



# MAFA News

## September/October 2019

**Please share this newsletter with your guild**

### Incoming President's Message

I feel fortunate to begin my term as MAFA's president following the 2019 conference. *United in Fiber* more than fulfilled my expectations. My positive experience was echoed in the ratings and feedback of attendees, teachers and vendors alike. Kudos and many thanks to Conference Chair Theresa Hill and her superb team, and to the entire outgoing executive board.

MAFA and its presidents have always relied on teams of talented volunteers to achieve ambitious goals—and I will be no exception. I am grateful to those prior board members and volunteers for creating an organization with a tradition of service and entrusting it to my leadership for the next two years. As president, I plan to continue to enhance MAFA's role in supporting member guilds and in offering one of the best regional conferences anywhere.

MAFA is eager to learn how best to support our member guilds and I want to hear from you.

- How can we serve you in new and better ways?
- Are there tools or opportunities we can provide that will make your guilds stronger?
- How can we work to improve diversity and inclusion in our fiber communities?

Warm regards,

*Helena Valentine, MAFA Incoming President*

[incoming.president@mafafiber.org](mailto:incoming.president@mafafiber.org)

### Outgoing President's Message

As I write this, MAFA 2019 is still fresh in my mind. What an inspiring time we all had! Many thanks to Theresa Hill and her conference committee for all their attention to the myriad details that helped to make the conference such a success. Thanks, too, to all the conference attendees who volunteered to help out with tasks big and small. We couldn't have done it without you!

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as MAFA's president for the past two years, and to work with all the dedicated volunteers who serve MAFA's mission. I am proud of what we have accomplished. It could only have been done with the dedication and hard work of the members of your board and their committees—all volunteers.

I can't overstate how much our First VP Charlene Marietti has contributed to our success. Charlene didn't realize when she said after the 2015 conference "Shouldn't MAFA have a social media presence?" that we would draft her in to head up our efforts in that area. And that we would then make her a VP and put her in charge of organizing the redesign of our website. Along the way, she moved us into the Google cloud, worked to streamline our processes and kept our communications clear and focused. All while she guided the marketing and publicity for our conferences—and coordinated the work of another of our key volunteers, Tina Bliss, who has seriously raised our game in the graphics department. Thank you, Charlene!

Thanks to Conference Chair and Second VP Theresa Hill and her dedicated group of volunteers, our MAFA 2019 was a resounding success. Theresa made frequent trips to Millersville to coordinate with the university and others on conference issues. If we had a question, she was always ready to find an answer. She kept her team engaged and encouraged throughout the long planning process. And once the conference began, she was an enthusiastic booster everywhere (even as she dealt with a flooded classroom...) Thank you, Theresa!

Treasurer Marla Campbell volunteered a few years ago when we needed a treasurer, and has digitized all our accounting records. She found ways to invest MAFA's funds to provide us income we didn't have before. She found us a more rigorous accountant and has pushed us to establish policies recommended for well-governed non-profits. We are lucky she is willing to serve another term.

Secretary Patty Chrisman joined us mid-year and immediately began efficiently documenting our meetings. She's taken on other tasks, as well, most recently organizing our conference instructor book signing event and producing and analyzing our conference feedback forms. We're glad to see her stay on too.

Grants Chair Mary Strouse has improved our application process and procedures for both the guild grants and conference fellowships. She and her committee have spent time evaluating proposals and final submissions. In addition, Mary has provided us with expert advice on how a non-profit should act to ensure compliance with non-profit rules and regulations in many situations.

Webmaster Dave Banks is a unique member of our board. Dave has served as MAFA Webmaster and/or Membership Chair for close to 20 years! So whenever we wonder how something was done in the past, Dave can usually tell us. All the board members (and many others) have appreciated his knowledge and willingness to jump in and help out in many areas. He continues to keep our website up and stable and he enjoys helping our guilds create new websites of their own.

Margaret Briggs took over as Membership Chair from Dave in 2017. She improved our Reps Newsletters—and took on the task of ensuring that we all get our contributions written on time. She also served as Volunteer Coordinator at the conference—an often overlooked job, that is critical to making everything run smoothly. As Margaret moves

over to become our new VP/Conference Chair, we are confident MAFA 2021 will be better than ever!

We are leaving MAFA a stronger organization. MAFA 2019 was a great success. The board is more organized, with newly documented policies, a great website well positioned to serve our mission, a stronger financial footing and a reputation for a “must-attend” conference every two years. And it is great to know that MAFA is in good hands with the new board members, as we turn over the reins at the end of September. I know you will support them as you have supported me.

See you all at MAFA 2021!

*Karen Miller, MAFA Outgoing President*  
[president@mafafiber.org](mailto:president@mafafiber.org)

---

## Contents in This Issue

- Important Dates
  - Grants Committee News
  - Conference 2019 Report
  - Social Media Coordinators Needed
  - Upcoming Guild Events
  - Textile Events in our Region
- 

## Important Dates

- September 1, 2019 - MAFA Grant application available
  - October 1, 2019 - MAFA Reps' Meeting via teleconference, 7 p.m., agenda and call-in info will be emailed to Reps in September
  - November 1, 2019 - MAFA Grant application deadline
- 

## Grants Committee News

### **Applications for 2020 Grants are due by November 1, 2019**

#### **Where to start?**

- Read the detailed guidelines and reporting requirements on the [MAFA Grants page](#).
- Read [reports](#) of successful grant projects. The reports include advice for future applicants planning similar projects.
- Download the [grants brochure](#) and [application preview](#). The online application form will be available beginning September 1, 2019

Questions? Contact [grants@mafafiber.org](mailto:grants@mafafiber.org).

---

# MAFA Conference 2019 - Highlights

One conference attendee dubbed the MAFA 2019 conference a summer camp for fiber folks. It was a respite from everyday chores and routines and offered attendees the opportunity to immerse themselves in a community focused on fiber. They learned new skills in one of the 36 workshops. They were inspired. They made new friends. They laughed a lot. And when the weekend ended, they took home ideas, sharpened skills and good memories.

In addition to workshops, there were many activities and plenty of highlights this year. The Marketplace was the hub of all activities outside of workshops. In addition to 26 vendors with lots of yarn and equipment, the common space hosted the art, fashion, skein, and towel exhibits, spinning games, and book signings.

Many attendees participated in one or more exhibits and fun events. The Towel Exchange was the largest interactive event with 77 participants. the Fashion, Art and Handspun Skein exhibits showcased a range of stunning fiber arts.



*Kathleen Remsa with her entry, which won the Viewers' Choice award in the Artist Exhibit*

Thanks to Gigi Matthews, who captured the weekend in a short video— view it here: <https://mafafiber.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/MAFA2019Trailer-1.mp4>

MAFA 2019 was a tremendous success because of each of you that help put it together and volunteer, those that vended, and those that traveled to be here - shoppers and students alike. Thank you to Tom Knisely for being an amazing keynote - and allowing us to realize just how much we do have in common; how united we all are truly are.



*Blame it on the wool fumes!*

MAFA runs on volunteers—and that includes its biennial conference. Nearly one in four of the 423 attendees stepped up to make the conference a possibility from planning through to execution. Most impressive, too, are those who volunteered even though they were unable to attend the weekend workshops. A special thanks to each and every one of them. They made the conference possible.

Thanks also goes out to the Reps for being a conduit for the information that needed to be dispersed to the guild's and relayed back to the board.

Thanks go to the generosity of donors who provided door prizes for the Friday night's fun in the Marketplace. Donations ranged from one week's tuition at a craft school to garments and accessories to fiber to gift certificates—and odds were good for attendees: Nearly one in four conference won a prize! See the full list of donors [here](#).

Again, THANK YOU, our MAFA friends and family, for being here supporting our organization. Without your support we would not continue to grow and provide a wonderful conference experience or even provide some local learning opportunities due to the fellowships and grants that we offer. It was truly an honor to serve as this year's Conference Chair and have this amazing opportunity to work alongside my AWESOME committee. To my committee, I could not even fathom the amount of hard work or success that came with this role. But because you challenged and guided me, it encouraged me to step up and learn about so many things. Thank you SINCERELY from my heart.



*Theresa and her dyepot*

See you all in 2021!!!!

*Theresa Hill,  
Second Vice President,  
Conference Chair 2019*

---

## Social Media Coordinators

MAFA needs volunteers interested in overseeing Ravelry and Weavolution social media networks, in particular, but would also welcome assistance with Facebook and Instagram accounts. Thanks to Ellie DiVito, MAFA's new Ravelry moderator!

For more details, contact: [firstvp@mafafiber.org](mailto:firstvp@mafafiber.org).

---

## Upcoming Guild Events

Let us help you publicize your guild exhibits, workshops, outreach events and sales! Visit the new and improved Guild Events listing on the website here: [mafafiber.org/events/](http://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/](http://mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-event-update/). You may also email newsletter items to [membership@mafafiber.org](mailto:membership@mafafiber.org) before the 21st of even months for inclusion in the next MAFA News.

### Playing with Huck Weaving Workshop

September 21-22, 2019, [Central Virginia Fiberarts Guild](#), Charlottesville, VA

Playing with Huck, a weekend weaving workshop taught by Laurie Duxbury. See [flyer for details](#). [Register here](#). Questions, email [programs@cvfg.org](mailto:programs@cvfg.org). Limited to 15 students.

Cost: Members \$100 + \$5 handout, paid at the workshop

Non-members \$110 + \$5 handout, paid at the workshop



### Split-shed Beiderwand Workshop

September 29-30, 2019, [Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore](#)

This workshop will teach the basics of split-shed weaving using a variation of the Beiderwand pattern. This type of weaving uses four shafts, five treadles and three weft yarns, which all travel from selvedge to selvedge. Students will learn how to produce shading with yarn in order to create dimensional-looking imagery. They also will learn how to make and use a cartoon on cloth that will advance with the warp and will not crinkle when beating. Students will also experiment with another tied weave structure and split-shed Bronson lace. [Download the flyer here](#). Cost: \$170 (less if more than 8 students register) For more information email [Debbie Herrin](#).

---

## Textile News in Our Region

### New York Textile Month

September 2019, New York, New York. A month-long city-wide festival designed to celebrate textile creativity and promote textile awareness. Find more information at <http://www.textilemonth.nyc/home>.

### Textiles Revealed

September 26 - October 3, 2019, Unix Gallery, New York, New York. Eleven contemporary Belgian textile designers, as part of New York Textile Month. Opening reception September 26, 6 - 10 p.m. Find Unix Gallery at <http://www.unixgallery.com/>.

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/](http://www.hudsonvalleyfiberartsnetwork.com/)

## Exhibits, Events & Online Fiber Arts

### **Esther and the Dream of One Loving Human Family**

Through March 2024, American Visionary Art Museum (AVAM), Baltimore, Maryland. Testimonial embroideries created by Holocaust survivor, Esther Nisenthal Krinitz. More info at <http://www.avam.org/>.

### **Domestic Matters: The Uncommon Apron**

August 31 - November 3, 2019, Peters Valley School of Craft, Layton, New Jersey. More info at <http://petersvalley.org/html/gallery-exhibitions.cfm>.

## Ongoing Exhibits

**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/](http://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/](http://fabricworkshopandmuseum.org/).

**Alling Coverlet Museum**, in Palmyra NY, has a collection of simple 4H to jacquard coverlets. [historicpalmyra.com/alling.htm](http://historicpalmyra.com/alling.htm)

---

## Need to Update Your Guild Info?

You may submit your **updated guild info** online using this simple form: [mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-update/](http://mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-update/)

Please submit **guild events** here: [mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-event-update/](http://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/](http://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](mailto:membership@mafafiber.org).

### **MAFA Reps Groups.io Info**

Guild representatives (Reps) officers, and program chairs: Join the "mafareps group" at [groups.io/g/mafareps](http://groups.io/g/mafareps). To join, click on "Apply for Membership in this Group", or email me for an invite at [membership@mafafiber.org](mailto:membership@mafafiber.org). We particularly want guilds to enter program, workshop and instructor info in our Programs & Workshops database here: [groups.io/g/mafareps/table?id=3297](http://groups.io/g/mafareps/table?id=3297).