

Karo's Gourd Shards



June, 2025

Welcome back to the new Shards. After spending years with a publisher program that was not compatible with me, I purchased a new program that pronounced that it was "user friendly". The skeptic I am with any program will have to prove itself!. So far I have added a photo, changed the paper color, etc and then pasted a lovely message to each of you from our president. I continued it onto the next page as I wanted to be sure the entire letter was available.

There are some very important happenings occurring in the near future . I wanted you to seriously think about the judging class you will be reading about after Radenne's article. This is not simply a judging class, rather an educational program to promote a clearer understanding of the finer points in improving your art. Now the place, time, etc will be posted after Radenne's letter but for now I will warn you it is a zoom meeting. Where on earth did they ever get zoom. This is not a zoom, instead it is two nights watching a tv screen on how a gourd is judged. May be tedious but we are going to have a party along with the watching and watching! My group meeting at Liz Meyers Patch will bring finger foods to nosh on whilst we listen. We can stop every once in a while to do yoga poses, jumping jacks or use the loo.

Seriously, this is an opportunity to learn more about the art and fine points that a judge will consider when scoring each piece.

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A friendly message from your IDGS Gourd president...

Hold on to your hats. It's been a whirlwind of happenings. When I started this letter, I thought "*What am I ever going to write about?*" But now? I'm bursting with things to tell you, and I'm so grateful to at least a gazillion people. Most importantly, I want each and every one of you to know how much I appreciate your help, your suggestions, and your enthusiasm. You are the driving force that makes us GREAT!

This year has seen a surge of newly launched programs; The Curiosity Shop, the Buddy/Mentoring program, Courtesy Cards and the Outreach program. Thanks to the dedicated and talented volunteers and board members who have spent countless hours setting up these programs.

The Curiosity Shop, under the resourceful leadership of Bill Tarlton, is up and running. This is a place for members to buy and sell things that they have or want. Check out this on line shopping opportunity on the IDGS website.

I can't think of a more compassionate person to head up our Buddy/Mentoring program than Barb Gamel. She has created a list of members who are willing to mentor new members.

How about that creative person, Corlis Kent? She makes and sends courtesy cards to members who might need a smile. Also, I'm sure that you have noticed the money holders for our monthly door prize drawings. That's Corlis. I'm in awe of her creativity.

Thanks to Janet Melligh and her committee, the Outreach program is operational. If you have an opportunity to do an outreach event, check the guidelines and applications for funding on the website.

Behind the scenes...we have had many meetings to revise and update the documents that guide IDGS and the festival. Many thanks to Steve's judging committee, Chris's prospectus committee, Janet's handbook committee, and the IDGS officers and board of directors. Their dedication and commitment is what will keep our society running. They are working hard behind the scene to make the festival another resounding success.

Aren't we lucky? We have a member from our very own IDGS serving on the AGS Board, Christy Pletcher. She keeps us abreast of all things related to AGS. Christy Pletcher and Liz Meyer are hosting gatherings for members to come together to take the Zoom judge certification class offered by AGS. Hooray! We will have new people becoming AGS certified judges. Also, talk to Christy about the benefits of becoming an AGS member.

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Thanks, Ken Gordy, for the ever popular Gordy's Goodies. The goodies are in need of replenishing. If you have any tools, books, supplies, embellishments, or gourds that you would be willing to re-gift, see Ken.

Keep your eyes and ears open. There are sure to be ways to help your IDGS festival by participating in pop-ups, donating to the Gourd Store and Silent Auction, and being a volunteer in one of the many areas at the festival.

I'm truly grateful to all for making IDGS a vibrant, warm, and inviting place for us to gather.

Many thanks from your IDGS president,

Radenne English.

As I promised on the first page here is all the info you need to attend the upcoming Classes.

Hello Friends,

AGS is having a training class on judging, via Zoom.

The benefits of attending this training are

1. enhancing your knowledge on what judges look for during competition and/or
2. having the opportunity to become an AGS certified judge or to renew your certification.

Although IDGS would love to have more certified judges for competitions, you do not have to pursue the certification when attending the class.

Liz has graciously offered her studio for folks wanting to experience the training in a group setting.

Karo will be organizing and hosting the event at Liz's studio. She will follow up with further information to interested members.

When: Sunday, April 6 and Monday, April 7 from 5:00-8:00 pm

Where: Liz's Studio in Nampa

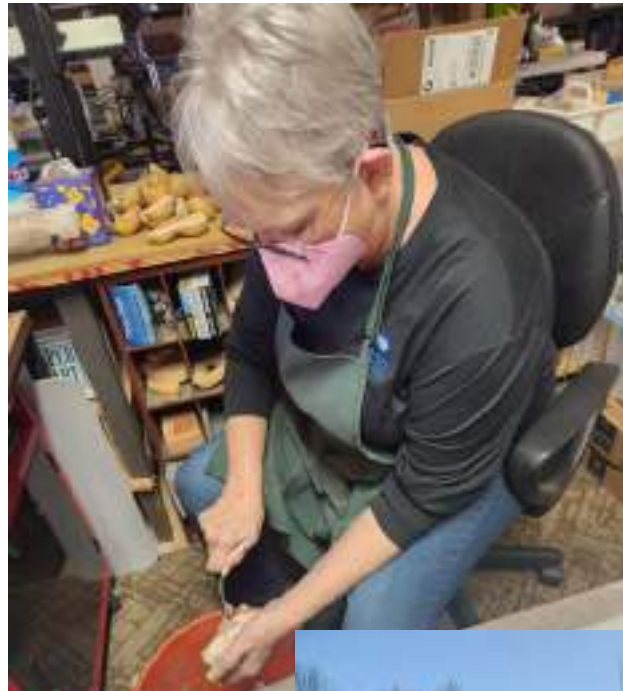
RSVP to Radenne English to reserve your seat. (Karo is out of town & I will be collecting the RSVPs)

Please consider joining us!

Radenne

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Have you ever wondered about the preparation it takes for a project at one of the Patches? Radenne and Christy Pletcher put in so many hours in preparation for your Woodcraft patch, as does Lorrie Ferris, and the Sunshine Patch teachers that I wanted you to have a chance to actually what preparation actually looks like for a class.. besides gathering the materials, the gourds have to be prepped, cleaned and sanded. Paints and all other materials have to be secured and all carefully planned to fit in to instruction time. This takes more hours than you know so a big thank you is owed to all our gourd teachers.



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Now to interrupt for a commercial break!

Taeko D'Andrea, a member of the IDGs, will be holding a concert with the Japanese drums. This truly is an amazing event if you have never seen the drumming. I am going back to watch the performance again as I love it so much. Please try and attend. It's only the cost of a latte and muffin so is amazingly inexpensive to see such a concert! Hope to see you there, Karo.



Sangha Taiko 
and Ki Daiko 
present

Hibiki

Resonance

Saturday
April 12, 2025
2:00 & 7:00 pm

Special Events Center
(BSU Student Union)

General Admission \$10
BSU students/kids under 8: Free tickets
Reserve at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

[Sanghataiko.com](https://www.sanghataiko.com)

 Boise Valley Japanese American Citizens League
 Idaho Oregon Buddhist Temple

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I think we missed a fun time with Ken and Alan at the Seed Swap. Alan sent me this photo taken at the Franz Witte Nursery. Pat Looney supplied a more photos and info about this event.



Franz Witte Garden Center was the place to be on March 8th for the SEED SWAP.

It is always a respite for a gardener to walk the grounds of Franz Witte, but it was extra special

with the Seed Swap. A dozen vendors loaded tables with heirlooms, unique, or hard to find seeds. The enthusiasts were gifted seeds. Sharing was the joy of the event.

Seeds are vital for the reproduction of plants. The Seed Swap provided not only seeds for growing plants but also (thanks to Ken and Alan) seeds to develop new relationships.

The display of Ken and Alan promoted the horticulture and appreciation of gourds-both are excellent Gourd Ambassadors. Thanks Pat Looney!

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March IDGS Member Meeting

Bill Tarlton won the the end of meeting gift card for second time in a row! Alan Sweeney next to him is thinking foul! Look at Bill's smile!

Neurographic Art on Gourds
March 11, 2025
11:00 - 2:30ish
Dancing Dogs Gourds
Boise
208.860.9379

Neurographic art is a meditative and intuitive artistic process that links the unconscious and conscious mind using brain cells called neurons. In the human brain there are 100 billion neurons and over 100 trillion synaptic connections. When the artwork is finished, neurographic art ends up resembling neurons and cells.

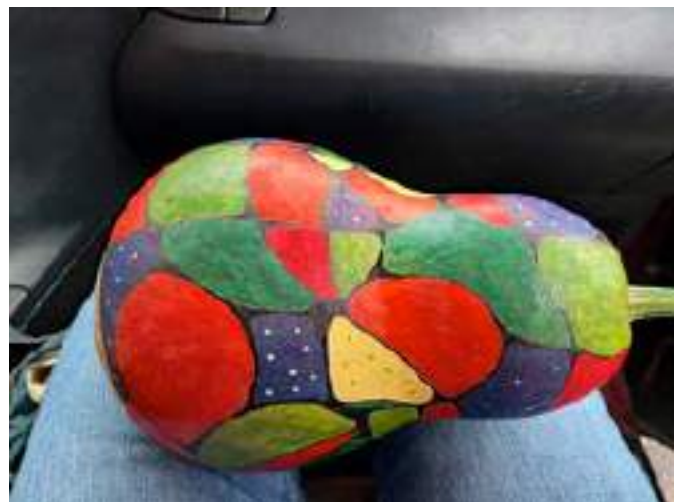


We will learn how to draw and connect lines and circles together to form a contemporary design similar to photo. This is a relaxing, enjoyable process anyone can do!

I will supply pencils, ink pens, colored pens and everything you need EXCEPT your gourd. Please bring a cleaned gourd (any size or shape will do).

Cost is \$35.00. Class payment will reserve your spot, class size is limited to 6 students. Please call Lorrie for any questions.

This was a most popular class taught at the Dancing Dog class. I had pictures but the dog ate them!! If I can actually find them I shall post. Everyone raved about this fun class and I hope she plans on a class later.



Karo's Gourd Share Barnyard Hoedown

A Barnyard Themed Contest Summer 2025



Yeehaw, get down and get your fun on!

Enter your Barnyard themed Gourd Art at the summer picnic on June 14.

IDGS is hosting a summer gourd challenge to support the upcoming IDGS festival in September. Between now and June 14, you are invited to create a gourd for the challenge.

Entries support IDGS and the Gourd Store.

Official Rules

1. Entries for the Summer Gourd Challenge should focus on the barnyard theme, barnyard animals, or things related to life on a farm. Entries must be made predominately from gourds. Any size, style, or technique is allowed. Embellishments may be added to the art work.
2. You must be a current member of the Idaho Gourd Society to play.
3. All entries **must be donated** to IDGS Gourd Store and will be sold at a price determined by the Gourd Store Management Team.
4. Members may enter as many pieces as you want (no limit).
5. Bring or delivered your entry to the summer picnic on June 14, 2025.
6. Judging will be done by the members in attendance using an anonymous ballot. Each member in attendance will receive one ballot. In the clear case of a tied vote, a coin toss will determine the winner.
7. The top entry receiving the most votes will win an IDGS paid membership for the coming year.
8. The IDGS board of directors may add to or change these rules in the case of any discrepancy.



Another challenge for you to participate in and it is coming up soon so put your thinking caps on. Barnyard theme...think, poor brain is drawing a blank. No. Wait I have an idea! A thick cannon gourd carved carefully and painted shades of dark brown. Yes indeed! An entry that would reflect my experience with barnyards but I wouldn't win with my cowpatty entry.

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I am ending this Newsy newsletter hoping that you will participate in many of the upcoming events including the Annual Monthly April membership meeting. These monthly meetings held in Caldwell are education, as well as, being fun, warm and friendly. An excellent chance to say hello and make new friends.

Please take advantage of the Curisoty. Bill Tarlton runs the Curiosity Shop and it is fun to check for updates! My 6" entry for a small warty gourd turned into a 6' gourd. So we all would be pleased to see one of that size.

Work on those September Gourd Festival ideas and the Farm Barnyard gourd Challenge in June. Check the IDGS website for upcoming classes at the local Patches.

My latest endeavor has nothing to do with gourds, rather learning to plant mushroom mycelium into the proper hardwood log. Maybe in a year or so I'll harvest Lion's Mane 'rooms.

Meanwhile I am loving my latest gourd acquisition (nasturium) by Taeko D'Andrea. Enjoy Spring!!! please email me photos and articles to Karo at
Lemonsandsangria@gmail.com

