



IMASSC

Newsletter
April 2021.

Presidents Message



Greetings Fellow Metalsmiths!

We are part way through the year and things are looking up! We're seeing more places opening their doors and in-person classes are starting to pop up all over the map. MASSC will not be holding or sponsoring any in-person workshops in 2021, but several of our members are, including [Diane Weimer](#) and [Nohline L'Ecuyer](#) among others on page 6. You can check out their websites and inquire about Covid related safety measures they have in place to keep you safe. MASSC is looking forward to bringing you in-person workshops again in 2022.

Meanwhile, we have a bunch of fun stuff coming up including two events that I am really looking forward to.

The DTLA Jewelry District Tour obviously can't happen this year, BUT we have created a virtual version of this event! This has enabled us to feature several vendors that are not from Downtown LA.

Introducing the **Virtual Jewelry Industry Vendor Tour!**

Now, we obviously can't invite everybody to be a presenter at this event (we'd be at our computers watching all day long!) but we did select over 12 companies to "visit" including AllCraft, Rio Grande, A to Z tools, Jewelry Tool & Supply Company...just to name a few. We are also bringing you a stone setter & fabricator, a caster, a plater, a metal water-jet cutter, and a (non-metal) laser cutter & print shop. I can't even begin to tell you how excited I personally am to bring this event to you!

We are also putting together a very special Panel Discussion in May that's "All About Glue". Look for more information on that in the next newsletter.

In June we have the Summertime Show & Tell, and a sequel to the Swap & Shop in July!

We'll see you soon! Until then stay safe.

~Angelina



Letter from the Editor: Erin Proctor

This issue is full of bench tips, community member events and workshops on offer, an all new Monthly Makers Challenge and more details about our first ever virtual vendor tour! We've also got a new Monthly Giveaway to introduce where members can enter to win fabulous prizes!

I hope you enjoy! If you read something that inspires some thoughts or questions, please reach out!

We always want to hear from our members!

Are you planning an event, a sale, or an upcoming workshop?

Would you like to post it in the Events section of our monthly newsletter??

MASSC members can email the address below any time with details and photos and the event will be posted in an upcoming newsletter for all to see!

We want to hear all about it!

Get in touch:

massc.editor@gmail.com

Upcoming MASSC Sponsored Events

Sunday, April 18th 10:00am-2:30pm



Virtual Jewelry Vendor Tour!

Our annual Jewelry District Vendor Tour is going virtual! Join us for a Sunday “stroll” across the United States as we visit a wide variety of industry services and specialists. We will be introduced to stone setters, plating professionals, water jet and laser cutting services, tools and findings suppliers, precious metal refining services and more!

This awesome event is FREE for MASSC Members so if you haven't renewed your membership for this year, now is the time! Join MASSC, and then Register for the tour!

JOIN MASSC

**REGISTER
FOR TOUR**

More to look forward to:

Panel Discussion: All About Glue!

May 22 @ 10am



Monthly Makers Challenge Share

June 5th @ 10am



MASSC Board Meeting

June 12th @ 10am



Summer Show & Tell

June 27th @ 12pm



Summer Swap & Shop

July 11th @ 10am



****All events are virtual, via Zoom****

MASSC Sponsored Events...Continued



This months Makers Challenge: Animal Theme!

We had a tricky project last month so this time around we're easing up a bit and challenging you with a fun theme: Animals! You can use any materials you'd like in this project, and the piece can be anything you can imagine! It can be wearable, a vessel, a purely sculptural or decorative object...the only requirement this month is that it somehow depicts an animal theme.

That is, of course, open to interpretation as well. You can incorporate animal prints, or use animal inspired silhouettes. Your piece can be a reliquary to honor a cherished pet, an animal portrait, a charm bracelet featuring the names of all of your cats, past and present. This project should yield a wide variety of results and is appropriate for any skill level so put on your leopard-print thinking cap and jump in on this months challenge!



These monthly challenges are super casual and aimed to inspire and keep those creative juices flowing. The friendly competition is open to everybody, and I can't wait to meet up with you all in June for our Zoom Makers Challenge Sharing session where we will get to see all of our inspiring creations!

If this share session is anything like that last one, there will be interesting discussions on techniques and supplies beyond the specific project itself. We always end up with a lively talk and come away learning about some little tip or trick we hadn't known before.

RSVP below, and get to work!

Since the pieces for our big annual Metals Challenge competition are due at the end of this month, we're extending this months Makers Challenge to last thru May.

**Join us on Saturday, June 5th at
10am for our Zoom sharing session:**

**TAKE THE
CHALLENGE**



Events/Classes hosted by our Members

(non-MASSC Sponsored)

Nohline L'Ecuyer/The Loft Jewelry Studio:

Enamel with Linda Darty, July 15-19
Stone Cutting with Michael Boyd, October 22-26
And more...

<https://www.theloftjewelrystudio.com>

Diane Weimer:

Advanced Blanking Dies with Jayne Redman, April 23-26
Drawing On Metal with Deb Karesh, May 15/16 and 22/23
And more...

<https://dianeweimer.com/collections/workshops>

Anne Wolf:

Twisting Mokume, June 26-27
And more...

<https://www.annevillestudio.com>

Corliss Rose:

Beaded Mosaic Workshop, May 1
And more...

<https://2roses.com>

Kent Raible:

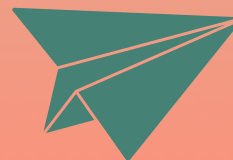
Architecture of a Ring, Dates ongoing online
Going Tubular, Dates ongoing online
And more...

<https://kentraible.com/online-programs/>

Erin Proctor:

Torch Fired Enameling, Direct Casting Methods, Bezel Setting,
Enamel Decals, Finishing, Shop Set Up
And More...

<http://www.saturn5studio.com>



Want to be added to this list? Email your info to:

massc.editor@gmail.com

Ask Betsy!

By Betsy Manheimer

Q: What can I do if my stone rocks back and forth when I try to set it in a bezel?

A: I hate when that happens!! Since you don't say what is creating the problem, try one of these solutions:



-If this happens because the back is not totally smooth, you can rub it on some wet sandpaper to smooth it out. This can take care of any small lumps or bumps that may be in the way. You can also use a diamond lap (on a flat lap machine) to do the same thing if you have the equipment. If it's just a minor adjustment it shouldn't affect the shoulder angles and thus the fit in the bezel will be maintained. But keep an eye on the bezel walls to make sure the height is still appropriate. If the stone sinks too low in the setting, consider putting a thin piece of cardboard, plastic or metal under it to lift it to the appropriate height.

-If, for some reason, the stone is just not cut well and is too uneven to just sand it down, you can use a number of materials to fill the void on the side that won't sit flat. You can cut some cardboard, plastic or metal to fit under the higher side so that it doesn't collapse when you push down on it.

Note regarding the above: While I mention using plastic and cardboard as options, if you are planning on selling or gifting the item, it's probably preferable to use metal. Cardboard can deteriorate if it gets wet (as can sawdust, which is what Native American jewelers traditionally use for this) and create a problem.

Plastic is okay if it's not a pricey piece, but if you're going to charge real money, it is more professional to use metal just in case there is ever a need for repair.

-If the stone is rocking because it's more of a pebble shape, you might consider creating a seat inside the bezel using wire. Form a ring of wire to fit inside the bezel that will sit on the backplate and take up the space created by the sloping sides. Pick a wire gauge that compensates for the void. This can be soldered in or you can just fit the stone over it. Once you've set the stone, it won't move even if it's not permanently affixed.

There are other materials some jewelers use for this problem, including polymer clay and epoxy, but these are the methods I have used and find that I can usually remedy the situation.

Stay well, keep making stuff!

Send your questions to askmassc@gmail.com

Member Spotlight

Teri Brudnak

My journey as an artist began in my childhood.

I grew up in the Mojave Desert in a small town called Hesperia. I went to kindergarten in a one room school house that had been around since the 1800s and fell in love with the Arts there. My high school teachers were painters and crafts people. I learned to draw and paint, work with leather, enamels and clay. At the end of my senior year I left for California State University Long Beach to major in Art. It was there I met some influential teachers like Alvin Pine and was drawn to the Jewelry/Metals department.

In the Jewelry Studio at CSULB, we worked until the early hours of the morning listening to electronic music from an FM station in LA and creating edgy fabrications in metal.

The training was solid in traditional skills but allowed us a lot of creative freedom. I went on to do my MFA there even though

I was encouraged to go to a different program for a new experience. Instead I began taking classes and workshops in science and technology. I did a series of classes through UCLA Extension in holography, took a class in scientific glassblowing, a gem faceting class and began work on a project using liquid crystals for image creation. In 1980, my MFA show incorporated



large aluminum panels that were carved and painted and overlaid with holograms.

I was also teaching at this time at Cypress College and East LA College. I taught Beginning Jewelry and 3D Design at CSULB for Al when he took his sabbatical. But finding work teaching was tough with state budget cuts. In time, I began to see business as a possible alternative.



One of my friends and fellow metals student, Karen McCreary, suggested we do a jewelry line. We applied and were accepted to ACC show in San Francisco. The line was made from patterned and painted acrylic. It was bold and modern. And we had a lot to

learn about production, marketing and pricing our work.

At first, we made everything by hand. Cutting, finishing and polishing were tedious. Once again, technology came into play. We found a sign company and had them laser cut our parts. We also found a materials finishing company and worked with them to tumble polish our parts.



Member Spotlight continued...

When we began to use more metals, there was an anodizing company for our aluminum. While doing a show in Santa Monica, we met the costume designer for Star Trek-The Next Generation and began a long run of making accessories for the show. It was exciting to visit the studio and see our work on the screen!

In 1992, there was an economic downturn. I thought about returning to teaching. My husband was teaching at a high school in Orange County and told me about jobs opening up for art teachers. But I needed a secondary credential. I went back to CSULB and this time I was ready to fully engage with art and technology. I began to learn Photoshop and work with an early 3D program. I would go on to establish a Digital Media program at a school in Orange County in 1999. The program I established taught Film, Graphic Design, Photography and Animation classes. Many of my students went on to promising careers in these fields.

In 2015, I found some surreal images online. Tracking them down, they turned out to be 3D Fractals. How could I get involved in making these incredibly fantastic worlds? There was a group online involved with 3D Fractals and I began to learn. Because of my background in 3D Animation, I was able to progress quickly with the media.

After I retired from teaching in 2016, it took me about three years to settle into a rhythm of working in my studio. I was able to take workshops and be a student again. In the past few years

I've taken jewelry and enameling workshops, learned to work with gold fused to steel, taken Lapidary classes and set up electro forming and electro etching areas in the studio.

In September 2020 my dear friend and former partner Karen passed away. It was a heavy loss. I helped her brother with the contents of her studio and came home with many jewelry parts we had made together. I plan to make a new line from some of these combined with more contemporary pieces. There is so much to work from.

My current projects are building several lines of jewelry I can market, cutting my own stones, continuing to draw from life models and using my unique digital images to create animations. It's enough to keep me busy for another lifetime. But it is exciting to wake up each day to a new creative challenge.



NEW: Monthly Giveaway!

John and Corliss Rose of 2Roses.com are partnering with MASSC to offer members a chance to win one of their beautiful pieces!

Here are the details on this month's one of a kind giveaway prize:

Fordite Cabochon

32mm H x 14mm W x 6mm D

High dome cabochon cut Fordite exhibiting two distinct color patterns:

Broad color field and Tight Interlacing.

This kind of a cut is much more rare and difficult to cut than single pattern low dome cabochons. Dual patterning only happens at the corners of the paint booth where overspray build-up happens bi-directionally.

This type of patterning occurs in less than 5% of all Fordite produced!

Contest Rules: One entry per member. Multiple entries and those from individuals whose membership is not current for 2021 will be disqualified (**Join/Renew membership on the next page!**) A winner will be drawn at random on or about May 1st, and will be announced in the next newsletter! MASSC will also contact the winner directly, so fill out your entry form carefully!



ENTER TO
WIN!

~Membership

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.

Here are some reasons to think about joining:

- If you bought a Metals Challenge Box you **MUST** be a current member to enter a piece into the competition!
- Receive Members Only access to video library!
- Special pricing on MASSC sponsored workshops & access to members only classes and events like the Jewelry District Vendor Tour (all events online this year)

Membership Dues for 2021

Individual \$50

Dual \$75

Student \$30

[JOIN HERE](#)

Consider Sponsoring A Student: 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](#)

Our Sponsors Are The Best!



Brad Smith: <http://www.bradsmithjewelry.com/>

2 Roses: <https://2roses.com/>

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

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

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

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2021 MASSC Board Member Directory

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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)

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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

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