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Quarterly Newsletter of the SOCIETY FOR MIDWEST METALSMITHS

# FORGING

**August 2010**

P.O. Box 31314 St. Louis, MO 63131 [www.midwest-metalsmiths.org](http://www.midwest-metalsmiths.org)  
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Next Meeting: Saturday, August 28th, Noon Activity: Share Favorite Books

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## SMM Scholarship Program

The SMM Scholarship Program, chaired by **Gayle Eastman**, awarded two summer camp metals scholarships to Alexis Burton, age 13 (photo left) and Jamilah Irby, age 11 (photo right) through the Youth in Need program. These scholarships make it possible for kids to take metalsmithing classes at Craft Alliance in St. Louis, Missouri.

Alexis and Jamilah were enrolled in the "Found Object Jewelry" class for the summer camp session which was taught by Kevin Lin. The girls had quite a good time transforming their found objects into wearable art.



Youth In Need is a proud member of the United Way. Every year, Youth In Need serves more than 10,000 children, teens, and families; and is just a part of the one million lives United Way touches annually.

## Summer Workshops - Build Your Own Workbench with Sherri Jaudes

On Saturday June 26th, SMM member **Sherri Jaudes** taught students how to build their own jeweler's bench in her build-a-bench workshop. In addition to being a metalsmith, Sherri also has a background in remodeling kitchens and baths. This bench is her own design, and it is much more affordable and larger than ones available for purchase from jewelry supply stores. It can be customized in a variety of ways to accommodate different jobs and working styles; and is strong enough to support additional shelving on the top and sides.

Sherri began the workshop by instructing students on how to build a base for the bench. Wood posts must be cut to precise lengths, and then squared-up properly to ensure a level and sturdy work surface. Next, students cut out the belly, and nailed and glued each layer of the work surface together. Sherri also made bench pins for each person to take home with them.

The benches are left in two pieces for easy transport home, and the legs are attached later to the top of the work surface. These benches are incredibly sturdy, and will last a lifetime.

Students came from all over the area to learn how to make their own workbench, one even traveled from as far as Indiana.



SMM thanks Sherri for her talent and enthusiasm. Proving, once again, that you don't have to spend a lot of money in order to have sturdy, well-made tools.



## Moving Metal with Joe Muench

In July, SMM welcomed artist Joe Muench back to St. Louis for his workshop on synclastic and anticlastic raising techniques. The workshop was a bit of a homecoming for Joe, as he spent several years in St. Louis attending school at Washington University, teaching classes at Craft Alliance, and developing his skills as an artist.

On Friday, Joe presented a lecture and slideshow of his work. He started making jewelry at age 14 and later attended Iowa State University where he studied metalsmithing, and where he currently teaches. Joe completed his master's degree at Washington University studying under Heikki Seppa; and he was also the chief metals maker at the St. Louis Art Museum. Joe's work is very sculptural, and reflects his belief in the purity of each element that makes up a larger piece of work.



photos by George Ensley

The purpose of Joe's workshop was to help guide students as he taught techniques for forming metal into 5 basic shapes: plumbing, cross, circular shell, taurus (with lap joint), and cheloid (with deck). Joe thoroughly explained each shape, and what is happening to the metal after each hammer blow before he demonstrated each forming technique. Joe welcomed questions, and made students feel comfortable about asking them.

After students watched his demonstration, they were then ready to form their own shapes. Needless to say, Joe made these shapes look very easy to do. Forming metal requires a clear thought process, deliberate hammer blows, and a lot of patience. However, if you master these techniques, there is no end to the beautiful shapes and interesting forms that you can make.

SMM thanks Joe for returning to St. Louis for his moving metal workshop. For those who attended, it was a real privilege to learn from a very talented artist.



## Remembering Heikki Seppa by John Baltrushunas



photo by Paul Bianchi

In the summer of 1970, I met Heikki Seppa at Haystack Mountain School of Crafts on Deer Isle, Maine. Forty years later I mourn his passing and look with affection and appreciation at what he gave to me, the St Louis community, and American metalsmithing.

His life's journey was an epic novel. He was born in Karelia, a province of Finland, and spent his childhood in an orphanage. His talents were recognized early, and he was enrolled in the Goldsmithing School where his silversmithing accomplishments earned him a trip to Denmark and the atelier of Georg Jensen. He emigrated with his Danish wife, Ulla, to the Canadian west coast. He studied at Cranbrook Academy of Art for a year to acquire the English terms for tools and processes. His first teaching position was in Louisville, KY and his next was in St. Louis, MO. Heikki experienced metalsmithing from the European atelier workshop through Modernism. He spent the last decade of his life as a resident of Seattle, living in the house of his dreams with Laurie Lyall. After being a widower for 6 years, he proposed to her in my house on New Year's Eve.

His legacy was forged in St. Louis while teaching at Washington University. Shell structure became Heikki's reinvention of his silversmithing skills. He was proud that shell structure could be achieved with few tools. The selective stretching and compressing of sheet metal liberated metalsmithing from the symmetrical mass of the rotation form. Using wood or nylon for stakes, there was no form that could not be built if it could be envisioned. The Shaare Emeth and St. Michael and St. George commissions showed that scale was limitless.

Coming from a tradition of silversmithing, Heikki was aware that the world that used silver domestic objects was disappearing. There was a role for silver objects to enrich the domestic space, but the objects' purpose was aesthetic, not functional. His work exists as abstract affirmations of the natural world. In an age dominated by cynicism, the easy access of the internet, and the virtual, he reminds us of the power of the handmade and the unique.

His work is part of the collections of Washington University, Yale University, the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian, the St. Louis Art Museum, Shaare Emeth, St. Michael and St. George Episcopal Church, St. Louis, and several hundred private collections. Heikki was a founding member of SNAG. He has been recognized by the American Craft Council as an ACC Fellow and national treasure. He received a similar award in Finland. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of North American Goldsmiths, an Arts and Education Council Award, St. Louis, and the Hans Christiansen award from the Society of American Silversmiths. He taught many times at Haystack, Penland, and Arrowmont. There is a scholarship at Haystack in his name. He has also taught at his alma mater, the Goldsmithing School in Finland.

Because of his long dedication to teaching there developed a critical mass of dedicated metalsmiths in St Louis. For his students who teach, Paulette Myers, Joe Muench, Peg Fetter and I, he lives through us. Sherri Jaudes, who referred to him as grandpa, is the next generation in the tradition. When SMM was being formed, Heikki said that he would give the first workshop and he did. His infectious spirit, his willingness to share his delight in the fabrication of metal, and his ability to uphold traditions of skill while he changed the purpose of the object were his gifts to us.



photo courtesy of Society of American Silversmiths

## Calls and Education Opportunities

- **Art St. Louis XXVI is accepting submissions until August 27th** from regional artists in all media, styles, and themes. For more information on requirements, and to download a submission form, go to [www.artstlouis.org/callforentries.html](http://www.artstlouis.org/callforentries.html)
  - The **American Gem Trade Association Spectrum Awards** have become the benchmark for jewelry designers striving to gain recognition for their work using colored gemstones and pearls. For over 25 years, the Spectrum Awards competition has launched trends, increased visibility for designer jewelry, and inspired great innovation in the use of colored gemstones and other materials. The **deadline is September 24th**. For more information go to [www.agta.org/awards/entry.html](http://www.agta.org/awards/entry.html)
  - **Smithsonian Craft Show** is accepting entries for its 2011 event at the National Building Museum in Washington D.C. **Postmark deadline: September 15th. On-line deadline: September 22nd**. For more information go to [www.smithsoniancraftshow.org](http://www.smithsoniancraftshow.org)
  - The **International Pearl Design Competition**, presented by the Cultured Pearl Association of America, Inc. is now accepting entries for their first international show. For more information go to [www.cpaa.org](http://www.cpaa.org)
  - **CraftBoston 2011** is accepting submissions for CraftBoston Spring and CraftBoston Holiday 2011. There is only one application for both shows which is available through Juried Art Services [www.juriedartservices.com](http://www.juriedartservices.com). The **deadline for entry is September 14th**.
  - Push your most daring ideas into the spotlight by entering the 2011 **Saul Bell Design Award** Competition. **Deadline for entry is September 17th**. Go to <http://www.saulbellaward.com/CallForEntries.aspx> for more information and an entry form.
  - **2011 NICHE Awards** competition is now accepting applications. Winners will be announced at a special ceremony during the Buyers Market of American Craft in Philadelphia, February 2011, and then featured in the spring 2011 issue of NICHE Magazine. **Deadline** for the professional division is **August 31st**, and the student division is **September 30th**. More information is available at [www.NICHEAwards.com](http://www.NICHEAwards.com)
  - Donna Pizzulo, District Repair Manager for Sterling Jewelers, is looking for **experienced and apprentice bench jewelers** in the St. Louis, Memphis, and Nashville markets. Contact numbers: (770) 312-0028 (cell), voicemail 1-800-877-8840 ext. 98983.
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- The **Gemological Institute of America offers more than 140 scholarships for 2011**, including two new \$10,000 awards from Tiffany & Co. GIA Scholarships help students pursue a career in the gem and jewelry industry. Deadline is October 30th. Details available at [www.gia.edu/scholarships](http://www.gia.edu/scholarships)
  - SNAG and Crafthaus announced a new **SNAG scholarship for Crafthaus members**, juried by Brigitte Martin. The scholarship is awarded every January, and is open to all Crafthaus members 30 and under. <http://crafthaus.ning.com/group/snag>
  - **SIUE Fall Outreach Program is offering a class in enameling**. Taught by Michael Parret, the class is a comprehensive overview of traditional enameling techniques, and various alternative methods such as liquid enamel, under/overglazes, watercolor enamels, etc. For additional information regarding dates, times, and cost go to [www.siue.edu/educationaloutreach/](http://www.siue.edu/educationaloutreach/)
  - **Craft Alliance** has posted their **fall course offerings** for the Delmar and Grand Center locations. To see a full listing of class and workshops go to [www.craftalliance.org](http://www.craftalliance.org)

## Member News & Events

- The jurors for **METALInclinations2**, Jamie Bennett, Klaus Burgel John Cogswell, and Sydney Lynch have made their choices. The award winners and selected artists will be posted on the SMM website September 1st. Good luck to everyone who entered.
- **Randi Chervitz**, from Uncommon Threads Jewelry, participated in two wholesale events in July, the LA Gift Mart and Chicago Market: Living and Giving. In August, she will introduce new work at the New York International Gift Fair, the Buyers' Market of American Crafts-Baltimore, and the Port Clinton Art Festival in Highland Park, IL. In September she will be at the St. Louis Art Fair in Clayton, MO, and the Peoria Fine Art Fair in Peoria, IL.
- **Dayne Sislen** won second place in Ladies Jewelry in the 2010 Bench Jewelers Passion Award Design Competition. The winning pieces were supposed to be publicized at the Bench Jewelers Conference June 17-19 in Atlanta, Bench Magazine, and other trade press. However, Dayne was never notified that she had won. At the end of June, she accidentally stumbled upon the listing of the winners on-line, and found a photo of her piece along with the first place winner. In July, she received a trophy in the mail without an explanation or accompanying letter. She has not been able to get in contact with the promoters at all. Dayne remarked that, "a simple letter or phone call before the work needed to be in Atlanta would have been nice."
- **Ellen Klamon**, show chairperson, would like to remind everyone about **Jewelry to the Third Degree**. A two-day, all-jewelry show just in time for the holidays. We have 30 artists in 25 booths. Hours are Saturday, Dec. 11th from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec.12th from Noon - 4 p.m. From 5-7 on Saturday there will be food, an open bar, and live music by Ken Domash. Please stop by, whether you are in the show or not, and be sure to bring plenty of friends and clients. Postcards and posters will be available in September.
- Workshop Chairman, **Howard Siegel**, would like members to contact him with suggestions for 2011 workshop topics and instructors. [hjsiegel@swbell.net](mailto:hjsiegel@swbell.net)
- **Welcome to all of our new members:** Kristie Chijimatsu, Teresa Faris, Carla Duncan, Virginia Nuckolls, Nena Potts, Kathryn Levantal-Arnold, Gail Crozier, Daniel Brown, Edie Edwards, Kathryn Evans, Mary Ellen Giffels, Willis Hance, Wendy Harris, Allison Miller, Tova Lund, and Karen Wellons.
- **SMM Members** kicked off the summer with the annual **Picnic in the Park**. Attendees enjoyed a beautiful afternoon in the St. Louis sunshine. Thanks to all those who were able to make it there.



## Bench Tips

### KEEPING LIVER OF SULFUR "ALIVE"

Most of us have had our liver of sulfur mysteriously "die." If you place one or two of the little packets of silicon desiccant that come in a box of shoes (or other products) these will absorb the moisture in the container and you will get to use every last l.o.s. crumb.

-Micki Lippe

### DOMING SILVER BEADS

Nancy Howland's manual on making silver beads called "Doming Silver Beads" is now available as a free PDF download to members of Ganoksin. The PDF contains step-by-step illustrations, and is 96 pages long. It is available at [www.ganoksin.com/ftp/doming-silver-beads.pdf](http://www.ganoksin.com/ftp/doming-silver-beads.pdf)

-Howard Siegel

### QUICK CHANGE TEXTURING HAMMER

It's nice to have different textured hammers, but with a small studio space you really need to be creative about storage. Instead of using multiple hammers, purchase a brass mallet with replaceable heads along with a few extra heads, and texture each of the heads differently. Now, instead of changing hammers, you just change the heads, and they take up a lot less space.

-Cyndie Miles



The Society for Midwest Metalsmiths is an organization established to promote, educate and encourage metalsmiths, silversmiths and goldsmiths. Complete Minutes from the meetings are posted to the web site.  
[www.midwest-metalsmiths.org](http://www.midwest-metalsmiths.org)

#### MEMBER CATAGORIES: Annual Membership Dues payable by:

Regular.....\$30  
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**Jan. 1 Delinquent after Jan. 31**

For membership info.  
e-mail Lee Richards  
[lee-richards@att.net](mailto:lee-richards@att.net)

#### Next Meeting Date:

**Saturday August 28th 2010, Noon. Maryville University  
Art & Design Building  
Activity: Share Favorite Books**

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

See Member News for the Complete List



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