



MAFA News

March/April 2021

Please share this newsletter with your guild

President's Message

We seem to be having a real winter this year. Serious amounts of snow seem to come in a five or six year cycle now. At least it appears that way, Of course, my frame of reference is my four year stay in the "snow belt" of NY state. I'm trying not to complain. All this time indoors is good for projects and makes the enforced isolation of the pandemic seem a little less of an imposition.

I am so excited about the MAFA 2021 Virtual Event brochure going live. I've never felt so much pride in other people's work! I'm just delighted to be a part of such a creative, forward looking organization. We've made lemon bars, lemonade and lemon pound cake out of the hand we were dealt. Kudos to everyone on the Conference Committee and, of course, to your dedicated and hard working chair, Margaret Briggs.

If you haven't taken a look yet, I urge you to do so. With over 80 classes, lectures and events, I guarantee you will not be able to decide which offerings you want to sign up for. You have time to think about your choices. Registration opens on April 10 for MAFA-affiliated guild members and associate members, April 24 for everyone.

We will have a towel exchange again this year, as well as a Fashion Show/Exhibit and a Fiber Arts Exhibit. Check the brochure for application dates and deadlines.

While I will greatly miss being in one place with 500 fiber fanatics, I am looking forward to this year's conference, so rich in possibilities and opportunities. I look forward to seeing you all.

Warm regards,

Helena Valentine, MAFA President

president@mafafiber.org

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Important Dates

- March 11, 2021, 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. - Conference Sample Classes
 - March 31, 2021 - Last day to enter the Towel Exchange.
 - March 31, 2021 - Last day for Vendor Applications.
 - April 10, 2021 - Registration opens for MAFA guild members and Associates.
 - April 24, 2021 - Registration opens for everyone else.
 - May 1, 2021 - Last day to submit a Conference Sponsorship.
 - May 15, 2021 - Last day to enter the Fiber Art Exhibit and Fashion Show/Exhibit.
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Conference 2021 Update

MAFA 2021- Our “Virtual” Creative Community will be held June 24 - 27, 2021

With nearly 80 online classes in weaving, spinning, dyeing, felting, basketmaking, and other fiber arts, plus lectures, an interactive vendor marketplace and special events, MAFA 2021 is sure to be a fun and inspiring experience.

Since the usual intensive workshop format isn't as feasible in an online conference setting, we have adopted a mix-and-match approach for 2021. You will find the same variety of classes across a wide range of fiber arts disciplines, but in two-hour blocks for lectures, interactive lectures/demonstrations, and one- and two-day hands-on classes.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference!
Margaret Briggs, MAFA 2021 Conference Coordinator

DOWNLOAD THE CONFERENCE BROCHURE on the website:

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

Reps, you can help!

We plan to send monthly press releases on upcoming conference activities, please forward them to your guild newsletter editor!

Key Conference dates:

- **March 31: Deadline to sign up for the Towel Exchange.** Details here: <https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2021/exhibits-2021/towel-exchange/>.
- **March 31: Deadline for vendor applications.** Apply here: <https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2021/marketplace-2021/>.
- **March 11: Live Sample Classes at 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.** in interactive and webinar format, hosted by Edie Eckman. **Zoom links will be emailed and posted on the website.** Recordings will be posted on the website if you cannot attend live.

- **April 10: Early registration opens at 9 a.m. for MAFA-affiliated guild members and associate members.**
- **April 24: Registration opens for non-members.**
- **May 1: Deadline to submit Conference Sponsorships.** Info here: <https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2021/sponsorships/>.
- **May 15: Deadline to sign up for the Fiber Art Exhibit and Fashion Show/Exhibit.** Details and entry forms here: <https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2021/exhibits-2021>.
- **June 10: The Attendee Hub opens.**
- **June 24: The Conference opens.**

***NEW* Sponsor Conference Activities**

Sponsorships will help MAFA keep registration fees accessible to more attendees.

To date, we are grateful to Heddlecraft, HGA, NY Guild of Handweavers, Central Virginia Fiberarts Guild, Harmony Weavers Guild, an Associate member, The Fuzzy Ear, and an individual Conference Angel for their sponsorships of the Fashion Show/Exhibit, Towel Exchange, nine classes, lectures, morning coffee, and our conference Zoom account. Sponsorships are still needed for many other events, and are due by May 1, 2021. Find more information about sponsorships and the sponsor form at:

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

Conference Registration

Our virtual conference means a new format for this year!

NEW Attendees registering for a Conference Pass will have access to all conference events, activities, socials, and the Marketplace with vendors. You may also register for classes offered on all four days of the conference, including Thursday through Saturday evenings. Some classes may overlap, so to avoid “double booking” yourself we encourage you to use the color-coded schedule-at-a-glance and build-your-own worksheet to mock up your schedule before registration opens.

Registration will open April 10, 2021 for members, and we will link to the registration site from the conference registration page:

<https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2021/registration-2021/>.

NOTE: All lectures, and most classes will be recorded, and recordings will be available for viewing for several weeks after the conference—lectures will be available to all conference attendees; class recordings will be available only to students of that class.

Exhibits and Towel Exchange

● **Kitchen Towel Exchange**

Let’s continue the Kitchen Towel Exchange tradition we began in 2019. It was fun, inspiring to see all those treasures, and we all learned so much. It may be a bit more challenging to do this by mail, but we are up for it. So, reserve a spot on your loom and spare some warp to create a towel for trading with another weaver! Find

all the details and the entry form here:

<https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2021/exhibits-2021/towel-exchange/>.

- **“Escape” Fiber Art Exhibit**

As our lives have been turned upside down over the past year many of us have turned to fiber art as a means of coping with and escaping the craziness. The virtual Fiber Art Exhibit “Escape” is an opportunity for you to showcase your artistic endeavors. Fiber art that is an expression of how or where you go to escape these difficult times will be presented in an online exhibit that will premiere on the opening day of the conference. Find more information and the entry form here:

<https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2021/exhibits-2021/fiber-art-exhibit/>.

- **Fashion Show and Exhibit**

All garments and accessories submitted will be part of our virtual exhibit which will be hosted on the MAFA website and premiered on opening day of the conference. The virtual Fashion Show will feature representative works from the Fashion Exhibit and will include a brief video of the garment using photos of the work and a pre-recorded segment of the garment being modeled. Find complete details and the entry form here:

<https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2021/exhibits-2021/fashion/>.

Questions about the conference?

Check out the most current FAQs here, or email help@mafafiber.org:

<https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2021/faqs-2021/>

Please also check the website and on social media for updates in the coming months—we will add conference details as they are confirmed. Or join the mailing list at the bottom of every web page for emailed updates. Social media links are at the top of every web page and use hashtag **#2021mafa**.

Conference Volunteers

Some Instructors have requested Zoom moderators to help in their classes, and we have a number of events where a volunteer moderator will be needed. If you have some Zoom experience or are willing to be trained, we will put out a call for volunteers after registration opens in April.

Conference Committee - Seeking a Donations Coordinator

The Conference committee seeks a volunteer to help us manage sponsors for the virtual conference. Details here:

<https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2021/volunteer-2021/>.

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

MAFA Membership

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 MAFA Secretary Patty Chrisman at secretary@mafafiber.org.

Upcoming Guild Roundtables 2021

Next Roundtable: March 23 at 7 pm: The Business of Running a Guild

Join us for a panel discussion with leaders of various MAFA guild members who have had to make decisions around such subjects as: whether or not to become a non-profit; how to encourage volunteers, how to choose the right people for leadership positions do you need insurance; and much more. The pros and cons of each subject will be discussed and you will have a chance to ask our panel questions and share your own experience.

Hope to See you there!

Register here to receive a Zoom link for the March meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEufu2ppjoiGtdsujEI7fGhMCsKdPHODRR>

Guild Roundtables/Speakers and Rep Meeting Dates for 2021:

May 26 - Gigi Matthews: “The Eco-nomics of the Fiber Arts: *It's time to change the way we make and appreciate textiles*“ (speaker and group discussion).

July 27 - Rep Meeting and Elections plus a group discussion on “Are Guilds Going Hybrid?”

September 28 - TBD

November 23 - Francis Irwin Handweavers, will discuss their MAFA project: “Linen the Journey From *Seed to Cloth*” (presentation and discussion).

*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/>

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

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:

Did you know that there are some fun projects on our website that have been shared by member guilds: <https://mafafiber.org/guild-resources/guild-programs/>

In previous issue:

Building Bridges, Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore - Virtual Exhibit to 6/30/21, <https://wggb.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 and Beyond

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 opportunities in this issue:

Tatter: A Gathering of Material Culture, is offering online classes. <https://www.tatter.org/stitching-classes-index>

Sanford Biggers: Codeswitch, Bronx of the Arts, September 9, 2020 - April 5, 2021: Virtual Tour <https://maskconsortium.com/sanfordbiggers/>

Codeswitch, refers to both the artists' quilt series known as the Codex series and to the idea of code-switching itself, or shifting from one linguistic code to another depending on the social context. The Codex series includes mixed media paintings and sculptures done directly on or made from pre-1900 antique quilts. This process, like linguistic code-switching, recognizes language plurality, as the quilts signal their original creator's intent as well as the new layers of meaning given to them through Biggers's artistic intervention

Fiber Artist Market Digital Magazine February 2021:

<https://fiberartistmarket.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=090bef823b3079ecca3efc4f8&id=4bd689d3b0&e=73afbfd5a5>

Ongoing events:

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/>

San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles: <https://www.sjqUILTmuseum.org/>

Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. They have a beautiful and extensive textile exhibit (available in English).

<https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/rijksstudio/works-of-art/textiles>

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: <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/