

# METAL ARTS

SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

May/June 2017



## LUNCHEON

Sunday May 21st, 2016  
10:00am – 2:30pm

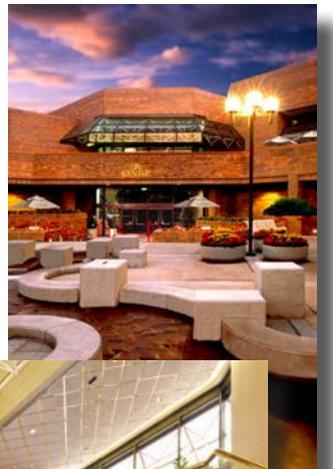
Curious to see what your fellow MASSC members have been up to for the 2017 Jewelry Challenge?

Join us to vote for your favorite entry, share a sit down lunch, and celebrate this year winners at The Centre at Sycamore Plaza in Lakewood. Hosted in the spacious Weingart Ballroom, we encourage you to bring friends and family to this fun and lively events.

**Location** The Weingart Ballroom at The Centre at Sycamore Plaza  
5000 Clark Ave, Lakewood, CA 90712

**Cost:** \$40 for anyone not participating in the Challenge  
\$30 for MASSC Members who submitted a piece for the Challenge  
Choice of 3 different entrees at time of registration see p3 for details

**Registration closes May 7th** at <http://www.massconline.com>





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## 2017 Jewelry Challenge

Diane Weimer

**Three** Buffalo teeth, 2" of silver tubing, 2-5mm amethyst, 1-16 gauge sterling silver sheet were the contents of the MASSC Jewelry Challenge box people purchased in February in order to make a wearable piece of jewelry. They could also use ANY OTHER MATERIAL THEIR HEARTS DESIRED FOR THEIR ENTRY. Now, you get to choose the winners of the cash prizes, through your vote.

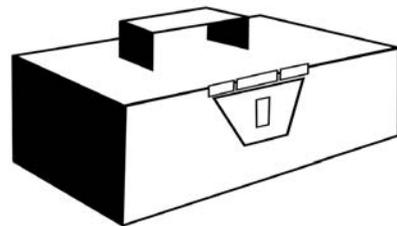


Twenty-nine MASSC members have turned in their wearable pieces of jewelry. We have a myriad of necklaces, chokers, rings, brooches, false teeth, a zoetrope ring, pendants, a ring bracelet, and earrings. The ingenuity is something to behold. You will get your chance to purchase a ticket (go to [www.massconline.com](http://www.massconline.com)) to the Jewelry Challenge 2017 luncheon which will happen May 21, Sunday, from 10:00 -2:30 at the Sycamore Center in Lakewood at the Weingart Room for \$40.

While perusing the entries for the cash prizes of \$300, \$200, \$100 and casting your ballot for your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices of the very best entry, you may enjoy some appetizers ( from 10:00-12:00) and you are allowed two drink tickets (wine, soda etc.) for your pleasure.

We serve lunch at around noon. We have two speakers Elise Preiss and Irene Mori both professors of jewelry/metalsmithing at CSULB and EL Camino College respectively. Elise will speak about the Toolbox Initiative that she participated in last summer when she and several other metalsmiths went to Senegal with a "truck full" of tools to donate to artisans with few resources.

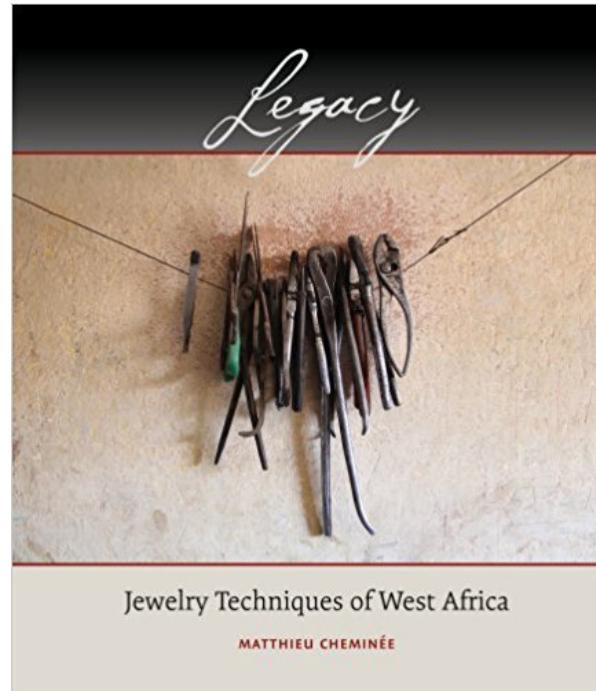
The Toolbox Initiative is a volunteer effort created by jewelers Matthieu Cheminée and Tim McCreight in 2014. The goal is to assist jewelers with limited resources through the collective strength of the metalworking community and to create new connections worldwide.



TOOLBOX•INITIATIVE

Matthieu Cheminée is a jeweler, teacher, author, and photographer who has been visiting West Africa and researching the jewelry trade there for almost 20 years. Tim McCreight is a jeweler, teacher, author, and publisher who has written and produced dozens of books and videos covering all aspects of modern metalsmithing.

In 2013, after a decade of research, Matthieu brought his concept and materials for a book about West African jewelry making to Tim's company, Brynmorgen Press. During the next year they worked closely together and traveled to Senegal in order to finalize the book. The result is called Legacy, Jewelry Techniques of West Africa, available from Brynmorgen Press.



Beyond being impressed with the talent and ingenuity of the craftsmen they came to know, both men were struck by the imbalance of resources affecting their peers. The Toolbox Initiative was formed as a way to assist the metalsmithing community in West Africa and to recognize them for their

kindness and generosity during the research for the book.

You will have a chance to contribute to the initiative by bringing a tool to donate. You can turn it in at the registration table for a raffle ticket. These are some examples of tools that have been donated in the past: pliers, mandrel, files, hammers, mallets, draw plates, brass brush, dividers, saw frames, saw blades, rulers, dapping tools, buffing wheels, vise grips, sand paper, even old files can be used to make gravers or other tools, reading glasses are also always a big hit! The initiative also accepts silver or cash donations. Legacy, Jewelry Techniques will be available for purchase at the luncheon for \$40, for every purchase the publisher will donate \$10 to the initiative as well as \$10 to MASSC.

**Hope to see you all there...**

**May 21, Sunday, 10-2:30,  
Sycamore Ctr. Lakewood**

**Get your tickets at  
[www.massconline.com](http://www.massconline.com)**



Upon registration you will choose your entree from the following menu

### MENU CHOICES

#### Breast of Chicken Florencia Tower

Tender Breast of Chicken Medallions Layered between Portobello Mushrooms, Spinach, Caramelized Shallots, Shaved Prosciutto and Fontina Cheese , Finished with our Chardonnay Leek Sauce

#### Marinated Skirt Steak Roulades

Marinated in Red Wine, Balsamic Vinegar, Garlic and Shallot. Rolled with Yellow Squash and Roasted Red Peppers and Finished with a Burgundy- Peppercorn Sauce

#### Mediterranean Salmon

Rosemary Butter with Sundried Tomato and Kalamata Olives Topped with a Leek Caponada Prepared with Mediterranean Spices. Accompanied with a Lemon Shallot White Wine Sauce

#### Vegetarian - Roasted Butternut Squash Ravioli

Tossed in a Brown Butter Sage Sauce. Finished with Candied Walnuts and Parmesan Cheese garnish

#### Vegan - Fire Roasted Anaheim Chile

Filled with Soy Chorizo and Vegan Cheese. Served with Black Bean Sauce

#### Includes

White Truffle Farros Risotto with Asparagus & Seasonal Roasted Vegetables

#### Dessert

Lemon Blueberry Cheesecake Martini  
Creamy cheesecake Layered with Smooth Lemon Curd Topped with Fresh Blueberries & Whip Cream

#### MASSC Vision Statement

Shaping the future by preserving metal art heritage, discovering new methods while sharing our knowledge and resources.

#### MASSC Mission Statement

To educate the Community, inspiring and challenging those who seek excellence in jewelry and metal arts, while providing educational, visual material and experiential connections.



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MASSC web site: [www.massconline.com](http://www.massconline.com)

MASSC Newsgroup: [MetalArtsSociety-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MetalArtsSociety-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

MASSC on FaceBook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/134035216002/>

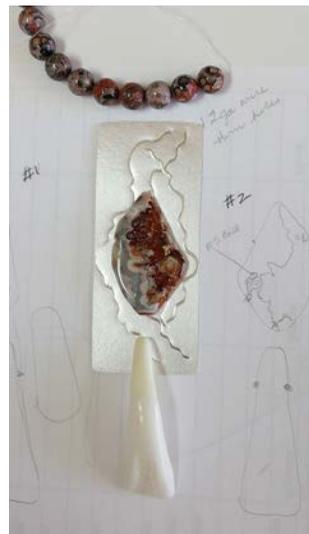
MASSC serves the needs and interests of artists working in metals and provides an environment for the exchange of information, instructional workshops, demonstrations, lectures, and panel discussions. Annual dues Jan1- Dec 31); Regular Member, \$30; Family, \$45; Full-time Student \$20.

Membership forms are available at [www.MASSOnline.com](http://www.MASSOnline.com)

## One Member's process - identity revealed in our next issue.

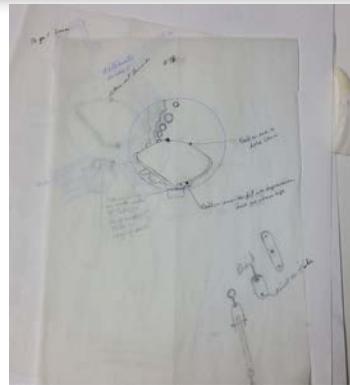


Design time – pencil & paper works for me up to a point. A lot of ideas surface as I awaken and exercise each morning. But working with the materials always works best for me. I started with the idea of mimicking the shape of the teeth in stone and possibly PMC. The Crazy Lace patterns in teardrop stones from my stash lead to the idea of scrimshaw on the teeth which swing nicely on heavy copper wire to give motion. This set my design direction. I discovered that two of the teeth were damaged beyond repair. Pause to think again.



To avoid creative block, I worked incrementally, slaying one dragon at a time. The tooth element became a faux scrimshaw dangle. The amethyst was tube set and made into another dangle. The sheet became a heavy interrupted step bezel. One thing lead to another with problems to be solved on the fly, the piece became evermore involved.

Played with patterned sheet and wavy wires on one design, but couldn't make it jell. After 11 sketches it was time to pick one and go for it.



The free form tumbled slab kept calling me.

To start, I had some existing



wavy sterling wire which could follow the Crazy Lace patterning in the stone.



Voids in the stone became accents with fine and sterling silver granules.



The damaged teeth were used to practice scrimshaw. Behind a custom grinding shield, I used diamond bits to grind the pattern.



continued on p5

## One Member's process - continued from p 4



The test turned out badly as the ink not only went into the lines, but also revealed cracks in the enamel. Disaster!

The faux scrimshaw is made with 2B pencil which makes a better line.

Pencil rubs off if not sealed with Krylon Crystal Clear Spray to protect the pencil lines.

After cutting out the circle and window, planning the layout with the interrupted reverse step bezel of 16 ga sheet and 20 ga wire, wavy wires and lower bail for dangles.

Soldering interrupted bezel and wires on front side. About 10 solderings were needed to complete the main element, front and back.



Note: Only hard solder was used throughout except for one Easy-Flo joint at the end to close the tooth dangle wire. Water based Whiteout was used as a fire stain preventative and solder stop for all solderings.

Hint: After being heated during soldering, Whiteout is easily removed in

water, scrubbed with a toothbrush and then pickled to remove any remainder. It's almost impossible to remove unless it has been heated.

A diamond ball bit was used to carve pattern lines for additional interest.

Where to go from here? Thinking time again – How to hang the main element, use part of the 16ga sheet as a bail or jump ring? Use partial tooth as dangle or a slab as a bead?

Use tubing in necklace and which size to complement the beads? Add bead dangle from the amethyst to bring the beads into the dangles? The "stone" at the top is really a photo on the sterling sheet that I used to cut the window in the base so both sides of the stone is visible and the edges follow the pattern.



The amethyst element had been previously hard soldered and polished. To solder the top jump ring and the wire of the tube setting element in place and keep them loose to dangle, I used Whiteout on all but the two solder joints. Now was NOT the time for an oops-a-daisy!

Setting the amethyst took a long time because I don't have the correct setting tools. Challenging? I'll say!

Getting there! Final adjustment for the tooth dangle and soldering the wire shut completes the pendant. This is the only joint where Easy-Flo solder was used. After hiding the whole piece behind the soldering block, I put a very wet paper towel around the tooth and wire to protect it from the heat while soldering its wire shut.



Wavy 14 ga wire links were planished to create variation in width and wire strung bead elements



are joined with 18 ga unsoldered jump rings to complete the necklace. The jump rings let everything move! The piece is left to oxidize naturally.





## A Newbie at the Downtown LA Jewelry District Tour - Tony Nguyen

MASSC recently held a Downtown LA Jewelry District Tour to which I had partaken in. The tour started in an alleyway with cozy little food shops that lined the walls. We all met at a small coffee shop named La Café Bonjour (and boy, did we need the coffee).

After everyone had arrived we were broken into different groups and each group had a diverse mixture of students that have never been to the district, veterans in the field, and hobbyists trying to broaden their horizon. Personally, it has always



felt as if I was doing a great disservice to myself for never having visited the Jewelry District Tour even though I was a student getting my degree in Metalsmithing/Jewelry Design. Truly, it was a great disservice to myself as it would turn out to be, however, I'm very happy that my first experience with this elaborate maze called the Jewelry District was with MASSC. The reason being so, is that our tour guides (our group had the awesome tour guide, Marta) knew the in and outs of the Jewelry district such as the secret locations of the shops (alright, they weren't exactly secret locations, but they might as well have been where all these shops ended up being located in the district), they had intimate working relationships with the shop owners/workers which in turned helped our group make a rapport with these professionals, and finally they generously shared their own personal expertise and knowledge on the fields of metalsmithing and jewelry. Overall, the day was a fantastic experience, and

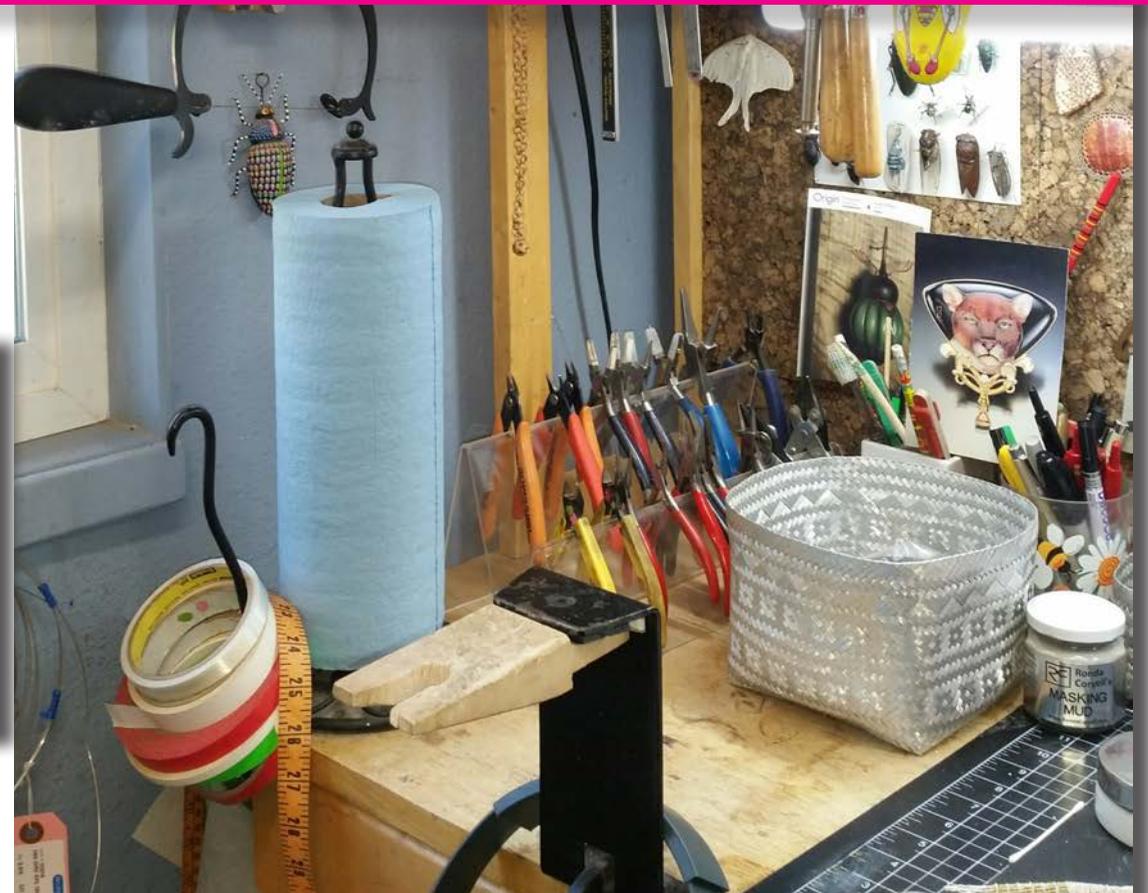
I can honestly say that I learned more about the Jewelry District and the people within it in a day than if I were to explore it myself within a month's time.





## Jeanie Pratt

**Here** at MASSC there is nothing we like more than picking at fellow metalsmith bench, so to start us of with this new rubric Jeanie Pratt generously shared a few photo of her bench!



We would love to see what is on your bench so please share with us by sending photos to [massc.editor@gmail](mailto:massc.editor@gmail.com)



## Monica Branstorm



**Well** hello there...it's me, Monica Branstrom - your fellow MASSC member and MASSC Membership Chair. I have been making jewelry for about 15 years and I specialize in jewelry featuring sea glass (chunks of glass that have found their way into the ocean and have tumbled around for years and years gaining a frosty smooth finish). It was my interest in finding a way to do something creative with the sea glass I had collected that prompted me to pick up a torch. I started taking classes with Janice Lorber in Santa Barbara and continued with

Deb Jemmott after I moved to south Orange County. Deb continues to be a source of instruction, support, and encouragement for me when I want to learn a new technique or need some honest feedback.

My style has more of a casual vibe to it and I am inspired by clean flowing lines. I use sea glass, sea stones, semi and precious stones in my work. I really like the dichotomy between sea glass and precious stones paired with sterling and high karat gold. I use a serendipity approach when I design a new piece. I almost never draw it out, and it works



for me (most of the time)! I can almost hear a collective groan from all the jewelry instructors out there who are reading this. :)

I sell my work mainly through shows, my website, Etsy, and a few galleries. Facebook and Instagram have been sources of sales as well. What's sitting on my bench right now you ask? Five custom orders...one of which is a custom engagement ring with a gold beveled piece of blue sea glass paired with a small diamond. I hope she says yes. She will. I hope.

Balancing a family life and jewelry business is a challenge sometimes, but it's worked out so far. And now that my youngest daughter will be going off to college this year, it will give me more time to dedicate to some other fun things such as the **Metalsmiths in Florence** weeklong workshop that I created for metalsmiths to join me in Florence, Italy for an amazing experience combining metalsmithing and living like a local in Italy (which means awesome food, wine, art, architecture, and gelato...did I mention wine?)

EVENTS



**SNAG - NEXUS**

May 24-27, 2017

Sheraton Hotel, New Orleans, LA

Nicknamed the “Big Easy,” New Orleans is known for its round-the-clock nightlife, vibrant live-music scene, and exceptional cuisine. A melting pot of French, African, and American cultures, it is one of the country’s most culturally and historically-rich cities. Its beauty, mystery and continuous regeneration is the perfect backdrop and inspiration for SNAG’s 46th conference.

More information and registration  
[www.snagmetalsmith.org](http://www.snagmetalsmith.org)



**Idyllwild Metals Week**

June 11–15, 2017

Idyllwild, CA

Spend a week in intensive metals studies with master metalsmiths. Maximize your creative artistic experience through workshops, lectures and demonstrations delivered by a team of six experts.

Coordinator: Deborah Jemmott  
 More information and registration  
<http://www.idyllwildarts.org>



**L.A. Materials & Technologies Retreat: Enameling**

June 4 – June 10, 2017

Otis College of Art and Design , LA

This weeklong retreat provides artists and makers with a special opportunity to explore Enameling. The program consists of intensive and focused studio work, demonstrations, time to practice new skills, guest speakers, field trips, discussion, and critique. Participants focus on their creative work, develop new ideas, and hone their skills. Open to all levels.

Mor information and registration  
<http://www.otis.edu>

**MASSC BOARD MEETINGS**

Sunday, MAY 7th @10am

Sunday, JULY 23RD @10am

Diane Weimer’s house

All members are encouraged and welcome to attend rsvp to [Diaweimer@gmail.com](mailto:Diaweimer@gmail.com)

**Melinda Alexander**  
**Memorial Bench Dedication and Reception**



**Saturday, June 10th, 2017 at 11:00 am**  
 Irvine Fine Arts Center / Heritage Park  
 14321 Yale Avenue  
 Irvine, CA 92604

Please bring a photograph and/or special memories of Melinda to be added to a special memory book that will be assembled at the event and given to the family.

Want to promote an event, have some news to share, send an email to [massc.editor@gmail.com](mailto:massc.editor@gmail.com)

# MASSC Video Library Now Available on DVD

The MASSC video library currently has 20 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.

- Elise Preiss - Enameling with Decals
- Pauline Warg- Carved Bezels
- Jillian Moore - Resin in 3D
- Sarah Doremus- Kinetic Jewelry
- Charity Hall - The Brooch Approach
- Demo Day 2011 - 5 demos
- NC Black Micro-Shell Forming
- 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 Forming
- 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
- Jeanne Jerousek McAninch - Chain Making

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.

## Petsmith

"My "studio" doesn't have a wall/door and cannot be closed off from the rest of the house. There is no way to not have Petsmiths in it. My two rescue siblings, Tom and Jeri, are under the impression (maybe because it's always a mess) that it's their job to make sure I keep a tidy bench. I have not been able



to convince them otherwise. They are quite certain that anything left sitting out must have been left there for their enjoyment. Whether it's easy to carry away in their mouth or something that would make a perfect

fair game. Helpers extraordinaire."

Share your petsmith with our members, send a photo with a brief note to [massc.editor@gmail.com](mailto:massc.editor@gmail.com)

### Did you change your email?

Don't miss your MASSC newsletter and workshop announcements. Send changes to Monica Branstorm @