



# SLIGHTLY

# SKEWED

## Journal of the Glendale Woodturners Guild

Volume 34, Number 3 – March, 2026

### NEXT MEETING

Second Sunday

*March 8, 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: Miniatures (fits in a 35mm film canister)**

**Presentation: Open House in morning, Emily Ford will demo.**

### President's Message

#### President's Message – February

We had 25 members in attendance this month — a little lean in number (**you can help with that!**) but strong in engagement. The discussion was lively, candid, and focused on meaningful next steps for the Guild.



Please join me in welcoming **Phil Moore**, who heard about us through **Chris Dodson**. Phil, we're glad you're here.

#### Growth & Strategic Partnerships

A key focus was our evolving partnership with the La Cañada Community Center. They are *highly invested* (rent free open houses, extensive marketing efforts) in our Open Houses and in working with us to grow the Guild. That alignment matters.

We also recognize that reaching youth and new turners is essential for long-term vitality.

To move this forward, a small committee — **Craig, Chris, Rob** and myself — has formed to explore introductory classes (pens, small bowls, spinning tops) with a target of July, pending Community Center coordination and approval.

Thanks to **Tiprin**, we learned that the John Muir High School woodshop in Pasadena — reportedly idle for decades — may become available in the

future. This represents a significant potential opportunity for classes and long-term growth.

We will also be coordinating with the Community Center's new CEO, **Michael Powers**, who brings a strong vision for expanding community engagement. The timing is promising.

### **March 8 – A BIG DAY**

Our next Open House is March 8 (9:00–2:00), featuring the incredible **Emily Ford**, followed by a modified monthly meeting. **Please mark your calendar — and bring a friend. This is how we grow.**

### **Website, Branding & Moving Forward**

We had an open and constructive discussion regarding our website developer, **Jenny Mikesell**. **Let me be clear: the Guild stands fully behind Jenny and will support her 100%. All Guild members** will show her respect and professional courtesy.

Having a professionally developed website with broader resources is critical to our future. We have studied several of the top AAW club websites in the country for ideas and direction. This is about raising our standard. Our social media presence will also be stepped up.

The logo contest has evolved significantly. We now have three final logo designs, each with variations suitable for website use, badges, T-shirts, and other applications. Thoughtful branding matters.

If you have ideas or concerns, **please direct them to me or a board member exclusively**. We must keep communication unified and constructive at all times. Remember: principles before personalities.

### **Program & Club Notes**

**Craig Sobel** delivered an outstanding presentation on his swirly bowl design — creative, informative, and beautifully executed. Thank you, **Craig**. And a gentle nudge to all members: we need more presenters. It doesn't have to be complicated — please step up and share your talent.

Congratulations to **John Fisher** for winning this month's challenge with an exceptional walnut pepper grinder — **along with five or six other impressive pieces, excellent way to represent the Guild, John!** Judges were **Susan** and myself.

Craft Supplies gift cards are on the way (and yes, I still owe Dale from last month).

**Chris** and **Susan** will be promptly evaluating upgrades to our camera and audio-visual equipment. The El Camino Club has an excellent setup and has generously offered to share what they've done. Improving our A/V will enhance demos and benefit everyone. Must connect **Chris & Susan** with them ASAP.

*After the **Kirk DeHeer** Open House, one of **Cathy Pearman's Eli Avisera** bowls was mistakenly taken home. If it's on your shelf, PLEASE RETURN IT so we can reunite it with **Cathy**.*

**Andy Sway** let us know he will no longer be doing woodturning and plans to host an open house in the next couple of weeks to sell his equipment. While stepping away from turning, he will continue carving — and I've invited him to present at a future meeting. **Andy** also generously donated several items to the raffle.

**Once again**, Carl Haney stepped up and brought a generous supply of wood for the raffle — something he has done consistently for years. Thank you, **Carl** and **Andy**, for your generosity!

Question: does anyone know a grant writer — or someone who does? Let's pursue every opportunity available to us.

***Momentum is building. Be involved. Opportunity is real. Growth happens when we engage....not when we sit on our hands.***

See you March 8.

— **Thomas**



**Cathy's** missing bowl looked something like this.

## Kirk DeHeer/Community Center Open House

On Sunday, January 25, 2026, the **La Canada Community Center** (where we currently meet) had an Open House to highlight woodturning, as well as its other activities. Professional turner **Kirk DeHeer** was there to give demos on turning



**Another Open House is scheduled for March 8**, which will take place in the morning. **Emily Ford** is scheduled to be demonstrating. Our usual monthly meeting will take place afterwards, probably with an abbreviated schedule.



Some work by our founding president **Bill Hrnjak**.

## Challenge

February's **Challenge** was **Kits**.

We had a nice variety of items. Everything got lumped together into one category, where **John Fisher** won with his walnut Peppermill (actually had peppercorns in it, too!).



He also had other items: a trio of stemware with turned bases, and some kitchenware, telescoping magnetic pickup, and the most important part of his sewing kit, a seam ripper.





Honorable Mention went to **Mark Fitzsimmons** for his ravioli roller and edge pincher. Oak and Carob, water based polyurethane floor finish. *(I don't know if that means he rolls out his ravioli on the floor or not)*



**Dale Gertsch** had an ambrosia maple ice cream scoop finished with sanding sealer & wax.



**Carey Caires** turned a maple pen and key ring, then wood burned little dog paw prints on them, and finished with Aussie Oil.



**Peter O'Colmain** had some very pretty pens, buckeye burl and acrylics.



**Rick Silverstein** presented two bottle stoppers, one of box elder, the other unknown.



Judges were **Thomas** and **Susan**

## Show & Tell

**Tiprin Follet**, while disparaging her own work, had an oak bowl, and oak spoon, both unfinished.



**Rick Silverstein** had a bowl of PUW (Pretty Ugly Wood) finished with dye and polyurethane.



**Chris Chomyn** had a large (15" x 2") walnut bowl, walnut oil finish.



No photo slip, might be mesquite, might be by **Thomas'**



Box turned by **Kirk DeHeer** during his demo.



## Presentation

**Craig Sobel** did a presentation on his "swirly bowl" creations. The process involves the "bowl from a board" technique. Strips are glued up, then re-sawn into three boards. Half circles are laid out with 3/16" spacing, bandsawn at 45 degrees, then glued together and stacked up to create the shape.

The "swirl" is created by indexing each successive layer 15 degrees from the previous. The colored pieces are created using Spectraply colored plywood.

He uses Titebond II, which develops a good tack quickly, so the glue ups can go quickly.



one of the rings:



end results:



## 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.

Welcome to newcomer **Phil Moore**

The **2026 AAW Symposium** will be in Raleigh, NC from June 4 - 7. Registration is now open, the price will go up after February 28, so sign up now if you're planning on going.

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

**March 8** (also Open House in morning)

**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)

**March** - *Miniatures*

**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.*

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