tea light)



Len De Graaf



Barbara Bellchambers
'Snow Birds'



Marilyn Van Gerven



Barbara Bellchambers 'leather look'



Sharron Anstey



Marilyn Van Gerven



Lorraine Longpre



Marilyn Van Gerven



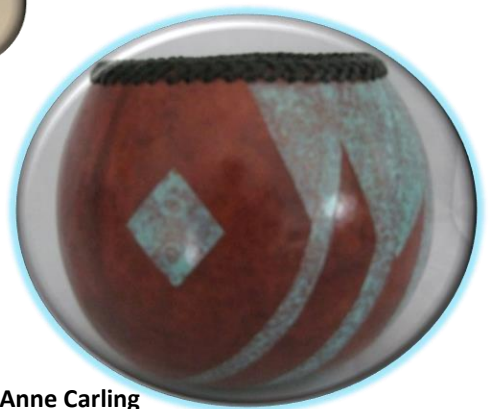
Barbara Bellchambers
'Hollow Dreams'



Anne Carling



Marilyn Van Gerven



Anne Carling



Anna Petek



Anne Carling
(tea lights)



Cheryl Madge-Yerrow



Barbara Bellchambers



Barbara Bellchambers
"etched trees"



Barbara Bellchambers
"Corona Virus necklaces"



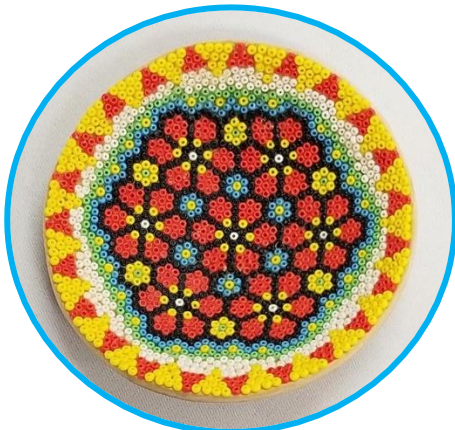
Marilyn Van Gerven



Marilyn Van Gerven



Barbara Bellchambers
"Eclectic Sculpture"



Barbara Bellchambers
"Huichol Beaded Shard"



Barbara Bellchambers
"Cherry Blossoms"



Barbara Bellchambers
"Over the Top"



Len De Graaf
"Peace Dove"



Sharron Anstey





Marilyn Van Gerven
(thunder drum)



Anne Carling
(tea light)



Marilyn Van Gerven



Barbara Bellchambers
"pyro doodling"



Barbara Bellchambers
"small flower huichol"



Michelle Adams



Barbara Bellchambers
"doodle fun"



Barbara Bellchambers
"Celtic Swirl"



Barbara Bellchambers
"Beaded Rim"



Barbara Bellchambers
"Gretchen Rim"



Barbara Bellchambers
"Carved Iris"



Barbara Bellchambers
"Swirling Ginko"



Barb Powell



Marilyn Van Gerven



Sharron Anstey
'doodling'



Marilyn Van Gerven



Julie-Anne Wallewin - Step by step process to complete one of her burnt leaf gourds. To see more of her wonderful work, check out <https://burntleafgourds.wordpress.com/>



Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Newsletter and to all the persons who read it. This is a very difficult time with COVID-19 throughout the world. Hopefully everyone stays well while enduring social distancing and restrictions previously unheard of in Canada. Summer is here, bringing gardens full of life and beauty; birds singing in the green trees; wildlife....so much of nature to brighten the days ahead. Although many activities have been cancelled over the past few months, stay busy ... be creative! Most of all, **STAY SAFE! STAY HEALTHY! and KEEP ON GOURDING!**

Sharron Anstey

President

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