



Newsletter

Established 1945

Guild Meetings

Guild meetings are held in person, recorded, and posted for members.

St. James Episcopal Church
11815 Seven Locks Road
Potomac, MD 20854

Library	9:30 am
Business meeting	10:00 am
Program	10:30 am

Programs

January 10, 2026

Cathleen Zaret

Textile Preservation:

A look at the field of conservation through the perspective of a conservator at the George Washington University Museum and the Textile Museum

February 14, 2026

Anne Bowers

A Life in Basketry

March 14, 2026

Kim Garver

More Than Just Socks

From the President

Joanne Seyl

Welcome to 2026! It's hard to believe that it's already the New Year. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and that you got to celebrate and relax with your loved ones. I also hope it gave you time to create or perhaps recover from making handcrafted items as gifts!

The remainder of the guild year promises to be a good one and we've started to get the information out on the website about our upcoming speakers and workshops. I want to thank you all for your patience as we worked through some challenges setting up our programs for the spring. January's meeting should be very interesting as we hear from Cathy Zaret on textile preservation, and February brings both a mini and extended basketry workshop with Anne Bowers.

On a personal note, I'll miss you all at the January guild meeting. I am headed to Oaxaca, Mexico for two weeks, in mid-January, that include a few days of sight-seeing and inspiration, five days of Zapotec weaving on a walking loom, and finally a three-day class that includes natural dyeing and fiber sculpture creation! This is all arranged through Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys. I'll be sure to give you an update when I return . . . and I promise to take pictures! And, apparently, I am already on the hook for an article in the next newsletter. 😊

Also, be on the lookout for future updates from the Engagement Committee about the Guild's involvement in *Handwork: Celebrating American Craft 2026*. Craft in America has launched a national semiquincentennial initiative to showcase the importance of handmade works, both throughout history and in contemporary life, and the committee is actively working to plan for the Guild's participation in that year-long event.

Here's to a great spring full of creativity, and I'll see you at our February meeting!

~ Joanne

Studio Space & Guild Workshops

The PFAG Studio is in the [Artists & Makers](#) space at 11810 Parklawn Drive, Suite 204, Rockville, MD. The Guild's entrance and parking is at the rear of the building.

The studio will host most guild extended workshops, study groups, Member's Making meet-ups, and First Friday sales and exhibitions. To express interest in selling or displaying work at First Friday, [use this form](#).

For a fee, Guild members may also rent the studio or host a workshop. The studio schedule and bookings are [available online](#) through the Guild's members only login area.

Other questions? Contact Liesel at studiospace@potomacfiberartsguild.org

Engagement

Our Guild promotes excellence in design and fine craftsmanship in the fiber arts. Part of that mission is to provide educational opportunities to the general public to promote a better appreciation of the fiber arts. Send your ideas and suggestions to outreach@potomacfiberartsguild.org

We like to feature these community outreach opportunities in our newsletter, so please also send information and photos of your participation to newsletter@potomacfiberartsguild.org

Financial support, through a mini-grant, is available to members to help fund outreach projects.

Spring 2026 workshops

This spring, workshops will be announced as they are finalized. Please visit the [website](#) for more information and our registration cancellation policy.

Visit our [website](#) to find supply lists and other fees, and to register.

Mini Workshop

February 14, 2026, 1:00 to 5:00 PM, St James



Tapestry Necklace

Anne Bowers

A charming little necklace for you to wear, this little basket is made over a form with cane, waxed linen, yarn and metallic thread.

Each one will be beautiful and unique!

Extended Workshop

February 15, 2026, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, PFAG Studio Space

Tapestry Basket

Anne Bowers

This basket is so unique...woven on a wood base around a plastic mold that will remain in the basket upon completion. Students weave with waxed linen and cane.

A wide variety of yarns will be available to weave a soft landscape. Various colors of wire enhance the basket. Cane and a unique rim lashing complete the basket.

So enjoyable to weave!



Social Media

The Guild's social media accounts help spread the word about the work we do, the classes we teach, and fiber art events in our community. Please submit photos and information to share your own work or provide information about a show or class you are teaching. With over 600 followers on Facebook and 175 on Instagram, we can help get the word out.

[Just use this link](#) - you will need to supply some photos and basic information and we can take it from there.



www.facebook.com/PotomacFiberArtsGuild



www.instagram.com/potomacfiberartsguild

Membership

If you know someone who would like to join our Guild, please invite them to a meeting or refer them to our website, www.potomacfiberartsguild.org.

For answers to membership questions, please email membership@potomacfiberartsguild.org

Mending Kit

Margo Lehman

This was a small triumph for me, a crafter who has never taken to sewing, either by hand or by machine. The November workshops on visible mending with Shelagh Jessop gave me the skills and confidence.

The extended workshop provided the materials and instructions to create my own little mending kit.



Looking forward to tackling some mending projects now with this under my belt!

Book the PFAG Studio Space for a few hours or a day or two



With 10-15 six-foot tables, there is space for up to 30 workshop participants. Or, for weaving or other workshop purposes, tables can be taken down to create floor space.

Parking is free.

Industrial sinks and a microwave dedicated to dyeing add to the teaching possibilities.



Perfect for

Single Rentals, Small Groups, Workshops

Single rental reservations limited to PFAG members only. Workshops may be booked by affinity fiber art groups. See the [website](#) for rates, rules, availability, and to book your reservation. For questions, contact Liesel at studiospace@potomacfiberartsguild.org

Located inside: Artists & Makers, 11810 Parklawn Drive, Suite 204, Rockville, MD



**Bamboo Scarf
by Carol Press**

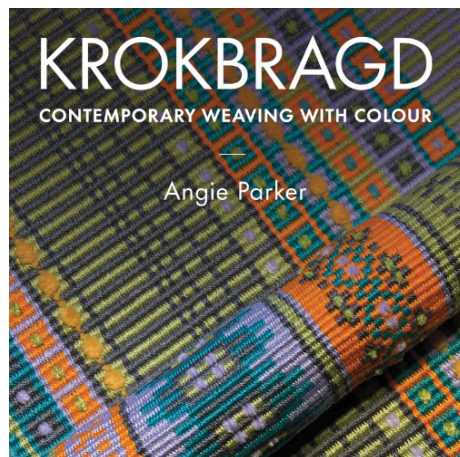
*Woven on 8 shafts,
twill blocks at 20 epi,
some yarn overdyed*

From the Librarian

Becky Dahlman

I hope everyone in the guild got some new and inspiring books over the holidays! The guild library certainly has - we have acquired two new books which will be available to borrow at the January meeting.

The first is Krokbragd: Contemporary Weaving with Color, by Angie Parker. This is a recently-published book on a popular Norwegian weaving technique. Angie Parker's book has very clear instructions and photos on how to weave this type of fabric on a multi-shaft or rigid heddle loom, including techniques for choosing colors, keeping neat selvages, and finishing the ends of the woven cloth. Discussion of various choices for warp and weft yarns is useful for choosing appropriate materials for a variety of applications, including rugs and upholstery. The examples of krokbragd pieces shown are all geometrically patterned, rather than including the folk motifs that are sometimes associated with krokbragd,



Textiles & Tea

From the Handweavers Guild of America website: Each week the Handweavers Guild of America, Inc. (HGA) hosts *Textiles & Tea*, a conversation with some of the most respected fiber artists in the field today. A 45-minute discussion focuses on their artwork and creative journey. At the end, 15 minutes are allocated for questions from the viewers. *Textiles & Tea* takes place every Tuesday at 4:00 pm (ET) and is broadcast via Zoom and Facebook Live. These broadcasts are free to view and open to all.

For more detail about the talks, and to sign up, go to Facebook or the the HGA website, weavespindye.org/textiles-and-tea

The Textile Museum

Exhibits

Source Material:
Lessons in Responsible Fashion
Through April 11, 2026

Adorning the Horse:
Equistrian Textiles for Power and Prestige
February 21 to June 20, 2026

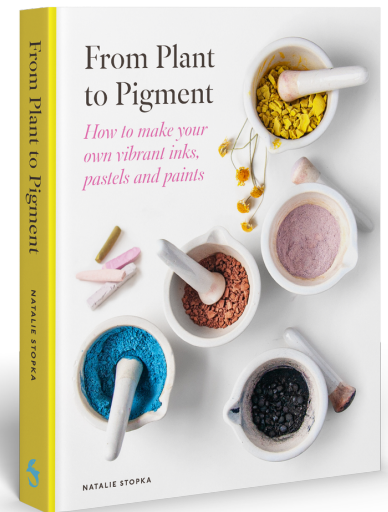
For More Information
www.museum.gwu.edu
701 21st NW
Washington, DC 20052

and are woven in bright colors. Overall, the book is very attractive and useful for anyone interested in learning more about krokbragd or trying it for themselves.

The second new book is From Plant to Pigment: How to make your own vibrant inks, pastels, and paints, by Natalie Stopka. This book describes how to use plant materials to make your own pigments for use in a variety of artistic endeavors. Sections include: botanical sources, the studio larder (equipment and supplies), lake pigments, other artists' pigments, and making artists materials. This clear, well-photographed book should be beneficial to anyone interested in using botanical pigments for a variety of art forms.

Please come and see the books for yourself at the library during the January meeting!

~ Becky



Members' Current or Future Exhibits



By Hand 2026

Blue Line Arts, Roseville CA

January 10 to February 21, 2026

Andrea Finch

Receptaculum IV: Arbores unus Quilted vessel

Serious Play: Explorations in Contemporary Craft

Craft Alliance, St Louis MO

January 15 to February 27, 2026

Andrea Finch

Echinacea VII: Mellow Yellow Echinacea purpurea I

Quilted sculpture



47th Annual Contemporary Crafts Show

Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum, Mesa AZ

February 13 to June 28, 2026

Andrea Finch

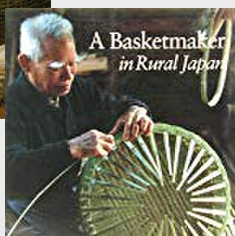
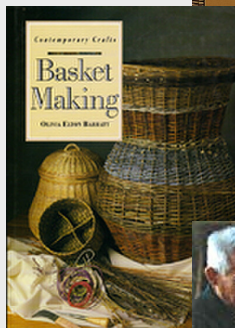
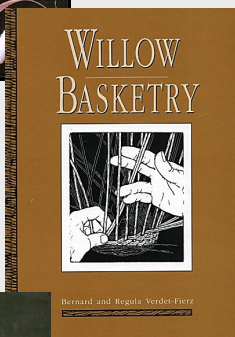
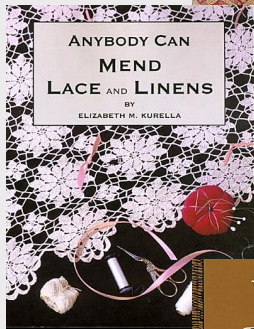
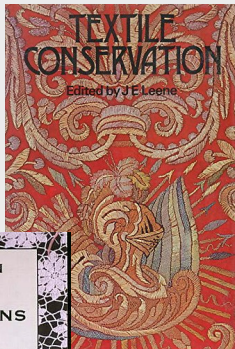
Receptaculum IX: Caelum & Oceanus (Sky & Sea) Quilted vessel

About the Library

Library books may be checked out from one Guild meeting until the next Guild meeting by members in good standing. Fines are \$1 per book per month overdue.

To ask a question or suggest new books, please contact, librarian@potomacfiberartsguild.org.

The [online library catalog](#) is visible to Guild members only. [Guild library books](#) related to recent or upcoming program topics:



PFAG Member Soon to be Featured in *Where Women Create*

Anja Caldwell

I am thrilled to share that I will be featured in the upcoming spring issue of *Where Women Create!* This magazine, along with its sister publication, *What Women Create*, releases four beautiful issues each year, with no advertising.

Each woman artist teams with a photographer and writes her own feature for consideration. Given that my FiberArt.STUDIO is celebrating its 10th anniversary in mid-January, the timing was perfect.

The process for this feature required me to hire a professional photographer and clean up my studio. I even redesigned the space to optimize the photos. However, the new arrangement, while lovely, is not the ideal layout for my students.

Mariah Miranda, the photographer I worked with, was great. While I do not enjoy having my picture taken, I am proud to have a beautiful testament to a moment in time.

Now, of course, my studio is messy again. But for once, and however briefly, I established a baseline of order. I am sure other members can relate.

There is no guarantee that a submission will be accepted, but I know that there are many talented Guild artists whose work is also worthy of being featured in this magazine.

I now have the magazine's contacts and submission guidelines on file, so please don't hesitate to reach out if you want more information. I am happy to help other Guild members and encourage anyone interested to submit.

Where Women Create is a magazine with a unique concept and a great way to showcase your work.





Handspun by Margo Lehman

I think I can improve on this with some finer wool options, but this latest spin of locally sourced BFL/Border Leicester cross is about 14-15 WPI. The finest and most consistent I've spun yet!

Mid-Atlantic Fiber Association Highlights

Grant proposals for MAFA are now being accepted! Member guilds and fiber arts organizations are encouraged to apply for funding to support exhibitions, outreach events, and other projects that promote the fiber arts.

Learn more at mafafiber.org/grants/guild-grants or contact Angela Fishman, Grants Chair, at grants@mafafiber.org.

Micro-Grants: need a smaller boost? MAFA also offers micro-grants (up to \$500) for technology upgrades, class equipment, and demo materials. Details and application info are available at mafafiber.org/grants/micro-grants.

MAFA's Recovery Fund provides up to \$500 to help individuals or groups resume fiber arts activities after hardship—such as natural disasters or other extraordinary events. To apply, submit a brief letter explaining your situation and requested amount to grants@mafafiber.org.

MAFA Conference 2027 will be held June 24–27, 2027, with Patty Chrisman (MAFA VP & Events Coordinator) and Dornan Trainer (Board Member & Vendor Coordinator) serving as co-chairs.

Interested in helping to plan the next conference? Email conference@mafafiber.org to join the planning committee.

Study Group Spotlight

PM Fiber Arts

Marcia Horting

Art quilters and related textile artists have an artistic home with the PM Fiber Arts study group.

Our monthly meetings provide a welcoming environment for a free-flowing exchange of ideas and perspectives.

Our members come from a variety of artistic backgrounds including traditional quilting and fine arts, providing a wide range of creative experiences.

We meet the first Thursday of each month at the Guild's Artists & Makers studio.

Our next meeting is January 8, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

If you would like to join us please contact

marcia@marciahorting.com.



For information on this and other study groups, see the [study group section](#) of the members only tab on the website.

Community Outreach

Engagement Workshop

Janet Stollnitz

The Guild's Dye Study Group held a "Dye a Silk Scarf" workshop for seniors at the White Oak Senior Center in November. Nearly 30 participants registered; however, the workshop was limited to 15 participants. Those who were turned away are eager to participate in a future workshop.

The Guild provided funding for the silk scarves, and study group members contributed the dyes and other supplies. Since the participants completed the washing and ironing at home, we have only a few pictures of the finished scarves.



Engaging the Next Generation: Fiber Arts for Homeschoolers

Meghan Mulkerin

Our fiber arts class recently had the felicity of sharing the studio classroom with our own Liesel Fenner. Liesel demonstrated her dye process to our fascinated students. We've been busy learning to spin, knit, and needle felt to take the edge off when knitting gets hard.



Guest Guild Artist in the Gallery: Karen O'Toole

Silvia Souza



The Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center is pleased to announce that Karen O'Toole will be the first of six Guild artists to exhibit their work in the Gallery in 2026, as part of a special program inaugurated this year to provide an opportunity for Guild members to show their work.

Inspired by the quiet magic of the forest, Karen's needle-felted sculptures celebrate the colors and small wonders of nature, especially mushrooms and other hidden woodland finds. Each sculpture is shaped not just by wool and technique, but by her great love for exploring the outdoors and discovering these small, elusive treasures. The meditative rhythm of needle felting is an essential part of her self-care, and each piece grows from that grounding, restorative process. Through her work, she invites viewers to pause, look closely, and reconnect with the gentle beauty of the natural world.



The gallery invites you to come see these beautiful pieces from January 6 to February 8. The Gallery is on the first floor of the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, VA and is open from 10:30 to 5:30 every day, except major holidays. The Gallery's theme for this month is Triple Play, which should be interesting to see interpreted in fiber.

We always welcome new Gallery members. If you are interested in exploring showing and selling your work, please contact Silvia Souza at s3persimmon@gmail.com.

YOUR CREATION HERE!!

SEND PICTURES TO newsletter@potomacfiberartsguild.org



Wonderful Fiber by Guild Member

Brief description of fiber art used, medium, finished size, etc. (up to 70 characters)

PFAG Member Featured on Textiles and Tea

Did you miss seeing PFAG's Andrea Blackmon on Textiles and Tea in November? If so, you may watch the [episode on YouTube](#).

Equipment Rental

The Guild has fiber art equipment and tools which can be rented for a monthly fee plus a security deposit. [Equipment](#) may be rented by Guild members and non-members.

Contact the [Equipment Chairperson](#) for more information.

Of Interest: Exhibits and Opportunities

Debbie Spiliotopoulos

Morton Fine Arts

Exhibit: *Knit, Restored, Woven, Healed*, through May 21, 2026

A global group exhibition of fiber art exploring overlapping themes of healing, reclamation, finding and being found. Bringing together fiber art from four female artists working across three continents, is animated by a belief in renewal, healing and meaningful materiality.

Mount Vernon

Demonstration: Spinning Event, February 16, 2026

Visit the spinning house to learn about textiles in the 18th century as our historic trades interpreters demonstrate spinning and weaving—two steps of the process for making clothing.

Phillips Museum Community Crochet Circle

Join the Community Crochet Circle on second Wednesdays, led by the Crochet Kingpin, Dwayne Lawson-Brown. Each month, the Circle selects a work of art from The Phillips Collection as inspiration for crochet projects. Let your imagination unfurl as we stitch stories inspired by the beauty of visual art, one loop at a time.

Special Event: [Spinning a yarn for crochet](#), February 11, 2026 at The ARC SE Washington.

Mid Atlantic Fiber Association Regular Events & Classes

MAFA, of which PFAG members are members, hosts movie nights as well as online courses and lectures.

MAFA Movie Nights:

Second Wednesdays at 7:00 pm on Zoom for fiber arts videos and discussion. Links to the videos and the slide show will be posted before each movie night.

Join the [mailing list](#) for reminders. Email movies@mafafiber.org for the Zoom link.

MAFA Virtual Classes:

Weekly classes on a variety of weaving and dye subjects, through LessonFace.

MAFA Book Club:

The Dress Diary: Secrets From a Victorian Woman's Wardrobe by Kate Strasdin, January 27, 2026

Next book planned for April 2026

Pyramid Atlantic

Workshop: [Repeat Silkscreen Printing](#), two weekends beginning February 28, 2026

This beginner-friendly workshop provides a basic introduction to screenprinting. Students will learn to design a repeat pattern for printing on fabric or paper yardage.

Renwick Alliance for Craft

Special Event: Margaret Cabrera, fiber sculptor, February 3 and 7, 2026

Online talk and in person event

Textile Museum

New Exhibit: *Adorning the Horse: Equestrian Textiles for Power and Prestige*, February 21 to June 20, 2026

For millennia, horses have captivated humans with their beauty, strength and majesty. From Türkiye to Japan, civilizations have elaborately costumed these prized animals. A magnificent selection of saddle blankets, horse covers and other equestrian textiles from the past 1,300 years communicates the significance and status of horses and their riders.

Handweavers Guild of America

HGA's biennial conference, **Convergence**, will be held in New Orleans from August 11 to 17, 2026. The registration booklet is available online at weavespindye.org. Or, see Janet Stollitz for a print copy at a Guild meeting.

You do not have to attend the conference to enter items in the various exhibits.

Check out the exhibits and awards at weavespindye.org/exhibitsandawards.



SEEKING

The
Potomac Fiber Arts Guild
is looking for a
new representative to
Artisans United

For more information, please
contact Gail Robin

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery

Guild members are welcome and encouraged to apply to join the Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery. The Gallery is a cooperative of Guild members and offers artists a wonderful exhibit space to showcase and sell their art. To continue a tradition of excellence, the Gallery's jury committee selects one-of-a-kind pieces for each show. Artists set their own prices. Commission is a very affordable 25% on sales. For more information about Gallery membership, please contact Silvia Souza, Membership Manager, at membership@potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

Established in September of 1974, the Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery is an original occupant of the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. It is a cooperative association of up to 70 fiber artists, many of whom teach and have been published.

There are 11 themed shows every year with a wide variety of fiber art represented. Offerings range from traditional quilts, weavings, and knits to works made using innovative fiber techniques and nontraditional materials such as glass, wood, and clay.

A selection of Gallery members' work is shown on the [Gallery's website](#) and is also included in an email message sent out to subscribers about each new show. If you are not a subscriber to the [Gallery's e-list, subscribe here](#).

Show Schedule

Jan. 6 to Feb. 8, 2026

Triple Play

Feb. 11 to Mar. 15, 2026

Positive and Negative Space



Torpedo Factory

105 N Union Street, Studio 29
Alexandria, VA 22314

703-548-0935

10:30 AM to 5:30 PM daily

Newsletter

The newsletter is sent via email to subscribed members. It is also posted to the members-only section of the PFAG website. Newsletters are published early in the first month of the issue. Send your fiber experiences, awards, exhibits, workshop impressions, photos, short articles, and more to newsletter@potomacfiberartsguild.org

Submission Deadlines

- Feb 20 for Mar/Apr 2026
- Apr 20 for May/June 2026
- Publication schedule changes in the 2026-2027 Guild year*
- Jul 20 for Aug/Sep 2026
- Sep 20 for Oct/Nov 2026
- Nov 20 for Dec 2026/Jan 2027
- Jan 20 for Feb/Mar 2027

Inclement Weather

In the event of a severe weather emergency affecting an in-person PFAG monthly meeting, program, or workshop (mini and extended), the Guild will follow the [closing guidelines](#) issued by Montgomery County Government for events involving [Community Use of Public Facilities \(CUPF\)](#). * If CUPF facilities are closed and/or events are cancelled or delayed, PFAG events will be cancelled. As with any endeavor, members should be guided by their own best judgement in deciding whether to venture out in difficult weather.

**Please note this is not the Montgomery County Public Schools notice.*

Representatives to Fiber Art Organizations

Artisans United (AU)

Gail Robin

Creative Crafts Council (CCC)

Dominie Nash

Handweavers Guild of America (HGA)

Janet Stollnitz

Mid-Atlantic Fiber Association (MAFA)

Kyrie Garretson, Vanessa Gordon

Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA)

Susan Callahan

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Joanne Seyl, president@potomacfiberartsguild.org

Vice President

Cori Leyden-Sussler

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Helene Dockery, treasurer@potomacfiberartsguild.org

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Janet Bowen

Secretary, Recording

Alicia Clugh, secretary@potomacfiberartsguild.org

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Anita Sama, studygroups@potomacfiberartsguild.org

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Stacy Cantrell