



# SLIGHTLY

# SKEWED

## Journal of the Glendale Woodturners Guild

Volume 34, Number 4 – April, 2026

### NEXT MEETING

Second Sunday

*April 12, 2026*

### HOW TO FIND US

#### SUNDAY MEETING

2:00 pm

**We've moved to a new site!**

La Cañada Community Center

4469 Chevy Chase Dr

La Cañada Flintridge

near the intersection of the 210 fwy and Angeles Crest Highway



Meetings consist of announcements, a feature presentation, a Challenge, Show & Tell and a wood raffle (except for December).

**Challenge: Fix a Disaster with Narrative**

**Presentation: Unknown, if anything**

### President's Message

#### Fast Tops & Tiny Turnings

*Proof that great woodturning can happen in under two minutes... depending on who's at the lathe.*

Our March meeting featured guest demonstrator **Emily Ford**, who traveled to



Southern California from **Utah** to share her talents with the Guild. Emily made several spinning tops during the demonstration, each one decorated using her clever combination of the **Wagner texturing tool**, colorful **Dollar Tree markers**, and a finishing touch of **liming wax**.

One of Emily's true talents is her ability to turn a top in **under two minutes** — quite extraordinary to watch in real time. For many of us who have spent far longer than that simply deciding where to place the first cut, the speed and confidence of her process was impressive.

Emily explained that she sells her tops for **three dollars**, intentionally keeping them affordable so that parents who may be struggling financially can still bring home a simple wooden toy for their children. It was a thoughtful reminder that craftsmanship can also carry a generous spirit, **GO EMILY! (this is who Emily is!)**

Beyond the tops, Emily demonstrated several other techniques, including **turning captive rings**,  
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## Challenge

March's **Challenge** was **Miniatures**.

We actually had entries in two categories - *Advanced* and *Beginner*.

*Advanced* winner was **Carey Caires**, with her dessert plate with cookies. She also had a box with finial and a hollow form with finial. Various woods, Aussie Oil finish..



*Beginning* honors were taken by **Mark Ashley** with his 35mm film spool of walnut and actual film stock.



**Phil Moore** had a clarinet barrel of desert ironwood, tung oil finish, and cocobolo ornament with CA finish.



**Thomas Cassidy** had a small manzanita vase, oil finish.



**John Fisher** turned several tiny eggs and a bowl to hold them, a square edge bowl out of spalted something, and a thin stemmed goblet, possibly walnut. Micromesh finish.



Judges were **Bill Loitz**, **Chris Dodson**, and **Emily Ford**.

## Show & Tell

**Surya** brought some ash golf discs, a variety of bowls (walnut, olive, teepu, some epoxy finish, other Tried & True, Howard's Butcher Block finish. Also a couple of hand carved spoons, mineral oil finish.



Still our youngest turner, **Zaine Latif** brought a bowl out of the popular unknown wood, walnut oil finish.



**Craig Sobel**, as an addendum to his presentation last month, had another of his swirly bowls started, showing the glue-ups and interior turning. Seven layers done, a bunch more to do yet.



## Presentation

**Emily Ford**, from Utah, was demonstrating for us in the morning, and then turned a (wet) bowl after the meeting business was concluded.



## Upcoming Presentations

*We need presentations for meetings in the future. Doesn't have to be intricate or long, just something that people may have an interest in, particularly for newer turners. Traditionally, the VP (**Tiprin**) is in charge of arranging presentations, but if you also send them to me (John - newsletter editor) I will list them.*

## Other Items.

The **2026 AAW Symposium** will be in Raleigh, NC from June 4 - 7. Registration is now open,

The *Craft Supplies USA* website (woodturnerscatalog.com) has a couple of new videos by **Mike Nish** on using the skew chisel. A lot of good information there, especially on minimizing the dreaded catches that the tool is infamous for. Titled **Skew 101** and **201**.

## Officer Elections

**editor's note:** *Officer elections usually take place at the November meeting, but since that didn't happen, they were supposed to occur at the beginning of the December Potluck & Auction. That didn't happen either, so I guess that at least for now, last year's officers will remain in place.*

## Meeting Dates for 2026

**April 12**

**May 17** (*moved for Mother's Day*)

**June 14**

**July 12**

**August 9**

**September 13**

**October 11**

**November 8**

**December 13**

## Challenges for 2026

Thanks to **Amy** and **PJ** for coming up with the monthly **Challenges** a couple of years ago. Since no one has done that since, I have taken it upon myself to create a list of **Challenges** for the upcoming year. - **John Fisher** (editor)

**April** - *Fix a disaster, with narrative: "why my piece is in pieces, and how I corrected it"*

**May** - *Lidded Boxes/Vessels*

**June** - *Finials*

**July** - *Collaborative project - 2 or more people working on a project.*

**August** - *Thimbles, tops, egg shapes*

**September** - *Combination of Materials*

**October** - *Duplicates - 3 or more of the same.*

**November** - *"Best of the Best" - what you're most proud of*

**December** - *usual Pot Luck and Auction.*

(continued from page 1)

shaping a beautifully proportioned **poplar platter**, and creating a **wet-turned sycamore calabash bowl**. As always happens after a demonstration like this, members went home looking at their wood pile with renewed inspiration.

### **Monthly Challenge: Miniatures**

#### **Tiny work... big bragging rights**

The March challenge was **Miniatures**, proving once again that the smaller the project, the greater the patience required.

And in what is rapidly becoming one of the Guild's most predictable plot twists...

#### **Carey Caress won again.**

At this point Carey has accumulated so many challenge gift cards that she may soon have enough for a **down payment on a condominium**.

All joking aside, Carey's miniature work continues to impress. Congratulations again — and thank you to everyone who participated. The craftsmanship on display was outstanding.

**Thanks to all who brought pieces along for Show and Tell, this is an important part of our monthly meeting. Please bring all you can to share.**

### **Website Update**

**Jenny Mikesell** provided a brief update on the progress of the Guild's new website. Work continues behind the scenes to improve both the appearance and functionality of the site so it better reflects the creativity and energy of our membership.

After hearing Jenny's presentation, Emily jokingly wondered aloud whether the Guild might be aiming to win the **AAW Chapter Website Award**.

We're not officially confirming that goal...

...but we're certainly not ruling it out. Certainly Jenny's talent is extremely capable of this. The Guild continues to show **unilateral strong support for Jenny. Jump ON the bus, or stay at the bus stop, please.....**

### **Next Meeting**

 **April 12, 2026**

Next month's challenge theme is:

### **Fix a Disaster**

**“Why your piece is in pieces — and how you fixed it.”**

Every woodturner knows the moment. The cut seemed right, the shape looked promising, and then suddenly something goes sideways.

In a slight twist to the challenge this month, we are **not putting any time limit on when the disaster occurred**. Maybe it happened last week. Maybe it was a year ago. Maybe it was five years ago. Bring it all. Of course, **five years ago for Zane may be a little bit out of the question... or is it?**

### **Thank You**

There are always so many people to thank that it becomes nearly impossible to name them all, but a few deserve special mention.

Our thanks again to **Emily Ford** for making the trip and sharing her creativity, techniques, and generosity with the Guild. Special thanks as well to **Tiprin** for making the demonstration a reality.

**Chris and Susan** have offered to connect with Reid Freiheit to solve our AV challenges! THANK YOU!

A HUGE Guild thank you **Rob and Dawn** for offering to help the club in a myriad of ways!

**Andy Sway**, thank you for coming to our meeting last month and letting us know you were holding a sale! Andy was very generous with his pricing to pass on his legacy of turning!

And a **shout-out to Carl Haney** for once again bringing wood for the raffle — perhaps Carl has donated more wood to the Guild than most of us combined.

Finally, thank you to the many members who volunteer time after time to organize meetings, set up equipment, manage demonstrations, and keep everything running smoothly. It truly takes a team to make these meetings happen.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the **April 12 meeting**.

*Until next time — keep the chips flying, the tools sharp, and remember: mistakes turn into a great design opportunity. - Ask me how I know.....*

**Keep coming back!**

Thomas

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