



Newsletter

September – October, 2023

From the President

Stacy Cantrell

Hello wonderful guild members! Guild season is upon us, and our first meeting of the autumn season is September 9th. It will be an exciting meeting; the weather should be beautiful and so will the presentations. I'm really looking forward to seeing a **packed house** to support our visiting artists and members study group presentations.

Don't forget about our growing social media presence. The committee is hard at work and standing by to post your work to our social media platforms. This is an awesome resource for you. It is free advertisement to highlight members' work, and for potential new members to find out about us. Check out the "An Update from the Social Media Committee" section of the newsletter for additional information.

This season, I'm going to focus on the importance of volunteering! As Uncle Sam says, "We need you!". Volunteering is an excellent way to meet other members, get firsthand information on upcoming artists, and even help choose and communicate with potential artists. The guild doesn't run without you. We need all levels of volunteers, from a few hours per year, to monthly tasks, and even board members. Even if you are a brand-new guild member, we'd love to have you volunteer in all capacities. It's also a way to bring new ideas to our guild. I'm always looking for new ideas, new members, and new ways of expanding the guilds mission.

Let's make this season the biggest and best yet!

Stacy

Upcoming Guild Meetings for 2023-24

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

September 9, 2023

Denise Kovnat - Weaving

A weaver since 1998, Denise Kovnat has taught virtually and at conferences and guilds across the United States, Canada, and Australia. She focuses on Echo threadings, collapse techniques, painted warps, and deflected double weave and exhibits her work at national and international conferences. Her award-winning garments have been juried into HGA Convergence fashion shows since 2008. She is most proud of being part of the founding team for the Weaving and Fiber Arts Center, which opened in Rochester, NY, in 2002. To find out more, visit her blog at <https://www.denisekovnat.com/>.

Guild Meeting/Program: The Power of Craft: A Weaver's Perspective

There is something in every human soul which seeks to create a thing of beauty, given any sort of opportunity and materials to do so. Throughout all the ages people have pursued their own ideas of beauty, building, shaping, weaving, painting, and decorating. They have carried on that pursuit through every medium that ever came to hand: wood, stone, feathers, bone, ivory, cloth, jewels, metals, glass, clay, shell, leather, pigment... and yarn," writes Barbara G. Walker in her 1968 masterpiece, *A Treasury of Knitting Patterns*. This lecture, accompanied by images of weaving and crafts throughout history, looks at the pursuit of handiwork, from ancient to modern times, and why it continues to enrich our lives — from a weaver's perspective, of course!

October 14, 2023

Deborah Fell – Art Quilter

Deborah Fell is a full-time studio artist committed to the quilt medium. She is a professional member of the Studio Art Quilt Associates and a member of the Art Quilt Network. Deborah's art focuses on abstract, organic shapes while using surface treatments such as dyeing, painting, photography, and reclaimed materials. Deborah has been a professional educator for over 30 years. In addition to teaching at-risk high school students in a public high school setting, Deborah has taught art workshops at national symposiums such as Quilt Surface Design Symposium, Quilting by the Lake and Art Quilt Tahoe. In 2012 Deborah started teaching art quilt courses at the University of Illinois through the OLLI program. Deborah earned a Master's degree from Northern Illinois University and did graduate work at University of Illinois, University of New Hampshire and had a fellowship at Northwestern University.

Deborah was an Artist-in Residence at the Mendocino Arts Center in 2011, at the University of Illinois (Champaign) in 2013, at the Nantucket School of Design and the Arts in 2016, and at the Vermont Studio Center in 2017. Her work was on the front cover of *Art Quilting Studio's* Winter 2012 issue and was the featured artist for the January 2017 *Patchwork Professional* in Germany, which featured an architectural series focusing on German architectural elements. Deborah's work was exhibited in South Africa in 2014, Holland in 2015, and in France and Cape Town in 2017. Her art quilt in *Visions 2018* won the Quilts Japan Prize, and she taught in Tokyo in 2019 and Australia in 2023. Deborah won a Juror's

Choice Award at Quilt National 2021. Her quilt, Lines: People Waiting, won the Award of Excellence at Quilt National 2023.

In 2010 Deborah was asked to assist the host of CBS's television show, Extreme Home Makeover, by creating the art piece for the master bedroom of the new house built in the east central Illinois area.

Guild Meeting/Program: Gee's Bend Quilts

This is an in-depth journey into the significance of Gee's Bend quilts and their place in the art quilt world.

Upcoming Workshops

Mini Workshop: Dorset Buttons: A Heritage Craft – September 9, 2023

Denise Kovnat



Learn to make colorful, whimsical buttons – for jewelry, surface decoration or fasteners for your handmade garments – using only curtain rings, a tapestry needle, yarn, and perhaps beads. Based on 19th-century patterns from Dorset, England, these buttons are easy to create and customize to match your own fiber creations. To make your own buttons for a current weaving, felting, or knitting project, bring along your project and yarns. No prior experience needed.

Extended Workshop: Echo and Jin: Playing with Color Chords – September 10, 11 and 12, 2023

Denise Kovnat

This 2-and-a-half-day workshop is designed for 4 shafts and more (up to 32 shafts), for intermediate weavers (those who can read a draft and dress a loom). This is an on-loom study of the interaction of color, based on the writings of Johannes Itten and Josef Albers. About 6 weeks before the workshop, you will choose from Echo and Jin designs provided by the instructor, with options for 2-color, 3-color, or 4-color parallel threadings. Next, you will choose your warp colors based on Itten's theories of color chords, using his 12-point color wheel. (At that time, the instructor will outline the yarn and color choices available and provide a source for purchasing the yarns.) During the workshop, we will study color interaction by sampling different wefts, tieups, and treadlings. The focus is on building skills and insight to optimize color in your own weaving, particularly with Echo and Jin designs."



Extended Workshop: Creating the Illusion of Depth in Art Quilts – October 15 and 16, 2023

Deborah Fell

Discover a variety of ways to create the illusion of depth on a two-dimensional plane (in our case, a quilt.) Students will work in a collage style, using mixed media techniques with fabric, paint, paper and found objects to create a series of small studies. We will paint, sew, fuse and glue, concentrating on design principles such as overlapping, placement, size, value, and focus. In the end, you will leave with a better sense of command over how to create the illusion of three dimensions, depth, and foreground/background within your two-dimensional art. This workshop is suitable for beginning and intermediate quilters.



Member Information for Silent Auction, Sale, Fashion Show and Potluck –December 9, 2023!!!



This is a guild event where members and visitors restock their yarn stash, fabric supplies, and tools. It's also a time to share and display your handmade wearables at the fashion show.

Location: [Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852](#)

Time: 10 AM to NOON

****The church will require everyone to be vaccinated. Masks are optional.**

Special Attractions:

- Silent auction of items donated by our members: art, books, equipment.
- Yarn/Fabric sale. All yarn/fabric is \$2.00 per pound (bring a bag to hold your purchases)
- This is your opportunity to de-stash and re-stash.
- The sales and auction are fundraisers for the guild.
- The fashion show and potluck are back by popular demand.

What to bring:

- Items you want to donate: donations will be accepted starting at 9:30 am.
- Equipment donations must be small enough to fit inside a car and in good working condition.
- A bag or bags to hold your purchases
- Credit Card, Debit Card, Checkbook or cash!
- Bring your favorite potluck dish, along with serving utensils. Time and space are limited. Consider easy to serve and eat food.
- All potluck items must be out of the building by noon.

Consider Volunteering: We need everyone's help!

The sale is one of the guild's largest events. We need volunteers to run it. Please sign up.

Sign up on the website for at least one shift for jobs such as set up, yarn sort, book table, cleanup...thank you in advance.

Donate Handmade or Higher Priced Items for the Silent Auction:

As part of the Guild auction and sale we will accept donations of hand-made and high value items for a silent auction. Examples of such items would be hand-dyed, hand-woven or knitted scarves, hand-made purses, felted pins, small wall hangings, and beaded or knitted jewelry. High value items might be kimono fabric or vintage buttons. If you teach, you could offer a space in one of your classes. All unsold items will be returned to the donor.

Please bring your item and the donation form to the auction at 9:30 so we can process it before bids open at 10 am. Fill out your name, phone number (in case the item doesn't sell and we need to contact you to return it), a brief description, and the minimum bid (starting price). You can also set a buy it now price. The auction will close for bids at 11:30. At that time the highest bidder can bring the item, sheet, and payment to the check-out. If someone chooses to buy the item at the buy it now price, they can bring the item and sheet to check-out at any time. Please make sure and bring a printed copy of the silent auction form with the item you are donating! The form is located on the website.

Fashion Show:

We are wanting to show off the items we have. Please consider being part of the fashion show. Let's display your wearable talent at our special event. Bring a printed copy of the fashion show form which you can find on the website.

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

Turtle Tester

Norma Taber

My first venture into being a pattern tester ended on April Fool's Day, so you be the judge!

A friend with a rather solid reputation as a knitted sock designer suddenly got a yen to crochet, diving into an intense study of using "African Flower" motifs to crochet stuffed animals with all pieces assembled "join-as-you-go." Then *of course* the only logical next step was to design her own! So as an intrepid crocheter and good friend, how could I turn down the opportunity to be a tester for her pattern?

Bringing a certain skill at detecting potential ambiguity in writing, I started off, noting all the places that could be misinterpreted or cause confusion. This took effort, since typically I can see what the designer was trying to achieve and thus can fill in any gaps in the instructions. Needless to say, jotting copious notes and providing periodic reports slowed progress considerably. So it was over 2 months later when this cute little darling was finally complete.



The pattern has been published ([African Flower Box Turtle](https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/african-flower-box-turtle): <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/african-flower-box-turtle>)- and now I need to make a second turtle to see whether any of my suggested updates really *did* make a difference!

Lessons in Knitting

Val Hildebrand

I saw this intriguing knitted art piece by Maurena Lambert and wondered “how did she get all those lovely curls?” And goodness did she really knit the thing on toothpicks? Well, I had to find out. It’s only six stitches, in stockinette, Right?

I tried the toothpicks, seriously Val? I tried #0 metal dps – ugh, slippery metal dps.

With #3 bamboo I got an inch or so of stockinette that I could actually work with to stay put. But curls? I tried increases. I tried decreases. It did not make curls. And then I remembered what I should have known all along. Stockinette curls all by itself—especially if you give it the least bit of encouragement. So six hours and many false starts later, I ended up with a small sample a little like Maurena’s and some very valuable “Lessons in Knitting”.



Seeking New Members – Multishaft Study Group

Kelly Lukins

The Multishaft Study group is seeking new members. We are intermediate and advanced weavers who have looms with 8 or more shafts. We focus on the structures of weaving such as twill, tied weaves, lace, tied weave and doubleweave. Our meetings usually involve sharing drafts, often original drafts, normally made using weaving software. We are currently studying tied weaves and will be moving on to discuss a different weave structure or topic during 2023-2024. Our meetings are from 10:30 to 12 or 12:30 on the second Friday of the month on Zoom.

Third Thursday Spinning Study Group

Diane Pavek

Third Thursday Spinning Study Group meets each month on the third Thursday. All are welcome. We have an emailing list of 22 members. We sustained ourselves with fully remote meetings via Zoom calls during the pandemic.

We began hybrid meetings this spring so our members could participate in-person or remotely. We met at the Palisades Public Library, 4901 V St. NW, Washington, DC 20007 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

After a couple of hybrid meetings, we asked the Palisades Library Staff for help to get better quality audio and visual access for members.

On 17 August, the Library Staff set up our Study Group with a laptop and Meeting Owl to connect remote members (see Photo 1) during a Zoom call. The Meeting Owl projected for the remote members a 180-degree view of the room and close ups of whomever was speaking at any time. It worked very well.

Next hybrid meeting is 21 September. The Library will connect the Zoom call into the large meeting room's big screen so everyone attending in-person can see all the remote participants easily.

Now, we just need a way to be able to share the luscious feel of the wonderful fibers that the in-person members bring to the meeting.



3rd Thursday Spinning Study Group – Palisades Library Meeting Owl



Susan Koestler eSpinning Silk and Baby Alpaaca Blend

Guild Member Fiber Events and Classes

Fall Rigid Heddle Weaving Classes at fibre space with Carol Brobst

Carol Brobst

Registration is now open for upcoming classes for **Introduction to Rigid Heddle Weaving** on the following days:

September 16

October 14

November 11

Classes run from 10:30 am to 6 pm and include a half hour break. Cost is \$90.

Carol is also offering a new class on November 18: **Intermediate Rigid Heddle Weaving** which features a V-shaped cowl technique.

Contact Carol at ambrosian@msn.com or fibre space:

<https://shop.fiberspace.com/introduction-to-rigid-heddle-weaving.html>

<https://shop.fiberspace.com/intermediate-rigid-heddle-weaving-cowl-sa-nov-18-a.html>

Fiber Conferences and Events

We Want You! And Ewe! And You!

Gretchen Frederick



Chesapeake Fibershed would love to sponsor and support a sheep to shawl team to compete at the 2024 Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival. A team consists of a shearer, three spinners and a weaver. It is a LOT of fun and definitely will increase your personal fiber bona fides!

In addition to the rules for [Maryland Sheep to Shawl](#), The Chesapeake Fibershed team will also have the team, the sheep, the warp yarn and any dye materials grown and processed (mill or handspun) within our Fibershed.

Want to learn more? Contact Gretchen Frederick at f-fsolitude@mindspring.com.

Handweavers Guild of America (HGA)

Janet Stollnitz

Spinning and Weaving Week:

Handweavers Guild of America is again sponsoring activities during Spinning and Weaving Week, October 2 – 8. The selection of online activities and events include talks, studio tours, marketplace, classes, mini-workshops, and more. You do not have to be an HGA member to attend. For details go to <https://weavespindye.org/spinning-and-weaving-week-2023/>

Convergence:

HGA's biennial conference, Convergence, will be held in Wichita, Kansas, July 11 – 17, 2024. General registration opens on October 23rd. Conference information is available at <https://weavespindye.org/convergence/>.

Fiber Talks, Exhibits and Other Things of Interest



THE GEORGE WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
THE TEXTILE MUSEUM

There are several upcoming exhibits at the GW Textile Museum that may be of interest to many of our guild members. Website links are included for easy access to additional information about each exhibit.

Celebration of Textiles: Quilting D.C.

September 9 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Bring your family to celebrate D.C.'s quilting community at the museum during its 42nd-annual Celebration of Textiles. Make your own quilted square, tour our new exhibition of handmade quilts, and meet D.C.-area quilters who are keeping traditions alive or innovating what a quilt can be. Enjoy other textile demonstrations of weaving, spinning and more throughout the day, and join us on the dance floor for square-dancing lessons and live deejayed D.C. music.

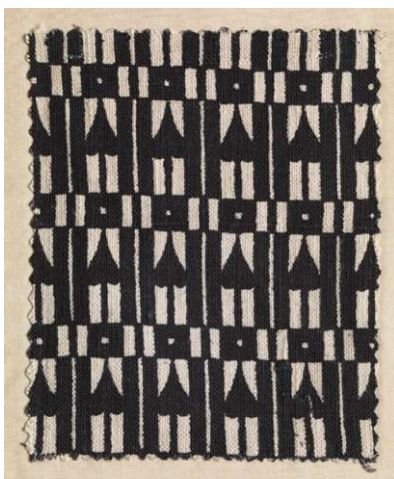
About the Exhibition

Quilts, like maps, trace the personal stories and experiences of makers and their communities, often illuminating larger historical events and cultural trends. Handstitched Worlds: The Cartography of Quilts draws from the collection of the American Folk Art Museum, with examples ranging from traditional early-American quilts to contemporary sculptural assemblages. Learn more about the exhibition

There are lots of activities including: Square Dancing with Square-Dance Quilts, storytelling, exhibition tours, quilting demonstrations, loom weaving, lacemaking demonstrations, local fiber animas, and even a live DJ and dancing! Be sure to check out the website for more details. <https://museum.gwu.edu/celebration-textiles>

Wiener Werkstätte: From Nature to Abstraction

Through November 5, 2023



In the early 1900s, artists of the Wiener Werkstätte (Vienna Workshop) propelled Austria into a prolific center of modern design. Organized with Régine Bonnefoit from the University of Neuchâtel and GW professor Kara Braciale, this small display of fabric samples from these pioneering designers also features the work of GW art students inspired by the workshop's legacy.

Organized by the Cotsen Textile Traces Study Center in partnership with the Institute of Art History and Museum Studies at the University of Neuchâtel in Switzerland and GW's Corcoran School of the Arts and Design.

For additional information <https://museum.gwu.edu/wiener-werkst%C3%A4tte-nature-abstraction>

Handstitched Worlds: The Cartography of Quilts

September 9 – December 23, 2023

Quilts, like maps, trace the personal stories and experiences of makers and their communities, often illuminating larger historical events and cultural trends. Handstitched Worlds draws from the collection of the American Folk Art Museum, with examples ranging from traditional early-American quilts to contemporary sculptural assemblages.

This exhibition is organized by the American Folk Art Museum, New York, and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C.



For additional information <https://museum.gwu.edu/handstitched-worlds-cartography-quilts>

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.

An Update from the Social Media Committee

Fall is coming! Show off your summer "makes" on PFAG's social media pages. We have over 600 followers on Facebook and over 130 on Instagram! Social media is also great for sharing information about shows you are in, workshops you are teaching or attending, or other news that communicates to those outside the Guild what we are all about. Just use this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdHuLhof1E1tUjBz2PSMeS56S2tEuM3xX1pBl4AYDJG2RvX6Q/viewform>.

You will need to supply some photos and basic information and we can take it from there!

Follow us on:

Instagram: - <https://www.instagram.com/potomacfiberartsguild/>

Facebook: - <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=potomac%20fiber%20arts%20guild>

Social Media Team: (Margot Anderson, Shella Biallas, Stacy Cantrell, Bethany Cecere, Laritza Rodriguez).

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 of Guild members and offers artists a wonderful exhibit space to showcase and sell their art. Our jury committee selects one-of-a-kind pieces for each show and artists are allowed to set their own prices. Commission is a very affordable 25% on sales. For more information about Gallery membership, please contact Carol Brobst, Membership Manager, 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.

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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Newsletter Editor	Joanne Seyl
Social Media	Margot Anderson
Outreach Chair	Julie Haifley
Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery	Clara Graves
Previous President	Gail Hamill

Committees

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Hospitality	Edna Graham
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Social Media	Margot Anderson
Outreach	Julie Haifley
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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