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WOODWORKERS
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August 20th event: Sharpening

Jeff Bremer and Gary Coyne present various sharpening techniques for chisels and plane blades. They will cover general and specific sharpening approaches, including the use of the WorkSharp, water stones, diamonds, and a strop. **Bonus**! BYO chisel or plane blade for you to sharpen. See page 7 for more details.

Meeting Minutes

by Mallory Keesler

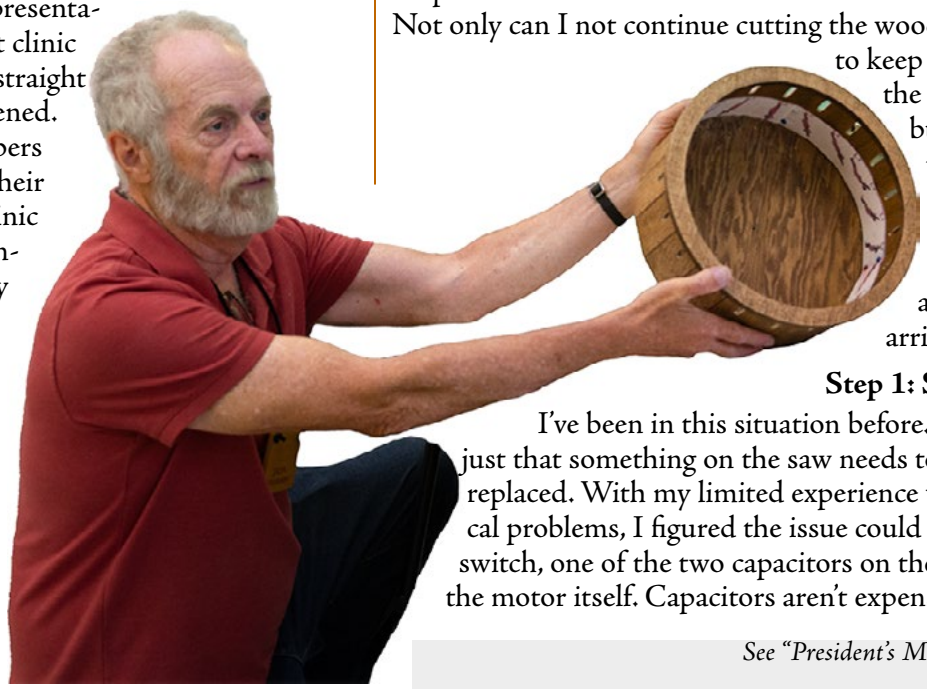
SFVW Meeting Minutes, Thursday, July 16, 2026

Club president Eitan Ginsburg welcomed everyone to the meeting. Eitan's future daughter-in-law, Mallory Keesler, introduced herself, explaining she was interested in the Kumiko presentation. Mallory also volunteered to fill in and take minutes for an ailing Luke Wyatt (and wished him a speedy recovery). New attendee and new member, Chris Levens also introduced himself.

Gary Coyne asked if anyone has contact information for Joe Feinstein, who paid dues but did not provide contact information. This was the final attempt at getting information.

Vice-President Emily Lichtman reported that upcoming talks for the rest of the year are as follows:

- **August** - Sharpening methods with Jeff Bremer and Gary Coyne. After this presentation, there will be a short clinic where members can get straight blades and chisels sharpened. Jeff requested that members lap-flatten the backs of their blades at home, as the clinic will only address sharpening the bevel. This is only for chisels and not plane blades or turning bits.
- **September** - 3D printing with Calvin Sov and Marc Collins
- **October** – Jigs & Fixtures – bring yours in!
- **November** – the annual Super Show & Tell



See "Minutes" on page 2

Our President says...

By Eitan Ginsburg

What do you do if the apocalypse comes? That's what I had to face yesterday when I went out into the shop, aiming to get a couple of hours of work done before the heat came down like a hammer.

I've been working on some bookshelf risers that my daughter-in-law-to-be asked for so she can double-stack her shelves. I'd put together simple boxes out of half-inch plywood I had in the shop and was gluing on some thin alder scrap for the tops. I just needed to cut the alder to length. I did some of them the night before — smooth as silk.

Out I go to the garage, pull the car out of the way, roll the table saw into place, set up the crosscut sled and stop. Turn on the saw. Nothing. Flip the switch again. Nothing. Check and reset the circuit breakers. All is good. Saw on. Nope. How about a different extension cord? Crickets. Not only can I not continue cutting the wood I needed to keep rolling on the glue-ups, but there is the mystery of why the saw won't turn on. The apocalypse has arrived.

Step 1: Stay calm.

I've been in this situation before. The reality is just that something on the saw needs to be fixed or replaced. With my limited experience with electrical problems, I figured the issue could be with the switch, one of the two capacitors on the motor, or the motor itself. Capacitors aren't expensive, but find-

See "President's Message" on page 5

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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- **December** – our annual holiday lunch, date and location not yet set.

Toy Committee

Toy production is proceeding well. The annual big toy build will take place on October 17th and 18th, at El Camino Real Charter High School in Woodland Hills. Eitan asked for a volunteer to help sand and finish the chessboard tops, which can be done in the volunteer's personal shop. Eitan asked for help with the chessboards – George Zaleski and Tom Coda offered to help.

Finance

Gregg Massini reported we currently have a comfortable amount of money in our account, largely due to the Boardman sales revenue. There are currently 60 paid members. If you are unsure if you have paid your dues already, talk to Gregg. Dues are $35 dollars yearly. If you are not a currently dues-paying member, if you sign up now, dues are currently $20 as we are midway through the year.

Jonathan Nail volunteered: snacks for August's meeting.

Announcements

Jeff Bremer is holding a weekend class on building a wooden hand plane. The materials are approximately $60 and should be brought by the student; instruction is free. Contact Jeff if interested, and a date will be set. Jeff also requested that those who volunteered to wax wooden wheels complete the project by September at the latest, but preferably earlier.

Calvin has completed the new member name tags. If you do not currently have a laser-printed/milled name tag and you have paid dues, let him know your name, and they will be available at the next meeting.

Tips and Tricks

Gary's tip involves keyboard controls for watching YouTube videos. The "J" and "L" keys can be used to skip a video backward or forward by 10 seconds, respectively. The Left and Right arrow keys can be used to jump back and forth in 5-second increments. On either of these four keys, if you press twice or three times (or more) in succession, you will double or triple (ore more) the jump length. Gary finds this wonderful when the speaker is on a tangent from what they are speaking about, or when you didn't catch what they just said and want to hear it again. This is much more efficient than trying to drag the "time line" ball to when you hope the speaker gets back to the subject.

See "Minutes" on page 3

"Minutes" from page2

Emily showed her new Bow brand expandable push stick (you can see it here https://tinyurl.com/5dbuadyd) and gave a ringing endorsement of the product. Other members confirmed that Bow brand products are well made.

Brittany Joyner said you can reduce your exposure to mosquitoes while working outdoors by having multiple fans blowing across from multiple directions. Mosquitoes hate the air currents and will avoid the artificial wind tunnel. Other alternatives to DEET-based insect repellent are Avon Skin So Soft and picaridin-based sprays.

Q&A

Britney asked for tips on maintaining a smooth slide in sliding door cabinets. Members recommended that if she is not inserting metal hardware rollers, beeswax or bar soap can help maintain slide ability, and that the channels should be lined with hardwood rather than plywood.

Jim Kelly asked for recommendations for lumber yards that sell ⅛″ plywood that was not Luan. Members recommended Anderson Plywood in Culver City and Bohnhoff Lumber in City of Commerce. People should mention their SFVW membership to lumber stores, as some will provide discounts to the club.

Show and Tell

Jeff Bremer showed several sets of vases that were cut using the offcut taping method using double-sided tape.



Dave McClave showed his recent wood carving of a fox and discussed his using AI to provide templates for wood carving designs. [You can see the results of this

George Zaleski showed a chair that he built from Chinese elm and spoke about the process of ebonizing wood. The process involves dissolving steel wool in vinegar, which creates iron acetate. When iron acetate is brushed on certain wood species, it reacts with the tannins in the wood to darken it.



See "Minutes" on page 5

From the Web

Tips, Tricks, and How-Tos

✎ **The Incredible Art of Hand Stitching French Rasps**
- *Yes, humans can do this better than a machine*

https://tinyurl.com/48t6a6ss

✎ **Lathe Safety**
- *A quick tutorial about basic lathe safety*

https://tinyurl.com/2s3vwfha

✎ **Lathe Maintenance**
- *Here are some guidelines on lathes maintenance.*

https://tinyurl.com/mtj36chx

✎ **Driving the Work – Lathe Tailstock Centers**
- *These are on the right side of the lathe holding the wood*

https://tinyurl.com/792c6nrm

✎ **Sheet goods essentials**
- *An impressive assemblage of facts, tips, and guidance on all types of sheet goods. If you've ever were curious about "chip formation science," this is the article.*

https://tinyurl.com/42fcffnx

✎ **Woodcutters/Finish - Instant Cure Finish**
- *A presentation of UV-Curing finish with how to apply, cure, and some testing of household food staining to see if they permeate the finish*

https://tinyurl.com/bd2azn26

✎ **Kumiko Landscape**
- *If you enjoyed Emily's presentation last month, check out this page on an amazing Kumiko piece. You may need to provide an email address, but it's worth it to see this amazing piece.*

https://tinyurl.com/4t4j74c7

✎ **Looks Like a Flat Block… Wait Until It Spins, woodturning**
- *A woodturner's challenge*

https://tinyurl.com/y228bn36

✎ **A quick bookcase**
- *An interesting & quick bookcase via a saw a pocket hole jig.*

https://tinyurl.com/j5mc7p33

✎ **3 Ways to Build a Hexagon Box**
- *DIY Montreal is back after too long an absence to provide three ways to make a 6-sided box. One for beginners, one for intermediate, and one for advanced woodworkers.*

https://tinyurl.com/5byeamat

Reviews

✎ **3 Ways to Build a Hexagon Box**
- *Yeah, same video as above, but an interesting new product is presented that may interest some of you. This starts at the 17th minute of the video.*

https://tinyurl.com/5byeamat

✎ **Why The Kreg Edge Is NOT A Domino Killer**
- *A good review of the new tool, both positives and negatives.*

https://tinyurl.com/ydjav36f

Member Spotlight

This month is featuring *Emily Lichman*

What year did you join the SFVW? 2022

Woodworking

What types of woodworking projects or techniques do you particularly enjoy? I have mostly narrowed myself down to jewelry (earrings and pendants), wood slice sculptures, and Kumiko. Also a dabble in pen turning and a few other things when I can.

What is one species of wood you most like to use and why? I love using exotics when I can, they are just so interesting and beautiful. And there is nothing quite like turning an ebony pen, cuts like butter.

What is your favorite tool (at the moment)? Since I just finished a large Kumiko panel, I was using the small parts cross-cut sled I got from Rockler a lot. I modified it with additional fences and jigs for the specific Kumiko pieces, so it has become a pretty custom and versatile little tool that's fun to use.

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, equipment)? I would really love to build some solid grate covers for the abandoned floor vents in my house. They are part of an old HVAC system, and since I can't match the wood floors perfectly, I would like to do a solid Kumiko or other design to cover the holes with a decorative wood plate. Lots of logistical and technical pieces to it though, so it's still in the brainstorming phase.



Personal Life

Where were you born? Where did you grow up? When did you come to the San Fernando Valley (or where you live now)? I was born in So Cal, lived in Moorpark until about 10 years old, and then in central California (Clovis, Bakersfield) before coming back down to LA when I was 20. I have been here for over 20 years, and my husband and I bought our house in Northridge in 2013.

When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up? An actress.

Tell us about your family/loved ones. My mom is still in Bakersfield, but my younger brother is local. I have a wonderful husband, Jon, and an incredible son, Bennett, who just turned 2. My in-laws are close and amazing, and I love every chance we get to be together.

What was/is your day job? Tell us a little about your professional career. I have worked in law firms and law firm management for over 20 years. I was COO and then Director of Finance for a firm in LA before I left full-time work in 2023 to pivot to being a mom, but I have continued to work with them part-time as a management and finance consultant.

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 climbed Half Dome in Yosemite twice and did a Tough Mudder with my husband in our 20s. Don't ask me to do it now though…

Other Interests

What is one hobby or interest you have outside of woodworking? I do some abstract painting and jewelry making with beads.

What is one of your favorite types of music? I love EDM (electronic dance music) and pop dance hits.

What kind of books do you like to read? Romance. And Dungeon Crawler Carl.

What are your favorite movies or TV shows to watch? Anything action or sci-fi or fantasy.

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 page3





New member Chris Levens showed a pair of solid cherry night stands he built.



in the July issue of Plane Talk, Ed.]



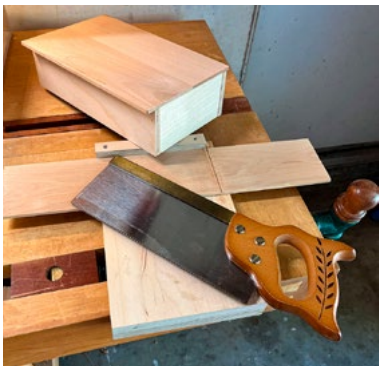
Bob Bilyiu offered the safety talk, noting that one shouldn't wear loose clothes when working in the shop, especially when working with power tools. He also noted that you should stop working if you are beginning to feel tired.

He mostly addressed dust control for a variety of situations. He suggested using a small air compressor to blow dust away from your workspace. Bob recommended using a face mask for dust in the air and also discussed several other filtration options. He noted that you can make an inexpensive dust filter by taping a furnace filter to a box fan. Other dust control methods include using a shop vac or putting in a more substantial dust collector.

ing an exact match could be hit-or-miss. A new motor? A few hundred bucks. With a Delta table saw that was about 30 years old, I knew that getting the right replacement parts might be challenging, assuming I could even figure out what needed replacement. Was this the time to bite the bullet and just buy a new saw? Internet search: a couple thousand dollars plus plus plus. Zoinks! And chances are my various sleds would no longer fit the new saw — what a pain!

With my even more limited ability in electrical repairs, I knew I couldn't troubleshoot it myself; I could only screw with things and make them worse. I reached out to fellow club member Dave Feinner, who I knew had his way around an electric motor. He most graciously offered to come by Sunday morning and give it a shot, after warning me that he was not a licensed electrician, though he plays one on TV.

Step 2: Think alternatives.



Sunday, while waiting for Dave to arrive, I felt kind of marooned on a desert island without my table saw. And yet, there are many ways to cut a piece of wood. While I could have just gone to the band saw, I decided to go full apocalypse and assume no electricity. Out came a bench hook and a hand saw. With 3⁄16" thick wood, it took less than a minute to cut each piece. Suddenly the roadblock was gone, and I could roll ahead with the glue-up.

Step 3: Don't go solo.

Whether it's zombies, space aliens, or mutant insects, remember that your chances of survival are better with friends than if you try going it alone. When he showed up Sunday morning (late, ironically, because Verizon was glitchy and therefore his mapping app on his phone, and he no longer had his Thomas guide), Dave dove right into it. He took out a couple of testing devices and was checking this and lighting up that. Capacitors. Cords. Switch. Some of the readings were solid, and some were wonky. There was some juice coming to the machine, but he wasn't getting the same voltage from the outlet (230 V) than he was reading at the switch. Finally, he said, "Let's take a look at the plug." Bingo. One of the wires inside the plug had gotten worn and had broken off the connector.

Dave did a quick strip, reconnected the wires in the plug, and presto! Life has been restored to my saw.

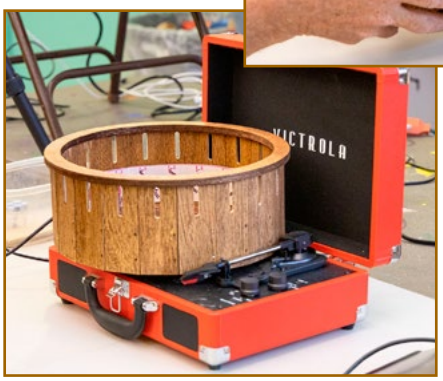
We finished up with lunch in an air-conditioned restaurant and a conversation about technology and earthquake preparedness. It turned out to be a really good day.

The June Challenge

The June Challenge was to create a piece centered around a summer holiday or other special occasion. Prize was a $50 gift card to [Eagle Tools or Lee Valley]



Don Emerson built a zoetrope



machine for the Fourth of July. He showed a special jig he made to cut out consistent panels for the perimeter of the zoetrope. The zoetrope was put together with 20 identical segments and operated on an old record player.

Eitan turned a set of salt and pepper shakers to recognize National Personal Chef Day. They were made from a mystery wood he got at the Boardman sale and finished with Bri-Wax.



Don won the challenge and will receive a $50 gift certificate to Eagle Tools.

Program

Emily spoke about the Japanese latticework technique called Kumiko.

Kumiko is a form of Japanese decorative woodworking often used for sogi dividers (Japanese room dividers and screens). The parts are friction-fit into a frame. The process requires incredible precision. Emily showed some of the





tools she uses to trim the parts to the correct length and angle (her set was made in Ukraine). She showed some of the projects she has made using Kumiko and online design tools, and examples of how she mills the wood. Members were then able to put together their own Kumiko squares to test the technique. The parts for this "Kumiko self-discovery" were machined by Eitan and were perfectly made.

Members should look for the excellent PDF of her presentation in the email that carried this newsletter.







Some extra information for this months Presentation on sharpening.

As mentioned in the Presentation Flag, if you want to bring a chisel or plane blade for sharpening guidance, the back must be pre-flattened by YOU. This is because a brand new, in the box, plane blade or chisel is extremely likely to not be flat. It may look flat. It may seem flat, but, it's probably not flat.

To do this takes some time, but the good news is that this almost always must be done only once. After that, the process is done for the life of the blade. But, because it can take time, most manufacturers think that you'd rather spend less money for the blade, so they let you do it. Here are some videos explaining the process and how they do it

How to flatten the back.

✎ **How to flatten the back of a chisel or plane iron.**
- *Chris Tribe (flattening the back)*

https://tinyurl.com/4j93yuzf

✎ **8 Common Chisel Sharpening Mistakes To Avoid**
- *Bob Cosman (flattening the back and sharpening tips)*

https://tinyurl.com/4ufcusmw

✎ **How to flatten a chisel back**
- *Germán Peraire Woodworking*

https://tinyurl.com/ckcf99w7

How to sharpen a chisel & plane blade

✎ **How to sharpen a chisel**
- *Germán Peraire Woodworking*

https://tinyurl.com/576ct433

✎ **Honing - How to get a really sharp edge in under 30 seconds.**
- *Chris Tribe*

https://tinyurl.com/46k6ubr3

✎ **Sharpening A Plane Blade in 32 seconds (2020)**
- *RobCosman.com*

https://tinyurl.com/3mvfep97

✎ **Sharpening Plane Blades And Chisels - In the Real World**
- *RobCosman.com*

https://tinyurl.com/wehbwsnk

