

'The Forum'

January 2026



Vol. 28 No. 1

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

February 2026 Membership Meeting to be held at Northrup King Building Art Space, Minneapolis, MN, Feb. 7, 2026

February's Membership Meeting will be on **SATURDAY**, February 7, 2026 from noon to 4:00pm. Location: Northrup King & Co. located at 1500 Jackson St NE, Minneapolis, MN. The meeting will be in the 3rd floor gallery, followed by a potluck and show-n-tell. There is parking in front of the building.

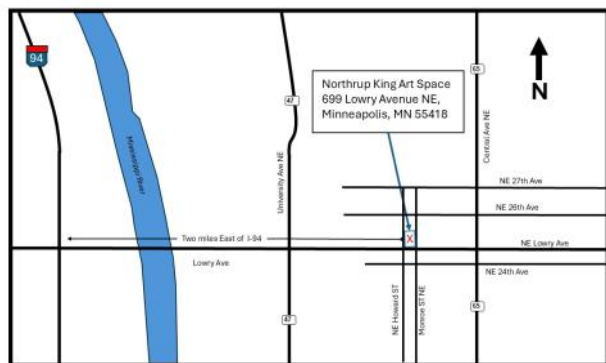
Northrup King Building is the Art Organization. Includes artists from about 11 different buildings in Northeast Minneapolis. The building is open from noon to 4 on Saturdays. There are lots of studios that are open during that timeframe. Some are just galleries, and some also include working studio.

Mary Schwartz will give a demonstration on lampworking. She uses a torch to create glass beads.

History of Northrup King Building

The Northrup King Building is actually a complex of 10 buildings first constructed in 1917.

Originally built for and occupied by the Northrup King & Co. seed company, its location adjoining two sets of railroad tracks made it the ideal place to ship seeds across the United States. Northrup King & Co. occupied the building until the late 1980s, when it was sold to Jim Stanton of Shamrock Properties.



Through an ongoing process of renovation, Stanton and his daughter Debbie Woodward (Property Manager from 2001 - 2018) turned the Northrup King Building into the creative center of over 350 artists and arts-related businesses that you know today.

The building was sold to Artspace Projects, Inc. upon Woodward's retirement.

If you have questions about this meeting, please contact Kim Maas, Volunteer Coordinator, at tgom.volunteer@gmail.com

'QUICKNEWS'

Did you know?

When a person becomes a member of The Guild of Metalsmiths, their spouse and minor children also become members of the Guild. The membership is a 'Family Membership!'

Annual Fall Conference T-Shirt Design Contest

Begins...NOW!

Details page 2!

January 2026 Beginning Blacksmithing classes

Jan. 3, 10, & 17. **Classes full!**

Bronze Anvil Casting **CANCELLED!**

Jan. 10 & 11.

Pipe Tongs Class

Jan. 24. Details Page 3

Taste of Blacksmithing

Feb. 7. Details page 4

Instructor's Workshop

Feb. 21. Details page 4

Intro to Forge Welding

Feb. 28. Details page 3

Beginning Blacksmithing Classes March 2026

March 14, 15, & 21, 2026. Details page 5.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Guild is always looking for volunteers for numerous tasks that keep the Guild in working order. If you haven't been asked or "vol-in-told" to help with tasks and would like to, contact Kim Maas, the Volunteer Coordinator.

tgom.volunteer@gmail.com or text/call 651-328-7219. Not all help needed is smithing.

Congrats to 2025 annual award recipients!



Jesse Gavin, Juaire-Hubler



Kim Maas, President's



Peter Bettenberg, President's

Above are TGoM's 2025 Juaire-Hubler and President's Award recipients, each receiving an award plaque presented by President Marty Masters.

Awards were announced at the December 8 Annual Meeting and Holiday Party at the CSPS Hall in St. Paul MN.

To see a history of award recipients and a detailed explanation of the awards, follow the link below to our website:

<https://www.metalsmith.org/about/member-awards/>

At right is the miniature hammer traditionally added to the plaque and created for the Juaire-Hubler award recipient by last year's recipient, Rick Wessling.



Beginners Blacksmithing Classes Winter 2026 Are FULL!

Registration is now closed for the three-day Beginners Blacksmithing classes January 3, 10 and 17, 2026
Minnesota School of Horseshoeing, 6250 Riverdale Drive NW, Ramsey MN 55303 (Map page 7)

Annual Fall Conference T-Shirt Design Contest Begins...NOW!

Way back in ye olde days of 2022, Kim Maas had the great idea of holding a contest to design The Guild's annual conference t-shirt, thereby putting the fate of our wardrobes into The Guild membership's hands. And since then, the membership has delivered great ideas for everyone's consideration. We've gotten more and more entries to the contest each time, and it has been fantastic watching the ideas come in and the contest grow each year.

This year, we've decided to announce the contest sooner, in hopes of giving people more time to come up with ideas. The Guild membership starts voting for their favorite design at the June Nowthen Hammer-In & Membership Meeting. The winner of the contest gets bragging rights for a full year and a free Fall Conference shirt. **You do *not* have to be an artist to come up with a great idea!** You can sketch something on a piece of paper or even just describe what your idea is, and I'll help you create an image as best as I can.

I'll be sending out more detailed information through The Bellows regarding things like shirt colors, design placement considerations, and whatever else I can think of that may be helpful to you.

In the meantime, start thinking about what you'd like to see on the 2026 Fall Conference shirt! You can send your ideas, sketches, or finished designs to me (Sara): TGoM.Archive@gmail.com

— Sara Gries



(2022 design)



(2023 design)



(2024 design)



(2025 design)

Discord platform for TGoM

Discord is a free communication app for voice, video, and text chat, functioning as a hub for communities (called "servers") built around specific interests, from gaming and hobbies to study groups and friend circles, offering persistent chat rooms (channels) and direct messaging across desktop, mobile, and web platforms. Originally for gamers, it's now a versatile platform for any group wanting organized, real-time interaction, allowing users to join public servers or create private ones with roles, content sharing, and various customization options.

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"

Email a request to join the platform to:

tgomdiscord@gmail.com or tgom.volunteer@gmail.com.

The monitor will send you a link to join.

Pipe Tongs Class 2026

Date & Time: Saturday, Jan. 24, 8 to 4:30

Location: MN School of Horseshoeing (map page 7)

Instructor: Dave Gavin

Class Manager: Jesse Gavin, 715-808-5891

jagavin6273@hotmail.com

Cost: Member: \$100

Non-Member: \$130

Class size: Maximum students: 8 Minimum students: 4

Class Description: This years tongs are what I'm calling pipe tongs. They will hold pipe of nearly any size by one edge vs having one for each size of pipe that you might work with. They will also hold just about any size material.

FYI – these work really well for working on bells once the end has been flared out, as the jaws will reach over and not damage the flaring as you work on the rest of the bell.

Tools and Equipment or other items participants are to bring to the class: favorite hammer, ball peen hammer, tongs to hold 3/8" – 1/2" round, files

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

Other Equipment: We will bring belt sander, torch, and specialty tooling to make one of the jaws.

Lunch arrangements: On your own or local establishments

How to Register:

To register online go to The Guild of Metalsmiths website,

<https://www.metalsmith.org/education>

Or to mail in a check, contact the class manager at the email address above for additional information and to reserve your place.

Minors (under 18) must have a parent present. Minors under 14 need one adult per child. There will be no sharing of forges.

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



Bronze Anvil Casting

Date: Saturday & Sunday, Jan. 10 & 11, 2026,



CANCELLED!

Happy New Year
2026

Introduction to Forge Welding 2026

Date and time: Saturday February 28, 9 am - 4 pm

Location: MN School of Horseshoeing (map page 7)

Instructor: Peter Ellison

Class Size: Maximum 8 **Cost:** \$100

Class Description:

Starting with how to manage the fire for forge welding and some basic discussion of the theory of forge welding. Jump right into the first project of making a simple flux spoon with a fold over forge weld. Then work on a fireplace poker that is built up with lots of different forge welds including joining two bars, a basket twist, and a collar weld.

Depending on the time available: welding chain, welding mild steel to high carbon steel. The goal of this class is to walk away confident forge welding is something that can be done, and how to troubleshoot the inevitable issues that come up. Basic forging skills needed.

Tools and Equipment or other items participants are to bring to the class: Favorite hammer and tongs for 3/8 round if you have them.

Safety Equipment: Bring safety glasses and appropriate clothing 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: Bring a lunch and water or dine at local fast food places

Class Manager: Gordon Barr

To register online go to The Guild of Metalsmiths website,

<https://www.metalsmith.org/education>

Or to mail in a check, contact class manager Gordon Barr agbarr@metalsmith.org to reserve a spot or for additional information.

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



Tools needed and the output of the class.

2026 Board of Directors and Committee Members

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Sara Gries, Director
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Mark Lockwood, Program Committee Co-Chair
Derrick Phillips, Program Committee Co-Chair

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Peter Bettenberg, Lead Editor of *Metalsmith*
Craig Snyder, Webmaster
Harvey Steele
Sara Gries

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Education: Kim Maas and Laurel Larkin, Co-Chairs
Finance Committee: Cathy Herman, Chair
Long-Term Planning: Cathy Herman
Membership: Gordon Barr
Programs: Derrick Phillips and Mark Lockwood, co-chairs
Sunshine: Mike Frattalone
Volunteer Coordination: Kim Maas, Chair

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Membership Services Committee
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Monica Walczak, NEON Technician

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Jesse Gavin
Taya Gavin
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John Moriarty
Matt Navratil
Rick Wessling
Susan Wood
Richard Zielike

Sunshine Committee

Mike Frattalone, Committee Chair

Volunteer Coordination

Kim Maas, Chair

This list is available on our website at:
<https://www.metalsmith.org/about/officers-and-committees/>

Taste of Blacksmithing 2026



Date: Saturday, February 7, 2026 Time: 9:00am – 4:00pm

Location: MN School of Horseshoeing (map page 7)

Instructor: Rebecca Hrobak 612-226-8608 rebellhornbrook@gmail.com

Class Manager: Laurel Larkin 651-955-9379 frogwench@comcast.net

Cost of Class: Member: \$100.00 Non-Member: \$120.00

Class size: Maximum students: 8 Minimum students: 6

Class Description: Ready to unleash your inner blacksmith? Today's the perfect day to give it a try – no experience, secret skill, or Viking ancestry required.

We've crafted this workshop specifically for newcomers. If you know which end of the hammer to hold, you're already ahead of the game.

With iron glowing in the forge and an anvil waiting for your command, you'll create take home treasures: a drive hook, an S-hook or an entirely new species of metal object formed through enthusiasm and questionable geometry.

Bring your creativity, your curiosity, your safety glasses (if you have some), and your natural fiber clothing. We'll take care of the rest – tools, material, guidance, and plenty of encouragement to whack hot metal responsibly.

To register: To register online go to The Guild of Metalsmiths website, <https://www.metalsmith.org/education>

Or to mail in a check, contact the manager's name, email address and/or phone number for additional information and to reserve your place.

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

Instructor's Workshop

Date & Time: Feb. 21, 2026, 9 am to 4 pm

Lead Instructor: David Skaurud, 218-849-4630, skaurud.gom@gmail.com

Location: MN School of Horseshoeing (map page 7)

Class Manager: Kim Maas 651-328-7219 tgom.volunteer@gmail.com

Cost of class: Free to Guild members

Class size: Maximum: 20 Minimum: 4

Class Description:

The Education Committee will be offering Instructors Workshops for ALL who are or are interested in becoming part of the Instructor Team. We feel it is important, and we strongly encourage all instructors (new and experienced) to attend this informative session, whether teaching the beginners class, any other class in the Guild setting or starting out by assisting with class.

The workshop will be offered again in August, if the February workshop does not work for you. You are more than welcome to attend all the workshops.

Agenda: Morning will start in the classroom with the introduction of the curriculum for *The Beginners Blacksmithing Class* three-day class. And discuss other possible classes. The Guild's classes have used bits and pieces of lessons 1-25 of the *Controlled Hand Forging*, the curriculum used since 2014. Lessons can be viewed at: <http://www.abana.org/resources/education/chf.shtml>. The class will move to the shop to continue with discussions and role play. There will be some initial training for instructors on

- 1) How to do a demonstration of a written lesson.
- 2) How to teach the lesson without wandering.
- 3) The demonstrator / coach method of instruction.
- 4) The proper time to interject alternate methods.
- 5) Ideas on how to motivate a student.
- 6) When is the right time to have fun.

All attendees will receive a certificate of completion after the class.

Lunch arrangement: Bring lunch or there are area restaurants.

Registration:

Note: You need to register online so we can prepare properly.

To register online go to The Guild of Metalsmiths website,

<https://www.metalsmith.org/education>

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

Beginners Blacksmithing 3-day - March 2026

Dates: The classes are held on Saturday, March 14, Sunday, March 15, and Saturday, March 21

Location: Larry Wasmund's Shop, 39213 20th St, Janesville, MN 56048 (See map below)

Class Description: The beginners' basic classes are designed to give everyone the same understanding of the basics, techniques and terminology. The basic classes or proficiency are 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.

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,
- Scrolling,
- Bending,
- Forge welding.

Class Size: 6

Class level: Beginners

Cost: \$230 for NON members, \$200 for Guild members (covers everything you need: the facility, coal, metal tools and work-book)

Class Champion/Manager: Laurel Larkin at frogwench@comcast.net or call 651-955-9379

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: Bring lunch. Shop is in rural Janesville. Bring plenty of water to keep hydrated during the event.

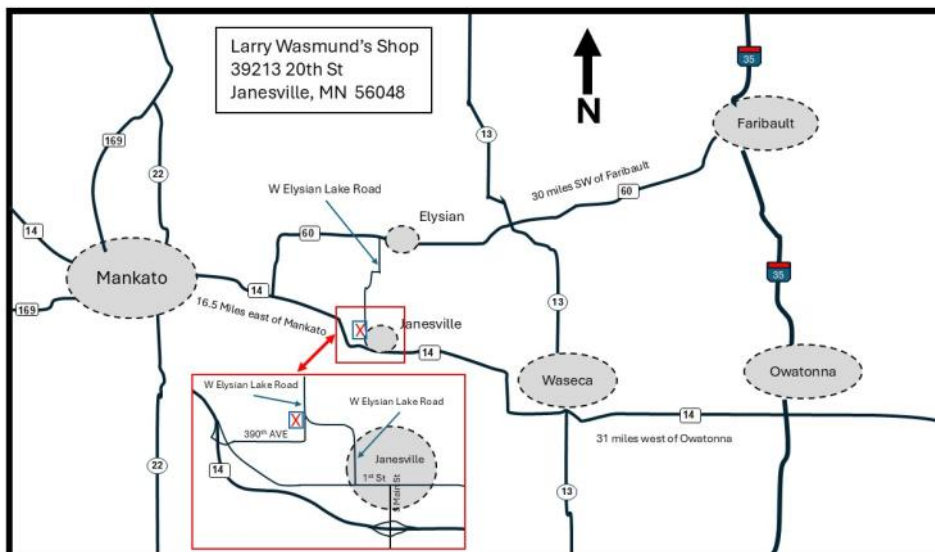
To register

To register online go to The Guild of Metalsmiths website, <https://www.metalsmith.org/education>

Or to mail in a check, contact the class manager at the email address above for additional information and to reserve your place.

Minors (under 18) must have a parent present. Minors under 14 need one adult per child. There will be no sharing of forges.

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



Our neighborhood of smiths

The Guild of Metalsmiths (TGoM)

Most membership meetings are the second Wednesday of February, April, June, August, and October, except December. For most 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: Martin Masters, mastersmw@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Cathy Herman

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

Badger Blacksmiths

President: Dave Weiss Newsletter editor: John Grump

715-379-5007 715-829-4559

diamondmetalworks13@gmail.com

johngrump@att.net

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 Jeff Olson for monthly specifics at olsonironworks@gmail.com. The NMM's website is <https://www.northernminnesotametalsmiths.com/>

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

Email: Carol Adams jc-adams@msn.com,

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

Sandy Lake Forge on Raspberry Island

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

Gary and Janet Hill

Raspberry Island

50569 218th Place

McGregor, MN 55760

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 dealership 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

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 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.ssfbs.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

10% discount for members

Toll Gas and Welding Supply

Eight Twin City metro locations.

763-551-5300

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

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/>

Architectural sheet metal company: zinc, steel, copper, Cor-Ten, aluminum, composite

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. **Watch each Forum for date and location changes.** 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 Kim Maas (tgom.volunteer@gmail.com) and Laurel Larkin (frogwench@comcast.net) co-chairs.
- Program Comm. meetings are 7 pm the third Thursday monthly. Derrick Phillips derrickphillipsa303@gmail.com or Mark Lockwood mlockwood851@gmail.com co-chairs.
- Communications Committee meets 4th Thursday of odd months. Contact Kim Maas, tgom.volunteer@gmail.com , Chair.
- Most board meetings are the second Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November via ZOOM.



January 2026

Bronze Casting Class, Jan. 10 & 11, 2026, Makerspace, Mankato MN
Jan. 3, 10, 17, Winter Beginning Blacksmithing, MN School of Horseshoeing
Jan. 24, Pipe Tongs Class, MN School of Horseshoeing

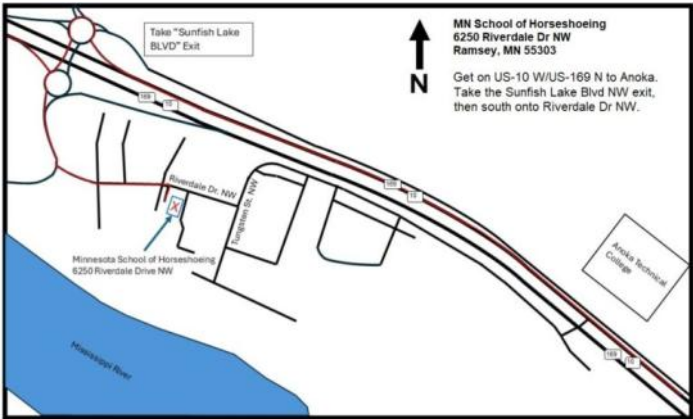
February 2026

Feb. 7, Taste of Blacksmithing, MN School of Horseshoeing
Feb. 7 Membership meeting at Northrup King & Co. 1500 Jackson St NE, Minneapolis
Feb. 21 Instructor's Workshop, MN School of Horseshoeing
Feb. 28, Intro to Forge Welding, MN School of Horseshoeing

March 2026

March 1 Open Forge for members only, MN School of Horseshoeing
March 14, 15, and 21, Beginning Blacksmithing Classes, Larry Wasmund's shop in Janesville, MN

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
(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@metalsmith.org.



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 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 2026



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 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
193 Pennsylvania Ave. E
St. Paul MN 55130