



MAFA News

May/June 2022

Please share this newsletter with your guild

President's Message

Sshhhhh, it's a secret! We've selected 42 outstanding conference workshops from among 130+ proposals, but we can't share the list just yet. By the time you read this, contracts will have gone out to all accepted instructors, and they are due back in soon. Stay tuned for conference updates when we start updating the conference web pages this Summer.

I look forward to seeing all our Reps at the Spring Reps Assembly on May 24th. We will vote on two bylaws updates as well as membership tiers and dues for the next two year period. It's important for as many Reps as possible to attend to have your guild represented.

Since it's much easier for our far flung guilds to participate virtually rather than at the Maryland Sheep & Wool festival, we have made the decision to continue to hold our Reps assemblies on Zoom. You will receive reminders and the Zoom link by email. It's important to keep MAFA updated if your guild's Rep changes - look for a link to the update form at the end of each newsletter.

Email me any time with suggestions for how MAFA can best support your guild.

Margaret O'Reilly Briggs, MAFA President

president@mafafiber.org

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Important Dates

- May 24, 2022: Spring Reps Assembly, 7 p.m. on Zoom
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Spring Reps Assembly May 24, 2022

Please Attend to Vote on Bylaws and Membership Tiers/Dues!

You will be sent a full agenda and Zoom link in early-May.

We will ask you to vote on two things — a bylaws update and dues/membership tiers for the 2022-24 membership period. Please review these items with your guild boards before voting. Find a summary below, or download a PDF here:

<https://mafafiber.org/wp-content/uploads/Reps-Meetings/2022-Notice-to-Reps-re-bylaws-update-and-Dues-Corrected.pdf>.

The bylaws need two minor changes:

1. An update to make the meeting dates more flexible and reflect that we are having business meetings by video conference instead of requiring them to be in person.
2. An update to reflect that we actually have a compilation done which is sufficient for our situation, not a review which is more involved and costly. In accounting there are three tiers of service: compilation, review, and audit. Given our size and activities, we do not need a review or audit at this time.

Proposed Membership Tiers and Dues for 2022-2024

As we discussed at the Fall Reps Assembly, the MAFA board proposes changing the membership tiers to reflect the increased number of small guilds we have for whom the old dues were burdensome. At the same time, we had guilds with just over 100 members paying the same dues as those with several hundred members. The proposed PROPOSED 2022-24 Tiers and Dues are:

25 or fewer members:	\$30
26-50 members:	\$60
51-100 members:	\$100
101-150 members:	\$150
151-200 members:	\$200
201 or more members:	\$250
Associates:	\$30

If you have any questions, please email Margaret Briggs at president@mafafiber.org.

A Guild leadership program will follow the business meeting and voting. The roundtable discussion will include topics we think may be most pressing for guilds right now, such as: in-person, virtual or hybrid meetings; how guilds have been impacted financially by the pandemic and shared suggestions for solutions; how the MAFA Mini-Grants can help your guild. If you have other suggestions for topics please contact Sara Robbins at membership@mafafiber.org.

Member News

Next Guild Roundtable 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 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 roundtable is open to all MAFA guild members. Register to attend at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEgfuGsqj0tG9NT-ufh5P9p5gaUCvXevhUR>

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

Save the Dates for Upcoming Roundtables

- **September 27:** Reps meeting and guild leadership program
- **October 22:** Cindra Kerscher from Save Em to Save Em (open to all MAFA guild members).
- **November 22:** Karen Hampton, title TBD (open to all MAFA guild members).

Recordings and Schedule

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

The MAFA Roundtables 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

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 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 including pattern drafting and sewing, paper making, braiding, fabric jewelry-making, and more. We'll start posting classes in June (as soon as all the signed contracts are back in).

Goody Bag Items

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

Volunteers

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

- Volunteer Coordinator - Are you organized and a good communicator? We need a coordinator to update the list of volunteers needed at the conference, manage signups, and direct volunteers to their posts at the conference.
- Communications - Conference communications involves website updates, email blasts, working with the social media group, compiling content for the graphic designer, and coordinating printed materials. We're looking for volunteers to help with various activities. Knowledge of MailChimp, and WordPress 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.

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 week of May, July, and September and funds will be made available shortly after approval of the micro-grant proposal.

Questions? Contact grants@mafafiber.org.

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: Woodstock Weavers 50th Anniversary Exhibit, Demonstrations and Sale, April 30 @ 1:00 pm - June 12 @ 5:00 pm, Historical Society of Woodstock, 20 Comeau Drive, Woodstock, NY <https://www.historicalsocietyofwoodstock.org/>

NEW: The Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers, Fiberpalooza, June 5, 11 am to 4 pm. Philadelphia, PA <https://pghw.org/event/fiberpalooza/>

Events, Festivals, Exhibits & Online Fiber Arts

Events

NEW! *NJ Fibershed Barn Crawl*. May 14 @ 11:00 am - and May 22 @ 4:00 pm, \$5.

<https://njfibershed.com/event/nj-fibershed-barn-crawl/>

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

Spindle and Dyepot Calendar of Events: <https://weavespindye.org/calendar/>

Festivals

Central PA Fiber Festival, May 14 & 15, 2022, Hughesville, PA

<https://centralpennfiberfest.com/>

Sheep Shearing Festival, Queens County Farm Museum, May 14, 2022, Queens, NY

<https://www.queensfarm.org/sheep-shearing-festival/>

NEW: *CNY Fiber Arts Festival*, June 11 - 12, 2022, Bouckville, New York

<https://cnyfiberarts.org/>

Quilt and Fiber Show, June 25-26, Historic Cold Springs Village, Cape May, NJ

<https://hcsv.org/>

Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. May 7 and 8, 2022. Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD. <https://sheepandwool.org/>

Exhibits

Excellence in Quilts. Virginia Quilt Museum, February 15 through April 9. Other quilt exhibits included. <https://www.vaquiltmuseum.org/>.

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.sjqmusem.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. 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: <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.