

Jan/Feb 2011

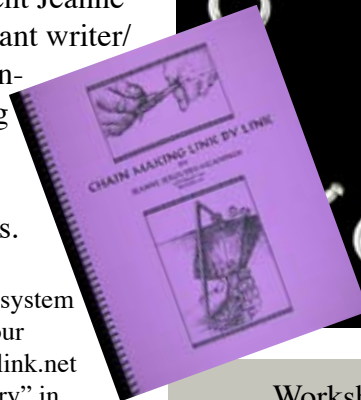
Chain Making Link by Link

A Two Day Workshop by Jeanne Jerousek-McAninch
April 2 & 3, 2011 at Long Beach City College (9am – 5pm)

Historically, chains are one of the oldest symbols of office, insignias of rank, modes of currency and utilitarian adornment. We will discuss: the history of chain, terminology, categories, uses, types and styles. Learn about the Aspect Ratio, how to determine amount of wire needed, how to use specialty tools making jump rings and connectors. Master efficient soldering and finishing techniques. Delve into classic techniques of both soldered and unsoldered chain assemblies including European and Persian maille, Columbus Chain and variations. Explore linking variations: use of multi-layered hinging from Asia and Sweden – Chinese (Double Decker) Chain and Helms Chain fusion. Create at least three to six earrings and bracelets. Discussion of many chain design examples. Make samples for future use.

Jeanne received her MFA in painting with a minor in enameling & jewelry at Kent State University. She became an adjunct arts professor at Pima College and started teaching jewelry and photography for Tucson Parks & Recreation. From 1995 to the present Jeanne has been an Arizona Designer Craftsmen grant writer/workshop facilitator. She is known for her internationally circulated book, Chain Making Link by Link, a compendium of chains she has taught since 1976 at the Tucson Gem & Mineral Shows, local workshops and classes.

This workshop will be filled via the MASSC lottery system with MASSC members receiving priority. To put your name in the lottery, send an email to Ketarah@earthlink.net by Mar 20th and put "MASSC April Workshop lottery" in the subject line. Or phone 949-643-9693 (9am - 5pm) and ask for Ketarah. Everyone will be contacted on March 21st with the lottery results.



Workshop fee: \$190 MASSC Members,
\$235. Non Members - for two full days
A list for tools, supplies and materials
will be furnished to registered students.

Presidents Message

Greetings,

I am excited to highlight a few items that are featured in this issue of the MASSC newsletter.

The MASSC membership is compiled of many diverse and talented members. Over the years, I've had the opportunity to get to know many of you and I'm sure that you too have met plenty of fellow members that you'd also enjoy getting to know a bit better. With this in mind, please head over to our new, regular newsletter column titled 'MASSC Member Profile'. In each issue, you'll get to know a MASSC member, with Ruth Shapiro being featured in the premier of the new column. Many of you have met Ruth via the multiple times she has volunteered at Demo Day where she has shared a wealth of innovative and unique ideas for the metalsmith. I hope you enjoy getting to know her better as much as I have.

If there is a MASSC member you'd like to get to know better and see featured in the Meet A Member column, please contact our membership chair, Diane Weimer at diaweimer@verizon.net to nominate that member.

MASSC has joined other trade guilds in offering Special



Interest Groups, or "SIG" groups. A SIG helps build community and allows more members to be active in the educational process that is part of the MASSC charter.

Don't miss the article by member Laurie Kern in this issue, giving more information on SIGs as well as

introducing you to our first SIG group for hollow formers. If you are interested in forming a SIG, please contact me ketarah@earthlink.net and we'll assist you in getting one started within the MASSC community.

In closing, to reflect rising printing costs, we have found it necessary to raise the price that MASSC members who choose to buy a printed, black and white, snail mailed copy of the MASSC newsletter will need to pay for the printed newsletter. The new pricing can be seen on page 3. The membership pricing for all membership levels (individual, family, or student) who receive their copy of the newsletter as a full color, PDF via email will remain the same.

Respectfully

Ketarah Shaffer, MASSC President



Join a Special Interest Group (SIG) or help start one.

By Laurie Jane Kern

What is a SIG? SIG is an acronym for Special Interest Group and many clubs and craft guilds have them. To be a bit more specific, the definition is :

A community with an interest in advancing a specific area of knowledge, learning or technology where members cooperate to effect or to produce solutions within their particular field, and

may communicate, meet, share knowledge and organize special events.

Currently MASSC does not have any SIG's but ask yourself this - do you know several members of MASSC who you share a common interest with? Do you occasionally get together to exchange ideas, teach each other a skill, or go to other special events? If so you have the makings of a SIG.

There are no set rules about what a SIG has to do or when it has to meet. There are SIG's out there that are all virtual and do everything over the internet. Others might only meet once a quarter; and because the MASSC membership is spread out over several counties some SIG's might have regional groups as this makes it easier to meet.

As for me, because my area of interest is raising and sinking, I am starting a SIG based upon hollowware. A few weeks ago I put up a call for members on the Yahoo list and so far three other members have expressed interest in joining me. We hope to help each other learn - ask questions of each other via email, phone calls, or getting together; we might go on a field trip to a museum; maybe all of us will find a teacher who will give us a private class; possibly we give ourselves a challenge and then we all make an object that would meet that challenge; we might demo our area of interest at "Demo Days"; and because there are so few of us and we are located in Riverside, LA, and Orange county I hope we can meet once a quarter.

What areas of interest might form a SIG?

How about: Chain Mail; PMC; Enameling; Raising, Sinking, and Hollowware; Wire Wrapping; Rings; Casting; and more as the list is endless.

If you are interested in joining the Hollowware SIG contact me at The.Silversmith@The.AdventurousSilversmith.com

Otherwise, if you are interested in starting or joining a different SIG contact ketarah@earthlink.net and she will help you get started.

MASSC Board of Directors

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MASSC web site: www.massconline.com

MASSC Newsgroup:

MetalArtsSociety-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

MASSC serves the needs and interests of artists working in metals and provides an environment for the exchange of information, instructional workshops, demonstrations, lectures, and panel discussions. Annual dues (Sept 1-Aug 31); Regular Member, \$30; Family, \$45; Full-time Student \$20. Please add \$5 to your annual dues if you would like to receive a printed copy of the MASSC newsletter. All others will receive the newsletter via email. Membership forms are available at www.MASSCOnline.com



SHEET & WIRE STORAGE

by Brad Smith

The more you work with jewelry, the more problems you have finding the piece of metal you need. My pieces of sheet were generally stored in various plastic bags, and the wire was in separate coils. Few were marked, so it often took me a while to locate that piece of 26 ga fine sheet I bought last year, especially since I often take my supplies back and forth to classes.

A tip from a friend helped me organize everything. I bought an expanding file folder from the office supplies store (the kind that has 13 slots and a folding cover) and marked the tabs for each gauge of metal I use. Then I marked all my pieces of sheet with their gauge, put them in plastic bags, marked the gauge on the bag, and popped them into the folder. I usually store coils of wire loose in the folder, but they can also be bagged if you prefer. I use one tab for bezel wire and one for the odd, miscellaneous items.

The resulting folder is really convenient when I want to take my metal out to a class or workshop. It's also colorful enough for me to easily find in the clutter of the shop !

Brad Smith is an educator and metalsmith. His Tips and Tricks yahoo group is at:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/>

Life Experiences /Beginnings

I had been a registered nurse, in some very high-powered fields, since 1970. In 1981, I had a serious accident, which left me unable to continue at my previous pace. In 1984, I tried to enlist in a

everything I could find, always just a step ahead of (or behind) the next project, from mezuzah to yod, to menorah to breastplate for the Torah. My metals education was mostly self-taught for the first few years with the exception of a few adult school jewelry classes. But always, I asked ques-

RUTH SHAPIRO

nursing course at UCLA Graduate School but was unable to get into the class I wanted. I drifted over to Santa Monica Community College to see if they had a similar course, but was instead drawn to a course called “Lost Wax Casting” in the Adult Evening School. I didn’t have any idea what the subject was, but signed up anyway. Those 6 classes changed my life! I was hooked on this very old, exciting method of sculpture and jewelry-making.



tions of everyone I met. I added contemporary jewelry to my repertoire-- but always, Judaica has been my focus.

At least 10 years ago, I joined MASSC. The guild offered weekend workshops by famed jewelry artists from all over the United States. I took as many as I could, and expanded my repertoire of techniques to use in the creation of Judaica. My best “tip” came from one of the other members at a workshop who first told me how to etch copper- I scribbled it in my workbook. Then I joined an adult school jewelry class in Los Angeles.

At the same time, I joined the Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework, again a strange choice for me. While I’d always liked embroidery and knitting, etc., I’d also hated meetings and anything as sedentary and slow as a sewing circle! Well, the rich symbolism and visual stories I saw at the meetings fused with my new metal-working skills, and my first mezuzah cases were

Again, my work expanded greatly. About the same time, I began to teach workshops locally. Never let it be said that one can’t learn from one’s students, too

Advice to metal artists who are just starting.. (I know I was just supposed to answer one question here about beginnings, but as a part-time teacher, I couldn’t resist!)

I used to stay awake at night worrying “what ifs.” What if I couldn’t think of anything new to create? What if I suddenly grew stale, or grew tired of metal working? What if I suddenly couldn’t sell anymore or the commissions stopped coming in? Only a few year ago, I decided that I’d “ride the wave” as far as it took me; that I was somehow “supposed to be” a Judaic artist and a metal artist. I would keep at it as long



made-and sold- in only a few weeks. Demand grew, and I was pulled along at a furious pace. I had to reboot my Jewish education, and I furiously read

as I could keep creating and keep selling. Just as I started to think about other career possibilities, a new commission appeared. Just as I thought I'd never have another fresh idea, a dream supplied me with a new mezuzah and a new technique. So my advice is to stay open, be ready and don't worry! Go with the flow! And probably, a little stress might just be good for the creative process!

I used to say that my inspirations were more spiritual and had to do with my religion and its stories and messages. Now, my inspiration is jump-started by that, but it is more often realized from my intense curiosity in the physical world around me. The richness of textures and shapes, from skeletal leaf remains, to crumbling cement to textiles and rusty machine parts. I feel like I absorb every detail of everything I see. Once, while in a Las Vegas hotel, I was literally overcome by visual stimuli all at once- from gaudy and bright, to subtle beauty to pulsing color and patterns. I had to sit down and close my eyes.

My current favorite materials and techniques revolve around pattern, texture and color. I grew tired of the monotonous of silver and gold years ago. The richness of copper, bronze and brass sucked me in and haven't let go. Etching and patinas also caught me, as did lapidary inlays, resin and enamels. Recently, I became enamored with the use of hammers and punches to shape and texture my metals. Who knows what's next?



Making a Living- or So Who's Counting?

First, see if you have a niche market where you feel

comfortable, and don't be afraid to change it as you evolve. I naturally gravitated toward Jewish ceremonial pieces and jewelry and it has suited me very well. I make non-Jewish work as well, but my audience is primarily Jewish. I started selling my work more than 25 years ago, with my very first pieces. I sell at retail shows and by appointment, and wholesale to galleries and museum shops. Juggling wholesale and retail is quite a balancing act, and enough to fill a book. I've never figured that one out. I also sell online, via my website, and others, (wholesale) and through Etsy.

My only suggestion for those who want to sell is something I have not done! Keep a notebook and write down the cost and hours behind each piece. Even if you don't pay any attention to this when pricing, at least you'll know. I always figured that if I had money in the bank and could pay my bills, I must have been making money! I only really knew what I made when I did my taxes (double extension) later the next year. I was sometimes pleasantly surprised, sometimes not...

One other thing: Take chances! In my case, I started off exhibiting at shows I couldn't afford, and at others where I didn't sell much. They all enhanced my reputation and got my name out. I still get commissions from people who saw my work many years ago and tucked away some bit of information or a business card! Also, take commissions if you can that are way bigger than what you think you can do. It will stress you out, but it will make you grow!

Some of the places I sell:

Gallery Judaica, Westwood

Skirball Museum and Cultural Center Gift Shop

Artistic Judaic Promotions www.ajp.com

www.growingupjewish.com

www.ruthshapiro.etsy.com

Contemporary Craft Market, Santa Monica

Upcoming MASSC Workshops



Jillian Moore

And Now for Something

Completely Different -- with Resin

El Camino College - May 7 & 8, 2011

Don't miss this first ever West Coast appearance and workshop of Internationally acclaimed artist Jillian Moore of Phlaznatch fame. Jillian will share her amazing and innovative techniques for working with resin in a workshop that is guaranteed to take your creativity to new places.

More of Jillian's work can be seen at:

<http://crafthaus.ning.com/profile/JillianMoore>

http://www.klimt02.net/jewellers/index.php?item_id=10821

<http://www.jillianmoore.net/gallery.html>



Nancy Megan Corwin

Chasing and Repousse

Intermediate and Advanced Levels

El Camino College - Nov 11, 12 & 13th 2011

Students will make domed bracelets of sterling and copper with chased and repousse designs.

More of Nancy's work can be seen at:

<http://www.nancymegancorwin.com/home.htm>

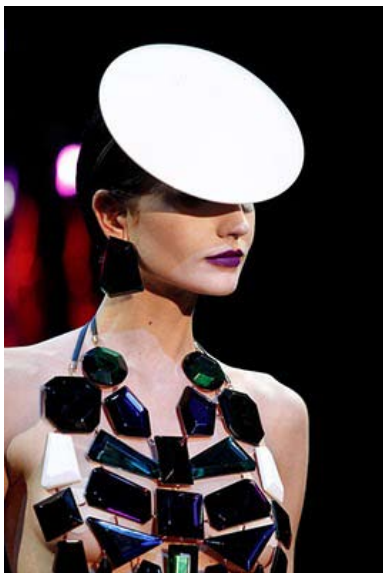
Buy Nancy's book *Chasing & Repoussé* on Amazon.com



Workshop Adventures

Thank you to all the attendees at the recent Betty Helen Longhi workshop at Saddleback College. Unbeknownst and unannounced to anyone, the school shut down the campus for construction during one day of our workshop - including locking up all the *bathrooms!* With the help of our ever gracious Saddleback host, Larry Jones, and quick thinking by MASSC staff, the workshop didn't miss a beat.

Thanks again to everyone for keeping your sense of humor and pulling together to make it a unique learning experience.



Gemstones Jolt the Paris Runways

Paris Couture Show 2011 - Giorgio Armani, used colored gemstones as the inspiration for his entire line, with models sporting clothes literally made of gemstones.



MASSC Video Library Now Available on DVD

The MASSC video library currently has 18 videos on DVD of past workshops that members can check out. These DVDs are direct videotapes of actual workshops and have not been edited. Watching a MASSC workshop video is akin to being there in person.

Workshop Videos Include:

- Alison Antleman** - Custom Clasps
- Belle Brooke Barer** - Sculptural Hollow Ring
- Diane Falkenhagen** - Mixed Media Techniques for Jewelry
- Leslee Frumin** - Classy Clasps
- Mary Lee Hu** - Weaving and Chains
- Charles Lewton Brain** - Fold Folding
- Betsy Manheimer** - Fold Forming
- Trish McAleer** - Metal Corrugation
- Bruce Metcalf** - Jewelry Alternatives
- Ben Neubauer** - Wire Fabrication
- Harold O' Connor** - Surface Embellishments & Efficient Workshop Methods
- Katherine Palochak** - Tufa Casting
- 2Roses** - Metal Patination
- Carol Sivets** - Metal Reticulation
- Lisa Slovis Mandel** - Hydraulic Press
- Carl Stanley** - Cuff Bracelet
- Pauline Warg** - Metal Beads
- Wayne Werner** - Stone Setting
- Betty Helen Longhi** - Forming Techniques

A \$20 donation is necessary to check out each DVD. This includes the use of the DVD plus 2-way shipping. There is no additional security deposit. Members can keep each DVD for up to 30 days. Videos can be checked out on the MASSC website at www.massconline.com. Click the "Video Library" link on the home page.



NC Black

at Jay Whaley Studios
June 2011

June 11 & 12
Micro Spiculum/Micro Anticlastic
Raising
June 13, 14, 15, & 16
Hammer Engraving
June 12, 14, 15, & 16
Hammer Engraving
June 17
Basic Micro Forming
June 18 & 19
Advanced Micro Shell Forming

Instructors:
Andrea Kennington & Les Bryant
Registration: www.whaleystudios.com
Phone 619-299-9619

Oxidizing with an Egg?

- You might be surprised to know that you can antique your sterling silver jewelry with an egg!



Here's how you do it:

Chop up a boiled egg and place it in a baggie with your silver for a few hours or until the silver has darkened to your liking.

It will turn yellow yellow then pinkish purplish bluish, then greyish blackish. Wash off the silver with soapy water, rinse and you are ready to go.

Why does this work? The sulphur in the egg yolk causes the reaction.

This technique is not very cost-effective in quantity but is great in a pinch.



1644 S.CLEMENTINE ST, ANAHEIM CA 92802

Upcoming Events

Next MASSC Board Meeting
April 10th, 2011 to RSVP 949-276-4300
all members welcome

May 7 & 8 2011
Creative Resin
with Jillian Moore

Nov 2011
Chasing &
Repousse
with Nancy Megan Corwin

Did you change your address or email? Don't miss your MASSC newsletter and workshop announcements. Send changes to Diane Weimer diaweimer@verizon.net