



MAFA News

May/June 2018

President's Message

It was great to meet so many of our reps at the Representatives Assembly last Saturday at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. I wish we could have more occasions to meet in person – but perhaps our new Groups.io group will help us get to know each other better even without personal meetings. It seems so many of our guilds face the same challenges, it can only be helpful to hear how others are successfully meeting them!

And a big welcome to our newest guild – Tavern Spinners and Weavers of Virginia's Northern Neck.

Karen Miller, MAFA President

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Guild dues will be due in September 2018, and are good for two years. A reminder will go out late-Summer, and renewals may be made online with PayPal, or mailed in with a check.

Reps Assembly Minutes

Find the minutes of the May 5, 2018 Reps Assembly at MDSW at:

www.mafafiber.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/MAFA-Representatives-Assembly-May-6-2018.pdf

Conference 2019

The Conference will be held June 27 - 30, 2019 at Millersville University, Millersville, PA.

Conference Volunteers Needed

It's not too early to think about volunteering to help with the 2019 Conference. Our entire weekend is made possible by volunteer organizers, and we need you, too. Please volunteer if you can, and pass the info about the following open positions along to your guild(s):

- **Housing Coordinator** - Work with the Registrar (and Facilities Chair) to coordinate and be the contact point for housing.
- **Spinning Games Coordinator** - Plan and emcee spinning games in the vendor hall on Friday evening.
- **Sample/Towel Exchange Coordinator** - Organize an exchange for weavers.
- **Door Prize Coordinator** - Solicit prizes from schools and suppliers, and conduct drawings in the vendor hall.
- **Goody Bags Coordinator** - Collect guild items and prepare them for distribution.
- **Instructor Book Signings** - Coordinate Friday evening book signing in the vendor hall.
- **Signage** - Assist the Signage Coordinator with building and event signage throughout the conference.
- **Skein Competition** - Organize collection, judging, and display of handspun items.

If you are interested in working with the Conference committee, please email Theresa Hill at mafa.coordinator@gmail.com.

Conference Workshops Selected

MAFA 2019, Millersville University, Millersville, PA, June 27-30, 2019, will offer 40 fabulous workshops with 41 experienced, top-of-the-line instructors. Our "United in Fiber" theme will be well represented with classes in dyeing, spinning, weaving, knitting, rug weaving, Oxford punch rug, felting, temari, rigid heddle, saori, tapestry, jewelry weaving. The final list of classes will be available soon so you can start making plans and dreaming about the fun and educational experiences you're going to have! *Chris Field-Funk, Conference Education Chair*

Conference Goody Bag Items

There will be a call for goody bag items next year – so as you plan your 2018-19 guild programs, remember that you might want one to make little items that would make nice "goodies." You can see some examples of goodies from past years here on the MAFA 2017 conference site: www.mafa-conference-2017.org/handcrafted-take-away-treasures/

Get Ready for Grants!

MAFA will accept proposals for 2019 Guild Grants beginning in September. The deadline is November 1, 2018. Grant projects must be completed during 2019. Grants typically range from \$500 to \$1,500 for projects that further MAFA's mission. Successful proposals will show a clear impact/benefit that extends beyond the sponsoring guild. For additional information, including past grant awards and a preview of the application form, see MAFA's [grants page](#). Please direct questions to Mary Strouse, Grants Chair, at grantschair@mafafiber.org.

MAFA Reps Groups.io Info

To foster communication among guilds, we've created a [Groups.io](#) group just for member guilds' MAFA Reps, officers, and program folks. After the Reps' Meeting, you will receive an invitation to join the group "mafareps". If you already have a Groups.io log-in, feel free to use that, and search for the group "mafareps". If not, you may register with any email and password you choose.

Groups.io is a new online groups service, a lot like the old Yahoo groups, but with more features, and better support. There is a message board, where you can post or reply to messages online or by email, and you can set messages to individual or digest. We have also created sub-groups for topics on 'Guild Admin' and 'Programs & Workshops,' so feel free to start a specific discussion there. And if you want to communicate with just a few people, start a 'Chat.' We hope you will also post your guild events on the 'Calendar.'

Be sure to check out the 'Database' tab, where you will find the 'Programs & Workshops' database, which is in response to those of you who have asked for a resource for program and workshop suggestions, contact info for instructors, and comments on programs. Group members may add guild events directly to the database, or fill out a Program/Workshop Info Form, and a moderator will enter your programs in the database.

For more information, 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 June 21 for inclusion in the May-June MAFA News

Textile News in Our Region

Festivals

Long Island Fleece and Fiber Fair - Riverhead, NY, May 19 & 20, presented by Hallockville Museum Farm and Long Island Yarn and Farm. Animal displays, shearing, knitting, crocheting, dyeing, spinning, weaving, felting, quilting and a lot more! See www.hallockville.com/fiberfair/ for more information.

Exhibits

Fiber National at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, VA includes works from several members of the **Potomac Fiber Arts Guild**. The exhibit showcases the best in contemporary fiber art from around the United States. The second biennial of the exhibition will highlight exciting, innovative artwork utilizing both traditional and non-traditional techniques. The exhibit runs from June 1 - July 29. More info at: www.workhousearts.org/event/fibernational/

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, www.freersackler.si.edu/
- Binding the Clouds, March 10 to July 9, 2018 at the George Washington University Textile Museum, www.museum.gwu.edu/clouds
- Vanishing Traditions: Textiles and Treasures from SW China, through July 9, 2018, also at the at the Textile Museum, www.museum.gwu.edu/vanishingtraditions

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

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

Thousand Islands Arts Center - Clayton, NY

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

Ongoing Exhibits

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery - Alexandria, VA, www.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, www.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.

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.