



MAFA News

July/August 2020

Please share this newsletter with your guild

President's Message

Remember the movie Groundhog Day? It's hard not to feel trapped as the pandemic wears on. At the same time, the last several weeks have been very different because of momentous events like worldwide demonstrations for justice and an end to racism, and because of minor ones like getting a haircut.

Through it all, essential workers have toiled on, trying to stay safe while helping us all. The rest of the population has had a moment to look around and ask themselves what really matters most. It is my sincere wish that all of us will emerge from this test more grateful and more grounded. For myself, I'm grateful for family, friends and faith. I also love the opportunity to be creative, or just distracted, by fiber crafts.

In June, MAFA hosted a guild roundtable on Zoom. We checked in to find out how our member guilds were coping with and responding to the challenges presented by the pandemic. All participants found it helpful and encouraging. This month we will discuss diversity in our guilds. I'm hopeful that many of you will join us to learn and share so that our organizations can grow, serve and reflect their communities.

Planning for MAFA 2021 continues. While we take the steps necessary to host the kind of event we've all come to value, we grapple with uncertainty and work to imagine alternatives. We'll keep you informed as we move forward.

I've been inspired by the creativity in our guilds, in fiber pursuits of course, but also in finding ways to stay connected and relevant during the lockdown, to share and grow our fiber arts, and to meet this exciting and important moment in our nation's life. Keep up the good work. Stay well and stay safe.

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

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Important Dates

- July 14, 2020, 7:00pm: Guild Roundtable - Diversity and Inclusiveness in our Guilds. A Zoom registration link will be emailed to all Reps.
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MAFA Membership

Membership Dues for 2020 - 2022

Please note that at the May 11, 2020 meeting, the MAFA board approved extending the due date for membership dues to January 1, 2021 to allow the board time to study dues for our next renewal period. At the July meeting, the board will review possible adjustments to dues amounts, and will make a recommendation on 2020-22 dues for a vote at the Fall Reps Meeting. Renewal notices will go out AFTER the Fall meeting.

Guild Zoom Meetings

We have a Zoom Pro account for use by any of our member guilds to hold guild meetings, board meetings, and programs, as a free service to our guilds. Visit the new [Guild Zoom Meetings page](#) (under Guild Resources) to find more info, the meeting calendar, a request form to reserve a meeting time, links to instructions for guild hosts and participants, and a link to download the Zoom app. We are currently limited to one meeting per time slot, so meetings are first-come, first-served.

If you have any questions, need help scheduling a meeting, or have any other suggestions on how MAFA can support our members right now, please email membership@mafafiber.org.

Guild Roundtables

We are planning a series of Zoom roundtable discussions among our Reps, guild leaders, and the MAFA board. **Save the date for our next roundtable on Diversity and Inclusiveness in our Guilds, July 14th, at 7:00pm on Zoom.** We will email a meeting link to Reps about a week before the meeting. Future topics may include the guild grant process, discussion among program chairs, and we are open to any other suggestions for group discussion. We also plan to schedule a presentation by a member guild on their grant topic that's all about Flax!

Our first roundtable, held on June 16th explored how member guilds are coping with the pandemic and adjusting their activities to keep members engaged. Forty guild reps, presidents, program chairs, and MAFA board members attended from thirty guilds. We had a great discussion about what various guilds are doing to hold meetings, programs, and classes online, as well as some guilds planning to begin holding in-person meetings as their locality allows. [Download the meeting notes here.](#) Or [watch the recording of the meeting here.](#)

Looking for someone to present an online class or lecture?

Visit the new [Online Teaching](#) category under Fiber Resources on the MAFA website. Check back as we'll keep updating this as we get teaching info from new instructors.

Join an ongoing conversation about guild issues

We have a discussion group for our member guild reps, officers, and program chairs, as well as MAFA board members. We will post a Question of the Month, and we hope you will join in the ongoing conversation. 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.

Reps Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the May 5, 2020 Reps Assembly are [posted on the MAFA website](#).

NEW! Member Highlights: Meet a Member of a MAFA Guild

We have 52 member guilds in MAFA with each guild ranging from small to quite large in terms of member numbers. We thought it would be fun to get to know some of the talented individuals in these guilds and have therefore created a "Member Highlights" section in the newsletter. Every edition of the newsletter will feature an individual, their story, interests and skills.

We hope you will not be shy and will consider letting us get to know you by completing the Member Highlights form, which can be found on the Mafa website:

<https://mafafiber.org/guild-resources/reps-corner/member-highlights-form/>

July/August Member Highlights: Meet Kathy Pudlack!

Hi, my name is Kathy Pudlack and I am a member of the Weavers Guild of Buffalo.



Throughout your lifetime, you should never stop learning. That has been my experience since retiring 5 years ago after teaching science for 22 years. Prior to that I was a medical technologist and computer programmer. Since my retirement I have been busy volunteering. Currently I am a tour and education docent at the Darwin Martin House (a 1907 Frank Lloyd Wright historic prairie style home) and an education docent at the Niagara Heritage Museum. My husband and I also cook for Meals on Wheels.

Four year ago I met the ladies of the Weavers Guild of Buffalo (New York), who were demonstrating weaving at an event and my interest was piqued. I joined the Guild in 2017. Being a novice has been intimidating at times, but I am so grateful for the encouragement, education, expertise, programs, home help and camaraderie I have experienced since joining both the Northtown Spinners Group and the Weavers Guild of Buffalo. I am now usually in attendance when the Guild demonstrates at different events. I am the demonstration coordinator and membership chairperson.

For this year's Buffalo Weavers' Challenge Re-do, Re-use, Re-make, I cut continuous 1-inch strips from cotton bed sheets. I have a 27-inch LeClerc Fanny floor loom. Using a 5-yard warp of 5/2 gold rug yarn with 8 epi, I wound the weft strips on shuttle sticks and beat approximately 5 ppl. My bags measure 17 inches wide and 10 - 14 inches in depth. The bags wove quickly, cutting the strips and finishing the seams took the most time. They came out much better than expected. It was fun and I keep learning!

Conference 2021 Update

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

We are currently studying the option to offer mini-classes or "make & takes" for our day-trippers on Friday afternoon and Saturday during the day in the Marketplace. If you know local-ish instructors we should invite, or if you are not planning to take a conference workshop, and are interested in offering a 30-90 minute mini-class or fiber art demonstration, please email conference@mafafiber.org to discuss this, and look for a proposal form this Summer.

Vendor invitations will go out around August 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.

Grants Committee News

Changes to Grant Application Deadlines for 2021

The Online Application for 2021 MAFA grants will be available in September 2020. This year, the deadline for new grant applications has been **extended to January 8th, 2021** to allow more time for planning in light of COVID-19 disruptions.

Applicants may request early decision on grant applications for events and programs to be held January-April 2021. To request an early decision, please apply by November 1, 2020 and check “early decision” on the application. The Committee will make every effort to award early decision grants by the end of 2020.

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**.

Questions? Contact grants@mafafiber.org.

Focus on Conference Fellowships

New reports from 2019 Conference Fellows:

- [Chris Field-Funk](#), Handweavers of Bucks County (PA)
- [Gail Pietrzyk](#), Harmony Weavers Guild (DE)

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 to reserve space for your presentation, workshop, etc. MAFA Associate Members are also welcome to apply.

Want to get involved?

The Grants Committee welcomes new members annually. Volunteers from across the MAFA region are needed for 2021-2022. For more information or to express interest, 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.

None at this time.

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

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

New festivals in this issue (watch websites for COVID19 updates):

NJ Sheep and Fiber Festival

September 12 - 13, 2020, Hunterdon County Fairgrounds, Ringoes, New Jersey

Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival

September 26 - 27, 2020, Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds, Berryville, Virginia

Fall Fiber Festival & Montpelier Sheep Dog Trials

October 3 - 4, 2020, at James Madison's Montpelier, Montpelier Station, Virginia

New textile exhibits in this issue:

Complex Weavers - Complexity 2020: Innovations in Weaving

Virtual gallery open June 29 - September 1, 2020.

<https://complexityexhibition.org/>

FiberArts Plus Exhibit 2020

Virtual tour on YouTube, Belmar Arts Council,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vZXzhhgDVM&feature=youtu.be>

Fiber Nation 2020

Through August 9, 2020 *virtual exhibit*. WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER, Lorton, VA

<https://www.workhousearts.org/exhibitions/fiber-national-2020/>

Fiber III, a National Juried Exhibition

October 2, 2020 - November 1, 2020, LIBERTYTOWN ARTS WORKSHOP,

Fredericksburg, Virginia. Full prospectus on the website. Submissions due: 9/14/2020. <https://libertytownarts.com/calls-for-artists/>

Esther and the Dream of One Loving Human Family

*Closed now. Ends March 31, 2024, Testimonial embroideries created by Holocaust survivor, Esther Nisenthal Krinitz, AMERICAN VISIONARY ART MUSEUM (AVAM), Baltimore, Maryland, <http://www.avam.org/>

Previous issue exhibits:

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery

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/>

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

Online October 15-18, 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. 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/