EST. 1988
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
WOODWORKERS
LEARN — CRAFT — SHARE

March 19 event: Your Guide to Guédelon:

Please join us for our March presentation, featuring member Brittany Joyner, as she shares stories and pictures from her stint last summer working on Guédelon Castle in France. The castle is being built from scratch using only the technology and tools of the Middle Ages. Brittany was able to secure a 3-month apprenticeship under their master builders. She will share the tools and techniques used for the projects she worked on, as well as for other projects going on that time in the castle. Also, some general information about the castle itself. Don't miss this magnifique presentation!".

Meeting Minutes

by Luke Wyatt

SFVW – Meeting Minutes February 2026

Eitan introduces himself and welcomes the group. Then he presented new name tags for the new members.

Grace Olivas is a new woodworker (and new member), and is joining the club as a place to get started. Jessie Lim has experience building with her family and is excited to learn more.

We have two resources to give information out about the club to others. We have a brochure and a business card that have QR codes, which link to our website. These items are available at each meeting, so make sure to grab a few to pass out next time.

Jeff Bremer gave us information about a tool sale coming up from the Allan Pollock estate at this meeting. The family is ready to contribute their dad's tools to the group, and all proceeds will go to the toy build.

Emily has a DeWalt 734 12.5" thickness planer available to any member of the club for the amazing price of FREE! The feed rollers need a little TLC, but it's a great machine for someone looking for a planer. This item, listed as new, is going for $550, so this is an absolute STEAL! Contact Emily if you are interested.

The build challenge for the March

See "Minutes" on page 2

Dues are now Due!

If you haven't paid yet, it's time. Our dues are $35 per year ($15 for students), and our esteemed Treasurer, Gregg Masini, can take your dues via check, cash or Venmo. [Now: @san_fernando1]

If you need to contact Gregg for any questions, his email and phone number are on the next page in the Club Officers.

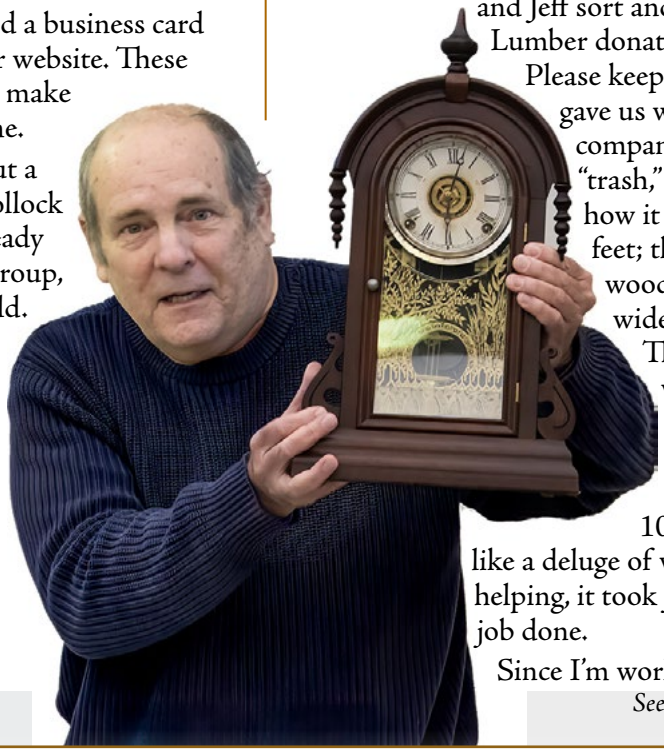
Our President says...

By Eitan Ginsburg

President's Letter – March 2026

Coming out of last month's club meeting, I had several unfinished projects on the workbench: a rolling stool for my wife, an end-grain cutting board for my son, and some small turning projects for the club's booth at the Quilters' Boutique coming up in May. Then, a few other things took up most of my time and attention.

The biggest was helping Jonathan, Chuck, Emily, Luke, and Jeff sort and stack wood that Swaner Lumber donated for the club's toy builds. Please keep in mind that what they gave us was just a fraction of this company's off-cuts — their "trash," our treasure. I don't know how it worked out in board-feet; there were three pallets of wood, each roughly 4′ long and wide and about 4′ or 5′ tall. They gave us poplar, maple, walnut, cherry, mahogany, and birch, all about 24″ long and ranging in width from 1-½″ to as much as 10″. At first glance, it felt like a deluge of wood, but with everyone helping, it took just a few hours to get the job done.



Since I'm working on the chess/check-

See "President's Message" on page 3

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 curtesy of Google Maps

Club Officers

President:	Eitan Ginsburg
Vice President:	Emily Lichtman
Secretary:	Luke Wyatt
Treasurer:	Gregg Massini
Photographer	Gary Coyne
Publisher:	Gary Coyne
Safety Coordinator:	Bob Bilyeu
Web Master:	Jan Min
Toy Chair:	Jonathan Nail
Toy Distribution:	Tara Wyatt
Refreshments:	Greg Golden

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meeting is the Teen Toy Challenge. Our toy charities have submitted requests for more teen-focused items. Examples include a passive cellphone speaker/holder. All members are encouraged to participate and submit entries for judging. Prizes will be given!

Upcoming Presentations

- **March** – Brittany Joyner: Guedelon Castle
- **April** – Marc Collins: Custom Speaker Build + Veneer

In addition, Joinery and Sharpening demos are planned, details are coming.

Committees

Toy Committee: Jonathan told us about the current status of the toy build and what the committee actually is. Last year, we built 950 wooden toys for 14 local charities. He identified the toy leads and explained the process of getting materials from lumber companies. Gary Hersh is taking over the whiteboards. Yippie!! Jeff has already had a build day, and there will be several more throughout the year. We encourage everyone to get involved! A few extra hands go a long way.

Field Trips: Eitan has spoken to Sam DiMaggio, who excels in segmented woodturning. He is open to an in-person presentation, but due to limited space in his shop, we'll likely split into two groups. May is the target time for the meetups. If you are interested, please contact Eitan. His shop is in Studio City.

Finance: Gregg tells us he lost our entire pension fund in crypto; now we'll need everyone to pay double dues… Ha! Kidding. Dues are actually due, though, and we take any form of payment. Digital or analog. Club finances are available for members to view at meetings.

Quilt Show: We are starting to gear up for the quilt boutique SFVW booth. If you would like to make something for the group to sell, please do so. We have previous examples of ruler holders and wooden irons for seams, as well as little finger irons. We have project wood available for members who would like to build items for the group. The event is scheduled for May.

Questions & Answers

Jonathan is looking for help with a glue line that he can feel a couple of weeks after gluing it. We talked about different reasons why that might happen. After reviewing some photos, the group agreed that the difference in grain orientation at the joint was the culprit.

See "Minutes" on page 3

"Minutes" from page2

Announcements

Gregg Golden has titanium cutting boards available for free.

Gregg Rodgers is giving away cabinet doors.

Calvin Sov is having a tool sale. He has a Jet 2 HP dust collector for $1,200 and an Inca 20" bandsaw for $400.

Chuck Nickerson – There's a March tool sale. There will be lots of information coming out in the newsletter – take it away, Gary.

Gregg Masini has a buddy who is selling his 3-year-old 3 HP SawStop with a large sliding table. He also built an outfeed table and has lots of spare blades. He's local near Sherman Way. Contact Gregg if interested.

Show and Tell

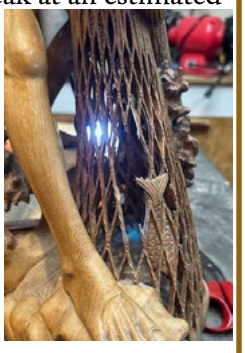




Don has been working on a guitar, and it's taken him three times to get it to stay together. He needed to make little round pegs and a precise way to make a slot down the middle of the dowel. He created a fixture with a slot for the peg to fit in and slide down until it stops on a mark. Brilliant work, Don!



Don also shared a carved piece, out of a single piece of wood, by a master carver from Bali. The net on the carving was damaged, and he showed us how he repaired it. He found a compatible wood that matched the original carving was Malaysian teak at an estimated cost of around $100/BF. (Yikes.) He backlit a piece of tracing paper through the net and traced the pattern. Then he glued the paper to a blank and used a jeweler's saw to delicately cut out the pattern. Since the net was cylindrical and the stock was flat, he molded the stock over a piece of PVC pipe to match its curvature. Finally, he used the brilliant method of applying CA glue precisely with a toothpick. A job well done! .



"President" from page 1

erboard toy build, I loaded up a bunch of the poplar strips right there, which led to my next endeavor. I realized I had better mill these down to size, or this massive pile would just be in the way of getting anything else done. Most of it was rough, so jointing and planning were the first order of business. It all went smoothly until I realized I was having a problem with my planer. After several rounds of troubleshooting and tinkering, I had to accept that the problem was unsolvable and that the planer was now just a boat anchor. Thankfully, club members came to my rescue.

Don Schuster offered to help me finish the planing in his shop, and we finished milling the wood in about an hour. From there, I finished cutting the parts to size, and the unwieldy pile had been turned into three neatly stacked boxes of small parts.

And as often happens in our club, at the last meeting, Emily and Luke had offered to donate their old planer to a club member. I didn't realize then that a couple of weeks later I would take them up on their generous offer. A day later, it was up and in operation. Thanks so much!

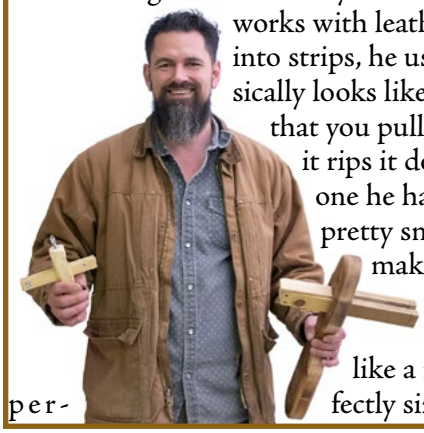
With that out of the way, I finished off the stool and the cutting board. And that left room for helping a friend who is new to woodworking with a cabinet base she wanted to make. There is more work to do, but she has learned new techniques with the bandsaw and hand planes and is becoming more comfortable with the craft.



The month has been a whirlwind of woodworking activity. Many days, the efforts felt daunting but ultimately were satisfying. I'm looking forward to many more just like them.

And here is a photo of the chair I showed "in construction" last month.

Although Mike mostly does metal work, he also works with leather. To cut the wood into strips, he uses a strap cutter. It basically looks like a big marking gauge that you pull leather through, and it rips it down the guide. The one he had for some time was pretty small, so he needed to make a bigger version. So instead of buying one, he made it. It looks like a medieval weapon, but perfectly sized for Mike.



See "Minutes" on page 4

From the Web

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

✎ **Finishing Touch: Penetrating oil finishes**
- *Not much depth, but it describes the full range available.*

https://tinyurl.com/r4rnz8sb

✎ **What Scientists Know That Woodworkers Don't**
- *Yes, I find this guy annoying, but that's me. However, the information in this video is worth watching. Are plastic cutting boards safer or less safe? White or red oak? This video is a mix of science and common sense.*

https://tinyurl.com/bdc2rvua

✎ **Why I keep one dull chisel in my shop**
- *A handy trick with chisels that may not be obvious unless you see it.*

https://tinyurl.com/3zk29ba2

✎ **How to Make a Traditional Drawer Bottom | Rob Cosman**
- *If you want to use hardwood for your drawer bottom, this is the class.*

https://tinyurl.com/3pu9ekvj

✎ **A better way to cut miters/bevels (Perfect every time!)**
- *A router table with a 45° chamfer bit better than a table saw.*

https://tinyurl.com/yxssp3fx

✎ **I saw someone do this with a table saw. Is it safe?**
- *This shows a way to "turn" a bowl on the table saw.*

https://tinyurl.com/mry3uxph

✎ **Nerdwax to clean your glasses**
- *Do check this out*

https://tinyurl.com/2vptz7kc

✎ **Kinetic sculptures by Jakob Grosse-ophoff**
- *Oh these are sooooo, good.*

https://tinyurl.com/295bydc3

✎ **Drum sander setup**
- *Included is how to calculate the length and taper of your belt for self-cutting*

https://tinyurl.com/2m5nduye

✎ **An 'antique' milk paint finish**
- *Some information on milk paint and how to make your new furniture look old*

https://tinyurl.com/5aejktyz

✎ **Stay mindful of the rules and respect the process**
- *To determine how many coats are needed, you need to know the solids content of your finish. Here are the calculations needed.*

https://tinyurl.com/s7phn3xf

✎ **Stop Sharpening Your Tools (Do this instead)**
- *A poor title, this is shows better approaches to hand tool use.*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PKuutKL85KI

✎ **Build a Curved Spa-Style Towel Rack with Bent Lamination**
- *Learn bending forms, bending and lots more.*

https://tinyurl.com/y3frv3jd

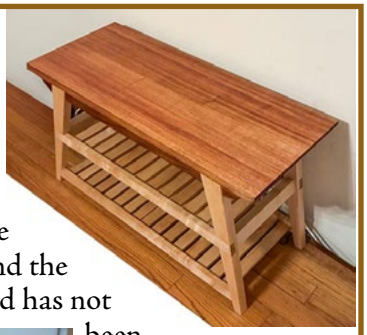
"Minutes" from page 3

Jonathan showed us his set of boxes he created from old project wood over the years: pine, redwood, cedar, and crushed malachite, locked in place with CA glue. They are beautiful. The finish is an oil varnish, and then he does several topcoats with a three-in-one: BLO, varnish, and mineral spirits.





Kyle shared photos of his first build of the year: a coffee table made from walnut and maple. It was designed in Autodesk Fusion. He loved having access to the model through the build. He made the legs from maple and the body from walnut. This build has not been sanded. Everything has been finished with either a card scraper or hand planes. He finished it with Tried & True varnish oil.







Efren likes to find discarded things on the street and bring them back to life. He found a walking stick on the side of the road. It has a leather grip and was carved and made in 1998.

See "Minutes" on page 5

"Minutes" from page4



Emily shared more of her amazing pieces: walnut slices with all different rocks and minerals attached. She used Amethyst (purple), Hematite (blackish), and Quartz crystal (white). Everyone loved how unique the shapes were and the rock choices she made. She's still trying to figure out what to do with them. She got the rocks from Rock Paradise.

Luke shared photos of the finished product for his cherry desk. He is working on a larger show-and-tell for the project and hopes to have it sold soon. [Editor's note: here is a photo that Luke sent me last month I didn't have room to place, for more photos, see last month's issue.] Then he showed the group some render examples from SketchUp that feature AI to make the final product photo-realistic. Lastly, he passed around his wood finish samples from the class that he is taking at Cerritos College by Brian Miller

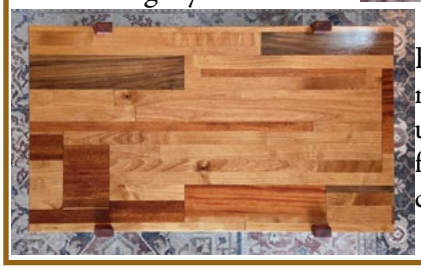




Jeff shared his incredibly beautiful black limba treasure chests and race cars that he'll be selling at the quilt sale. He said that the dust from the wood was very fine and that you really have to watch out. It's nasty.

George Zaleksi shared photos of his scrap table. He said that he eventually worked the top so thin that he decided to mount it like a pane of glass in a frame with half lap joints securing the top to the legs. It was made from mahogany and walnut.





He was told it would never work, but it held under his weight just fine. This is why you don't listen to the noise!

Presentation! Tom Ferkel — Restoration and Repair of an Atkins Pinafore Model Shelf Clock Part 1

A journey of faith, foolishness, overconfidence, humble regret, luck, relief, and at the end – satisfaction.

Tom doesn't build much, but he loves to repair things. While on a garage sale hunt in 1992, he found a clock damaged by an earthquake. He took it to a clock repair shop and was quoted $500 to repair it. His eyes lit up! So he found a clock repair class and signed up, but because only one person signed up (him), they canceled the class. This brought him in contact with the professor, who then invited him to the next meeting of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC). He's been ticking and tocking ever since!

The clock was made in 1875 by Irenus Atkins. Tom showed us different models of the clocks he made and pictures of the clock he was going to repair. It was in a sad state.

He talked about the process and how to set goals. What did he want to do with the clock: repair it completely, just make it work, or did he even have the right experience to do it? He explained the difference between restoration and conservation. Conservation aims to stabilize the clock in its current condition to prevent further decay, often retaining wear and tear as part of its history. Restoration seeks to bring the clock back to its original "as-new" appearance and functionality, often replacing or repairing damaged parts to achieve this.

He started with the door. It was in lots of different pieces. His thinking was that if he couldn't get the door right, then there was no point moving forward. He plugged the old hinge holes and used clamp assembly squares from Rockler to bring the edges back together. He also used binding tape to hold hard-to-clamp pieces.

The door came together, giving him lots of confidence

See "Minutes" on page 7

Member Spotlight
This month is featuring *Marc Collins*

Woodworking

What year did you join the SFVW? I believe it was 2012. I can't believe it's been that long!! Bill Peplow and Doug Deary were incredibly welcoming, and my first run as president was back in 2013.

What types of woodworking projects or techniques do you particularly enjoy? My interest in woodworking has been all over the map. I started with smaller items like boxes and puzzles, but I quickly moved on to larger items like a bedroom set, living room furniture, and various items for use in the home. Currently, I've been enjoying building speakers.



What is a project you are especially proud of and why? My favorite project is probably my build of a Frank Lloyd Wright Taliesin lamp reproduction. It's both functional and, dare I say, beautiful. There's something about the intersection of history, electronics, and design and function that really inspires me!

What is one species of wood you most like to use and why? I think Walnut is my favorite wood. I love the smell, the look, and it is, of course, wonderful to work with in almost every way.

What is your favorite tool (at the moment)? I love my router table so much. I know it's not a cherished hand tool or anything, but the router table is so versatile and it really helped me level up as a woodworker.

Tell us about a "tool bomb" you regret (a tool you got that wound up being a waste, useless, or not nearly as helpful as you anticipated). I don't have any big horror stories, but jigs you build yourself will always be better than store-bought. I bought a box joint jig from Rockler, and it was a complete waste of money. Plastic and particle board do not make good jigs. Rockler has plenty of great products, but in general, make your own jigs.

What is a favorite woodworking podcast or content creator? I'm a huge fan of Roy Underhill. I'm not really a hand tool guy, but Roy's ability to demonstrate and educate at the same time always impresses me.

What is a dream project (something you would someday love to build but may be out of reach for now due to time, skill, money, or equipment)? Honestly, I'd love to build a boat, kayak, or canoe. It takes up so much space, though, and I'm not sure I'll ever be in a position to tackle it.

PERSONAL LIFE

Where were you born? Where did you grow up? When did you come to the San Fernando Valley (or other place where you live now)? I was born in Missouri and grew up in Oklahoma. I worked construction in the family business until I graduated from college, moved to Chicago, and then relocated to LA. I've been in LA since the early 2000s, so quite a long time now.

When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up? An actor or a doctor. I've always felt tugs at both ends of the spectrum.

Tell us about your family/loved ones. I have a lovely wife, Martti, with whom I am about to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary.

What was/is your day job? Tell us a little about your professional career. I don't talk much about my work at the club, but I help engineer and sell media workflow solutions for post-production and video. I do a lot of work with the studios and production companies here in LA and try to keep learning as much as possible.

Do you have a favorite quote or something you are known for saying? "That's my purse! I don't know you!!"

Tell us a fun fact about yourself. For example, something you've done, an interest you have, something you've learned — that is special or unusual? I have a degree in Drama and have performed in or been involved in literally hundreds of theater productions.

Other Interests

What is one hobby or interest you have outside of woodworking? I love audio and video and technology, so I love my home theater, gaming, and really enjoy a good TV

See "Spotlight" on page 7

If you wish to be featured in future months of a Member Spotlight, please contact our Vice President, Emily Lichtman (see page 2 for contact information).

"Minutes" from page5

to move forward. He then moved to the backplate. It was split down the middle. It was probably split from a suspected fall or the weather. The label is on the backplate and is considered the juiciest part of the clock since it timestamps the original production. He used Evapo-Rust® to clean the screws and hardware holding the movement in place. He used a nice fixture for gluing up the back pieces. He then shored up the backplate with some inlays across the seam and painted it brown.

He used lots of techniques to try to restore the label and was able to recover about 70% of it. Then, with Gary's Photoshop and AI skills, they recreated a label and placed it over the old label, with a protective film between them. Tom made sure that any work he did on the clock was completely reversible.

Moving on to the case, he needed to repair all the mounting points and veneer chips. He repaired a few kerfs and even had to remove others to make further repairs. He used a toothpick to make the crack really wet, allowing the glue to seep into it and go deep.

The veneer on the face support had to be removed completely and replaced. He had some walnut in the shop for replacement. For the finials and drop finials, he used a collection of spare parts to make something similar to the original.

To make the two wings symmetrical, he used a double-thick piece, shaped the wings, and then cut the piece's thickness in half for an exact book match of themselves. For the carving in the wings, he used tracing paper to make the final carved curls into the faces of the wings.

The finish was a special mixture of different dyes, leather dyes, and stains. His final finish was guitar lacquer and then semi-gloss.

He assembled the back case and the movement location and attached the door with hinges. He made a mistake and put the glass in the door before the hinges. He's lucky the screws did not break the glass.

The base needed to be leveled to make the clock work properly. He used a flat piece to rub the bottom of the clock on sandpaper to make it completely flat.

He attached the wings with pins with a size of .003 diameter. He adds felt to the bottom of his clock, even though purists don't believe in it.

The case is done. He feels proud of his work and the time he put into it. He still has some concerns. The next part is the movement.

Tom closed the presentation with a small pitch for the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC) nonprofit group and handed out brochures. It was a great presentation! Thank you, Tom.

And, from Tom: If you would like to see Part Two: The Movement, Tom will be presenting at the next NWACC meeting on April 19th (the third Sunday in April). The meeting runs from 11:00 AM or so, with the first hour or so being generally social. A few people have watches and/or clocks for sale. It's also a good time to run issues, problems, or other specific questions past some of the more senior members. From a bit before 12:00 until 12:30ish, there is a pizza-and-salad lunch. After lunch, we congregate for club news, any show-and-tell, and other agenda items (like an upcoming mart). My presentation will follow the club news and business.

I'll probably start at about 12:40 or 12:45 and present for the next 45 minutes, or maybe a bit more.

Here is the website https://nawcc-ch190.com/

We meet in the student cafeteria at Ventura Community College. The web address includes a map and future meeting times in the "meeting schedule" link.

Tom knows that it's not everybody's cup of tea, but everybody is welcome.



"Spotlight" from page6

show or movie.

Where is a favorite place you have traveled? I went bike riding in Amsterdam, and it was a phenomenal experience riding through the city with the rest of the cyclists. It's almost like swimming with a school of fish.

What is one of your favorite types of music? Rock and roll, all the way, baby!

What kind of books do you like to read? I like science fiction the best.

What are your favorite movies or TV shows to watch? While I love all kinds of media, Star Trek will always hold a special place in my heart for its vision of the future and the amazing stories that have been told through the years.

What's your favorite type of food? I love pizza, for sure, but I'm almost always down for a good steak!!