



MAFA News

January/February 2021

Please share this newsletter with your guild

President's Message

It's a clear, cold day and I'm sipping tea and thinking about painted warps and weaving patterns suitable for scarves. 2020 has been a tough year. Many of us have suffered severe loss. I'm praying for healing and relief for all. As I look forward to better times in 2021, I am grateful for friends and family that have helped me through a health challenge. I'm grateful for the opportunity to witness my fellow Americans stepping up to help others in many ways. I'm grateful for the fiber crafts that have helped me get through shelter in place.

Our wonderful volunteers who serve on the Conference Committee have been hard at work planning our 2021 virtual event. Our hope is that the hardship imposed by the pandemic will be turned into an opportunity to include new participants and new ways to interact. If we are successful, we will have created new possibilities that may continue when we return to in-person conferences. Please see Margaret Briggs' article below to learn more. Dedicated volunteers are also making adjustments to our Grants and Fellowships programs to accommodate the conditions that the pandemic has created. See Mary Strouse's article for more information.

I look forward to seeing you online at future roundtables. Stay warm, safe and healthy.

Warm regards,

Helena Valentine, MAFA President

president@mafafiber.org

Contents in This Issue

- Important Dates
- Membership News
- Conference Update
- Grants Committee News
- Roundtables 2021
- Meet a MAFA Member
- Textiles in Lockdown
- Upcoming Guild Events
- Textile Events in our Region

Important Dates

- January 8, 2021, 11:59 p.m. - Last day to submit 2021 [MAFA grant](#) applications.
 - January 15, 2021 - Sign up forms open for MAFA 2021 Conference Towel Exchange, Fiber Art Exhibit, and Fashion Show and Exhibit.
 - January 26, 2021, 7:00 p.m., on Zoom: Guild Roundtable: Virginia Postrel will discuss her book *The Fabric of Civilization: How Textiles Made the World*.
 - February 20, 2021 - MAFA 2021 Conference Catalog to be published.
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MAFA Membership

Membership Coordinator Transition

I have truly enjoyed working with all of you for the past three years as Membership Coordinator! Since I am currently also serving as Conference Chair and things are getting busy, it's time for me to hand off Membership duties.

Sara Robbins, our current First VP has graciously volunteered to take over Membership. Starting February 1st, Sara will be your contact person for membership or any other MAFA questions. -- *Margaret Briggs, outgoing Membership Coordinator*

Guild Zoom Meetings

We have two Zoom accounts for use by any of our member guilds to hold guild meetings, board meetings, study groups, and programs. Visit the [Guild Zoom Meetings page](#) (under Guild Resources) for 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. 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 secretary@mafafiber.org.

Conference 2021 Update

MAFA 2021 VIRTUAL Conference - June 24 - 27, 2021

The conference is really coming together! In our new format we will offer a variety of class lengths from 2-hour classes to 1-day and 2-day workshops. Attendees can register for any combination of classes over the four days. Since most classes will be recorded and available to watch after the conference, there will be time to take in hands-on info at your own pace. Along with classes, there will be daily lectures at lunch and late afternoon, a keynote address by Jane Dunnewold, fiber art exhibit, fashion show and exhibit, towel exchange, and the vendor marketplace. Plus, casual gathering times to hang out with your fiber friends at Morning Coffee and Evening Drop-in.

Conference details will be updated on the MAFA website and social media, by bi-monthly email to Reps and previous attendees, and here in the Reps News. Members, and anyone interested, are invited to join the MAFA News email list by adding your address at the bottom of any website page. And follow us on social media for updates – find those links at the top of the website.

Here are some key Conference dates:

- **Signups for the virtual Towel Exchange, Fiber Art Exhibit, and Fashion Show and Exhibit will open January 15th.** Details and entry forms here: <https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2021/exhibits-2021>.
- The **catalog will be published February 20th** with complete class listings and registration details. It will be linked on the MAFA website and emailed to all.
- We will offer **sample classes in March** so you can get a feel for what a virtual hands-on class or lecture-style class will be like. Dates TBA, and we'll post a recording if you can't attend live.
- **Registration will open April 10th** — a little later than usual since we don't all have to make travel arrangements.

Please email MAFA 2021 Conference Chair Margaret Briggs if you have any questions at conference@mafafiber.org.

Conference Sponsorships

Guilds, organizations, and individuals: If you would like to sponsor elements of the conference in exchange for sponsor recognition, your logo on the conference website, and a link to your guild/organization, we will be taking sponsorships at several levels for lectures, keynote, exhibits, demos, and events. Find complete info about sponsorships and the sponsor form on the MAFA website:

<https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2021/sponsorships/>.

Conference Committee - Seeking a Donations Coordinator

The MAFA 2021 Conference committee seeks a volunteer to help us manage sponsors for the virtual conference. The conference chair and vendor coordinator will make most of the asks, but we need someone to: help us develop additional leads, occasionally ask for sponsorships, follow-up that each donor has paid or sent tuition certificates, and verify that we have all needed info from them to add logos, descriptions and links to the website, event hub, and catalog.

If you are interested in joining the conference committee as the Donations Coordinator, we will ask that you participate in monthly Zoom meetings, use MAFA's Gmail to correspond with donors and manage documents, and communicate with the conference team on our online project management platform Basecamp.

For more information or to discuss, please email conference@mafafiber.org.

Grants Committee News

2021 Grant Applications Due Soon

The deadline for new grant applications has been **extended to January 8th, 2021**.

Missed our November Guild Roundtable on the Grants process? View the [slideshow](#).

If you are thinking about applying for a 2021 grant, please start your application well in advance of the deadline. You can use the save-and-continue button at the bottom to store your work and complete/revise it later. That way, we can gauge interest in grants for next year and adjust our deadlines if needed.

Interested in a MAFA Grant?

- Read the detailed guidelines and reporting requirements on the [MAFA Grants page](#)
- Check out our recent [slideshow](#) on the grants process
- Read the [reports](#) of successful grant projects. The reports include advice for future applicants planning similar projects
- Download the latest version of the [application preview](#) (Rev. Sept. 2020)
- The online application form (required) is [here](#)

Questions? Contact grants@mafafiber.org.

Conference Fellowships

Because next year's virtual event will focus on shorter workshops and lectures, MAFA has suspended Conference Fellowships for 2021.

To learn more about Conference Fellowships:

- Check out the [fellowship guidelines](#) and application preview at mafafiber.org
- Read [reports](#) from previous Conference Fellows

Want to get involved on the Grants Committee?

The Grants Committee welcomes new members annually. Volunteers from across the MAFA region are needed for 2021 and beyond. For more information or to express interest, contact grants@mafafiber.org.

Upcoming Guild Roundtables 2021

Hi Everyone,

As Margaret mentioned above, I am going to be assuming the role of Membership Coordinator beginning February 1, 2021. My duties will include not only membership but I will continue to edit the MAFA newsletter and produce the MAFA Roundtables.

To kick off the year we are going to do something a bit different for our first roundtable, we will have a speaker. Virginia Postrel has written a fascinating book, *The Fabric of Civilization; How Textiles Made the World* and she will join us for a presentation and discussion. Save the date for our next roundtable on e the World, on Tuesday, January 26th, at 7:00pm on Zoom.

Register here to get a Zoom link for the January meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0rcumgrDkoHNewP1ZW81janrRu4UChI4OZ>

The MAFA Roundtables are ultimately designed to help support the guild representatives. I would love to hear your ideas as to what would interest and be helpful to you. You can reach me at the same Membership email address, membership@mafafiber.org.

Sara Robbins, First VP and Membership Coordinator

Guild Roundtables and Rep Meeting Dates for 2021:

January 26 - Roundtable

March 23 - roundtable

May 26 - Roundtable

July 27 - Rep Meeting and Elections

September 28 - Rep Meeting

November 23 - Roundtable

Note that the meetings have been moved to the 4th Tuesday of the odd months.

Did you miss the previous roundtables? Find links to meeting notes and recordings of the meetings on the Reps Corner page of the MAFA website, here:

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

Meet a Member of a MAFA Guild

Each newsletter we try to highlight a member of a MAFA guild in order for you to get to know the talented people who are part of our organization.

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/>

January/February Member Highlight: Meet Judy Donovan

My name is Judy Gelzinis Donovan and I am a member of the Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers and the South Jersey Guild of Spinners and Handweavers. I am a weaver, spinner, quilter, knitter, crocheter, dyer and beader. I have been practicing my art for

over 35 years and am an award-winning wearable art designer, quilter, and beadwork artist (*editor's note: Judy has received too many awards to list*). I have designed for 3 invitational Bernina Fashion shows and 4 Fairfield Fashion shows, all of which traveled in both the US and abroad. I am helped by the fact I have been sewing since I was eight years old.

I currently teach weaving, quilting and wearables techniques on Zoom for national and international audiences. I live in Philadelphia with my husband and Siamese cats and am the proud mother of 3 highly creative and talented sons.

My favorite "comfort" fiber activities are knitting (Lace, Fair Isle, Mosaic, and any kind of colorwork) and spinning, including art yarns and cotton (a recently discovered passion!). My only fiber animals are my Siamese cats (Django and Ozzy) --and yes I have spun their fur!

My favorite quote is from a former teacher (who I met at MAFA in the 90's and continues to inspire and amaze me), Anita Luvera Mayer in her book *Clothing from Hands that Weave* (p.129) about the power of clothing. After wearing her 'Two Drink Dress' to an event she wrote:

"I learned that clothing communicates. As one friend I met that night told me later 'I felt anyone crazy enough to either weave that or wear it was worth knowing.' I was visually saying something about who I was and that allowed those who responded to that message to come up to me and initiate a conversation. That dress has been to many events since that night...I always have a grand time. It does too."

I began attending MAFA in 2005 and have gone to at least 7 additional MAFA conferences, serving as Education Chair in 2017. I look forward to virtually attending the exciting 2021 event.



This lace garment pic features Judy modeling her award-winning "10,000 Hours of Legacy Lace" created entirely from old lace doilies made by her grandmother, great-grandmother and others.

Fascinating Look at Textiles in Lockdown



Eliza Day-Green

The Gawthorpe Textiles Collection shares stories of how textile making has helped us through the pandemic. Textile artist Ruth Singer has created an ebook and podcast exploring textile making during the pandemic lockdown in 2020. Check out the extraordinary creations here: <https://ruthsinger.com/textiles-in-lockdown/>

Upcoming Guild Events

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

New in this issue

None at this time

In previous issue:

Building Bridges, Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore - Virtual Exhibit to 6/30/21, <https://wgg.org/building-bridges-1/>

The theme of our exhibit - Building Bridges - was designed to allow broad interpretation so that weavers of all levels could feel inspired to contribute. It was interpreted as a bridge between people, cultures, the natural world, phases of life and ideas. The pandemic certainly inspired a number of the entries and weaving was clearly an escape and source of comfort.

This exhibit highlights the diverse possibilities that weaving offers. It includes tapestry weavings, 3-D weavings, clothing, home décor, and more.

Check it out and be inspired!

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 exhibits in this issue:

None at this time

HGA - Handweavers Guild of America: Textiles and Tea. The Handweavers Guild of America, Inc. (HGA) is excited to announce our new program for 2021: Textiles & Tea. Every Tuesday at 4 PM (EST) HGA will host a conversation with some of the most respected fiber artists in the field today. In our 45-minute discussion we will focus on their artwork and their creative journey. We will allow 15 minutes at the end of our conversation for questions from the audience. Make a cup of your favorite tea and join us as we talk about fiber, creativity, inspiration, process and so much more. <https://weavespindye.org/textiles-and-tea/>

Previous issue exhibits:

Poetics of Place

<https://publish.exhibbit.com/gallery/48757320/solo-gallery-16892>

Rosie Lee Tompkins: A Retrospective

<https://bampfa.org/rosie-lee-tompkins-media>

Esther and the Dream of One Loving Human Family

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

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: <https://mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-update/>

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

We would love for you to **submit a guild profile** here: <https://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: <https://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/