

MAFA Guild Roundtable - Impacts of Covid-19
June 16, 2020, Via Zoom

These notes will be posted on the MAFA website Reps Corner, along with a link to the meeting recording: <https://mafafiber.org/guild-resources/reps-corner/>

If you have ideas, comments, or links to add, please email them to secretary@mafafiber.org.

Save the Date: the Roundtable on Diversity and Inclusiveness in our Guilds will be July 14, 2020, 7:00 pm on Zoom. A meeting link will be emailed to all Reps.

Request a guild meeting time on the MAFA Zoom account here:
<https://mafafiber.org/guild-resources/guild-zoom-meetings/>

MAFA Board members attending:

Helena Valentine, President
Sara Robbins, 1st VP; Communications
Margaret Briggs, 2nd VP; Membership Chair/Conference Chair
Patty Chrisman, Secretary
Karen Miller, Past President

Guild Reps and Officers attending:

Central Virginia Fiber Arts Guild, Margaret Briggs
Chautauqua County Weavers Guild, Suanne Pasquarella
Chesapeake Weavers Guild, Pat Capogrossi
Fiber Guild, Carol Ireland
Fiber Guild of the Blue Ridge, Kathy Reed, Karen Miller, Emily Thomas
Foothills Spinners & Weavers Guild, Karen Miller
Frances Irwin Handweavers, Sally Orgren, Patty Chrisman
Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers Guild, Aileen Campbell, Lesley Reynolds
Handweavers Guild of Bucks County, Lesley Ewing, Deborah Faehner
Handweavers Guild of the New River Valley, Dena Manchester
Harmony Weavers Guild, Karen Mason, Carol Ireland, Jill Coghlan
Jockey Hollow Handweavers, Sally Orgren, Kathy Mayer
New York Guild of Handweavers, Carol Steuer
North Country Spinners, Debbie Patsel, Pat Mueller, Patty Chrisman
Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers, Sara Robbins, Helena Valentine
Potomac Fiber Arts Guild, Karen Miller
Richmond Weavers Guild, Patty Franz
South Jersey Guild of Spinners and Handweavers, Helena Valentine, Nancy Turner, Ellie Divito
Tavern Spinners & Weavers, Sandi Petty
Third Star Fibre Artists Guild, Annette Devitt, Ellie Divito
Three Rivers Fiber Focus, Angela Fishman, Debbie Hadfield
Triangle Weavers Guild, Deborah Amaral
Warped Weavers Guild, Lizanne Smith
Washington Spinners and Weavers, Jane Phillips
Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore, Deborah Herrin, Pat Capogrossi
Weavers Guild of Buffalo, Peg Houseman, Suanne Pasquarella
Weavers Guild of Rochester, Suanne Pasquarella
Westfield Weavers, Liz Heine
Williamsburg Spinners and Weavers, Cindy French, Sandi Petty

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Margaret Briggs welcomed everyone and posed the following questions to guide the discussion:

- How is your guild coping with the pandemic?
- What steps have you taken to restructure guild activities? For example, meetings, workshops, guild operations?
- What resources have you added?
- What resources do you need?
- What guild function/activity are you missing the most?
- Is there anything MAFA can do to help?

Overview

The majority of guilds attending have been using Zoom to conduct meetings, social times, and/or programs. Several have conducted elections using the “polling” feature. A number of guilds have already used Zoom to present lectures or demos/workshops, and several are planning to. Discussion of these possibilities culminated in an offer by Sally Orgren on behalf of Frances Irwin Handweavers, to share a program/presentation on Flax (FIH is working on a MAFA grant funded program “Flax: From Seed to Cloth”).

Some guilds have committed to online meetings for the rest of the year. A number of guilds in areas that are starting to “open up” have had or are planning physical meetings, still maintaining social distancing protocols.

Interesting ideas suggested by guilds:

- Studio tours by members using Zoom.
- Show and Tell. Can also be done using the Share Screen function with photographs of the items sent to one person to compile (easier to see than using the camera on the device).
- Museum websites for lectures/presentations/tours etc. Sally Orgren provided a number of suggestions (San Jose Museum; New Britain Museum, CT., Black Mountain Museum.)
- Book Groups. Sara Robbins mentioned that her guild is reading *A Perfect Red: Empire, Espionage and the Quest for the Color of Desire* by Amy Butler Greenfield.
- Coordinate with other nearby guilds to “share” instructors for programs online.

Here are a few highlights of what some of the guilds are up to:

Jockey Hollow Handweavers are planning ahead for meetings and programs with an option for doing them virtually.

Central Virginia Fiber Arts Guild--because of their large membership area, Zoom has helped members who don't always get to attend in person stay connected.

Fiber Guild of the Blue Ridge has extended their membership period to allow for this period of the pandemic. Several other guilds have reduced or waived dues for the next year.

Williamsburg Weavers plans to present demos on backstrap and inkle loom on Zoom.

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Westfield Weavers noted that having the “host” connected via hard-wire, rather than using WIFI, helps with the freezing that is apt to happen on Zoom.

Fredericksburg Weavers have a Wednesday night virtual “sip n’ craft” --more of a social event.

Weavers Guild of Rochester operates a Fiber Arts Center with 60 looms. They are hoping to open again in July and will use precautions when they resume classes.

Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore has had several presentations via Zoom including Laurie Duxbury, Rabbit Goody and Sara Bixler (Mindfulness in Weaving), that were very successful. They also conducted elections on Zoom.

South Jersey Guild of Spinners & Handweavers had a “parking lot meeting”.

Following are a few of the questions and comments that came up during the meeting:

Carole Ireland (Fiber Guild; Harmony Weavers Guild) wanted to know what to pay for a virtual lecture—should it be the same or less than an in-person event? Debbie Herrin noted that the Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore paid the typical fee for the virtual presentations they recently had (in once case paid a bit more due to preparation). Of course there wouldn’t be travel costs!

Deborah Amaral (Triangle Weavers Guild) had a question about whether Guild libraries (or MAFA) had digital resources to share. (Note, MAFA does not, but for guilds with a library, consider loaning to other guilds.)

A question was raised regarding legalities of showing DVD’s at a guild meeting, and the consensus seemed to be that if not selling or broadcasting, it should be OK.

There was a question about liability for guild meetings and events. This may vary depending on whether using a public facility or one the guild rents/owns.

Annette Devitt noted Red Stone Glen Fiber Arts Studio’s recent email detailing their preparations for making their facility safe. This could be used as guidance for others trying to safely open up.

Zoom meetings tend to work better for business meetings and programs. Just having a meetup seems to attract fewer members.

Remind participants to use Speaker View for programs, and to pin the presenter’s video.

Meeting notes compiled by:
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