



**December's event: Member's Holiday Party**  
Details have already been mailed out.

## Meeting Minutes

by Eitan Ginsburg

SFVW – Minutes November 20, 2025 meeting

Club president Jim Baldridge announced that our annual end-of-year holiday lunch will be held at his home in Santa Paula on Sunday, December 14. Bring your own lunch, and Jim and Beverly will be providing drinks and dessert.

Efran Soliz was a new attendee this month. He is somewhat new to woodworking but has always been interested. He used to help his father, who was a finisher at Custom Craft.

### Reports

**Programs:** Vice President Emily Lichtman said planning for 2026 is underway. If you have ideas for shop tours, please let Dave Feinner know. Jim said that he has reached out to see if we can tour Nick Offerman's workshop.

**Finance:** Treasurer Greg Massini said that after paying next year's rent in advance, we have a balance of about \$6000. We have an all-time high of 65 paid members. Dues for 2026 will remain \$35. The club will be participating in the Quilters Boutique, which has been moved to the spring.

**Toys:** Jonathan Nail reported that we had so many volunteers for the toy build weekend that we finished early. The club built 950 toys this year and added a couple of new



## Our President says...

By Jim Baldridge

**Happy Holiday Season to all!!!**

And what a great year it has been!

We have seen a surge in membership to an all-time high this year. I cannot take credit for this and want to thank all of our members at large who are our traveling advertisers. It is due to our diligence and hard work that we grow and thrive as an organization. Members taking care of members. Too philosophical, I don't think so.

Anyway, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your support, whether I have muddled my way through or not, over the past two years. As my presidency comes to a close, I feel both happy and sad. I have no pardons or clemencies to issue as my "autopen" broke. Actually, I think my wife is using it on the checkbook.

I shall quietly ride off into the sunset of the back row of folding chairs, where retired presidents go. But, NO, my voice will be heard, and I will remain actively involved. I am not leaving, I am just relocating to a different room. President Ginsburg will receive much guidance from me as he ascends to his new position. Recently, I watched *Miracle on 34th Street* for the 100th time. There's a scene in the courtroom where William Frawley sits in the back row; he's the campaign advisor to the Judge, Gene Lockhart. Whenever the Judge needs to make a big decision, he looks back to William Frawley. He gets either a head nod yes or no for making those big courtroom decisions. I'll be that man for you, Eitan!!!

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## Who We Are

The club was formed in 1988 for the purpose of enhancing skills, providing information and sharing the joys of working with wood. The membership reflects a cross section of woodworking interests and skill levels - both hobbyist and professionals. Annual dues are \$35. Full-time student dues are \$15.



Balboa Recreation Center Location  
Map courtesy of Google Maps

## Club Officers

President: Jim Baldridge

Vice President: Emily Lichtman

Secretary: Eitan Ginsburg

Treasurer: Gregg Massini

Photographer: Luke Wyatt

Publisher: Gary Coyne

Safety Coordinator: Bob Bilyeu

Web Master: Jan Min

Toy Chair: Jonathan Nail

Toy Distribution: Tara Wyatt

Refreshments: Greg Golden

### "Minutes" from page 1

charities to our recipient group. We still need new leads/ coordinators for the piggy banks, white boards, and one more toy. Luke's wife, Tara, will be the charity coordinator.

### Q&A and Announcements

Emily said she is getting cracking and spider-web patterns in her finish. She used shellac followed by Watco rattle-can lacquer. It is suspected that she may have used waxed shellac rather than de-waxed shellac, which may be the source of the problem.

Trey and Carolyn Benton said they are looking to make a set of 30 rosettes for mounting on door panels. Since getting custom cutters made is very expensive (but Gregg said to check with him at Eagle Tools), another option would be to turn them on a lathe.

Luke Wyatt said he has three benchtop

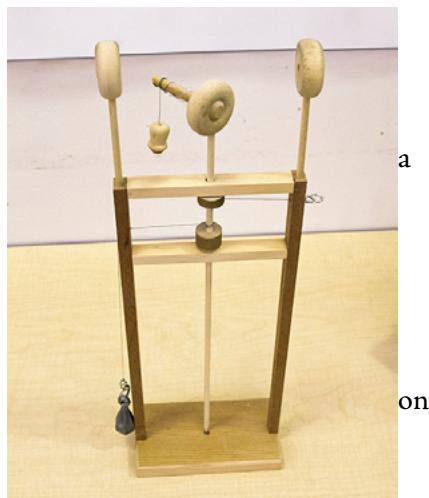


tools he is giving away: a benchtop bandsaw, drill press, and belt/disc sander. If anyone is interested, they can contact him via his contact information in the Club Officers (page 2) under "Photographer."

### Elections

Elections were held for officers and committee chairs. The following are officers for the 2026 year:

Mark Ashley brought in a spinning toy driven by fishing weight. The center section would flip one way if the weight was on the left side and the other way if the weight was on the right side.



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- President – Eitan Ginsburg
- Vice-President – Emily Lichtman
- Secretary – not filled yet
- Treasurer – Gregg Massini
- Toy Committee – Jonathan Nail
- Safety – Bob Biliyu

Big thanks to our outgoing president, Jim Baldridge, for a great two years!

### Club challenge

The challenge was to build something kinetic. There were three entries: Mark Ashley, Gary Coyne, and Tom Ferkel.

You can find photos of these on these pages 3 4 & 5.

The winner was Gary Coyne, who received a \$50 gift certificate to Lee Valley Tools.

### Program

This month's program was the Super Show and Tell. The text from the minutes are included within each picture frame. [They are in order of how they fit, not in when they were presented.]



Gary Coyne demonstrated a miniature trebuchet made of oak. He got the basic plans from a woodworking magazine but had to redesign much of that due to inadequate information in the article.

## From the Web

### ----- Tips, Tricks, and How-Tos -----

- ☞ Why they REALLY don't make tools like they used to
  - *A historical analysis of the steel used in woodworking tools.*  
<https://tinyurl.com/yc4muurv>
- ☞ Planer Sleds Explained!
  - *Some very good ideas for dealing with snipe on your planer*  
<https://tinyurl.com/yyhpwu7>
- ☞ Stop Using Hot Glue! My Quick And Easy Planer Sled Trick
  - *If you do not have a jointer, a "better than hot glue" solution.*  
<https://tinyurl.com/2xsh8wf>
- ☞ Build Stacking Sawhorses from a Single Sheet of Plywood
  - *Plans & videos for making four stackable sawhorses*  
<https://tinyurl.com/mryzxz7p>
- ☞ 5 Tips For A Safer Woodshop
  - *Some basics*  
<https://tinyurl.com/4bs6b8pr>
- ☞ Why Don't People Build Cabinets Like This?
  - *Ignoring the clickbait title, the host shows how to make a cabinet from scratch using a variety of different techniques. Good background for beginners and some tips to help those who may have done this before.*  
<https://tinyurl.com/3avp6ujm>
- ☞ Everything You Need to Know About Sanding to Avoid Ruining Your Projects
  - *Basic introduction to sandpaper.*  
<https://tinyurl.com/u98pzd35>
- ☞ Tips To Improve Edge Grain Cutting Boards
  - *Some excellent information on wood selection choices and how to make cutting boards that are worth selling.*  
<https://tinyurl.com/3mvnptha>
- ☞ How to make an End Grain Cutting Board in 10 easy steps
  - *A really good breakdown on making a basic cutting board.*  
[Note: Using very thick endgrain boards has been shown to be safer than thinner boards, but not doing it is safer yet.]  
<https://tinyurl.com/28fs64kz>
- ☞ I've Sold 10,000 Cutting Boards — Here's What Actually Matters
  - *Of the many "how to sell" videos I've seen, this one hits the money.*  
<https://tinyurl.com/54fswjy2>

## All of Luke's Photos

We can only put in so many photos in each Plane Talk. If you want to see more of Luke's photos from our meetings, here's the link! These are in chronological order; oldest on top and the more recent on the bottom.

Also, I would be remiss if I did not publicly thank the following people for all of their support over the past few years:

Emily Lichtman for organizing programs and pushing members when months seemed hopelessly empty.

Eitan Ginsburg for his dedication to recording the minutes of the meetings for so many years and transcribing them in a timely fashion for Gary Coyne.

Gary Coyne for his HUGE dedication and hours spent putting together the newsletter each and every month. The amount of time and work Gary puts into creating the Planetalk is not realized by most.

Greg Massini, who tirelessly maintains the treasury and tracks our membership payments. He stepped up at a time when no one else was available and was willing to take this on long-term.

Jonathan Nail a man who had no idea what he was really getting into when he volunteered to be the Toy Committee Chair. Well done, Jonathan. And a huge thank you to Jan for her work on the website and redesign.

Marc Collins for his endless dedication to setting up our A/V equipment for every meeting.

Luke Wyatt has been providing us with very good quality photos for use in the Planetalk as well as a valued member of the Toy committee.

Greg Golden makes sure we have snacks for each meeting (how could we survive without that?)

Bob Bilyeu is making sure we can continue to count to ten using fingers.

AND A BIG SHOUT-out goes to Tara Wyatt, who stepped up to take over as the Charity Organizer. For years, this has been taken care of by Sheila Rosenthal. But, alas, she has passed the baton on to Tara. Next year's toy distribution will be 100% Tara.

## Some Trebuchet Information

If you want to learn more about trebuchets, here are some links. The very first one, a trebuchet that flug a pumpkin 3000 feet is from Greg Bevan

### Colossal Thunder NTC Trebuchett

- ♦ You can see the power of these things  
<https://tinyurl.com/5he8kf4y>

### The Grey Company Trebuchet Page

- ♦ A lot of information about Trebuchets  
<https://tinyurl.com/3uvp8rev>

### Punkin Chunkin with the most Historically Accurate Trebuchet!

- ♦ A mix of still photos and video. Do check the distance boards at the end  
<https://tinyurl.com/37tdjrx9>

### Trebuchet

- ♦ Some Experiments with Trebuchets, This guy did a lot of experiments with Trebuchets of different sizes and has links to his work  
<https://tinyurl.com/54ftk8v3>

### Welcome to VirtualTrebuchet 2.0.

- ♦ If you really want to get down into the weeds of Trebuchets, this is great.  
<https://tinyurl.com/yhfp4vwy>

## Learn Blacksmithing from an Expert

A great offer from Mike Wells; one of his works is shown to the right.

As a fundraiser for Highland Hall, I am offering a small exclusive class for anyone who donates \$500 or more to the Blacksmithing program. There are a few more spots left for both the Feb 21 class and the March 7th class. Anyone who is interested please text me at 562-412-0145.



Emily Lichtman showed a decorative crescent-moon section of a mulberry tree from her backyard that she shaped, finished, and mounted on a stand.



Mark Wells showed a beautifully grained olive slice from his parents' tree. He also showed a handheld base that swivels he made for his kids, who use it to paint D&D miniatures.





**A sample of the 14 scrollwork images.**

Jim McGuire showed one of fourteen pictures he made on his scroll saw of the stations of the cross. Each one required 200-300 individual cuts. He stacked three layers and made three sets. He donated one set to his church and said the other two are available for donation if someone from a church wants a set. Here are three more of them.



Tom Ferkel brought in Appalachian dancing dolls and a chicken-and-egg toy.



Marc Collins showed a light fixture he made from cherry, bubinga, and LEDs, patterned after one in the Frank Lloyd Wright Taliesin house. The light is all indirect, reflecting off adjustable wooden panels



Efran Soliz brought in a bas-relief sculpture of a leafy tree that his father had made (and he had helped with some sanding in 1989). It has aged, and he is looking to restore it.

A larger image can be seen  
on Page 1





Eitan Ginsburg showed a chess set he made from red oak and walnut. He turned the pieces and carved the knights' heads by hand.

This set will be donated to a local library where his friend volunteers, teaching kids how to play chess.

Eitan incorporated a hidden compartment between the two drawers (so you have to find it by accident) that holds chess quotes and a coded message for the kids to find and work on.



Jonathan Nail made a treasure box with cherry and curly maple for his daughter's 16th birthday. He said he paid close attention to the small details on this project. He also built a secret drawer on the very bottom with a hidden latch into the base, which thrilled his daughter.



Trey and Carolyn showed a built-in cabinet they designed and built in a wedge-shaped area of their house. They used reclaimed 100-year-old Douglas fir and oak plywood for the drawer boxes. To keep the drawers aligned as they were pulled out, they used undermounted wooden runners



Jeff Bremer made a full bedroom set out of beech with inlay for his son, including a bed frame, desk, armoire, bookcase, mirror, and more.