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March 2022 Newsletter

Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers Guild

**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.



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Guild Membership Meeting Info

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

Meeting ID: 834 9123 8366

Passcode: 756826

Programs

Our program for March is a continuation of last month's look at growing flax and producing linen. Last month, we saw a video on traditional cottage production in Northern Ireland. This month, we'll look at modern production methods, mainly in Belgium. Following the 10-minute video, we'll discuss what we have learned from both videos, and what the future of linen production might look like. Several of our members have grown and/or spun flax, and I'm sure some of our weavers have woven with it. I look forward to hearing what you all have to say!

February meeting video link: [click here](#)

February meeting minutes Dropbox link: [click here](#)

NOTE:

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

All 2022 meeting minutes can be found in this Dropbox folder: [click here](#)



From the President's Desk

Happy almost spring! The trees and birds certainly can feel it in the air, and I think I can too, not that the 80 degree weather has anything to do with it ;) As we turn the corner from

winter into spring, it also looks like we may be rounding the pandemic corner as well. We have the Earth Day celebration coming up in April, and in case you missed it, Maryland Sheep and Wool will be an in-person event this year! Denise and Aileen have been working with the executive board for a little while now to explore some practical ideas on how to start meeting together face-to-face. In addition to sharing what they learned from an HGA virtual conference on growing guild membership, we have been working to expand our virtual presence including updating the guild's website (<http://fswguild.org>) to get it ready to launch some new features and tools. Part of this month's membership meeting will include reviewing some of the ideas with the membership to get additional input and inspiration. I won't be able to join the meeting this Saturday, I will be on the road to visit family and celebrate birthdays in person for the first time in two years. My dad just turned 80, and I can't wait to celebrate. I hope this season finds you with fresh ideas and inspiration. Talk to all soon... -Lesley

On the Horizon...

From Education and Outreach:

We are in demand again as things go back to "normal". We are committed to participating in **Earth Day at Old Mill Park** on Saturday, April 23rd and I will send out more info soon and a signup list for volunteers.

We have also received requests from:

Dumfries & The Weems-Botts Museum--They are changing their "Charter Day" into a "Spring History Fair" and hope to gather living interpreters, local historic groups, & farmer market vendors in Merchant Park, scheduled for Saturday, April 30th. They would like us to participate.

James Monroe Museum--They are having International Family Day on Saturday, May 14 from 10 - 2 pm. They would like us to demonstrate colonial weaving (basically weaving during James Monroe's lifetime 1758 -1831) for 1 hour during that time period. A weaving craft will be going on at the same time under the tent.

More details on these upcoming events will be presented at this Saturday's Membership Meeting

Regarding future programs, we would love to program some tutorials on various techniques, tips, and specific projects in any of the fiber arts. If there's something you would be willing to teach, either in person or by making a short video, please let me (Kara Pekar) know

at vice_president@fswguild.org. We are also interested in programming some virtual studio tours and farm tours. Show us your fiber animals, your studio or craft area, or even how you set up in a small space or on the road! These tours don't need to be long. They would take the form of a video, perhaps accompanied by a (live, via Zoom or in person) talk and/or Q&A. Also, if you are good with video and would like to help film any of these programs if asked, please let me know.

Committee News

This Wednesday (March 9th) is the 501(c)(3) Guild Engagement Committee meeting. We will meet 6:30 via the following Zoom

link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82905033088?pwd=bTFyNUdOWGZja1pIZmVpWUpKRXBiZz09>

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.





BARN LOOM RAISING!

Come join in the fun as fellow guild members assemble a very old barn loom that has languished in dry storage for at least 20 years - but the loom is much, much older than that! It's main posts are solid, hand-hewn timbers. The owner was moving and no longer had room for it -it was destined for the dump! It desperately wants to come out of hiding and show what it can do! The barn loom raising will be Saturday, March 26 in the courtyard at LibertyTown Arts Workshop, beginning at 11 AM. Please come help cheer us on!
(Linda George and Aileen Campbell are hosting the barn loom raising)

MAFA:

The March/April edition of the MAFA Newsletter has arrived!
[Click here](#) to view the entire 7 page Dropbox 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

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

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

Lori and Mary are seeking donations of fiber for their spinning classes that benefit the guild. In addition, if you have a wheel you are ready to sell, they are willing to demonstrate it to the students. There may be more than one person looking to purchase in the next few weeks.

So far, they have taught 6 new spinners, and there are two new students lined up for this Sunday. Two students have joined the guild so far. At least one wants to rent a wheel. Spinning class has raised \$960 so far. All proceeds benefit the guild.



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Spinning classes
taught by Lori
Green and Mary
Snellings are
full of fun times!

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WEAVERS' WISDOM

From The Weavers Guild of Boston

Warping

When tying on a new warp, make only the first half of each knot. When all are tied, tighten the warp with the crank and the tension will be evened. The knots may then be completed without further adjustment.

If you have trouble focusing on the heddles, try threading from the side of the loom rather than the front or the back.

Tying on the edges of a warp a bit tighter than the central section helps to prevent sagging and uneven selvages.

KNITTING KNOTES

Slipped stitch bind off

To prevent an enlarged loop at the end of a bound off row: On the last row before the bind off row, slip the first stitch as if to purl, then work to the end of the row. Turn and bind off.

A Quick Bind off

Binding off a piece of knitting can be difficult if the yarn is heavy or irregular or if the garment is bulky. You can save a lot of time and avoid frustration if you substitute a crochet hook approximately the same diameter as the knitting needle. Put the hook through the first loop on the left hand needle and knit the stitch onto the hook. Knit the next stitch onto the hook and pull the new stitch through the first one. Continue in this manner to the end of the row, and pull the yarn through the last loop on the hook. This makes a tight even edge and is faster than the regular two needle bind off.

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) or Judy Klehm (jwklehm@gmail.com).



Book Review

by Linda George

In February a group of us went to Culpeper to check out the new yarn shop - Knit Wit! on Main Street. We found a delightful little shop stuffed with treasures of yarn, accessories and of course, books! Yes, I bought another - I just couldn't resist the beautiful cover photos of socks taken in lovely spots around Iceland. Socks of Iceland by Helene Magnusson has 17 sock patterns each with a photo, instructions and charts. They could also be used for mittens, hats or sweaters. But as I looked through the book I realized it was also a history of Icelandic and Scandinavian knitting, with pictures from museums in Iceland. The short articles were very interesting and now I also have some museums to check out when I get to Iceland.

I hope you get a chance to check out [Knit Wit](#) in Culpeper and peruse their yarns and books.

News Flash!

Last week a visitor to the guild studio during Knitting Group shared that she is a fine artist with a shop in Delaware - she is currently visiting family in the area. She specializes in Wearable Art and is interested in carrying and selling hand-spun art yarn. Check her out at www.stephanielaelbarrick.com for a peek at her work. Her email address is stephanie@stephanielaelbarrick.com. Contact her directly if you are interested.

Items For Sale or For Free



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I have a Lendrum
Saxony spinning
wheel for sale with
matching lazy kate
with 3 extra bobbins
and 2 flyers. Contact
Ginger Burke at
540-455-5032

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



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.

Price is negotiable.

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



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

FREE TO GOOD
HOME!
This incredible loom
is excitedly waiting
for a new weaver to
take her home...

Free to good home

A basic inkle loom and a 19th century skein winder-needs love and care-given to me by Rita Brown.

Contact Ginger Burke (gingerkburke@gmail.com) for further details.

SHOW MORE

Membership & Dues

As of 3/5/2022, 43 members are currently active in the guild (they 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**
- 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