

From the President

Stacy Cantrell

Dear Fiber Friends

Happy New Year! We are headed into 2022 with a terrific lineup of speakers and workshops, enough to keep us busy and out of trouble for quite a while. Yes I'm looking at you omicron. I hope you will take advantage of a workshop or two and continue to visit us on Zoom for our monthly meetings and social time.

In addition, we are pleased to announce that we have been invited to exhibit/sell our fiber art at Artists & Makers in Rockville in early February. Entitled **COVID REVOLUTIONS**, the exhibit will feature what PFAG members have been up to during COVID. From COVID lockdowns to COVID openings, and everything in-between—we explore “*what's the new normal?*” Our works reflect how COVID has affected our styles, emotions, techniques, mediums and subject matter.

The exhibit is open to any guild member who wishes to sell their work. A&M, located at 11810 Parklawn Drive, Suite 210, Rockville, MD 20852 is a beautiful exhibit space and is a great way to promote your art. Sales are handled by individual members with a 25% commission going to A&M. More information will be forthcoming – watch for the guild email for details!

Until then, I am looking forward to the January meeting presentation and its emphasis on how art and craft have been used over time as healing activities and how creativity remains a powerful outlet for healing and transitioning from trauma. Nothing like a healing presentation to start off this **New Year: 2022**.

Workshops for 2022

If you haven't checked out our workshops yet, here are highlights for the remaining workshops this guild year. Remember that to receive the Guild discount when you register, you must logon to the members only area of the PFAG website. <https://potomacfiberartsguild.org/> **Note: some workshops may be sold out**

Remember: If there is a materials kit associated with the workshop you are taking—you will be responsible for ordering and paying for the kit directly with the presenter. The guild may assist with distribution of kits but will no longer manage payments between presenters and students. We apologize for this change in practice but it has become untenable to manage the variety of payment venues being used for materials kits.

Jan 8, 2022 1:00—4:00 PM (3 hour Zoom workshop) **Paper-making with Drew Matott**

During this workshop, participants will make paper out of fibers significant to Peace Paper Projects workshops such as refugee clothing and military uniforms. The first half of the workshop participants will use their household blenders and tools supplied by a kit to form unique sheets of paper. The second half of the workshop, participants will use papers provided in the kit to bind a journal.

Guild Meetings 2022

Happy New Year

10 am - Meeting & Program on Zoom

Jan 8, 2022--Tara Leigh Tappert & Drew Matott

Trauma-Truth Telling-Transition

Feb 12, 2022--Howard Vincent Kurtz

A Life in Costumes

Mar 12, 2022--Nora Rickey

Creating and Teaching as a Self-Taught Artist

Apr 9, 2022 Dionne Swift

Establishing a Rhythm

May 14, 2022 Dindga McCannon

Mixed Media Artist – 57 Years and Counting

Jun 11, 2022 Live at St. Mark's

Biennial Potluck/Yarn Sale

Materials: \$50; kit includes both papermaking and bookbinding materials. See the website for kit purchasing instructions.

Supply List: print the [supply list](#) from the website.

Feb 12, 2022 1:00—4:00 PM (3 hour Zoom workshop) **All about Sleeves with Howard Kurtz**

Pattern drafting for sleeves is an art form all its own. There are many different types of sleeves used today in fashion, theatrical costume, historical reenactments, and cosplay. Participants in this on-line workshop will learn the principals of pattern preparation for full sized drafting.

Supply List: 8.5" x 11" Graph Paper (Pad of 25 sheets); #2 pencils; gum eraser; 18" clear "see-through" ruler; clear tape (no glue); scissors (cutting paper)

Mar 12, 2022 1:00—4:00 PM (3 hour Zoom workshop) **Beginner Tatting: Tat a Pair of Lace Earrings! with Nora Rickey**

In this workshop participants will Learn the basics of needle tatting, and how to make a pair of tatted earrings.

Supply List: Package of tatting needles, set of #7, #5, #3 (available from Tatting Corner); DMC embroidery floss; Size 10 crochet thread; Size 5 embroidery needle; 1 tube of corresponding color, size 6 beads (available from Fire Mountain Gems); pencil/pen; paper.

Mar 12, 2022 10:00—5:00 PM (6 hour Zoom workshop) **Create and Design Your Own Tatted Lace Necklace with Nora Rickey**

In this extended workshop participants will learn how to needle tat a more complicated tatting pattern by making a necklace. You will also learn how to design your own needle tatted patterns.

Supply List: same as above mini

Apr 9, 2022 1-4 PM (3 hour Zoom workshop) **Stitched Illustrations: An Introduction to Free Machine Embroidery with Dionne Swift**

Machine embroidery is an extension of your observation and drawing. During this short class you'll learn how to set up your machine as a drawing and mark making tool. You'll discover more about threads and build confidence in your stitch abilities. This is a light-hearted and enjoyable session designed to invigorate your creativity.

Supply list: Print the [supply list](#) from the website.

Apr 10 and 11, 2022 (9 hour zoom workshop in 3 hour segments over the two days) **Fabric Illustrations – Applique and Free Machine Embroidery with Dionne Swift**

In this workshop, participants will learn to paint with fabric and draw with your sewing machine to create wonderful fabric pictures.

Supply list: Print the [supply list](#) from the website.

Officers and Board Members

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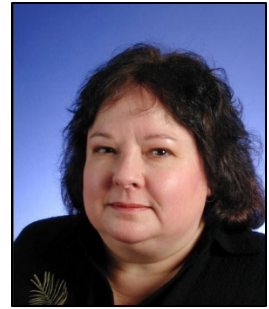
Organization Representatives

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Dominie Nash
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Mid-Atlantic Fiber Association (MAFA)
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You can access the Membership Directory and Handbook online on our website.

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we learned recently of the loss of sister fiber artist Claudia Levy, a long time guild member and participant in the Potomac Fiber Art Gallery. It was as a silk painter that many guild members knew her. To some of us who are newer to the guild she was a name in the directory and to others a name with a vaguely familiar ring but from where? A pretty big where, as it turns out, for in her other life she was a newspaper woman at **The Washington Post**. She started back in the day when that was unheard of—a female journalist, that is.



It was with awe that I read the loving obituary written by Adam Bernstein in the Post (a beat she herself held before she retired). She started as a “copyboy” – can you imagine? It was not a job title she would hold for long. She soon became a junior Metro reporter, covering the aftermath of the riots after Dr. King was assassinated, and the Watergate hearings. She moved on to cover the Maryland suburbs, becoming editor of the Maryland Weekly Section before joining the Obituaries desk. But, she is mostly remembered for being an advocate for equal rights for women in the newsroom. She fought for increased hiring, equal pay and equal promotion opportunities for female journalists.

When she took up this cause only eight out of 51 Metro reporters were women. In no small part due to her efforts, today of the 957 newsroom employees, 506 are women and Sally Buzbee is executive editor, the highest-ranking newsroom job at the Post. There is more to Claudia's story than I can do justice to here, so go learn more of [her story from the Post Obituary](#). She was an advocate, journalist, friend and artist. Copyboy? Hardly.

Some members share their memories

I knew Claudia years ago when I was display manager for the Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery. Because I went to the gallery every month on jurying day, she often asked if I'd take her work to the gallery to be juried. I was happy to help. She lived nearby and would stop by my house to drop off her beautiful artwork. When she found out I had a cat, she frequently brought along a big bag of fresh catnip from her garden. It was so thoughtful of her. -- Margaret Fisher

It was with great sadness this morning that I read in the Washington Post of the death of former guild and gallery member Claudia Levy. ...For many years, I enjoyed both reading articles in the Post under her byline and seeing her excellent work as a silk painter whose works were regularly juried into our gallery. -- Ruth Blau

I am proud to say Claudia was my friend. I had close friendship with Claudia for many years when we were both members of Potomac Craftsman Gallery, at the Torpedo Factory, VA. She was Gentle, Kind, helpful and a caring friend. She went out of her way to help her friends. She will be missed.-- Nimi Rao

Fiber Doings and Viewings

The McLean Textile Gallery is exhibiting The Washington DC/Maryland/West Virginia region of Studio Art Quilt Associate's (SAQA) “**Simple Lines**” until January 13th. Work will show artist interpretations and perceptions of the Washington, DC area in fabric. Visit M, T, Th, or F from 11 - 4 pm. Several PFAG members have work in this show.



Art by: Barbara Matthews, Dianne Miller Wolman, Susan J. Lapham, Eleanor Levie, Helen Blumen, Elizabeth Bradford Davison

The McLean Textile Gallery is doing guild members proud with another exhibition, that of work by **Eileen Doughty**. Opening on Jan 18, 2022 and continuing for 4 weeks, Eileen will be featuring her "thread sculpture" pieces, some which have never been exhibited before. She will also have some wall pieces and fiber art jewelry. Her piece "What's the Good News?" is shown here. Guild member **Cindy Grisdela** will also have work in this exhibit. For more info visit <https://www.mcleantextilegallery.org/>



The Handweavers Guild of America. Thanks to all who entered the drawing for the HGA tote bag and swag. Helen Jeffrey, a new weaver, is the lucky recipient.

Many of the workshops and sessions at HGA's biennial conference taking place July 14 to 21, 2022 in Knoxville, Tennessee, are rapidly filling up. The conference registration has been open since early October.



Registration information is available on the HGA website, weavespindye.org, and in the Fall 2021 issue of Shuttle Spindle and Dyepot. The conference is not just for weavers, spinners, and dyers. There are workshops and sessions for a wide range of fiber arts as well as tours, a fantastic marketplace, fashion show, and more.

Among the Convergence highlights are the various exhibits. The prospectuses may be downloaded from the HGA website. Some exhibits have February entry deadlines while others are in March. So...Enter!

POTOMAC FIBER ARTS GALLERY

in the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Old Town Alexandria is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The theme of the January 4 – February 6 show is the "Alhambra." Geometry is the focus of the February 9 – March 20 show. In addition to items pertaining to show themes, the Gallery has a wide range of wall pieces, fiber sculptures, fine wearables, jewelry and much more. Stop by to see what your fellow guild members created. The Torpedo Factory follows the Covid protocols of the city of Alexandria. All visitors must wear a face covering.

As always, guild members are welcome and encouraged to apply to join the Gallery. The Gallery is a cooperative with members required to work seventeen days per year and take on tasks as needed. For more information about Gallery membership, please contact Marisela Rumberg, membership chair, at membership@potomacfiberartsgallery.com

Here's more from **The McLean Textile Gallery**. The gallery has expanded to three distinct rooms and has this spectacular set of artists and exhibits scheduled for 2022!

Jan 18 - Feb 16: **Cindy Grisdela and Eileen Doughty** - thread sculptures, especially decorative teapots inspired by trees. Plus, art quilts and fiber art jewelry.

Feb 21 - March 30: **Samantha Shelton and Fay Stanford**

April 4 - May 5: **Caryl Bryer Fallert-Gentry**

May 10 - June 16: **Melissa May and Lee Johnson**

June 21 - July 28: **Kelly Spell and Audrey Esarey**

Aug 2 - Sept 8: **Virginia Quilt Museum and Malka Kutnick**

Sept 13 - Oct 20: **Dorry Emmer**

Oct 25 - Dec 1: **Kathleen Otoo and Karen McGarity**

Dec 6 - Jan 12, 2023: **Rachel Dorr and Kendra Biddick**

From the Librarian

Becky Dahlman

We will have another library day in the afternoon of January 8, 2022 when you can come and return library books or check out some new ones! Please come and take advantage of our great collection of books. I hope to see you then!

When: January 8, 1:30-3:30 pm

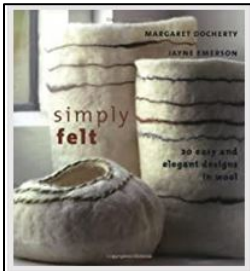
Where: St. James Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Rd, Potomac, MD

Notes: Don't forget -entrance is through the door in back. Masks and liability waivers required.

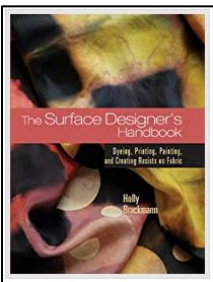
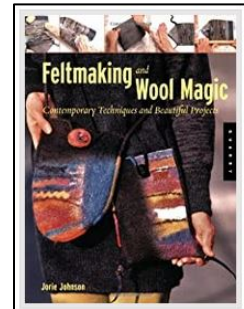
A Dip into the Archives

While we have been on hiatus from live meetings, library acquisitions have been limited so we've taken another dive into the archives for some book reviews of the past. Here are several "oldies but goodies".

[Our 2009] ... acquisitions include three books about wet and messy ways to create with textiles. The **Surface Designer's Handbook: Dyeing, Printing, Painting, and Creating Resists on Fabric** by Holly Brackman, Interweave Press, 2006; **simply felt: 20 easy and elegant designs in wool** by Margaret Docherty and Jayne Emerson, Interweave Press, 2004; and **Feltmaking and Wool Magic: Contemporary Techniques and Beautiful Projects** by Jorie Johnson, Quarry Books, 2006.



simply felt is a small, cheerful book of projects for beginning felters. The book is well illustrated with photographs and line drawings. **Feltmaking and Wool Magic** is a much larger and more ambitious work. In addition to projects, Johnson includes reference material on felting fibers and the history of felts. She shows how to make sample squares of different wools for record-keeping, and emphasizes the importance of avoiding injuries in the exertions of making felt happen.



The safety of the artist is a persistent theme in **The Surface Designer's Handbook**. The first chapter is about safe studio practice in general, and as each technique is introduced, its hazards and the methods for protecting the artist are spelled out. SDH is a large format book with a coil binding so the pages will lie flat. Despite the gorgeous illustrations, this is a very practical reference, packed with tables and summaries of techniques. In addition to dyeing and printing, there are also chapters on discharge, or un-dyeing, devore, and textile paints. There is an amazing amount of information in these 138 pages that will apply at all experience levels. *These reviews were written by Librarian Emeritus, Carla Gladstone.*

Editor's Note: All three book are still in our library, attesting to the strength of our curators' acumen not to mention staying power because **The Surface Designer's Handbook** is currently checked out!

Of Silk and Floss and Electrical Wire

Val Hildebrand

Here are just a couple of treasures from the talks at our last two guild meetings where the topics could not have been more different. One took us into the ancient realm of silk production while the other gave us a new slant on coiled basketry weaving done with embroidery floss and electrical wire. Amazingly, both are age-old techniques that harken back to older times but each managed to stay firmly rooted in the here and now.



Kim McKenna gave us a close up look at silk production of both mulberry and non-mulberry silks and the gorgeous fiber that is produced. The non-mulberry silks, in particular, have absolutely gorgeous natural colors that when spun and plied into yarn by her



practiced hands frankly take ones breath away. The unspun fiber is no less gorgeous. This was an amazing dive into the world of silk and how it manages to be both an old and a modern fiber.

Carol Eckert gave us a fascinating look into the world of coiling. Her works literally start with some electrical wire and involve a seeming endless amount of coiling with everyday ordinary embroidery floss.



The little black bird (left) is a striking example of her technique with a side story all its own. Part of a larger wall piece depicting arrows aimed at birds and animals (right), the bird was supposed to lie on the floor, stricken by an arrow. Viewers seemingly distraught to find it there kept trying to put it "back into the work."



What an example of the evocative power of art. To see the full wall piece, visit:

<https://caroleckert.com/artwork/4637000-Time-of-the-Ten-Suns.html>

If you missed either of these talks, you can view both online from the Members only area of our website.

More On-Line Fiber Opportunities

TextileArtist.org

Here is another installment of TextileArtist.org about fiber artist Marcellina Akpojotor and her work called African Life in Collage. Marcellina uses the waste fabrics from fashion houses in Lagos, Nigeria to produce her colorful collage pieces. At left, she is shown at work. At right a detail of one of her works. Below, a description of her work in her own words.



"My work consists primarily of collage and painting techniques. I am fortunate to be able to source the fabrics (and especially the Nigerian Ankara fabrics) from different tailors in my neighbourhood. These fabrics are cut-outs and leftovers from the clothes they have sown and would normally be burnt – or even thrown into the Lagos lagoon! The swatches of the fabrics are like the puzzle pieces that I use to create my stories."

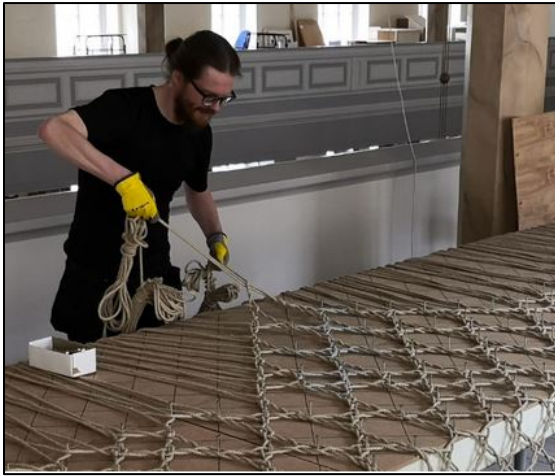


Marcellina Akpojotor: Dear Brother II (Detail),

For the complete story visit <https://www.textileartist.org/marcellina-akpojotor-african-life-in-collage/>

Piecowork

This online [magazine](#) available from Long Thread media recently featured an article on lace from **DFZ** also known as Doily Free Zone. You may have heard the expression "This is not your Grandma's ___ fill in the blank". Well, this organization/website embodies that sentiment for lace...but in **spades**.



DFZ is an international symposium and workshop program about handmade lace in art & design. They promote the unique qualities of contemporary lacemaking with live events and more recently online video tutorials.

They advertise workshops in all these techniques: Bobbin lace, Crochet, Tatting, Carrickmacross, Macramé, Ñandutí, Lace Knitting, Sprang, Oya, Laxis, Tulle Embroidery and Chainmaille. Oh my! So much lace...so little time.

OK, here's a workshop that really caught my eye: **XXL Lace with Tharmo Thorström**. Yep, it is exactly what it sounds like, a class on making Extra, Extra, Large Bobbin Lace. Almost, I am tempted. To see the details of his class, visit <https://www.mydoilyfreezone.net/product/27145/about>

So What Does MAFA Do for You?

You may have heard us talk about [MAFA](#). One of the benefits of being a member of Potomac Fiber Arts Guild is getting a membership in MAFA as well. MAFA (which stands for The Mid-Atlantic Fiber Association) is essentially an Association of Guilds. Some of the member guilds are large like PFAA and some have only a dozen or so members. But because lots of guilds belong to it this allows MAFA to put on a world class set of **multi-day Workshops** every other year at Millersville University in PA. And I do mean world class—they get the kind of artist a guild of 10-20 members could never hope to bring to their local group. And some that even we (with 300 plus members) can't lure out to our meetings. The size of MAFA means they can offer a reasonably priced set of workshops (37 in 2019) no one guild could ever manage. It represents the power of many people working together to promote exciting fiber education.

The MAFA Conference had to go virtual in 2021 but take a look at the [brochure](#) – 4 full days of virtual fiber doings, or check out one of the videos of previous MAFA conferences at [MAFAfiber.org](#).. And it is just a taste of what you can look forward to in two years, when it will be in person again. Yay!

In addition to workshops, MAFA offers **Grants** to guilds to pursue educational projects. **The Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers** was awarded a \$1400 grant for their idea **Gateway to Weaving**, in which the guild hatched a plan to attract new and younger members to weaving. Their idea was to buy six 15" rigid heddle looms and with volunteer teachers from the guild, offer workshops and walk-in-off-the street weaving sessions out in the community. With those looms they were able to offer 12 workshops over the year to a total of 98 participants, most of whom, had *"never woven before in life"*. Guild members donated fiber and supplies and fiber partners offered workshop space. They found that the small looms provided a great introduction to weaving in a portable way and even converted some larger loom owners to the format. The guild is even starting a Rigid Heddle Study Group because of the interest generated by the workshops.

MAFA also offers **Fellowships** that cover tuition to an in-person conference workshop for applicants who will use the knowledge gained to further educate their community in fiber techniques. Nancy Drummond, a member of Fredericksburg Spinner and Weavers Guild, received one in 2019 to attend the *3D's of Doubleweave* class taught by Ruby Leslie. She was able to increase her knowledge of this weave structure and also offer a class to her own guild members. You can read the report of her experience [here](#).

And last but not least, they offer **Scholarships** to students who enroll in the conference's beginning spinning and weaving classes to enable them to purchase supplies and equipment to support their newly acquired fiber skills. It's a great way to allow those new to a fiber medium to learn without incurring the not inconsiderable costs of getting into a possibly life-long spinning or weaving habit.

So the next time someone says what's MAFA? You'll be able to set them straight...straight to a marvelous and exciting fiber workshop experience. MAFA 2023—we can't wait.

The Fiber Frolicking Continues

For Whimsy's Sake
Val Hildebrand

I wanted to make some small items for kids for our off again/on again abridged Church Fiesta this autumn. I only had a few days to come up with something. Finger puppets seemed like a good idea but all I had was orange yarn and a strand or two of green crewel stuff. Then Whimsy took over and voila...these Pumpkin People came to life. It's about the silliest thing I have ever made but you know what? They make me smile.



A Basket First
Soozie Brendler

The Basketry study group has welcomed me into their group. Members of this group have been very generous with their materials and knowledge! With their help, I'm sharing this picture of my first completed basket, which I have gifted as a birthday present to a dear friend! This is a hand-made wine basket using flat & flat oval reeds and seagrass

Then There Were Socks
Elizabeth Cowley

I think I am not the only one to have enjoyed an attack of whimsy. A certain amount of it had to have come into play when Elizabeth came up with this idea to make some fancy socks. This ambitious twisty scroll pattern is improbable enough to think about flat but... in the round? And as a sock? Sheesh and doggone it, if she didn't go ahead and do two.

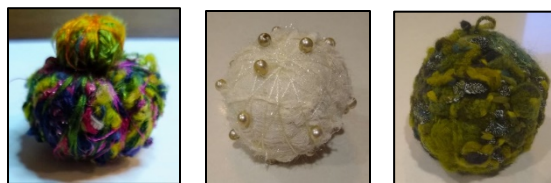


And What Was I Thinking
Val Hildebrand

After last newsletter's cautionary tale of a knitted/felted bag gone ridiculously awry, one would think I would exercise caution on taking on another bag challenge. Yeah, but this one is crochet—easier right? As it turns out, it is almost exactly as the pattern prescribed. And I only needed to do the second handle section twice. Yay! Now what am I gonna do with all these bags?



Fabulous and Scrappy
Diane Mularz



I have recently discovered the Facebook group, Fabulous Scrappy Ball so I've been having fun turning scrap fabric, yarn, crochet samples, thread, buttons and beads into scrappy balls. See some of my pieces above.

A Twining Experience

Judy Jonas

This twined rug (detail shown) was really a fun project and I'm planning to make another frame and do another one! I had to trash the frame we made because it wasn't strong or stable enough to bother keeping. We decided to hang this one rather than walk on it. I might have to give up quilting. Or...I guess I can do both!

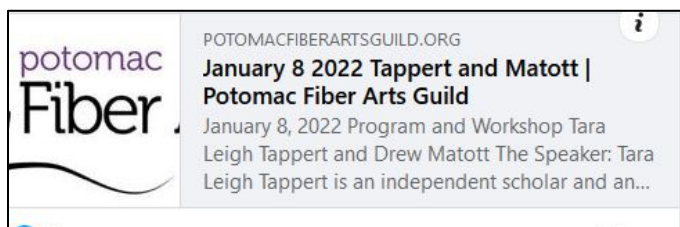
I have loads of fabric to use from 51 years of quilting and from the generous PFAG members who gave me their extras!



Visit Facebook

Diane Mularz

Since I found the wonderful Fabulous Scrappy Ball group on Facebook, I really recommend if you are a Facebook user be sure to visit the guild page where interesting fiber creations are highlighted as well as member work. <https://www.facebook.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, <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, the Outreach Committee Chair.

Hospitality

The Hospitality Committee eagerly looks forward to the day when we can offer some good old fashioned PFAG hospitality again. Until then we will see you on Zoom.

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 first month of the current issue. Send your fiber experiences, workshop impressions and more. Email the editor at newsletter@potomacfiberartsguild.org.

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery Membership

The Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria, VA. We invite new members from the guild to display their art. Please contact Marisela Rumberg at Marisela@mariselarumberg.com for information and an appointment to be juried.

Inclement Weather Policy for In-person Meetings

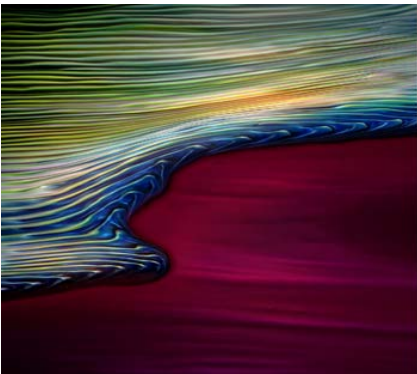
We hope we will be able to gather in-person again soon and looking ahead this is our bad weather policy.

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). (Please note this is not the Montgomery County Public Schools notice). If severe weather threatens, please visit the [CUPF Emergency Closing Information](#) website.

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.

Inspiration Corner

Val Hildebrand



This is a screen shot from a video made by German artist Roman De Giuli for a sequence of works in fluid art he is calling Terra Collage. It it looked to me like a piece of free form spontaneous knitting that is just flowing off invisible needles.

More whimsy? You betcha! You can see more of De Giuli's work here: <https://www.terracollage.com/>