

# 'The Forum'



January 2024

Vol. 26 No. 1

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

## February 17, 2024 TGoM Membership Meeting!

Listen up folks! The Guild of Metalsmiths will be having our February meeting on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 @ 9:00 am at the Northfield Foundry and Machine Company, 320 Water Street N, Northfield MN. Herb Fick visited the foundry once we planned the event, and wrote this report. It has been edited where the program committee needs to make a decision about lunch and optional locations in the 3rd paragraph, otherwise the wording is from Herb.

- Disclaimer: I have known or know all of Jeff Machacek's uncles and cousins. It's why I undertook the visit.

The Foundry dates to 1920 when Mike Machacek moved to Northfield after an argument with the priest in New Prague MN. He developed a line of industrial woodworking machinery that was accepted worldwide. They closed the hot part of the operation in or about 1946, about the time I toured the factory as a boy scout. I was involved in purchase of a few large pieces of custom equipment for the Sheldahl Company in Northfield in the 1960s. Equipment that is still a source of repair work for the Foundry.

Jeff has offered a tour of the facilities on a Saturday when the shop is quiet. The equipment ranges from large lathes, boring machines, planers that handle very large castings, balancing equipment for large wheels, rollers and arbor motors which are purposely built at the foundry. Their catalog sales are based on table saws, bandsaws, drop saws, and jointers for the furniture industry. Their specials support local manufacturing industry.

### The rules:

- We are in charge of our own coffee.
- If we want chairs we need to bring them.
- There is one sort of open area.
- Snacks should be in place of our usual pot luck. So bring a treat.
- Expect to stand throughout the tour.
- Expect questions to be welcome.
- Do not wear your best clothes. This is an old shop and the floors are not clean!

The foundry has a website that will be interesting to some, but it is limited. Right now their shop is booked out for about a year so don't plan on buying something to take with you. A personal note: Once you are familiar with the name, you will realize you will see their name anywhere you travel in the western world.

— Herb Fick

Thanks! And looking forward to seeing you FEBRUARY 17 @ 9:00 am. For questions, contact me at [richard@edinaclock.com](mailto:richard@edinaclock.com)

— Richard Zielike

## Annual TGoM awards received for 2023



Congrats to Bob Brown, who was presented with the annual Juare/Hubler Award by TGoM President Larry Wasmund, and to Christina Dodge, who received the 2023 President's Award, also presented by President Larry Wasmund.

Go to page 2 for follow-up story.



## QUICKNEWS...

### REGISTER NOW!

**Leaf Tongs Class Jan. 27, 2024**

Registration page 4.

### Copper Jewelry Class

Feb. 10, 2024, Jackson Street Roundhouse (MN Transportation Museum). Registration page 4.

### Scandi-style Knife Class March 2 & 3

Page 4 to register.

### Summer Volunteer Ops a Work In Progress

Next month we will publish the beginnings of the summer volunteer calendar. Stand by....

### Volunteer?

Are you looking for volunteer opportunities and not sure whom to talk to? Contact: Kim Maas, Volunteer Coordinator at: [tgomvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:tgomvolunteer@gmail.com) or call 651-328-7219.

### New 'Iron Menagerie' book

The new version of The Guild's IRON MENAGERIE workbook is now available to purchase!

Cost \$20 (+\$10 S/H if mailed).

Contact person: Peter Bettenberg

[tgomeditor@gmail.com](mailto:tgomeditor@gmail.com)

Wouldn't this be a great gift for your favorite blacksmith?



# Beginners Blacksmithing 3-day Class March 9, 16, & 23, 2024

**Dates:** The classes are held on the following Saturdays of March 9, 16 and 23, 2024

**Location:** Minnesota School of Horseshoeing, 6250 Riverdale Dr NW, Ramsey MN 55303, just off Hwy 10 near the Anoka Vocational College (see map below).

**Class Description:** This 3 day class covers the basics of: Safety, Tools, Fire Control, Forging Dynamics, Tapers (ribbon, fishtail, point), Twisting, Riveting, Shouldering, Upset, Cutting, Splitting, Punching, Heat Treat, Scrolling, Bending, Forge weld. The beginners basic classes are designed to give everyone the same understanding of the basics, techniques and terminology. The basic classes or proficiency is **REQUIRED** before taking any of the many other classes the Guild offers. This enables those classes to concentrate on advanced techniques without having to spend time on basic concepts.

**Class Size:** 8

**Cost:** \$190 for NON members, \$180 for Guild members (covers everything you need: the facility, coal, metal tools and workbook) Minors (under 18) must have a parent present. There will be no sharing of forges.

**Class Contact:** George Auel [George.Auel@gmail.com](mailto:George.Auel@gmail.com)

**What you need to bring:** Eye, ear and skin protection. This includes safety glasses, ear muff or plugs and suitable clothing which includes hard shoes, cotton or leather. Synthetic and polyester clothing will burn and melt. There will be sparks and brushes against hot metal.

**Tools:** Tools are provided but if you have a favorite hammer, punches, chisels and tools, bring them along. A small 1 to 2 pound ball peen hammer would work. We have various hammers for you to try and get a feel for what is comfortable.

**Typical day:** Classes start at 9 but people usually show up earlier to swap stories or show off recent projects. Feel free to bring projects you are working on to show. We break for lunch.

**Lunch:** You can either bring a brown bag or go out to a local fast food restaurant. Classes end between 3 and 5.

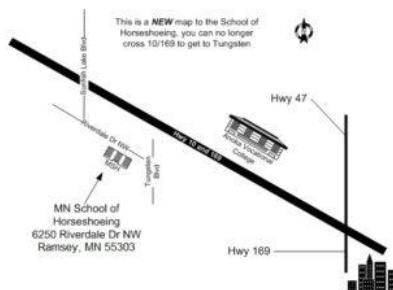
To register: For non-members, [Click \[HERE\] to register](#).

For Guild members, [Click \[HERE\] to register](#) in Neon under 'Events'.

**Acceptance will be in the order submitted, based on the transaction date, and each person will be notified individually.**

**Questions? Email George Auel at [George.Auel@gmail.com](mailto:George.Auel@gmail.com)**

## Location map:



## TY Letter to TGoM

A short note from Christina:



I'm honored to have received the Guild of Metal Smith's President's Award this year, and proud to be part of this amazing group.

The President's Award is to recognize involvement and contribution within the Guild. In the interest of encouraging participation, it might be helpful for some of you if I share how I got involved.

I didn't know what I was getting into. In the beginners blacksmithing class, my first glimpse of this group, the volunteer instructors were so obviously skilled and their generosity in sharing tools, knowledge, time and enthusiasm was impressive.

I didn't know I would like it (blacksmithing). I don't need to describe it. You know what a wonderful world this is!

When the chance was extended to me to participate, to contribute in whatever way I was comfortable, I wanted to give back. This I could do in small ways: background prep work, organizing, taking photos — all while getting more confident within the group at events. Introvert that I am, it's much more comfortable for me to work than to be social. The only difficulty for me was showing up each of the first times.

I didn't know if I could do it. I was nervous to attend the first beginners class, the first hammer-in, first holiday party (it seemed like there were hundreds of people!), the first fall conference (the noise level at the auction was daunting!), the first committee meeting, and so on. Once there, each time I felt welcomed and included (thanks to so many of you!) and my trepidation faded. Working with most of you at one time or another in a class, a committee, or a demonstration has fostered a type of friendship that happens naturally. I enjoy the camaraderie of work, and I treasure the memories.

If any of you reading this are new members or have been similarly hesitant to put yourself forward, I encourage you to first just show up. Then, if you can, get involved. Give what you can, when you can. Your skills and your experience will be utilized and we'll all be better off for getting to know you better. You are welcome.

"Looking forward to the next gathering, with thanks in my heart for each of you."

— Christina Dodge

## Special show-n-tell item shared

At the Sunday, December 3 Guild meeting at the CSPS Hall, Dick Carlson showed the cross he's been forging. He borrowed Rob Murray to help him with the display.



## **SIGN UP NOW! Leaf Tongs Class 2024**

**Date & Time** Saturday, January 27, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm  
**Location:** MN School of Horseshoeing (map page 7)  
**Instructor:s** Dave Gavin 715-821-9950 and Jesse Gavin 715-808-5891  
**Cost:** \$65  
**Class Size:** Maximum students: 8 Minimum students: 4  
**Class manager:** Jesse Gavin, [jagavin6273@hotmail.com](mailto:jagavin6273@hotmail.com)

**Description:** This class will have you making tongs that will hold on to leaves and other thin and curved shapes without marking the surface or flattening out the veins. This class is for beginners that have gone through and have had some additional practice beyond the basics class. You will be drawing out the reins and forging the boss to shape and matching the sizes of the two.

**Tools and Equipment or other items participants are to bring to the class:** Favorite hammer for forging and peening rivets, tongs to hold 1/4"x 1", 1/4" x 3/4", 1/4" and 3/8" round, plus other tools as you see fit – i.e. grinder, files, ect.

**Safety Equipment:** the usual for forging with coal: safety glasses, hearing protection, clothing of natural fiber with no cuffs or fraying, and leather boots or shoes.

**Lunch Arrangements:** Local restaurants or bring your own.

**To register for this class:** send a check for \$65 written to The Guild of Metalsmiths, along with your name, address, phone number and email to:

Jesse Gavin  
N8214 330<sup>th</sup> street  
Spring Valley WI 54767

**To register online,** follow this hyperlink to our website: <https://www.metalsmith.org/education/>

Acceptance priority for this class will be determined by postmark, and each person will be notified individually.



## **Copper Jewelry Class 2024**

**Date & Time** Saturday, February 10, 10 am to 1 pm  
**Location:** Jackson Street Roundhouse blacksmith shop (MN Transportation Museum)  
193 Pennsylvania Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55113  
**Instructor:** Larry Nevin  
**Cost:** \$65 members; \$75 non-members  
**Class size:** 8 maximum (18years + )  
**Class manager:** Kim Maas, 651-328-7219 , [TGoMvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:TGoMvolunteer@gmail.com)

**Description:** A Copper Jewelry Class will be held Saturday, February 10, 2024, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Jackson Street Roundhouse just in time for Valentines Day. Come and make a custom piece of jewelry for your favorite Valentine or, better yet, for yourself. This class is a wonderful opportunity for beginner metalsmiths and a good challenge for the advanced metalsmith. The class is offered to adults only, 18+. The maximum class size is limited to 8. so don't wait to register.

**To register:** Mail your name, address, phone number and email address along with a check written to The Guild of Metalsmiths (\$65 for members, \$75 for non-members) to:

Kim Maas  
965 Gorman Ave  
West St. Paul, MN 55118

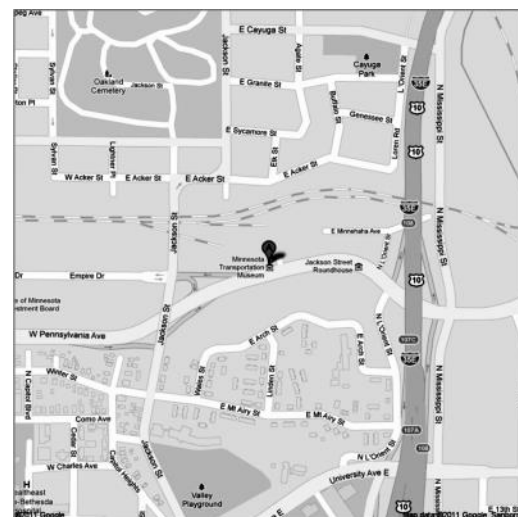
**To register online,** follow this link: <https://www.metalsmith.org/education/>.

Please feel free to call 651-328-7219 with questions.

Acceptance priority for this class will be determined by postmark, and each person will be notified individually.



**Map: Jackson Street Roundhouse**  
193 Pennsylvania Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55113



# Scandi style/ bushcraft knife class 2024

Date: March 2 & 3, 2024  
Time: 9 am to 5 pm  
Location: MN School of Horseshoeing (map page 7)  
Cost: \$140 per student  
Instructor: Paul Widenhoefer  
Class size: 8 students max

Are you afraid of being stuck in the wilderness with only a knife at your side? Or do you just want to carve some Dala horses with a Scandinavian blade? Well, we have the knife class for you! This class offering will be for making a scandi-style knife favored by woodworkers, campers, survivalists and woods men and women alike.

We will be covering forging a blade, safety, grinding, knife steels, handles, heat treating, and sharpening for this useful and versatile blade. These are typically short blades 2" to 4" in length with a wood handle. Sheathes will not be covered at this time. Students should leave with one finished (or nearly finished) knife.

Paul Widenhoefer will be the instructor of this class. Paul has been making knives for over fifteen years and has taught knife making classes for the Guild previously. He is also a member of the ABS (American Bladesmith Society).

**What to bring:** Students will be expected to bring safety equipment, favorite hammer and any tongs for small stock you may have.

**Lunch:** Lunch can be purchased at a local establishment or brought with bag lunch style.

**To register for this class:** Send check written to Guild of Metalsmiths for \$140 to:

Paul Widenhoefer  
3618 Robin Lane  
Minnetonka, MN 55305  
Phone or text at 612-408-5007  
Email: [pwidenhoefer@gmail.com](mailto:pwidenhoefer@gmail.com)

**To register online,** follow this link: <https://www.metalsmith.org/education/>.

Acceptance priority for this class will be determined by postmark, and each person will be notified individually.



Folks! We are working on a 2024 Demonstration Opportunities calendar that will appear soon. The information it will contain is shown below. Contact Kim Maas with additions that you need published.: [tgomvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:tgomvolunteer@gmail.com) or call 651-328-7219.

## 2024 Demonstration Opportunities

Date 2024	Event	Location	Champion, contact information, & additional information
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# Fall Conference T-Shirt Contest

The Fall Conference T-Shirt design for this year's event will once again be a Contest!

What would you like to see on this year's t-shirt?

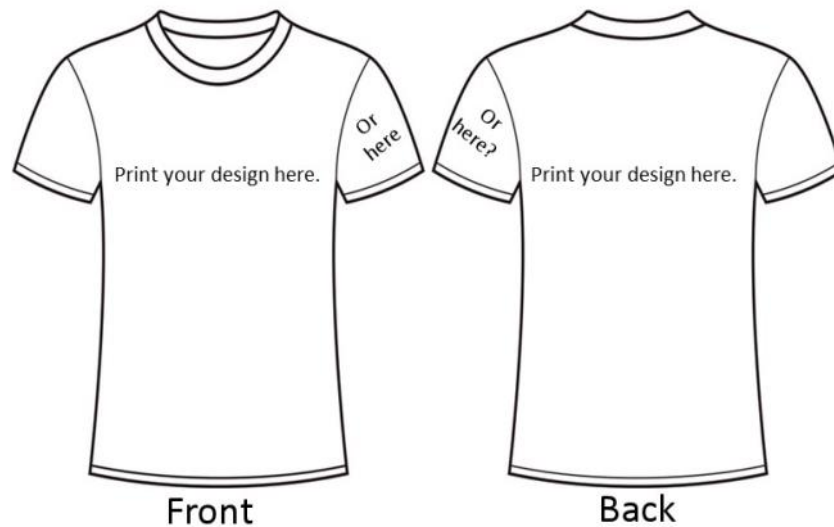
How would you design it?

## Rules to the Contest:

- Design must be Guild or metal work related.
- Design must be original -your design. Can be inspired, by, but not a copy of another's design.
- Design needs to be a single-color line design/drawing, no shading and will be printed on a colored (yet to be determined) t-shirt.
- Contest submissions need to be received by: June 1, 2024, by email.

## Entries need to include:

- 1) Your name.
- 2) Copy of design (include suggested ink and shirt color).
- 3) Location of your design.



**At the June 2024 Members Meeting there will be a vote on the designs that are submitted. No names will be attached to the designs at the time of voting to keep it fair.**

**Everyone is encouraged to participate! Will you see your design made into a t-shirt?**

**Winner of the contest will receive a FREE FALL CONFERENCE T-SHIRT!**

## Send your email entry today!

Email entry to: Kim Maas, Volunteer Coordinator  
[tgomvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:tgomvolunteer@gmail.com)  
or mail entry to: 965 Gorman Ave.  
West. St. Paul, MN 55118

**Questions, comments, or concerns?**

# TGoM Membership Perks

## Discounts

The following companies are extending discounts to The Guild of Metalsmiths members. You will need to ask for their Guild of Metalsmiths discount, show your membership card (found on the back of your "Metalsmith"), and a Picture ID. These discounts are a gift to us and can be taken away if they are abused. If you have a hobby shop, no problem. If you are a professional with a few employees, no problem. What is not fair, is turning yourself into a dealer by reselling/trading products that you have purchased with our discount or being a big company and using our discount for your bottom line. Please don't ruin this for everyone. These businesses deserve our recognition and patronage:

Please see The Guild of Metalsmiths website for additional information regarding discounts and products available:

<https://www.metalsmith.org/about/friends-of-the-guild/>

## Carhartt at Work Program

Mall of America  
144 North Garden Bloomington, MN 612-318-6422 or  
Riverdale Village Mall  
12680 Riverdale Blvd. Coon Rapids, MN 952-885-8000  
[www.carhartt.com](http://www.carhartt.com)

15% on almost everything in the store, except Flame Retardant (FR) gear, which is 10% off whether you shop online or at Mall of America

## Minnesota Glove & Safety & Bob's Workwear

West St. Paul, MN 651-552-8840  
[www.minnesotaglove.com](http://www.minnesotaglove.com) 10% discount off merchandise not already on sale or discounted

## Smith-Sharpe Fire Brick Supply

2129 Broadway St NE, Minneapolis, MN 612-331-1345  
[www.ssfb.com](http://www.ssfb.com) 866-545-6743

The quantity of product purchased dictates the normal "Level" of discount. Smith-Sharpe Fire Brick Supply is offering to discount "Level" better to Guild members. It will vary with types of products, but may average about 10%.

## Garelick Steel Company

Minneapolis, MN 612-521-8857 888-521-8857  
[www.garelicksteel.com](http://www.garelicksteel.com)  
10% discount for members

## Mississippi Welders Supply

Seven locations between MN & WI. 800-657-4422  
[www.mwsc.com](http://www.mwsc.com)

See website or phone book for locations. 15% discount on gases and most in-store items that are not already marked as a sale item or already at a discount from MSRP for members.

## Toll Gas and Welding Supply

Eight Twin City metro locations. 763-551-5300  
[www.tollgas.com](http://www.tollgas.com)

See website or phone book for location near you. 15% off of gases and most in-store items, for Guild members.

## Oxygen Service Co.

St. Paul, MN 651-774-7273 800-774-1336  
[www.oxygenservicecompany.com](http://www.oxygenservicecompany.com)  
15% discount on gases and most items that are not already marked on sale for members.

## Division V Sheet Metal

218 Ohio Street, St. Paul MN 55107 651-291-8662  
[http://divisionv.com/](http://divisionv.com)  
Architectural sheet metal company: zinc, steel, copper, Cor-Ten, aluminum, composite

## Tunnel Mill Crafts

We are located in southern Minnesota near Spring Valley. All classes are taught at 28036 County Rd 1, Spring Valley, MN 55975  
For more information on any of the classes or to register, contact us at [jc-adams@msn.com](mailto:jc-adams@msn.com), or call 507-289-4189 Carol Adams.



### 2024 Upcoming Classes and Events

#### Steel Making Workshop using the Japanese Hybrid Brick Tatara

**Class rescheduled from October 2023 to May 3, 4, and 5, 2024**

With Wayne Potratz

- Cost per person: -\$275.00 (includes material fee)-plus \$75 for room and board (Friday and Saturday nights with 6 meals)
- Minimum of 6 students
- Start time: Gather at 5PM on Friday October 6 for conversation, then a light meal at 6 PM, followed by Wayne's presentation at 7 PM.

- Discussion and charcoal processing to follow.

The workshop will explore steel-making from the direct reduction of Minnesota Magnetite iron ore into high carbon steel using a charcoal fired Japanese Hybrid brick tatara. The resulting steel bloom can be consolidated, hot cut, and hammered into billets suitable for blade making.

The workshop will feature a PowerPoint presentation about the process and comparisons to other iron smelting traditions. Each workshop participant should come away with a piece of high carbon steel in an amount suitable for a small blade or other tool

**Check the Tunnel Mill website for full details:**

<http://www.tunnelmillcrafts.com>

## The Guild of Metalsmiths now has a 'Discord Account'

What is Discord? Discord is an instant messaging and VoIP social platform. The service converts your voice into a digital signal that travels over the Internet. Users have the ability to communicate with voice calls, video calls, text messaging, media, and files in private chats or as part of communities called "servers"

Invitations went out in October to all our members by email. If you did not get an invitation and want Discord, please contact Kim Maas by email at

[TGoMvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:TGoMvolunteer@gmail.com) and you will be sent an invitation by email.

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



- **Most 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 Martin Masters, [mastersmw@yahoo.com](mailto:mastersmw@yahoo.com)
- Program Comm. meetings are 7 pm the third Thursday monthly. Derrick Phillips, co-chair [DerrickPhillipsA3o3@gmail.com](mailto:DerrickPhillipsA3o3@gmail.com)
- Most 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. Stay tuned for changes.

## Jan. 2024 Events

Jan. 6, 13, 20, Beginner Blacksmithing Class, MN School of Horseshoeing  
 Jan. 27, Leaf Tongs Class, MN School of Horseshoeing

## Feb. 2024 Events

Feb. 10, Copper Jewelry Class, Jackson Street Roundhouse blacksmith shop  
 Feb. 14, TGoM membership meeting, Northfield foundry

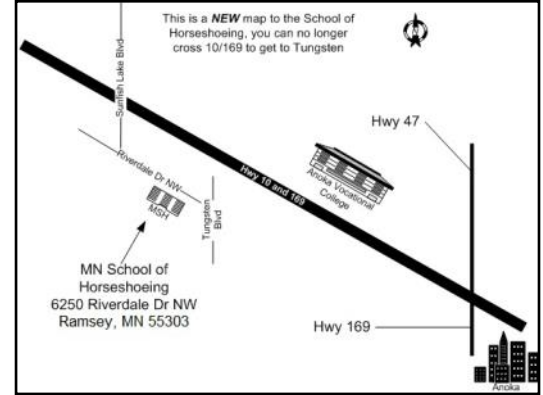
## March 2024 Events

March 2 & 3, Scandi style/ bushcraft knife class, MN School of Horseshoeing

## April 2024 Events

April 8, TGoM Membership Meeting, details TBA  
 April 27-28, Joinery Level I (skills), 2-day class . Details TBA

## Map to MN School of Horseshoeing



# 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  
**Don't List Me** in the Directory  
*(circle items above you DO NOT want published)*

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

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 <https://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."

To reach our website quickly, just scan the QR code below.

January 2024



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 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