



MAFA News

March/April 2020

Please share this newsletter with your guild

President's Message

One of the things I enjoy about living in the mid-Atlantic region is the opportunity to experience distinct climate seasons with relatively moderate weather. As Spring approaches, I feel a stirring of my creativity, a change in my preferred color palette, and a gentle excitement. It will soon be comfortable to take long walks. Longer days mean more time to work in natural light. I look forward to crocuses, daffodils, asparagus, strawberries, new lambs, the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, and more fiber.

At MAFA it's the season for poring over workshop proposals for our 2021 conference. We have over 130 proposals this year. It's thrilling to read about the learning opportunities talented fiber artists have developed. It's humbling and daunting to have to choose. I'm enthusiastic about working with Margaret Briggs, our conference chair and her outstanding team to create a superb conference for our members.

MAFA, like your guilds, does all its work with volunteers. I never stop marveling at what these generous and talented individuals accomplish! If you see a call for help, I hope you will step up and share your strengths with the organization. All of us contribute to our success.

Enjoy the changing seasons.

Warm regards,
Helena Valentine, MAFA President
president@mafafiber.org

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Important Dates

- May 2, 2020 - MAFA Reps' meeting at Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival. Location, time and agenda will be emailed to all Reps.
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MAFA 2019 Financial Report Posted

Our independent accountant's compilation is complete, and the compiled financial report is posted in the Reps' Corner on the website, here:

mafafiber.org/wp-content/uploads/Bylaws&OpsManual/2019-Compilation-Financial-Statement-FINAL.pdf.

Please review the report and if you have any questions, we will discuss them at the May 2, 2020 Reps' Meeting.

Conference 2021 - Updates

The MAFA 2021 Conference will be held June 24 - 27, 2021, at Millersville University, Millersville, PA

The Conference committee is busy reviewing workshop proposals. We received 130+ proposals from 82 instructors, 34 of whom are new to MAFA! We still need to go through the contract process, so expect us to start announcing the list of workshops in early-Summer 2020.

We also hope to offer mini-classes and demonstrations in the MarketPlace on Thursday afternoon and Saturday during the day. If you are interested in teaching a 30-90 minute mini-class, or presenting a fiber art demonstration, please email me at conference@mafafiber.org, and stay tuned for an application form this Summer.

Help Needed!

To get involved in planning the conference, email Margaret Briggs, 2021 Conference Chair at conference@mafafiber.org.

MAFA Members' Discussion Group

Join the conversation about guild issues

We created a discussion group for our member guild reps and officers (particularly guild presidents and program chairs, but others are welcome too), as well as MAFA board members and chairs, here: <http://groups.io/g/mafareps>. We are starting to post a Question of the Month, and we hope you will join in the conversation. Our February topic is still active, and we invite you to share experiences and solutions to increasing your guild's inclusiveness and diversity. It's not just a matter of members "who don't look like me", but all guilds need to find a way to broaden membership to ensure a vibrant membership and future leaders for our guilds.

To join the discussion group, go to: <http://groups.io/g/mafareps>. Click on "Apply for Membership in this Group", or email for an invite.

If you need any assistance joining the group, or to request an invite, email membership@mafafiber.org.

Grants Committee News

Focus on Conference Fellowships

New [reports](#) from 2019 Conference Fellows are here. The 2019 Fellows each receive an award of \$300 after completing their post-conference projects.

- [Mary Ann Buckley](#), Central VA FiberArts Guild
- [Natalie Drummond](#), Fredericksburg (VA) Spinners and Weavers Guild
- [Tina Mickley](#), Central PA Guild of Handweavers

You can also read a followup report from 2017 Conference Fellow Kathleen Czarnecki, from the [Jan/Feb 2020 newsletter](#). Kathleen's original report is [here](#).

Interested in becoming a [Conference Fellow](#)? Look for more information and application instructions in time for 2021 conference registration. As you think about a fellowship project, please coordinate with your guild's program planners early in the process.

Note to Program Planners. Conference Fellowships are awarded in early spring of the conference year. Each Fellow applies to attend a specific workshop and then distill that experience into one or more guild presentations, classes/workshops or public demonstrations. If your guild schedule is set well in advance, please consider leaving space for a 2021 Conference Fellow.

New Grant Awards

MAFA recently awarded grants to the following organizations:

- Blue Ridge Fiber Fest (NC), *Resurgence of Fiber Arts in Southern Appalachia*. \$1,500
- Frances Irwin Handweavers (NJ), *Linen: The Journey from Seed to Cloth*. \$3,500
- Weaver's Guild of Buffalo (NY), *Public Education of Fiber Crafts*. \$850.00

Interested in a 2021 Grant? Here's where to start:

- Read the detailed guidelines and reporting requirements on the [MAFA Grants page](#).
- Read the [reports](#) of successful grant projects. The reports include advice for future applicants planning similar projects.
- Download the latest versions of the [grants brochure](#) and [application preview](#). The online application form (required) will be **available Sept. 1st** and is due no later than November 1st.

Questions? Contact grants@mafafiber.org.

Want to get involved?

Volunteers from throughout the MAFA region are appointed for two-year terms. Conference attendance is not required. Questions? Contact grants@mafafiber.org.

Shave 'Em to Save 'Em Initiative

Have you heard about the great initiative through the Livestock Conservancy called "Shave 'Em to Save 'Em? It's a program designed to recognize fiber artists for using wool on their Conservation Priority List and therefore make it more profitable to raise heritage sheep and connect breeders of heritage sheep with customers.

Here are some details from their website but please check out <https://livestockconservancy.org/> for more information.

The Livestock Conservancy has long said that the way to save endangered breeds of livestock is to give them a job. In the case of wool sheep, we need to start using their wool again. Because of marketing challenges, some shepherds discard or compost the wool after their annual shearing rather than cleaning it and selling it. In addition to encouraging fiber artists to try using rare wools, the program also educates shepherds about how to prepare their wool for sale and how to reach customers and fiber artists, thereby making it more profitable to raise heritage breeds.

How does it work?

- Fiber Artists buy wool from rare breed Fiber Providers and get a “stamp” in their “passport.”



- They earn items for completing projects.
- They share pictures of their projects on [Facebook](#) and [Ravelry](#).
- The more breeds they use, the more “stamps” they collect, the more items they earn, the more wool the providers sell.

How will Fiber Artists find Fiber Providers?

Through the Conservancy’s [online breeders and products directory](#)

How do you get listed in the directory?

By being a [Conservancy member](#) OR by becoming a [breeders directory participant](#)

Sara Robbins
First VP Communications
firstvp@mafafiber.org

Upcoming Guild Events

Let us help you publicize your guild exhibits, workshops, events and sales! Visit the Guild Events listing on the website here: mafafiber.org/events/. Submit information on events, workshops, programs and sales for the website and newsletter by submitting the online form here: mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-event-update/. You may also email newsletter items to firstvp@mafafiber.org before the 21st of even months for inclusion in the next MAFA News.

New in this issue:

Barbara Diefenderfer: Point Twill Workshop. March 26, 2020, sponsored by the Weavers' Roundtable in Hagerstown. Washington County Museum of Fine Arts City Park, Hagerstown, MD. You may register online at the museum, web site. <http://wcmfa.org/> or mail the registration form to P.O. Box 423, Hagerstown, MD 21741. More information can be found at <https://mafafiber.org/events/>

Central PA Fiber Festival, May 16-17, 2020, hosted by the Susquehanna Spinners and Weavers Guild <http://www.svswg.org/> , festival <https://centralpenfiberfest.com/>

In previous issue:

Deb Silver: Split Shed Tied Beiderwand Workshop. March 29, 2020, New York Guild of Handweavers. This workshop will teach the basics of split-shed weaving using a variation of the tied beiderwand pattern. Workshop fee: Members: \$85 Non-members: \$95 <https://www.nyhandweavers.org>

Celebration of Fibers, The Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers Annual Fiber Exhibition, April 17-26, 2020, Philadelphia, PA <https://www.pghw.org/>

Textile News in Our Region

Exhibits, Festivals, Events & Online Fiber Arts

New in this issue:

Growing Color Symposium: Growing Color – Natural Dyes from Plants
March 11-12, 2020, North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville, NC. Growing Color is designed for professionals in the farming, herb, and textile industries and for anyone interested in the fascinating history and potential of plant-based color.
<https://www.ncarboretum.org/education-programs/lectures-symposia/>

Explorations in Felt. Through April 19, 2020, HUNTERDON ART MUSEUM: Clinton, NJ <https://hunterdonartmuseum.org/current-exhibitions/>

Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, May 2-3, 2020, Howard County Fairgrounds. West Friendship, Maryland, <http://sheepandwool.org/>

Blue Ridge Fiber Festival, June 5-6, 2020 Sparta, North Carolina,
<https://www.blueridgefiberfest.com/>

CNY Fiber Arts Festival, June 13-14, 2020. Bouckville, New York,
<https://cnyfiberarts.org/>

In previous issue:

Esther and the Dream of One Loving Human Family

Through March 2024, AMERICAN VISIONARY ART MUSEUM (AVAM), Baltimore, Maryland. Testimonial embroideries created by Holocaust survivor, Esther Nisenthal Krinitz. More info at www.avam.org/.

Stitches United

March 26-29, 2020, Hartford, CT, <http://www.knittinguniverse.com/United2020>

Frank Lloyd Wright Textiles: The Taliesin Line 1955-60

Through April 5, 2020, METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, New York, NY
www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2019/frank-lloyd-wright-textiles

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Alexandria, VA

March 17 - Apr. 19: *Purple Pops*

April 21 - May 17: *Clouds, Showers, and Rainbows*

May 19 - June 21: *Birds of a Feather*

June 23 - July 26: *Everything Old is New — Recycling*

July 28 - Aug. 30: *Landscapes*

September 1 - Oct. 4: *"LaJaponaise" by Claude Monet*

October 6 - Nov. 8: *Around the World*

November 10, 2020 - Jan. 3, 2021: *Holiday Spirit*

<https://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com/>

Off the Wall: American Art to Wear

Through May 17, 2020 PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART, Philadelphia, PA

<https://press.philamuseum.org/off-the-wall-american-art-to-wear/>

Adorned: African Women and the Art of Identity

Through June 19, 2020, BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART, Baltimore, MD

https://www.artbma.org/exhibitions/2019_adorned-african-women-and-the-art-of-identity

Delight in Discovery: The Global Collections of Lloyd Cotsen

Through July 5, 2020, The Textile Museum, Washington, DC

<https://museum.gwu.edu/delight>

Hidden Stories/Human Lives

October 14-18, 2020, Textile Society of America 17th Biennial Symposium, Boston, MA,

<https://textilesocietyofamerica.org/symposia/symposium-2020>

The **Hudson Valley Fiber Arts Network** is a listing directory, marketing & news resource to promote and celebrate the diversity & creativity of the fiber arts community of the greater Hudson Valley region - from New York City to the Canadian border, along the I-87 and Hudson River corridor and surrounding areas. Find their events listings, and info at www.hudsonvalleyfiberartsnetwork.com/

Ongoing Exhibits

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Alexandria, Virginia - Exhibits all forms of fiber work, including weaving, knitting, crocheting, sewing, surface design, and more, in 11 juried shows each year. More info at www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com/.

Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - 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. Find more info at fabricworkshopandmuseum.org/.

Alling Coverlet Museum, in Palmyra NY, has a collection of simple 4H to jacquard coverlets. historicpalmyra.com/alling.htm

Need to Update Your Guild Info? Looking for MAFA Resources?

Submit your **updated guild info, officers, Rep, or meeting times** online using this form: mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-update/

Submit **guild events** here: mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-event-update/

We would love for you to **submit a guild profile** here: mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-profile-submission/

As always, you may send any event info or changes to your Reps, officers, or meeting dates/times to the MAFA Membership Chair at membership@mafafiber.org.

MAFA Website: MAFA has created an entirely new website, most of our resources are located there, and we encourage you to explore to see what we have to offer. Of particular interest to member guilds will be the Guild pages, the Guild Resources & Reps' Corner, and the Fiber Resources pages.

NOTE: If your guild hasn't already, please ask your web person to add a link to MAFA at <https://mafafiber.org/> and let me know if you want a MAFA logo for your website.

- Under the website [Guilds](#) tab, you will find our list of all member guilds, sorted by state, as well as on a Google Map.

- Under the **[Guild Resources](#)** tab you will find links to the Rep's Corner with current and past newsletters and our Role of the Rep document; info on guild administration topics; and program suggestions.
- MAFA can **host your guild website**. If you are interested in having us create and host a website for your guild, please email webmaster@mafafiber.org.
- Check out the **[Fiber Resources](#)** pages on the website to find info on exhibits, events, festivals, schools, other conferences, and much more. If you have a resource to add, use the online form linked in the sidebar and found here: mafafiber.org/submit-a-resource/.

MAFA Reps Groups.io: Reps, Guild officers, and Program Chairs, be sure to join the mafareps group at groups.io/g/mafareps. To join, click on “Apply for Membership in this Group”, or email me for an invite. We particularly want guilds to enter program, workshop and instructor info in our Programs database here: groups.io/g/mafareps/table?id=3297.

MAFA on Facebook: www.facebook.com/MidAtlanticFiberAssociation/

MAFA on Ravelry: www.ravelry.com/groups/midatlantic-fiber-association

MAFA on Twitter: twitter.com/MAFAfiber

MAFA on Instagram: www.instagram.com/mafafiber/