

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I'd like to welcome you to the Seattle Metal Guild's 2001/2002 season of activities. Things begin immediately this fall and winter with an excellent combination of workshops by Linda Darty and Lynne Hull, the much anticipated Jewelry/Metals Symposium, the general meeting, and of course, the annual Christmas ornament exchange. If these sound interesting, remember that they are just an example of the educational and networking opportunities that come with your membership. I encourage each of you to join your fellow members at a workshop, lecture, or other event. For me, the value of participating in such activities is often not in learning a new technique, but in taking home a little of that energy that comes with the enthusiasm surrounding a group of people sharing common interests. Try it yourself this fall.



The 2000-2001 fiscal year was my second as President, and looking back I think we did very well. Each year seems to have its unique blend of challenges and rewards for the Board of Directors. One of the biggest challenges for the Board is trying to get a firm idea about what the membership wants from the Guild. Last year we had two "hiccups" in the schedule with the cancellation of the Alex Montgomery and Susan Kingsley workshops. The reasons seemed to be a mix of poor timing, odd content, and cost. These things can be remedied, but not without your input. Maybe "mental-smithing" wasn't your thing? tell us what metalsmithing you'd like to see.

One of the rewarding things for me was to see the reorganization of the Board coming together. As you may remember the Board began reorganizing into a committee-based structure just over a year ago to improve our efficiency, and in turn, provide a broader range of activities to you as Guild members. Things are now beginning to happen that will bring new opportunities for you to get involved with Guild events. Keep an eye on the newsletter to learn more about how you might volunteer to help with a workshop committee, provide your ideas on how the Guild might get a new grant, or even join our new school outreach program and teach a class or give a lecture at a local high school.

I feel that the school outreach program is just one way the Guild can give something back to the community and help support art education. It was great to read in the last newsletter about Nancy Worden's visit with Dorin Meinhart's jewelry students at Auburn High School. Activities such as that, or a special event promoted by an art organization, serve to stimulate interest in metalsmithing. The Guild has provided financial support to the local art community through donations to both the Tacoma Art Museum's new jewelry collection and the Northwest Designer Craftsmen's Living Treasurers Project. Most recently, the Guild worked with the Pratt Fine Arts Center to establish a scholarship that will allow one student each year to take a class at the center. Giving students an opportunity to take a class or just speak with a metals artist, or providing the public an opportunity to see a piece by a Northwest artist, or a Living Treasures video on the life of a great local metals artist such as Ramona Solberg or Russell Day, all helps to keep our arts community vital.

You can hear more about events planned for next spring and summer at the Guild's general meeting. Join us on November 16th at the University of Washington and meet the newest Board members, Rodney Kessler and Ginger Kelly, hear about upcoming events, and enjoy a great lecture by Nancy Worden.

Finally, I'd like to thank the Board of Directors and everyone who has volunteered that precious commodity "free time" to help with Guild events. A special thanks goes out to Julie Gauthier and Gina Pankowski, who will be leaving the Board. Our Guild continues to be thought of very highly by artists and arts organizations from outside the Pacific Northwest, and I think this is not just a reflection of our organization and its activities, but of the reputations of you .....our membership.

-Ron Pascho

## EVENTS CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
September 1	SMG Fiscal Year Begins	N/A
September 7	Free Lecture: Linda Darty	2
September 8-9	Workshop: Linda Darty	
October 27	Jewelry / Metals Symposium	3/Insert
November 9	Free Lecture: Lynne Hull	2
November 10-11	Workshop: Lynne Hull	
November 16	General Meeting and Lecture: Nancy Worden	3
December	Ornament Party	N/A
January 18	Free Lecture: Joel Olsen	2
January 19-20	Workshop: Joel Olsen	

