

LONEY METAL WORKS since 1992

Sisters, Jan and Anna Loney, began Loney Metal Works after graduating from college. It started in the basement of their Pittsburgh, PA home. Metalsmiths, small metals fabricators, makers of jewelry, functional and sculptural pieces, the sisters just wanted to make things out of metal.

Connections to other people in their local world of metalwork led to internships: Pittsburgh jeweler, Ron McNeish in 1992, metalsmith Boris Bally in 1993.

Teaching opportunities became apparent: Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, The Society for Contemporary Craft, and artist residencies with students in Pittsburgh Public and other area schools.

Professional associations grew as they, with others in the area founded Pittsburgh Metals Society, ca. 1994. An interest in blacksmithing led to membership in the Pittsburgh Area Artist Blacksmith Assn. - PAABA (a chapter of Artist Blacksmith Assn of N. America- ABANA).

By 1995, everything was moving along.

And then life caught up with them. It got complicated for a while. Work. Relationships. Falling in love. Falling out of love. Making choices. Major surgery. More choices. Getting married. Having babies. Chasing children. Trying to keep a hand in the making, of anything, everything.

Loney Metal Works continues now and since 2010 in Lanesboro, MN, a project of Anna Loney, her spouse Don Bell, and their two kids. Jan Loney, in the meantime, founded Metalier in Pittsburgh, PA. Don Bell brings talent in electronics, welding, mechanical construction, and an engineer's brain to our eclectic productions.

As of now in 2016, we work in a studio behind our house on a north facing slope on a hill in a town in the Driftless region of SE Minnesota. Two blocks down the hill from us is the house Don knew as his Grandparents' home. One block further is the south branch of the Root River. Above the river is the north bluff, a dolomite cliff rising about 150 feet above the town. Our town is beautiful. If we, at Loney Metal Works, manage to make things which are half as beautiful as our life in this place, that's saying something.

Anna Loney
For Loney Metal Works
Lanesboro, MN