

'The Forum'

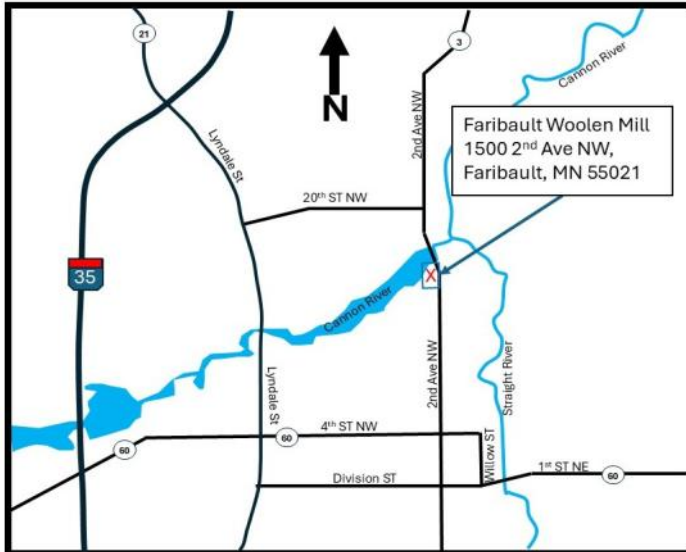


April 2026

Vol. 28 No. 4

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

Another Saturday Meeting! Saturday, April 11 is Next Membership Meeting at Faribault Woolen Mill



Champion Richard Zielike has been busy planning The Guild of Metalsmiths' April membership meeting.

Questions? richard@edinaclock.com

We're having yet another Saturday meeting. Our April meeting is at the Faribault Woolen Mill, 1500 2nd Ave NW, in Faribault MN. See map above.

So, on your calendar you'll need to change our April meeting date to April 11, with setup starting at 11:30, and our potluck starting at 12:00. It might be a little awkward arriving earlier, as there will be a tour before us. After our meal and meeting, we will be breaking into several tour groups, with the tours lasting approximately an hour. You can plan on leaving by 4:00.

Also on this day, we can visit the Rice County Historical Society 1814 NW 2nd Ave in Faribault. It's across the lake from the Woolen Mill. It's open from 10-2 on Saturdays and \$3-5 depending on age. Most of us qualify for the \$3 senior rate. rchistory.org

They have 3 areas for parking. The store has the closest parking which could be for those that can't walk as far. We can also park along the side of the building (off of 2nd Ave), and the large employee parking behind the building. They will put out parking signs for guidance. Please note that the only entrance that will be unlocked is the store.

We'll set up food and drink in their large conference room. Restrooms are just down the hallway. They will have large folding tables and chairs prepared for up to 65 people.

They plan to do their standard tour: 10-minute seated historical introduction, then 45-50 minutes walking through the facility. Please note that all tour attendees must stay within the guided pathway and cannot touch anything; everyone must stay with their group, no leaving during the tour. Once we get back to the store, the remainder of time can be for clean-up and shopping. They will have a 10% discount on items that are full-priced.

Golden Celebration...

...At the June Nowthen Hammer-In and Membership Meeting

2026 is 50 years since the beginning of The Guild of Metalsmiths

Come join us at the June 2026 Nowthen Hammer-In and Membership Meeting. This year, we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of The Guild of Metalsmiths.

The Nowthen Power Show grounds are located at 7415 Old Viking Blvd, Nowthen, MN 55303.

- Friday, June 5: 4:30pm to 0dark:thirty.
- Saturday, June 6: 0light: thirty to 0dark:thirty (all day.)
- TGoM Membership Meeting Saturday, June 6, at the Hammer-In. Potluck is the same as with other membership meetings.

('Golden Celebration' continued on page 2)


Fall Conference Flyers!

Single page flyers are ready for you to share with friends, family and in your community. Please help spread the word. [Click here to find flyer on our website.](#)

Faribault Woolen Mill photos—160 years!

On page 5 check out Richard Zieleke's photos of machinery you will see during the tour of the mill. Learn how they make not only their famous wool blankets and throws, but also many, many types of clothing.

'QUICKNEWS'

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

Annual Fall Conference T-Shirt Design Contest ends June 1!

Enter soon. Details page 2!

Beginning Blacksmithing Class April 11, 12, 18, 2026

Class is FULL!

Hammer Making Class May 9

Details page 3

Intro to Arc Welding May 16

Details page 3.

Open Forge FREE to Members Only

Details page 3.

Climate Control Storage

The Guild now has climate control storage. If you have Guild property that requires climate control storage in your home, please make arrangements to have it moved to the storage unit.

To make arrangements contact Kim Maas by email: tgom.volunteer@gmail.com or text/call 651-328-7219.

Volunteer Opportunities

The new 2026 list of summer demonstration opportunities is now posted on our web page. Follow the link below to see the entire list.

2026 Summer Demo Ops

The Guild is always looking for volunteers for numerous tasks that keep us in working order. Contact Kim Maas, our Volunteer Coordinator. tgom.volunteer@gmail.com or text/call 651-328-7219. *Not all help needed is smithing.*

June Nowthen Hammer-In & Membership Meeting

Hot (and golden) stuff will be happening at the annual Hammer-In taking place at the Nowthen Threshing Show grounds Blacksmith Shop. The blind forging competition will return on Saturday afternoon. The goal will be a friendly forge off.

Blind forging competition rules:

- An object is placed inside a box, and you must create (forge) the unknown object by what you can feel. No peeking!
- We usually do a time limit with this as well.
- Prizes to be announced!

We will focus our efforts on the Fall Conference contest item, A Towel Holder. Camping on-site is available Friday and Saturday night on primitive sites. Port-a-potties on site. Five forges are open for use. Coal will be provided. If you want to bring your own equipment, please do! Bring any examples you want 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 event will hopefully give you some inspiration to help you to come up with your own design for the Fall Conference theme contest, Towel Holder, and help you learn how to make it. If you don't know how to make something, ask ahead of time, and we will try very hard to accommodate.

— Wayne Olson, 320-280-0100

History of The Guild of Metalsmiths

The Guild of Metalsmiths was created in 1976. Several persons from the Minneapolis, Minnesota area attended the 1976 ABANA (Artist-Blacksmith Association of North America) Conference in Carbondale, Illinois. These persons returned to Minnesota excited and enthused about creating a local organization. They placed an ad in the newspaper for people interested in blacksmithing to meet at Gibbs Farm Museum. Out of the Gibbs Farm meeting The Guild of Metalsmiths was formed with fewer than ten persons. Membership fluctuates year-to-year but is often over 330 members.

In the very early years of The Guild of Metalsmiths many of the activities centered around the Renaissance Festival where the members would sell items and demonstrate for the public.

In more recent years The Guild has not held activities with the Renaissance Festival. Rather, activities have focused upon the regular meeting, training workshops, and special events that may be held from time to time.

The Guild of Metalsmiths is incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota as a non-profit corporation. Members are largely drawn from Minnesota and western Wisconsin, however there are a few members from other states and foreign countries.

Guild classes held through St. Paul Community Education—Adult Enrichment

To register for any of the classes, go to: [the SPSS website](#).

SPSS classes for the Spring/Summer session.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| April 25, 2026 | Copper Jewelry |
| May 2, 2026 | Taste of Blacksmithing |
| July 11, 2026 | Twisted Magic Wand |

If you have questions, please contact Kim Maas by email:

tgom.volunteer@gmail.com

The Guild's Annual Fall Conference T-Shirt Design Contest Is On!



What would you like to see on The Guild's 2026 Fall Conference T-shirt? Funny you should ask, because you get to decide! You don't have to be an artist to participate. You just need a neat idea for a shirt. The entry that receives the most votes gets a free conference shirt and bragging rights for the year! And, much like tools, you can never have enough T-shirts.

Send your ideas to Helper Minion Sara (TGoM.Archive@gmail.com), and we'll get your design ready for the start of voting at the Nowthen Hammer-in and membership meet-

ing in June.

The Rules:

- The design must be related to The Guild or the art of metal-working.
- The design **must be an original work of art**; it can be inspired by any number of things, but still must be your own original design work.
- The design needs to be translatable into a single color for printing.
- The design needs to be submitted by email* **before June 1, 2026**: tgom.archive@gmail.com .
*(Please speak with Kim at TGoM.Volunteer@gmail.com if you need to snail-mail your entry)

The Options:

- You can choose where the design goes.
- You can choose the color of the shirt.
- You can choose the color of the ink.
- You can submit more than one design.
- We have the official Guild logo available if you'd like to use it.

The Voting:

Voting will start at the June Hammer-In and Membership Meeting in Nowthen, MN, and will be made available afterward to those unable to attend the meeting.

The Reward:

The creator of the winning design will get a free Fall Conference t-shirt and bragging rights for a year!

Not an artist? Not a problem! We're here to help!

I'm not a professional artist, I've just toyed around with art a lot and, well, I wear an awful lot of t-shirts. So, I'm a resource if you need me! I can help as much or as little as you want me to.

— Helper Minion Sara

Zoo Babies 2026

We have been invited back to demonstrate at the Minnesota Zoo! This is a really great venue we have demonstrated at before. All members are welcome to sign up for as much time as they are able.



The dates are yet to be finalized/confirmed with the Zoo, but these are the dates we are proposing: May 2&3, 9&10, and 16&17.

Feel free to email me with any questions you may have, and I will do my best to get back to you promptly.

Rick Wessling
rgwessling@gmail.com

Hammer Making Class 2026



Saturday, May 9, 9:00am – 5:00pm (Please come by 8:30 to get your fire started for a prompt 9:00 start).

Location: MN School of Horseshoeing (map page 7)

Instructors: Derrick Phillips and others

Class Manager: Kim Maas, 651-328-7219

tgom.volunteer@gmail.com

Class size: Max 8, Min 4

Cost: Member: \$100 Non-Member: \$120

Class Description: It is recommended that anyone wishing to take this class has taken at least a few days long beginners' class and has several weeks of forging time. This will help ensure a certain comfort at the forge and with hot metal, as this class works with a larger hot piece. This class will teach you the skills you need to make a basic rounding 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 tool steel, punch the eye, shape both striking ends, heat treat and add the handle. You will go home with your own hammer. **Note:** This class can run late just to give a heads up

Bring to class: Bring your favorite hammers: one for striking hot metal and one for striking punches and drifts. Tongs for holding 1-1/2" square stock if you have that size.

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.

Lunch arrangements: Bring your own lunch or eat at one of the local establishments. We will take an hour break around noon. Also, bring plenty of water to stay hydrated during the day.

To Register:

To register online go to The Guild of Metalsmiths website,

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

Or to mail in a check, contact class manager shown above to reserve your place in the class and receive additional information on to where to mail the check.

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

Open Forge Free for Members Only

Sunday, June 28, 2026 from 9am to 4pm

Instructor: Harvey Steele, (239) 671-8887 hsteele@handeecleat.com

Location: MN School of Horseshoeing (map page 7)

Tools and Equipment or other items participants are to bring to the class: The Guild provides the space (forges, anvils, etc.) and coal. Please bring your own steel, hammers, tongs, chisels, etc.

Safety Equipment: The usual for forging with coal: Safety glasses (required), hearing protection (recommended), clothing of natural fiber with no cuffs or fraying, glove, leather boots or shoes.

Other Equipment: Folding chair, if desired.

To register online go to The Guild of Metalsmiths website,

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

or email the champion to reserve your place: Harvey Steele,

hsteele@handeecleat.com

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

Lunch Arrangements: Bring your lunch or there are several restaurants in the area.

Intro to Arc Welding Class 2026

Saturday, May 16, 2026 9:00am – 4:00pm

Location: Minnesota Transportation Museum, 193 Pennsylvania Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55130
(Map below) Park in the back lot at the museum. Parking area is close to 3 Empire Drive, St. Paul



Instructor: Marty Masters

Class Size: Max 4, Min 3

Class Manager: Marty Masters 651-285-8731

martin.masters@metalsmith.org

Cost: Member: \$125 Non-Member: \$ 150

Class Description: If you've ever wanted to know more about welding, but didn't have a way to do it, here's your chance. There's something mysterious and magical about welding. Welders sit so close to this fountain of sparks that most people would jump back from. They join steel (and other materials) together as if they were one.

This one-day class will be a survey of three common modern arc welding techniques which are appropriate for hobby welding:

- Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW/Stick)
- Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW/MIG)
- Flux Cored Arc Welding (FCAW)

Each technique will be explained and demonstrated. Then the student will have hands-on time to practice.

Safety Equipment: Wear clothing made of natural fiber with no cuffs or fraying, and leather boots or shoes. Proper welding gloves, welding leathers or coat, welding helmet (We will have loaner helmets and some gloves if you don't want to buy.)

Lunch Arrangements: Bring your own lunch or eat at one of the local establishments. We will take an hour break around noon. Also, bring plenty of water to keep you hydrated during the class.

To Register:

To register online go to The Guild of Metalsmiths website,

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

Or to mail in a check, contact class manager shown above to reserve your place in the class and receive additional information on to where to mail the check.

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





Associate Editor for 'Metalsmith'

Have you ever thought that being an editor of a magazine would be a challenge you would like to take on? Well, here is an opportunity just for you. This is a way you can impress your parents, children, and friends, plus have control over what you want 'Metalsmith' to feature and publish.

Our 'Metalsmith' team is looking for someone to create one issue of 'Metalsmith' per year, working with our lead editor, Peter Bettenberg, and our 'Metalsmith' team.

Putting it together:

- Gather any articles from the members, and the President's letter.
- Try to take Show 'n Tell photos from the Membership meetings and do photo layouts.
- Any extra space can be filled in with articles from other blacksmith groups. Only use those that are high-resolution; due to low-resolution copies don't look/work good.
- After laying out the magazine, send it to our 'Metalsmith' team for proofreading.
- Email articles submitted by members to get their approval after edits have been made.
- Request mailing list from the NEON administrator.
- When issue is completed, email final draft to printer, cc 'Metalsmith' editor and Communication Committee chair.
- The printer will print and mail 'Metalsmith' out.

Requirements:

- Willing to assist members with their articles.
- Time management skills. We want 'Metalsmith' to be ready for printing and mailed in the month when members expect the magazine in their mailboxes.
- Basic computer skills. The magazine is created on the computer, sent to the printer via email.

You do not need to be a college graduate, professional reporter or a wordsmith. You will have support.

To respond to this ad, please contact either of the folks listed below:

Peter Bettenberg: tgomeditor@gmail.com

Kim Maas, Volunteer Coordinator, tgom.volunteer@gmail.com

The Financial Committee needs your help

The Guild's treasurer needs to put a list together of all the Guild's tools and their locations. If you have any tools that belong to the Guild in your possession, please email the list of what you have to the treasurer, Harvey Steele at mstreasurer@metalsmith.org.

Please add as much detail regarding the item as possible.

Example: If you have tongs, what type of tongs do you have? If you have welding helmets, what type of welding helmets are they?

Thank you!

Event coming up features 2 TGoM smiths!

Join the Northern MN Metalsmiths at their 31st annual spring conference on April 26 & 26 at the LIRPF Steam Show Grounds. It's located south of the intersection of State Hwy 200 & Clearwater County #2 on the north end of Itasca State Park, 27 miles north of Park Rapids. The address is: 16879 N Entrance Dr, Shevlin, MN 56676.

TGoM's own Brendan Stevens and Jim Moenck will be their featured demonstrators Saturday: 9am-12pm & 1-4pm and Sunday: 9am-12pm.

Bring warm clothes and cushions for the bleachers. No alcoholic beverages. For info, call/text Keith at 218-556-2920 or Jeff at 218-686-9164.

March 2026 - Beginners Blacksmith Class held at Larry Wasmund's Janesville MN shop



*Adam Dauer, *Adam Robrahn, Laure Lundequam, Don Lundequam, *Larry Wasmund - Lead Instructor, Joe Lundequam, and Landon Brodersen. Off to the right is *Laurel Larkin, class champion. *Instructor Team. Photo by Laurel Larkin.

Intro to Forge Welding Class February 28, 2026



Class was led by Peter Ellison at MN School of Horseshoeing. Gordon Barr was his assistant instructor.

Student List: Steven Lamphere, Jeffery Hammer, Brenda Hammer, Virginia Dale, Sergey Vaynschenk, Eliot Shaeffer, Jeff Westphal, Nicholas Schwartz. Photo by Gordon Barr.

TGoM Photo Page: Faribault Woolen Mill



Front lot for those who need closer parking.



Larger lot across the street.

Big thanks to Richard Zielike!

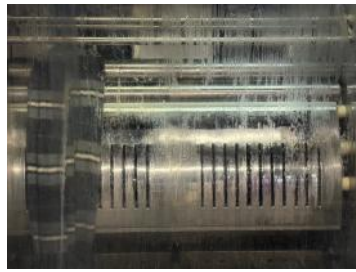
The Saturday, April 11 TGoM membership meeting at Faribault Woolen Mill has been a work in progress by Board member Richard Zielike, who took a couple days and drove down to Faribault to scope out the meeting location, collect information from Mill Store Manager Ella Krawczek, and snap some accompanying photos to share with us.

Below you'll see photos that show some of the big machines that are used to mill and create their famous products known the world over. Check out their website for their story:

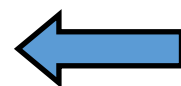
<https://www.faribaultmill.com>

Come to the mill to take a journey through their entire wool manufacturing process, from the raw wool to the finished product.

Join TGoM members and families for a noon potluck, meeting, and tour of Faribault Woolen Mill on Saturday, April 11.



An older machine that Richard learned is no longer used.



TGoM Photo Page—Folks & Food!



TGoM members sharing dinner at Don's Seafood Restaurant in Lafayette, Louisiana with members of the Louisiana Metalsmiths Association (LAMA) and families following their March 14 and 15 annual conference ("Bangin' on the Bayou!") held in Delcambre, Louisiana. Also joining us were members of the Blacksmiths Association of Missouri (BAM.) Left to right: around the table: Myron (TGoM); David Jr., Marisa, Brie, Walter (LAMA), Mike, Ken, Steve and his wife (BAM), Gary and Georgia (TGoM); Linda, Everett, and Dave (LAMA), and Dick (TGoM).



This classic photo was taken during LAMA's annual Christmas meeting in December 2025. It features five smiths gathered in a LAMA smithy in Broussard, LA. They are, left to right, Larry Blanchard, Dave Bernard, and Marcus Melancon from LAMA, and Myron Hanson and Dick Carlson from TGoM.

'Bangin' on the Bayou' 2026!

For over ten years Gary and I have driven down to Louisiana in March to attend the Louisiana Metalsmiths Association's (LAMA) annual conference, known as "Bangin' on the Bayou"! It's not only a way to get out of Minnesota during probably the snowiest month of the year, but also a respite from those short winter days without sunshine. It's usually warmer there!

We got the idea from two well-known members of our own metalsmith group, The Guild of Metalsmiths," who had been going down for years before we had. Dick Carlson and Myron Hanson haven't missed too many trips since they became aware that help was needed by the smiths in southern Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina tore it apart

They've been helping ever since. And they've invited many other TGoM members to journey there too.

I do not blacksmith. Gary does. I just like to write about their work, their projects, and their capers!

So again in March we made the trip. Dick and Myron flew down this time. We spent about a week getting reacquainted with the families of smiths in the area and, of course, delighting in their Cajun cuisine.

LAMA President Blake Mullins introduced the conference demonstrator, Jaime Escobedo, an ABANA member and president of the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association. Jaime spent two days forging on his gas forge to produce objects known to the blacksmith community.

While in Louisiana we carefully watched weather reports from Minnesota and learned that our part of Minnesota was scheduled to receive record-breaking amounts of snow while we were gone. Sure enough, flying home for Myron and Dick was complicated, and our son spent hours at our house with the snowblower removing 18 inches of new snow from our driveway and sidewalks. We couldn't express enough gratitude for that.

The trip fulfilled our expectations once again, and we plan another trip next March.

— *Georgia Myers*



Jaime Escobedo, president of the Arizona Artist-Blacksmith Association, was the featured demonstrator at the 2026 Louisiana Metalsmiths Association (LAMA) "Bangin' on the Bayou" conference on March 14 and 15.

2026 BAM Ozark Conference

BAM (Blacksmith Association of Missouri) is holding their 34th annual conference from April 30 to May 3, 2026 at the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia, Missouri. They have a great line up of demonstrators and classes scheduled for this conference. This year's theme is "Forging the American Frontier."

FEATURING
Tyler Sydebotham
Simeon England
Joshua Rachita

Multiple Guild of Metalsmith members have attended this conference in past years, and this year is no different. It's about an 8 hour drive from Minnesota, weather permitting! Think about joining us.

For details on the 2026 BAM Conference, [follow this link to their website:](#)

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.

April 2026

April 11, **SATURDAY** Membership meeting at Faribault Woolen Mills, 1500 2nd Ave NW, Faribault MN

April 11, 12, & 18, Beginning Blacksmithing Class, MN School of Horseshoeing **ARE FULL!**

April 26 & 27, NMM Annual Spring Conference, north of Park Rapids, MN

April 30—May 3, 2026, BAM Ozark Conference, Sedalia, MO

May 2026

May 9, Hammer Class, MN School of Horseshoeing

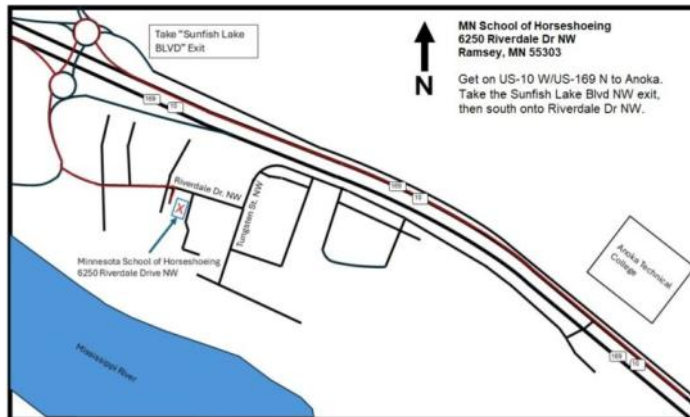
May 16, Intro to Arc Welding, Minnesota Transportation Museum (map page 3)

June 2026

June 5 & 6, June Hammer-In at Nowthen-*TGoM's Golden Anniversary!*

June 28, Open Forge for Members Only, MN School of Horseshoeing

Map to MN School of Horseshoeing



Join The Guild of Metalsmiths

Send \$50 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
193 Pennsylvania Ave E
St. Paul MN 55130

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.

April 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