Fall has arrived, time for falling leaves, pumpkins and kids in scary costumes.

We have been busy preparing for the Fall Meeting, with classes to schedule, vendors to find, gourd tools and supplies to sell. By the time you have received this newsletter the event will have taken place and we can all breathe a little easier.

(The Fall Meeting was a success and people came and admired the gourds, took classes, bought a lot of supplies and tools and ate good food!) Can you believe our society is one year old? This past year has been a blur, but what remains vivid in my mind, is the new friends I’ve made, the new techniques I’ve learned. The laughter, the tears and the late night conversations talking about "should we do this?" "should we do that?" "did we step on someone’s toes?".

One thing I have learned is that this first year was truly a trial and error effort and the laying of the groundwork for the success of years to come. I’ve made some mistakes, made a couple folks "mad", but I have never wavered in my quest to make this the biggest and best state gourd society as possible. None of this would have been possible if it hadn’t been for the Board Members and Directors and volunteers. They are some of the hardest working people I’ve had the pleasure of meeting. Their idea’s, their thoughts, their commitment to WSGS has been awesome. So thank you my friends. I have also had to tell myself many times over that you can’t please all the people all the time, that’s a tough lesson to learn, but so very necessary to believe, if you are to take the covers off your head and move forth. The lessons I have learned over the years is that if you are true to yourself, sleep well at night and try the very best you can, then it’s much easier to tune out the negative and focus on the positive.

It is official! The name of our state festival is...Northwest Gourd Festival! The winner of naming the festival is Oz, our Webmaster. He will receive a $50.00 credit to be used on our online WSGS store; Café Press. Thanks Oz!

The Arizona Gourd Society’s President, Lana Hinde, has shared her notes with me, to help us with our state festival. It is a wealth of information and hopefully we can pass our notes on to someone starting up their first festival. Thank you Lana! I will be heading down to Arizona in Feb. for their "Running of the Gourds" Festival sponsored by Wuertz Farm. I will be attending a training session to be qualified as a Master Judge at other Gourd Festivals. I have also signed up for 3 classes and am very excited to learn new techniques! The things you learn at this festival is awesome, the vendors, the teachers and the gourds on display, wow.. If we are half as successful at our festival as they are with theirs, we’re in for a doozy of a ride!

Next years 2 meetings will be different than we did this year due to the fact that all of our work, efforts, dollars and idea’s will be going into the festival scheduled for July 2010. I’m not quite sure how we will handle the meetings but I am proposing that we keep the spring "meeting" in Eastern Washington and the fall meeting in Western WA. I would like someone to step up and offer to co-host a potluck at their home or farm. We will have a meeting to bring everyone up to date on what’s happening and we would do the same in the fall.

(Continued on page 2)
I do hope that you all take advantage of the website. Oz does a phenomenal job keeping everything up to date. So many times we’re asked questions that are on the website already! Let’s use what we’ve got!!

Jim Martin, an Eastern Washington Gourd Grower was the very excited winner of the traveling gourd! Jim wanted that gourd from the beginning and bought enough tickets to prove it! We are so happy he won the raffle and he will be putting the gourd on display around the Sunnyside area.....way to go Jim!

We will be starting some new fundraisers with Alana Riveira heading up the Gourd Wall Hanging for Spring and for Fall. There has been talk of doing another Traveling Gourd too.

I want to give my sincere thanks to Dar Beck and Charlotte Masi for being on the Board of Directors for the first year. They decided they did not want to run for re-election this year. Our two positions were won by Kate Franchimon of Tulalip and Jim Martin of Sunnyside, Evie Scribner, of Everett, was also re-elected for her position of Director. Welcome aboard!

We have surpassed the 100-member mark for membership! Our 100th member, Kathy Studholme of Rainier will have her first year membership dues free! Mu Hoo!

Stay tuned for the events that are coming up and if you would be interested in helping with the state festival, please contact me. We will need your help!

I want to thank everyone for allowing me to serve as your President. You are the best there is!

Sincerely,

Myrna Grigsby

---

**Name the State Festival Winner**

**IT'S OFFICIAL!**

The name for the state festival is...

**Northwest Gourd Festival -2010-**

The winner is Oz! We did have some duplicates that came in so it goes to the first person that submitted the name. There you have it!

I do believe we stated the winner was the recipient of a $50.00 credit to be used at Cafe Press. Congratulations Oz!

**New Officers for 2008 to 2010**

This just in! The votes have been tallied, counted and certified and here are the results:

- **Dynva Todd** keeps her seat as Vice President
- **Patty Burke** keeps her seat as Membership Secretary
- **James Ozburn** keeps his seat as webmaster/editor
- **Evie Scribner** keeps her seat as Director
- **Jim Martin** has replaced Dar Beck as Director
- **Kate Franchimon** has replaced Charlotte Masi as Director
Unexpected Blessings by Patty Burke

Wonderful and unexpected blessings have come my way since my association with the WA State Gourd Society: new friends, new skills, and new knowledge. One of the best and most unexpected blessings however happened recently.

We have two new members; both named Karen, both disabled in different ways. Karen Park is profoundly deaf and vision impaired. She moved here a couple of years ago from Colorado where she had been successful in growing gourds on a hobby basis. She had never done any “art” with them however. Karen Revoal, who is my daughter, is in the secondary progressive stage of M.S. and has vision and eye hand co-ordination issues.

Both members, along with member Sandy Burtis, came to my house on a recent Sunday afternoon and we played with gourds. With Sandy’s help, a legal pad and big marker we were able to show Karen Park how to clean, mark, cut and drill her gourd. By placing her hands on the saw and drill she was able to feel the action of the motor. She did a wonderful job cleaning, mostly by feel. She then drilled her holes around the rim with a Dremel and followed directions for ink staining and adding a pine needle rim. Her gourd looked so good and she was so proud of it. She told me later that her co-workers could not believe she did this. She will be at our October meeting, probably with her Service Dog, Libby. Say hello to her.

Karen Revoal, who has drafting skills and at one time did a lot of engineering design, also drilled the edge of her finished gourd, laced a bead trim to the edge and added a pine needle rim on top of the edging. It took her several Sunday afternoons at my house to finish this gourd as a gift to her Group Home Provider. This was her third gourd. One of her first gourds sold at the Spring Meeting.

Each of these young women was so grateful for the opportunity to exercise their creativity. The real beneficiaries of their activity, however, were Sandy and me. We were inspired to reach out to others who may be reluctant to try their skills. We encourage you, as members, to do the same.
Volunteering at the Thurston County Fair

Here are pictures from the Thurston County Fair, in which the WSGS volunteered to run an Educational booth and to set up gourds from all the people that volunteered to man the booth for five days in September.
Pictures from the Fall Meeting

Here are a few pictures from the Fall Meeting at the Thurston County Fairgrounds inside the Heritage Hall October 4th and 5th. To see more pictures go online.
Members In the news

Oz was featured artist in the Canadian Gourd Newsletter The Northern Dipper. To read the article click here http://www.northerndipper.com/news42.php

Members Favorite Quotes

- "To avoid criticism, do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing."
- A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.
- A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
- As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in public schools.
- At my age, I've seen it all, done it all, heard it all...I just can't remember it all.
- For every action, there is an equal and opposite malfunction.
- Only in America... do people order double cheese burgers, a large fry, and a diet coke.
- Only two things are infinite, the universe and stupidity...and I'm not sure about the former. (Albert Einstein)

Members funny thoughts

- Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?
- Why is it when your sleeping it's called drool but when your awake its called spit?
- If marbles are not made of marble, why are they called marbles?
- If you only have one eye...are you blinking or winking?
- Why is it, whether you sit up or sit down, the result is the same?

19 things that took me 50 years to learn.

1. The most powerful force in the universe is gossip.
2. The one thing that unites all human beings, regardless of age, gender, religion, economic status or ethnic background, is that, deep down inside, we ALL believe that we are above average drivers.
3. Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
4. People who want to share their religious views with you almost never want you to share yours with them.
5. The main accomplishment of almost all organized protests is to annoy people who are not in them.
6. You should not confuse your career with your life.
7. No matter what happens, somebody will find a way to take it too seriously.
8. When trouble arises and things look bad, there is always one individual who perceives a solution and is willing to take command. Very often, that individual is crazy.
9. There is a very fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness."
10. Take out the fortune before you eat the cookie.
11. Never lick a steak knife.
12. Never under any circumstances take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.
13. You will never find anybody who can give you a clear and compelling reason why we observe daylight savings time.
14. You should never say anything to a woman that even remotely suggests you think she's pregnant unless you can see an actual baby emerging from her at that moment.
15. There comes a time when you should stop expecting other people to make a big deal about your birthday. That time is age 11.
16. If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve, its full potential, that word would be "meetings."
17. A person who is nice to you, but rude to the waiter, is not a nice person.
18. And when God, who created the entire universe with all of its glories, decides to deliver a message to humanity, He WILL NOT use, as His messenger, a person on cable TV with a bad hairstyle.
19. Your friends love you, anyway.
Our first gourd patch was Tuesday, September 2nd. There were 8 of us in attendance, several WSGS members and a couple other gourd enthusiast joined in the fun. Not too bad for the first gourd patch meeting in Washington!

We talked about our upcoming Fall meeting, ideas for future gourd patch meetings, show and tell of finished works and current projects, shared ideas about gourds and worked on some great creations. It is wonderful to be able to talk and share excitement with other gourd artist about our love for gourds!

The North Sound Gourd Patch will be meeting the first Tuesday of each month at 12:00-2:00.

Ken Baxter Senior Community Center in Marysville, WA. Check out WSGS website for more info.

All are welcome! we would love to see you there next month!
As we celebrate our first year as a chapter of the American Gourd Society I am truly fascinated by how far we have come in 12 months. We have had small gatherings here and there over the last year. We had a spectacular Spring Meeting in Moses Lake in April. All of our volunteers have stepped up to the plate and have made our organization something to be really proud to be a part of.

Because the State of Washington is fairly large and divided by a mountain range and large areas of farming communities we are all spread out across the state. Each blue tear drop on the map to the right represents an individual WSGS member. Each shaded area represents a possible gourd patch in that area. So far, the only official gourd patch that has organized is the North Sound Gourd Patch (Dark Blue shaded area).

We realize that everyone is busy doing this or that. But you joined the gourd society for some reason. Gourd patches don’t have to be a formal outing, they are meant for interested parties to gather when all parties can agree on a time and place. The rewards of a gourd patch are meeting your local fellow gourders, the new friendships and learning from gathering to meet.

So get out there and take charge, call or email the people in your area and set up a time and place to meet. If you need help forming see the gourd patch page for more info.

Our business is based on trust (we send boxes out on approval, you can’t buy a feather you can’t see) and quality. You aren’t buying dirty or damaged feathers. As all are counted and handled as they are packaged. We specialize in all breeds of pheasant, peacock, turkey, chicken, parrot and ostrich. We also carry fur pieces (small) clean and tanned: fox, coyote, etc.. We do not own a computer so we do things the old fashioned way, we utilize human contact. So please call for questions and quotes for any of your feather needs. Ask for Nancy or Gloria. (406) 626-5241
Turtle Feathers announces the opening of the Turtle Feathers Smokey Mountain Gourd Art Museum. The museum has nearly 500 pieces of gourd art from all over the world. Thelma Kushe was a gourd artist from southern California and her pieces date back to the 1930's.

Much of the collection belonged to Opal Lilly, a Floridian, who was great friends with the likes of Minnie Black, Jim Story, Dr. Miller (Lynn Rehms father), and Eugene Deardorf to name a few. They met at the Ohio gourd show and swapped many of their pieces with each other.

The collection includes 50 of Minnie Blacks, the famed Kentucky folk artist, who was well known for her whimsical folk art pieces, including 2 self-replica dolls and some of her original band instruments.

It is truly an outstanding collection that will spark the imagination of many gourd artists and offer a unique experience for all.

The museum is located at 140 Frye St, Bryson City, NC and is only 10 miles from the Cherokee Indian Reservation. It is housed in 'Sleepy Hollow Farm and Friends', an arts and crafts gift shop owned by Mike and Joan Glover. It is one block from the Great Smokey Mtn. Railroad.

Classes are also being offered, group or private. For more information contact Ronna Wuttke (Turtle Feathers) at 828-246-3788 or Joan Glover (Sleepy Hollow Farm) at www.sleepyhollowfarm.biz

Pictures from the Opal Lilly collection can be viewed here. http://community.webshots.com/user/turtlefeathers

Thank you,
David Wuttke
www.turtlefeathers.net
david@turtlefeathers.net
Our featured Gourd Artist for this newsletter is Corky Savoie from Everett, WA. Corky was born and brought up in Skokie, Illinois (that's just North of Chicago). She attended high school and worked various jobs in and around the city until she was 30 then moved to San Diego. She lived in San Diego for 10 years and then moved up to Bremerton, WA. She spent several years in Bremerton then moved to Everett. Corky now lives on 2 beautiful wooded acres in the Snohomish/Lake Stevens area. I live with my significant other, 2 dogs, 3 chickens, various fish, and a lot of weeds.

I teach tole painting classes each week and does gardening part time for a landscape designer. Each August for the past 17 years I spend my vacation being the superintendent of the Spinning, Weaving, and Basketry Department at the Evergreen State Fair in Monroe. I enjoy painting, gardening, spinning and weaving, basketry, jewelry design, rug hooking, photography, and of course gourding, and crafting in general.

Gourds have intrigued me for a long time. About 20 years ago I saw an advertisement for the Nat'l Gourd Society in a magazine. I joined for about a year, but because I was young and more interested in having fun, working, and life in general I tucked gourds away into my "sometimes I'll try that" list. It's amazing to me that something you can grow in your garden could be transformed into a useful work of art and that people for thousands of years have been doing just that.

I have been involved with art all my life. I was fortunate to have had two very talented parents that encouraged art and crafts in my life. My Mom was an artist - she gardened, knit, crocheted, and painted. My Dad was a very talented carpenter. I was brought up with a love for gardening, art, and creativity in general. I did attend college, majoring in art, while living in San Diego and continued at Olympic College in Bremerton. I finally finished at the Univ. of Washington in Seattle with a fiber arts degree. I've had no formal gourd training but have read all I could find on decorating gourds. I am completely self taught with regards to my gourd crafting. I find inspiration all around me. I am completely self taught with regards to my gourd crafting. I find inspiration all around me. Being an artist I probably see design in more places than the usual person. I find designs and ideas in my garden, in technology, and even when I'm sitting in traffic! The techniques I use now are painting, burning, and basketry. I am comfortable with these because I use them in my other mediums. I am also experimenting with cutting and carving. I am looking forward to learning much more and find the Gourd Society a great opportunity for expanding my repertoire of techniques. (Continued on next page)
Corky’s advice for new gourders, For anyone just starting out I would suggest reading everything you can, looking on the Internet at what others are doing and practice, practice, practice! No one was born knowing how to cut a gourd, but you can’t learn unless you just jump in there and do it. And remember that if you're happy with what you create that's all that counts. Celebrate your efforts...

Up to now haven't been able to part with any of my gourds. They are like my children, but we may have to add another room onto our house because of all the gourds so I am just starting to sell them. I did enter 5 of them into the State Fair this year and won 1st place on all. They created quite a stir and I got questions like: "Is that plastic?" "Do they grow that color?" "What's inside of them?" and my favorite "Was that design on it when you picked it?"

I prefer not to do commission work. I learned a long time ago with my painting that I would rather create for myself and not try to guess what someone else has in their mind. I came across the Wash. Gourd Society by accident when I was looking thru gourd sites on the web and came across the notice of the meeting in Moses Lake. I drove out there and thought I was in heaven with all the gourds for sale, all the folks who had the same passion I did, and a group I could join to learn more. I almost didn't make it home because of all the gourds I stuffed into my car! We are lucky in that we have some terrific gourd growers just over the mountains that are more than willing to supply our habit!
Have you ever tired of scrubbing and scraping your gourds? Well, try this proven method for delightful results...and yes, it does give a slightly blonde finish! Hydrogen peroxide is used in mild (1 and 2%) solutions for antiseptic purposes. At higher percentages, it is used to clean organic messes such as fouled stock cars, zoo bedding areas and stables or kennels. At even higher percentages, it is used to clean clogged plumbing lines and becomes a Hazmat material.

We have found, through extensive experimentation, that hydrogen peroxide cleans the outside and inside of gourds very easily and with a minimum of trouble if you have a good set up. The gourds benefit from the least amount of exposure that will still give you results. The first time you successfully clean 25 Nigerian hard-shell minis in 15 minutes or a 12” bottle gourd, inside and out, in less than 10 minutes, you’ll be hooked!

Please read and follow directions CAREFULLY! Let us know how you like the process and your experiences. And a special THANK YOU to all the people who tested this for us!

Tools: Large canning or tamale pot, stove or gas burner (if you want to work outdoors), tongs (barbeque tools are great), colander or draining device, gloves and eye protection. Materials: 2 gallons of hydrogen peroxide (eight quarts), a dirty gourd or two, a gourd with the opening cut into it.

Empty the peroxide into the large pot and put on the stove to reduce. Use your kitchen ventilator fan or have good ventilation. As the liquid reduces, be aware that it becomes more caustic and can irritate skin. Use gloves or long handled tools. When the peroxide has reduced from two gallons to two quarts, it is four times stronger than the original concentration. While the liquid is simmering, lower the gourd carefully into the peroxide solution. Hold it down (with a tool) to achieve maximum immersion for at least two minutes, longer if the gourd is heavily moldy or a specialty like a warty or a maranka. All surfaces of the gourd need to be in the liquid. Carefully scrape the surface of the gourd. If the mold releases with NO resistance, remove the gourd, let it drain and rinse it clean.

If the surface still clings tenaciously, cook it some more. Do NOT over cook! But, experimentation will bring you excellent results. Perhaps you’ll need more fluid and a stronger solution, perhaps more time will do it. Each gourd is different and each gourd artist is different. Let us know what works for you! Do experiment with cutting open a gourd and shaking out the seeds, putting it into the solution and cleaning the inside at the same time as the outside is cleaned. Be sure to pour the excess liquid back into the pot. It can be strained and used over and over again. When the gourd has cooled, perhaps under the faucet as you wash the loosened mold away, use a large spoon to scrape the interior clean. Mind you, this won’t be scraping as you’ve done it before! The innards of the gourd (if it has simmered long enough) will come out easier than applesauce from a jar. Enjoy! Leigh Adams lladams@earthlink.net

- Protect your eyes
- Protect your hands
- Avoid breathing the fumes
- Experiment

The WSGS wishes Judy Fornshell, Editor of AGS Newsletter, a speedy recovery and lots of pep and energy in the future!

We’re thinking of you Judy!

What’s In your Toolbox?

Shawna Stout has a favorite tool, hers is a baby wipe! Easily removes any pencil, carbon marks and cleans away any other unwanted residue. You can reuse them over and over again, just keep it damp.

Gourd Classes

Evie Scribner has ongoing gourd classes every Tuesday from 10 to 12 at Baxters Community Center in Marysville. New project every month and tons of sharing of ideas.

Dynva Todd will be teaching a Ocean Drum class at 2009 Wuertz Farm Gourd Festival this year. More info on their website http://www.wuertzfarm.com/classes2009.html
Displaying Gourds

Sandra Burtis and Patty Burke had a month long display in the showcase at the Lynnwood Library. We got nice comments about it. I thought it looked pretty good. We had an assortment of gourds, some information on WSGS and a gourd book displayed. They kept it up for about six weeks. I would encourage everyone to check with their local library for a similar opportunity. I took pictures, but the reflection from the glass case made for a poor picture.

Here are some other opportunities to display gourds. Try your local City Hall, most have display cases in the main lobbies. Ask your dentist if you can leave one or two on the reception counter. Not in the waiting area where people could be playing with them or worse case walk off with them. Some medical centers have display cabinets in their main lobbies which have lots of traffic for viewing. Make friends with some of the local art shops or consignment shops in your area and show them what you do with gourds. They will probably want a small commission if anything sells out of their shop. My advice on fairs: try to come up with themes, a lot of fair folks like anything that is country, horses, farms, farm animals you get the point.

Amish Gourds

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Jim Martin wins WSGS Traveling Gourd

It’s official, Jim Martin of Sunnyside, WA spent some hard earned money buying raffle tickets and it paid off Sunday Oct. 5th. Jim deserves winning the Traveling Gourd. As a gourd grower in Eastern WA Jim doesn’t really dabble in the artsy side of gourding, now he owns at least one piece of gourd art to start his collection. Congratulations Jim!

Jim Martin wins WSGS Traveling Gourd

Our next Fundraiser, Spring and Fall Wall Hangings

Our next fundraiser will be Spring and Fall Wall Hangings. The wall hangings will consist of numerous flat pieces of gourds decorated with the art of any member who wishes to sign up and complete a tile. There are certain rules that have to be followed when making your tile. For a more complete description and rules about the tiles please visit the website and click on Fundraiser link for Wall Hangings.
Make Your Own Stands:

Gourd Ring Stands

Take one of your old gourd tops or a damaged gourd you've thrown aside and cut some rings out of it, as if you were making rings or circles like those used for ring toss games.

The overall size of the ring (the diameter and width) should be determined by the size of the gourd that needs the stand. When choosing the diameter, if you use too small a ring, it will not provide enough area to balance your gourd and it will topple over. On the other hand, if the diameter of the ring is too large, the gourd will fall through the ring and rest on its uneven bottom again.

In regards to the width of the ring, it can be narrow if the bottom of your gourd is only slightly rounded. For gourds with a very rounded bottom, you will need to make a nice, wide stand that will be deep enough for the rounded bottom to fit into.

Remove the Bottom of the Gourd

Another option to dealing with an uneven bottomed gourd is to remove the bottom! Many artist choose to cut the bottom off of their gourd to create an artificially even gourd.

You can use a variety of tools to accomplish this. If you have access to a band saw or jigsaw you can cut a straight edge off the bottom of the gourd.

Once you have removed it, the gourd can remain open or you can finish it off by sealing the bottom. Use a piece of felt or a thin piece of plywood and glue it on using any good glue found at your local hardware store.

Buying Gourd Stands:

If you don’t have any extra gourds or gourd parts or if you feel your piece would be best displayed on another type of stand there are some other great options!

Take a trip to your local craft supply store and check out the various styles of wreaths they have available. The wreaths make stunning stands and add warm touch of country style. Also try the Goodwill or other Thrift Stores.

Just remember that there are no limitations other than those we make ourselves. Let your imagination go and perhaps you will come up with your own unique gourd stand!
This has been a really exciting year in the state of Washington. On the 13th of October 2008 we celebrate our one-year birthday as the MU Chapter of the American Gourd Society. It has been an incredible joy meeting and learning about all the people living in the state of Washington who have an interest in gourds. I’m not sure how others feel, but during some of our get together’s this past year it felt like I had found long lost friends. This eclectic mix of people all bring something different to the table.

We have been able to share ideas, our projects and our enthusiastic love of gourds.

Our Fall Meeting may have had a lower attendance than the Spring Meeting but the enthusiasm of helping educate people about gourding was at 110%. It was very gratifying and rewarding to show someone a few basic techniques and watch them high tale it over to the swag table and stock up on supplies.

Over the past year I have logged every new member onto the Members Page of our website. And I say to myself “Wow, I can’t believe there are this many people interested in a part of a plant that can ultimately be transformed from moldy muck to something that is considered to be art”

To all of our members: I hope your involvement in the Washington State Gourd Society never falters. I also hope as time goes by that more of our members become involved with gourd related activities across the state. I implore you to join or start a gourd patch in your area. I encourage all of you to “get to know the gourders in your areas”. Remember why we joined this venture, we all have something in common “gourds”

To any of our members that run or attend Farmers Markets, Flee Markets, swap meets, yard sales, craft stores, libraries or any other venue. Download and print out any of our flyers and promote the Washington State Gourd Society. Hang one or two in your booth and if anyone has more questions send them to the website. Any of the flyers can be downloaded from the main homepage, left column at the bottom.

I can’t wait until we have an actual Festival. Just the thought of all the Gourd Heads gathered in one spot for a festival in the State of Washington is beyond my wildest dreams. Sometimes I think this is better than winning a Lotto.
## End of the Year Events

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<td>Alana Riveira Birthday</td>
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<td>7th annual Virginia Gourd Festival</td>
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### Advertising Rates for WSGS Newsletter

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### Deadlines:

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Past issues can be found here: [Mu’s News Back Issue’s](#)

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