



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

Upcoming Meeting Dates for the 2026-2027 Guild Year

September 19, 2026

Outside the Box: Traditional Techniques Applied in Unusual Ways, presented by Guild members Kendra Biddick, Eileen Doughty, and Marla Rudnick

October 10, 2026

Korean Traditional Natural Dyeing, presented by visiting artist Master Soon-Nam Kwan

November 14, 2026

Color Theory, presented by Guild member Margo Lehman

December 12, 2026

January 9, 2027

February 13, 2027

March 13, 2027

April 10, 2027

May 8, 2027

June 12, 2027

From the President

Liesel Fenner

Dear Fellow Guild Members,

As your newly elected Officer and President of the Board, it is an honor to be leading our Guild! A big thank you to our outgoing President Jo Seyl for her leadership over the last two years as well as all of our board members, chairs, committee members, and volunteers. The Guild runs entirely on volunteer effort, and it's your participation and dedication that keeps our mission alive: supporting a broad, inclusive community of fiber artists, makers, and dabblers alike, near and far, DMV-based or not.

We build our community through fiber arts education in many forms: our library, presentations, workshops, study groups, First Fridays, sales, and exhibitions. Speaking of which, I encourage everyone to check out our exhibition [Fiber & Identity: The Maker's Voice](#) of member work at the Workhouse Arts Center. Special thanks to Rachel Scarr and the Handwork 2026 committee for organizing the exhibition and facilitating our participation in the broader nationwide initiative, *Handwork: Celebrating American Craft, 2026*.

The Programs Committee has been busy all summer shaping this year's lineup, with details rolling out via the listserv as each workshop is finalized. Thanks to your feedback on our May programs survey, we've responded to the top-voted topics and refreshed meeting formats.

- **September 19** (moved from Sept. 12 to avoid Rosh Hashanah): a panel, *"Outside the Box: Traditional Techniques Applied in Unusual Ways,"* with members: Eileen Doughty (thread sculpture), Marla Rudnick (knitting with metals), and Kendra Biddick (wet felting) — followed by a mini-workshop on Coiled Sewn Baskets with Norma Brooks.
- **October 10–12**: a cultural exchange with visiting artist Master Soon-Nam Kwon of South Korea, teaching traditional Korean natural dyeing with farm-grown safflower and indigo, producing colors from pinks to reds, purples and blue, and we'll dye fabric and skeins.
- **November**: Color broadens with member Margo Lehman presenting and teaching Color Theory — how we see and perceive

Studio Space & Guild Workshops

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

Many of the extended workshops and study groups are held in the studio. We participate in Artists & Makers First Fridays, offering demonstrations, time to work on your projects, great conversation and an opportunity to display and sell your work. If you are interested in display or sales possibilities, please fill out [this form](#).

The studio is available to rent for a fee, and Guild members may rent the studio for their own work or to host a workshop. The studio schedule and bookings are [available](#) through the members only area.

Other questions? Contact Vaughnda or Margo 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

color, understanding color relationships and its effects on thought and emotion.

Later this programming year will include: hand-stitching, surface design, quilting, sewing/wearables, weaving, and wet felting. Stay tuned!

~ Liesel

Workshops

Please visit the [website](#) where you will find more information about the artist-instructor, our registration cancellation policy, and the registration form, including supply lists and fees.

Additional workshops will be announced by email and added to the website as they are finalized.

September 19, 2026, 1:00 to 4:00 PM, Guild Studio

Coiled Sewn Baskets, Trivets, and Coasters

Norma Brooks

Using strips of fabric wrapped around rope, we will hand coil and machine stitch (bring your machine!) our way to a trivet that can also be used as wall art or a basket. If time permits, we will make a set of 4 coasters (or at least get started).



Participants should have their own sewing machine and a working knowledge of their machine and how to sew a seam.

October 2026

Korean Traditional Dyeing

Master Soon-Nam Kwan

Watch for email announcements or check the [website](#) for more information about mini and extended workshops.

Handwork 2026: PFAG at The Workhouse

Potomac Fiber Arts Guild Presents
Fiber & Identity: The Maker's Voice

On view: August 15 - October 17, 2026
Vulcan Gallery, W-16, 1st Floor

Demonstrations and reception:
October 17, 2-4pm
Free and open to the public



Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton VA

www.workhousearts.org

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

Sep 20 for Oct/Nov 2026
 Nov 20 for Dec 2026/Jan 2027
 Jan 20 for Feb/Mar 2027
 Mar 20 for Apr/May 2027
 May 20 for Jun/Jul 2027
 Jul 20 for Aug/Sep 2027

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](https://www.facebook.com/PotomacFiberArtsGuild)



[www.instagram.com/
potomacfiberartsguild](https://www.instagram.com/potomacfiberartsguild)



The Scarf of Awesome by Amy Hirst

Extra fine merino, knitted lace. Alternatively called the "Scarf of Impossibility," over the twelve years of its creation. Now it has now finally been confirmed to be truly awesome.

(The pattern is Fernfrost by Anne Hanson.)

From the Librarian

Becky Dahlman

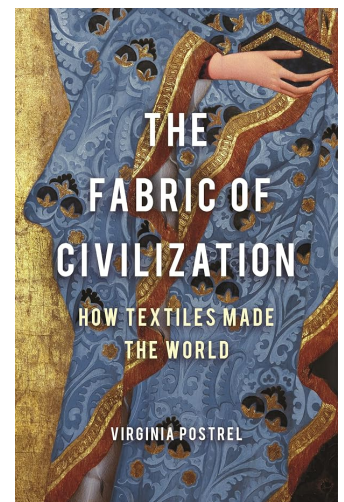
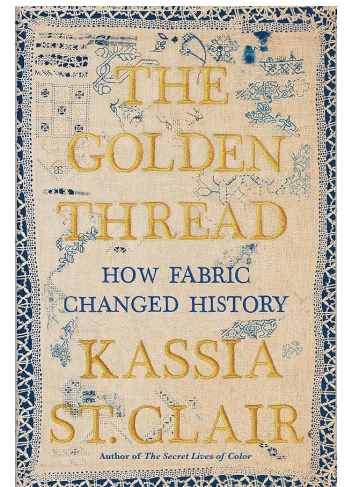
Welcome back to the library, everyone! If you checked books out over the summer, please make sure to return them at the September meeting.

For our new members, or anyone who hasn't used the library before, welcome! We have an extensive library of fiber arts books, which are available for members to check out at meetings. The checkout period is one month; books are due at the following guild meeting. Please make sure to bring your books back on time, so other members can use them as well. Late fees are \$1 per book per month.

The library catalog is online, so you can see what we have in our collection before the meeting by going to the Members Only part of the guild website, and following the link to the [library catalog](#). You can search by author, keyword, title, and various other fields.

I hope to see you all in the library this fall!

~ Becky



Of Interest: Exhibits and Opportunities

Debbie Spiliotopoulos

Center for Creativity, Tulsa OK

Exhibit: [Please Touch the Art](#), September 4 to October 31, 2026

See member participation on page 9.

Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia PA

Exhibit: [Jesse Krimes: Elegy Quilts](#), through November 1, 2026

Hillwood Museum, Washington DC

Exhibit: [Interwoven: A Tradition of Textiles](#), through January 3, 2027

Montgomery County Fair, [Gaithersburg MD](#)

Event: August 14 to August 22, 2026

Montgomery Museum, Christiansburg VA

Exhibit: [Textile Artists of Virginia](#), through August 28, 2026

Sewing and Quilt Expo, [Fredericksburg VA](#)

Event: September 24 to 26, 2026

See member participation on page 6.

Shenandoah Fiber Festival, [Berryville VA](#)

Event: September 26 to 27, 2026

The Whittemore House Museum and Gallery, [Washington DC](#)

Exhibit: *Luminous Horizons* September 10 to December 1, 2026

Bringing together fiber constructions, botanical monoprints, stitched compositions, watercolors, and sculptural works on paper, *Luminous Horizons* explores landscape as a place shaped by seasonal change, memory, and time.

Featured fiber artist Barbara Bitondo uses translucent materials, layered construction, and subtle color relationships to soften the horizon and trace changing light across dawn, dusk, and moonlit hours.

Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton VA

Exhibit: [Fiber & Identity: The Maker's Voice](#), August 15 to October 17, 2026

Demonstrations and Reception: October 17, 2026, 2 to 4 PM

Exclusively PFAG artists, see more on page 11.

Textiles & Tea

Each week the Handweavers Guild of America (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 upcoming talks and to register, go to Facebook or the HGA website, weavespindye.org/textiles-and-tea.

All episodes of *Textiles & Tea* are recorded and available to be watched on HGA's [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

The Textile Museum

Exhibits

American Coverlets, through December 5, 2026

Programs

Celebration of Textiles: Andean Traditions, September 12, 2026

For More Information

www.museum.gwu.edu

701 21st NW

Washington, DC 20052

Stylish Caps

Geoff Adams

When I was in my fifties and began to lose my hair, I started wearing flat caps. It was an opportunity to add style where previously there was none. I learned to weave and sew in 2024 with a goal of making my own caps.

The pattern I use is from madcaphats.com. It's a single panel cap, the entire top is uninterrupted by seams, which highlights the weave.



Here are two flat caps I completed this summer. I wove the fabric for the silver and black cap with mercerized cotton yarn on eight shafts. The blue and beige one was woven with linen yarn on four shafts.

A flat cap is a fun project that uses a small amount of fabric and offers a huge amount of style!



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 [movie mailing list](#) for reminders.

MAFA Virtual Classes:

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

MAFA Book Group:

Quarterly Zoom meetings to discuss fiber and textile-related books, typically on a Tuesday evening at 7:30pm. Free and open to all. Join the [book mailing list](#) for reminders.

- Oct 27, 2026, 7:30 p.m. Eastern: **With Her Own Hands: Women Weaving Their Stories** by Nicole Nehrig

Applying Traditional Korean Textile Arts in New Ways

Yunjung Sarah Ha (aka Sarah Song)

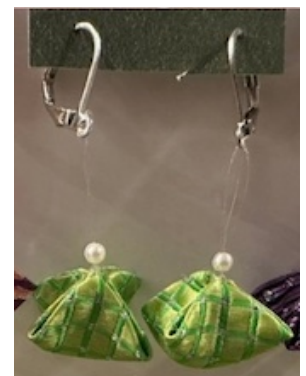
One of the main features of my stitching and making practice is to incorporate sustainability with cultural traditions. *Hanbok*, the traditional attire of Korea, traces its evolution from the ancient royal courts to the modern haute couture runways and contemporary fiber art. Using *Obangsaek*, the five cardinal colors and their dictates for balance, aesthetics, and harmony, Korean garment design includes intentional color, texture, and storytelling.

I save the precious fabric remnants from upcycling *Hanbok* to make sustainable, exquisite, lightweight wearable art. I use simple hand and machine stitching techniques, structural support methods, color coordination, and fine embellishments to create handbags, earrings, necklace elements, and intricate *Gyuban* craft-inspired pieces (like traditional pumpkin brooches).

Another of my crafts is the joyful, centuries-old artisan practice of *Maedeup*, traditional Korean decorative knotting. There is a history and spiritual symbolism behind these dimensional cord designs. Filled with classic structures, such as the elegant Dragonfly Knot and the sacred Lotus Knot, this slow, tactile art form serves as a beautiful bridge between cultural heritage and modern mindfulness. And *Maedeup* provides exquisite accents to embellish quilts, garments, or bags.



I am thrilled to be a featured lecturer and instructor of these traditional Korean textile arts at the upcoming Sewing and Quilt Expo in Fredericksburg, VA, September 24 to 26, 2026.

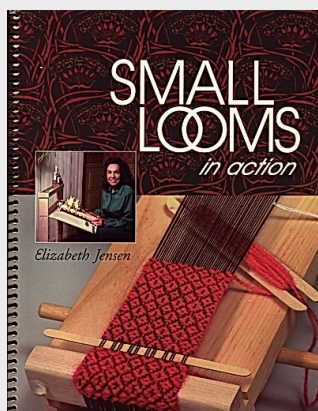
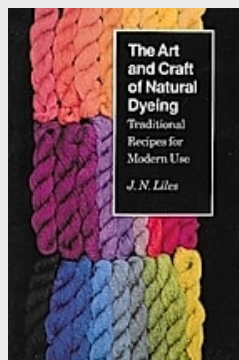
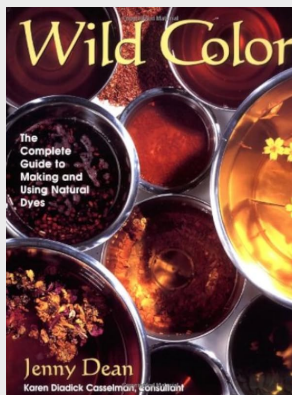


About the Library

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:



Honor Balance by Joni Seidenstein

Quilt, 48" x 60"

Original design in cotton fabrics and thread.



A Commemorative Brooch

Athena Patterson-Orazem

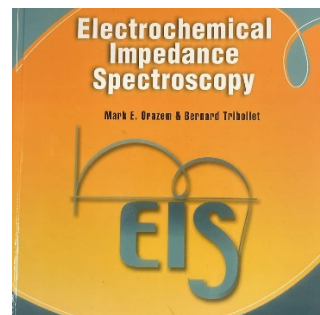
My father is retiring, and the Electrochemical Society (ECS) hosted a symposium in his honor. As a memento of the occasion, I attempted my first embroidered brooch.

The design is based on the logo of his textbook, which references both a common graphical signature of impedance measurements and the parable of the blind men and the elephant. I used tracing paper to experiment with the design, emphasizing the elephant inspiration.

After sleeping on the problem, I realized I didn't love the blue purl on the tusk but was overall pleased with the initial goldwork. After a few experiments I failed to document, I moved forward with a chain-stitched lattice background reflecting the colors of his favorite shirts and ties.

I added sequins, a stiffening layer, navy wool backing, and silver trim binding. The pin back wasn't large enough to support the brooch, so we used an extra-large safety pin.

I sadly don't have any pictures of him wearing it, but he loved it, as did anyone familiar with the elephant backstory. It meant a lot to share this experience with him and commemorate it with my artistic skills. Like me, he is an artist in addition to his technical profession; this comes across in his approach to science, engineering, and teaching.



Athena and her father in Seattle.





Please Touch

Eileen Doughty

Two of my thread sculptures have been accepted to the "Please Touch the Art" exhibition at the Center for Creativity in downtown Tulsa, OK.

The exhibition has a focus on artists and visitors who are blind, visually impaired, or disabled, or for anyone who wants to experience art in new and exciting ways. Gold Bowl Fish and Kelp Forest Tea are both well suited to careful handling by the target audience.



Kelp Forest Tea

6" x 7" x 5"

Cotton and metallic threads, machine stitched.



Gold Bowl Fish

6" x 7" x 6"

Cotton and metallic threads, machine stitched.
Aluminum, punched and curled.

GUILD-OWNED EQUIPMENT RENTAL				equipment@potomacfiberartsguild.org	
Qty Owned	Description of equipment, which may be rented for a small monthly fee plus a security deposit	Member		Non-Member	
		Rental Fee	Deposit	Rental Fee	Deposit
1	8-shaft, 16" Louet Kombo table loom and stand	\$65	\$450	\$130	\$540
1	12-shaft, 15" LeClerc Voyageur table loom	\$65	\$320	\$65	\$385
1	4-shaft, 22" Dorset floor loom	\$30	\$410	\$100	\$495
1	Ashford Rigid Heddle Knitters Loom, 24" with bag	\$25	\$100	\$30	\$120
1	Warping board	\$20	\$40	\$40	\$110
1	Beginning Weaver's Package: 1 shuttle, 2 bobbins, warping board, bobbin winder	\$25	\$90	\$40	\$110
1	Strauch drum carder	\$25	\$150	\$50	\$180
1	Drum carder ("British made") NEW ADDITION	\$25	\$150	\$50	\$180
1	Picker NEW ADDITION	\$25	\$150	\$50	\$180
2	Hand cards for wool, set of two	\$15	\$40	\$15	\$50
1	Louet S10 spinning wheel	\$25	\$200	\$30	\$240
1	Ashford Joy spinning wheel	\$25	\$200	\$30	\$240
5	Gripfids	\$1	\$10	\$2	\$12



Autumn Leaves by Kay Rankin

A wall art piece, 30" x 27"

Hand stitched Korean ramie fabric, using Kkojipgi (꼬집기), or Korean pinch stitch, and running stitch.

Natural branch, and natural acorn caps with fabric stuffing. **Won first place in fine hand sewing at the 2026 Woodlawn Needlework Show.**



Ghost Buffalo Dance by Moonlight by Kay Rankin

A wall hanging, 14" x 15", including hanger.

Korean ramie. Raw edge machine appliquéd, with hand embroidery. Vintage beaded hat band (purchased).



Coiled Rope Bowl by Kay Rankin

9" x 5"

Machine stitched using Mountain Tread Company cotton rope.

Wooden beads. Stuffing.



The Exhibition is Open!

Rachel Scarr

Thank you to everyone who submitted artwork for **Fiber & Identity: The Maker's Voice**, PFAG's exhibition for **Handwork 2026** at the Workhouse Arts Center. We were thrilled by the enthusiastic response and the incredible variety of work submitted by our members.

The exhibition will be on view in the **Vulcan Gallery through October 17, 2026**, with an artist reception on **Saturday, October 17**. Be sure to save the date! We hope you'll join us to celebrate the remarkable talent of our guild members.

We're also excited to share that the exhibition is featured on the Workhouse Arts Center website, helping spread the word about this special event: www.workhousearts.org/potomac-fiber-arts-guild

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help make this exhibition possible. We look forward to welcoming guild members, friends, and the community to

Fiber & Identity: The Maker's Voice

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

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](http://www.potomacfiberartsguild.org) for rates, rules, availability, and to book your reservation. For questions, contact Margo or Vaughnda at studiospace@potomacfiberartsguild.org

Artists & Makers, 11810 Parklawn Drive, Suite 204, Rockville, MD

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](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com) 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](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com), [subscribe here](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com).

Show Schedule

Jul. 28 to Aug. 30, 2026

Mixup

Sep. 1 to Oct 4, 2026

Myths and Monsters



Torpedo Factory

105 N Union Street, Studio 29

Alexandria, VA 22314

703-548-0935

10:30 AM to 5:30 PM daily

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

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)

Marilu Del Carpio

Creative Crafts Council (CCC)

Dominie Nash

Handweavers Guild of America (HGA)

Janet Stollnitz

Handwork 2026

Rachel Scarr

Mid-Atlantic Fiber Association (MAFA)

Kyrie Garretson and Vanessa Gordon

Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA)

Susan Callahan

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engagement@potomacfiberartsguild.org

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