



MAFA News

May/June 2020

Please share this newsletter with your guild

President's Message

I covered my peonies again to protect them from freezing. While I know that we are within the parameters for the last frost date in our zone, it feels unseasonable. Perhaps the strangeness of shelter-in-place is coloring my thinking. We are certainly living through challenging times. Every aspect of our lives, work, play, worship, being with, or without, our families, has been affected. There is no upside for those of us struggling to do essential jobs under enormous stress and those facing the pressures of life without work or income.

The lack of certainty about the immediate future is the hardest part to handle. At such a time it is a gift to be able to immerse ourselves in our fiber crafts. Familiar tasks soothe, creativity enriches, and feeling in control of something, like our tools and our outcomes, reduces stress. When I see my weaving emerge I feel deep satisfaction, for a while.

I'm sure you're missing the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival as much as I am. I hope you'll consider visiting their virtual vendors' market to support the people who help make our work possible. I look forward to chatting with you at our Reps teleconference on May 5th.

Wishing you all health and peace. Stay safe.

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

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Important Dates

- May 5, 2020, 7:00pm - MAFA Reps' Meeting by conference call. Dial-in info and agenda have been emailed to all Reps.
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MAFA 2019 Towel Exchange E-book Posted

MAFA 2019 introduced a towel exchange for the first time and the 75 participants produced a wide range of beautiful and unique towels. Coordinator Aileen Campbell and her committee did a great job on the display, and the towels were much admired by conference attendees. Now we want to share those towels and designs with those in our community who were not able to attend the conference, or who would like to know more about the drafts and sources used.

The MAFA 2019 Towel Exchange E-book can be found under the Resources tab on our website (look for [Samples & Exchanges](#)), or [downloaded here](#). Special thanks to former president, Elisa Eiger, for her editing of the photos, drafts and weaver notes.

MAFA has a small group working on ways to bring more sample photos and weaving drafts to our website over the coming months. For more information or to join the working group, please contact Karen Miller at past.president@mafafiber.org

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 Update

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

We received 130+ proposals from 82 instructors, and somehow we narrowed them down to 40 workshops to be offered at the conference next June! We are now in the middle of the contract process, so expect us to start announcing the list of workshops in early-Summer 2020 on the website.

We also hope to offer mini-classes and demonstrations in the MarketPlace on Friday 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.

Vendor invitations will go out around July 1st. If you are interested in vending or suggesting a vendor, please email Carol Steuer at vendors@mafafiber.org by June 29th.

Conference Help Needed!

If you would like to join the conference planning committee, we'd love to have you! Please email and we'll discuss what coordinator positions we still need to fill and what your particular interests are. Email Margaret Briggs, at conference@mafafiber.org.

MAFA Members' Discussion Group

Join the conversation about guild issues

We created a discussion group for our member guild reps, officers, and program chairs, as well as MAFA board members, here: <http://groups.io/g/mafareps>. We will post a Question of the Month, and we hope you will join in the conversation.

Stay tuned for a roundtable discussion based on the February question on diversity and inclusiveness in guild activities. 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

COVID-19 Adjustments

Over the summer, the Grants Committee will work with all 2020 grant recipients to ensure that grant terms and deadlines are reasonable in the current circumstances, and to make changes as needed.

The deadline for new grant applications will be **extended to January 8th, 2021** to allow more time for planning. As usual, online applications for 2021 grants will be accepted beginning September 2020. Applicants may request early decision for events and programs slated for early 2021.

Focus on Conference Fellowships

Here's some useful perspective from some 2019 Conference Fellows:

Being a MAFA fellow has been a wonderful experience. It would have been easy to put my weaving away and have it end up one more thing 'in process' in my stash room. Instead, I have had to carefully articulate what I am doing and why it is important. I have had to be mindful about recording my work so that I can share it with others, which is actually quite enjoyable.

-- Joanna Crosby, Weavers' Guild of Greater Baltimore

Being a MAFA Fellow has encouraged me to gain perspective, use and build on what I learned in the workshop and overall, has helped make my experience all the richer. I now realize, we can gain more from a workshop if we consider beforehand, specifically what we hope to gain, take active steps in that direction and provide for ourselves some means for using the information afterwards.

-- Tina Mickley, Central PA Guild of Handweavers

The 2019 Fellows each receive an award of \$300 after completing their post-conference projects. [Reports](#) from past Conference Fellows are available on the MAFA website.

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.

Interested in a MAFA 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**.

2021 Grant Applications due by January 8, 2021

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.

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:

Many upcoming events, exhibits, etc. have been canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. These have been removed from this issue of our newsletter.

Textile News in Our Region Exhibits, Festivals, Events & Online Fiber Arts

Please note that museums are closed. See * for current details. Some virtual tours have been added to the listings when available.

New in this issue:

Boro Textile: Sustainable Techniques,

* Closed through May 31, 2020, exhibit ends June 14, Japan Society, 333 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017, **view the video tour here:**

<https://www.japansociety.org/page/programs/gallery/boro-textiles>,
<https://www.japansociety.org/page/about/overview>

In previous issue:

CNY Fiber Arts Festival,

*Decision on holding the festival to be made in the beginning of May.
June 13-14, 2020, Bouckville, New York <https://cnyfiberarts.org/>

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery

*Closed until June 10. Alexandria, VA
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/>

Adorned: African Women and the Art of Identity

* Closed through the end of April.
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

* Extended through December 23, 2020 but the museum is currently closed.

The Textile Museum, Washington, DC **view the video tour here:**

https://secure2.convio.net/gwu/site/R?i=xb20svHRLsXxEg_cIO74Yw

<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 please check websites for reopening dates

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. historicpalmyrany.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/