



MAFA News

March/April 2023

Please share this newsletter with your guild

President's Message

Wow, what a great response to early registration for [MAFA 2023](#)! Our first class filled in seven minutes (I honestly don't know how someone got all their address and info filled that fast), and we had 272 members register in the first hour. So, we are on track to have a wonderful turnout for the conference. Fourteen classes have filled so far, but that means 28 are still open.

Exhibit signups are now open as well, look for info and the link later in the newsletter.

For those not coming to the in-person conference, or even if you are, save the date for the [MAFA 2023 Mini Virtual Conference](#) on July 8 & 9, 2023. We will offer three dozen class/demos, lunchtime lectures, morning coffee drop ins, yoga, and fiber trivia night. Stay tuned for details mid-March and registration in early-April.

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

- **March 28:** FREE Lecture - Free Your Mind with Theda Sandiford
- **March 31:** Last day to register for MAFA 2023 without a late fee
- **April 1:** Registration opens for MAFA 2023 Virtual Mini Conference
- **April 25:** FREE Lecture - Wild Fibers with Linda Cortright

MAFA Conference 2023

June 22-25, 2023

Millersville University, Millersville, PA



Register Now!

Starting April 1, 2023, there is a \$50 late fee.

Last day to register or cancel is May 25, 2023.

- **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.

Exhibits:

Exhibits are back and expanded at this summer's conference! Of course we will still have fashion and art exhibits and the ever-popular towel exchange. This year we are adding hats too. Anything and everything fiber is welcomed to the exhibits. Please do encourage your guild mates to show off their gorgeous work. Wouldn't it be great if there were several entries from every guild? We know there's massive talent out there and we can't wait to see it all.

Find all the exhibits info here: mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2023/exhibits/.

Entries opened February 15th and will close May 15th. There are a limited number of entries for some exhibits so let's get the word out!

Volunteers:

Volunteer opportunities at the conference will be posted in March, and we'll start taking signups in April, including: classroom building coordinators, setup helpers at various events, exhibit monitors, and building guides (NO unloading this year, we're hiring helpers!). If you plan to arrive on Wednesday afternoon, we'll be able to use your help, and there is an option to stay overnight Wednesday night.

Goody Bag Items:

Items may be dropped off at MDSW (time and location will be emailed to Reps), or may be shipped to the Goody Bag Coordinator to be sorted before the conference. We'll email info about shipping and drop off to all Reps soon. Questions? Email Tina M at goody.bags@mafafiber.org.

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. **Find details, the list of ad/event opportunities, and the advertiser form, here:** mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2023/advertise-at-the-conference/. The deadline to place an ad is May 15, 2023.

MAFA 2023 Conference Committee
conference@mafafiber.org

MAFA Virtual

Virtual Classes, Free Lectures, Movie Nights!

- **Save the Dates for the MAFA 2023 Mini Virtual Conference, July 8-9, 2023!** Details in March, Registration opens April 1: 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** for monthly updates and movie night Zoom links: eepurl.com/hTauz9.



Upcoming Virtual Classes (find details on [Lessonface](https://www.lessonface.com/mafa))

- Designing in Huck Lace with Jill Staubit, March 4, 2023 - *FULL with waitlist*
- Weaving Landscape in Tapestry with Molly Elkind, March 4, 9, & 11, 2023
- Spinning for a Project with Alanna Wilcox, March 9, 10, & 11, 2023
- Weave a Twill Gamp with Color and Weave Effects with Karen Donde, March 16, 23, & 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
- Hand-Sewn Summer Tunic with Sarah Woodyard, May 20-23, 2023

Our Next Free Lecture - Open to All

March 28, 2023, 7p.m.: Free Your Mind - Public Textile Social Justice Art Project, with Theda Sandiford

Free Your Mind is a public textile art project aiming to collect, exhibit, embed and release personal narratives about Microaggressions in a multi-sensory installation.

Microaggressions are subtle, intentional, and oftentimes unintentional, everyday interactions or behaviors that communicate hostile, derogatory or negative messages or assumptions toward historically marginalized groups. The weight of these daily interactions underpins very real consequences... stress, anger, frustration, self-doubt and ultimately feelings of powerlessness and invisibility. This project exposes these interactions to provide a release for the viewer.

Theda Sandiford is an award-winning self-taught fiber and installation artist based in Jersey City, NJ. Community art making is key to her process. Theda curates' multi-disciplinary experiences pairing people, sound and art making to create a safe space to explore themes such as equity & inclusion, sustainability, and personal wellbeing. Visit Theda's website at thedasandiford.com/, and find her on Instagram [@misstheda](https://www.instagram.com/misstheda).



Register to attend:

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

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:

April 25, 2023: Wild Fibers – From Alaska to Afghanistan, with Linda Cortright of *Wild Fibers* Magazine. Details and registration will be posted on Lessonface.

Free Lecture Recordings

If you register 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

Grants Committee News

MAFA Grants for 2023

The Grants Committee is discussing the possibility of an additional deadline in 2023 since none were funded from the January deadline. Stay tuned for further updates! mafafiber.org/grants/guild-grants/. Questions? Contact grants@mafafiber.org.

Congratulations to the Triangle Weavers Guild for completing its grant from 2021. Through the struggles of the pandemic and an extension on the grant, they managed to produce a great report which included three videos! (to be posted soon)

Micro-Grants

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 2023. The next round will be reviewed in June. Guilds that received micro-grants in 2022 may apply again in 2023. Details can be found at: mafafiber.org/grants/micro-grants/. Questions? Contact grants@mafafiber.org

Conference Fellowships will return in 2023

The grants committee is currently accepting fellowship applications for the MAFA 2023 in-person conference. The deadline for submission is April 1 so if you are signed up for a class that you think would be appropriate, consider applying.

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.

Diversity & Inclusion Committee News

The MAFA board approved our participation in the Racial Equity in Craft organization. I attended the first meeting of the year this month. It is our hope that through sharing ideas with other craftspeople committed to increasing equity we'll improve our own outreach and programming. We want to raise the profile of weaving, dyeing and spinning and invite the next generation of fiber artists to join us. I look forward to learning and growing through our participation with this group.

We are looking for volunteers to demonstrate spinning, rigid heddle weaving and multi-shaft weaving at some of the fiber festivals this year. We would like to have

teams that are diverse in age, gender and ethnicity for these demos. If you can help, please contact me.

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

Member News

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

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: Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore. *Now You Can Spin - Time to Understand Twist and Grist*, April 29-30, 2023, Howard County Art Center, Ellicott City, MD <https://wggb.org/workshop-zawistoski/>

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/

NEW: Shaped by the Loom, Weaving Worlds in the American Southwest, February 17-July 9, 2023, Bard Graduate Center, NYC, <https://www.bgc.bard.edu/exhibitions/exhibitions/117/n-a>

Festivals

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

NEW: Lehigh Valley Fiber Festival, Sept. 23-24, 2023, Macungie Memorial Park, 50 N Poplar Street, Macungie, PA 18062, <https://www.lvfiberfest.com/>

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.sjqmusem.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/