

IMASSC

Newsletter February 2021





Letter from the Editor: Erin Proctor

Happy February! MASSC has got a lot of things in the works, and I hope you all enjoy this month's newsletter and the variety of little gems in the pages that follow!

We've got bench tips and tricks, photos from last month's Show & Tell along with a whole new monthly makers challenge to get your creative blood pumping! We've also got some exciting events planned for this month and next, and some fantastic non-MASSC sponsored events from our fellow members and sponsors to tell you about!

I want to hear from you too!

Send suggestions on topics you'd like covered in an upcoming newsletter.

Send photos and a paragraph or two about something you recently finished working on or a great class you took that you'd like to tell us about.

Did you learn something new recently that blew your mind??

Did you get a new tool that has changed your life??

We want to hear all about it!



Upcoming MASSC Sponsored Events

Sunday, February 28th at 10am

MASSC Board Meeting Live on Zoom

Open to all members



Join the MASSC Board at our next virtual board meeting and give us your two cents! All current MASSC members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

[RSVP HERE](#)

Saturday, March 13th 10am-12pm

Swap & Shop Live on Zoom

Open to everyone



Clean off that workbench and make room for something new at our first ever (Simulated) Swap & Shop, to be held safely and virtually on Zoom. Details will be sent out to all who RSVP so sign up to swap & shop below!



[RSVP HERE](#)

Sunday, March 21th 10am-12pm

Spring Studio Tours

Open to everyone



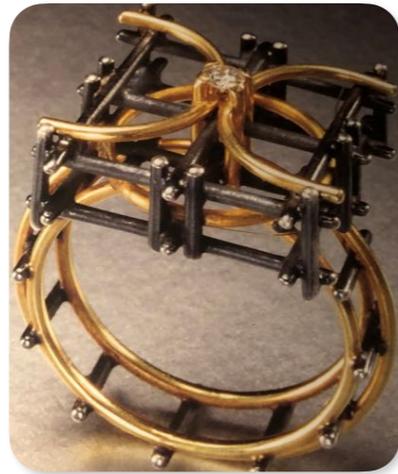
After you've swapped and shopped, why not sign up to show us your workspace? Let us have a little peek inside your creative world or just come to watch and be inspired!

[RSVP HERE](#)

MASSC Sponsored Events...Continued

Introducing this month's Makers Challenge:

Wire Work!



The sky is the limit!

The only limitation is you can only use **wire and solder**.

No stones, sheet or findings can be used.

Really? You don't believe you can do something only with wire???



Are you all wired up? Unable to untangle those wires into something cohesive and useful? Have we got the solution for you this month in our **Makers Challenge for February!**

Our challenge to you is to create something fabulous out of all those wires you have laying around.

Scrap wire, kinked wire, coiled wire, ½ round, square or round; 8, 12, 14, 16, 18 ...30 gage, copper, brass, sterling or gold!



Use whatever wire you've got for this fun little project!

Make anything: a box, a basket, earrings, bracelets, rings, chains, filigree or woven objects.



Roll it, cut it, drill it, hammer it, texture it, twist it, and link it. Get inspired by the wire pieces in the photos here, made by some well known artists!

Go create something fabulous!



Then **join us via Zoom on Wednesday, February 24th at 7pm** to show us what you've got!

[**CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE CHALLENGE**](#)

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 \$95-\$165 (+tax/shipping)

[MORE INFO](#)

Camera Systems for Online Teaching



February 27

Online Workshop **live** with Brad Smith

10am-4pm Pacific Time

Tuition \$95

Email Brad for more info:

[MORE INFO](#)

Rings: 360



March 6-7

Online Workshop with **live** Tim Lazure

Hosted by Diane Weimer

9:30a-4:30p Pacific Time

Tuition \$295

[MORE INFO](#)

Other Upcoming Events (non-MASSC Sponsored)

Stamped Mokume Gane Pendant



March 20-21

Online Workshop **live** with Anne Wolf

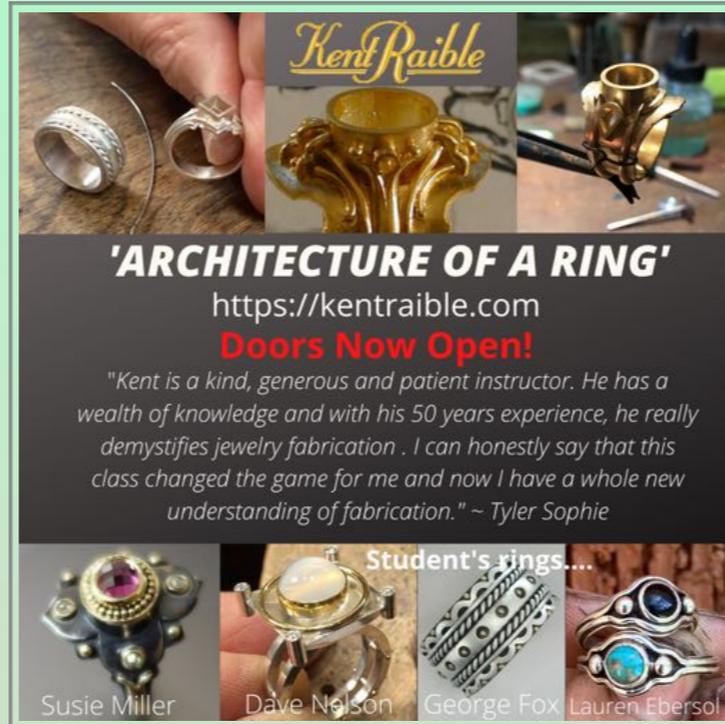
10am-4pm Pacific Time

Tuition \$295

kit fee \$55-\$105 (+tax/shipping)

[MORE INFO](#)

Architecture of a Ring



Dates are on-going

3 Month Online Course by Kent Raible

Access to course videos, Facebook Group, scheduled Zoom calls and downloadable course materials

Flat Rate & Monthly Tuition Options

[MORE INFO](#)

FREE Soldering Video Series!



Dates are on-going

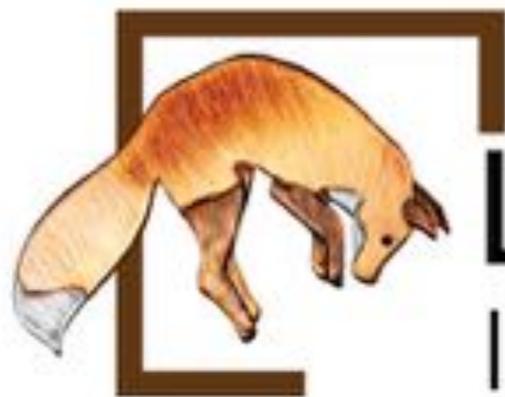
Free online video series by Kent Raible

Tips on Filing & Soldering

Tuition FREE!

[MORE INFO](#)

Introducing our newest partner: Little Metal Foxes!



Little Metal Foxes
Interactive Virtual Classes

INTERACTIVE VIRTUAL CLASSES

This team of 3 women jewelers (Helen, Jennifer, and Julia) are offering a wide range of classes via Zoom. Classes are intimate, limited to 8-12 people and are set up as demos, downloadable materials list, and an option to either watch and work on your own or work along side the teacher as they provide procedures and insights on the process being featured in each class. There is plenty of time to ask questions and to interact with the other students in the class.

This month, Little Metal Foxes is offering MASSC members a one-time use 20% off coupon code! You can purchase as many classes as you'd like at one time, and the coupon code will apply to your cart total, so use it to try one class, or add a bunch of classes to your cart and enjoy the savings on your entire cart total!

Current MASSC members will receive the coupon code in a separate email...keep your eyes peeled!

Having taken several classes already, I have signed up for a few more and can attest to their wealth of knowledge and ability to teach beginner to advanced craftsman. Please give them a try! In a time when we are unable to attend live classes, I have found this to be the next best thing. I hope you are able to find something of interest to keep your creativity flowing!

-Virginia Hyatt

[VISIT THEIR WEBSITE FOR
CLASS INFO](#)

Ask Betsy!

By Betsy Manheimer

Q: How do I keep metal dust from covering the lines I'm trying to follow when I'm sawing? I'm using rubber cement to glue the design on the metal, but the adhesive seems to just attract the filings and I can't see where I'm going!

A: It is amazing how much dust can be generated from a saw stroke! It can be annoying, but there are a few ways of dealing with it. You can use your fingers to brush the particles away, but sometimes it's hard to get close enough to the saw blade. There are a number of things you can use to keep the area clean and, while many of these involved having to stop and start, a couple of them permit you to saw continuously. Try one of the following to see if it works for you.

-Drinking straw. Some folks keep a straw in their mouth while filing so they can blow the filings out of the way while they are working. If it's uncomfortable for you to do this due to positioning or coordination, you can always keep the straw nearby and every few strokes you can use it to blow away the particles.

-Turkey baster. This is the same principle as the straw. You probably can't hold it in your mouth, but you can still stop when necessary and blow the dust away.

-Canned air. If you keep a canister of canned air at your workspace, you can give it a blast every once in a while to clear the area.

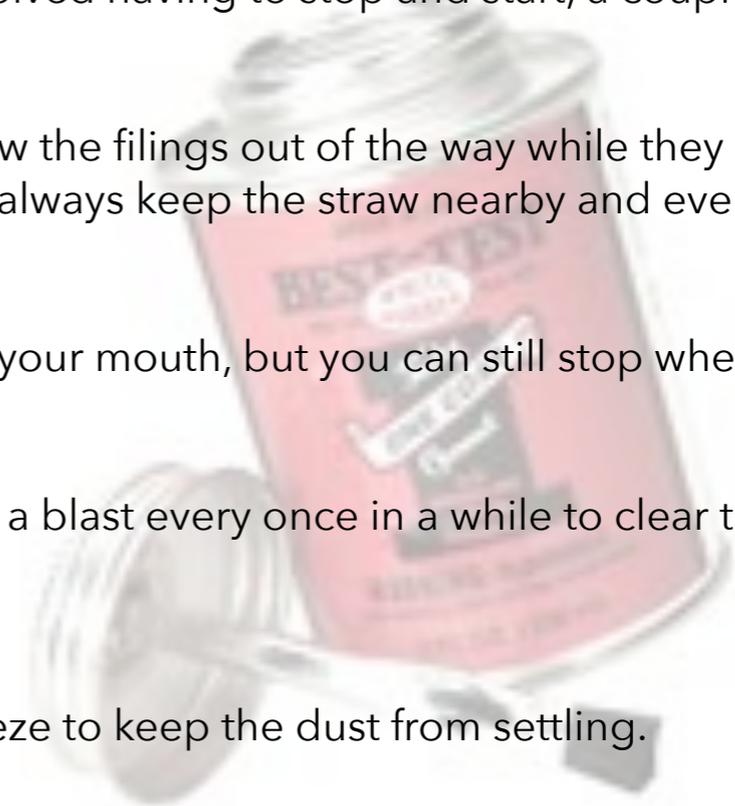
-Brushes. You can keep a small brush next to your work and brush it as necessary.

-Fan. Some people set up a fan near their bench pin that will provide a steady breeze to keep the dust from settling.

I have found that rubber cement stays pretty tacky and holds on to the filings, so I tend to use sticker paper to print my designs. It doesn't separate from the metal as easily and is not as sticky at the edges. You can also use a transfer method to transfer the design directly onto the metal (which I will address in another column) but I find the paper is a better contrast for something like sawing or piercing.

I also keep pieces of paper next to my work and on my lap so that I can collect as much of the dust as possible. If you keep the filings, you can use them later to create textures on metal and get some really nice surface decorations by fusing them onto sheet metal.

Send your questions to askmassc@gmail.com!



Bench Tips

from Brad Smith

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



BEZEL CLOSER

A bezel closer is a steel punch that makes quick work out of pushing the metal down over a round stone and burnishing it. It works with regular bezels, with tube settings, and with prong settings. Stones can be set in as little as 30 seconds.

The working end is a concave cavity that fits over the bezel or prong setting and is pushed and twisted to capture the stone. Sets can be purchased but are expensive and contain many sizes you will probably never use. If all you need is one or two sizes, here's how you can make them yourself.

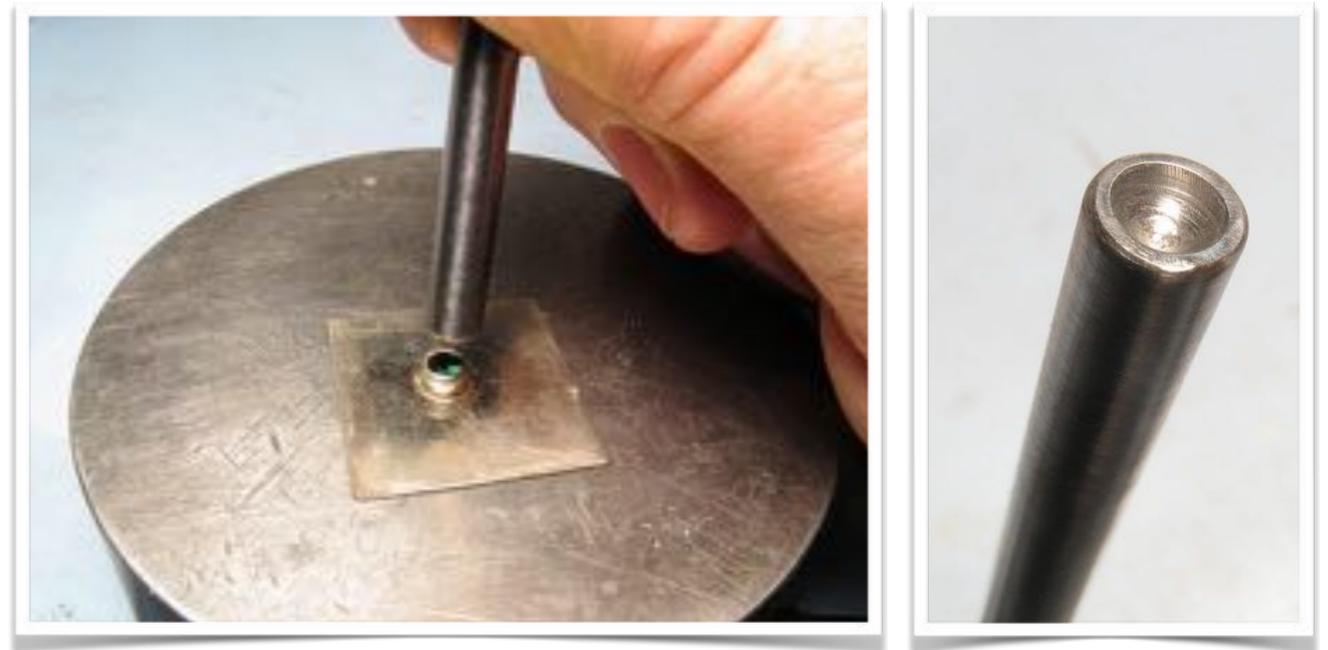
Find a round steel rod or bolt a little larger in diameter than your bezel cup or prong setting. Cut a 5 inch length. File both ends flat. Locate the center of one end, center punch a divot, and drill a small pilot hole about 5 mm deep. Remember to use a little oil as lubricant when cutting steel.

Select a ball bur a bit larger than the bezel. Enlarge the pilot hole to a full hemispherical cavity. Test for proper fit with your bezel. Bezel should first contact the cavity about a third of the way in. When the size is correct, polish the

cavity using Zam on a length of chopstick in your flexshaft. If the tool is not polished, it will leave scratches on your bezel or prongs.

When using the tool, the first step is to capture the stone correctly. I usually work by hand and push the punch straight down over the bezel or prongs. This causes the metal to start bending over the stone. Next, if it's a small stone, I inspect with a lens to be sure the stone is staying level. This is repeated until the stone is seated on its bearing and can't move anymore.

Next you want to force the metal down onto the stone uniformly all the way around. While this can be done by hand, I often gently tap the punch with a hammer. Finally, I burnish the bezel by twisting the punch around.



Do you have a nifty bench tip?

Email your tip with a photo or two to: massc.editor@gmail.com

Winter Show & Tell Highlights

By Erin Proctor

We brewed our coffee, grabbed a snack and huddled in front of our screens once again to meet up on Zoom for a fabulous Show & Tell event on January 16th.

During this session, members showed off some of the pieces they've been working on, and many of us decided to ring in the new year by taking part in our first ever (and hopefully on-going) monthly challenge by making a jingle bell!

We had over 30 attendees and as always, it was just lovely to chat and share with such creative friends. One participant, Nakisa Heshmati, had this to say:

"I attended the MASSC zoom meeting "Show and Tell" on 01/16. MASSC's virtual gatherings are always great. I'm so happy to be part of this group of amazing and talented people.

I'm truly inspired when we get to see the beautiful projects that the other members have created. I always learn something new and I leave inspired and with an idea or two for my next project. Thank you!"

Nakisa shared a pretty impressive piece of her own, shown here, along with a few other shots of the pieces that were on display.



Step Bezel Set Malachite and Tube Set Emerald Pendant by Nakisa Heshmati (front)



Back of Nakisa's Malachite piece



Silver Locket by Michelle Ross



Back of Michelle's locket



Jingle Bell by Erin Proctor



Platinum Engagement Ring by Erin Proctor

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!

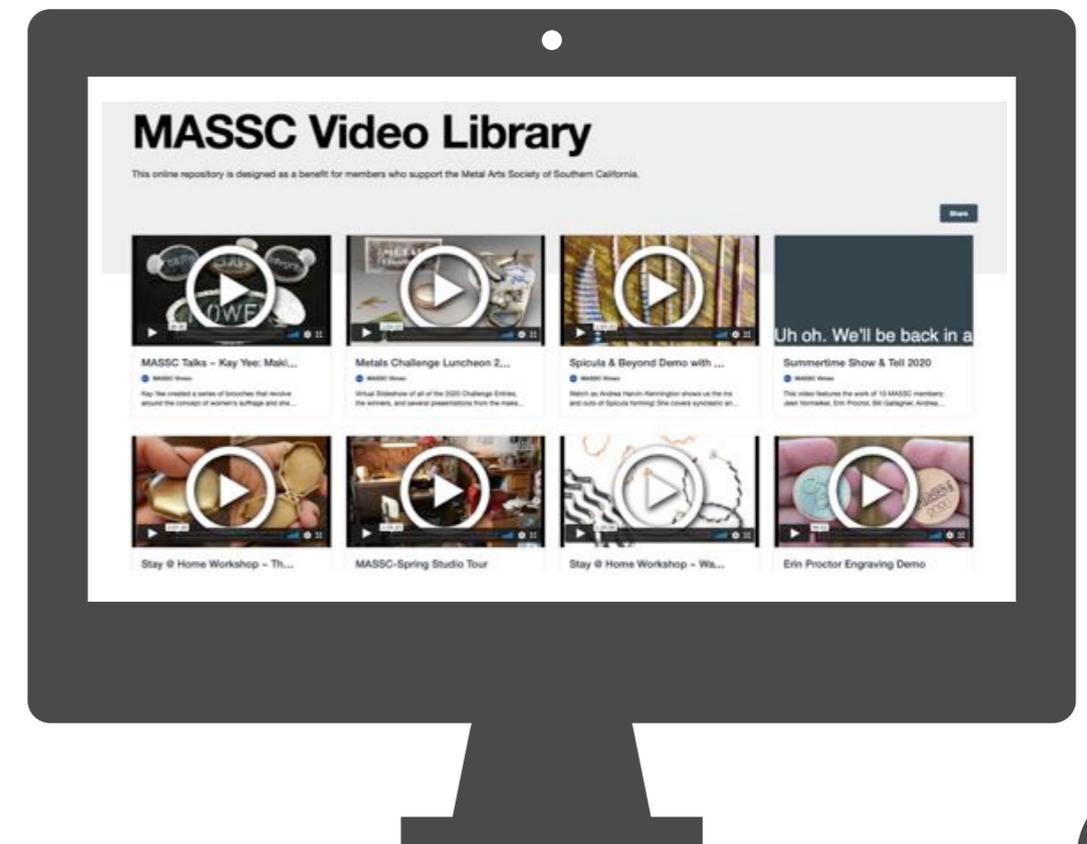
[CLICK HERE TO CHECK IT OUT!](#)

JUST ADDED:

- **Zooming with MASSC: A tutorial on the basics for participating in Zoom events, including tips on how to screen share, mute etiquette, and more!**

Coming Soon:

Winter Show & Tell (and Jingle Bell Challenge)



~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**

Duel **\$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](#)

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/>

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MASSC Merch Shop: Available on massconline.com



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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)

Members At Large:

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

Trish McAleer tmcaleer50@gmail.com

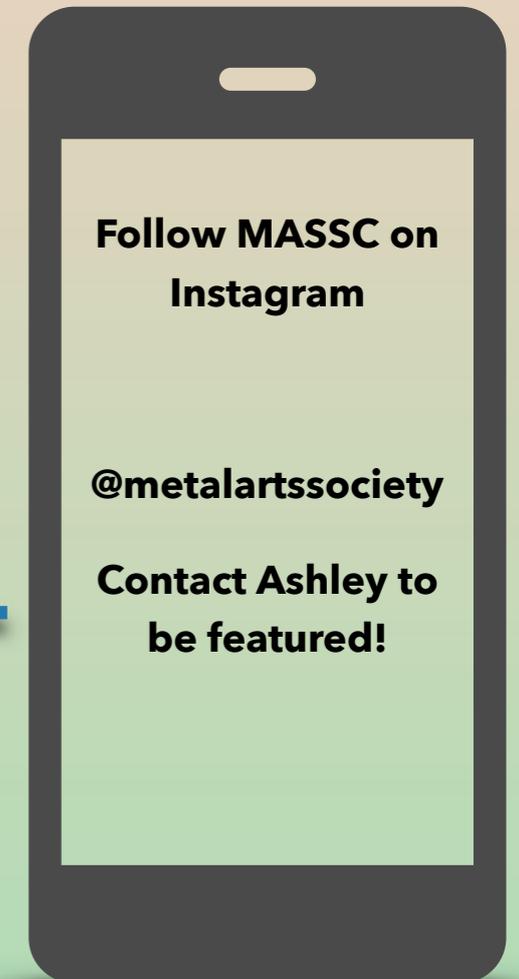
Erin Proctor, Newsletter Editor massc.editor@gmail.com

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



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