

# February 2022 Newsletter

Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers Guild

**Featuring a guest article by our own Ishtar Watson!**

**\*\***please be aware that some email systems shorten or truncate long messages like this newsletter. Look for a message to that effect - usually you simply click on the message and it opens the entire email.



Flax in the field waiting to be "scutched".

photo credit: Sally Wanless

[https://miro.medium.com/max/1400/1\\*sa8P6hJRwIMP2yX-gU3Tf0.jpeg](https://miro.medium.com/max/1400/1*sa8P6hJRwIMP2yX-gU3Tf0.jpeg)

# In this issue...

Guild Meeting Information and Zoom link

From the President's Desk

Guest Article featuring Ishtar Watson's recent endeavors

On the Horizon

Committee News

Group Meeting Particulars

MAFA Update

Lesson/Classes

Selling Your Work at LibertyTown

Weaver's Wisdom

Knitter's Knots

For Sale/Free/Wanted

Membership and Dues

Guild Links

Leadership Information



## **Guild Membership Meeting Info**

**Zoom Link for February 12 meeting - [click here](#)**

Meeting ID: 834 9123 8366

Passcode: 756826

## **Programs**

February's program (rescheduled from January due to widespread power and internet outages) is a look at linen. First, we'll see traditional Scots Irish methods of growing flax, processing the fiber, and producing linen in County Donegal, Ireland. The second video will explore modern industrial-scale methods of flax farming and linen production used in Belgium. Together, the videos last about 23 minutes. A discussion may follow, if desired.

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**January meeting video link:** [click here](#)

January meeting minutes link: [click here](#)

NOTE: All 2021 meeting minutes can be found in this Dropbox folder: [click here](#)



## **From the President's Desk**

Wow, so January kicked off 2022 in true style. Nothing like getting snowed in for a week. I want to thank you all for your well wishes passed along at the loss of my friend. Some more thanks goes to Judy and the handbook committee! Your work along with the incorporation initiative has us headed in the right direction. Looking forward to seeing you guys on Saturday.

Lesley

**Something Fun**

I have found tea! As an avid coffee drinker, I never thought about the joys of tea. My coworkers introduced me to the wide world of tea. Have you heard of this thing called tea? There are all kinds of special containers called tea pots used to brew the tea. They come in so many shapes, colors, and styles. What's even better, they have sweaters for the tea pots! The sweaters are called "tea cozies". They come in even more colors and styles. If you use Ravelry, there are over 1,000 patterns for tea cozies. Here is a link to the list of patterns if you would like to check it out.

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/search#&pc=coffee-teapot&sort=recently-popular>



# 4th Dynasty Egyptian Beadnet Dress

## By Ishtar Watson

**4th Dynasty Egyptian Beadnet Dress. Ca. 2551 - 2528 BCE**

**Image © 2022 柳葉魚 by commission by Ishtar Watson**

Approximately 4,570 years ago, during the reign of Pharaoh Khnum Khufu, beautiful bead net dresses were worn by ancient Egyptian high-status people. For nearly 2475 years, the Kingdom of Ancient Egypt flourished on the Nile River valley. A premier Bronze Age society, Egypt and Nubia, a critically important region to the East of Egypt, produced some of the finest adornments and textiles seen for millennia. While examples of these dresses exist in museums, few have been reconstructed, and fewer still have been recovered.

Their construction requires blending beadwork, ceramics, fiber arts, and chemistry. The original dresses may have been worn over linen undergarments (as pictured above) or by themselves. One possible hypothesis is that the climate of Egypt required textiles to be cleaned quite often. Beads adorning textiles would be damaged during extensive cleaning.

Wearing the beads over the clothing may have allowed for the undergarment to be changed without affecting the costly beads. Ishtar commissioned the illustration above to glimpse how the dress might look worn. Application and paperwork for access to the high-resolution images of the real dress from the Boston Museum of Fine Arts are underway.

The beads used to make the dresses are made from a composite material known as Egyptian faience. This quartz and copper oxide ceramic may have been invented to replicate turquoise and lapis lazuli, semi-precious stones too costly in trade and too difficult to shape into the required number of beads. Copper oxide from minerals like malachite, gum Arabic, a binding agent, soda ash, silica powder, and lime are combined into a paste, which is then formed into beads. The beads are then sintered, a process of heating to 920C (1688 F), causing the paste to harden and develop a beautiful blue-green color and a sleek shine. Once created, the beads may be woven with flax thread into a bead net dress.

Guild member Ishtar Watson intends to build a fourth dynasty (ca. 2551 - 2528 BCE) replica bead net dress and associated adornments. The purpose of this replica is experimental archaeology. The methods of creating the beads, the spinning of the flax thread, and every other aspect of the construction will be rigorously documented, resulting in a scientific paper, hopefully published in the FSWG newsletter and the Experimental Archaeology Association yearly journal. Once created, experiments will be performed to examine the feasibility of mobility and general endurance of the dress. Ishtar has considered donating the finished work to a museum as a replica, if the project is successful. The dress's construction is estimated to require between 4000 and 7000 Egyptian faience beads, each hand made from raw chemicals and hand-fired on an open pit fire, much as the Egyptians may have. The resulting beads will be strung upon many meters of hand-spun flax string. Some flax will be purchased for spinning, though some flax hand grown by Ishtar will also be used.

The project is expected to take between six and eight months. Ishtar has obtained the first chemicals to begin researching the proper ratios and temperatures of firing in their lab. Once completed, the first batch of test beads will be made. It is expected that full bead production will start mid-spring, as well as spinning flax. This project is highly experimental and could fail, making it even more exciting. However, if the project succeeds, the result will be arguably one of the most beautiful dresses of antiquity, reborn.

## On the Horizon...

**Earth Day – April 23 – Old Mill Park – expecting to hear more about it now that it's 2022. Watch for updates!**

Vice President Kara Pekar (a.k.a. program director) is looking for programs that will work in a virtual environment. She would love to program short (free) classes or tutorials – how to do a technique or make a specific craft. If you have seen something on YouTube or the Handwoven videos that your feel would be good, let Kara know by emailing her at [vice\\_president@fswguild.org](mailto:vice_president@fswguild.org). If you are willing to teach or demonstrate something online, that would be great too!

## Committee News

501(c)(3) Committee – This month, following the conclusion of their scheduled business, the 501(c)(3) Committee will share in a presentation regarding Guild Development, based



on a recent event sponsored by Handweavers Guild of America. The event was attended by Denise Kash and Aileen Campbell.

If you are interested in being on the 501(c)(3) Committee, contact Kara or Lesley and they will get you the meeting link. They meet one time a month. The committee is thinking of using a service like LegalZoom, to get other eyes on the document. Lesley is willing to pay for this but is interested if anyone knows of a contract lawyer and getting their fee schedule. Lesley will reach out to Liberty Town and seeing who they use as a registered agent. She will see if Liberty Town can be our registered agent – to receive any legal documents during business hours.

Handbook Committee – led by Judy Klehm, the Handbook Committee is preparing to review and update the guild's handbook.

## MAFA: (mostly repeat info from last month)

The latest edition of the MAFA Newsletter has arrived!

[Click here](#) to view the entire 6 page document.

### Highlights:

Next Guild Roundtable (all guild members are invited to attend Roundtables!)

March Roundtable: March 22 Roundtable (open to all MAFA guild members): Sarah

Woodyard's Hand-Sewing Journey: From 18th-century Dressmaking Apprentice to Modern Day Hand-Sewist. Learn more about Sarah Woodyard

at <https://www.sewncompany.com/>.

MAFA Conference 2023 Hats! Hats! Hats! Love hats – traditional, silly, felted, knitted, or mad hatter? We are looking for someone to lead the new Hats Exhibit at the conference. Come up with the categories and criteria, create the application, keep track of the entries, and stage the exhibition at the conference. Work starts July 2022 and continues until June 2023. Send an email to Carol at [conference@mafafiber.org](mailto:conference@mafafiber.org)

Instructors needed! Invitations for instructors have been sent out, but we're still interested in expanding our list of people who teach weaving, spinning, dyeing, basket weaving and other fiber arts. If you or your guild members know of good teachers or you

had a wonderful speaker at your recent meeting, please send the information (name, email, short description of fiber specialty) to [education@mafafiber.org](mailto:education@mafafiber.org).

**Save the Date: The MAFA 2023 Conference will be held at Millersville University (near Lancaster, PA), June 22 - 25, 2023.**



**Guild Groups**



Currently our guild has three active fiber groups, in addition to lessons being taught in the guild studio. If you are interested in joining a group or finding out more about a group, each group's particulars are below:

Sock Knitting Group meets Mondays from about noon to 3-4 pm. in the guild studio space. Contact [Fran Slaterbeck](#) for more information. Some meetings may be via Zoom.

The Weavers Study Group is open to all weavers. We are studying crackle weave this year. The group is currently meeting via Zoom on the third Sunday of the month at 1:00pm. Contact: Diane Kowalski, [Diane@wovengems.com](mailto:Diane@wovengems.com)

Knitting Group meets Friday from 1PM to 3PM in the guild studio space. Contact [Margaret Campbell](#) for details. Some meetings may be via Zoom.

## **Lessons/classes**

Laurie Green and Mary Snellings will be teaching Spinning on Sundays at 3 p.m. This will be a fee-based class opened to the public. This will be held at Liberty Town. They even have several spinning wheels available for people to use!

Contact Mary ([marysnellings@yahoo.com](mailto:marysnellings@yahoo.com)) for more information.

Kara and Ishtar will share the info with the community and on social media. It is also promoted through LibertyTown's [website](#).

If you teach fiber arts classes – let the guild know and we can compile a list.

## **Selling your work at LibertyTown**

This process is currently under review by the new screening committee. Be on the lookout for exciting updates! In the meantime, send any questions you may have to Lesley Reynolds ([president@fswguild.org](mailto:president@fswguild.org)) or Judy Klehm ([jwklehm@gmail.com](mailto:jwklehm@gmail.com)).

## WEAVERS' WISDOM

From The Weavers Guild of Boston

For faster, easier sleying, suspend or support the reed horizontally in front of the harnesses at a good working height. The reed can be supported by sticks or dowels which lie from the breast beam to the back beam. Bring the reed hook up through the dents to draw each end down through the reed.

To make a repair heddle, cut through one side piece of the top and bottom eyes of a flat or steel heddle. It can then be slid onto the harness.

Wind stick shuttles in a figure 8 on each edge to allow more yarn to be wound on and use in a narrow shed.

If needed, weight a boat shuttle with metal washers.

Yarn Comparisons and Combinations

### KNITTING KNOTES

An excellent resource for yarn standards, sizes and skein amounts can be found on the website, [craftyarncouncil.com](http://craftyarncouncil.com).

The following guidelines may also be helpful.

2 strands of lace weight held together= 1 strand of fingering weight

1 fingering weight strand and 1 lace weight strand= sport weight

2 fingering weight strands = 1 strand of dk

2 strands of sport weight = 1 strand of worsted weight

2 strands of dk weight = 1 strand of Aran weight

2 strands of worsted weight = 1 strand of bulky weight

These combinations are all approximate and depend on your actual yarn, but it's a good place to start when substituting. Happy Knitting!

# Items For Sale



Barbara Ritter's Leclerc Tapestry loom (60 inches wide) is ready to move to a new home.



This lovely loom, kept in pristine condition, comes home with an 8-dent reed and a sweet cherry raddle.

Barbara is asking \$250.

[blhritter@gmail.com](mailto:blhritter@gmail.com)

This incredible  
loom is reduced to  
just \$250 - a truly  
wonderful buy!

36" Mighty Wolf Loom for Sale



This loom will fold for storage!

This was Jerry Barnes's loom - I have woven double weave wool blankets, linen and cotton towels and much more. Very good, sturdy loom. The ten treadles are handy for tying up multiple patterns on the same warp.



\$800



4 shafts  
10 treadles  
4 reeds (8,10,12,15 dent)  
Contact Linda George 540-842-7001. or [lgeorge1951@gmail.com](mailto:lgeorge1951@gmail.com)

## **Leclerc Fanny Loom for Sale**

\$625



**This loom is a Counterbalance loom that has 4 shafts and 6 treadles. It has a 45" weaving width. The back beam folds in for storage. It has an amazing shed when weaving. It has updated heddles and a new brake installed.**



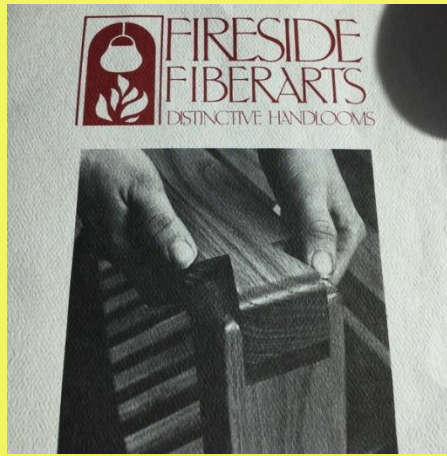
I have woven silk scarves and rugs on this loom. The cost for this loom is only \$625.00.  
Kindly contact Mary Hardy at [mary22720@yahoo.com](mailto:mary22720@yahoo.com) with questions and for further information.



**Fireside Tapestry Loom  
for sale**



**If interested or for additional information**



contact Margot Brown [Margotbrown37@gmail.com](mailto:Margotbrown37@gmail.com)



## Spinning Wheel for Sale

Louet S10 Single Treadle

Peg Waters is selling her very lightly used Louet S10. The wheel was manufactured in the early 1990's and is in very good condition. Peg says that it spins very smoothly! This wheel comes with 4 bobbins and has a built-in Lazy Kate.

\$400

Contact Peg at (540) 371-0120 or email [pegbaskets@yahoo.com](mailto:pegbaskets@yahoo.com)

# Membership & Dues

As of 2/5/2022, 40 members have paid their 2022 dues.

**Dues (\$30 annually, \$15 out of state & youth/student \$5) were due by September 30. Members who did not submit their dues by December 30th were removed from the guild's membership rolls.**

Payment by check is preferred (make payable to FSWG and mail to the guild at LibertyTown or leave in the guild mailbox at LibertyTown).

LibertyTown Arts Workshop

Attn: FSWG

916 Liberty Street

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

**Payment is possible by PayPal but please follow these instructions or PayPal will keep a portion of your money rather than crediting all of it to the guild:**

- 1. Go to PayPal.com and login. You may need to click on the "MyPayPal" icon to get to the money dashboard.**
- 2. Click on the "Send" icon.**
- 3. In the box asking for a name or email address for where you want the money to go, enter the guild's email address: [fswguild@gmail.com](mailto:fswguild@gmail.com)**
- 4. Type in the amount of money you want to send.**
- 5. In the "notes" box, enter in what the money is for, such as "donation", "August rent", or "annual guild dues".**
- 6. Click on "continue".**
- 7. When it asks what the payment is for, choose sending to a friend.**
- 8. Scroll until you can see the "Send Payment/Money Now" button and click on it.**

## **Guild Links**

[Guild Roster](#)

[Guild Library](#)

[Guild Equipment available to rent](#)

[Guild Handbook & By-Laws](#) (currently being revised)

Drop Box How-to's (coming one of these days)

[Guild Website](#)

[Handwoven Online Access Instructions](#)

[Face Book](#) (members only page)

FSWG also has a presence on [Ravlery](#)

Guild Calendar: if you would like an item added to the Guild calendar, please send the details to Aileen Campbell at [newsletter\\_editor@fswguild.org](mailto:newsletter_editor@fswguild.org)