



MASSC

Newsletter January 2021

Presidents Message

Greetings Fellow Metalsmiths!

I hope this message finds you all safe and healthy. What a strange year we're leaving behind. Welcome to a new year with the Metal Arts Society! If you've been watching us this past year you'll notice that we've been making several striking changes to our organization. I'll highlight a few to recap. The pandemic brought MASSC a great challenge in 2020 in that we had to move all of our workshops and in-person events onto an online platform. It has been a struggle that I feel we met with swinging hammers! Throughout the year we worked hard to bring you not only live online events and demonstrations, but a new online video library repository of all our online events. Some videos are available for public view, but many are members only.

Speaking of our awesome members, it's now time to renew your MASSC membership! Membership dues have increased to \$50 for individuals, \$75 for dual memberships, and \$30 for students. These dues help to pay for things like the website, the video library and all the programming costs that keep us running throughout the year. Please consider joining today! This year we are also launching a new initiative to expand our student membership! You can read all about this new membership



focus along with membership renewals on page 12, and we hope that you consider supporting this initiative.

I saw many familiar faces at our Holiday Party and Ornament Swap on Zoom last month. We saw some amazing ornaments! Our new Newsletter Editor, Erin Proctor, has included pictures of the ornaments in this beautiful newsletter on pages 9-10. As you have by now hopefully noticed, we are using a different format for our newsletter than we have been using this past year. Erin is bringing in her fresh perspective and taking us back to having a beautiful PDF newsletter that may be downloaded and archived.

We hope to bring you a bright and shiny 2021

Happy New Year!



Letter from the Editor

Happy New Year everybody! For those of you who haven't met me yet, I'm Erin Proctor, former VP and Program Chair for MASSC, current Board Member At Large and now your brand new Newsletter Editor! I'm really excited to take this on and I hope to be able to create a new, attractive and informative publication for our community to use and enjoy!

This newsletter is your resource to stay in the know on all upcoming MASSC sponsored events and workshops, member sponsored events and classes, bench tips, reviews, and volunteer opportunities.

The newsletter is also a place where members can advertise tools and products they have on offer, share metals/jewelry related experiences, and a place where members can be featured when they have a new body of work to share or a story that our community would benefit from hearing.

Get involved! Take advantage of this resource!

Talk to me, people!

My goal is to get these newsletters out during the first week of every month, so you will always know what's coming up, and every month you'll have the chance to send me your stories, thoughts, requests, questions, concerns, hopes, dreams...don't be shy!

We want this publication to bring our community together, and that means we need YOUR input! Otherwise you're going to be stuck with a bunch of photos of my cats.



Get in touch:

massc.editor@gmail.com

BOXES ARE ON SALE! NOW THROUGH JANUARY 31ST

[CLICK HERE TO GET YOURS TODAY!](#)



If you've participated in past challenges then you know what it's all about, but if this year might be your first time let me fill you in: participants purchase a \$40 mystery box and must follow the directions in the box, create and submit their piece by the deadline and be entered to win one of 4 cash prizes! The rules and contents of the box change every year, and this year...well, let's just say it is sure to be a contest that will challenge your design skills and creativity when it comes to use of materials.

Anybody can buy a box regardless of membership status, but ONLY CURRENT MEMBERS will be able to submit a finished piece and enter the contest for a prize (so a good time to join or renew your membership would be now!!)

The three top prizes, including the \$500 Grand Prize, are awarded by actual professional judges who will get to inspect and handle the pieces in person. Once that's settled, MASSC will announce a date for the Virtual Metals Challenge Event where attendees and participants will get to hang out on Zoom, view a slide show of the entires and vote on a People's Choice Award winner with a \$100 prize!

In addition to the competition, MASSC also creates a soft cover book featuring all of the entries for that year which will be available for sale, with a discounted price for challenge participants. On that note, I want to mention that we know that we've been behind on getting the past couple of years printed, but fear not! We are in the proof reading stages and there will be books available soon!

[Click here to learn more and to reserve your 2021 Metals Challenge box today through January 31st!](#)

Upcoming MASSC Sponsored Events



WINTERTIME SHOW & TELL

AND JINGLE BELL CHALLENGE!

Saturday, January 16th at 12pm

Connect with fellow metalsmiths on Zoom and show off what you've been up to during this fun virtual lunchtime hangout! This event is FREE and open to everybody!

Come to watch, or come to share! Show us some new pieces you've been working on and/or join the in the Jingle Bell Challenge and show us the bell you made!

RSVP HERE



Sunday, February 28th at 10am

MASSC Board Meeting Live on Zoom

Open to all members

**CLICK HERE TO
ATTEND**

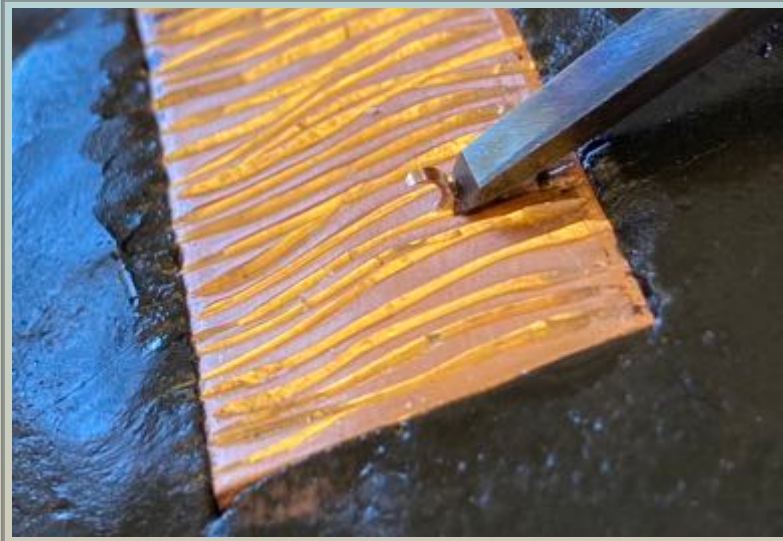
MORE TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

- **March 13th: Online Tool Swap & Shop**
- **March 21st: Virtual Spring Studio Tours**
- **April (date TBD): Virtual Jewelry District Vendor Visit**



Other Upcoming Events (non-MASSC Sponsored)

Chisel Patterning Mokume Gane



February 20-21

Online Workshop live with Anne Wolf

10am-4pm Pacific Time

Tuition \$295 + kit fee TBD

[MORE INFO](#)

Tubing: Exploration in Fabrication



February 6-7

Online Workshop with Alison Antelman
Hosted by Diane Weimer

9:30am-4:40pm Pacific Time

Tuition \$300 + \$35 kit fee

[MORE INFO](#)

Rings: 360



March 6-7

Online Workshop with Tim Lazure
Hosted by Diane Weimer

9:30a-4:30p Pacific Time

Tuition \$295

[MORE INFO](#)

Ask Betsy!

By Betsy Manheimer

Q: I've had bone spurs at the base of several fingers on the palm side of my hands on and off since I graduated with a degree in metalsmithing. Because I constantly work with my hands, they never fully have a chance to go away. What can be done about bone spurs?

A: I am not a doctor so I can't offer you specific advice about bone spurs other than to see your doctor about them. They could be an indication of arthritis or some other medical condition, so seeing a professional is a good idea to diagnose the situation and determine if there is a medical solution that is acceptable to you.

What I can do, however, is talk here about finger and wrist ergonomics. While we are often instructed on how to sit properly to keep back and shoulder pain at bay, we aren't always told about how to keep our wrists and fingers limber which can help prevent pain and fatigue when working on a small scale.

When sawing and hammering, make sure you don't use a death grip. Hold your tools firmly with your fingers but not tightly and don't tense up your wrist and arm. Make sure your work is at an appropriate height for what you are doing. If you are hammering, your work should be where your hammer strike lands with your forearm at close to a 90 degree angle from your upper arm. Your upper arm and elbow should be close to your body, not out at an angle. You don't have to anchor it to your torso, but don't let your elbow fly outward. When sawing, make sure that you don't have to contort your wrist at the beginning or end of your saw stroke but rather let the strokes be smooth and keep your wrist relaxed. And it's always a good idea after sawing or hammering to shake your fingers and wrists out, clench and release your fingers or search online for finger and wrist exercises you can do to keep them limber.

If you are working on small pieces and have to scrunch your fingers to place or hold components, consider using tools rather than your digits. Use tweezers or picks to place or move items around. Use tape, clamps or even clothes pins to hold items together. There are a number of commercial options available such as ring clamps, inside (sometimes called outside) ring clamps, guillotine clamps, hemostats, pearl-holding vises (for drilling), cushion clamps for wire jewelry. Most of the jewelry supply houses carry a variety of these things which can be found by searching for "clamps" at your favorite supplier. And looking at the offerings may prompt you to MacGuyver something useful from tools you currently have.

Metalworking should be enjoyable, not painful, so stay aware of how your body is feeling while you work. You shouldn't have to be a contortionist to ply your craft.

Happy New Year to all, and don't forget to send your questions to askmassc@gmail.com!



When sawing small pieces, don't use a death grip on the saw, and consider using a holding device such as a ring clamp to further save your hands.



Bench Tips

from Brad Smith

TEMPLATES



Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of a sheet metal component, I think of making a template. Templates let me easily draw the shape of an item to cut out.

Art stores or online sources like cooltools.us/ and kingsleynorth.com/ sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc. but for nonstandard shapes, I make my own out of a scrap of sheet plastic or sheet metal. My preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape

using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch.

One example is the brass template in the pic below that lets me quickly trace the design of ginko leaf earrings onto silver sheet. Another is the nickel template which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.

OCHRE APPLICATOR

Yellow ochre is used when you want to be sure the solder won't flow on an area of your piece while you're soldering another area. The only problem with ochre is coming up with a good way to store and apply it.

I use recycled nail polish bottles. They seal well and have a built-in brush applicator. Just clean them out with a little acetone or nail polish remover, and they're ready to go.



Check out Brad's how-to books:
www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

Do you have a nifty bench tip? Email your tip with a photo or two to: massc.editor@gmail.com

Holiday Party Wrap-Up

By Bill Gallagher

On Saturday, Dec 19, MASSC held a virtual holiday party and ornament exchange via Zoom. I was the only man in a roomful of women, which I never mind, but this room was populated by a dynamic and creative bunch of people, and it was really a pretty good time.

It was an odd sort of party, but that's what 2020 was all about, right? - i.e., finding the joy in a less-than-ideal-situation. Basically it was a free for all, with questions and comments, and updates, and socializing, much like any party. Angelina showed us her new puppy, and one of Erin's cats made an appearance, but it was mostly just a bunch of metalsmith geeks catching up.

The one structured part of the party was the Ornament Exchange, which I did not participate in. Note to self: Participate this year! Ornament photos were submitted prior, and a



Jingle Ball by Virginia Hyatt



Ornament by
Erin Proctor



Ornament by
Angelina Smith



Ornament by
Trudy Adler

slideshow was made up so we all got to see what our fellow members created, and each one was beautiful, creative, and just plain cool. And covetable! Virginia Hyatt's ornament was a wonderful jingle bell and we were all so jazzed about it that before the party was over discussions were already underway about making it a challenge project. A drawing was held for those that participated in the ornament exchange and each of those people were going to receive something very cool in the mail in the days to come. As for the rest of us, well, speaking for myself, like I wrote earlier - next time I'm determined to participate!

More about the Holiday Party..

The Holiday Party is an annual members only event that takes place every year in December. We usually have two in-person parties, one in the Northern part of our territory



Virgina Hyatt's 2nd Bell Attempt!

and one in the South, however, due to the ongoing circumstances with the pandemic, we anticipate that our party for 2021 will be another virtual shin-dig. The good news is that members can attend no matter where they are!

We hope to see you at the next MASSC Holiday Party & Ornament Exchange!

Here are the rest of the ornaments from our first ever Virtual Holiday Party and Ornament Exchange along with Virgina's 2nd attempt at the jingle bell challenge! For those of you who would like to have a go at making a jingle bell and missed the first email, just keep your eyes peeled for a final call email blast coming soon!

Email: massc.vp@gmail.com



Ornament by Ruth Shapiro



Ornament by Jene Vormelker



Ornament by Adeola d-Aiyelija



Ornament by Nina Gibson

New Additions to the Video Library:

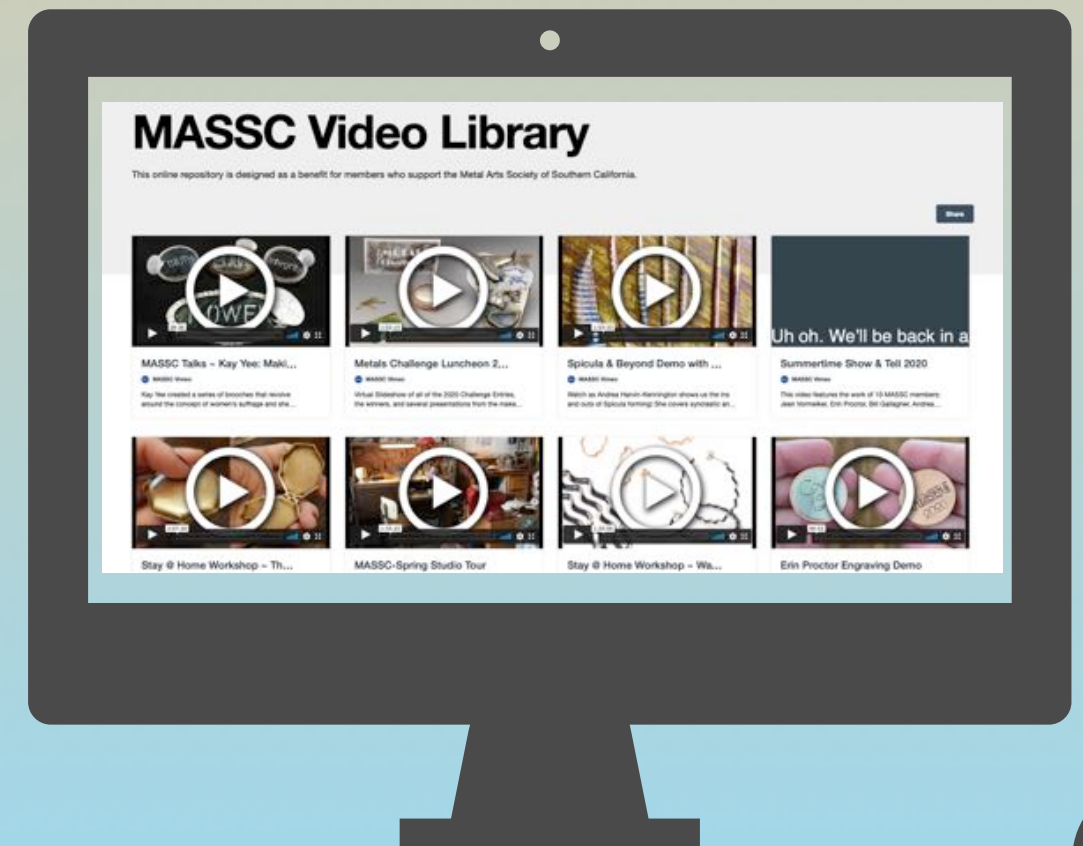
One of our newest member benefits is our online video library hosted by Vimeo!

The password changes every year, and will be given out when you join/renew membership. Although we do make some videos available to the public, all the good juicy stuff is reserved for current MASSC members only!

JUST ADDED:

- **Demo Day 2020 with Brad Smith, Teri Brudnak, Kent Raible, Marne Ryan, and Anie from JoolTool**
- **Fall Studio Tours featuring the workspaces of Brad Smith, Marne Ryan, and Erin Proctor**

[CLICK HERE TO
CHECK IT OUT!](#)



IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

It's the start of a new calendar year which means it's time to renew your MASSC membership for 2021. If you're joining us for the first time, then hooray! We can't wait to share all of our exciting events with you this year!

[Learn all about your member benefits and register here!](#)

Membership is good from the date you register until December 31st, 2021.

Membership Dues for 2021

Individual \$50

Dual \$75

Student \$30

[REGISTER
HERE](#)

MASSC is excited to announce a new initiative to expand our student membership!

A big part of MASSC's mission is to preserve metal art heritage, and to share our knowledge and resources within the metal arts community. To stay true to our vision, we will be reaching out to local metalsmithing programs in order to offer up-and-coming student metalsmiths a sponsored MASSC membership for 2021.

Students who are awarded a sponsored membership will be required to complete their public artist profile on our website, contribute content to our monthly newsletter, and must attend at least 2 board meetings per year.

We believe that boosting student involvement is an investment in the future of our organization, and MASSC would like to invite you to help by considering sponsoring a student membership. Your donation is tax deductible and will help to infuse our organization with fresh talent, perspectives and skills that will benefit the membership as a whole.

Please join us in this effort to cultivate and sustain the future of our craft.

[BECOME A
SPONSOR](#)

And Now A Word From Our Sponsors:



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Rio Grande: <https://www.riogrande.com/>

JoolTool: <https://jooltool.com/>

A to Z Jewelry Tools: <https://atoztoolsonline.com/>

Allcraft: <https://www.allcraftusa.com>

NC Black: <https://www.ncblack.com/>

2021 MASSC Board Member Directory

President: Angelina Smith massc.president@gmail.com

Vice President, Program Chair: Ketarah Shaffer ketarah.massc@gmail.com

Vice President, Operations: Stella Schloss massc.vp.ops@gmail.com

Secretary: Betsy Manheimer massc.secretary@gmail.com

Treasurer: Position Open (acting Treasurer, Stella Schloss)

Members At Large:

Ashley Ryane Greer, MASSC Social Media social.massc@gmail.com

Trish McAleer tmcaleer50@gmail.com

Erin Proctor, Newsletter Editor massc.editor@gmail.com

Membership Chair: Tigre Sheets tigre.massc@gmail.com

Fundraising Chair: Kiki Gerardo kikig@pacbell.net

North Hospitality Chair: Lori Hooks lorihooks@gmail.com

South Hospitality Chair: Position Open

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Instagram**

@metalartssociety

**Contact Ashley to
be featured!**

Would you like to volunteer? Email: massc.president@gmail.com