

## From the President

### Stacy Cantrell

Hello everyone and happy Autumn! With the chill in the air and the leaves changing colors, what would make it complete? Taking a class of course! Don't forget to sign up for a workshop. We have some amazing artists in our line-up.

Some new updates: We have a new study group chair who is also a new member, so please welcome Jenna Fixel. You can look forward to some new study group presentations again soon.

We are also gearing up to boost our social media presence spearheaded by Naan Pocen who will be posting regularly with guild tidbits, promoting artists and more. Let us know if you'd like to join in.

Also, we are really looking forward to getting back to the library.....don't miss out on Becky's article on how that is going. The Potluck/Sale is going to be in June, but we are already planning ahead to make it our first, glorious, in person event! If you'd like to help out in any way, please reach out.

Looking forward to seeing all your new projects, new members, and your smiling faces at the next guild meeting.

## Workshops for 2021-2022

We have a rich slate of workshops for guild year 2021-2022. Here are highlights for the workshops this guild year. The Nov workshop registrations are closed, but when registration for winter opens, 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 to workshop takers:

In the near future, 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.

### Nov 13, 2021 -- 1:00-4:00 PM (3 hours on Zoom) *Spinning Eri, Muga and Tussah Silks with Kim McKenna*

Kim will share her tips and tricks for spinning three unique non-mulberry silk fibres: Muga, Eri and Tussah. Muga silk has a beautiful golden hue that becomes more gold with age. Eri silk comes from a fully domesticated non-mulberry silkworm. Eri fibre has a soft, cashmere-like hand and a pearlescent lustre that seems to glow from within. Depending upon its host food plant, the third silk, Tussah ranges in color from pale golden honey colors to darker, richer browns. Students can expect to learn more about the silkworms whose silk we will be spinning; how to set up their wheel for spinning silk; adjustments needed to their spinning technique to spin silk; and the instructor's plying and yarn finishing methods for silk.

## Guild Meetings 2021-22

### 10 am - Meeting & Program on Zoom

**Nov 13, 2021--Kim McKenna**  
*Mulberry and Non-Mulberry Silks*

**Dec 11, 2021--Carol Eckert**  
*Evolutions*

**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*

**Nov 14, 2021-- 10:00-5:00 PM** (6 hours on Zoom) **Honing Your Backward Worsted Draft with Kim McKenna**

In this one-day workshop Kim will help participants improve their spinning using a backward worsted draft twist. They will learn how the same draft twist can be used to create both firmer handwearing handspun and lighter airy handspun yarns. In this workshop she also teaches her method for blending using handcards and/or blending board to create the smoothest possible wool/silk blends.

**Registration for the following workshops will open to members on Nov 20, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.**

**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.

**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

**Officers and Board Members**

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Treasurer	Ruth Quah
Membership	Dolly Perkins
Librarian	Becky Dahlman
Newsletter Editor	Val Hildebrand
Outreach Chair	Julie Haifley
Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery	Clara Graves

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Gail Hamill

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Asst. Registrar	Floris Flam
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Handbook	Janet Stollnitz
Website Content	Kristine Kingery

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Handweavers Guild of America (HGA)
Janet Stollnitz
Mid-Atlantic Fiber Association (MAFA)
Karen Miller
Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA)
Linda Guild

**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.

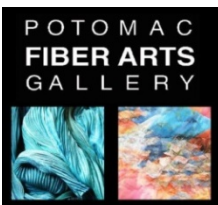
**Supply list:** Print the [supply list](#) from the website.

## Fiber Events

October 2021 kicks off the first annual textile challenge entitled *Sustainable Cloth: Farm to Home and Closet*, sponsored by the **Chesapeake Fibershed**. This challenge facilitates makers to complete a wearable or home textile from fiber and dyestuff grown or upcycled within our fibershed. Resource and informational support will be made available through meetings and online links. You could make a hat or complete outfit, a table runner or a rug. You can make one object or you can make many. You can make by yourself or as part of a team. At the end of the challenge in September 2022, your products will be documented and memorialized in an electronic book. For more info and registration visit:



<https://chesapeakefibershed.com/programs/sustainable-cloth-farm-to-home-and-closet/>



The **Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery** in the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Old Town Alexandria will open its holiday show, "*Holiday Sparkle*", featuring a multitude of items to brighten the holiday season on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Since most items are one-of-a-kind, shop early for the best selection. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday 10:30 to 5:30.

New this year is **The Torpedo Factory's Art Fest** on Sunday, November 14. Art Fest ticket holders will receive a 10% discount on Gallery purchases only on the 14th. Information about the Art Fest is available at [www.facebook.com/events/857996594912909/?ref=newsfeed](https://www.facebook.com/events/857996594912909/?ref=newsfeed)

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](mailto:membership@potomacfiberartsgallery.com)



**The Handweavers Guild of America's** biennial conference will take place July 14 to 21, 2022 in Knoxville, Tennessee. The conference registration information is available on the HGA website, [weavespindye.org](http://weavespindye.org), and in the Fall 2021 issue of *Shuttle Spindle and Dyepot*. If you would like a hard copy of the information, please contact me at [janet@stollnitz.net](mailto:janet@stollnitz.net). The conference includes tours, lectures, workshops, marketplace, panel discussions, fashion show and more. Register early as some events fill up quickly.

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

# Goodie Bag Giveaway

Janet Stollnitz



As a Guild Affiliate member of the Handweavers Guild of America, we received a tote bag and assorted swag to share with Guild members. The bag is approximately 19" wide by 14" tall plus straps that are long enough to fit over your shoulder and the main compartment has a zipper closure. Since the Guild isn't meeting in person, we will have a drawing for the bag and its contents at the Guild meeting on Saturday morning, November 13<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to enter the



drawing for the bag and its contents, please send a message to [mail@stollnitz.net](mailto:mail@stollnitz.net) with the subject line of HGA Swag no later than Friday, November 12. Be sure to include your name—no aliases please.

## From the Librarian

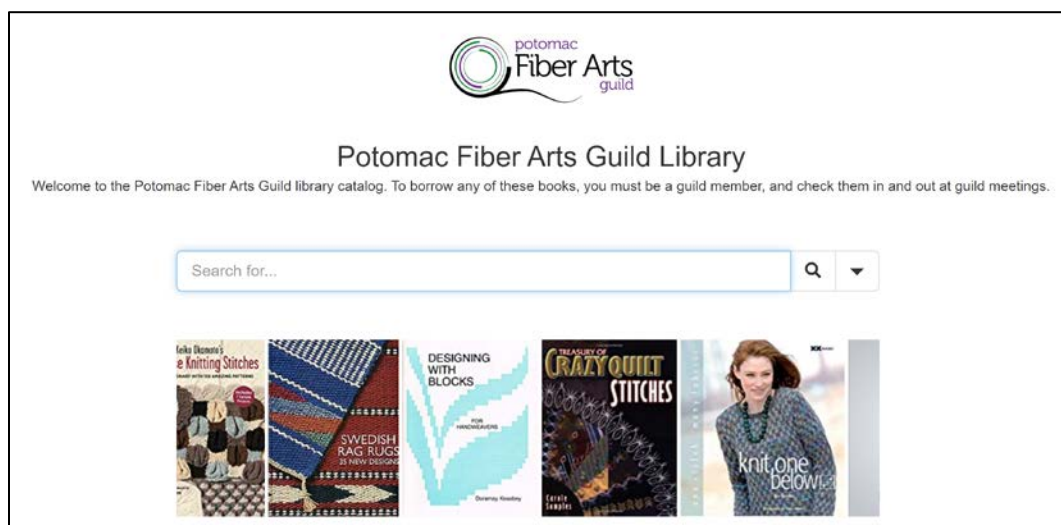
Becky Dahlman

Happy November, everyone! I'm very happy to announce that the library will be open again for browsing, starting this month.

The library will be open from 1:30-3:30 on the afternoon of the guild meeting – for November, that will be the 13<sup>th</sup>. You will need to wear a mask, and to sign a waiver at the door releasing the church from liability. We hope lots of you will take advantage of this opportunity to return books you have had checked out and find new books to interest you.

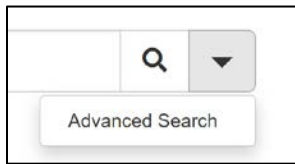
In the meantime, you might like to check out our catalog online, to see the wide variety of books we have available. It can be found at <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/potomacfiberarts>. I was recently reminded that people might not know how to use the catalog, so here's a quick introduction.

When you first go to the catalog, you will first see a simple search page, like this:

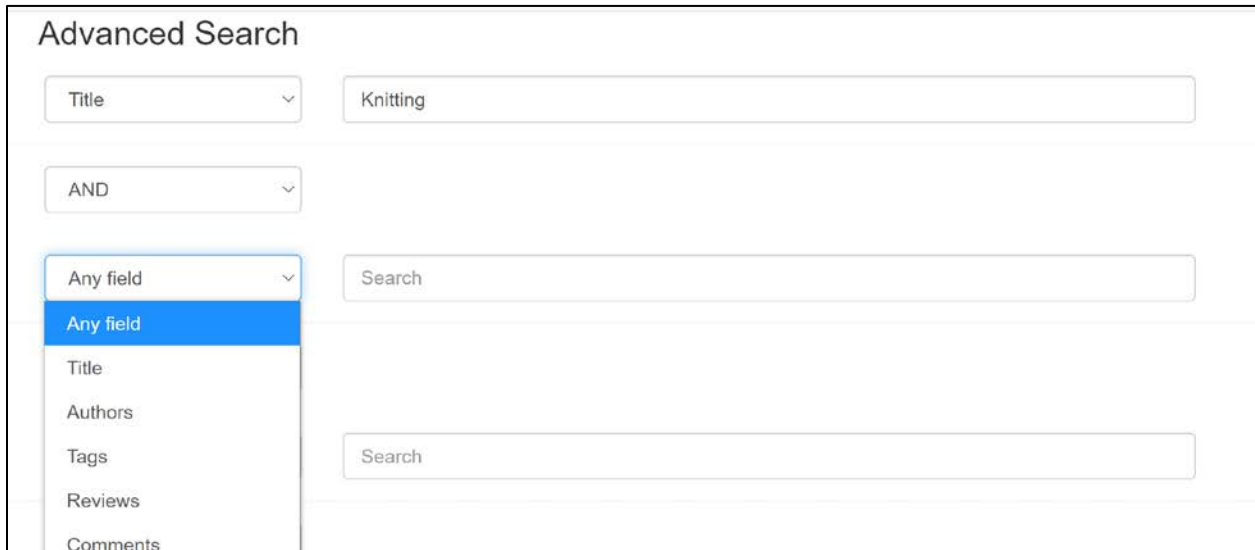


You can type a book title, an author name, or a subject into the search field, and press Enter. You can also click on one of the book covers that scroll along below the search field to go directly to its information.

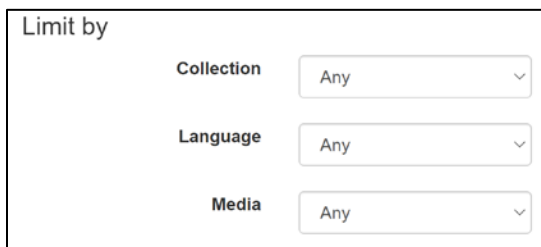
If you'd like to do more specific searching, click on the little downward-facing triangle to the right of the magnifying glass, then click on Advanced Search:



This will bring up the Advanced Search pane, which will allow you to search for things more specifically, by identifying which field a search term might appear in, and possibly searching for more than one criterion at the same time. Just fill in what you want to look for, then click the "Search" button at the bottom of the page.



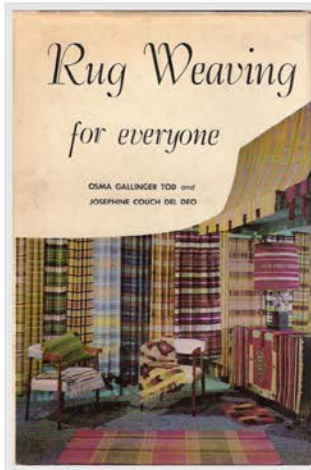
Another handy feature of the Advanced Search is the ability to look through a particular subject area in the catalog. Just as we have sections marked on the shelves for Weaving, Knitting and Crocheting, Dyeing, and so forth, there are also "Collections" in the catalog for those same areas. At the bottom of the Advanced Search screen, there's a section for "Limit By", which will allow you to choose a collection:



If you leave all the other fields on the page blank, and just pick a collection from the list, you will get a list of all of the titles in that collection.

After you click the Search button, you will see a list of books in the catalog which match your search terms. Click on one of them to get details, and you'll see another interesting option – the catalog will suggest a list of similar titles you might also like.

After clicking on the title **Rug Weaving for Everyone** a "Similar in this library" listing was displayed as shown in the image on the next page.



## Rug Weaving for Everyone

by [Osma Gallinger Tod](#)

Book, ?

Tags	<a href="#">Rug Weaving</a>
Collection	<a href="#">Rugs</a>
Publication	Publisher Unknown
Subjects	<a href="#">Rugs</a>



Similar in this library	<a href="#">Techniques of Rug Weaving</a> by <a href="#">Peter Collingwood</a>
	<a href="#">Shuttle-Craft Book of American Hand-Weaving</a> by <a href="#">Mary Meigs Atwater</a>
	<a href="#">Rug Weaver's Source Book</a> by <a href="#">Linda Ligon</a>
	<a href="#">Rag Rug Handbook</a> by <a href="#">J. Meany</a>
	<a href="#">Designing and Drafting for Handweavers</a> by <a href="#">Berta Frey</a>

I hope some of these tips will help you discover the fascinating collection of books available to borrow from our library. I hope to see many of you on at the library soon!

## Members in the News

[Kristina Penhoet's](#) work will be featured at [The Foundry Gallery](#), 2118 8th Street NW, Washington, DC, in an exhibit called *Of Memory*.

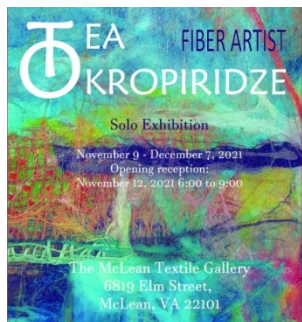
The exhibit runs from November 5 to 28, 2021. A detail of her work, "Conversation in Solitude" is part of the exhibit. The Opening Reception is November 5th, 7:00-9:00 pm.



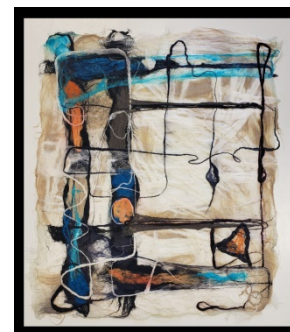
[Debra Lee](#) has two hand-embroidered art pieces inspired by the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes during the coronavirus pandemic in the "*Line Upon Line*" exhibition at the [Falls Church Arts Gallery](#), 700-B W. Broad St., (Rte. 7), Falls Church, Va., from November 6 through December 12. The two artworks are titled, "Stop Hate" and "We Are Individuals, Not a Stereotype."



Tea Okropiridze's tapestry, "Dream Flower", is one of 53 finalists selected for the \$5,000 **Kate Derum Award for Small Tapestries** at the **Australian Tapestry Workshop**, Victoria, Australia. The entries represent artists from 15 countries and winners will be selected by an eminent panel of fiber experts.. An exhibition of the finalists will take place at the ATW from November 9 – December 24 2021.



Tea also has a solo exhibit presenting her **Silk Fusion** artworks at the **McLean Textile Gallery**, 6819 Elm Street, McLean, Virginia 22101. The exhibition runs from November 9 to December 7, 2021. There is an Opening Reception: Friday, November 12, 2021 6:00 to 9:00. Her work, "Wanderer", was selected for the Maryland Federation of Arts Corporate Connections 2021 online exhibit. She was one of 52 artists chosen for the exhibit. If you are quick you might still be able to catch it online at



<https://mdfedart.com/mfaentry/artistgallery.php?myid=6FKGZPA9&evtid=236>

## Browsing the Bookshelves-October 2021

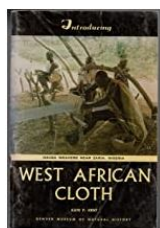
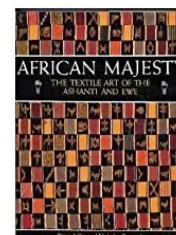
Carla Gladstone

As your former librarian, I plan to contribute an occasional article to this newsletter where I "browse the bookshelves" in our library. I can do this despite covid restrictions because a few of our library books are duplicated on my own shelves. My theme for this issue is books on West African strip weaving, also known as Kente cloth.

- *African Majesty: The Textile Art of the Ashanti and Ewe*, by Peter Adler
- *Introducing West African Cloth*, by Kate Peck Kent
- *World Textiles: A Visual Guide to Traditional Techniques*, by John Gillow and Bryan Sentance

Most people have an idea of what Kente cloth looks like: contrasting colors with a chequerboard appearance and geometric designs. It is less well known that the designs on the original cloth are not printed, but woven into the body of the cloth. The characteristic appearance of the cloth results from a weaving technique traditional in West Africa. The weavers create cloth in narrow strips usually no more than four to six inches (10 to 15 centimeters) wide. They skillfully organize the weaving so that the strips can be sewn together for an overall effect.

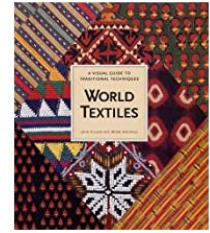
The most renowned strip weavers are the Ashanti and Ewe. ***African Majesty*** is a large-format, lavishly-illustrated book devoted to these two cultures. The emphasis in this book is on historical background and local customs, with only a brief appendix devoted to the technical details. I thought the text was somewhat erratic, and wondered how reliable it might be. When they mention "the present day", we must remember that the book was published in 1992, and things are probably different now. The joy of this book is in the color illustrations, including pages from an Ashanti weaver's sample book.



***Introducing West African Cloth*** is a modest pamphlet-sized book focusing on technique. [Warning: weaving terminology ahead] A very long warp is attached to a "drag stone" to produce tension. The weaver does not use a reed, but has a pair of heddles for set up for plain weave. Multi-colored warps give vertical stripes, but the weaver can also produce horizontal stripes with a weft-faced technique. The weavers use both supplemental floating pattern warps (not threaded through the heddles) and supplemental brocade wefts to create patterns. The book was published in 1971, before color printing was cheap, so the illustrations other than the cover are

monochrome. The book's publication date means it is even less likely to describe current practice than *African Majesty*, but as a weaver, I found it very satisfying. It also has a short section on adrinka stamped-cloth.

*World Textiles* fulfills its title by exploring textiles from everywhere. It is divided into eight sections devoted to different dimensions of the textile world, and contains an amazing amount of information. The color illustrations are well-chosen and supplemented with line-drawings to show techniques and structures. A two-page spread on "Stripweave" contains an excellent line-drawing showing how the weaver creates horizontal stripes. A photo in the two-page spread on "Indigo" shows a beautiful blue-and-white stripweave cloth from Ghana.



The library contains other titles on African textiles. I encourage you to explore them.

## Flowers that Heal

### Val Hildebrand

At the October meeting, Emily Paluska shared how her healing journey, using crepe paper to make beautiful flowers, led her to a new career as a paper artist. As a self-help strategy, she made a pledge to herself, to make one flower a day for 365 days. It helped her get through depression and now she is helping others learn this fascinating art. Along the way she has found joy in helping others realize that they too have the ability to create a beautiful object. Below is a sampling of the flowers she has made during her relatively short career.



## On-Line Fiber Opportunities Continue

### More Textiles & Tea

HGA is continuing its [Textiles & Tea programs](#). Every Tuesday at 4 PM (EST) HGA hosts a conversation on Zoom with some of the most respected fiber artists in the field today. The first 45-minute discussion focuses on their artwork and their creative journey with 15 minutes at the end of the conversation for questions from the audience.

One of their recent guest artists was Loren Batt who has had many art careers (one of which was in painting) but who now turns "creatures" she paints on canvas into 3 dimensional stitched and stuffed artworks such as *Family Road Trip* shown here. I found her works quite fanciful and fun to look at. To learn more, visit her [website](#).



### Little Tapestries

[A field guide to needlework](#), a blog by Sarah Swett is always a neat place to visit when you want a little inspiration. Sara is a practitioner of the fringeless four selvage tapestry style. But, you never know what you might find at her blog, one day it is spinning coffee filters to make paper yarn, other time it is making yarn from milkweed and still another there is a selection of four-letter single syllable small tapestries meticulously done that fills you with awe.





## TextileArtist.org

This week's installment of TextileArtist.org included the portrait work of stitch artist [Andrea Cryer](#). The article featured two portraits of her mother-in-law: one age 18, the other age 88. The portraits, hung side by side, give truth to the adage that *"It's one thing to make a picture of what a person looks like, and it's another thing to make a portrait of who they are."* (Paul Caponigro, photographer).



Andrea managed to capture both the spirit and the essence of her subject through her use of exquisite stitching techniques. This detail of the young Kath's lips gives you a mere



glimpse of her extraordinary skill with thread. The portraits are large: each one 30" by 50". It must be striking to see them positioned together on the wall: the beginning of life and the end of life, larger than life but a fitting testament of a life well lived.

## Our Fall Fiber Frolics

### Learning New Techniques

#### Laura Davidson

Jane Dunnewold discovered a fast (4 minutes vs. 2 hours!) eco-printing method with a heat press not so long ago. She just published a new book on it. I bought a heat press and took one of her 1st virtual workshops this summer after experimenting with it for a year on my 30 year old Elna Ironing Press. These are some of my results on top of the press. And yes, I can print all winter long by rehydrating dried leaves!



### Pattern Altering Perils

#### Val Hildebrand



It seemed like a good idea at the time—use up some yarn from the stash. So I purchased a pattern to knit and then felt a shoulder bag to use up some lovely thick wool skeins leftover from making a jacket. But golly gee whiz, about halfway through, I realized I did not have enough yarn to complete the bag as designed. So I thought I could re-interpret the directions here and there. Um...you know ...just a tad.

Instead of a gently rising teardrop shaped shoulder bag (that was really much larger than I had realized) I ended up with this : a bowling ball bag. Truly it IS large enough to have a bowling ball inside. It is crazy and silly and well, I just love it. That other elegant teardrop shaped bag is but a fleeting memory. But, next time I plan to read the pattern instructions all the way through first.

## 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](mailto:membership@potomacfiberartsguild.org)

**You can access the Membership Directory and Handbook online on our website.**

## *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](mailto: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](mailto: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 PFLAG 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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 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.

## *Inspiration Corner*

### *Val Hildebrand*



This aerial photo by Yoel Robert Assiag was a complete surprise. I had no idea what it was but it looked like an interesting modern stitching project. It reminded me of flowers. Flowers made using the bullion stitch in an overly enthusiastic way. Imagine my surprise when it turned out to be a flock of sheep spreading itself out somewhat uniformly around a series of feeding troughs in Australia. Wow... fiber really comes full circle.