

**Mystery  
Metals  
Challenge  
ENTER NOW!**

This year: Extra time to create  
& an in-person Gallery event!  
See page 11 for more!

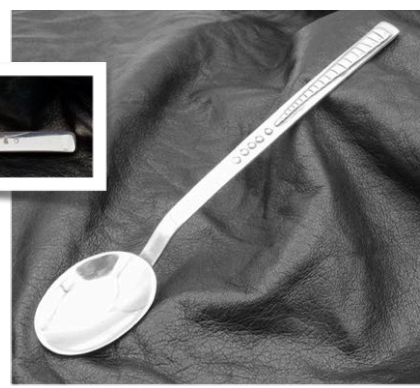
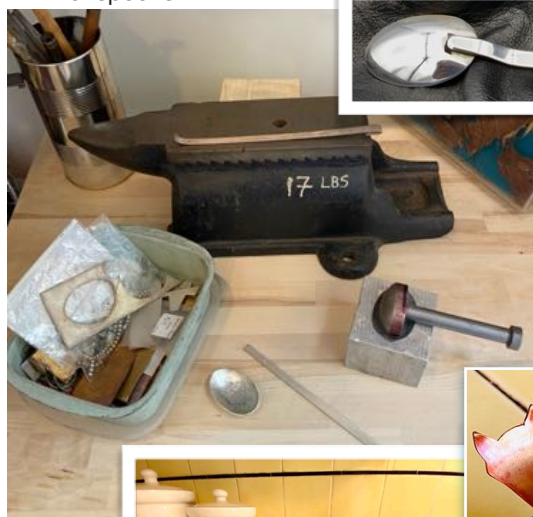


**MAY  
BIRTHSTONE  
EMERALD**

The **emerald**, a symbol  
of rebirth, is believed to  
grant the owner  
foresight, good fortune,  
and youth.

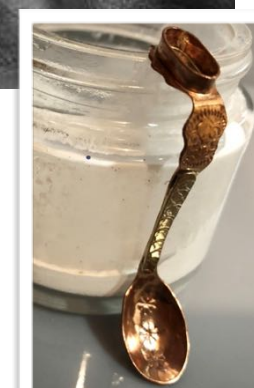
**Monthly Makers Challenge – March/Utensils!** Members showcased a full  
assortment of baby spoons, big spoons, a tea strainer and a knife.

**Margot Michon** showed a beautiful decorated spoon and the  
start of another one. Some of the tools Margot uses to create  
her spoons.



**Virginia Hyatt** created  
a very decorated and  
specialized spoon.

**Erin Proctor**  
Hammered  
out a copper  
spoon that  
held the  
perfect  
amount of  
sugar for her  
coffee.



**Jean Vormelker** was looking for something out  
of the ordinary for the utensils theme, she  
harked back to the by-gone-era of childhood  
tea parties with her dolls and made a grownup  
tea strainer. The March teacup from her  
mother-in-law says it all.





**Bill Gallagher** showed a very unusual shaped spoon, the curves created on this spoon makes it sit so nicely in a bowl.



**Andrea and Chuck Kennington** shown top photo: Chuck's forged spoon with Andrea's mini spoon sitting in the scalloped shaped bowl of the spoon. Next photo: Andrea's mini spoon engraved with the pattern of her family silver.



**Trudy Alder** showed a wide assortment of spoons she has made over the years. Each with a very unique detail.





A recent MASSC monthly challenge was to make a utensil. This allowed me to engage in one of my favorite exercises, which is upcycling old knives. For this project, I started with an old German kitchen knife (circa 1900) that I found at an abandoned mine site in Nevada. As you can see, the knife was severely damaged after lying in the desert for 120 years. The secret is that the steel used in these old knives is usually of very high quality and can be refurbished.

The first step was to cut the blade down and reshape it to remove the damage.



Here is the new rough blade profile with the old handle removed.



When working with knives, safety is of utmost importance. I typically clamp the blade to a block of wood. This allows for much more control of the blade during grinding and finishing.



Once the blade is reconditioned, the handles are made. In this case, I chose ebony as the primary handle material. Once the ebony scales were cut, they required a slot to accommodate the half-tang of the blade.

After the tang slot is cut, the scales can be glued together to form the rough handle block.



A but cap of Brazilian Snake Wood was added to the ebony as an aesthetic accent. The whole assembly was then rough shaped.



Once the handle is finish sanded the blade is fitted to the handle.

Finishing details like file work to the back of the blade and rivet covers are done.



The finished knife is then assembled and given a final polish.

## ASK BETSY! by Betsy Manheimer

I just want to take this column to talk about **home studio or work space safety**. Many of us have gotten used to using our home bases to take virtual classes and, even though physical spaces are starting to open up, there are still many virtual options that remain available. We can tend to get a bit lax about following safety protocols when we're on our own, so I just want issue a reminder about some of the basics that we may gloss over when no one is there to remind us.

- **Tie long or wispy hair back.** Many of us are using hardware store or butane torches that have bushier flames than on torches like the Little Torch. If you think a torch flame of any size can't find those strands of hair that can fall out from behind your ear, please think again.

- **If you are working with fire,** be sure to have a fire extinguisher nearby. It doesn't have to be a big one---there are small ones made for kitchen use that don't take up much space and are easy to store within reach.

- **Be aware of ventilation.** You don't have to run a vent to outside, but make sure that you have (at least!) a window or even one of the portable fume extractors near any place you are using a flame or liquids that may fume. Be aware of what you are burning...some solders, fluxes, solutions and even metals give off fumes that you don't want to breathe in. You can get fumed really badly just torching brass, for example, and this can be dangerous to both your immediate and long-term health.

- **I know masks** have been a part of our lives for a while and many of us are glad that regulations in the outside world have been slackened, but there are good reasons to have masks in your studio. Grinding, polishing, drilling stones and pearls, working with granular material like enamels or powders that can waft around in the air are not things we want to breathe in.

- **Ditto for eye protection.** We can tend to get lazy about this, but flying wire snippets and splashing chemicals are serious business.

- **Be aware of what you are pouring down your drain.** We use a lot of chemicals in our work, whether it's pickle, etchant, patina or the like. Do your research on what you are using and the safest way to dispose of it---there is a lot of information available on how to dispose of chemicals so be sure you know what the protocols are for the solution you are using. Save water bottles and/or get some plastic jugs for hazardous liquids. Mark them with what they contain, and take them to the appropriate hazardous material disposal sites.

Being able to create at home is a wonderful thing, but we can get a bit lazy about following safety procedures when there's no one policing our activity. Creating in a home studio doesn't have to turn our living space into a toxic dump or safety hazard, but it's up to us to make sure that this is the case.

Stay safe and send your questions and/or comments to [askmassc@gmail.com](mailto:askmassc@gmail.com)

## Studio safety essentials



**3M 8233 N100 Particulate Respirator**  
Item # 201654 (Rio Grande) \$11.03



**Benchtop Fume Extractor**  
Item # 500104 (9"W x 6"D x 10.75" H)  
(Rio Grande) \$66.10

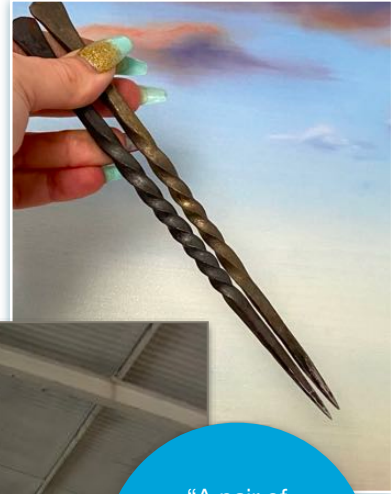


## Swap + Shop + Demo Event @ Adam's Forge: Great to be together again! - BY ERIN PROCTOR

What an amazing day we had at the new location for Adam's Forge! The first Saturday in May began with vendor check-in and lots of hugs and enthusiastic hellos as we gathered in-person for the first time in two years for a real live tool swap event! Guests trickled in to peruse the tables of goodies for sale and soon the time came for the demos to begin. This year we not only got to see two amazing and very different artists demonstrate their craft, but MASSC members and Adam's Forge volunteers also got to pick up a hammer and try their hand at forging! All instruction and materials were very generously donated by Adam's Forge, their amazing instructor Dossain Valencia, and our very own Bette Barnett!

Dossain kicked us off with a hot forging demo that showed us how to taper, draw out and twist our mild steel rods into delicate chopsticks. Then Bette turned it up a notch by showing us how to fuse different non-ferrous metals onto them with a torch, including gold and a homemade alloy called electrum which was a 50/50 mix of fine silver and pure gold. After the demos we were off to the races and spent the rest of the day hammering away under the watchful and helpful eyes of Dossain and the rest of the wonderful Adam's Forge volunteer team. A HUGE thank you to Doss, Bette, and all the beautiful blacksmiths at Adam's Forge for welcoming our group and showing us the ropes!

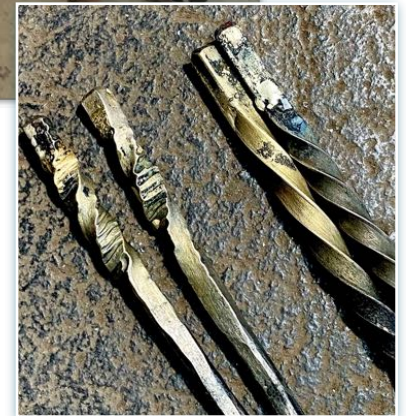
Head over to our Instagram page to see a fun fact that Dossain showed me! @metalartssociety



"A pair of chopsticks...or two scribes?"  
- Anne Wolf, MASSC member



"Beat the daylight out of it!" -Heather McCarty, Adam's Forge Board Chair



# MAY 2022

Black/Bold = MASSC Sponsored Event

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Tool Swap/ Live Demo @Adams Forge
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Adam's Forge Forged Stake Turner Discovery Class 6:00-10:00 pm	19	20	21 Adam's Forge Cooking Utensils w/ Francis Leidinger 6:00-10:00 pm 5/21-5/22
22 MONTHLY MAKERS CHALLENGE 10 AM PT Natural Materials	23	24 Silvera Jewelry School Forged Fibulas 6:00-9:00 pm PT	25	26	27	28 Adam's Forge Bolt Tongues 9:00a-3:00 pm
29 Adam's Forge Magic Wands 9:00a-1:00 pm	30	31 Silvera Jewelry School Forged Fibulas 6:00-9:00 pm PT				

# JUNE 2022

Black/Bold = MASSC Sponsored Event

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 MASSC Board Meeting 10 AM PT
	6	7	8	9 Adam's Forge Fish Shaped Bottle Opener 6:00pm-10:00 pm	10	11 Adam's Forge Letter Opener Discovery Class 4:00pm-8:00 pm Silvera Jewelry School Digital 3D Modeling 9:30 am-12:30 pm PT
12	13	14	15	16	17 Metalwerx Dies 3 Ways Jayne Redman 11:00 am-6:00 pm PT and on the 18th	18 Silvera Jewelry School Digital 3D Modeling 9:30 am-12:30 pm PT and on the 25th
19 Metalwerx Dies 3 Ways Jayne Redman 11:00 am-6:00 pm PT	20	21	22	23	24	25 MASSC MYSTERY METALS CHALLENGE Check-in on Zoom
26 MONTHLY MAKERS CHALLENGE 10 AM PT Weaving/Stitching	27	28	29	30	Two more 2-day classes 6/25-6/26:  Anneville Studio Metamorphic Mokume Online class 10a-4p PT	And also:  Adam's Forge Repoussé & Chasing 10:00am-4:00 pm



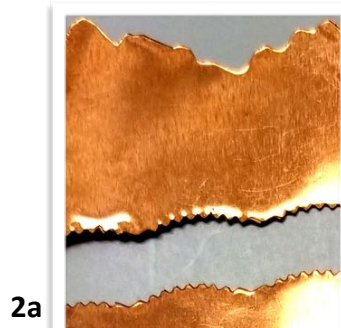
## Jean Vormelker



1



2



2a



3



3a



4



5



5a



5b



5c



6



6a



6b



6c

### February's challenge Corrugated Blossom Tutorial Cut, Corrugate, Stretch & Crimp, Finish edges, Play with shapes, Shape, Join & Finish

1. Variety of paper edge cutting scissors will cut thin 36g. copper. Fiskars is stronger than the other brands tried.
2. Tools – corrugating tool, wooden brayer, flat nose pliers – thinned to fit into corrugations. Note – thin copper at 90° to rollers
- 2a. Sample – a couple other profile scissors
3. – 3a. Scallop makes a round or square piece depending on which edge of profile is crimped.
4. – 4a. Cloud – Similar to Scallop.
5. Alpine – stays the same shape from either side of profile cut.
- 5a. Profile edge is rolled flatter with brayer, starts the curve.
- 5b. Crimp inside of curve on one side.
- 5c. Crimp the other side to tighten the circle.
6. – 6c. Play time! How will they best fit together?
7. – 7b. Add a pearl and Done!



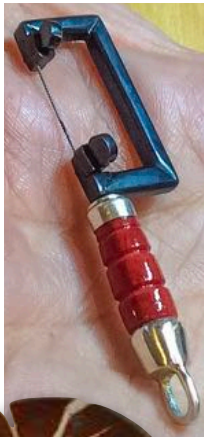
7

7a



7b





**Andrea & Chuck Kennington – Tiny jewelers tools**  
an assortment of saws, hammers, chasing tools and more. Can be worn as jewelry.



**Virginia Hyatt – Charms**



**Jean Vormelker – Magnolia Bud**  
created in Precious Metal Clay reduced down to .5 inches



**Trudy Alder – Ceramics**  
an assortment of tiny vases, lidded pots

**Kathe Dunn – 1.5" lidded containers**  
both with glass inserts



A new year has begun and that means a new monthly challenge list! This is NOT a competition, but rather a chance to challenge ones self with a new theme every month. This past year of projects has given us a time to socialize with others, but more importantly for our craft, it has allowed us to share our challenges, observations, tools and techniques with each other. This is a time to challenge *ourselves*, and it's a great way for all of us to learn from each other, no matter what your skill level is. We encourage everyone to join us! All skill levels are welcome and you can attend just to watch and listen, or to chime in and ask questions about a project you are working on and to show us your progress. We have listed the monthly themes below so that you can get inspired by a theme that resonates with you, allowing time for the design and creative process. Still stumped? No inspiration? Look no further than Lapidary Journal's Jewelry Artist magazine for a project and adapt it to the theme-all the instructions and supply list is there. And at the day of the event, we are here to answer any questions on places you got stuck.

Please join us, share a project, listen in or add to the conversation, add a tool or technique that would have helped in the execution of the project. This is a free and safe space for everyone who'd like to join us. If you have suggestions as to how you would like this to be or something to add to the process please let us know. Your participation and input is valuable to make this fun for all. Here's to a very creative 2022!

## January

### Inspirational Words/or Messages

Starting the new year with a fresh new perspective, with words to live by or to inspire oneself. We usually start the new year with resolutions. Use your words to create something meaningful. Stamping, engraving, piercing, carving wax, etching...there are so many ways to get your message out there.

## February

### Blooms

A month we often think of flowers—so let's create our own. Cut them, shape them, stone set them, enamel them, and decorate them. Create a bouquet or a single bloom, or use a floral pattern as an element in your design. We can't wait to see your creations!

## March

### Utensils

Always wanted to make a spoon? This is your time to show off your metal skills at the table. Cutting, dabbing, shaping, decorating...there are so many different ways to go. We are really looking forward to seeing what unique and useful utensils you can create.

## April

### Miniatures

What was once large is now small. Have some fun with making things tiny. Does changing the scale of an object create its own challenge? Let us know, anything goes. Go big, but think small!

## May

### Natural Materials

Let's combine different organic materials together, metal and wood, metal and stones, use these materials to envision something from the natural world. What challenges do you face in setting the object and how do you stabilize fragile objects?

## June

### Weaving/Stitching

This often makes us think of chains, but there are so many directions that you can go: cold connections, woven "fabric" embellishments, mesh screens, 3-D objects, baskets or... This is going to be a very interesting project.

## July

### "a secret" (or what's hidden inside)

Boxes, Lockets, anything can contain a hidden item or a surprise. What about hidden springs that activate once moved or opened? Can 1 item become 2 different items when taken apart? Hollow forms is something we have done before—but this takes it to a new level.

## August

### Five tool challenge

To create the object of your choice, you can only use the 5 tools highlighted below. We are so obsessed with having the right tool for each action that we create. This challenge takes us back to basics when we first started with a few simple tools: a **foredom** (includes all the bits), **pliers** (basic only), **hammer**, **anvil** or **bench block**, and **saw frame**. A **bench pin** is part of the bench so can be used, along with your **solder station**. This is a tough one! A lot of planning will be required, and we'll practice thinking through the project from beginning to end, and resisting the temptation to grab that favorite specialty tool! Just the basics!

## September

### Ancient technique or historical influence

We all seem to look to the past for style and inspiration, and we all have our favorite places in time. Will you go centuries past, or more contemporary with Art Deco or Mid-Century Modern? With so many directions to go, it will be fun to see what period or technique everyone chooses.

## October

### Kinetics/Motion

Get some action into your pieces, make it do something! Will you have a piece hanging by a wire, jump ring or pop open with a spring? Will your piece spin or twirl around your finger? These type of pieces are always challenging to engineer and balance properly but once done they are truly amazing.

## November

### Color

Coloring metal is an art unto itself, adding patinas can really change up a piece, but what can you do differently with color to add interest to your piece? Is it titanium or niobium? Married metals, plastics, colored pencils, colored gem stones and embedded resins... not to mention the multitude of products out there to add color to our pieces such as enameling, oxidation, epoxies, Corlite and wood to name a few.

## December

### Ornaments

It's time to decorate for the season! We celebrate different things in different ways but we all have MAKING in common! Make a bauble to hang or display that celebrates your fav holiday or make a piece of winter decor!



# Extras of Interest & Member Perks

## Schools & Organizations

### **Adam's Forge**

In-person blacksmithing classes

<https://adamsforge.org>

Los Angeles, CA

### **GRS Tools and Training Facility**

Professional and beginning stone setting, engraving, inlay and sculpting metal classes

<https://grs.com/facility/> <https://grs.com/cost/>

### **Idyllwild Arts**

Summer Adult Metals Week Program

Summer Native American Program

[idyllwildarts.org](http://idyllwildarts.org)

951-359-2171

Idyllwild, CA

### **Little Metal Foxes**

Interactive online classes

[info@littlemetalfoxes.com](mailto:info@littlemetalfoxes.com)

Seattle, WA

### **Metalwerx**

Classes both online and in-person

[info@Metalwerx.com](mailto:info@Metalwerx.com)

781-891-3854

Waltham, MA

### **Silvera Jewelry School**

Free lectures monthly, Zoom & in-person classes

[silverajewelry.com](http://silverajewelry.com)

510-868-4908

Berkeley, CA

## Classes by MASSC members:

### **Anne Wolf**

#### **Anneville Studio**

Online & In-person Mokume Gane classes

<https://www.annevillestudio.com>

### **Bette Barnett**

#### **Studio Migoto**

Online & In-person classes: gold on steel

<https://www.studiomigoto.com>

### **Diane Weimer**

In-person classes from world class metal artists

<https://dianeweimer.com/workshops>

### **Erin Proctor**

Saturn 5 Studio

Online & In-Person classes on a variety of techniques

<http://www.saturn5studio.com>

### **Laurie Union**

In-person classes on JoolTool & a variety of jewelry making techniques

<https://www.laurieunion.com>

### **Nohline L'Ecuyer**

#### **The Loft Jewelry Studio**

In-person classes by world class metal artists

<https://www.theloftjewelrystudio.com>

\*\*Are YOU a MASSC member that teaches classes or hosts other artists to teach at your studio?

Let us know here: [massc.editor@gmail.com](mailto:massc.editor@gmail.com)



**NEW: IN-PERSON GROUP SHOW AT THE  
CHEMERS GALLERY IN TUSTIN, CA  
SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 17TH!**

This is a great opportunity to show your work in a gallery and potentially sell your piece! Make sure your membership is current, and enter the 2022 MC today!

**ENTRY FEE: \$30**

**CLICK TO  
ENTER**

**The mysteries of this years challenge will only be revealed to those who register, but here are the big changes you'll want to note:**

- **More freedom!** Participants will be free to use their own materials in whatever way they choose, there will be no box of supplies.
- **More time!** There will be nearly 5 months to finish!
- **More inclusive!** We want MASSC members at all levels to feel comfortable participating in this event. This year we've done away with professional judging and big cash prizes and instead invite everybody to challenge themselves to create something new. It's about pushing yourself, not beating the competition.
- **More casual!** Rather than a big expensive sit down luncheon, we're planning a FREE Metals Challenge Gallery Exhibition where all participants can offer their piece for sale!
- **More swag!** The 2022 MC Book will be included as your entry gift for participating this year!

## MASSC Board Members

**President: Erin Proctor**  
[massc.president@gmail.com](mailto:massc.president@gmail.com)

**Vice President, Program Chair: Seat is open**

**Vice President, Operations: Angelina Smith**  
[massc.vp.ops@gmail.com](mailto:massc.vp.ops@gmail.com)

**Secretary: Lori Hooks**  
[massc.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:massc.secretary@gmail.com)

**Treasurer: Stella Schloss**  
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**Virginia Hyatt, Newsletter Team**  
[massc.editor@gmail.com](mailto:massc.editor@gmail.com)

## Other MASSC Volunteers:

**Membership Chair: Tigre Sheets**  
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**Fundraising Chair: Kiki Gerardo**  
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Chuck Kennington  
Betsy Manheimer  
Erin Proctor  
Kathe Dunn  
John Rose  
Margot Michon  
Jean Vormelker

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<https://www.brynmorgen.com>

**All Craft USA**  
<https://www.allcraftusa.com>

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

**Fire Mountain Gems**  
<https://www.firemountaingems.com>

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

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

**Sheltech**  
[www.sheltech.net](http://www.sheltech.net)

**Trish McAleer**  
<http://www.metalcorrugation.com>

## Follow MASSC:



**@metalartsociety**



**The Metal Arts Society**  
**of Southern California**

## Be a part of a team!

Help out the Board and be a part of MASSC in an impactful way! We need somebody for the following jobs:

- Video editing
- Instagram posting
- Email blasting
- Website updating
- Workshop & Other Fun Events planning

If any of these jobs sound like something you'd like to help us out with, let me know!

Contact: [massc.president@gmail.com](mailto:massc.president@gmail.com)

## Any member can contribute to this newsletter:

- Always looking for your tips and or techniques in any of your process to creating your pieces.
- Photos of your work can be featured in our MASSC Member Gallery or What's on your Bench. For that —looking for 3 to 4 photos of a collection that works together.
- If you have any questions, reach out and we can help you:

[massc.editor@gmail.com](mailto:massc.editor@gmail.com)