GLENDALE WOODTURNERS GUILD

SLIGHTLY SKEWED

October 11th Meeting

The Challenge

Duplicates - 3 or more of the same

Meeting Dates

November 8
December 6 - Holiday Auction *
*(**(note special date)**

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

Demonstration Dates

Club Updates

Thanks to everyone who came to the October meeting and to the volunteers who've kept this Guild turning for more than 30 years. As we wrap up 2026, take a moment to thank someone who's helped keep us going.

What would get you into the shop for a monthly challenge? We've mixed up the projects, but entries are still light. When Bill Haskell donated wood for weed pots, the table filled up. What made that one work for you? Tell us what you'd like to try next. And bring whatever's on your lathe to Show & Tell. A piece that has you scratching your head can teach the whole room something. If you're stuck, ask me or one of our mentors. We're here to help each other.

Holiday auction and potluck • Sunday, December 6. Circle the first Sunday in December. Bring a dish, a friend, and something to auction. A trunk full of items is best! This is our only fundraiser and brings in most of our revenue. If you'd like to make a tax-deductible donation, bring a check in any amount. Over the past two years, two members have given $1,200 between them. Gifts of every size help.

Help shape 2027. Our goal is five professional demos. Even with six to eight weeks of promotion, we tend to draw the same crowd and fall short of covering costs. Use the sign-up sheets to offer a presentation or suggest a demonstrator you'd love to see. Then help us get the word out and welcome more young people, women, and first-time turners.

A huge thanks to Mark Fitzsimmons, who stepped up with an excellent presentation. Thank you, Mark! Who's next?

See you at the auction. Come hungry and bid like you've got room in the shop and money in the bank.

Thomas

Next month's meeting is November 8. Amy and PJ will be providing and timely prestnation on stocking stuffers. Not only will you learn lots but they gaurantee to have you rolling in the aisles. The Monthly Challenge is "Best of the Best" Bring what you are most proud of.

Presentation
Centering and Mounting Irregualr Pieces of Wood



Mark Fitzsimmons brought in massive pieces of turned art in various states of completion, including some of his spaceship series. He eased us into the topic with a geometry lesson, using points to define a cricle and a plane, perpendicular bisectors plus trial and error, which allows one to transfer the points to the opposite side.

Next up was mounting pieces on a faceplate. Use only a couple of screws and add washers as needed to change the plane and then firmly secure the object. More complex turning can be performed with ball and socket mounts or turning multiple spheres, creating recesses, and using expanding dovetail chucks.

Large pieces can be secured by bolting/screwing into waste areas. Remember to number bolt holes on both the faceplate and the block, in case you need to go back and rework an area. Use a larger waste block than you think you will need. Counter weights such as used in diving belts can be screwed to the other side. He showed a 24" olive bowl that needed 20 lbs of lead to counterbalance the turning.

The bottom of a piece can be turned with a waste ring. After a matching recess is turned on a waste block attached to a faceplate, the two can be glued together.

Epoxy can be used with very fine saw dust powder or wheat flour to create gluing surfaces and gussets. Titebond can be used but depending on the amount of glue used, the drying time may take a week.

Employ multiple wedges to change the angle of the piece on the faceblock.

With careful planning and calculation, he showed you can turn off-center feet.

Appropriate for Halloween, Mark channeled his inner Dr. Frankenstein and demonstrated how you can join two different wood burls together and create windows with intricate bridge supports using a homemade router jig and dovetail bits.









Challenges for 2026

November - "Best of the Best" - what you're proud of the most.
December - Pot Luck and Holiday Auction

Our Location

La Cañada Community Center
4469 Chevy Chase Drive
La Cañada Flintridge 91011

Free parking is available.

The Community Center shares a parking lot with the preschool. Please park in the **unassigned** spots only.

Click here for a map link.

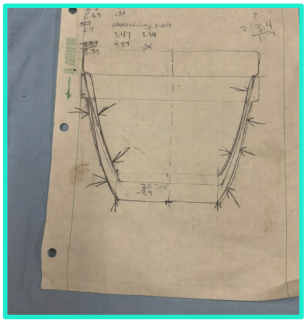
The Month's Challenge

Duplicates- 3 or more



Our expert Judges this month were **Amy Earhart, PJ Hays,** and **Mike Toth.**

All entries this month were in the Advanced Category. The winner was **Mark Fitzsimmons** for his nesting flower pots, made from 40 year old glued up blanks. He created multiple templates for inside and outside of the pots so that they can stack perfectly in any order.





Carey Caires. Earings and pendant from cedar. Finished with Aussie oil.



Mike Toth entered his flower vase of unknown wood and a tree turned green from an ash branch





Dale Gertsch made 14 tooth pick holders out of birds eye maple. He only has 36 more to make for the holidays. The hardest part was trying to source the right size toothpicks

Contacts

Glendale Woodturners Guild

GWG web site
https://www.woodturners.org

President
Thomas Cassidy
(626) 376-1230
president@woodturners.org
trcassidy@gmail.com

Vice President
Rob Freeman
freemanrd@earthlink.net

Treasurer
Bill Loitz
(818)326-8296
b.loitz@outlook.com

Secretary
Craig Sobel

Librarian
Jim Vollmer
(310) 780-4995

Web-Master
Susan Libicki

Newsletter Editor
Rick Silverstein

Show & Tell



Thomas Cassidy brought in multiple hollow forms that he worked on at a class he took with Mike Jacofsky in Provo last month.

"The sculpture is already complete within the marble block, before I start my work. It is already there, I just have to chisel away the superfluous material."

— Michelangelo

(Sounds like he might have made a pretty good woodturner also. Let the wood speak to you.)

