



MAFA News

January/February 2023

Please share this newsletter with your guild

President's Message

It's almost time for MAFA 2023 Conference registration! Many volunteers have been working behind the scenes for the past year+ to make the conference a reality, and we can't wait to share it with you.

Reps, we will send out the link for early registration and ask you to forward that to your members in late-January. Member registration will open February 4, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. EST. Find links to the conference website with details on workshops, vendors, and events later in the newsletter.

Save the date for the MAFA "Mini" Virtual Conference on July 8 & 9, 2023. We expect to offer about two dozen classes, lectures, drop ins, and trivia night. Stay tuned for details.

As always, email me with any suggestions for how MAFA can support your guild.

Margaret O'Reilly Briggs, MAFA President

president@mafafiber.org

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Important Dates

- **January 24: FREE Lecture - Yarn from the Ground Up with Anne Choi**
 - **February 4: MAFA 2023 Early Conference Registration Opens for Members**
 - **February 18: MAFA 2023 Conference Registration Opens for all**
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Member News

The minutes to the Special Representatives Meeting, held on November 3, 2022, can be found here:

mafafiber.org/wp-content/uploads/Reps-Meetings/RepsMeetingMinutes20221103.pdf.

MAFA Reps Roundtables

Roundtables are designed to help support the guild representatives and guild leaders on leadership issues. I would love to hear your ideas as to what would be of interest and be helpful to you. You can reach me at membership@mafafiber.org.

SAVE the DATE: At our May 23, 2023 reps meeting, we will have a panel discussion on ideas how we, as MAFA and as individual guilds, can be more welcoming and inclusive. If you are interested in being part of the panel please contact Sara Robbins, Membership Chair 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

MAFA Conference 2023

June 22-25, 2023

Millersville University, Millersville, PA



Registration opens for MAFA Members on February 4, 2023! We will email all Reps a link for your members in late-January.

- **Download the MAFA 2023 Brochure:**
mafafiber.org/wp-content/uploads/2023-Conference/M-23_Brochure_v5_220914c.pdf
- **Visit the MAFA 2023 Website for details on workshops and registration:**
mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2023/.
- **Encourage your members to join the MAFA email list for updates:**
eepurl.com/hTauz9.

Guilds - Advertise at the Conference:

For 2023, we will be taking advertisements to help support various exhibits, events and happenings at the conference, and to provide visibility for your guild. Ads start at \$150. If your guild has a budget for ads or sponsorships, **find details, the list of ad/event opportunities, and the advertiser form, here:**

mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2023/advertise-at-the-conference/.

Volunteers:

Want to get involved in conference planning? We still have positions available! If interested, please email conference@mafafiber.org for details. In particular we're looking for:

- **Instructor Liaisons** - We still need 2 to 3 volunteers to help with our instructors. You will act as a point of contact to ensure instructors are getting updates, and to coordinate with class "angels" before the conference.
- **Communications** - Do you know WordPress? Join us on the Communications Committee to help with the conference website.

Signups for volunteer opportunities at the conference will be posted in March.

Goody Bag Items:

Some guilds make small items which we add to attendees' tote bags and often this is done as a guild program. Think small practical items such as tiny pouches, dorset buttons, needle cases, or useful logo items. Items will be shipped to the Goody Bag Coordinator in May 2023 to be sorted before the conference. We'll send out info about shipping later this Spring. Questions? Email goody.bags@mafafiber.org.

MAFA 2023 Conference Committee

conference@mafafiber.org

***NEW* MAFA Virtual**

Virtual Classes, Free Lectures, Movie Nights!

- **Save the Dates for the MAFA 2023 Mini Virtual Conference, July 8-9, 2023!** Details soon: mafafiber.org/virtual/mini-2023/.
- **Find info and the schedule of regular virtual classes and lectures on the MAFA website here:** mafafiber.org/virtual/.
- **Go to the MAFA page on Lessonface to register for classes:** www.lessonface.com/mafa.
- **Join the email list** here for monthly updates and movie night Zoom links: eepurl.com/hTauz9.

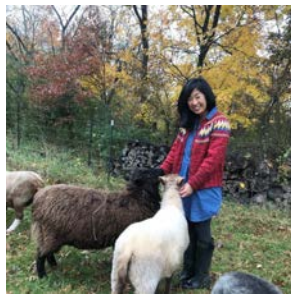


Upcoming Virtual Classes (find details on [Lessonface](#))

- Doubleweave Jacket with Leslie Fesperman January 14-15.
- Intro to Fiberworks lecture with Maryse Giroux, January 17, 2023.
- inspirational Fiber Blending with Dia Robinson, January 21, 2023
- Secrets of Shibori with David Heustess, starting January 28, 2023. **Waitlist**
- Making Woven Chenille for a Pile Rug with Mary Mandarino, February 25, 2023
- Off-Loom Weaving with Sarah Ward, February 25 & March 4, 2023
- Designing in Huck Lace with Jill Staubitz, March 4, 2023
- Weaving Landscape in Tapestry with Molly Elkind, March 4-11, 2023
- Spinning for a Project with Alanna Wilcox, March 9-11, 2023
- Weave a Twill Gamp/Color & Weave Effects with Karen Donde, March 16-30, 2023
- Jogakbo Korean stitching with Youngmin Lee, March 25-26, 2023.
- Paint Two, Beam One with Denise Kovnat, April 29, 2023.
- Learn to Use Fiberworks Weaving Design Software with Jen Weber, May 2-23, 2023

Our Next Free Lecture - Open to All

January 24, 2023, 7p.m.: Yarn from the Ground Up - Adventures in raising a fiber flock and small-batch yarn production, with Anne Choi



Anne is a fiber artist in Bedminster, NJ, raising a small flock of Shetland sheep for their wool. Her spinning and weaving workshops explore the relationship between craft and imagination, infusing traditional techniques with personal vision. She serves on the Board of the North American Shetland Sheep Association, and is the founder of NJ Fibershed, a non-profit organization connecting small fiber farmers, and providing educational resources for first-generation farmers and raising

awareness of local fiber production and use. Visit Middle Brook Fiberworks at www.middlebrookfiberworks.com/.

Register to attend: lessonface.com/apply/Making-Yarn-Ground.

A day before the lecture, you will receive an email with the Zoom link. OR log in to Lessonface and join the lecture from your dashboard.

Save the Dates for Upcoming Free Lectures:

March 28, 2023: Free Your Mind - Public Textile Social Justice Art Project
Details and registration:

www.lessonface.com/apply/Free-Your-Mind-Public-Textile-Social-Justice-Art-Project

Free Lecture Recordings

If you registered to attend a free lecture, the recordings will be hosted on Lessonface, and you can watch them by going through your Dashboard to My Classes and Events, or find the links on the MAFA website: mafafiber.org/virtual/lectures/.

MAFA Movie Nights

MAFA Movie Nights will be every month on second Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Sign up for the email list to receive a reminder email each month with the Movie Night video info and Zoom link.

Interested in teaching or speaking for MAFA online? Submit a class proposal here: mafafiber.org/virtual/teach-online/.

Questions? Suggestions? We particularly want to find new and more diverse instructors and topics. If you have an instructor or topic to suggest, have questions, or want to help on the MAFA Virtual committee, email us.

MAFA Virtual Committee
virtual@mafafiber.org

Diversity & Inclusion Committee News

As you know, during my time as MAFA president I wanted to see our organization and our member guilds increase diversity by age, gender and ethnicity. With the support of our current president and our entire board, we are still working toward those goals. In 2023 we plan to set up spinning and weaving demos at some of the fiber festivals in our region that seem to have a more diverse group of attendees than does the MAFA conference. We are presenting new teachers through our virtual programs and searching for new vendors for our conference. We are also planning a program for our reps where guilds that have been successful at growing and diversifying their membership will present effective (and not so effective) efforts so that we can all learn from their experience. We will also be using our mini-grant and grant programs to encourage guilds to try some of those ideas.

We can already see change and we look forward to helping our guilds and our organization grow in ways that will guarantee that our fiber crafts remain strong in the future.

As part of the programming for the May 23, 2023 reps meeting, we will have a panel discussion on ideas how we, as MAFA and as individual guilds, can be more welcoming and inclusive. If you are interested in being part of the panel please contact Sara Robbins, Membership Chair at membership@mafafiber.org.

Helena Valentine
Past President, MAFA
pastpresident@mafafiber.org

Grants Committee News

MAFA Grants for 2023

The Grants Committee is accepting grant proposals with a deadline of January 9, 2023. Please read the guidelines and find the proposal form on the MAFA website at mafafiber.org/grants/guild-grants/. Questions? Contact grants@mafafiber.org.

Micro-Grants

Congratulations to North Country Spinners and Fiber Guild of the Blue Ridge on being awarded micro-grants for a fiber study and funding outside speakers, respectively, to enhance their programs.

Due to the popularity of the micro-grants, MAFA will be continuing the program with the next review to be held the first week of March. Details can be found at: mafafiber.org/grants/micro-grants/. Questions? Contact grants@mafafiber.org

Conference Fellowships will return in 2023

Check out the fellowship information, guidelines, and online application at mafafiber.org/grants/fellowships/. Read [reports](#) from previous Conference Fellows as a guide to submitting your application.

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.

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.

None at this time.

Events, Festivals, Exhibits & Online Fiber Arts

Events

Southeast Fiber Forum, April 13-16, 2023 Registration opens 11/7/22. Arrowmont School of Art Gatlinburg, Tennessee. sefiberforum.org/

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

Festivals

New: Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, May 6-7, 2023, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Maryland sheepandwool.org/.

Ongoing

The McLean Textile Gallery, McLean, Virginia - The gallery is the first venue in McLean solely devoted to textile creations and art. The gallery showcases published, award-winning talent and identifiable contemporary art styles each month. www.themcleantextilegallery.com/

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

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

HGA - Handweavers Guild of America: Textiles and Tea. Every Tuesday at 4 p.m. HGA hosts a conversation with some of the most respected fiber artists in the field today. Each discussion will focus on their artwork and creative journey, with time at the end for questions from the audience. weavespindye.org/textiles-and-tea/

San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles: www.sjqUILTmuseum.org/

Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. They have a beautiful and extensive textile exhibit (available in English). 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, New York, has a collection of simple 4H to jacquard coverlets. historicpalmyra.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: mafafiber.org/guilds-page/guild-update/

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

We would love for you to **submit a guild profile** here:
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 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 18 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: 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/