



Washington Guild of Goldsmiths

The Washington Guild of Goldsmiths (WGG) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the pursuit, study, teaching, and enjoyment of metalsmithing, jewelry design and related arts; and to providing a means for the exchange of information and ideas as well as educational opportunities for its members and the public.

Dear WGG Member, welcome to our latest NEWSLETTER, Winter 2023!



Made by Carrington & Co. in 1893. Platinum Jubilee: The Queen's Accession exhibition at Buckingham Palace.

Letter from the President



The holiday season is upon us, and the Guild has a lot to be thankful for this year. First and foremost, the Guild celebrated the 20th anniversary of our biennial show, METALWORK. The show took place at the beautiful Strathmore Mansion, where we honored Guild founders and longtime members who helped to establish and develop our organization. Their works were highlighted in a special room adjacent to the juried show of our current members. Bringing the art of new and seasoned artists together enabled Guild members and the public alike to see the diversity of styles, skill sets, and materials on display and appreciate how the metal and jewelry arts have developed over the years.

Our 2022 holiday party also brought us together once again to share food and drink, welcome new members and reconnect with old friends. At the same time, we all had the chance to treat ourselves to new tools from Tevel of AllCraft. Along with a very fun and delicious potluck at Michael Schwartz's house this summer, we have enjoyed our foray into in-person gatherings again, with the hopes of many more in the coming year.

I am especially thankful for the dedicated WGG board who has consistently worked very hard to keep our organization strong. We have welcomed six new board members this year: Noha Nader, Jowita Allen, Sarah Porter, Kathy Nelson, Nil Van Order and Estelle Vernon. In addition, we reelected Vice President Jan Solomon and Treasurer Michael Brehl. The amount of time and effort each board member has committed to the Guild has taken my breath away.

2023 promises to bring even more good tidings to the Guild as we explore possibilities for a new website, new workshops and monthly meetings, and as we continue to share our knowledge and enthusiasm about metalsmithing, jewelry and related arts.

Here's a warm-felt toast to us all and best wishes for a happy New Year.

Elyse Demaray



3rd Tuesdays!

We had two terrific 3rd Tuesday artist talks on this fall.

Guest artist Thomas Turner (<https://www.thomasturnerjewelry.com/>) wowed us in September with his beautiful studio in a forested setting and his stunning jewelry. He walked us through his journey as a lapidary and jeweler, generously shared tips and tricks as well as sources for his materials, and demonstrated some of the special techniques he uses in his work. Many of us were inspired by his method for tube-setting diamonds and other hard stones before soldering into his signature curving lines of small tube-set gems.

The Guild's Annual Meeting took place in October.

Our November speaker was WGG Lifetime member and artist Michael Schwartz (www.creativemetalworks.com). Michael's former School of Design was a home for many of us for classes and workshops and also the location for jurying for many of our METALWORK shows prior to 2018. Michael generously took us on an extensive tour of his studio, showing us some of the spectacular pieces in his showcase and the specialized equipment he continues to use to produce awards, ceremonial objects, and other special commission pieces. Members and visitors who attended METALWORK 2022 got to see several of Michael's remarkable pieces in the Invitational Show, including the Fantasy Carousel and the Crown of Brazil.

In lieu of a 3rd Tuesday event in December, members gathered at the Art League Madison Annex for both a tool sale by Tevel of Allcraft (<https://www.allcraftusa.com/>) and a holiday potluck on December 11.

WGG Holiday Gathering!

On December 11, Guild members gathered for a double holiday treat -- a tool sale by Tevel of All Craft USA (<https://www.allcraftusa.com/>) followed by an in-person holiday party. Attendees selected tools from the wares Tevel brought down from NYC: big ticket items such as micromotors, keum boo gold, and master setting tools to everyday files, burs, polishing kits, tweezers and much, much more! A tool-lover's delight! After feeding our tool cravings, we feasted on the delicious food members brought to the potluck: scrumptious appetizers, salads and sandwiches, along with decadent desserts like Nutella and lemon crepes, just to name a few! After 2 years of not gathering in person to celebrate the end of the year, we were thrilled to share holiday cheer with old friends and new.



WORKSHOPS

February 2023 WGG will host an online CLASPS workshop by Suzanne Williams.



Cost: \$225 to members, \$285 to non-members

Dates: February 3, 10 and 17

Time: 11am to 1pm EST

Link: There will be a link four weeks ahead of the workshop to register and pay.



Suzanne Williams (<https://suzannewilliamsjewelry.com/index.html>) makes intricate clasps and closures for jewelry as integral parts of the overall jewelry design. In the CLASPS workshop, we will create clasps and closures that instead of being an afterthought are unique, functional, intriguing and engaging to look at. This 3-day workshop will start with a short presentation introducing participants to different kinds of clasping methods and mechanisms for jewelry, including a section on clasp inspirations - ideas coming from non-jewelry sources. We will then create 3 clasp samples of increasing complexity in sterling silver. These clasp mechanisms can be modified and incorporated in unique and unusual ways, in innumerable variations, into necklace and in some cases bracelet closures - becoming integrated into the design, or as the main attraction of a jewelry piece.

If interested, please contact:

Nilanjana Van Order
WGG Workshop Coordinator
nilvanorder@gmail.com

Estelle Vernon
WGG Workshop Coordinator
evernon@estellevernon.com

For more workshops, please check regularly WGG Facebook & Instagram



Would you like your work to be featured in SNAG's magazine, **METALSMITH?**

Six WGG members have already been featured in Metalsmith Vol.42 No.3, last October 2022!

Washington Guild of Goldsmiths is a nonprofit organization dedicated to metalsmithing, jewelry design, and related arts; to enabling the exchange of information and ideas; and to providing educational opportunities for members and the public.

 <p>Michael Brehl www.allthingshammered.com</p>	 <p>Nilanjana Van Order www.artbynili.com</p>	 <p>Jowita Allen www.jowitaallen.com</p>
 <p>Natalie Barat Design www.nataliebarat.com</p>	 <p>Estelle Vernon www.estellevernon.com</p>	 <p>Peggy Shiffrin DESIGNS www.peggyshiffrin.com</p>

This unique opportunity is still available to all WGG members who would like to advertise in the next Metalsmith issue at a greatly reduced rate, thanks to Michael Brehl, a member of SNAG's board and WGG's Treasurer. Metalsmith is published by SNAG three times a year and is known as THE magazine in the metalsmithing community. In their own words, they are "The leading source for jewelry and metalworking inspiration, insight, and information."

WGG's ad will include WGG members' photos (1 photo/member, resolution 300 dpi) in one issue of Metalsmith at \$100-\$150 for each member (depending on the number of artists). This is a wonderful opportunity to keep your name and jewelry center stage or to introduce your work nationwide. We would like to place an ad in multiple issues, thereby offering this opportunity to a new group of WGG members each time.

To secure your place in the next WGG ad, click the button below to pay and submit your photo plus your name (the one you'd like to be featured with your photo) to Michael Brehl at mtbrehl@gmail.com.

For more information,
call Michael at 301-437-7391.

Don't wait! This is on a first come, first served basis.

[Pay Here](#)

Member Spotlight



Kit Aikin a native of Montgomery County, MD, is a social scientist and artist who makes organic inspired adornments. She has a Ph.D. in social psychology from Penn State University and has been active as an artist since 2011.

Inspired by the strange and unusual, and with a strong dash of nerdy, I create one-of-a-kind jewelry using resin, aluminum, silver, and brass. My modern resin works are created by combining ink with epoxy resin. Using a selection of handmade molds and abstract shapes, the resin is poured and layered to create bright, vibrantly colored jewel-like shapes. I explore the hidden and changing natural world, such as the secrets of trees revealed in growth rings, midlife stalactites, ephemeral sandcastles, and abstract representations of the moon. Beautiful on the outside as well as the inside, layered pieces can be read like tree rings: each layer is a day's work, showing the time it takes to build the piece to completion.

Having a lifelong fascination with jewelry and adornment, my journey as an artist was jumpstarted by a class in metalsmithing at Montgomery College. From there I proceeded to teach myself how to work with resin. I chose resin because the material offers me the flexibility to create my own shapes and colors. My artistic process draws on my training as a scientist, using scientific techniques of random assignment and experimental control combined with trial-and-error learning. Resin reflects the conditions under which it is poured: warm weather pieces are clear, while cold weather pieces are cloudy and filled with tiny effervescent bubbles. I embrace this randomness, making each piece a representation of the seasonal weather and humidity in which it is created. My future work will seek to push the limits of resin, moving beyond resin as a medium and into resin as form.



Photo 1: Sandcastle Drip Ring: This ring was inspired by the drip sandcastles my grandfather taught me how to make. It brings to mind being with him at Assateague Island in the summer, sitting in the sand, creating fragile towers of dripped sand.

Photo 2: Asymmetrical Horseshoe Earrings: These earrings combine two of my favorite techniques—building layers through dipping and asymmetry. They're both complex and whimsical.

Member Spotlight



Anna Nava-Liess grew up in California and spent about two decades as a nomadic military spouse, traveling and living all over the US and Europe. About ten years ago, after overcoming neurosurgery and partial paralysis, she discovered jewelry making and metalsmithing, which helped her regain and refine her motor skills that had been lost to paralysis.

I'm inspired by many things, but I love textiles, fashion, European architecture, and the countless experiences I've had while living and traveling abroad. One-of-a-kind, handmade statement pieces are my passion. Whenever I can, I design fabric-inspired prints that I etch into sterling silver and integrate into my creations.

Artistar Jewels in Milan has welcomed me to their exhibition for the past four years. The first year was a little intimidating, as I was just beginning to put my jewelry and myself "out there." What I came away with, though, is the confidence to explore my identity as a jewelry artist and maintain the many contacts whom I've come to consider friends. The Artistar Jewels project, which has become the principal attraction during the relatively new Milan Jewelry Week, will always be very special to me.

Last year, I participated in New York City Jewelry Week (NYCJW), where I exhibited at Atelier D'Emotion. Like Milan Jewelry Week, NYCJW is a fabulous experience. Jewelry artists from all over the world participate in both online and in-person events. I encourage anyone who loves New York City and jewelry to attend.

This year, I am an exhibiting artist at "Hope is Resiliency," an event hosted by the Society of North American Goldsmiths (SNAG).



I've also been working on a long-term collection inspired by a list, Ten Fashion Items a Woman Should Own, by Mary Johnson. I've covered four items on the list. The latest are rings inspired by the pump shoe. Six months and about six prototypes led to my first completely finished ring. I've completed three rings,

each with its own story; and, I am now working on a sandal.

WGG Newsletter team asked Anna to comment on: New Year, new beginnings...

Anna said: New beginnings, especially those thrust upon you, can be both exciting and scary. Adjusting to change takes as long as it takes. There's no shortcut past the tough parts, but even if the journey is uncomfortable, the end result is well worth it!



Milano Jewelry Week is the yearly event entirely dedicated to the world of jewelry. Through different events, Milano Jewelry Week develops within exclusive and evocative locations in the city: historic buildings, high jewelry ateliers, goldsmith workshops, academies, art galleries, fashion boutiques and design show.

Milano Jewelry Week creates moments of exchange and interaction, captivating trade operators and at the same time putting the whole public of enthusiasts and curious in contact with the world of jewels. It is a great opportunity to expand your network, exchange knowledge, establish relationships with potential customers, get in touch with new markets, enhance your brand identity.

Over 700 exhibitors from 40 different countries (about 70% of the total from abroad), more than 8,000 jewels on display: these are the incredible numbers of an event that, through collective and personal exhibitions, galleries and international schools exhibitions, workshops, performances, temporary shops and award evenings, intends to provide a multi-faceted interpretation of the history and technique of the goldsmith's art and to attract not only operators of the sector but also lovers of Beauty and Know-how.

Facebook: [@MilanoJewelryWeek](https://www.facebook.com/MilanoJewelryWeek)

Instagram: [@MilanoJewelryWeek](https://www.instagram.com/MilanoJewelryWeek)

Site: www.milanojewelryweek.com

Queen Elizabeth II's ten most famous and memorable jewels

As we share our memories of the late Queen Elizabeth II, which ten jewels from crowns to tiaras and brooches are most closely connected to her reign?

By [MARIA DOULTON](#) for "The Jewellery Editor"

[WGG editor's note: Here's an excerpt from the article, which was published September 14, 2022 and gives a glimpse of some of the late Queen's most iconic Jewelry. To read the full article, please [click here](#).]



Crowns are the jewels most intrinsically linked to royalty so the number one jewel is the Imperial State Crown that the Queen wore departing from her coronation. But more than one crown was used.



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

SNAG: Virtual Workshops

LEVEL UP WITH THE HYDRAULIC PRESS with SARAH CHAPMAN

In this two-day hydraulic press workshop, Sarah will guide students through different forming processes and combinations of accessories to achieve complex forms in metal. Participants will learn how to make their own custom two-sided silhouette die and the soldering techniques needed to start creating small hollow forms with the hydraulic press. Sarah will also demonstrate how students can use a variety of bracelet-forming tools, impression dies, and other combinations of dies to create complex and repeatable three-dimensional pieces for production work or for one-of-a-kind pieces.

January 13 & 20, 2023 from 3:00 – 5:00 pm ET

For more information, please [click here](#).

Montgomery College: In person workshop

Jewelry Basics

Explore the elements of jewelry design using simple hand tools. Learn techniques such as stamping, texturing, sawing, piercing, and wire wrapping. Design and fabricate your own jewelry in the studio as you develop your creativity and fabrication skills. Discover contemporary trends in jewelry and metalsmithing and how you can apply them to your work. Open to students of all levels. Note: This course does not fulfill soldering prerequisite for upper-level jewelry courses.

Date: 2/6-4/17 Time: 7-9:30 p.m.

Instructor: Wanjin Kim

For more information, please [click here](#).

METALWERX: In person workshop

Ancient Plaiting Techniques for stunning Jewelry in Silver & Bronze:

In this two-day workshop students will explore both fundamental and advanced ancient plaiting techniques, also known as decorative wire twisting - methods of manipulating wire that were heavily used during the Iron Age and throughout the Viking Age. Participants will explore twist and counter-twist patterning, metal fusing, how to finish off plaited ends, and forming their very own findings / latching mechanisms while creating unique, intricately twisted bracelets, earrings, or pendants. Both traditional bronze/brass wire and fine silver will be used in this course. In addition to learning the techniques for plating, the instructor will go in depth into the fascinating history and geography behind where these techniques originated and how they have been utilized through the ages.

Previous experience with wire working and jewelry making is not necessary, but some jewelry understanding would be beneficial. Students can expect to wear home completed pieces of jewelry.

With Louis Garcia
January 7 - 8, 2023, Daily from 10:00am – 5:00pm (2 days)

For more information, please [click here](#).

Sliverworks: In person workshop

Discover Sterling Silver Clay Workshop

Discover the amazing creative versatility of PMC (precious metal clay). Complete up to 3 pieces of jewelry while learning the basics of rolling, sculpting and stamping. Fired by the instructor overnight, your clay creation becomes a beautiful piece of Sterling Silver Jewelry that you will finish the following day. No experience necessary. Materials fee \$65.

Date: 2/18/2023-2/19/2023
Time: 10:30 AM-2:30 PM EST on Sun Sat

Instructor: Blair Anderson

For more information, please [click here](#).



GLEN ECHO PARK

Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture

Holiday Art Show & Sale

Until January 8, 2023

With so many unique gifts, the Holiday Art Show & Sale is a great place to shop for everyone on your holiday list! The show features the Park's resident artists and instructors, as well as other invited guests with works in various media, including art glass, pottery, photography, plus jewelry, ornaments, and more!

For more information [click here](#).



34th Biennial Exhibition of Fine Crafts

Tuesday MAY 9 –
Saturday JULY 29, 2023

The Creative Crafts Council 34th Biennial Exhibition will present some of the Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia region's top work in ceramics, enamel, fiber, glass, metal, mixed media, wood, book arts, and more at The Mansion at Strathmore.

Applications for the Exhibition are accepted between December 21, 2022 until 11:59 pm on February 5, 2023

For more information [click here](#).



Applications are now open!

Join Canada's leading contemporary outdoor/online art fair, launching artists' careers since 1961. Our iconic white tents have hosted many renowned Canadian artists, such as Edward Burtynsky, Barbara Astman, Joanne Tod and many more at the early stages of their careers. Our community is passionate about supporting artists and exceptional talents through awards, special programs and opportunities.

Early Bird Deadline: February 28, 2023 (11:59 PM)

Final Application Deadline: March 7, 2023 (11:59 PM)

For more information [click here](#).



BOSTON METRO REGION

MAY 17 - MAY 21, 2023

Explore from the South shore to the North shore in this exciting new JRACraft trip to the Boston area! Experience world class institutions and private guided tours. Visit notable galleries, see one of the top private collections in the country, and meet nine contemporary craft artists making waves locally and nationally.

Included: 2 dinners, 4 lunches, 1 breakfast, museum admission, ground transportation and

organizing fees
Not included: Airfare/travel to Boston, Hotel
lodging.

For more information [click here.](#)

Did you know?

Did you know that Washington Guild of Goldsmiths makes a donation to cerf+ every year?
What is cerf+? and why do we help?

cerf+ The Artists Safety Net

A studio artist's career has its own set of ups and downs. Some are predictable, others are unexpected. We're here to ensure that your career is able to sustain both. We envision a future where working artists thrive and have a safety net of resources and support to protect and sustain their livelihood, studio and art.

CERF+ was started by artists for artists in the craft community as a grassroots mutual aid effort in 1985 and has since emerged as the leading nonprofit organization that uniquely focuses on safeguarding artists' livelihoods nationwide. CERF+ serves artists who work in craft disciplines by providing a safety net to support strong and sustainable careers. Our core services are education programs, advocacy, network building and emergency relief.

CERF+ is readiness, relief + resilience for studio artists, ensuring that they are as protected as the work they create.

CERF+ is a 501(c)(3) public charity.

For more information, Please [click here.](#)



Instagram Instagram!!!

Are you following WGG's Instagram Page?
Would you like WGG to follow you and help share your work? Then follow us by [clicking here.](#)

If you already follow us, tag us @washingtonguildofgoldsmiths and we will repost your work in our story!

Send us a photo of your Jewelry bench and we will post it!

Thanks, Jowita Allen.

CLASSIFIEDS

Do you have jewelry stuff to sell? It can be listed here for free. Do you have a job to fill in jewelry work? It can be listed here for free.



- Foredom Dealer Contact: Cyd Rowley, WGG board member, is now a Foredom dealer. You can see all Foredom tools and supplies at <http://www.foredom.net>. She gives you 15% off all items. Orders must be submitted in writing to her via email (cydrowley@mac.com) and payment made at time of receipt. Items will be shipped directly to your house. You may also contact her by phone 301-996-2089 to discuss Foredom products and replacement parts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Open Board Position: Third Tuesday Coordinator**
Are you interested in connecting with accomplished jewelers and metalsmiths and serving on the Board? It's time for Jan Solomon to pass on the baton, after serving as both VP and third-Tuesday coordinator this past year. The coordinator's job is to contact accomplished jewelers and metalsmiths or individuals related to the field, and arrange for them to present their expertise to the Guild in a Zoom meeting. Jan is willing to share the position in order to show the new coordinator the ropes. If you are interested, contact Jan at: 3rdtuesday@washingtonguildofgoldsmiths.com.
- Do you have some extra space in your basement or garage? We are looking for 5' x10' weather-protected space to store the special cases we use for our biennial METALWORK show. These are now in paid storage. Prices for storage units keep going up, and we'd like to save the costs for other Guild needs. If you have room to spare, please contact Nick Barnes at: nickbarnes@verizon.net.

Would you like WGG to feature your work here?
Get in touch with us!

We want to continue featuring our members, their work, achievements, recognition, and awards! So if you are interested, please send a brief paragraph about yourself (250 words or less) and a photo of your work to wggnewsletter@washingtonguildofgoldsmiths.com.

We are so excited for you!

Not a WGG member?
Join us today!

The Washington Guild of Goldsmiths is dedicated to furthering knowledge and interest in all things metal. We welcome jewelers, metalsmiths, artisans and other interested individuals. Join our lively group to share ideas and techniques and to improve your skills. For more information [Click here](#).

WGG Membership Form



2022 WGG BOARD OF DIRECTORS Officers and Coordinators

President

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