



# SLIGHTLY

# SKEWED

## Journal of the Glendale Woodturners Guild

Volume 34, Number 2 – February, 2026

### NEXT MEETING

THIRD Sunday  
*February 15, 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:** **Kits (kitchenware, pens, etc.)**

**Presentation:** **Swirly Bowl by Craig Sobel**

### President's Message

GWG Newsletter –  
January 2026

Glendale Woodturners  
Guild

**Happy New Year,  
GWG!**

We're kicking off 2026  
with a lot of  
momentum — and  
honestly, we need  
more members

showing up, because you don't want to miss  
what's happening right now in the Guild.

If you missed the most recent meeting, you missed  
an incredible demonstration — the amazing  
miniature work Carrie showed us! It was  
outstanding and inspiring to see that level of detail  
and creativity in action.

**Big Upcoming Event – You Don't Want to Miss  
This!**

And here's the big highlight (and yes... I think I  
finally got all the dates straight... well, maybe!

**Kirk DeHeer is coming to town on SUNDAY —  
January 25.**

Yes — Sunday! 9 – 4 The AM is the open house  
portion. **PLEASE JOIN US AND BRING 2-3 OF  
YOUR FAVORITE PIECES TO SHARE.**

This will be an Open House + Tool Demonstration,  
and it's shaping up to be a very exciting event with  
lots of hands-on interaction for everybody. This is  
not a "sit back and watch quietly" kind of demo —  
it will be engaging, practical, and a great chance  
*(continued on page 6)*



## Kirk DeHeer/Community Center Open House

On Sunday, January 25, 2026, the **La Canada Community Center** (where we currently meet) is having an Open House to highlight woodturning, as well as its other activities. Professional turner **Kirk DeHeer** will be present to help highlight the craft, and will be having a discussion of various types of turning tools and how they function. The event will run from 9 am to 4 pm, and is free of charge.

## 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.*

## Challenge

January's **Challenge** was something inspired by **Emily Ford's** demo (rattles, captive rings, tops, platters, etc.) Three people brought in entries, where the winner was **Dale Gertsch** with his rattle (with bb's inside) of zembrano, ss? and wax finish. It was photographed on a dual purpose piece - napkin ring/rattle holder.



Carey Caires had a rosewood ornament, Aussie Oil finish.



**John Fisher** brought a bud vase with captive ring, myrtle?; an apricot multi center rattle with captive rings; and a poplar platter he started during the Matt Monaco class in Utah last September



## Show & Tell

**Thomas Cassidy** had a selection of small plates/dishes. Didn't get any info on the wood type(s)



Judge was **Thomas Cassidy**.

## Presentation

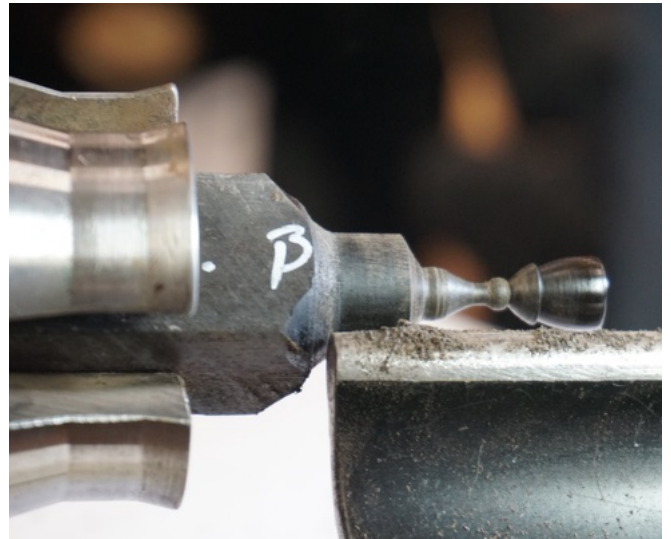


**Carey Caires** gave a presentation on turning miniatures. Since we did not have our usual camera or other AV gear present, the small crowd just gathered closely to watch **Carey** turn a small goblet from African blackwood.



Magnification and good lighting are essential for turning small items - it took some doing, but we finally managed to get **Carey's** magnifying lamp set up after her newly purchased clamp broke.

**Carey** has been able to find tools for this work over the years, and has made many of her own tools from dental tools and picks from Harbor Freight.



At the end of the demo, she held a drawing for a "door prize" consisting of some picks and other stuff to get you started on miniatures.

## Upcoming Presentations

### February - *Swirly Bowl* by **Craig Sobel**

*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.

**Jenny Mikesell**, who runs an internet design firm (mikeselldesign.com) was present to talk about proposals for our sadly neglected website, as well as to learn about turning.

The **2026 AAW Symposium** will be in Raleigh, NC from June 4 - 7. Registration is now open, there is a \$40 per person discount available if 5 or more members from a club are attending (need to be AAW members). Let me know if you are planning on going, I have the code you will need when you register. - John Fisher, editor.

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**.

## Meeting Dates for 2026

**February 22** (*moved for Super Bowl*)

**March 8**

**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)

**February** - *Kits - kitchenware, pens, etc.*

**March** - *Miniatures (after **Carey's** demo in January)*

**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.*

*President's column continued from page 1*

to ask questions, learn, and connect with other turners.

*It would be great to see you there.*

### **Meeting Highlights & Challenge Winner**

Congratulations to Dale, who won the **Emily Ford** Challenge with a beautifully made baby rattle. Great design, and the grain match-up was excellent.

We also had a nice group of Show-and-Tell pieces brought in — several pieces I shared, and **John Fisher** brought in several pieces he's been working on, great work, John! Always fun to see what members are creating.

### **Big News: Our Online Presence Is About to Level Up**

Another major news item: our newest member, **Jenny Mikesell**, did a presentation on the Guild website.

This has been Jenny's business for years — she completely gets it — and we will be moving forward in a big way. For the first time in a long time, the Guild is on track to have an outstanding presence online.

This is YOUR club, make sure the web page includes what is important to you! If you want to get involved and provide feedback, please do.

### **Looking Ahead – More Great Guests & Challenges**

It looks very likely we're going to nail down **Graeme Priddle** and his wife **Melissa** to come at the end of February, we are working on wrapping that up soon. They will also be demo-ing @ El Camino, they welcome all of us!

**Also — next month's challenge is KITS: Kitchenware, pens, etc.**

**Go online and buy something now... and make it!**

Warm regards,

**Thomas Cassidy**

President, Glendale Woodturners Guild

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