



MAFA News

March/April 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

As I write this, I am looking forward to a tour at Winterthur next week, with a peak at some of the historical textiles stored there – and a workshop with Marjie Thompson – all arranged by the Harmony Weavers Guild for members of neighboring guilds. With members of nine guilds slated to be in attendance, it'll be like a mini-conference! We hope some of our other guilds, in other corners of our MAFA region, will think about reaching out to neighboring guilds with similar programs of interest. Think how much we could all learn from each other!

Meanwhile, the MAFA board has been busy evaluating grant proposals, planning the 2019 conference, revising our website, and thinking up new ways to help connect our guilds. Read more about our efforts below.

Karen Miller, MAFA President

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Save the date - Annual Reps Meeting at Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, Saturday, May 5, at 4:00 pm in the Dining Hall

GRANTS:

MAFA recently awarded two grants for 2018!

Harmony Weavers Guild (DE, NJ and PA) for the project "17th, 18th and 19th Century Textiles – Workshops and Lectures" \$1,000

What impressed us: The lectures, tours and workshop are all open to the public or to neighboring guilds. Members of nine guilds will be able to participate in one or more activities. MAFA would

like to encourage other guilds to pursue these kinds of educational opportunities in their local areas.

Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers (PA) for the project “Gateway to Weaving” \$1,300

What impressed us: The guild seeks rigid heddle looms to use at “walk in and weave” classes and outreach events (including at Philadelphia international Airport!) because “rigid heddle looms are also more accessible for people with physical disabilities, and for those with learning differences, who would have difficulty dressing a standard floor loom. The cost of owning a rigid heddle loom is also more within many peoples’ budget.”

Have an idea for an educational program or outreach event? Or something else that would further MAFA’s mission? Applications for 2019 grants will be accepted next Fall. To help you prepare, grant program guidelines and a preview copy of the application form are available on our website at MAFAfiber.org.

Spread the word! **The Grants Committee is seeking an additional member.** We’d especially welcome volunteers from Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware or North Carolina. Please email Mary Strouse, Grants Chair, at grantschair@mafafiber.org with questions or to express interest.

CONFERENCE 2019:

The Conference committee is already hard at work planning the 2019 Conference, to be held June 27 - 30, 2019 at Millersville University! With our new earlier date, there will be no football camps! Theresa Hill, Conference Chair is still **looking for a few key volunteers: to act as Events Coordinator, serve as Emcee, coordinate Vendor Door Prizes, organize Spinning and Weaving games, coordinate the Sample Exchange, coordinate the Goody Bags, and work with catering** for the reception and morning coffee. If you are interested in working with the Conference committee, please email Theresa at mafa.coordinator@gmail.com.

Conference Workshops:

We have 60+ instructors who have submitted proposals for over 100 workshops! We have new faces, some returning faces, and some who taught for us many years ago who want to come back into the fold. Having seen the “sneak preview,” I have to admit I will find it very difficult to choose which class to take at the Conference.

Chris Field-Funk, Conference Education Chair

GUILD SURVEY RESULTS:

Thanks to all who responded to the Guild survey in the past few months! The survey received 37 individual responses from 26 Guilds (out of 44). About half of respondents were Reps, with the other half predominately Programs and Presidents.

A brief summary of responses to the Survey has been added to the website here: [MAFA-Member-Survey-Summary](#), along with proposed discussion/action items to review with the Board. If you are interested in complete survey responses, please email Margaret Briggs, Membership Chair at membership@mafafiber.org.

UPCOMING GUILD EVENTS:

Let us help you publicize your guild highlights or open workshops! Send items to secretary@mafafiber.org before April 21 for inclusion in the May-June MAFA News

17th, 18th & 19th Century Textiles Program

Harmony Weavers Guild, March 7, 2018 from 9:00 - 4:00 pm at Winterthur Museum

The guild is inviting fellow MAFA-guild members to join them 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.

For more information, or to sign up to attend any of these events, contact Carol Ireland at spinningbiker@comcast.net

Waterford Weavers Hosting a Lunatic

Waterford Weavers Guild, March 21 - 25, 2018, Alexandria, VA

Waterford Weavers Guild of Northern Virginia is offering several workshops with Michele Belson of Lunatic Fringe from March 21- March 25 in Alexandria, Virginia. On March 21 - 23, Michele will teach a workshop on warping a loom in which participants will prepare several warps and weave them off. She guarantees that participants will be able to warp a loom by the end of class on Friday.

On the weekend of March 24 and 25, weavers will explore weaving gamps, using warps and wefts provided by Michele. On Sunday afternoon, March 25, she will discuss the theory of color gamps and how to use them. The afternoon session is included as part of the weaving workshop, but is also available to individuals who can't attend the whole weekend.

For more information or to register, contact Caroline Harlow at harlow_cw@yahoo.com

Beyond the Rug: Explorations in Rags with Dena Gartenstein Moses

Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore Spring 2018 Workshop, April 28-30, 2018, Baltimore, MD

Weaving with "rags" gives a wide range of opportunity to learn about color, texture, movement, and form. While making "good" fabric can have specific guidelines to follow, making a rug or wall hanging out of rags can be much more flexible and creative. In addition, while it can take many hours to make a small tapestry, rag rug weaving can be a relatively quick way to produce fabulous wall pieces.

In this workshop, we will go beyond the ordinary. We will start with the basics of how to make a great rag rug and use that as our foundation. We will explore various tapestry techniques and how to use them with rags. We will then explore creating wall pieces that are non-rectangular. We will

use surface embellishments, create empty space and interesting shapes within a piece, and learn a variety of finishing techniques that can be used as edging, but also as accents within our work.

Dena Gartenstein Moses has been weaving for twenty-five years and sells her line of chenille scarves, shawls and hats at highly juried craft shows and fine galleries around New England. She has spent years weaving and selling her unique, "tapestry rag rugs" and can consistently weave a scarf in twenty minutes. She is the founder and primary teacher at Vermont Weaving School.

Level: Basic weaving skills required. You must be able to warp your own loom.

Loom: Floor or table loom. Work is done on your own loom.

Length: 3 days, Saturday - Monday.

Questions: See the attached flyer or email Deborah Herrin at dcherrin@hotmail.com

TEXTILE NEWS IN OUR REGION:

Three exhibitions in Washington, DC showcase minority textiles and the endangered cultures that create them:

- To Dye For: Ikats from Central Asia, March 24 to July 29, 2018 at the Smithsonian's [Freer/Sackler Gallery](#)
- Binding the Clouds, March 10 to July 9, 2018 at the George Washington University [Textile Museum](#)
- Vanishing Traditions: Textiles and Treasures from SW China, through July 9, 2018, also at the [Textile Museum](#)

National Museum of the American Coverlet - Bedford, PA, coverletmuseum.org

- Flora Borealis: Idyllic Woven Gardens, through March 25, 2018

CAM Raleigh - Raleigh NC, camraleigh.org/exhibitions/

- Textile Print and Form: A Lifetime of Magical Experimentation, through June 10, 2018

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery - Alexandria, VA, potomacfiberartsgallery.com/

- Exhibits all forms of fiber work, including weaving, knitting, crocheting, sewing, surface design, and more, in 11 juried shows each year.

Fabric Workshop and Museum - Philadelphia, PA, fabricworkshopandmuseum.org/

- The museum's purpose is to stimulate experimentation among leading contemporary artists and to share the process of creating works of art with the public. They have various exhibits and a permanent collection, as well as studio facilities, equipment, and expert technicians on-site.

Thousand Islands Arts Center - Clayton, NY

- 24th Annual Weaving History Conference, May 17 & 18, 2018. For more information, visit www.tiartscenter.org/whc.php.

Toronto Textile Museum - Toronto, ON, Canada, www.textilemuseum.ca/home

- Artistry in Silk: Celebrates the work of Itchiku Kubota (1917-2003) with 41 kimonos. Through May 13, 2018.

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 the:

- Name and email address of the guild Rep(s)
- Names of guild officers:
 - President
 - Treasurer
 - Programs Chair

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.



WGGB Spring 2018 Workshop

April 28-30, 2018

Beyond the Rug: Explorations in Rags

Dena Gartenstein Moses

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Questions: Deborah Herrin, dcherrin@hotmail.com

WGGB SPRING 2018 WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

Beyond The Rug: Explorations in Rag

Instructor: Dena Gartenstein Moses

Dates: Saturday, April 28 - Monday, April 30

Times: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Howard County Arts Council
8510 High Ridge Road
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Cost: \$225 (\$100 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your space; balance is due on the first day of the workshop.)

Skill level: Basic weaving skills required; must be able to warp your own loom.

Equipment: Floor or table loom

Questions: Deborah Herrin, dcherrin@hotmail.com

Workshop: Beyond The Rug: Explorations in Rag

Please return this registration form with a check for \$100 made payable to WGGB (non-refundable deposit) to secure your spot in the workshop.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Type of loom: table floor

Mail check to:
Deborah Herrin
2303 Darrow St
Silver Spring MD 20902