

The Forum



January 2020

Vol. 22 No. 1

2019 December TGoM 'meeting' was merry, informational, resourceful for all!

Members and families of The Guild of Metalsmiths met on December 8 for our annual holiday, election, and end-of-the-year auction events at the CSPS Hall in St. Paul. President Larry Wasmund called the meeting to order and followed up the usual committee reports with a proposal that the existing officers and board members will be staying on for another year. The membership voted that this was acceptable. Thank you to all the folks listed.

Officers

President	Larry Wasmund
Vice-President	Paul Widenhoefer
Treasurer	Taya Gavin
Recorder	Richard Zielike

Board Members

Gordon Barr	Jesse Gavin
Marty Masters	Christina Dodge
Derrick Phillips	Peter Bettenberg
Mark Lockwood	

Following the election, the 2019 Juaire/Hubler award was presented to Martin Pansch, 20-year TGoM member who has not only served as president for five years (2014 through 2018) but also has been active with the Guild as instructor and volunteer at community fairs, shows, etc.; 13-year Education Committee member; champion, instructor, or host for about 24 classes or workshops; and a board member or officer, and writer of multiple *Metalsmith* articles. Congratulations and thank you for all you have contributed, Martin!



TGoM president Larry Wasmund (left) presents the 2019 Juaire/Hubler award to Martin Pansch. The words on the plaque read: "For all you have given of yourself, both in time and knowledge, for your many years of service to the organization, and for your enthusiasm for the craft of blacksmithing, the membership of The Guild of Metalsmiths present to you this, the highest honor to be given by the Guild, now and to others in the future in your name."



Prayer Anvil created by Larry Wasmund

President Larry Wasmund shared a new feature that he proposed to become a regular event at meetings: "Ring the prayer anvil." The purpose would be to apprise TGoM members of recent significant life-altering events experienced by our fellow members and their families.

Members rang the prayer anvil for...

Denny Covington	Mike Alm
Bill Krawczeski	Sheri Stanaitis
Nancy Duggan	Bob (Billy Jack) Beck
Bob Fredell	Mary Fredell
Lou Groth's mother	Jim Brezinski's wife
Nick Heinen	

The last item at the December meeting before we adjourned to the potluck tables laden with traditionally mouth-watering holiday mealtime offerings, turned out to be an impromptu auction. Someone volunteered Adam Robrahn to be our impromptu auctioneer (thanks, Adam), and the items on the table looked like this: a flesh fork from Pete, hand-made jewelry from Liz, a copper fountain created by Sarah Delaney and donated by Jim, a Tunnel Mill demo piece from Carol, honey from Curt and Erna, homemade horseradish from Jim, left-overs from Valerie Ostenack, Fall Conference demonstrator (donated by Richard), and a TGoM denim shirt from anonymous.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to help make our annual holiday gathering a resoundingly pleasant success!

— Georgia Myers



Adam Robrahn, impromptu auctioneer.

First 2020 TGoM membership meeting Wednesday, February 12 at Oxygen Service Company

Oxygen Service Company at 1111 Pierce Butler Route, St. Paul, MN, 55104, will host the February 12 Guild membership meeting. They are an employee owned welding supply company and will offer looks at their new welders, some which will be available in their demo room to try out. The retail store will also be open, along with some special discounts.

So don't forget to mark your calendar now and meet on Feb. 12 at 6:30 pm at OSC for the first TGoM potluck of 2012! The business meeting will follow the potluck, with demos following that.

Contact champion John McDonald with any questions at 651-269-6944.



Meet the Instructor: *Myron Hanson*



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!*

Myron is a blacksmith with over 20-years' experience doing artistic metalwork. His interest in blacksmithing goes back to his youth when he shod his own horse. Since then he has completed and installed many custom forged iron projects, including fireplace doors, cemetery arches, sculptural gates, sculptures, and elaborate chandeliers. His contributions to collaborative projects are well respected within the local, as well as national, metalsmith communities.

Myron has been a mentor and leader inspiring many new metalworkers. Some of the workshops he has taught include basic and advanced blacksmithing, acetylene welding, and French-style repousse.

Q. How long have you been blacksmithing? Teaching?

I shod my first horse when I was 15. I started blacksmithing in '85 or '86, and got into teaching around 1996 or so.

Q. What drives you to teach?

I want to pass along what I know.

Q. What is the most common misconception that novice smiths have about the craft?

I'd have to think about that. One thing, when they start, they don't get the metal hot enough.

Q. Any tips for a new blacksmith?

Find somebody, no matter their skill levels, and start working together, whether it's design, repair, fabrication, whatever. You will each learn so much just by doing. Also, find a Power Show to volunteer at.

Q. What is the most important quality of a successful blacksmith?

Attention to detail.

Q. What is your favorite thing to make? Most challenging project?

The leaves and bells. I never tire of making them.

Q. Who did you learn from?

I had the opportunity to work with Paul Hubler, who got me into the Guild, and Ollie Juare. Dick Carlson and I started doing projects together, and classes. I went to a school in Tijeras, NM and took a class from Robb Gunter. I had the opportunity to work with John Yust, designing projects that Bill "the Welder" Krawczeski and I made. I got to work with Charlie Bateman doing machining. Dick, Bill, John Adams, Bob Johnson, and I were involved in the Basic Blacksmithing classes, and I utilized the workbook that Bob Fredell, Pete Stanaitis, (and others) created for the classes. I learned a lot while working with Bill the Welder. You see the theme here – work and collaborate with others, and everyone learns.

Q. Finish this sentence: If I wasn't smithing I would be...

Probably working on street rods.



Forge Welding 2-Day Class 2020

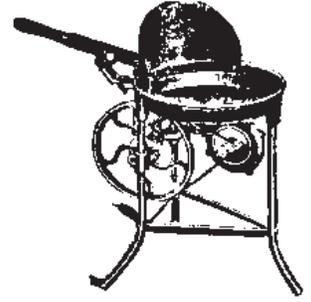
Saturday & Sunday, February 22-23, 2020, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm each day

Location: Minnesota School of Horseshoeing (*map page 7*)

Instructor: Dave Mariette

Cost: \$160 member, \$180 non-member

Maximum students: 8, Minimum: 6



Forge welding. So, you've seen it done. It looked so easy. Why doesn't it work for me, you ask? David will seek to dispel the mythical mysticism that seems to surround this technique and give you the tools you need to begin forge welding. Like many things, there is no magic bullet. It is a compilation of doing everything right, not just one thing. Starting from the ground up learning to manage heat, you'll begin with some basic welding, and as you gain some experience move on to a few more advanced welding configurations. Possible projects this year: a flux spoon, tripod, chain, leaves & tendrils "bouquet" and if time allows, a basket twist.

Prerequisite: Solid basic forging experience. We'll be using coal forges.

New this year- advanced forge welding skills option:

Have you taken this class in previous years, or done some simple welds but nothing since? David will teach advanced techniques (concurrently with the basics) for those who have done forge welding and would like to progress their skills. Please let us know when registering.

Safety Equipment: The usual. Eye and ear protection. No flammable clothing. Leather work boots. Since we are forge welding and there will be more sparks than usual, students should dress with that in mind. Bring an apron if you have one.

Tools and Equipment: Hammer & tongs (for stock sizes to be listed in an acceptance letter). As part of the cost of the class, students will be provided with their own wire "scratch" brush and a 1-lb. can of EZ Weld. Stock is provided.

Lunch arrangements: Bring a bag lunch or visit one of the area restaurants.

To register for this class, send a check payable to "The Guild of Metalsmiths" and your contact information to:

Christina Dodge
17645 Baugh St NW
Ramsey, MN 55303

Contact Christina with questions at (612) 741-9292 or email christina.guildmbr@gmail.com

Registration for this class will be determined by postmark and confirmed with an acceptance letter. Guild members have priority.

Zombie Killer/Chopping Knife 2-Day Class

Saturday & Sunday, March 7 & 8, 2020, 9 am to 5 pm at Minnesota School of Horseshoeing (*map page 7*)

Cost: \$120 per student, covering metal, coal, handle material and some abrasives

Minimum 4 students; maximum 8 students (or more if there are parent/child participants)

Minimum age 14--must be accompanied by an adult

Instructor: Paul Widenhoefer, American Bladesmith Society and all-around knife nerd



Do you fear the zombie apocalypse? Do thoughts of a worldwide economic collapse send you scurrying for your bug-out bag? Or perhaps you just want a good chopping knife capable of doing some hard work? If so, we are offering a knife making class for you! It is designed for someone with little forging experience, but can accommodate those with a more advanced skill set.

We will be covering basic knife forging, knife design, heat treatment, grinding, sharpening and attaching handles. Participants should leave with a finished (or nearly finished) primitive style knife ready for rough use. Due to time and facility limitations this is **NOT** a class to make a kitchen knife.

Safety Equipment: The usual. Eye and ear protection. No flammable clothing. Leather work boots. Since we are forge welding and there will be more sparks than usual, students should dress with that in mind. Bring an apron if you have one.

Lunch: bring a bag lunch or eat out at local establishments

To register for this class, please send your contact info including address, phone number(s) and email address and a check for \$120 made to "The Guild of Metalsmiths" to:

Paul Widenhoefer
3618 Robin Lane
Minnetonka, MN 55305
Email: pwidenhoefer@gmail.com
Phone: (952) 930-0070 (home)
(612) 408-5007 (cell)

Acceptance priority for this class will be determined by postmark.

TGoM member passes

Dec. 13, 2019

It is with deep sympathy that I pass along the announcement that our member and friend Mike Alm lost his battle with a brain tumor on Wednesday December 11 2019 at his home. He has donated his body to the Mayo Health System Research. Mike was 69 Years Young.

Mike graciously hosted us for the June membership meetings for several years and was very happy to cook ribs to be shared by all in attendance.

Sadly submitted

Larry Wasmund, President, The Guild of Metalsmiths

A visitation was held on December 20 from 9 to 11 am at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church, Miesville MN. Following the visitation, a memorial mass was held at 11:00 am at the church.

Mike was born on August 12, 1950 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He lived on a farm in Finlayson, Minnesota, graduating from Finlayson High. His favorite sport in high school was basketball.

Mike is survived by Shirley, his wife of 22 years. He was also survived by children Nathan (Charyl) Alm, Heather (Jon) Maack, Jenna (Tab) Alm, Vicki Wagner, Michelle Gagnon, Thomas (Lynn) Gagnon, 11 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Preceding him in death were children Lukas Alm and Gary Gagnon.

Mike has donated his smoker to a neighboring individual with the agreement that he would cook ribs for his memorial luncheon after the service. Many members of the Guild attended the service and stayed afterward to enjoy ribs from Mike's smoker one last time.

To read a full obituary, follow this link:

<https://www.stjosephmiesville.com/blog/current-highlights/our-sincere-sympathy-to-the-family-of-mike-alm>



Mike Alm was proud of his home-smoked ribs, and shared them with us at this June, 2018 meeting at his home shop. RIP, Mike.

Our neighborhood of smiths

The Guild of Metalsmiths (TGoM)

All membership meetings are the second Wednesday of February, April, June, August, and October, except December. 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). To check your membership expiration date, see the mailing label on your latest copy of "Metalsmith."

President: Larry Wasmund

Vice-President: Paul Widenhoefer

poundedtreasures@gmail.com

pwidenhoefer@gmail.com

612-599-4762

952-930-0070

Our website is: <http://www.metalsmith.org>

Badger Blacksmiths meetings

Our contact information:

President: Dave Weiss

Newsletter editor: John Grump

715-379-5007

715-829-4559

diamondmetalworks13@gmail.com

johngrump@att.net

Badger website: <https://sites.google.com/site/badgerblacksmiths/>

Lake Superior Metalsmiths

Lake Superior Metalsmiths (LSM) meet the fourth Saturday of the month. Potluck at noon with meeting to follow.

Contacts are:

Charley Brown, President, CharleyRB@charter.net, 218-428-7906

Dave Hanson, VP, duluthblacksmith@yahoo.com 218-391-4466

Northern Minnesota Metalsmiths

The NMM meets the first Monday of the month at Lake Itasca Region Pioneer Farmers (LIRPF) show grounds, 1/4 mile east of the north entrance to Itasca State Park.

Contact Keith Johnson for monthly specifics at

keith@greatriverforge.com. The NMM's website is

www.nmmetalsmiths.org

Central Minnesota Blacksmiths (CMB)

Meet on the first Monday of each month. Potluck followed by demo. Locations are different every month so please call or write for info

President: Ken Zitur

Brian Johnson

320-746-8161

16777 Co Rd 75 NW

mail@kensiron.com

Clearwater MN 55367

320-558-6898

Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center (CAFAC)

Quarterly blacksmithing classes, exhibits, and open house events

www.cafac.org email: info@cafac.org

Tunnel Mill Crafts

Blacksmith shop, traditional iron work, classes

Located 20 miles south of Rochester MN, near Spring Valley MN

507 289-4189 or 507 289-5246

Carol Adams jc-adams@msn.com,

<http://www.tunnelmillcrafts.com/>

Sandy Lake Forge on Raspberry Island

Blacksmith shop offering classes, workshops and more. See raspberrylakefolkschool.blogspot.com for details or call: 218-851-6085

Gary and Janet Hill

Raspberry Island

50569 218th Place

Mcgregor, MN 55760

Handled struck tool class 2019 review

December 7, 2019 was a busy day in the shop at the Minnesota School of Horseshoeing for one and all. Thanks to Herb Fick, Jesse and Dave Gavin, George Auel, Bob Brown, Ralf Meland and all the instructors for making the 2019 Handled Struck Tool Class a success. Nine students were shown the basics of toolmaking and heat treating steel for punches and chisels and integrating a formed handle to control when used in a treadle hammer.

From the early morning setup of Tools, Treadle Hammers and Equipment, the day was filled with classroom instruction, shop safety, and lots of hands on shop time.

Step by step instruction in the shop guided the students through forging a punch and chisel complete with heat treating. The use of the Treadle Hammer was key to the punching of holes that was later used to attach a custom made handle. The completed Handled Struck Tool is an excellent skill building class and a great addition to the blacksmithing tool set.



Handled Struck Tools Class students and instructors pictured here include:

Herb Fick, Stan Littlefield, Paul Hetchler, Ralf Meland, Bob Brown, George Auel, Jesse Gavin, and Dave Gavin. Other students in the photo unfortunately weren't identified--apologies from the editor.

— Submitted by John Barklow



Four shots of shop time at the 2019 Handled Struck Tools Class!

Reminder from our property manager...

Greetings from the Property Manager. If you've got guild property at your shop, or a demo site you work at, please send any info about it to tools.guildmbr@gmail.com. I've talked to several people at the fall conference and holiday party that were going to get information to me. Here's a gentle reminder. Please send any questions to the above email address too.

Thanks,
Adam Robrahn

The Guild has a new address

The Guild of Metalsmiths
PO Box 72
Hudson, WI 54016

Please update your records! If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me. Thank you!

Taya Gavin, Treasurer
gavin1137@hotmail.com 715-781-4389

Lake Superior Design Retreat

Upcoming retreat should be of interest to TGoM smiths

My name is Ann Mayhew, and I work with American Institute of Architects (AIA) Minnesota. We host an event every year called the Lake Superior Design Retreat (LSDR), a two-day interdisciplinary design retreat that meets in Duluth, and is open to anyone, regardless if they're AIA members or not. Our 32nd annual Retreat is on Feb. 28-29, 2020.

We believe the 2020 LSDR will be of special interest to the Guild of Metalsmiths members because one of our speakers is the blacksmith Matt Jenkins from Winnipeg, Manitoba's

Cloverdale Forge.

Learn more about LSDR on our website:

<https://www.aia-mn.org/events/lsdr2020/sponsors/>

Planned by a committee composed of architects and artists, AIA Minnesota's annual Lake Superior Design Retreat is a unique convention drawing together design and craft professionals, enthusiasts, and explorers. The weekend features six speakers and a group dinner, and provides ample opportunities for serendipitous connection and inspiration through its mix of attendees and presenters, the latter of which are invited to stay the entire Retreat alongside attendees.

Speakers confirmed so far are:

- Francis D.K. Ching—author and architect known for his drawing
- Matt Jenkins—blacksmith from Cloverdale Forge
- Kathy McTavish—composer, coder, and media artist
- Lucia Watson—author, chef, and founder of Lucia's Restaurant

Registration opens soon. The fee is still being determined but is usually close to \$200, not counting travel and accommodations. Learn more and sign up for our newsletter here: <https://www.aia-mn.org/events/lsdr2020/>

Ann Mayhew, Member Programs, Public Outreach & Communications Coordinator

The American Institute of Architects Minnesota

105 South 5th Avenue, Suite 485, Minneapolis, MN 55401



Matt Jenkins, Cloverdale Forge, Winnipeg, Manitoba

TGoM member Rick Wessling, also a member of AIA Minnesota, shared this review of the retreat:

"It is a generous offer for the AIA to extend to the Guild members, if for nothing else than to be able to hear Matt Jenkins speak. The Lake Superior Design Retreat is a long standing American Institute of Architects event. (32 years now.) It is a very defined interdisciplinary gathering of design minded folks. Generally have speakers of all types but often surrounding a broad design topic or thoughts. The event generally is a Friday and Saturday event. This year in late February. Not sure of the cost. The link follows.

<https://www.aia-mn.org/event/lake-superior-design-retreat/>

"Making the connection and sharing events or activities between the two organizations that are of interest and benefit to both organizations could be valuable. The AIA is a huge local, state, and national organization that supports the Architecture profession and is the public face to the profession. Sharing events provide a platform for a broader understanding to the Architecture profession that blacksmithing is still happening. Obviously from an historic perspective Architecture has been a major benefactor to the craft."

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 2020 Classes and Events

We are located in southern Minnesota near Spring Valley. For more information on any of the classes contact us at

jc-adams@msn.com, or call 507-289-4189 Carol Adams.

Check the Tunnel Mill website for full details: www.tunnelmillcrafts.com



Tom Latane' May 15, 16 & 17, 2020

Candle-Holder with Saw-tooth Trammel.

Kitty Latane' May 15, 16 & 17, 2020

Tin work

Derek Olson and Tom Latane' May 18, 19, 20 & 21, 2020

Combination workshop, Wood & Metal Aumrey door with hinges..

Douglas Pryor tentative date June 5, 6th & 7, 2020

Mark Aspery July 6-12, 2020.

2-3 day classes with a free day in between. Tools and small projects.

Ric Furrer August 21, 22, 23, 2020.

(tentative date, possibly August 14,15 & 16)

Fall Gathering October 2, 3, & 4, 2020.

Tom Latane' October 9, 10, & 11, 2020.

Combination padlock.

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
- Program Comm. meetings are 7 pm the third Thursday monthly. Derrick Phillips, chair 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 January 2020

- Jan. 4, Beginners Blacksmithing "C" session classes, MN School of Horseshoeing
- Jan. 11, Beginners Blacksmithing "C" session classes, MN School of Horseshoeing
- Jan. 18, Beginners Blacksmithing "C" session classes, MN School of Horseshoeing

Events in February 2020

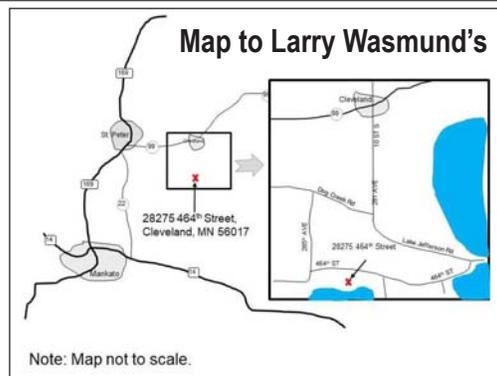
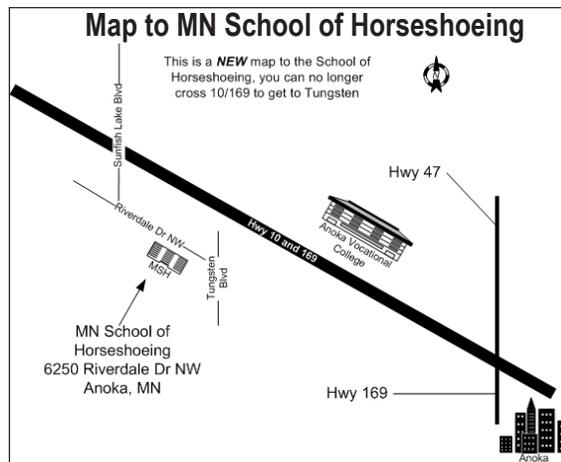
- Feb. 1, Beginners Blacksmithing "D" session class 1, Cleveland, MN
- Feb. 8, Beginners Blacksmithing "D" session class 2, Cleveland, MN
- Feb. 12, TGoM membership meeting, Oxygen Service Company, St. Paul
- Feb. 15, Beginners Blacksmithing "D" session class 3, Cleveland, MN
- Feb. 22 & 23, Forge Welding, MN School of Blacksmithing
- Feb. 28 & 29, Lake Superior Design Retreat, Duluth, MN

Events in March 2020

- March 7 & 8, Zombie Chopper Knife Class, MN School of Blacksmithing

Events in April 2020

- April 25, Forge Tools, Cleveland MN



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 72
Hudson, WI 54016

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.



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 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."

January 2020

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

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.

The Forum

The Guild of Metalsmiths 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.

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, "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 72
Hudson, WI 54016