

# SOUTH BAY WOODWORKERS' NEWS

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## President's Column

By Jay Perrine



Well, even your President has been affected by the Ukraine situation!

About a year ago I suggested that the church sanctuary remodel had a design element that, as a woodworker, didn't seem to make sense. The architect had designed and rendered the sanctuary remodel years ago but the project was luckily postpone. The design included a lattice wall to be erected behind the new open altar area. This one-off design was composed of like 100 pieces of 2x6 maple to be cut in 6, 9 and 12" lengths and rounded off, stained, finished and then somehow assembled to create a screen like 24 feet wide and 7 feet tall. These pieces of maple were to be stacked and arranged such that there was a uniform pattern of fenestrations but not as uniform as lattice work at the top of the typical fence. First, knowing California with our seismic rules there would be a structural calculation the city would require and probably need all-thread all over the place or metal structure somehow hidden in there. I was concerned this would be very costly with addition to the cutting, rounding, staining, finishing and then assembly.

Second, the design just seems overly complicated. I approached one member of the committee, who is heavily involved in Rebuilding Together, and gave her a scrap piece of 1" Baltic Birch as the material for the lattice screen. I suggested it have CNC cutouts possibly resembling Matisse's blobs he used in some ecumenical works.

Some months went by and suddenly I was asked to participate in a Zoom meeting with the architect and some of the decision makers. I tried to be academic about my approach since the designer attended the meeting. The architect had considered using screens and mentioned a company that produced them. I pulled up their website during the meeting. At first, I was concerned this was going in a whole new direction as these screens were mostly a bunch of very squiggly patterns somewhat like you would see in a Mosque. Then, I spotted one with very simple elongated openings in a repetitive pattern. I suggested we think about that one. Almost immediately, the architect and others thought that was a doable goal and would work in our situation, a lucky spotting if I might say so.

The architect essentially copied the design into CAD and then worked up some variations which that committee, unbeknownst to me, met again and decided on one variation. To my amazement, the architect's rendering was changed to reflect this modification.

Next, the architect sent me the CAD drawing as I had insisted I had a great shop in mind that would do just what we needed. None other than fellow SBWW member, Bill Turner's shop in Santa Cruz. I purchased one sheet of 1/2" Baltic Birch from Aura, Santa Cruz, and drove 3 blocks to Bill's shop. Bill made a test panel using the CAD drawing and his CNC machine. It looked great and took like 21 minutes to cut it out. I took it back to my church and used it as backdrop for our capital campaign. We raised over \$1M to do the remodel.

The sanctuary remodel drawings have been submitted to the City of Campbell and we await their response. Suddenly, Russia invades Ukraine. I realized Baltic Birch might come from Russia. As I understand it, a product called FinPly was the original and was totally birch, with absolutely no voids. It was made in Finland to exacting standards. Baltic Birch is made in other countries in northern areas of former East Europe and possibly Russia. It is cheaper and has taken over the market. I contacted Bill, "Can I get what we need and have you store it until the final drawing is done?". Then the final panels, 6 regular panels and 2 slightly narrower panels, can be cut. Bill agreed to store the panels. I called former Aura Hardwoods, now owned by a Canadian firm, and asked for 10 sheets to be delivered to Bill's shop. The salesman said and I quote: "We have 15 sheets of that, and when those are gone who knows when there will be more". I bought ten sheets, which includes two spares. The test panel could also be used. Panels were delivered last week.

As soon as the architect provides the CAD for the narrower side panels, I will have all 8 panels and one spare, cut, get them to the finishing shop, and go from there. Luckily, they don't take up much floor space stacked together. Tragedy averted I believe - we could switch to Apply Ply, if necessary, if Apply Ply is not already in short supply due to overall shortages of manufactured goods. That's how international affairs affected even humble hobbiest woodworkers many, many air hours away or days of shipping containers away from California.

### **Meeting Location**

Near term meetings will continue to be held at Cupertino High School's wood shop, hosted by Tracie.

Address is:

Cupertino High School  
10100 Finch Ave.  
Cupertino

Map and directions were provided in the September 2021 newsletter and associated emails.

Everyone should be vaccinated. Masks are required on school grounds, unless eating or drinking.

### **2022 Dues**

2022 dues are due. Send your checks payable to "Southbay Woodworkers" to Steve Kelem, our new treasurer. His address is on the roster, available on the web site, members' section.

## Program for March;

Ron Gerard will regale the club with "A Tale of Two Tables".

## February's Program

February's meeting was held via Zoom, as Cupertino's wood shop was not available. Due to technical difficulties, Ron was unable to present his program, planned for February. It will be presented at the March meeting, currently planned for the Cupertino High School wood shop.

## Show & Tell Note:

Normal Show & Tell at the March meeting, Ron will take pictures. If you have photos beforehand, please send them to me, [takenyon1@gmail.com](mailto:takenyon1@gmail.com) to save Ron or me from taking pictures.

Thank You – Tom Kenyon

## Show & Tell:

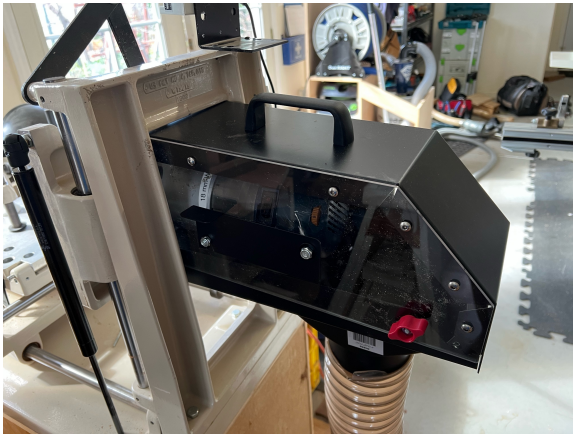


**Tom Gaston** made two planter stands from figured and old growth redwood. The top floats above the base on dowels. The edges of the horizontal members have been slightly burned for added affect.



**Tom Kenyon** described another segmented bowl made from what he thinks is chocolate walnut that comes from the Caribbean. The three arms, starting at the base, flow upwards for 360 degrees to the top of the bowl. The bowl was sprayed with a water based acrylic gloss lacquer from a spray gun with a very small nozzle.





**Bill Henzel** reports that Woodpecker has acquired the multi-router brand and created a dust shroud for the motor that he figures captures about 80% of the dust.

He also showed us his Shark blade guard for his slider Mini-Max table saw that is attached to a uni-strut. This allows the guard to be adjusted up and down to accommodate various thicknesses of wood. A four-inch hose attaches to the top to extract the dust.



## 2022 Program Responsibilities

If there are conflicts or need for changes, please contact Richard Winslow.



March	Bob Konigsberg Ron Gerard
April	Syd Dunton Mark Flanagan
May	Bill Henzel Terry O'Donnell
June	Bill Turner Don McKell
July	Tom Gaston Norm Burns
August	Eugene Gulko Steve Kelem
September	Richard Winslow Tom Kenyon
October	Allen Glesser Mark Flanagan
November	Dennis Yamamoto Jay Perrine
December	Holiday Party – officers
Unassigned	

<b>2022 Officers</b>	
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