



MAFA News

July/August 2022

Please share this newsletter with your guild

President's Message

We have lots of exciting developments since the last newsletter.

Later this month, we will open signups for our first group of MAFA Virtual classes! Details later in the newsletter, and look for email and social media announcements in late-July. Our free lecture series will also continue through next year, and will become part of MAFA Virtual starting with the October and November lectures. Details below and on the MAFA website. Sign up on the MAFA website to get email notifications if you haven't already.

Workshop descriptions for MAFA 2023 are being uploaded to the website and edited even as you read this! We will announce instructors soon, and full class listings will be posted early this Fall.

Goody bags will be back in 2023! Start planning goodies your guild wants to make.

It's also almost MAFA Grant time! Think about outreach projects that could use grant support.

Email me if you have suggestions for how MAFA can support your guild.

Margaret O'Reilly Briggs, MAFA President

president@mafafiber.org

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Important Dates

- July 26, 2022: Traditional Knitting with Melissa Weaver Dunning, 7 p.m. on Zoom
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Member News

Next Free Lecture - Open to All Guild Members

Presentation by Melissa Weaver Dunning, July 26 at 7 PM: *Traditional Knitting from England, Ireland, Scotland, and the Shetland Islands.*

Many of the foundations of traditional knitting come to us from England, Ireland, and Scotland: Fishermen's ganseys, Aran cable knitting, Fair Isle multi-colored patterned knitting and delicate Shetland lace. We will explore each of these traditions through images of garments and knitters, old and new.

Melissa Weaver Dunning is an avid tartan & linen weaver, a skilled spinner and a compulsive knitter. She loves to share the history and context of traditional textile arts and to pass on the efficient techniques of time-honored skills. She lives in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of West Virginia.



Melissa is also a traditional hand-weaver working on antique equipment to produce 18th and 19th century style textiles. She has had the great good fortune to study with Scottish master weaver and singer Norman Kennedy since 1980. She is dedicated to carrying on some of the wealth of tradition gleaned from this apprenticeship both in weaving and in music.

This program is open to all MAFA guild members. Register to attend at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqfuGsaj0tG9NT-ufh5P9p5gaUCvXevhUR>

After registering you will receive a confirmation email with a Zoom link.

Save the Dates for Upcoming Roundtables and Virtual Programs:

- **September 27:** Reps meeting and Roundtable guild leadership program.
- **October 25:** Cindra Kerscher: Join us to learn about The Livestock Conservancy's Shave 'Em to Save 'Em Initiative (open to all MAFA guild members, on Lessonface).
- **November 22:** Karen Hampton, title TBD (open to all MAFA guild members), on Lessonface.

Recordings and Schedule

Did you miss the previous roundtable or lecture? Wonder when the next event will be and its topic? Find links to the schedule, recordings, and notes on the Roundtables page on the MAFA website, here: <https://mafafiber.org/guild-resources/roundtables/>.

The MAFA Roundtables and Virtual Programs are ultimately designed to help support the guild representatives. I would love to hear your ideas as to what would interest and be helpful to you. You can reach me at membership@mafafiber.org.

MAFA Zoom Account

If your guild has scheduled virtual meetings through the MAFA Zoom account, but for any reason you need to cancel, please let Patty Chrisman, MAFA Secretary (and Zoom Administrator) know prior to the meeting date. You can reach Patty at secretary@mafafiber.org.

Sara Robbins, Membership Chair
membership@mafafiber.org

Spring Reps Assembly May 24, 2022

Thank you to all Reps who attended our May 24th meeting!

We had a quorum at the meeting and were able to vote. Both the bylaws updates and membership tiers/dues were approved unanimously.

Find Reps Meeting minutes here:

<https://mafafiber.org/guild-resources/reps-meeting-minutes/>.

For corrections or additions, please contact MAFA Secretary Patty Chrisman at secretary@mafafiber.org.

Current bylaws: <https://mafafiber.org/about-us/mafa-admin/bylaws/>.

Updated membership info: <https://mafafiber.org/about-us/join-us/>.

Renewal notices will go out to guilds and associates in August.

Following the business meeting, we had a guild leadership discussion focused on in-person vs. hybrid meetings; how guilds have been impacted financially by the pandemic; how MAFA Mini-Grants can help your guild; and non-profit status for small guilds. **We will continue to have guild leadership roundtable discussions with occasional speakers at each Reps meeting. If you have suggestions for leadership topics please contact Sara Robbins at membership@mafafiber.org.**

NEW MAFA Virtual

Coming this Fall - Online classes and programs throughout the year!

MAFA Virtual is our brand new project, and we'll send email blasts and post on social media when signups open for our first classes and as we add additional events and classes. Find info on the website here: <https://mafafiber.org/virtual/>. Sign up for the email list at the bottom of any page on the website.



Our first classes will be Japanese Garment Design and Sewing with John Marshall, Weaving Landscape in Tapestry with Molly Elkind, Inspirational Fiber Blending with Dia Robinson, and Secrets of Shibori with David Heustess. Signups will open in late-July.

Also starting in September 2022, join us for MAFA Movie Nights every month on second Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Why offer virtual programs? Our biggest takeaway from the MAFA 2021 virtual conference was the ability for all MAFA members to participate across our entire geographic area, many of whom cannot attend our in-person conferences. So, an important initiative for the board was to look for ways to keep our members connected and engaged, as well as to bring new and more diverse members into the MAFA community and our guilds. We think MAFA can do that by offering virtual programs in addition to our in-person conferences.

- We will host virtual programs throughout the year, between our in-person conferences, and we hope to run online classes during the conference as well.
- We particularly want to find new and more diverse instructors and topics that don't quite work in the conference's 2-1/2 day single-class intensive format.
- We will host one or two virtual events per month, in weaving, spinning, dyeing, felting, surface design, and other fiber-related practices.
- We will use Lessonface to manage registration and host the Zoom meetings and recordings.
- Programs may include lectures, classes, and workshops, which can range from talks with Q&A, to 2-hour demos or hands-on classes, up to multiple 2-hour sessions spread out over days or weeks for complex topics.
- All classes will be recorded and available to students, usually for 30 days after class concludes.

Interested in teaching for MAFA online? Submit a class proposal here:

<https://mafafiber.org/virtual/teach-online/>.

Have an instructor to suggest? Have questions? Want to help on the MAFA Virtual committee? Email virtual@mafafiber.org.

MAFA Conference 2023 - June 22-25, 2023

Millersville University, Millersville, PA

Workshops Update

Thanks to a LOT of hard work on the part of the workshops review committee, we narrowed down 130+ proposals submitted to the 42 workshops we plan to offer at the 2023 conference. Of course we'll have the usual weaving, spinning, dyeing, basketmaking and felting. Plus, for those who look forward to the fellowship at the conference, but may not want to travel with looms and wheels, we will offer some fun topics that don't require lots of equipment, including pattern drafting and sewing, paper making, braiding, fabric jewelry, and more.

We will announce our instructors soon, and we'll post classes in early Fall.

It's not too soon to start thinking about guild items for goody bags!

Some guilds ask members to make small items which we add to attendees' tote bags and often this is done as a guild program. Though we expect to stuff about 500 totes, each guild doesn't have to make that many items as our volunteers will mix and match donations from various guilds. Think small practical items such as tiny pouches, dorset buttons, needle cases, and things like that, or useful logo items. The idea isn't for guilds to spend a lot of money on this. Usually items are sent to a guild near the conference location in May of the conference year, and we'll get the word out about the shipping address next Spring.

Volunteers

Want to get involved? We still have positions available! In particular we're looking for:

- **Advertising/Donations Coordinator** - Help us contact organizations to seek ads, donations for door prizes, and manage the advertisers and donors. Knowledge of spreadsheets is helpful.
- **Instructor Liaisons** - We need 4 to 5 volunteers to help coordinate with our instructors. You will act as a point of contact to ensure instructors are getting updates, that we get all needed info and materials from them, and to coordinate with class "angels" before the conference.
- **Goody Bag Coordinator** - Is your guild near Millersville? Are you willing to answer email questions, receive goodies, have a sorting party with guild mates, and deliver goodies to Millersville before registration opens? Then we need you.
- **Communications** - Do you know MailChimp or WordPress? Join us on the Communications Committee.

If interested, please email conference@mafafiber.org for details.

MAFA 2023 Conference Committee
conference@mafafiber.org

Grants Committee News

MAFA Grants for 2022

In response to the lack of grant proposals due to the pandemic, the Grants Committee is offering micro-grants of up to \$500 for guild recovery and maintenance. These grants could be used for basic equipment, technology, speakers or something related to keeping your guild healthy and thriving. Reviews will be held the first weeks of July and September and funds will be made available shortly after approval of the micro-grant proposal.

Questions? Contact grants@mafafiber.org.

Micro-Grants

Congratulations to Palisades Guild of Spinners and Weavers, Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers Guild, and Three Rivers Fiber Focus on receiving micro-grants in the first round! These three addressed technology needs, virtual speakers and equipment.

Conference Fellowships will return in 2023

To learn more about Conference Fellowships:

- Check out the [fellowship guidelines](#) and application preview at mafafiber.org
- Read [reports](#) from previous Conference Fellows

Want to get involved on the Grants Committee?

The Grants Committee welcomes new members annually. For more information or to express interest, contact Angela Fishman at grants@mafafiber.org.

The MAFA Recovery Fund Pilot Program

During the past two years, while we have experienced many challenges, we have also had the opportunity to witness many examples of meeting challenges with creativity and generosity. One such example was provided by the Weavers' Guild of Buffalo. In 2020, the guild made a donation to MAFA to acknowledge the efforts we were making to support member guilds during the pandemic. Buffalo suggested setting up a program to provide assistance to persons impacted by disasters. The MAFA board responded by adding money to create such a fund and by establishing a committee to administer it as a pilot program for two years. By the end of that time we hope to know if the program fills a need and whether or not we have the human resources to administer it.

In coming weeks we will be explaining details of how the fund can be accessed. We wish to thank Buffalo for being the catalyst to the establishment of a mutual aid program for our guilds and their members. We'll keep you informed going forward.

Questions? Contact Angela Fishman at grants@mafafiber.org.

Help Support MAFA with Amazon Smile!

Did you know MAFA has an Amazon Smile account and by using it you help support MAFA? It doesn't cost anything to participate. All you need to do when purchasing is do the following (note going through mobile is easier as it remembers the charity after the first time):

How to use AmazonSmile on a web browser:

- Visit smile.amazon.com.
- Sign in with the same account you use for Amazon.com.
- Select your charity (**MidAtlantic Fiber Association Inc**).
- Start shopping! Remember to checkout at smile.amazon.com to generate donations for your chosen charity.
- Tip: Add a bookmark to make it easier to shop at smile.amazon.com.

How to use AmazonSmile using the Amazon app on your mobile phone:

- Open the Amazon Shopping app.
- Navigate to the main menu (=).
- Tap on Settings and then select "AmazonSmile".
- Select your charity (**MidAtlantic Fiber Association Inc**) and then follow the on-screen instructions to turn ON AmazonSmile in the mobile app.
- Once AmazonSmile has been activated in your app, future eligible app purchases will generate a donation for the charity you have selected.

Note: The tablet app is not yet supported. Please visit smile.amazon.com/onthego to learn more.

Upcoming Guild Events

Let us help you publicize your guild exhibits, events and sales! Visit the Guild Events listing on the website here: mafafiber.org/events/. Submit information on events, workshops, programs and sales for the website and newsletter by submitting the online form here: mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-event-update/. You may also email newsletter items to membership@mafafiber.org before the 21st of even months for inclusion in the next MAFA News.

NEW: None

Events, Festivals, Exhibits & Online Fiber Arts

Events

Handweavers Guild of America 25th Convergence. July 22, 2022, July 15 through July 21, 2022. <https://weavespindye.org/schedule-and-registration/>

HGA's Searchable Fiber Arts Calendar: <https://weavespindye.org/calendar/>

Festivals

NEW: Adirondack Wool and Arts Festival, Sept. 24-25, Greenwich, NY,
<https://www.adkwoolandarts.com/>

NEW: PA Endless Mountain Fiber Festival, Sept. 10-11, New Milford, PA,
<https://endlessmountainsfiberfest.com/>

NEW: NJ Sheep and Fiber Festival, Sept. 10-11, Lambertville, NJ,
<https://njsheep.net/>

NEW: Lehigh Valley Fiber Festival, Sept. 24-25, Macungie, PA,
<http://www.lvfiberfest.com/>

NEW: WNY Fiber Festival, Oct. 1, East Aurora, NY, <https://wnyfiberartsfestival.org/>

NEW: NY Sheep and Wool Festival, Oct. 15-15, Rhinebeck, NY,
<https://sheepandwool.com/>

Exhibits

Ongoing

The McLean Textile Gallery: <https://www.themcleantextilegallery.com/>, McLean, VA
The McLean Textile Gallery is the first venue in McLean solely devoted to textile creations and art. Established in December 2020 by Nancy Preston, owner of The Quilt Shop of McLean, the gallery showcases published, award-winning talent and identifiable contemporary art styles each month.

Pattern and Purpose: American Quilts from Shelburne Museum,
<https://shelburnemuseum.org/>

Tatter: A Gathering of Material Culture, is offering online classes.
<https://www.tatter.org/stitching-classes-index>

HGA - Handweavers Guild of America: Textiles and Tea. The Handweavers Guild of America, Inc. (HGA) is excited to announce our new program for 2021: Textiles & Tea. Every Tuesday at 4 PM (EST) HGA will host a conversation with some of the most respected fiber artists in the field today. In our 45-minute discussion we will focus on their artwork and their creative journey. We will allow 15 minutes at the end of our conversation for questions from the audience. Make a cup of your favorite tea and join us as we talk about fiber, creativity, inspiration, process and so much more. <https://weavespindye.org/textiles-and-tea/>

San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles: <https://www.sjqquiltmuseum.org/>

Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. They have a beautiful and extensive textile exhibit (available in English). <https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/rijksstudio/works-of-art/textiles>

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Alexandria, Virginia - Exhibits all forms of fiber work, including weaving, knitting, crocheting, sewing, surface design, and more, in 11 juried shows each year. More info at www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com/.

Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - The museum's purpose is to stimulate experimentation among leading contemporary artists and to share the process of creating works of art with the public. They have various exhibits and a permanent collection, as well as studio facilities, equipment, and expert technicians on-site. Find more info at fabricworkshopandmuseum.org/.

Alling Coverlet Museum, in Palmyra NY, has a collection of simple 4H to jacquard coverlets. historicpalmyrany.com/alling.htm

Need to Update Your Guild Info? Looking for MAFA Resources?

Submit your **updated guild info, officers, Rep, or meeting times** online using this form: <https://mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-update/>

Submit **guild events** here: <https://mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-event-update/>

We would love for you to **submit a guild profile** here:
<https://mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-profile-submission/>

As always, you may send any event info or changes to your Reps, officers, or meeting dates/times to the MAFA Membership Chair at membership@mafafiber.org.

MAFA Website: MAFA has created an entirely new website, most of our resources are located there, and we encourage you to explore to see what we have to offer. Of particular interest to member guilds will be the Guild pages, the Guild Resources & Reps' Corner, and the Fiber Resources pages.

NOTE: If your guild hasn't already, please ask your web person to add a link to MAFA at <https://mafafiber.org/> and let me know if you want a MAFA logo for your website.

- Under the website [Guilds](#) tab, you will find our list of all member guilds, sorted by state, as well as on a Google Map.
- Under the [Guild Resources](#) tab you will find links to the Rep's Corner with current and past newsletters and our Role of the Rep document; info on guild administration topics; and program suggestions.
- MAFA can **host your guild website**. If you are interested in having us create and host a website for your guild, please email webmaster@mafafiber.org. MAFA is currently hosting 15 guild websites.
- Check out the [Fiber Resources](#) pages on the website to find info on exhibits, events, festivals, schools, other conferences, and much more. If you have a resource to add, use the online form linked in the sidebar and found here: <https://mafafiber.org/submit-a-resource/>.

MAFA Reps Groups.io: Reps, Guild officers, and Program Chairs, be sure to join the mafareps group at groups.io/g/mafareps. To join, click on “Apply for Membership in this Group”, or email me for an invite. We particularly want guilds to enter program, workshop and instructor info in our Programs database here: groups.io/g/mafareps/table?id=3297.

MAFA on Facebook: www.facebook.com/MidAtlanticFiberAssociation/

MAFA on Ravelry: www.ravelry.com/groups/midatlantic-fiber-association

MAFA on Twitter: twitter.com/MAFAfiber

MAFA on Instagram: www.instagram.com/mafafiber/

Remember to choose MidAtlantic Fiber Association on Amazon Smile
smile.amazon.com.