



MAFA News

May/June 2021

Please share this newsletter with your guild

President's Message

Spring forward! Lengthening days, warming temperatures, trees leafing out and early flowers blooming always make me feel more hopeful, no matter the winter I've lived through. After the past twelve months we've all had, I need hope more than ever. A year ago, at the beginning of lockdown, I was full of enthusiasm to weave and very productive. Recently, I've been a little dry, drained of enthusiasm. I look forward to getting out more and being inspired by nature and other people. I've been fully vaccinated and I'm ready for action!

It was hard to know six months ago whether to try to hold an in-person conference or take it virtual. I'm confident now that we made the right choice. The response to MAFA 2021: a Virtual Event has been encouraging. I had a tough time choosing classes but now that I have, I can't wait for the event to start. I'm looking forward to "seeing" all of you during the last week in June.

As I'm sure you know, MDSW is virtual this year so it will not be possible to have an in-person Reps' meeting. Because the virtual event is a new undertaking for us, the board elected to hold the Reps' meeting after the conference concluded. We will meet on Zoom on July 21st at 7 PM. Our membership chair, Sara Robbins, will provide more information as the date draws closer.

I hope you are doing well, producing great work, sharing it with everyone through our Fashion and Fiber Arts Exhibits, and staying safe and happy. See you at the conference.

Warm regards,

Helena Valentine, MAFA President

president@mafafiber.org

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Important Dates

- May 1, 2021 - Last day to submit a Conference Sponsorship.
 - May 15, 2021 - Deadline to enter the Fiber Art Exhibit and Fashion Show/Exhibit.
 - June 15, 2021 - Conference Attendee Hub opens
 - June 17 & 19, 2021 - Conference Orientation sessions
 - June 24 - 27, 2021 - MAFA 2021 Virtual Conference
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Conference 2021 Update

MAFA 2021- Our “Virtual” Creative Community

June 24 - 27, 2021

WOW what a response!!! Registration for MAFA 2021 is well underway and will remain open until class time. We had over 200 registrations in the first hour, and 460 by the end of the first day. We are beyond thrilled at the validation from members that deciding to hold a virtual conference wasn't such a crazy idea after all.

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

If you have not already registered:

REGISTER NOW

Questions about the conference?

Check out the FAQs: mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2021/faqs-2021/

Email: help@mafafiber.org

Text the hotline: 434-373-0629 (starting mid-May)

Check the conference website and on social media for updates. 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*.

Coming Mid-May: Download an updated Conference Brochure with vendors and sponsors list: mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2021/

Key Conference dates:

- Registration continues for any classes with spaces remaining
- **May 15: Deadline to sign up for the Fiber Art Exhibit and Fashion Show/Exhibit:** mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2021/exhibits-2021.
- June 15: The Attendee Hub opens.
- June 17 & 19: Conference Orientation sessions through the Attendee Hub.
- June 24: The Conference opens.

Exhibits and Towel Exchange

- **“Escape” Fiber Art Exhibit - Enter by May 15th!**

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 - Enter by May 15th!**

All garments and accessories submitted will be part of our virtual exhibit which will be hosted on the MAFA website premiere on the opening day of the conference. The virtual Fashion Show will feature representative works from the Fashion Exhibit and will include a brief video of each garment. Find complete details and the entry form here: <https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2021/exhibits-2021/fashion/>.

Attendee Hub Orientation

All classes, lectures, and conference activities will be accessed through the Cvent Attendee Hub. The hub will open June 15, 2021, and we are planning two orientation sessions to give everyone a chance to practice logging in and accessing sessions. Join us either Thursday June 17, 2021 at 7 p.m. EDT or Saturday June 19, 2021 at 4 p.m. EDT. Details will be posted on the conference website and emailed to all attendees.

Conference Volunteers

Some Instructors have requested Zoom moderators to help in their classes, and we have a number of conference events where a volunteer moderator will be needed. If you have Zoom experience, are willing to help monitor chat, and want to volunteer to moderate, please email Ellie Divito at volunteer.coordinator@mafafiber.org and keep an eye out for a sign up sheet.

Grants Committee News

2021 Grant Award

MAFA is pleased to announce a grant of \$1,450 to Triangle Weavers Guild (NC). As part of an expansion of the [Triangle Fiber Arts Center](#) (TFAC), MAFA funds will pay for lighting improvements and equipment to support digital photography and video production. A MAFA grant also provided supplemental funding to establish the TFAC in 2015.

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
- Download the latest version of the [application preview](#) (Rev. Sept. 2020)
- [Online applications](#) will be accepted in the Fall.

Questions? Contact grants@mafafiber.org.

Conference Fellowships

Because this year's virtual event will feature a variety of lecture and workshop formats, MAFA will not award 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. For more information or to express interest, contact grants@mafafiber.org.

Member News

Upcoming Guild Roundtables 2021

Next Roundtable: May 25 at 7 pm: Gigi Matthews: The Eco-nomics of the Fiber Arts: *It's time to change the way we make and appreciate textiles.*

As guild members, we deeply appreciate fiber arts. We love making and collecting textiles. However, over the past 75 years, the textile industry has undergone enormous changes as it switched from plant and animal based materials to oil and chemical based ones. The impact on the environment is significant.

Join MAFA member, Gigi Matthews, to find out:

How to make use of materials for fiber arts projects that are sustainable for the planet and supportive of those who are producing such materials in addition to suggestions for fiber arts projects that rely on reclaimed or recycled materials such as Japanese sakiori and Saori weaving, etc. and recent sources of inspiration - e.g. The Smithsonian's Cooper Hewitt Design Museum's recent Triennial showcased eco friendly textiles and production methods.

The topic is important for attracting younger members to maintain or increase guild membership: Many fashion and design colleges are currently focusing on sustainability issues related to the textile industry. By taking an environmentally friendly approach, guilds will be more likely to attract younger fiber artists.

This event is open to all MAFA members. Please register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvd-iurj8tHNQsSed4LBHxjWQPbbTfdgKx>

Guild Roundtables/Speakers and Rep Meeting Dates for 2021:

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

September 28 - MAFA Grant Showcase

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

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

Announcement - Slate for MAFA Board, 2021-23

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the slate for the MAFA Board for 2021-23 which will be voted on at the Reps Meeting in July.

President - Margaret Briggs

First VP/Communications - Elisa Eiger

Second VP/Conference Chair - Carol Steuer

Treasurer - Liz Heine

Secretary - Patty Chrisman

Nominating Committee 2023-25 - Karen Miller, Helena Valentine

Watch for more information on the election, as well as bios on the candidates, in the July newsletter.

2021-23 Nominating Committee, Karen Miller and Elisa Eiger

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.

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:

The McLean Textile Gallery: <https://www.themcleantextilegallery.com/>, McLean, VA
The McLean Textile Gallery is the first venue in McLean solely devoted to textile creations and art. Established in December 2020 by Nancy Preston, owner of The Quilt Shop of McLean, the gallery showcases published, award-winning talent and identifiable contemporary art styles each month.

LehighValley Fiber Festival, September 11 -12 m, 2021, Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA, <https://www.lvfiberfest.com/>

2021 Maryland Alpaca and Fleece Festival, Nov. 13 and 14, 2021, Howard Co. Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD, <https://howardcountyfairmd.com/events/maryland-alpacas-and-fleece-festival/>,

Ongoing events:

Tatter: A Gathering of Material Culture, is offering online classes.

<https://www.tatter.org/stitching-classes-index>

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.sjqmusem.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/quilds-page/guild-update/>

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

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

<https://mafafiber.org/quilds-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/