

MAFA News: January – February 2018

Some of you are dealing with lots of snow....and all of us are dealing with some really cold weather....Hope that means you've all found time for lots of indoor activities involving fiber!

– Karen Miller, MAFA President

Contents in this Issue:

- Reminders
- Annual IRS Reporting for Non-profits
- Upcoming Guild Events/Workshops

Reminders:

Grant applications for MAFA Guild and Associate Member Grants are being accepted through January 31. See the **MAFA website** for more information or contact Grants Chair, Mary Strouse, at grants@mafafiber.org

It's not too late to complete our membership survey! Find the survey **HERE**. Our Membership Chair, Margaret Briggs, is already at work finding better ways for our guild reps and members to communicate with MAFA and with each other.

The call for proposals for MAFA 2019 instructors has gone out. If you know anyone who might be interested, please direct them to our application which can be found on our **website**.

From the IRS: Annual Reporting for Nonprofits

We all know that our nonprofit guilds are exempt from paying federal taxes....but did you know that all nonprofits are required to file annual reports with the IRS?

In 2006, a law was passed requiring all nonprofits to report annually to IRS — and that includes all you guilds with income of less than \$5000 who have never formally requested tax-exempt status determination from IRS.

Unfortunately, if you haven't ever filed this annual report, or haven't filed one during the past three years, the IRS may revoke your tax-exempt status, making you potentially liable for paying corporate income taxes on your guild receipts.

So what to do?

If your guild is less than three years old, or has filed the IRS e-postcard Form 990-N in the past three years, just make sure to file it (again) for this fiscal year. The online Form 990-N can be used by any guild with gross receipts of under \$50,000, and consists of eight simple questions

which your Treasurer should be able to easily answer. It is due four months and 15 days after your fiscal year ends.

If you haven't been filing this report, you may need to complete an application (probably the simplified Form 1023-EZ) to become a 501(c)(3) non-profit and request reinstatement of your tax-exempt status. The application fee for this request is \$275. See the **MAFA website** for some additional suggestions and resources to help you if you need to pursue this route, or call the IRS Customer Service line for Charities and Non-Profits at **1-877-829-5500**.

Don't lose your non-profit status by failing to do this simple task. There is no penalty for getting the report done a bit late. Just a big one for not doing it at all!

– Karen Miller, **president@mafafiber.org**

Upcoming Events

Let us help you to publicize your guild highlights or open workshops!

*Send items to **secretary@mafafiber.org** before December 21 for inclusion in the January-February MAFA News.*

7th, 18th & 19th Century Textiles Program in March, 2018

Harmony Weavers Guild of Delaware is inviting fellow MAFA-guild members to join them on March 7, 2018 from 9:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Winterthur Museum for several 30-minute talks including textile resources in The Downs Rare Book Library, whose collection includes fascinating old manuscripts related to textiles, “scrapbooks” and fabric swatch books, the Marguerite Davison Collection, and some of the Winterthur textiles, including needlework study and curtain storage. In addition, Marjie Thompson will give a light-hearted history lesson entitled “Woven at Home – Debunking the Myths Begun by the Colonial Revival Movement.”

Later that day, there will be a free visit to the Greenbank Mill and Philips Farm for a tour and demonstration of a working spinning jenny.

This day-long program will be followed by the guild program on Thursday morning, March 8, where Marjie will present a talk on “Forgotten Weaves,” followed by a 2 1/2 day workshop on the same topic.

The exact cost for these events will be determined by whether or not the Harmony Weavers receive a MAFA grant. For more information, or to sign up to attend any of these events, contact Carol Ireland at **spinningbiker@comcast.net**

Weaving workshop with Heather Winslow: New Millenium Fibers

May 3,4,5, 2018, 10am to 5pm, Jockey Hollow Weavers Guild, Mendham, NJ

What's a New Millennium Fiber??? What on earth is Lyocell? Why would anyone combine cotton, silk, or merino wool with stainless steel or copper into a yarn? Aren't pineapples and soy

beans for eating and bamboo for building? What does a combination of silk and ramie feel like? How does one deal with lycra? What is seacell, and how do you use crepe and paper yarns?

Learn the answers to all these questions and more during this Round Robin class using new millennium fibers. Each person will receive a warp and set up a loom with a different yarn and structure, and then weave samples on their own and all the other looms. These Millennium fibers are often quite expensive. A Round Robin is a cost efficient way to experience all these new textures. Skill level: Advanced Beginner to Advanced; must be able to read a draft and work at 24 epi.

Estimated cost: \$175- \$240 depending on number of participants. A \$50 non-refundable fee is required. Happy Holidays! non- member fee waived for this workshop.

Heather has prepared a questionnaire for participants so that she can choose the best fiber for you to work with on your own loom. Please contact Eileen Scally for a copy and send it to Heather by February 12, 2018, so she can prepare and send out the warps by Feb 26.

For registration and a copy of the questionnaire contact Eileen Scally at egmscally@gmail.com

Need to update your guild info?

Please send any changes to your reps and officers to the MAFA Membership Chair at membership@mafafiber.org. We need:

- Name and email address of the guild Rep(s)

- Names of guild officers:
 - President
 - Treasurer
 - Programs Chair

Note: We plan to share the reps' and program officers' names and email addresses with the other reps and officers, respectively, to help you better coordinate with nearby guilds.

If you'd like MAFA to post your guild's programs for the year on our website, please also send that info to the Membership Chair.