

From the President

Floris Flam

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season. We are looking forward to an exciting array of programs and workshops in the coming months. January brings us **Rebecca A.T. Stevens**, retired Consulting Curator, Contemporary Textiles at the Textile Museum. She will talk to us about **Storytelling Textiles** created with a specific purpose and meant to communicate a particular message about art, life and the human condition.

Our afternoon program, **Making Art Together**, is an opportunity to work with others in the Guild to make cell phone pouches for inclusion in the “goodie bags” at the next Mid-Atlantic Fiber Association (MAFA) conference in June. More information is in the [program description](#) on our website.

Our February presentation is our annual *Sharon Janda Memorial Fund program*. Artist **Jim Hay** was originally trained as a sculptor and now creates unconventional cloth collage artworks—art quilts. He has lived in Japan for the past 29 years and has exhibited his work on four continents. Jim’s lecture is **The “Window” from Sculpture into Cloth**: Some windows open a world view. There may still be spaces in his mini and two extended workshops.

If you attended the Eva Camacho-Sanchez workshop or mini, please bring your work for the show and share table or model your garment.

I look forward to seeing you at our meetings and wish all of you a wonderful new year.

2019 Upcoming Workshops

Here is a synopsis of workshops thru the first quarter. Registration for 2019 workshops is coming soon. To register and receive the Guild discount, you must logon to the members only area of the PFAG website. <https://potomacfiberartsguild.org/>

Jan 12, 2019 Making Art Together—MAFA Pouch Sewing Session. Mini-Workshop (3 Hours) New. Come help the Guild make “signature” PFAG branded cell phone pouches for the June 2019 MAFA conference goodie bag giveaway. With these bags the Guild will have a more memorable presence at this year’s conference. Make a bag in any medium you prefer! We will have kits and materials. It will be a social as well as sewing event. **And, it’s free, just come!**

Feb 9, 2019 Where’s the Door? with Jim Hay Mini-Workshop (3 Hours). In collage, magazines have more colors than a painter’s palette. Expand your horizons with this mini-workshop on collage. No need to be a quilter, as the materials will be paper and the technique will be gluing. The more interesting the images, the better.

Feb 10-11, 2019 For the Love of Cloth with Jim Hay. Workshop (2 Days). These are not “Your Grandma’s Quilts”; no maps, no patterns, no sketches. They are journeys of improvisation, full of energy, surprise and

2019 Meetings

St. James Episcopal Church
11815 Seven Locks Rd.
Potomac, Maryland

10 am - Meeting & Program

12:00 noon - Social Hour/library is open

1-4 pm - Mini-Workshop

Jan 12, 2019 - Storytelling Textiles with Rebecca A. T. Stevens

Feb 9, 2019 - The “Window” from Sculpture into Cloth with Jim Hay

Mar 9, 2019 - Power of Designing Your Own Fabric with Becka Rahn

Apr 13, 2019 - Every Picture Tells a Story with Sue Stone

May 11, 2019 - Beading and Its Historical Roots: a Journey with Teddi Fine

Jun 8, 2019 - The Power of Adornment with Suzi Click

personal discovery. Race around the cloth, turn left and right. The finished pieces are records from the trip. "Wow, I did this!" This workshop will open doors to YOUR personal creativity. Each person's artwork will be an individual expression; your artistic vision, your interpretation of a subject, your use of materials. Making art is a path to awareness, a finding out who we are as individuals connected to all.

Feb 12-13, 2019 The Dots Have It with Jim Hay. Workshop (2 Days). Let's go backward and forward. Back to your hazy dotted past and forward to a clear future. Forget tradition, drawing skills, technical skills, craft skills. They are how some other persons did things before, how they solved their creation and construction dilemmas. Don't worry about whether your friends will like it. You are not making this for your friends. Let your friends make their own quilt. Start cutting. Let it grow itself. It may become "realistic" or abstract. It may have mood, emotion, be loud or silent, friendly or scary. You are the 'carpenter'. Put patterns together, add structure. Go beyond anything you have seen. Let out the vision. "The Dots Have It."

Mar 9 and 10, 2019 (a.m. and p.m.) Fabric Design: Kaleidoscope Geometrics with Becka Rahn. Mini-Workshops (3 Sessions, 3 Hours each). Get a taste of what it is like to digitally design and print your own fabric. We'll start with cut paper, transform it to pixels, and create a seamlessly repeating geometric pattern all in one session. No special software or computer skills are required; you can create amazing patterns using just your web browser and some simple design tools. You will see all of the steps to design a fabric from start to finish and you will take home a printed swatch of your design (mailed to you after class).

Mar 11-12, 2019 Fabric Design: From Rectangles to Repeats with Becka Rahn. Workshop (2 Days). You don't need to be a Photoshop pro to be able to digitally design your own fabrics. This class is packed with projects you can design using simple and low-cost digital design tools, most that work just from your web browser. You will learn how to create a variety of projects, from repeating geometric patterns to a cut-and-sew zipper bag, and gain the confidence you need to build on those basic instructions to make your own designs. Great designs don't always just start with opening up a blank file, so we will learn techniques to transform cut paper art, drawings and paintings into pixels too.

Apr 13, 2019 Take One Stitch – Exploring Backstitch as a Drawing Tool with Sue Stone Mini-Workshop (3 hours) Back stitch is the nearest hand stitch to machine stitch and is a versatile stitch for drawing. This workshop is a short guide to using backstitch to transfer an image to cloth and exploring both the continuous and broken marks that can be used make surface texture.

Apr 14 – 16, 2019 Every Picture Tells a Story with Sue Stone Workshop Workshop (3 days). This workshop will focus on storytelling and on different ways to tell a story using your own images, symbols and anecdotes to convey ideas, thoughts and memories. The aim is to encourage exploration and experimentation with different ways of combining hand and machine stitch, figurative images and text.

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May 11, 2019 Mermaid's Tears Earbobs: Intro to Cubic Right Angle Weave with Teddi Fine Mini-Workshop (3 hours) One day, I was practicing a contemporary bead-weaving stitch called cubic right-angle weave (CRAW). I made several different geometric shapes using the technique, unsure how they would be used, but satisfied that I had the technique down pat. I put them aside on my beading mat and forgot about them. Several days later, I opened up a new package of thorn beads I had just received. Thanks to a poorly sealed zip bag, an assortment of the beads fell right onto that same beading mat, landing all around the practice CRAW pieces. Behold! Two of the circle CRAW shapes that were in search of a purpose, suddenly had one! They would become earbobs with 'tears' in the form of the thorn beads, dripping from them. They are simple to fabricate, infinitely changeable, and incredibly versatile.

May 12, 2019 Circle the Stone: How to Bezel (Almost) Anything with Teddi Fine. Workshop (1 day) Circling the stone is about capturing a cabochon – a button, stone, crystal or other item that does NOT have a front-to-back hole in it through which one can sew—with tiny glass seed beads. And, with one small exception, without any glue involved. Students will learn three different ways to accomplish that task, using a few basic beading stitches, a needle and thread, a bit of stiff backing material and ultrasuede, and patience. Techniques taught are: bead embroidery, bead around a big bead and mix and match bezel.

Jun 8, 2019 Scarf It Up: Create a Unique Scarf Using Ethnic Textiles with Suzi Click. Mini-Workshop (3 hours) You create your own unique scarf using special ethnic textiles and trims provided by Suzi Click. In the class you will learn Suzi's method for coordinating the right linings, borders and trims for the best finished piece of wearable art.

Jun 9-10, 2019 Make Your Own Art from Ethnic Textiles with Suzi Click. Workshop (2 days). In this 2-day workshop you will make a jacket, vest or tunic to wear or a tote bag or pillow cover using your favorite ethnic textile, learning Suzi's method of coordinating textiles and trims by theme, pattern or color. You can use one of her patterns, tracing it onto pattern paper to cut out and adjust to your size if needed.

Mid Atlantic Fiber Association 2019 (MAFA)

As you may know, our guild is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Fiber Association—a wonderful organization that supports fiber guilds and their individual members. MAFA's premier activity, a biennial fiber arts conference at Millersville University in Pennsylvania, is coming soon--**June 27-30, 2019**. This conference offers as many as 40, in-depth, 2.5 day workshop experiences for fiber artists of all skill levels. Check out the catalog of workshops now because early registration opens on Feb 2, 2019 for MAFA-affiliated guild members and associate members only—hey that's us! To register—visit mafafiber.org

Making Art Together

Do you know about those swag bags given out at the MAFA Conference? Rumor has it that those are a hot item in the fiber conference world. Hmm, well...perhaps this world is quite small. But this year, 2019, we're going to make some unique items to go into those bags. What better way to showcase our guild than by making a PFAG handcrafted item that attendees at the MAFA Conference can take home and show off.

To that end, we're making cell phone sized fiber pouches about 7" by 4" with a neck cord and a flap. Oh, yes we are and we are starting it at our **January Mini Workshop**. Come join us. It's free, it's bound to be fun and it is a great way to use up those bits and pieces from projects big and small or unfinished or even those pesky unbegin ones lurking over your shoulder like benevolent birds of prey.

You can use the workshop time to start a pouch, finish a pouch, assemble kits for others to make, embellish them, or just generate some wild and crazy pouch ideas, all while having a good time with your guild friends. Any fiber, any medium, any idea is fair game. You get the picture...the sky is the limit here!



Bring something for the Hospitality table - odd numbered last name members are on for January.

The December Gala

Editor's Note

The December meeting/auction/yarn-book-fabric sale and pot luck at St. Mark's was truly a blast.

From the amazing array of fiber for sale to the equally sumptuous spread of delectable foods, it was an all around fun event. There was a huge amount of yarn on weaving cones that was going for a song. Some silent auction donations such as hand spindles went to appreciative new homes. An enormous roll of soft roping that was begging for a new owner was rightly rewarded with one, as it was gone the next time I looked for it. Alas, she who dithers loses. But, there was an abundance of other yarns of various weights and colors that was gobbled up destined to be turned into interesting new projects. And books, delicious books, too tempting to be turned away from. All in all, the sale generated a goodly sum – upwards of \$3500 for the guild.



The food table was a delight for the eyes, chock full of yummy looking morsels. I can attest to the deliciousness of the spicy lentil-filled lettuce leaves and the peanut butter pillow cookies as personal favorites. But there were many other goodies that were just scrummy as Mary Berry (of the Great British Bakeoff) would say.

And last but not least there was the Guild Fashion Show. Thirty-two items of guildmember handmades crossed the stage in a dazzling and diverse display of talent. The organizers even coaxed a few shy members onto the stage in the very garments they wore to the sale.

We reserve a very special thanks to professional photographer, **Ron Freudenheim** for his gorgeous photos of every model on the runway. The photos Ron took are lovely—this one of Laura Davidson in a stunning coat is a case in point. There are so lovely, in fact, that the small format of the newsletter just doesn't do justice to them. And because it is quite difficult to show all of the garments here, we are planning a Newsletter Special Edition – The Runway Issue. This special edition will highlight each of the garments with larger photos and information about each creation. Check your email inbox in late January for the link to what promises to be a fun extra issue.

Fiber Events

Members of the **Potomac Fiber Arts Guild** were invited to exhibit their work at **Artists & Makers**, 12276 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852. Come visit to see the diverse work (wall art, garments and other items) being created by fellow guild members. Opening reception is on Friday, February 1 from 6 PM to 9 PM. The exhibit closes Wednesday, February 20th, 2019. The works will be available for purchase.



The LADYSMITHS' Fine Craft Show at **Arena Stage** is calling for entries. The show will be held April 27-28, 2019 from 1-8 pm each day. The Ladysmiths is a group of local artisan jewelers that has recently expanded its scope to include the work of local glass, ceramics, and fiber artists. You are invited to apply for the 2019 Spring show. The entry fee for participating in the show is \$110. In addition, Arena Stage will retain 15% of each artist's sales. Applications accepted until Jan 20. To apply or for more information email Ladysmithsgroup@gmail.com

The Creative Crafts Council is an umbrella organization of fine craft guilds in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. They are sponsoring their 32nd juried biennial exhibition of regional fine craft artists at the **Strathmore Mansion** in North Bethesda, Maryland—June 1 thru July 31, 2019. PFAA is a member so we are eligible to enter the exhibition. Applications are being accepted starting Jan 4, 2019. This year's jurors are Chris Darway (metals/jewelry), Joe



Dickey (wood); and Susan Main (Curator/Director at VisArts). Please see www.creativecraftscouncil.org/2019-biennial.html for more information. We encourage you to apply.

At the PFA Gallery

Carol Bodin

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of its juried show, *It's Not All Black and White*, on January 8, 2019. The show will close on February 3. It may be black and white (dreary) outside but our Gallery radiates with color. In addition to lovely neutral pieces, our artists have warmed our space with colorful creations. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited.

The Gallery is located in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, Studio 29, Alexandria, VA 22314. Hours: 10:30 am to 5:30 pm daily and weekends, and 10:30 am to 9:00 pm on the second Thursday of each month. Admission is free.

From the Librarian

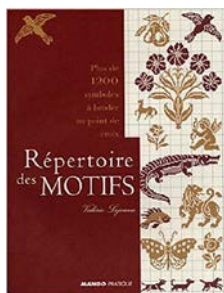
Carla Gladstone

Our library grows in two ways, with new books that we purchase and with donations. Sometimes the donations are books previously unknown to us. I snagged some of the donations for our December book sale to add to our collection. Many thanks to Dolly Perkins and her helpers for running a great sale. Also, thanks to everyone who donated, and especially to everyone who bought!

ABCs

Le Livre des Lettres, d'ici et d'ailleurs: plus de 4000 caractères, chiffres et symboles au point de croix by Valérie Lejeune may be loosely translated as "The book of letters, from home and around the world, with more than 4,000 characters, numbers, and symbols in cross stitch". The text is in French, but the bulk of the book is charts, which need no translation. It has dozens of alphabets, from simple to highly embellished. Each page is surrounded by a different border pattern, and the alphabets are interspersed with many motifs and decorations.

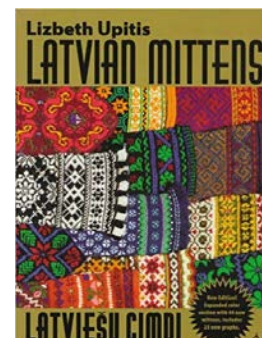
The back of the book contains charts for international languages: Hebrew, Russian, Greek, Ethiopian, and Asian alphabets. There are even a few Chinese and Japanese ideographs. Because all the charts are square, one should use caution applying the charts to knitting or weaving where the ratio of height-to-width is different.



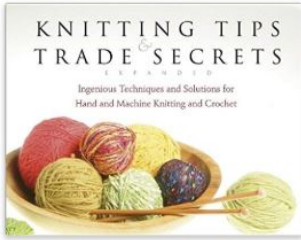
And here's a bonus: ***Répertoire de Motif, plus de 1200 symboles à broider aux point de croix***, also by Valérie Lejeune, which may be translated as "A Collection of Motifs, with more than 1200 symbols for cross-stitch embroidery". Here we have everything other than letters: flowers, birds, domestic and wild animals, fish, household items, modes of transportation, religious and heraldic imagery, and more. The book is packaged with six giant fold-out alphabet samplers.

Keep Your Hands Warm

The Baltic countries have bitterly cold winters, and a tradition of beautiful multi-colored mittens. ***Latvian Mittens***, by Lizbeth Upitis, tells the history of mittens in Latvia, shows regional variations, and gives directions for knitting your own. The book includes color photos of old mittens and discusses the colors typical for each region. The pattern charts are too small for practical use, but the enlargement setting on a photocopy machine can remedy that problem. I was particularly drawn to the directions for a scalloped cuff from the Rucava township. The book includes directions for making miniature mittens as decorations.



Knitting Knowhow

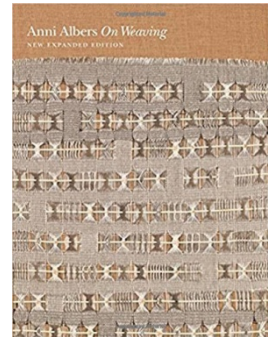


Knitting Tips and Trade Secrets: Clever Solutions for Better Hand Knitting, Machine Knitting and Crocheting, editor Mary Galpin Barnes, is published by Taunton Press, who also publish Threads magazine. The book is a collection of handy ideas including how to do a tubular cast-off with double rib and how to do intarsia knitting in the round. Even a master knitter may have something to learn something from this book.

Anni Albers

For those of you who haven't heard of her, Anni Albers entered the Bauhaus art school in Germany in 1922, planning to study painting. In the manly world of the Bauhaus, the workshops she wanted to take were off-limits to women, but women could be admitted to the weaving studio. She settled for learning to weave and ended up by creating textiles such as nobody had seen before. An exhibition of her textiles is currently showing at the Tate Modern (in London) where they describe her work as combining the "ancient craft of hand-weaving with the language of modern art".

A new, expanded edition of her book **On Weaving** is now in our library. She explores weaving from its elements: the interlacing of threads, to the possibilities of textile expression in the hands of the masters, with emphasis on the works of ancient Peru. An Afterword and two essays by other hands have been added to the original text. This is a book of beauty, and of insight. I recommend it to anyone who works with thread.



Fiber Adventures

A Love Affair with Oya—Karen Anadol

Over the past 19 years I've traveled numerous times to Turkey, visiting family and seeing sites. While many are familiar with the gorgeous carpets, it is **oya**, a traditional needlework craft that has captured my heart. Quite a few people asked me about the scarf I was wearing at the December guild event. It was a recent purchase I made in Turkey (from Zeynab, shown with me in the photo) to add to my ever expanding oya collection. Because of that interest, I thought I would share a little more of what I know about my favorite needle craft.

Oya is the name of various needlework techniques done by women in Turkey and a few other countries where it is known by other names. Oya is now done primarily by rural women.



During the Ottoman era, oya was used extensively to edge clothing, such as robes (entari) and home textiles such as pillow covers. It is now found primarily edging the cotton scarves worn by women in rural areas or women living in cities who migrated from villages. It is also used on some traditional male headdresses – known as "Poşu" in Turkish.

Here are some of the characteristics of making oya. Silk thread was used by wealthier women, cotton by others. Now, cotton, nylon and synthetic threads are used. In order to create stiffness so the designs would stand straight, egg white, gelatin, sugar, and horse hair were used. Now, wire or fishing line may be used.

It can be created with: Needles, Crochet hooks, Shuttles, Hairpin (U-shaped metal), using Cocoons, Wool, Beads or Cloth scraps

Designs can be flowers, animals, geometric shapes, objects such as grapes, a design can also be indicative of a geographic location. These were probably limited only by a woman's imagination and creativity.

In the past, colors and motifs may have held symbolic meaning but as with kilims, symbolism may just be the way to tell a good story. Women I have talked with in Turkey do not associate their oya designs with any meaning but some examples of symbolism from "Turkish Lace Works Catalogue" list the following associations:

- Hyacinth is for love and hope. If a young woman is in love, she may wear a scarf with purple hyacinth.

- Pepper is worn to convey unhappiness, a couple has quarreled, or a woman has a “spicy” marriage.
- Wild grass lace sent by a young woman to her future mother-in-law indicates a good relationship.
- Tombstone lace means a bad relationship between woman and a mother-in-law will last forever.

Well, perhaps the adage holds true that oya, like the kilim, is a clever way to tell a good story.

Color Exhibits at the Cooper Hewitt in NYC—Floris Flam

When I visited NY at Thanksgiving, I saw two color exhibits at the Cooper Hewitt, the Smithsonian design museum on Manhattan’s upper east side. Unfortunately both exhibits close on January 13, but you can read about them on the museum’s website.

Saturated: The Allure and Science of Color includes a historical review of color theory and many examples of the use of color in textiles and everyday objects. <https://www.cooperhewitt.org/channel/saturated/>



Color Rhythm (drawing),
from *The Mathematical Basis of the Arts*
by Joseph Schillinger



Rush Hour 2/Shanghai
by TextielMuseum
Jacquard weave hanging, cotton, 2012

Color Decoded: The Textiles of Richard Landis, is an exhibit of small woven wall hangings. The museum describes the work as “complex systems of closely related full-tones and half-tones of color, organized into abstract geometries of endless variation.

In Landis’s weavings, small, medium, and large rectangles and squares repeat in ever-changing order, and every possible color combination is played out both horizontally and vertically.

What appears to be a random arrangement of colored squares is a balanced and controlled expression of a well-modulated palette.”

<https://www.cooperhewitt.org/channel/color-decoded/>



Jewels
cotton double-weave
by Richard Landis

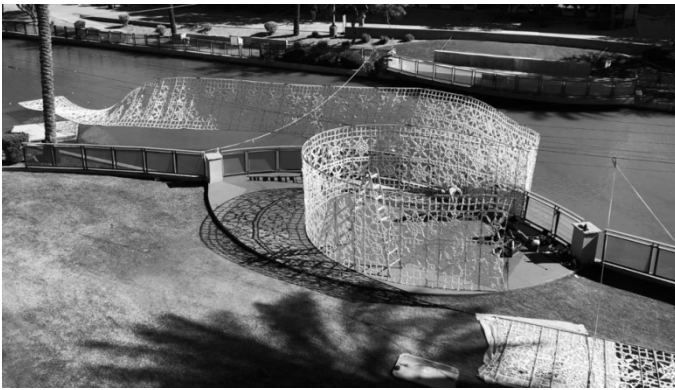
A Work in Progress -- Ruth Blau



This project is a baby/toddler blanket destined for Wool-Aid. It consists of forty-nine 6-inch pin-loom squares woven using four different reds, pinks, and wines. Most squares are two colors per square, but a few are single color and several are three-color. On the pin loom, different patterns are achieved by laying out different combinations of colors on the four layers that constitute the warp and weft.

The squares are currently laid out on the floor while I decide on the final arrangement. After I've sewn them together, I'll crochet two rounds in black around the whole blanket, then full it and brush it.

Arizona!—Val Hildebrand



Here is one of the final installation photos of the giant crochet lace project conceived by Choi+ Shine for the arts festival Canal Convergence in Scottsdale, AZ. Made up of dozens of crochet panels done in paracord, it appears to dive into and out of the canal. 96 volunteer crocheters (including yours truly) worked on the six different motifs that make up the design and many more helped tie them to the metal frame prior to installation in November. To see the entire fabrication process and learn more, visit

http://choishine.com/arizona_fab.html

Since Last We Met

Here are a few items from the November meeting from the Dye and Weaving G Study Groups.



Don't forget, the Membership Directory is now online and can be viewed there or downloaded.

Membership

If you know someone who would like to join our guild, please invite them to a meeting or refer them to our website, <http://www.potomacfiberartsguild.org/guild>. For answers to membership questions contact membership@potomacfiberartsguild.org

Outreach

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. Contact outreach@potomacfiberartsguild.org with your ideas and suggestions. We like to feature these Community Outreach opportunities in the newsletter, so please also send information and especially photos of your participation to newsletter@potomacfiberartsguild.org. Financial support, in the form of a mini-grant, is available to members to help fund outreach projects. For more info contact Julie Haifley, Outreach Committee Chair.

Hospitality

Teresa Zotikos of the Hospitality Committee thanks those who have brought treats for past meetings. As a reminder, members with last names starting with odd numbered letters, bring finger food to share for the *January* meeting (odd numbered month). The even numbered folks are on for *February*.

Newsletter

The Newsletter is posted to the PFAG website and is accessible via the link in the email sent to Mailman subscribed members. To access the current issue of the newsletter, click the emailed link. You can also view it by logging in to the Members area at our website. Click the big green oval that says click here for the latest issue.

Newsletters are published just prior to the meeting month of the current issue. Send your fiber experiences, workshop impressions and more. Email the editor at newsletter@potomacfiberartsguild.org.

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery

The Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria, VA is located diagonally across from the Café in studio 29. We invite new members from the guild to display their art. Please contact Marisela Rumberg at membership@potomacfiberartsgallery.com for information and an appointment to be juried.

Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of a severe weather emergency affecting a 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). (Please note this is not Montgomery County Public Schools). If severe weather threatens, please visit the CUPF Emergency Closing Information website listed below.

<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/cupf/info-cupf/emergency.html>

If CUPF facilities are closed and/or events are cancelled or delayed, PFAG events will be cancelled. If time and circumstances allow, notices may also be emailed via the PFAG private email server, and posted on the PFAG Facebook and the PFAG web home page. However, these notices may be considerably delayed.

As with any endeavor, members should be guided by their own best judgement in deciding whether to venture out in difficult weather.

Inspiration Corner

Val Hildebrand



This month's inspiration is a photo of a salty march in Spain. "Low tide at blue hour reveals a muddy riverbed of fishbone shaped streams in the middle of a small, but unique part of the salt marsh located at the end of the Betanzos Estuary, near Coruna in northern Spain.

These natural formations could have been influenced by manmade fishponds that covered the area centuries ago. Until the 18th century the port of Betanzos was one of the most important fishing and trade centre of the ancient Kingdom of Galicia." From *This is Colossal*.

The colors and patterning are extraordinary. Could be a rug hooking project just waiting to happen.

Guild Meeting Location

St. James Episcopal Church
11815 Seven Locks Road,
Potomac, Maryland.



- From I-270: Take the Montrose Road exit (westbound). Take Montrose Road west to the first traffic light. Turn left (south) on Seven Locks Road. St. James' is one-half mile south on Seven Locks on the left-hand side.
- From Tuckerman Lane: Take Seven Locks Road north from Cabin John Shopping Center. The church is 0.7 miles north of Tuckerman on the right side.
- The building has ramps and disability-accessible doors.

See what's trending on PFAAG's Facebook page!



Visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/PotomacFiberArtsGuild/>