



**METAL  
ARTS**  
SOCIETY OF  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

November - December 2011

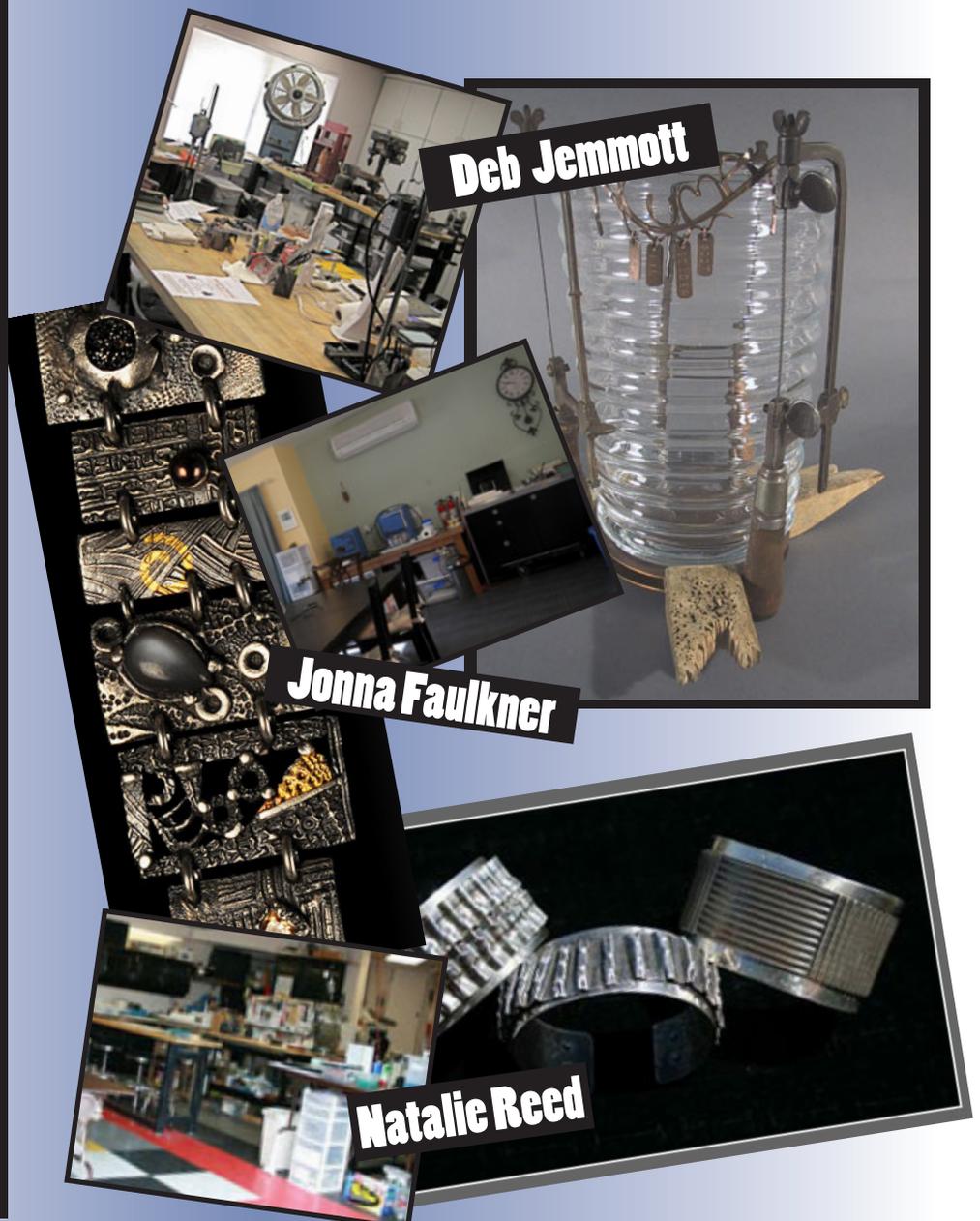
**Let's take a road trip...**  
visit some metals studios  
and have lunch at Stone Brewery  
in Escondido... you know make a  
day of it!

On March 24, Sat. in the San Marcos/Escondido all MASSC members will have the opportunity to tour metalsmithing studios of MASSC members Deb Jemmott, Natalie Reed and Jonna Faulkner. During our visit, we might view a demo, learn about interesting storage tips, peruse jewelry and tools for sale, and learn about classes offered at the studio. Observing and discussing where these metalsmiths have put the soldering station and why, or what tools are absolutely a must when setting up a studio might be a few facts we glean on our visit. You might ask yourself, "Are there inexpensive, efficient ways to store tools, and/or supplies?"

Beginning December 1, 2011, you will be able to sign up online at [www.massconline.com](http://www.massconline.com). We will be charging \$20 which will include lunch at Stone Brewery and flyer from each site. Contact Diane Weimer ([diaweimer@verizon.net](mailto:diaweimer@verizon.net)) or Raminta Jautokas ([raminta@flash.net](mailto:raminta@flash.net)) for more information.

## A DAY IN SAN MARCOS & ESCONDIDO

visit the workshops of three MASSC member area artists



# Presidents Message

On Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011 the MASSC membership gathered together at Long Beach City College to hear four fine metalsmiths talk about their passion. It ran the gamut from Cheryl Lommatsch and Lora Hart with Torch Enamel and Torch PMC to Karen Hung and Jeanie Pratt with Wire Inlay and Wire Weaving. All the presentations were recorded, so look for this CD to be available from the video librarian, Nancy Jo Stroud. Ten lucky winners went home with great raffle prizes. We can thank our sponsors by patronizing their companies like Rio Grande.com, Freedom.com, KnewConcepts.com, Victoria Lansford.com, Eggmenterprises.com, Monsterslayer.com, and Idyllwild Arts Academy. So many people were integral in planning and carrying out efforts to make Demo Day a great success. A big thank you to all of them!

Haven't you ever wanted to take a road trip? Well you will have a chance to participate in one, Saturday, March 24, 2012. We are going to San Marcos/Escondido to see 3 MASSC members studios. We will visit Deb Jemmott, Natalie Reed and Jonna Faulkner. The visits will run about an hour and our group will be split in three parts and rotate for optimum viewing. After two visits we will have lunch at Stone Brewery in Escondido and then go to our last visit before our return trip home. When it gets a little closer to the date, you will be able to sign up online at the website, [www.massconline.com](http://www.massconline.com). We will let you know when this event becomes available.

Years back, my teacher, Kristin Beeler gave us a definition of craft. Part of the meaning says "Craft, to make or produce with care, skill or ingenuity." Well we did just that on Sept. 6 when we held our first SIG Moving Metal meeting. Trish McAleer showed us some creative and ingenious ways to make corrugation "sing" and then we

got to experiment on our own. Angela Roskelley took photos of the samples and what we were doing. They can be seen at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/aroskelley>. Who knew that doweling played such an important part in making a Nautilus shell form? Nothing was wasted as we corrugated our scrap and turned it into something you could hang on a Christmas tree. The time ended too soon.



During our next meeting which was Oct. 4, Tues., we got together a half hour earlier. We created more corrugated forms and used a compressor tool that Trish created to "squish" down the metal. Lots of interesting shapes. In Dec. we plan to use the hydraulic press to press some of our shapes using a rubber gasket material between the metal and the die. Should be interesting.

At our Nov. 1 meeting we met at 6:30 and worked on making etching tanks for our Galvanic Etching projects. We used a flattened 4ga copper rod and alligator clips that we screwed on the 2ft long rod. We got a plastic container from Big Lots and made some channels for the rod to sit in. Joanne Walker went to IMS in Irvine and got us each 12" X 12" 16ga copper sheet for the cathode. The best part was that Andrea Kennington and Les Bryant of NC Black, came back to my house and directed all the activity. We even had my husband in there, drilling the holes in the copper rod. It was an awesome time! Let me know if you would like to start your own SIG on a technique for which you are passionate.



## MASSC CHAIN WORKSHOP

**Behold the mighty wrists of the chain-makers!**

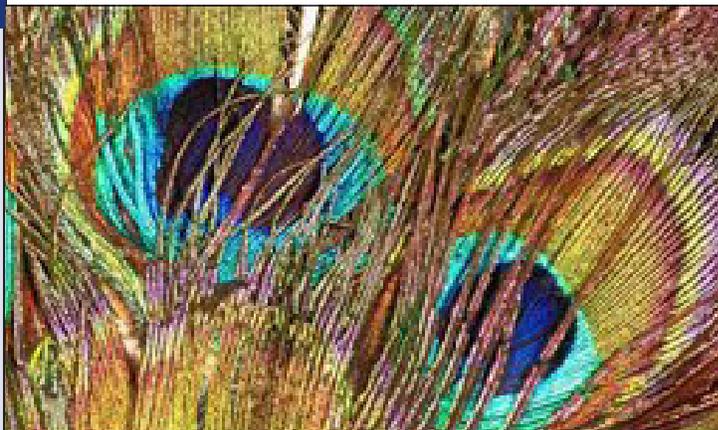
Ketarah Shaffer  
Angela Roskelley  
Janette Parker  
Juliane Hoskins  
John Rose  
Nancy Yuan  
Rose Gonzales  
Diane Weimer  
Patricia Wierman  
LaVerne Christensen  
Doreen Endo  
Diane Ruckenstein  
Corliss Rose  
Kristin Beeler

MASSC workshops and events are a great way to connect with people who share the same interests in the arts as you. Join us at one of our events and make some new friends. Want to get more involved? You are always welcome at our Board meetings too.

by John Rose of 2Roses

**MASSC Board of Directors**

<b>President</b> 562-596-5841	<b>Diane Weimer</b> diaweimer@verizon.net
<b>Program Chair</b> 949 -643 -9693	<b>Ketarah Shaffer</b> ketarah@earthlink.net
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<b>Treasurer</b> 714-531-4041	<b>LaVerne Christenson</b> laverne@socal.rr.com
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<b>Webmaster</b> 714-778-5336	<b>Duke Sprue</b> DukeSprue@massconline.com
<b>Yahoo Group</b> 949-643-9693	<b>Corliss Rose</b> corliss@2Roses.com
<b>Board Members at Large</b>	<b>Ketarah Shaffer</b> ketarah@earthlink.net
<b>Trish McAleer</b>	<b>Pat Wierman</b> goddesswoman@hotmail.com

**MASSC web site: [www.massconline.com](http://www.massconline.com)****MASSC Newsgroup:**MetalArtsSociety-subscribe@yahoo.com  
MASSC on FaceBook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/134035216002/>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 \$20 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](http://www.MASSCOnline.com)

## The Secret to Peacock Patina Colors on Silver

We've all worked with with Liver of Sulfur (LOS) to create a black patina on silver. You can also use LOS to create a rainbow of other colors ranging from yellows, oranges, reds, purples and blue.

Silver exposed to LOS goes through this range of color on its way to black, but you don't normally see it because it happens so fast. Sometimes, artists achieve a colored effect with LOS, but are not quite sure how it happened. The secret lies in slowing down the coloration process. Really slowing it down. With LOS there is a regular progression of color change... from yellows to reds to greens to blues to purples before the piece approaches the gray/black zone

The secret is to severely dilute the LOS solution with water. This will have the effect of slowing down the color progression process. Interesting additional effects can be created by adding a tiny pinch of table salt and/or drops of household ammonia to the LOS solution. Heating the solution will also change the effects.

When your piece has achieved the desired color(s) it must be sealed with wax or some other coating to stabilize the color and prevent further oxidation.



Those of us who are lucky, are able to recall the defining moment when they began their “Affair with Metal.” I began mine fairly late in life while working on my MFA at CSU, Long Beach. Not knowing what I was about to witness on a field trip, I unsuspectingly visited the Armand Hammer Gallery in Westwood to see a retrospective of Lee Bontecou’s Work.

Lee Bontecou’s bold manipulation of stained and rotting materials, odd components and found

deep level - I knew my own work would never be the same. I was inspired to realize my own sense of sculptural strength and invent my own artistic language as she had. Bontecou’s work would become a springboard for “jumping off the deep end” in my own work. Walking reluctantly away from her show, I knew that I would soon embrace any and all new skills having to do with metal working and sculpting and that welding and soldering would be woven tightly into my future.

Lee Bontecou’s work was a major passage for me to realize that I needed to think, feel and work differently than I had until that moment. When something moves you this deeply, it is a call to honor what speaks to your soul.

I departed from my focus on fiber arts and became intensely immersed in metal arts. This decision has been one of the most deeply satisfying decisions of my life. (Interestingly enough, the fiber techniques that I had learned are used in



of birds and reinforced by the same qualities intrinsic to metal. That metal is able to straddle between both polarities with such ease inspires me to admire, respect and appreciate working with this medium more each day. Metal has become the connective tissue within my sculptures – it enables me to connect unlimited assortments of found objects, old and new, in unusual ways. Working this way affords me the freedom to use virtually any found or created object and connect it in some fashion, often through some invention of cold connection problem-solving.”

My early-bird-pieces began as a raw exhibition of strange and somewhat creepy collections of tiny, fragile dead birds made from

chicken wire, hardware and paper pulp. As my skills improved and my awareness of the profound plasticity of metal increased, my little dead birds became encapsulated within hydraulically pressed and etched reliquary pieces to eventually become enshrined harbingers of hope, wearing protective armor, created from found objects and various metal techniques, including bronze foundry cast-

ing. Lately, my birds are growing larger and more complex, evolving into apocalyptic messengers and innocent cyber-creatures who embrace the challenge that we must evolve, change and pro

# Cheryl Lommatsch

objects, army fabric and menacing machine scraps entranced me. She worked in a raw, yet sophisticated and well-crafted style. The power, mass and depth of her work spoke to me at such a

my work regularly now!)

The theme of my own work has been in constant transition between polarities of fragility and strength, woven around the theme

tect ourselves if we choose to not perish as vulnerable creatures on this Planet.

tell me what the next step should be. This process works for me and is basically how I work now. It is a great relief from the “gun to the

listen to your work, you may create pieces that are far more meaningful to you and could end up speaking volumes to you and others about things you did not know! My work has taught me so many things about the world and myself.... I feel so very fortunate and blessed that my process has worked out this way.

Currently my energy and interests are focused on teaching three metals classes at Saddleback College and creating new sculptures. I attempt to take as many workshops as I can to learn new techniques with the intent on enhancing my work and my teaching skills. In August 2010, I received a teaching stipend that enabled me to take a 6-day Intensive Torch-Firing Workshop/Symposium in Kentucky. This again, became a life-changing week, as I became enamored with the techniques of torch-firing. Suffice it to say, with a large enough torch, you are not limited by the size of the pieces that you are trying to enamel, unlike firing within a kiln. This freedom offers amazing potential for enameling experimentation and I know many MASSC members would be excited to learn how to enamel from the Inside-out, which is how torch-firing works best! Before long, my bird sculptures may be donning armor that includes the exciting spontaneity, depth and thrill of enameled highlights upon them. Each new technique can lead us toward exciting new possibilities! What a joy to work in a medium that has endless potential for investigation and discovery! We are the lucky ones. We truly, truly are.



Often I am asked about my process because my pieces are so eclectic and odd. One of my favorite mentors at CSULB, Fred Rose, encouraged me to “...allow your work to speak to you and lead you...” He encouraged me to sit with what I had begun and allow the work to

head feeling” that so many artists and students succumb to. Not intending to encourage procrastination, I am offering the premise that procrastination possibly suppresses the real message behind your work. If you are able to begin earlier – and allow yourself some time to



## How cool is this!

Jewelry designer Irene Neuwirth's NYC pop up shop, designed by architecture and design bad boy Marc Fornes of THEVERYMANY.



# Trends

In the world of fashion, collars are all the rage. We've assembled some great examples done in precious metal and stones to charge your creative batteries for the holidays!

*This little number has a nice adjustable closure in back.*



*The full bib style is a real statement piece.*



*Sometimes, it's just a matter of accentuating the collar points.*

*Stone studs and pearls make nice accents.*



## MASSC Video Library Now Available on DVD

The MASSC video library currently has 19 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 McAler** - 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](http://www.massconline.com). Click the "Video Library" link on the home page.

# MASSC SIG Highlights

The MASSC Moving Metal special interest group had their “kick off” meeting September 6th in Long Beach. The metal was really moving as Trish McAleer taught the group how to form a Nautilus shape from corrugated copper sheet.

View all of the images on Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/aroskelley>



*First you corrugate your sheet.  
(Janette Parker is hard at work.)*



*Trish is demonstrating how to shape  
the corrugated sheet.*



*Voila, we have the finished piece.*



*Here are more examples of  
corrugated forms  
All we need now is a photo of the  
happy participants. Trish McAleer  
really got their creativity flowing!  
Special thanks also to Diane Weimer  
for the use of her studio.*



17602 17th St., Ste 102-237, Tustin CA 92780

## Upcoming Events

March 24, 2012: MASSC member studio visit and lunch at the Brewery.

MASSC SIGS (special interest groups) meet every first Tuesday of the month contact Diane Weimer for info:  
[diaweimer@verizon.net](mailto:diaweimer@verizon.net)

Next Board meetings:  
Sunday January 8th  
Sunday March 4th

Did you change your address or email? Don't miss your MASSC newsletter and workshop announcements. Send changes to Janis Carlson at [janis@threehandstudio.com](mailto:janis@threehandstudio.com)