

# The Forum

May 2019



Vol. 21, No. 5

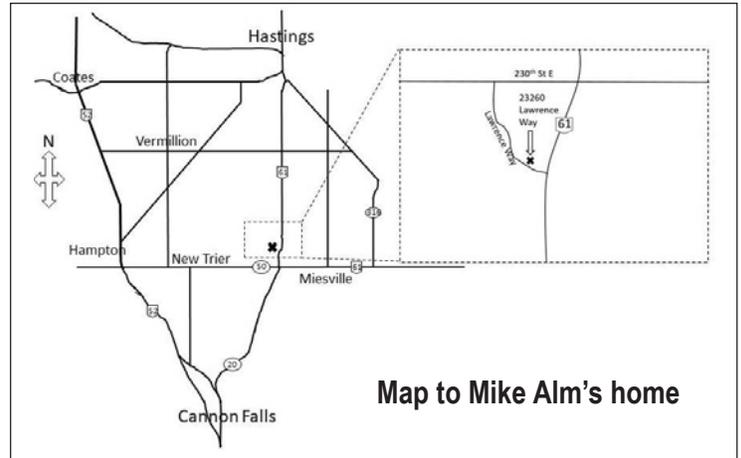
## June Guild meeting set for Wednesday, June 12...bring your blacksmithing talents and your appetites!

On Wednesday, June 12 Guild members and their families will meet at the home of Mike Alm, 23260 Lawrence Way, Hastings, MN. Mike encourages everyone to plan on spending at least the day but he also welcomes campers, tailgaters, anyone with a forge who wants to demonstrate their craft, cook something up on the “barby”—basically plan on a party! Mike has become “famous” for his barbequed ribs, so be sure to bring your appetites.

Mike’s place will be open all day. Plans for demonstrations are still pending. Watch for details in the June Forum.

The usual evening potluck will begin at 6:30 pm (bring a dish to pass), followed by a business meeting. Be sure to bring your show and tell items too.

If you have questions, contact meeting champion John McDonald at 651-437-5347.



Map to Mike Alm's home

## April demo event: MN Zoo Farm Babies weekend

*Guild members spent weekends during April at the MN Zoo doing demonstrations for the public at their “Farm Babies” event. Photos show the venue, some of the activities and some of the members who did demos. Thanks to Gene Diekmann for sharing the photos.*

When we were there on Easter weekend, the Zoo staff informed us that 14,000 (that is 14 thousand) people came through the Zoo for the special events.

There were a number of people to whom we spoke which we are pretty confident will be joining our membership as a result of our putting on this demo.

Thanks to Rick Wessling for championing and coordinating the volunteers for these four weekends full of demonstrations to the public.

Thanks to other Guild members who joined in on the demos. They made it a thoroughly enjoyable and educational time.

And thanks to the MN Zoo staff for giving us such a great venue and setting up a “comfortable” place for us to work.

— Gene Diekmann



This shelter that the MN Zoo provides for us each year kept us dry but didn't do much to keep us warm on the frosty and windy days of blacksmithing.



This photo was from April 27, and it was actually snowing in the picture.



Gordon Barr and Rick Wessling “hard at it.”



Martin Pansch forged a square hole that started out as a round hole, which he had drilled into the end of this bar. No drift needed. That was quite a nifty trick in moving metal.



We had a non-stop stream of people watching us and asking great questions “all day long”.



Jesse Gavin is pictured here with one of his works of art: a heart-shaped wedding trivet.

Spotlighting a member of The Guild of Metalsmiths who has generously shared knowledge, talent, and time as a class instructor for TGoM.

*...sharing our passion for metalworking!*



## My BIO: Jesse Gavin

After serving six years in the US Navy, I came home and went to attend college. While there I spent time with my dad in his shop. It worked out well as he is left handed and I am right handed. We were able to work from opposite sides of the anvil, alternating our use of the forge, anvil, tongs and hammers. I took my meager shop with me when I went on to grad school. However, any time I'd come home, Dad and I were able to jump right back in to working together in the shop.

After joining the TGoM Program and Education Committees, I was volunteered for the lead instructor of the Handled Struck Tools Class, which is usually given in December, and I have been teaching it ever since. After accepting a job in the Madison, Wisconsin area, I worked out of my shop. But I also came home to make sure my horse (and family) still knew who I was, so I was able to get in Dad's shop periodically. Spending five years in Madison, driving back and forth

nearly every weekend, made me want to move closer to home, which I did when I accepted a job in Hudson.

Once back in the area, I became more active in the Guild again. I re-joined the Education and Program Committees; then became a board member. I champion the classes Dad wants to offer and assist him. Recently, I have taken on the responsibility of the "Coffee Mess" and hauling the trailer to the membership meetings. I have even shanghaied my wife into taking on the treasurer's duties, and into writing this bio for me! She's so awesome. I'm the luckiest man on earth.

**Q: How long have you been blacksmithing?** I started blacksmithing when I got out of the US Navy in 1997. My dad taught me – him standing on one side of the anvil and me on the other. Since he is left handed and I'm right handed the anvil - all the tools are laid down on the bench in basically the same place. This way made it was easy to watch him do the next step and then for me to follow suit. We still occasionally work this same way today.

**Q: Teaching?** I have helped with the basics class several years ago but started teaching the handled struck tools class – when Herb Fick voluntold me as the class lead instructor. We have been teaching it ever since utilizing different styles of treadle hammers to punch the eye in the tool for the handles. I have also taught the Altoids tin repousse class at the fall conference.

**Q: What drives you to teach?** After being in the Navy – I firmly believe in training your replacement. Knowledge should never be withheld from the 'new guy'. If we don't train them – how are they supposed to take our place – so we can go eat lunch, so we can go down to the swap meet to buy more tools, talk to the public at demonstrations or take our place teaching their replacement.

**Q: What is the most common misconception that novice smiths have about the craft?** I think the biggest misconception is that the piece you just finished isn't good enough to bring to a meeting or the fall conference to show off. If it is perfect – bring it and show it off. If it isn't – bring it and it gives you an opportunity to find out what you could do differently. It might be the order the steps are done in or a different tool could be made to make the process easier.

**Q: Any tips for a new blacksmith?** Practice, practice, practice – iron is cheap. Make it and if you don't like it, cut it off and make another one. Don't get frustrated when one piece doesn't work out as intended. It's not always the finished product that is most important – sometimes you just need to figure out the process of how it is made, before you make the finished piece.

**Q: What is the most important quality of a successful blacksmith?** A successful blacksmith gets out to their shop as often as they can. Makes what they can and always strives to be better – it could be trying to be faster or more efficient in making what they need to make. They also should reach beyond their current skill set and try something new – a new process or in making a new item.

**Q: What is your favorite thing to make?** I like making things that are typically not made from iron – flowers or animals.

**Q: Most challenging project?** I made a wedding bouquet all out of stainless steel a couple of years ago. Getting the flowers and leaves to fill in properly was the biggest challenge.

**Q: Who did you learn from?** I learned from my dad and have also taken a bunch of classes through the guild.

**Q: Is there a memorable lesson or anecdote you'd like to share?** The biggest lesson I've learned is now an article titled 'When is it done' – should be out soon.

**Q: Finish this sentence: If I wasn't smithing, I would be...**wondering what to do with all the extra space in my shop.

# Hammer Class: Making a Blacksmith Hammer

Saturday, May 4, 2019, 9 am to 4:30 pm

Location: Minnesota School of Horseshoeing (map page 7)

Cost: \$60

Instructors: Jim Moenck and crew

Class size: Maximum students: 8 Minimum students: 6

This class will teach you the skills you need to make a hammer. With this knowledge you will then be able to expand your tool chest with other handled tools. All handled tools such as top fullers, punches and flatters start with this same process. We will begin with a piece of steel, punch the eye, shape both striking ends, heat treat and put the handle on. You will go home with your own hammer. There will be an assortment of weights to choose from so that you can make a hammer that fits you and your needs.

**Tools and Equipment or other items participants are to bring to the class:** Your favorite hammers: one for striking hot metal, one for striking punches and drifts, and a sledge for striking if you have one. All other tools will be furnished.

**Safety Equipment** – The normal safety equipment is required.

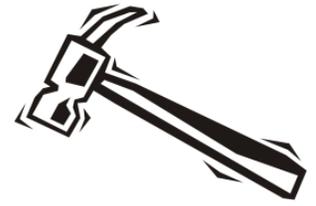
**Lunch Arrangements:** Bring your own bag lunch or eat out at one of the local establishments.

**To register for this class,** send your check for \$60 made out to “Guild of Metalsmiths” and your complete contact info to Jim Moenck at the address below.

Jim Moenck  
2078 120<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Dresser, WI 54009

Contact Jim if you have questions: [jrmoenck@yahoo.com](mailto:jrmoenck@yahoo.com) or 715-483-5054

Acceptance priority for this class will be determined by postmark.



**Fancy Twisting Class is FULL!** Saturday, June 1, 2019, 9:00 am at Pansch Farm.

## Annual TGoM Spring 2019 Hammer-In June 14, 15, 16: Nowthen Blacksmith Shop

Friday, June 14: 7:30-11:00pm, Saturday, June 15: All Day, Sunday, June 16: 8am till 4:00 pm

Hot stuff will be happening at the annual Spring Hammer-in taking place at the Nowthen Historical Power Association Blacksmith Shop (map below) where we will focus our efforts on the Fall Conference contest: trivets. Come and hang out with a bunch of your friends, make new friends, and share/learn some new skills.

- ✓ **Beginners/Newbies welcome to come and try your hand at smithing**
- ✓ Camping on-site is available Friday & Saturday night on primitive sites - port-a-potties on site
- ✓ Five forges are open for use
- ✓ Coal will be provided
- ✓ Bring any examples you have to share with others
- ✓ Bring your own tools if you have them. Some limited steel stock is available, but if you need specific sizes feel free to bring your own steel, scrap pieces ok.

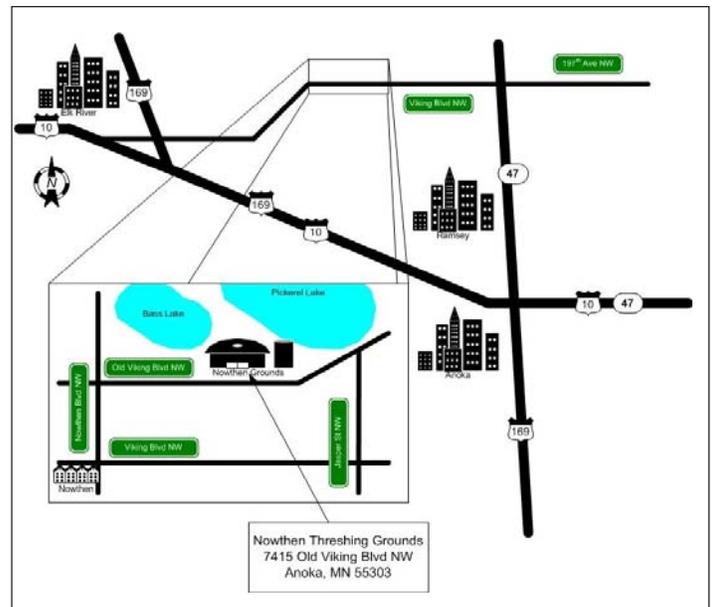
This year we will have some demonstrations and discussions of trivets in preparation for the contest at this year's Madness (Fall Conference.) Questions about how to design or build a trivet? This event will hopefully give you some inspiration to help you to come up with your own design for the Fall Conference contest and help you learn how to make it.

If you have some skills in the creation of a trivet and would like to demo or have any questions about the event, please contact: Rich Herman at 651-322-1623 or at [richherman651@gmail.com](mailto:richherman651@gmail.com).

There is no charge to participate in this event. The Nowthen Power Show grounds are located at 7415 Old Viking Blvd, Nowthen, MN.



A fine example of a trivet that can be forged for the Fall Conference trivet contest.





# Classes

**June 2019 – May 2020**

Subject to change until registration opens with publication in *The Forum*  
 Guild members are given priority in the enrollment process

Class Date	Class Name	Location	Month Registration Opens
<b>June 2019</b>			
1	Fancy Twists (skills/techniques)	Young America	open
14-16	Open Forge: Nowthen Spring Hammer-In	Nowthen (North of Anoka)	open
<b>August 2019</b>			
3	(tentative) Taste of Blacksmithing	Anoka	July?
24	Knife Tongs (project)	Anoka	June
<b>September 2019</b>			
7-8	Mini-Lancashire Hacksaw (project), 2-day	Young America	June
19-20	Pre-conference class, 2-day	Hastings area	June
29	Instructor workshop	Anoka	--
<b>October 2019</b>			
?	(tentative) Bronze Casting, mult. Days	St. Paul	July
5, 12, 19	Beginner Blacksmithing, 3-day class	Anoka	August
26	Tongs (project)	Cleveland (near Mankato)	July
26-27	Oxy/Acetylene Welding (skills), 2-day	Eagan	July
<b>November 2019</b>			
2, 9, 16	Beginner Blacksmithing, 3-day class	Cleveland (near Mankato)	September
16-17	Joinery (skills/techniques), 2-day	Anoka	August
23	Fireplace Tools (project)	Anoka	August
<b>December 2019</b>			
7	Struck Tools (project)	Anoka	September
<b>January 2020</b>			
4, 11, 18	Beginner Blacksmithing, 3-day class	Anoka	November
25	Mystery Tongs Class, style TBD (project)	Anoka	October
<b>February 2020</b>			
1, 8, 15	Beginner Blacksmithing, 3-day class	Cleveland (near Mankato)	December
22-23	Forge Welding (skills/techniques), 2-day	Anoka	November
29	(tentative) Taste of Blacksmithing	Anoka	December?
<b>March 2020</b>			
7-8	Zombie Chopper Knife (project), 2-day	Anoka	December
21,28	Beginner Blacksmithing, days 1 &2	Anoka	January
<b>April 2020</b>			
4	Beginner Blacksmithing, 3 <sup>rd</sup> of 3-day class	Anoka	
25	Forge Tools (project)	Cleveland (near Mankato)	January
<b>May 2020</b>			
2	Hammer-making (project)	Anoka	February

# TGoM Accomplishments!



## Beginning blacksmithing class held at Larry Wasmund's shop on April 6, 13, and 20

Kneeling, left to right: Peter Haakonson, Mark Weiss, John Zempel, standing Steve Lamphere, Simon Dragert, David Dragert, and Jacob Dayneko.

**Instructors** (not pictured): Larry Wasmund, Adam Robrahn and new instructor Joe Bartz

## Congratulations to the beginning blacksmithing class students at The Minnesota School of Horseshoeing on April 6, 13, and 20, 2019

Joel and Colin Kelly  
Axel Sweeny  
Jeff and William Austin  
Frank Smith  
Russell Peterson  
Tim and Allison Stoebe  
Steven Morehead  
Ian Alexander

**Instructors**  
Gordon Barr  
Christina Dodge  
Rich Herman  
Marty Masters  
Rick Wessling

## For Sale

- 25# Little Giant power hammer. New style, serial number H-6915. That puts the manufacture date between 1940 - 1981; probable in the late 40's. This machine was rebuilt prior to me owning it, and has had little use since. Comes with original motor, flat and drawing dies and a brake that has not been installed. Asking price is \$3500.
- Coal forge built for the Mark Asprey class several years ago. It is 30" x 40", on two wheels and two legs so you can roll it around. It has a cast fire pot that is not cracked. It has an electric motor and an air gate, hood, and chimney extension. Also about 25 gallons of coal. Asking \$400.
- Treadle hammer from the first or second build done by the Guild. This is a swing arm type. Asking \$275.

Pictures are available upon request for any of the above.  
Contact Jim Moenck, 651-724-3403 or email [jrmoenck@gmail.com](mailto:jrmoenck@gmail.com).



## Trivet class, taught by Derrick Phillips and David Skaurud at the MN School of Horseshoeing April 7, 2019

Left-to-right: Jason Shockman, Christina Dodge, Derrick Phillips\* (in back), Bob Brown (in front), Lee Meilleur, Wesley Waring, Kevin Shudlick. Not pictured: David Skaurud\*

## Summer Demonstration Opportunities on the TGoM Horizon!



As summer finally approaches, The Guild of Metalsmiths Education Committee is working to compile a list of demonstration opportunities for our smiths to take a look at and volunteer for.

The first one is scheduled for May 18 and 19 at Dundas, MN. Herb Fick is champion for Armed Forces Day. (see below)

For the full summer demo op schedule, see the June Forum.

## Demo op: 8th Annual Armed Forces Day in Dundas

Demonstrators needed Saturday and Sunday, May 18 and 19 to staff the blacksmith shop at the Rice County Steam and Gas Engines grounds at Dundas MN for the third annual Armed Forces Day. It is a nice shop, but bring your own tools and material. Contact Herb Fick at [herb@phyque.com](mailto:herb@phyque.com) or 507 663 0569 or 507 649 1611 (Cell)

Herb says they are counting on us (TGoM) to show!  
<https://www.ricecountysteamandgas.com/armed-forces-day/>



## Badger Blacksmiths Spring Conference

The conference is on Saturday, May 4 at the Colfax Fair Grounds (FG) in Colfax, WI. From I-94 take Exit 52 (Elk Mound Exit) east to Highway 40. North on 40 to Colfax. First street after RR crossing is Railroad Street. Right or East on RR for one mile to FG on left. Cost is \$25 for non-members and \$20 for members. This year we are demonstrating blacksmithing fundamentals with an opportunity to practice those fundamentals. Safety gear is required for forgers. Evening meal is included in the registration. Contact John Grump at 715-829-4559 for more information.

Note: The information below is provided as a service for TGoM members. Members may submit items for sale and upcoming events that are considered relevant to our group, and they will be published as space permits. The Guild of Metalsmiths is not responsible for these items or events.

## Tunnel Mill Crafts 2019 Upcoming Classes

We are located in southern Minnesota near Spring Valley. For more information on any of the classes contact us at [jc-adams@msn.com](mailto:jc-adams@msn.com), or call 507-289-4189 Carol Adams.

### Line-up for 2019 at Tunnel Mill

**May 2, 3, 4, & 5 Combo class wood & metal: still openings for this class**

- The Slant Lid Tool Chest Woodwork Portion (Taught by Derek Olson)
- The Slant Lid Tool Chest Forging Portion (Taught by Tom Latane')



Combo tool chest

**May 17, 18 & 19 Box padlock class with Tom Latane' - still openings for this class**

Participants in this class will construct an early style (15th -17th century) padlock in which a bolt secures a hasp on the front of the case.

**May 31, June 1 & 2 Repousse' Douglas Pryor**

We are welcoming Douglas Pryor back for his third year with us. This year Douglas is doing "scientific illustrations" including plants, and insects. Should be a very interesting class as usual.



Pryor repousse'

**June 7, 8 & 9 Steel trivet or side table with Jennifer Horn**

Jennifer Horn is a Certified Journeyman Farrier and artistic Blacksmith who has been serving the northern Michigan horse owner community since 1990. Jennifer will teach us how to build an end table with round pass throughs, warps, square corners, forge welds, and other traditional metalworking techniques.

**August 17, 18, 19, Make Damascus (layered steel) with Ric Furrer-Door County Blacksmith**

**October 11, 12 & 13 Decorated hammer heads with Tom Latane'**

Students will forge a hammer head and then chase the cold steel to ornament the form. Acanthus leaf, greenman face, and rope border motifs will be demonstrated. Skill level- Intermediate to advanced.

**2020 Peter Ross & Mark Aspery: More details to follow on website: [www.tunnelmillcrafts.com](http://www.tunnelmillcrafts.com)**

## Sandy Lake Forge on Raspberry Island

I would like to announce the following metal classes at Sandy Lake Forge on Raspberry Island. These multi-day classes plus other single day classes will be offered through Raspberry Island Folk School.

**Beginner's Pattern-welded Steel "Damascus" May 18-19, 2019**

Jeff Harper will be teaching a two day beginner's class on forge welding billets to be used for blades or tools.

**Viking Era Riveted Tool Chest and Forged Hardware June 10, 11, 12, 2019**

Tom Latane' will be teaching a three day class on riving boards from an oak log and building a tool chest with forged hardware.

**Tin Smithing Classes June 10, 11, 12**

Kitty Latane' will be teaching 3 days of tin smithing, including Tin Smithing a Pierced Tin Lantern. Sign up for one or more days.

**For details go to:**

<https://raspberrylakefolkschool.blogspot.com/>

**Contact: Gary Hill at: 218-851-6085 or email:**

[hillx001@umn.edu](mailto:hillx001@umn.edu)

## Folk Art Exhibition Notice

The Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah Iowa has added a metalworking category to their annual Folk Art in the Norwegian Tradition exhibit which runs this year from June 21 through July 27. Blacksmiths creating work inspired by traditional Norwegian style, motif, or process are encouraged to enter. Entries must be received between May 1 and May 22. The contact person at the Vesterheim Museum is Lea Lovelace at [llovelace@vesterheim.org](mailto:llovelace@vesterheim.org) 563-382-9681.

I have been lobbying for this category for years. I hope all the smiths making Viking axes or Norse tools, hardware and lighting will enter this show. There are prizes in each category and items can be for sale. Let's show a new audience what blacksmiths can do!

**For information go to:**

<https://vesterheim.org/exhibit/national-norwegian-american-folk-art-in-exhibition>

— Tom Latané'

# Goings on...a listing of TGoM events at a glance



- All membership meetings are the second Wednesday of February, April, June, August, and October. Date for December will be announced. For these meetings a potluck meal begins at 6:30 pm and the business meeting begins at 7, with a demonstration or activity starting around 8 (times approximate).
- Education Comm. meets first Thursday of each month. Contact Christina Dodge, co-chair: [christina.gldmbr@gmail.com](mailto:christina.gldmbr@gmail.com)
- Program Comm. meetings are 7 pm the third Thursday monthly. Derrick Phillips, chair [derrick\\_phillips@q.com](mailto:derrick_phillips@q.com)
- All board meetings are the second Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Potluck meal begins at 6:30, with meeting starting at 7 pm.

## Events in May 2019

- May 4, Hammer Making Class, MN School of Horseshoeing
- May 4, Badger Blacksmiths Spring Conference, Colfax WI
- May 18-19, Armed Forces Day in Dundas, MN demo op-Herb Fick

## Events in June 2019

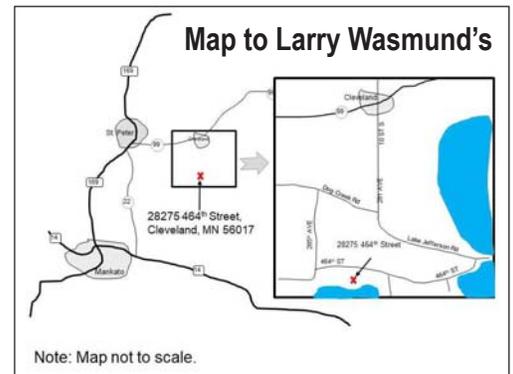
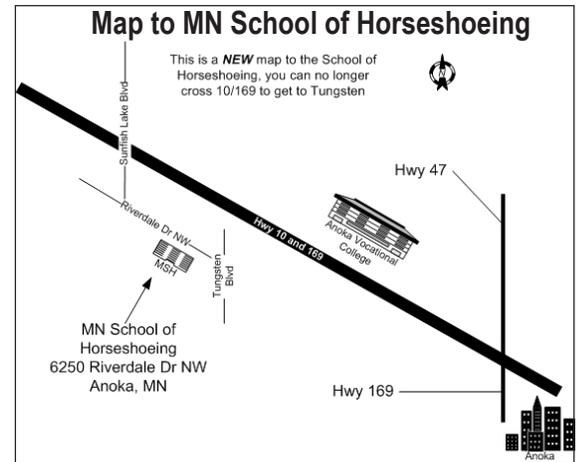
- June 1, Fancy Twisting Class, Pansch farm--FULL!
- June 12, Guild membership meeting, Mike Alm's place in Hastings
- June 14, 15, 16, Hammer-In at Nowthen--Rich Herman

## Events in July 2019

- July 18-21, Rice County Fair demo op-Lou Groth
- July 24-27, Rock County Fair demo op--Larry Wasmund
- July 26-28, Little Log House Antique Power Show demo op-Dick Carlson

## Events in August 2019

- August 9-11, Almelund Threshing Show demo op-Jim Moenck
- August 16-18, Nowthen Threshing Show demo op-Christina Dodge
- August 16-18, Butterfield Threshing Show demo op-Larry Wasmund



## Join The Guild of Metalsmiths

Send \$30 dues to the address below. Please circle if you want to be listed in our membership directory and/or check items you don't want listed.

The Guild of Metalsmiths  
PO Box 11423  
St. Paul MN 55111

**List Me**  
in the directory  
but don't list  
address - phones: home - work - fax - cell - email - web page  
(circle items above you DO NOT want published)

**Don't List Me**  
in the Directory

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary phone: \_\_\_\_\_

All memberships are family memberships. Persons of all ages, professionals and hobbyists, are invited to join. We do not sell our mailing list.

## ELECTRONIC FORUM

If you have not been receiving an email notification that The Forum is available, please verify that we have your correct email address. Contact Gordon Barr at [agbarr@aol.com](mailto:agbarr@aol.com).



Address Service Requested

If you have items to be included in The Forum, please send them to Georgia Myers, editor, by email to: [gldmyers@embarqmail.com](mailto:gldmyers@embarqmail.com) by the third Monday of the month, if possible.

## The Guild of Metalsmiths on the web

Visit our website at <http://www.metalsmith.org>

Looking for something? Try the search engine. On our home page, at the top of the right sidebar, enter your query and click on "Search."

May 2019

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Your membership expiration date will show on the address label of your quarterly "Metalsmith" magazine.

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### TGoM now accepts Paypal and most major credit cards

The Guild accepts Paypal and most major credit cards, in addition to paper checks, for the payment of annual dues. This should make it more convenient for members to pay dues.

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## The Forum

The Guild of Metalsmiths, St. Paul, MN, publishes The GoM Forum monthly. It is intended as a tool to further our educational mission, to keep members up to date on current happenings, to publicize projects and workshops, a place for all members to express their opinions, concerns, learn more about each other—in short, to help us run our organization.

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## Guild educational grants

There is grant money available for Guild members to study intermediate and advanced metalworking techniques.

The Guild educational grant program is designed to bring new skills into the metalworking community. Participants are given money to pay for a portion of their expenses and are expected to learn some new or poorly understood skill, and then to share what they have learned with other members and the public through an article in our quarterly magazine, "The Metalsmith." They're also expected to lead a workshop on the topic (or other educational service approved by the board).

Application forms are available from the president or treasurer at a regular meeting, or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

The Guild of Metalsmiths  
PO Box 11423  
St. Paul MN 55111