



Newsletter

January – February, 2023

From the President

Stacy Cantrell

Hello everyone! With the new year approaching, I hope everyone feels renewed and has some fun ideas for the coming year's projects. It's so wonderful to be having guild meetings back in person! As we continue, we are still working out possible hybrid solutions to meetings. As we segue into the new year, we have been working on updating our study group documentation and had a wonderful round-table on future study groups and their formations. We also continue to look for new locations to hold our future workshops.

We are always looking for new volunteers for all sorts of tasks so please don't be shy about asking. Let 2023 be the year of volunteering! Volunteering can come in many ways...promoting the guild through new membership, helping work at guild events, helping board members, mentoring a new study group and more.

We have some wonderful presenters and workshops this year so don't forget to check availability as they fill up fast! I hope everyone has a Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing all of you at guild meetings and events!

Stacy

Upcoming Guild Meetings for 2022-23

Guild meetings are held in person and recorded for those members who are unable to attend.

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

Library opens at 9:30
Business meeting starts at 10:00
Program starts at 10:30

January 12, 2023

My Evolution – From Fiber to Business

Proprietor of Artistic Artifacts

Judy Vincentz Gula, owner of Artistic Artifacts and Batik Tambal, is a published fiber and mixed media artist who loves to share her knowledge and skills in textiles and mixed media art with others.

Embroidery

Heather McCaw Kerley is a mixed media and fiber artist living in the Washington, DC area. Originally an abstract painter, she found an artistic home in the medium of embroidery.

Upcoming Workshops

Free Basket Weaving Mini-Workshop – January 14, 2023

Karen Miller

Ever wanted to try your hand at basket weaving with reed? Well, come to our free mini-workshop following the January meeting and give it a try. The Basket Study Group will show you how to make coasters and ornaments for the MAFA Conference goody bags. All the MAFA member guilds contribute items to be given to conference attendees. Come help make ours -- and have some fun with your guildmates in the process.

We'll be using the "tension trivet" technique, which you can use in the future to make all sizes and trivets, using different sizes of weaving materials. Check out this You-Tube video to see how it's done: [Beverly Ashton Vickers video](#)



What to bring:

- small bowl or bucket, (quart-size is fine)
- kitchen or hand towel
- tape measure
- pair of scissors/kitchen shears that would cut a stalk of rosemary
- 4 clip-style clothespins or other small clips

If you don't have any of these—Don't worry, we'll have some to share.

Mini Workshop: Embroidered Patch/Watermelon or Peony – February 11, 2023

Heather McCaw Kerley

In this three-hour workshop, students will use basic stitches to create a "Rainbow Watermelon" embroidered patch, which we will then turn into a patch for clothing. We will discuss supplies including types of thread, and different needle sizes. Students will learn how to prepare fabric with a simple design, ready their hoop, and begin stitching. The class will cover three different stitches: basic stitch, backstitch, and satin stitch, but you will also learn to add other embellishments such as beads and French knots. We will close by carefully cutting the patch out and learning two techniques for attaching the patch, one with no-sew adhesive and the other using stitches.

Guild Member Fiber Events

McLean Textile Gallery – Kendra Biddick Exhibit

Kendra Biddick has a solo show of felted inner and outer landscapes from December 6 through January 12, 2023 at the McLean Textile Gallery. Looking for something artistic to do on New Year’s Day? Come to the New Year’s Day Artist Reception from noon to 3 PM where you can discuss the work with the artist. Regular hours for the Gallery are M, T, Th, and Fri from 11-4. The gallery is closed on Wednesdays. Outer landscapes are from her two-month walk across Spain. Inner landscapes reflect personal musings. Also appearing in the two connected galleries are works from members of the Manhattan Quilters Guild in celebration of the guild’s 40th anniversary.



Fiber Talks and Exhibits

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. In our 45-minute discussion we focus on their artwork and their creative journey. We allow 15 minutes at the end of our conversation for questions from the audience. Textiles & Tea will take 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 the HGA website (<https://weavespindye.org/textiles-and-tea/>) or Facebook.

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| January 3 | Chris Acton | Weaving |
| January 10 | Melvenea Hodges | Creates clothing and accessories using traditional techniques such as block printing, sewing, weaving, spinning, knitting, crocheting and embroidery. |
| January 17 | Máximo Laura | Maximo is a tapestry weaver, designer, consultant, and lecturer recognized as one of South America’s pre-eminent textile artists. |
| January 24 | Walter Turpening | Weaving seats for handmade chairs |
| January 31 | Omar Chávez Santiago | Weaving from Oaxaca, Mexico |

Fiber Conferences

Registration for MAFA 2023 Opens February 4

Karen Miller

The Mid-Atlantic Fiber Association (MAFA)'s conference will take place June 22 - 25, 2023 in Millersville, Pennsylvania. With dozens of classes in weaving, spinning, dyeing, felting, basketmaking, and other fiber arts, MAFA 2023 is sure to be a fun and inspiring experience. Shop the vendor marketplace, peruse the fashion, fiber art, and hat exhibits, take part in the towel exchange, enjoy yoga in the afternoon, and make new friends — there's a lot to look forward to!

The MAFA 2023 conference will be held at Millersville University, Millersville, PA. The campus is located between Harrisburg and Lancaster, in south-central Pennsylvania's historic Lancaster County.

Early registration for members opens February 4 at 9:00 a.m. Since Potomac Fiber Arts is a member of MAFA, all guild members get to register early and attend at the member-rate. Check out the workshop options at <https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2023/> and get ready to register. Attendees choose one workshop for the entire conference. Many workshops fill quickly, so it can be a good idea to have your second and third choice ready.

From the Librarian

Becky Dahlman

I'd like to thank Janet Bowen and Janet Lee, who have both offered to be backup librarians in case I am unable to make it to a meeting. They will enable all of you to still have the library available, even if I can't be there. Thanks, both of you!

If you have books checked out of the library, you will be seeing a new feature of our cataloging system in action before the January meeting - it will now send out an automated email 3 days before the meeting, to remind you of the books you have due.

We added a few new books to the library in December. One is a recent publication, ***Make, Sew, and Mend*** by Bernadette Banner. For those of you who aren't familiar with her, Bernadette Banner has a popular YouTube channel where she makes a lot of historical costumes using hand stitching. This book describes how to sew by hand, and includes lots of photos.

A few older books have also been donated and added to the shelves: ***Unique Handmade Books*** by Alisa Golden; ***The Nature of Basketry*** by Ed Rossbach; and ***The Crochet Stitch Bible*** by Betty Barnden.

Just a quick reminder of how the library works, for anyone who hasn't taken advantage of all of our great benefits - the library is open at each guild meeting, starting at 9:30 (or often earlier). You can also plan ahead by checking out the online library catalog at <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/potomacfiberarts>. This link can also be found in the members-only section of the guild website. Books can be checked out for a period of one month, and are due at the next guild meeting. We have over 1600 books on a variety of subjects, so please take advantage of this fantastic resource!

From Our Members – What We’ve Been Up To!

The Joy of Collaborative Creating

Norma Taber

What do you do when the June Guild sale lands 30 skeins of yarn in your stash? When it’s handspun by our very own Amy Kirshner, I immediately start crocheting warm woolly items for Wool-Aid. If my previous enthusiasms about Wool-Aid haven’t registered, please do check out their website (<http://www.wool-aid.org>) or the Ravelry group (<https://www.ravelry.com/groups/wool-aid>). Wool-Aid items are sent for distribution to displaced children where open fires are used for heating and cooking (hence the need for all wool, which self-extinguishes).

Given that the skeins were each unique - different fiber clubs, different colorways, different sheep breeds, even different yarn weights - I was surprised to observe that multiple skeins fit together perfectly! In fact, four skeins of Aran weight yarn were begging to be a vest, so I dived right in. Each skein flowed effortlessly into the next until I was *almost* done - and came up a bit too short.

But wait! Holding a DK weight yarn double is about equivalent to Aran weight. What might work? Sure enough, a skein of Amy’s DK handspun worked perfectly to anchor the bottom of the vest, a symphony of spring flowers above a bed of redwood chips!

With a 36” chest, this vest will bless an older child with its thick, warm, colorful comfort. The pattern is a crocheted version of the knit “Milo” vest, which (of course) I modified heavily to use my favorite stitch throughout. In the photos, the modeled one shows the front and the other shows the back.

May the yarn you use and the items you create bring you the same deep joy I experienced from this project!



One “Ah Yes” Moment

Val Hildebrand

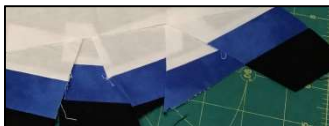
We quilt makers have been cutting up fabric and sewing it back together again from time out of mind. That’s what piecing is after all. And yet there always seems to be one more surprising way in which the fabric can be “put back together”. In Joe Cunningham’s *Improv Elements* mini workshop there was one such moment for me.

It wasn’t the “piano keys piece” although that turned out pretty neat and it wasn’t the “sew curvy curves to curves” doodad although that was also cool. And it wasn’t even the “two fabric switcheroo” which was pretty much a variation on a familiar theme. No. It was the “the wacky hack” that jangled my imagination. It comes from sewing two strips together then cutting them apart at whacky angles, jumbling the pieces up and sewing the chunks back together, and then sewing the result on to another straight strip of one of the colors. Here’s a small example with some scraps I had left over from my project.

First two sets of whacky cuts



Then jumble and sew and add the solid strip.



It’s not a perfect example. It needs a little more work.

But, that jagged blue line gives the quilt an element that’s both interesting and mysterious.

The technique is brilliant and it’s the way all those wonderful spikey, jagged seemingly impossible strips of fabric get inserted into Joe Cunningham’s quilts. It’s there in his deceptively simple gold and gray quilt called **Island in Two Paths**. In this detail piece, the jagged left hand/top edge of the large island is whacky hacked to marvelous effect. Many of his other quilts make use of this technique to a greater degree. See his [website](#).



My own example is pretty tame. All the other techniques are there and it’s easy to see how they are done. But the whacky hack? That white piece with the blue jutting into it that looks a bit like a Klingon Bat’leth, it leaves you wondering. How do you do that?

I need to experiment with the technique and use wider strips and sharper cuts... but ah, yes. I am excited about the possibilities.

Full disclosure—all the goofy technique terms are mine. Those are not Joe’s names for them.

Rug Twining

Judy Jonas



This is a picture of my latest project - rug twining - a craft I learned when I visited Capitol Reef National Park, quite a few years ago. It's the third rug I've made with this craft; my husband and I built the 4' x 6' frame according to the directions they provided at that time.

It's a fun craft and easy to do - especially since I'm a quilter with 50+ years of fabric to use up! I'd be happy to explain the craft to anyone who might be curious or interested. It's not weaving, though it looks like it is; it really is a kind of braiding.

Artist Residency – Blonduos, Iceland

Stacy Cantrell

I did an artist residency in Blonduos, Iceland in August 2022. The residency was with the Icelandic Textile Center. <https://www.textilmidstod.is/en>. Blonduos is a very small town in northern Iceland (population around 1000). I lived there for a month working on a special prototype of a Medusa sculpture. I haven't completed it just yet as I am overhauling my home studio.

I highly recommend the residency to anyone in the guild! They also have an amazing textile museum there as well. The residency is open to all types of fiber related mediums. <https://www.textilmidstod.is/en/textile-residency/about-the-residency>

I also got to put my mark on a special textile they are creating. <https://www.textilmidstod.is/en/about-us/kvennaskolinn/vatnsdaela-a-reflit>. It will rival the Bayeux tapestry in France when complete!

I had an amazing time! I met other fiber artists from around the world and spent time in one of the most beautiful places on earth for inspiration. The people are friendly and there is yarn to be had everywhere!

For more information on the artist residency, feel free to read my blog <https://polymathcrafts.com/blog/>



Rio Grande Weaving at Tierra Wools

Joanne Seyl



For my 60th birthday this past year I decided to treat myself to a beginner Rio Grande style weaving class at Tierra Wools in Chama, NM. After a weaver friend of mine told me about a class she took there, I decided to jump in feet first.

Rio Grande weavings originate from Spanish textile traditions and are largely found in the Southwest in New Mexico and Colorado. As a weaver of the Navajo technique, it seemed like a natural transition since the advanced designs slightly resemble Navajo designs. Because you weave only with your hands, Navajo weavings take a long time to complete. So how was I going to be able to finish any kind of weaving in a 5 day class? And imagine my intimidation going from weaving on an upright loom with only my hands to weaving on a huge “walking loom”. It’s called a walking loom because the weaver stands on the peddles that work the shed and as you operate the loom it looks a bit like you are walking – ever so slowly. The thought crossed my mind immediately that if I wasn’t careful, I would fall off the treadles. I did, and I stopped counting how many times!

Once we tied up the warp on day one and picked our colors and came up with a design, we just started weaving. It was really fun using a boat shuttle and I quickly realized that getting the 3’ x 5’ rug done in the remaining 4 days was very achievable. And it was nice to be able to use some of my Navajo techniques to splice the wool during the weaving process. How satisfying to complete a weaving of that size in such a short time!

The colors for my weaving were inspired by the Chilkat child size ceremonial robe I am currently weaving. The rug is all wool and the light blue, light yellow, and natural (white) are churro yarns made from the fleece of the churro sheep raised at the Tierra Wools farm/ranch. Churro wool is also used for Navajo weaving – the history of which is fascinating if you are interested.

Who knows, maybe someday I’ll have the space in a house to own one of these looms. Until then, I think I’ll just keep practicing on my balance!



Chesapeake Fibershed Sustainable Cloth Challenge

Marian Bruno

On October 23rd, Chesapeake Fibershed celebrated the culmination of its first *Sustainable Cloth: Farm to Home and Closet Challenge*. The year-long challenge was to make textiles using local natural fibers or upcycled materials. The challenge parameters provided opportunities for the community to come together to create, explore issues of sustainability, and support each other in embracing what we have available on a local level. Challenge participants could attend monthly meet-ups to share the progress of their projects, learn from each other, and gain information about sheep breeds, buying fleeces, planting dye gardens, and even growing silkworms.

For those of you who aren't familiar, the fibershed movement promotes the use of local fiber, dyes and labor to develop regional and soil regenerating fiber systems on behalf of independent working producers. The movement embraces a circular clothing cycle that keeps clothing out of our landfills and goes a step further to see how we can have a positive impact at every phase of textile production. Chesapeake Fibershed is an affiliate of Fibershed.org, an organization based out of northern California with over 54 affiliates worldwide, all working to support local textile economies.

The event was held at Shepherd's Hey Farm in Dickerson, Maryland, among rolling hills and vibrant autumn colors. The farm was the perfect backdrop for a day that included a potluck lunch, a gallery show of the beautiful work, and a fibershed producers' marketplace where attendees could find local farm yarns and fiber goods.

The entries this year varied widely in both size and fiber content. From a pear-shaped face cloth made from homegrown cotton, processed, hand spun, and knitted by Kathy Reed to a lavish woven cape made by a team of artisans from the Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore that began as three raw fleeces from Hollow Hill Farm in Maryland. The entries also represented many different fiber arts including felting, weaving, knitting, sewing, dyeing, and spinning. It was truly a celebration of what can be made from our local fiber. There will be a new Sustainable Cloth Challenge in 2023 so start thinking now about what you can make with local fiber! Visit chesapeakefibershed.com to discover information about the new challenge as well as local dyes, local fiber events, and our membership programs.



SAQA Primal Forces: Wind Exhibition

Clover Kemp

The following photo details my fiber piece that was recently accepted as 1 of 37 into the juried SAQA Primal Forces: Wind Exhibition.

Title: WIND @ 32.04 degrees South 112.9 degrees West on July 7, 2022 @1307

Height: 65.00 (inches)

Width: 50.00 (inches)

Artist's Statement: Wind is the movement of air. I was fascinated with the animated map of global weather conditions at earth.nullschool.net website, illustrating wind is a powerful energy source in our world. I used a screenshot at a particular place and time as inspiration for my art piece. It incorporates commercial fabrics, variegated thread, machine pieced & quilted.



Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery



Located at the Torpedo Factory
105 N Union Street
Studio 29
Alexandria, VA, 22314
703-548-0935

The [Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery](#) is open seven days a week from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The gallery exhibits all forms of fiber work, including weaving, knitting, crocheting, sewing, surface design, felting and more, in 11 juried shows each year. Our textile artists use materials such as yarn, fabric, paper, thread, wire, metal, and glass to create unique and original jewelry, wall hangings, clothing, sculpture, accessories, and many other inventive works of art.

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

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

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 PFLAG website and is accessible via the link in the email sent to 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.

Inclement Weather Policy for In-person Meetings

In the event of a severe weather emergency affecting an in-person PFLAG 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, PFLAG 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.

Officers and Board Members

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|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| President | Stacy Cantrell |
| Vice President | Angela Ruslander |
| Secretary | Janet Lee |
| Treasurer | Ruth Quah |
| Membership | Dolly Perkins |
| Librarian | Becky Dahlman |
| Newsletter Editor | Joanne Seyl |
| Outreach Chair | Julie Haifley |
| Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery | Clara Graves |
| Previous President | Gail Hamill |

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| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Equipment | Ruth Quah |
| Hospitality | Edna Graham |
| Librarian | Becky Dahlman |
| Membership | Dolly Perkins |
| Newsletter | Joanne Seyl |
| Outreach | Julie Haifley |
| Programs/Workshops | Teresa Zotikos, Angela Ruslander |
| Webmaster/Registrar | Laritza Rodriguez |
| Assistant Registrar | Floris Flam |
| Study Groups | Anita Sama |
| Handbook | Janet Stollnitz |
| Website Content | Kristine Kingery |

Organization Representatives

Artisans United (AU)

Creative Crafts Council (CCC)

Handweavers Guild of America (HGA)

Mid-Atlantic Fiber Association (MAFA)

Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQQA)

Gail Robin

Dominie Nash

Janet Stollnitz

Karen Miller