

Looming ITEMS

April 2024

Harmony Weavers Guild Newsletter

Vol. 49 Number #8

April Program
April 11 @ 10:00 a.m.



Winterthur Library and Conservation Laboratory Tour

Meet at 10 a.m. in the Lobby of the Visitors Center
RSVP to Dinah Kirby by Monday, April 8



Our April Meeting will take place at the Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, 5105 Kennett Pike, Winterthur, Delaware. We will meet in the lobby of the Visitor's Center at 10 a.m. and will be escorted by the staff via shuttle bus to the Museum, where we will tour the Library and Conservation Laboratory.

The tour will take about 2 hours, after which we will have a brief business meeting in a classroom reserved for us. After the meeting, HWG members are free to tour the rest of the house, dine in the cafeteria in the Visitor's Center, and take a walking tour of the gardens with Pam Sapko, one of our members who volunteers in the gardens. Winterthur is offering this exclusive behind-the-scenes tour for the Harmony Weavers Guild free of charge as thanks for all of our contributions to their events and workshops! Please RSVP to Dinah Kirby by Monday, April 8 via email: dinahkirby@comcast.net.

Winterthur is the premier museum of American decorative arts, with an unparalleled collection of nearly 90,000 objects made or used in America since 1640. The collection is displayed in the magnificent 175-room house, much as it was when the family of founder Henry Francis duPont called it home. The graduate degree programs and extensive

research library make Winterthur an important center for the study of American art and culture.

The Winterthur Library is an independent research library with a world-class collection dedicated to the understanding and appreciation of artistic, cultural, social, and intellectual history of the Americas in a global context from the 17th to the 20th centuries. Its holdings include rare books, manuscripts, original works of art on paper, ephemera, photographs, the archives of the Winterthur estate and its history as a museum, and more. Of particular interest to our Guild, the collection includes several pattern books which we will have a chance to see.

The Conservation Department cares for the 90,000-piece Museum collection, prepares the objects for display and trains the next generation of conservators through Winterthur's Art Conservation Program at the University of Delaware.

Winterthur is also 1,000 acres of protected meadows, woodlands, ponds, and waterways. The 60-acre garden, designed by du Pont, is among America's best, with magnificent plantings and massive displays of color throughout the year. **DON'T MISS THIS WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE WINTERTHUR ON A TOUR TAILORED TO OUR UNIQUE INTERESTS!**

From the President's Pen

April is here; and, so are those amazing early spring flowers! I hope what you are finding in your backyard translates to inspiration for your weaving / spinning / felting / knotting / embroidery / stitching or other fiber art.

And, speaking of inspiration, let's not neglect our annual fiber arts show. So, don't forget to bring your pieces to the April meeting - or meet up with one of our members who are collecting for the show. Just remember - this should be your work; and, that includes your stick weavings that we started back in December.

Thinking of good work, at last month's meeting we had some good discussions about improvements and how to move our guild forward. For starters, we now have a guild Zoom account (which can be used for general, committee and other guild activities). We really need someone to track and monitor a schedule of use - so there are no double bookings. Simply, the set up and monitoring of a working schedule is what is needed. Please let me know if you are interested. And, please take a moment to think about the need for a [groups.io](#) Administrator, Secretary and Vice President - as we will be voting on these positions at our June meeting. Please note that Gail, Toni and I have stated that we would be willing to help out and mentor whomever takes on these roles.

There were also several interesting outreach options suggested - intended to bring in a more diverse membership. Suggestions were quite a few and we need to follow up on them. Stay tuned, as we will keep you informed on how you can help out and progress we are making in this important area. And, if any of you missed it, here is Helena's very good write up on this subject for MAFA - mafafiber.org/wp-content/uploads/Diversity/MAFA-Growing-Diversity-Growing-Guilds.pdf

Lastly, we really need an update to our website. If you take a look at other successful guild websites, you can see opportunities for improvement. I would like to set up a committee to brainstorm ideas and come up with a plan of action to move forward in this area. Again, this would be an opportunity for some of you to step up and help our guild move forward. So look forward to participating and communicating on this subject.

I want to thank all of you who came up with ideas and supported those ideas this past month! Great ideas; and, I am looking forward to implementation of these plans in the future.

Nancy Everham



Growing Diversity, Growing Guilds

Improving diversity, inclusion, and the ability for all our members to participate in MAFA events has been our goal for a number of years. Our Virtual program is one example, and we are working on new features for the in-person conference. However, it really starts at the local, guild level. We want to share with you an article by Helena Valentine, MAFA Past President, and we will continue this discussion with guild representatives at our May meeting.

Find the article here: mafafiber.org/wp-content/uploads/Diversity/MAFA-Growing-Diversity-Growing-Guilds.pdf

If you are interested in joining MAFA's Diversity Team, please [email us](#).

Most Spring classes still have spaces

Find details and register for ALL MAFA Virtual classes and lectures on Lessonface at lessonface.com/mafa.

- April 13: Digital Record Keeping in GoodNotes with Lisa Graves
- April 14: The Magic of Canva + Dissolvable Paper for Unique Embroidering with Jess Kaufman
- April 20: Making Zipper Bags using Handwoven Fabric with Ginny Hamilton and Mary Mandarino
- April 27: Pin Loom Weaving From Scratch: 4x4" Squares with Florencia Campos
- **May 9-30: Cell Weaves** with Martha Town WAITLIST

To make reading of Helena's article even easier, the article appears on page 5 of this newsletter!

What you need to know about the Biennial Exhibition

I hope you are as excited as I am about our upcoming exhibition at the Blue Ball Barn in Wilmington! Below is some more information on how to enter your beautiful woven pieces:

Entry Form

- One entry form must accompany each piece of art/weaving entered into the show. You may submit up to two pieces. We will guarantee that one piece will be in the show and if we have room, we'll display both! Please let us know which is your *Number One* choice.
- You can find the entry form on page 8 of this newsletter.
- Remember:
 - The piece must have been created in the past 3 years
 - The piece must not be created from a kit or under supervision

Drop Off

- You can bring your piece(s) to the April guild meeting at Winterthur. I will be collecting the pieces after the meeting in the parking lot, so you don't have to carry them across the Winterthur grounds.
- The following people have kindly offered to serve as drop off locations for your art. THE DROP-OFF DEADLINE IS APRIL 22.
 - Carol Ireland – Hockessin DE – 302-598-9769
spinningbiker@comcast.net
 - Sandy Buckworth – Middletown DE – 302378-2755
sbuckworth@icloud.com
 - Linda Brasel – Newark DE – 302-388-8514
lcbasel@gmail.com
 - Elaine Brooks – Landenberg PA – 610-368-4113
brooksfamilythreads@gmail.com
 - Kathleen Remsa – Mount Laurel NJ – 856-313-5054
kbremsa@aol.com

Additional Information

- Each artist will be featured in a “Look Book” which will be on display accompanying the show. It will include all the information about your piece(s) from the entry form and any additional information you would like the audience to know about your piece and/or the process. We'll photograph the pieces in the exhibition but if you have a really good photo of your piece that you'd rather us use, please send it to Elaine Brooks brooksfamilythreads@gmail.com.

We will be sending more information about the exhibition at a later date. Please let me know if you have any questions!

Sue Balascio and the Exhibit Committee



May
Newsletter

Articles are due Monday,
April 22, 2024

Spring Outreach Opportunities for Guild Members

Many thanks to those who have already signed up to participate in the events below. If you haven't signed up or let me know, there's still time! Check your calendars and email me (spinningbiker@comcast.net) if you can join us for one or more. Note the addition of the Coverdale Farm Shearing Day.

Sat., April 13 - Shearing Day at Coverdale Farm

The Coverdale Farm sheep will be shorn on Saturday April 13th. They are hoping to get a food truck and make this a mini event to celebrate spring. Please let me know if you're interested in demonstrating spinning, weaving, braiding, or any other fiber craft, between 10:00 and 3:00. You wouldn't need to stay for the whole time. I think their Farm Market will be open, where you can shop for wonderful fresh, farm-raised produce.



Sat., April 27 – Shearing Day at Greenbank Mill

Come to help with natural dyeing of Greenbank Mill wool, demonstrate spinning, help with skirting fleeces being shorn at the event, or help kids use the rope maker to make jump ropes. Greenbank Mill also sells wonderful herbs; you can place your order ahead of time — <https://www.greenbankmill.com/2024-herb-sale>

Sat., May 18 - Scottish Games Spinning & Weaving Demo

For many years, FiberGuild members have spun wool and woven a shawl (which is sold through a silent auction) at the Scottish Games in Fair Hill, MD. Harmony Weavers Guild members are invited to join the FiberGuild folks in carding or spinning. Dinah Kirby and Toni Ammons will be using wool spun at the event to weave the shawl to be auctioned. You'll go home with bagpipes echoing in your ears! Admission is free for demonstrators, and participants can also sell their handcrafted items at the Games.



Sat., May 25 - Winterthur “Merino Madness” Craft Instruction

Harmony Weavers Guild members will be instructing up to 30 participants (two groups of 15) on a felting project using Greenbank Mill merino wool during this morning program. The agenda includes a visit to the sheep housed at Winterthur and a discussion of the connection between merino sheep and the DuPont family. Winterthur will send a \$500 honorarium to Harmony Weavers Guild as a thank you!

[Carol Ireland](#)

Harmony Weavers Guild Officers and Committee Chairs

Officers

President..... Nancy Everham
 Vice President Vacancy
 Secretary Gail Caron
 Treasurer Sue Balascio
 Membership & Guild Looms Linda Shinn
 Programs & Workshops Dinah Kirby

Chairs

Biennial Exhibition Sue Balascio
 Kathleen Remsa
 Hagley Craft Fair Sonnie Sperati
 Hospitality Carol Ireland
 Karen Evans

Chairs continued

Internet Services..... Toni Ammons
 Carol Ireland
 MAFA Representative Nann Miller
 Newsletter Sonnie Sperati
 Outreach Carol Ireland
 Publicity/Communications..... Gynnie Moody

Growing Diversity, Growing Guilds

I was pleased to see that attendance remained robust for the MAFA 2023 conference. We've also added guilds over the last few years. Individual guilds are growing as well, yet our membership continues to skew older, overwhelmingly female and not ethnically diverse when compared with knitting and quilting groups. There are many reasons/excuses for this but there are also places to look to find expansion and change. In this article I'll be sharing what MAFA has learned, what members guilds are doing, and how to think about the future.

I could have called this article The Future of Fiber, because our country is changing, becoming more diverse and more accepting of diversity, and our guilds must change too in order to sustain our organizations and our crafts. This is especially true for our core fiber arts: weaving and spinning. There are many barriers to participation in these activities and guilds exist to help new weavers and spinners overcome them. How do we acquaint the public with our crafts and then nurture growth in those who are interested?

The pandemic loomed large over my tenure as president. It forced MAFA to look at new ways to meet and to do our work. We learned that virtual meeting tools could be force multipliers. We had nearly twice as many attendees at MAFA Virtual 2021 as we had at our in person conference two years earlier. We began offering access to our Zoom account to our member guilds.[\[7\]](#) [\[8\]](#) We sponsored roundtable discussions and free lectures to our members and the wider fiber world. Guilds that used online tools to stay connected throughout the lockdown, and after, have maintained and even grown their membership. We all learned that we could find new fiber enthusiasts and nurture our crafts and our relationships by leaping into the new world of hybrid meetings.

Now that we are back out in the world, we shouldn't take growth or diversity for granted. I'd like to share with you some of the work member guilds have done to make our fiber world visible and accessible to the wider community.

Potomac Fiber Arts Guild

- Stacy Cantrell shared her guild's activities. A link to the full text is [DEI PFAG 2023](#)

I would like to highlight that the guild thinks about diversity when inviting speakers, promoting members' work, choosing study group topics and outreach activities. Online meetings are recorded and the recordings are posted so those

unable to attend can still be part of the action. They try to be responsive to members' needs, as indicated below:

When we have had issues in the past of potential members challenging us on inclusion, we take it very seriously and discuss all options that we can offer this person. We discuss these challenges and decide actions at our board meetings. We do all that we can to make everyone feel welcome. We have welcomed requests to change the meeting day for religious reasons, we have on occasion paid for sign language interpreters. Every request that comes in, we try to accommodate within reason.

Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers

- Sara Robbins shared that her guild focused on being inclusive of all types of fiber-related crafts. Numerous outreach activities during the year attract new members because their Outreach team is racially and demographically diverse, letting people see that all are welcome. They have embraced topics of current interest, especially to younger people, such as sustainability. Their Board of Directors is "made up of both older and younger people, people of color and people who identify themselves with they/them pronouns. They partner with community groups and local businesses. The full article is here[\[13\]](#) : [The Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers: Diversity](#)

Fiber Guild of the Blue Ridge

Sharon Resnick shared the following information with us:

I have been working on a community outreach project for our Guild, in partnership with another local non-profit. The goals of this are to further our mission of fiber arts education by making weaving a more visible process, teaching people what it is and giving them the opportunity to try and learn, hands-on. Details are here, and I'm happy to answer any questions about this effort. <https://www.fiberguildbr.org/mobile-hope/>

The guild also does various outreach programs with local schools, usually demonstrations requested by teachers for specific school events. Our goals with this are usually simply educating - we typically don't try to recruit the students to join our Guild.

continued on next page

Sharon reported that though students were engaged, it has not led to new members. She speculated that the age difference was a barrier.

Wild Hand

Wild Hand is a shop in Philadelphia that emphasizes hiring and featuring diverse teachers and artists. In addition to an atmosphere that is welcoming to all, the shop has a fiber lending box, similar to a library box, where people can donate yarn or get free yarn to use in projects. You can learn about this shop's approach by listening to this podcast: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/liz-sytsma-theresa-hill-wild-hand/id1508572777?i=1000589679082>

As you can see, there is great variety and ingenuity in the efforts of members of MAFA to grow inclusive fiber communities. I hope that you also see that

opening our to those around us helps us to grow our guilds and our fiber crafts. Sometimes we have to step out of our comfort zone, embracing technology or new fiber arts, but the results are worth the effort.

I am grateful to the MAFA guild members who shared ideas with me. I remain committed to continuing this work and I invite like-minded individuals to connect and share.

Wishing everyone the best future possible,

Helena Valentine



We can use more stick weavings for the Biennial!

Weave, weavers, weave!

Dinah Kirby has the sticks

Twelfth

Quilters / Crafters Garage Sale

Quilting fabric, batiks, complete quilt kits, patterns, fat quarters, sewing machines, scrapbooking/card making supplies, yarn and much, much more!

Saturday, April 20th

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

No pre-sales!

Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church (Fellowship Hall)

500 McKennans Church Road, Wilmington, DE 19808

For more information or to donate (before April 10) Contact Cathy at 610-212-7824 or vortexbyrnes@gmail.com

Proceeds benefit "Quilts for Comfort"

Find us on Facebook!

April Sales Event



For Sale: Shaft-Switching Device

This shaft-switching device features 54-levers to support up to 54 design options. Made by Harrisville Designs for its four-shaft 45 inch Harrisville Rug Loom to Peter Collingwood's specifications, this device is offered by the original owner and in excellent condition. (First/front view photo shows all levers in the forward position to select shaft 4.)
\$500. Pickup in Medford, NJ

Charlene Marietti
filamenti.fibre.arts@gmail.com



FAIR WEATHER FIBER SHOP
5821 Telegraph Road Elkton, MD 21921

We have over 60 fleeces including raw as well as processed. Our own sheep's yarn as well as throws all made from 100% Gotland in All shades of gray. We have been raising Gotland sheep since 2015.

Please contact Nancy Bentley at
302-530-7028 or email
fairweatherfarmfairhill@gmail.com to
make an appointment to shop.

Harmony Weavers Guild
2024 Biennial Show Entry Form

Please complete one form for each piece of artwork/weaving submitted. Tear off and attach bottom portion to your piece. Submit top portion with your piece.

Name (as you would like it to appear on the gallery label): _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Name of Artwork: _____

Technique: _____

Fiber/Materials: _____

Price/Value: _____

Delivery of Entry Form and Artwork

- Bring to the April guild meeting
- The following people have offered to collect pieces for the show. Please contact them to arrange a drop off date and time:
 - Carol Ireland – Hockessin DE – 302-598-9769 spinningbiker@comcast.net
 - Sandy Buckworth – Middletown DE – 302378-2755 sbuckworth@icloud.com
 - Linda Brasel – Newark DE – 302-388-8514 lcbrasel@gmail.com
 - Elaine Brooks – Landenberg PA – 610-368-4113 brooksfamilythreads@gmail.com
 - Kathleen Remsa – Mount Laurel NJ – 856-313-5054 kbremsa@aol.com

I understand that every attempt will be made to secure my piece. I also acknowledge that neither Harmony Weavers Guild nor Blue Ball Barn can guarantee its safety. Pieces on display at Blue Ball Barn are insured.

Signature: _____

Tear off this portion and attach to artwork

Name: _____

Name of Artwork: _____

Phone Number: _____

MEMBERSHIP

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE GUILD? Please contact Linda Shinn at 302-655-9434 or e-mail info@harmonyweaversguild.org. Membership renewal for each year begins in June and ends by the September meeting in order to be included in the Membership List.. Membership includes a monthly Newsletter available through the web site: <https://groups.io/g/harmonyweaversguild> or by e-mail attachment.

All monthly meetings are in person at Brandywine Town Community Center and by Zoom.



Membership Form for 2023-2024

Categories for Membership: Active \$35 Full-Time student \$15

👉 NEW MEMBERS ONLY: Joining between January 1 and March 31 - \$20 🗨️ Joining between April 1 through June - \$40 (Includes next season's dues)

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AS YOU WISH THEM TO APPEAR IN THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (_____) _____ E-MAIL: _____

Checks payable to Harmony Weavers Guild.
Mail form & check to Linda Shinn PO Box 4458 Wilmington DE 19807