

## Letter from the Chair

Susan Kentroti

Hello, all. I hope you're in the middle of a very active (and profitable) holiday season. As this year closes, we are preparing for a rather significant transition on the COMA board of directors. First of all, I want to welcome in our new Chair-Elect, Nancy Gass. Nancy is a very talented metalsmith who is also a highly organized and effective leader. I look forward to working closely with her during this year. I would also

like to welcome new board members Lori Baer and Chi Leary. Lori is long-time COMA member and one of the rare few who have attended each and every Salida Conference since its inception in 1996. Chi Leary is a successful metals artist and entrepreneur from Colorado Springs who will be taking on the secretarial duties of the board. It will be wonderful working with them on the board.

I want to take a moment to recognize the members who are departing the board in December. Char Schutte and Jessica Kidd dedicated themselves extensively in service to the COMA board for three years as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. It was a huge commitment of time and energy, and we owe them an enormous "Thank you." We are also saying goodbye to our only "guy" on

See Chair on page 6

## A Dream Comes True

Lexi Erickson

It started as an offhand comment I mentioned in our Pennsylvania Society of Goldsmiths (PSG) newsletter—the crazy idea of a *road trip* to Denver. Several people tossed it about, looked at schedules, and suddenly it was a reality.

It wasn't exactly a *road trip*, but it all came together so easily, even with our flights landing within 30 minutes of one another. By 10:30 on a Thursday morning in September, five PSG members were picked up at the airport by COMA member Sharon Shaffner, who transported us to lunch at My Brother's Bar in LoDo. There we met up with Nancy Blair and Kathy Stickelman. We grabbed a bite of lunch and by 2:00 we were standing in front of Mark Lasater at The Clam Shell and perusing "The

Russian Guy," our first of many stops at the Denver Gem and Mineral Show. We were right on schedule.

That was also the last time I had control of this group. As they say, it was like trying to herd cats.

Not only were our hours filled with trays of tempting baubles as we wandered from this location to the next, the days went like this:

**Lexi:** OK, it's 10:00 now. We will meet here in front of Bill Gangi's at 1:00. OK?  
**Group:** (enthusiastically) Roger! (All go their separate ways.)



**1:00 p.m.:** Lexi, Susan (PSG) and Kathy (COMA) show up at Bill Gangi's. Lexi goes to restroom. Susan stays and visits with Bill. Kathy wanders off to say hi to a friend at another booth.

**1:05** Donna and Judith (PSG) show up and excitedly show their new purchase to Susan

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## Member News

**Harold O'Connor** is participating in the Atlanta Contemporary Jewelry Show. The show features 25 contemporary artists.

**Jim Cotter** is participating in the "Old & New" show at Taboo Gallery, San Diego, CA.

**Todd Reed** participated in the Professional Development Seminar in Memphis. The seminar was held before the annual SNAG conference.

**Ira Sherman & Nancy Blair** had lunch in late September with COMA co-founder **Lucinda Brogden**. Lucinda now lives in North Carolina.

**Judy Hoch** taught her Patina workshop for the PSG organization in Pennsylvania.

**Travis Ogden** has a solo jewelry show at Gusterman Silversmiths in Larimer Square.

**Todd Reed's** work appears in the Earring Show presented by Velvet da Vinci in San Francisco, CA.

Look for demo's by **Lew Wackler & Travis Ogden**, and **Todd Reed** in the November issue of *Jewelry Artist*.

**East End Applied Arts** is planning a Holiday show. [www.eastendarts.com](http://www.eastendarts.com)

**Lexi Erickson's Shop Setup** appears in the November issue of *Jewelry Artist*.

**Lori Collina-Lee** and **Anne Hallam** are participating in an Anti-War Medals show at the Thomas Mann Gallery.

**Marie Quinn** has a necklace featured in the present issue of *Art Jewelry* magazine.

**Anne Hallam's** work is featured at the Boulder Arts & Crafts Co-op.

## Winding Down

*Judy Hoch*

**W**ell, this is the end of 2007 shows, mostly anyway. There are still the desert shows, and the holiday art markets and all the special holiday orders and finishing up the nuisance orders and making something very special for the holiday parties. Maybe 2007 isn't really over after all. It seems like the tempo has changed.

It is time to take a breath and look at what happened this year. Several questions need to be considered. What were your income numbers? How many new customers do you have? How many shows did you have to do to make those numbers? What are your expense numbers? Are you doing better this year than the past two or three years?

Did you do something new this year? Did you try new shows? A new style of work? Aim at a different price point? Try a new technique? What was your average ticket? Do you see improvement in design, quality, a growing customer base?

Part of the reason for all this questioning is that I am asking these questions of me, myself and I. Overall, this was a better year than

last for income, and I did fewer shows. Expenses are down, partly because of fewer entry fees and partly because I am on a 12-step program to stop buying stones I don't need. I still bought some—they were sooooo pretty, I just had to have them.

I taught a class in mass-finishing techniques and patinas for the Pennsylvania Society of Goldsmiths this fall. I enjoyed meeting the enthusiastic members of PSG and had a chance to sightsee in Pennsylvania, as well. Just driving around and seeing 225-year-old buildings, seeing the battleground at Valley Forge, and even staying in a 200-year-old home (thank you, Judith) brought home how much history they have and how new everything is here in Colorado.

The last paragraph isn't really a digression. I saw many talented metalsmiths doing innovative work. Mark Twain said "Travel is fatal to prejudices, bigotry and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."

In 1996, I took a trip to Idar-Oberstein, the place in Germany where many famous gem cutters work. They have been cutting gemstones there for more than 500 years. They have a gem show there in October, International Trade Fair for Precious Stones and Jewellery (Intergem). By comparison to the Tucson show, it is tiny. Because it is so far removed from my experience in Colorado, the impact on my work was immense.

This year I also traveled to northern Minnesota for my mom's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, to Durango for my granddaughter's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday and to New Mexico and Arizona to visit friends and see some of the southwest up close and personal. Each of these ventures from the familiarity of home changed me in some way. I'm always happy to be home again, but I notice that I look at the world differently after a trip.

Change is good: for your art, for your soul, for your well-being. Change your venues, your techniques, your materials, anything. You will be rewarded.

What will you do next year—more of the same? Or will you push yourself?

## Call for Entries for The Naja's 3rd Annual Holiday Ornament Auction

**Y**ou are invited to create and donate a handmade holiday ornament to decorate a tree. All work donated for the auction will be judged on December 1 for originality, functionality, and technical expertise. The three top designs will receive gift certifi-

cates to The Naja: \$150, \$100, \$50. Bidding auction on the donated ornaments will be held at The Naja, December 15, all day until 3:00 pm. Winning bids will be announced at 4:00 pm. Bidders need not be present to win, but we'd love to have you (and

your friends) here to share the goodwill and holiday treats (party!), and you can take home an ornament for your tree or to give as a gift! Call The Naja for details. All proceeds will be donated to the Food Bank of the Rockies Children's Network.

## Cutting Edge

Coma Conference in Salida, CO  
July 11,12 & 13, 2008

The 2008 conference presenters are Carol Webb, Michael Boyd, Tom Herman, Steve Lindsey, and Bill Fretz. There will be pre- and post-workshops in Denver and Salida. Activities include an all-members meeting, yearly elections, tool & pin swap and the silent auction. Anne Hallam is heading up the silent auction. Make your hotel reservations now.



*Pieces by Carol Webb, who will be presenting at the Salida conference*



## Goldsmithing, or How Gold Works

We're offering an intense, detailed day, geared for the experienced metalsmith. Learn fine points of gold: alloying, casting, forging, soldering and finishing. The class will be taught by Nelson Giesecke of Object Design Studio in Cherry Creek. The full day is \$185.00, and you may sign up via email or phone. Space will be limited to 12 persons.

Date: January 19, 2008

Phone: (303) 931-3823

Mail: P.O. Box 461005 Glendale, CO 80246

Studio address: Colfax and Zephyr Street, Lakewood

## COMA Members Offer Jewelry Classes

The **Colorado School of Jewelry and Metal Arts** would like to announce another round of jewelry classes. These classes will be offered Winter/Spring of 2008, January to April. The classes will include **Harold O'Connor's** Surface Treatment and Textures class, and **Jerry Scavezze** will teach Anticlastic Raising. We will also be offering a beginning Stone Setting Class, to include prongs, bezels, tube sets, plate setting, and other topics. We are also pleased to be offering a beginning jewelry class, sort of Jewelry 101. For information on class dates and costs, call (719) 539-2971 or email to jerry@scavezzegoldsmith.com.

## The Naja 2008 Jewelry Design Competition

The theme for this year's show is "Pendant, an ornament worn around the neck, suspended on a cord or chain."

Entry date and deadline will be announced in February 2008.

Call The Naja for details, (303) 426-6284.

**Jennifer Dayton, Jennie Milner, Leslie Capizzi and Michelene Berkey** are participating in the COMA Guild Booth at the Rosen Show.

**Elizabeth McDevitt** is participating in Mobilia's *Jewelry from Painting & Architecture*. The show runs from December 1 to January 26 in Boston.

**Elizabeth McDevitt and Jerry McClure** collaborated on a knife, which is being shown at the NYC Knife Show in November.

**Michael Boyd's** work is represented at SOFA in Chicago. He is also participating in the *Timeless Treasures Jewelry Fair*, an invitational hosted by the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, and then on to another show in New York.

**Jennie Milner's** article *Newbies Beware...* that appeared in the last COMA newsletter is being reprinted by the Chicago Metalsmiths Guild.

**Elizabeth McDevitt's** article on Namu Cho will appear in the spring issue of *Metalsmith*.

## COMA News

**Suzanne Nayduch** has re-designed COMA's web site. Please send her your digital images: snayduch@comcast.net

**Anne Hallam** is heading up the silent auction for the COMA Conference. The funds gathered from the auction enable the COMA board to make the conference an event that is exciting to all. Please contact her to donate your items. annehallam@ahallamdesign.com

## Events

**The Naja** Ornament Auction & Prize Award Open House, **December 15**.

**Sweetman-Allen Studio** Holiday Open House **December 15**, 3-7pm.

**SNAG Conference** in Savannah, GA, March 5-8 The 2008 conference features presenters such as: internationally acclaimed fiber artist and keynote speaker Sheila Hicks, studio jeweler Bruce Metcalf and editor Andrew Wagner, artist Boris Bally, German artist Iris Eichenberg, Australian artist Carlier Makigawa, British jeweler Norman Cherry, artist Deb Todd Wheeler, and designer Richard Nelipovich. [www.snagmetalsmith.org](http://www.snagmetalsmith.org)

## Suppliers

The Naja  
[www.Najatools.com](http://www.Najatools.com)

Santa Fe Jewelers Supply  
[www.sfjs.net](http://www.sfjs.net)

Contenti  
[www.contenti.com](http://www.contenti.com)

TB Hagstoz & Son  
[www.hagstoz.com](http://www.hagstoz.com)

Allcraft  
[www.allcraftonline.com](http://www.allcraftonline.com)

## Donations

If you are looking for an organization to donate to, try these:

**Mobile Metals Program**  
Sangre de Cristo Arts & Conference Center  
210 N. Santa Fe Avenue  
Pueblo, CO 81003  
[www.sdc-arts.org](http://www.sdc-arts.org)

**CERF** (craft emergency relief fund)  
P.O. Box 838  
Montpelier, VT 05601  
[www.craftemergency.org](http://www.craftemergency.org)

*Dream* from page 1

and Kathy, who immediately want one, too. Off they go.

**1:06** Lexi returns from restroom. No one is there. Bill points and says "They went that away." (They say that a lot in the West.) Lexi exits in that direction.

**1:10** LuAnne (PSG) and Sharon (COMA) show up, wait around, and Bill repeats the direction. Off they go, but stop to buy some stones at a location on the way.

**1:12** Kelly (PSG) and Heather (COMA) arrive and talk to Bill. Kelly buys a ruby for a great price. Bill and Heather are old friends and are busy talking, and talking, and talking. (Did I mention Heather is gorgeous?) Heather compliments Bill on his bracelet, and he points her to where he bought it.

**1:20** Everyone accidentally shows up at the same booth where Nancy (COMA) is buying the same really cool bracelet, and we all end up buying one. You get the picture? (The peer pressure was intense. They wouldn't let me be a member of their club unless I bought one, too, and I fall so easily to peer pressure.)

On Thursday night, Ron Pingenot held a private reception for us at his shop. Ron is a well-known stone cutter, and he shared many fabulous stones that we usually would never be able to even hold. The food and wine flowed, and flowed, and flowed as we all rested our weary feet. It was a great time to slow down, visit with new friends, and see some different stones.

Friday and Saturday was more shopping, this time with bigger canvas bags/backpacks. On Friday night, Sharon and Martin graciously held a dinner party for PSG and COMA members. Their home is a delightful, 1950s historic district home, full of Sharon's sculptures and the

couple's eclectic art collection. It is a work of art in itself, and it was a joy to see it. They treated us to a glorious evening of great wine, food, music, lots of giggles and sharing of



stories and purchases of the show.

Sunday was a day of rest, at least for our charge cards, with several of the PSG members going on gallery tours of Cherry Creek and Boulder. We checked out A



Show of Hands and visited the Colorado Co-op on Pearl Street, among others. On Monday Richard Sweetman held a workshop for us on making forged steel bracelets, where we all left sporting fancy, new bracelets. We met for margaritas with Kathy Stickelman and Ron and Cherie Pingenot, and then we were off to a farewell dinner at Judy and Randy Hoch's

home. They were delightful hosts, and we spent another evening drinking more great wine, feasting on more good food, and laughing with our new friends. On Tuesday we got some well-earned rest on the flight home. Now we had to get to work to pay the bills.

It was four exhausting days of hard buying, bargaining, and learning, but the See *Dream* on page 6



## COMA Conference Summer 2007

*A few more photos!*



### List of Shows

Howard Alan Events  
[www.artfestival.com](http://www.artfestival.com)

One of a Kind, Chicago, IL  
[www.merchandisemart.com](http://www.merchandisemart.com)

Beckman's Handcrafted Gift Show  
[www.merchandisemart.com](http://www.merchandisemart.com)

Holiday Craft Fair-Arvada Center  
[craftfair@arvadacenter.org](mailto:craftfair@arvadacenter.org)

Hot Works, LLC  
[www.Hotworks.org](http://www.Hotworks.org)

**Taboo Studio** Announces the opening of *The Holiday Exhibition*.

This year's show features raw diamond jewelry by **Todd Reed**, the finely crafted and colorful work of Steven Brixner, and the whimsical work of gallery owner Joanna Rhoades. Seven other artists will be contributing their exciting new work to the show. Visit [www.taboostudio.com](http://www.taboostudio.com) for more information.

### Shop Tips

Hurt on the job... try these household products  
Colgate Toothpaste (not the gel) makes an excellent salve for burns, Heinz white vinegar heals bruises; soak a cotton ball in vinegar and apply for one hour (it will speed up the healing process). For splinter removal, pour a drop of Elmer's Glue-All over the splinter, let dry, and peel the dried glue off the skin. Other interesting ideas: Using Coca Cola to remove rust: saturate an abrasive sponge with Coke and scrub off the rust. To prevent the screws in eyeglasses from loosening, apply a small drop of clear nail polish to the threads of the screw before tightening them.

## Bruce Gallery at Edinboro University 2008/2009 Season Call to Artists

Application Deadline: Postmarked December 5, 2007. The Bruce Gallery exhibits four to five shows of emerging and established artists. Solo, group shows, curated shows and installations or new media are all encouraged. Exhibitions run in monthly slots from September, 2008 - April, 2009. Send 10-20 jpeg

images with titles, dimensions and media along with an artist statement, résumé and SASE (required for return of work) to Bruce Gallery Submissions, c/o John Bavaro: Director, Doucette Hall, 215 Meadville St., Edinboro, PA 16444. For more information, visit [www.brucegallery.org](http://www.brucegallery.org).

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### ***Dream*** from page 4

COMA/PSG girls were well-known by the time we left. Still, we barely saw a third of the entire show. However, the friendships and bonds formed have linked COMA and PSG, providing unlimited future opportunities for both organizations. Who knows what the two organizations can do in the future when we put our combined minds and strengths together.

We would like to thank Sharon Shaffner and Judy Hoch for allowing our members to stay in their homes and for the delightful dinner parties. They are gracious and elegant hostesses. Special thanks to Sharon for chauffeuring us around and picking us up

at the airport. To Ron and Cherie Pingnot, and Kathy Stickelman, thank you for teaching us about stones, and sharing your collection of stones, food and wine. All were excellent. And to all our new friends in Colorado, our doors are always open for you.

I love showing off my home state, can't wait to move back again, and will we do it next year? Let's see how soon I can pay off the credit cards, then ask me. We look forward to continuing our good times with COMA members at the Rosen Show in Philly in February.

### ***Chair*** from page 1

the board. John Sartin has always been our ace-in-the-hole in Salida when it came to needing help. Fortunately, John has offered his continued help and support, even as a "private" citizen. Thank you, John.

Mark your calendars now for the 2008 COMA conference in Salida. The dates are July 11-13, and we are planning a revolutionary new program complete with mini-workshops onsite, as well as full-sized, pre- and post-conference workshops in Denver. Look for the detailed information in the next newsletter.

Finally, I am very happy to report that the Colorado Metalsmithing Association, as a guild, is doing great. Our membership increased 50% this year and

attendance at the 2007 COMA Conference in Salida reached an all-time high of 125. We on the board are working hard to make COMA an organization that is relevant to the needs of our members. If you have any comments or suggestions that will help us achieve this goal, we would love to receive them at [comaforum@comcast.net](mailto:comaforum@comcast.net). Thanks to all of you for your interest, participation and support.

Happy New Year.

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### Jewelry Marketing

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December 8

### Enameling on PMC

with terry Kille

January 19

[www.clearcreekacademy.com](http://www.clearcreekacademy.com)

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(303) 429-1401

COMA Newsletter Guidelines and Deadlines: Manuscripts, announcements, news releases, black and white photographs, illustrations, information about exhibitions, calls for entries, school programs, workshops, etc. are welcome and will be considered for publication.

Deadlines for submissions will be the first day of February, May, August, and November. You will receive the newsletter about a month later. E-mail articles and materials to Nancy Blair at Blair\_Designs@hotmail.com

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To join COMA or tell us about address changes, please send membership dues (\$40 regular; \$25 student) to: COMA, P.O. Box 631898, Littleton, CO 80163.

#### COMA Board

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**Auction** — Anne Hallam, anne.hallam@ahallamdesign.com

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