



# SLIGHTLY

# SKEWED

*Journal of the Glendale Woodturners Guild*

Volume 32, Number 8 – August, 2024

## NEXT MEETING

Second Sunday

*August 11, 2024*

## HOW TO FIND US

### SUNDAY MEETING

2:00 pm

We've started meetings again at our new site:\*\*\*

\*\*\* *It's possible we may have another site, stay tuned!*

American Legion Hall  
4011 La Crescenta Ave.,  
La Crescenta 91214

Corner of La Crescenta Ave and Manhattan Ave.  
Parking lot is small, so if you can, park on the street so people that are unable to walk far can use the lot. ***You can also park in the Church lot next door (downhill side)***

Meetings consist of announcements, a feature presentation, a Challenge, Show & Tell and a wood raffle (except for December). We're slowly getting back to many of the pre-Covid activities.

**Challenge: Fix a Failure**

**Presentation: Deep Hollowing  
by James Hurst**

## President's Message

We had an improved attendance at Sunday's meeting with 36 members present. Actually it was 32, I rounded it up. Let's keep growing - without Rockler, we need to share our passion.

We had a moment of silence for our recently lost Guild members, **John Peck** and **John Serder**. Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

**Craig Sobel** gave an excellent presentation, providing everyone with copies of his well-crafted handout. He really broke it down, showing how straightforward and quite easy it is to do segmented work. So, gang, we've run out of excuses not to start that segmented project!

The spinning top challenge was lots of fun with three categories: a good old regular wood-turned top, an open class, and store-bought machined tops (yep, Amazon Prime). **Mark Fitzsimmons** made two large (okay, huge) tops with brass tips, and **Scott Johnston** didn't disappoint with his creative spinning ball on a wood base. **Mike Toth** turned about five tops and happily shared them with anyone who wanted to participate. Of course, he tucked his "best" top in his pocket with a sly smile. It seemed **Chris Dodson** kept coming up a winner.



## OUR LEGACY

Aside from a great presentation, spinning tops, and lots of laughs, the big topic was the announcement that The Guild has likely identified a new home! I'm still in negotiations, but we may have a decision in the next week or two. This partnership/collaboration appears to be a very good fit for both parties. We are both focused on serving the community and our youth. Let's make a difference in the world—we certainly need that! A reminder to all: it is paramount we seek ways to entice our youth into woodturning. **PAY IT FORWARD.**

**Jim Hurst** kindly offered to do a presentation next month on deep hollowing. Thank you, **Jim!** Who wants to bring their talent to the meeting in September?

Next month's challenge is fixing a failure. Although **Craig Sobel** rightly pointed out there are no failures, only design opportunities! So, bring it on, pull out something that didn't **Chris Dodson** suggested an additional competition for next month's challenge: how many pieces do you have that you can fix? I'm confident **Chris'** idea was not directed at me... but I can bring a shopping cart full—enough for everyone!

We are very much on track for making some big changes to the website, the way we communicate as a club, with the community, our youth, and new members. Thank you very much, **Cody!**

**GUILDERS—WHAT demos would YOU like to see in the remaining 2024?**

If you have approached me with an idea at a meeting, please send me an email outlining your idea and how we can implement it.

Take a moment at our next meeting to thank those who volunteer with drinks, eats, coffee, sound system and putting together our newsletter.....you get the idea.

That's all for now, grab some graph paper, sketch out your ideas, and make 'em happen! go so well, and get creative!

**Thomas**

## Challenge

The Challenge for July was "**Spinning Tops**". This was judged by a series of "spin-offs", seeing whose top rotated the longest. Most of the entries were in the "wood only" category, with just a few in the "open" category (which allowed for metal or other hard tips).

Some tops ran for a good while, others toppled quickly. The quality of the initial spin (and spinner) had a large effect on the outcome. It quickly became apparent that the tops brought by **Mike Toth** were going to take the honors in the wood only category. He had provided a number, a couple of which he spun himself, and let others use the others. Self-proclaimed "*professional spinner*" **Chris Dodson** and many others all participated.



**Mike Toth** preparing to set one of his creations in motion.



"just keep spinnin, spinnin, spinnin..."  
(Sorry, Dory!)



The "open" category entrants. (Winner was **Mark Fitzsimmons**).

As a finale, President **Thomas Cassidy** brought 6 identical metal tops purchased from *Amazon*, people had fun with these, as they would spin either way up. (didn't get a photo).



**John Fisher's** poplar tops were turned that morning from the demo piece he made during the class he taught that am.



**Cody Travis'** maple entry had wax finish.



**Kenneth Sutton** also made his from maple, Shellawax friction polish.



**Sarzena Bhargava's** acorn tops were fashioned from water oak.



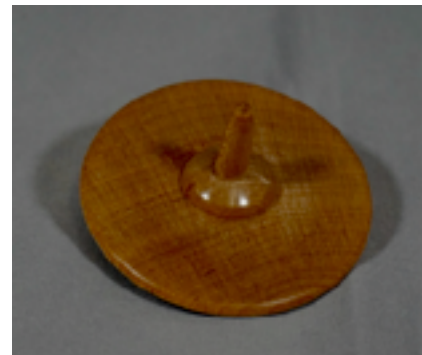
**Henry Koch** used Canary wood (and no, it didn't sing).



**Scott Johnston's** entry upended the concept (the ball spins on a metal rod inside).



Despite the name, *The Four Tops*" by **Mark Fitzsimmons** didn't sing either. Black acacia, oak, walnut & brass, carob, birch, brass.



At nearly two inches in diameter, **Carey Caires'** maple piece finished with Aussie Oil probably used at least five times the volume of wood as in all her other presentations so far this year. (does she buy her stock by the board millimeter?)



## Upcoming Challenges



Some of **Mike Toth's** spinners, oil finish.

**August - "Fix a Failure"** (not sure about which will count more in the judging - the failure or the fix)

## Show & Tell



With design "advice" from his wife (we could see the bruises on his arm), James **Hurst** turned, carved and finished his ash bowl with acrylic paint and lacquer.



**Julia Ryan** made these maple pieces in a class with **Eli Avisera**, with assistance from **Bill Loitz**.



**Mike Toth** finally determined that this bowl was of cedar, finished with walnut oil.



**James Hurst** came to realize that you have to find a way to finish and sand the now visible interior of carved pieces like this poplar twisted vase w/ satin lacquer finish..



**Sabin Silberman** laminated and turned this handle for a hammer head he had lying about. (I think he should have formed the handle in the shape of a shark!)



**Bill Nelson** painted the inside of his BoC box red, and used lacquer and Black Diamond iridescent powders mixed with lacquer on the outside. Basswood was the underlying material.



**Scott Johnston's** BoC boxes made from wormy beech & "fog" wood.

## Challenges for 2024

**Amy** and **PJ** stepped up to give us a list of challenges for the upcoming year.

*(I understand this involved casting several horoscopes, reading mystic runes, and probing the intestines of a goat.)*

**Aug-** *Fix a Failure*

**Sep-** *Footed or Legged turning*

**Oct-** *Finial Box*

**Nov-** *Jewelry*

So now someone else has to step up and arrange presentations related to the challenges or unrelated like a generic sharpening demo. (Not every challenge needs a preceding presentation.)

**Amy** and **PJ**

## Meeting Dates for 2024

Usually second Sunday of the Month, with a few exceptions

**August 11**

**September 8**

**October 13**

**November 10**

**December 8 (Potluck and Auction)**

## PRESENTATION

**Craig Sobel** did a presentation on making a Mobius strip (segmented piece). He had a nice full color handout, which he also posted on Google drive and emailed a link to the members.

The process involved gluing up strips (similar to cutting board glue-ups), cutting these into staves with a compound miter setup, and then gluing them into cones. These are then turned down, cut apart again, and finally glued up again in the proper orientations to create the snake like piece.



Some of the difficulties involve finding ways to safely and accurately cut the small pieces required.

## Other Items

**Adam's Forge**, which teaches blacksmithing and other metal arts, has found new, nicer digs in Simi Valley (they were east of downtown LA before) [Adamsforge.org](http://Adamsforge.org)

**Cathy Pearman** urges everyone to participate in her pet project - donate blood!.

**L.A. Grinding**, who are actually in Burbank, will make band saw blades to size in addition to their various sharpening services. 305 N Victory Blvd, Burbank, CA 91502

Welcome to new member **Chuck Terhune**, and returning member (after a long absence in Georgia), **Sarena Bhargava**,

## Upcoming Events

There was a request to have those of us who attended the Portland *AAW Symposium* to share some of what they learned with the rest of the club. Stay tuned.

## New email system?

The *GroupWorks* platform that we have been using to distribute the Newsletter and other information has permanently shut down. **Craig Sobel** set up an account in Gmail that we will be using, at least for now. You should receive an email either containing the Newsletter as a pdf or a link that will take you to the newsletter.

Stay tuned! - editor

# CONTACTS

## Glendale Woodturners Guild

*GWG web site:*

<http://www.woodturners.org>

*President: Thomas Cassidy*

(h) (626)-376-1230(h)

[president@woodturners.org](mailto:president@woodturners.org)

[trcassidy@gmail.com](mailto:trcassidy@gmail.com)

*Vice President: Tiprin Mandalay Follet*

(h) (626)-497-4216

[vp@woodturners.org](mailto:vp@woodturners.org)

*Treasurer: Bill Loitz*

(h) (626) 797-1732

[b.loitz@earthlink.net](mailto:b.loitz@earthlink.net)

*Secretary: Craig Sobel*

[secretary@woodturners.org](mailto:secretary@woodturners.org)

(h)

*Editor Newsletter: John Fisher*

(h) (818) 304-6898

[editor@woodturners.org](mailto:editor@woodturners.org)

*Librarian: Jim Vollmer*

(h) (310)780-4995

[librarian@woodturners.org](mailto:librarian@woodturners.org)

*Webwright: Anthony Thiessen*

[athiessen2@gmail.com](mailto:athiessen2@gmail.com)