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May 2023 Newsletter Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers Guild

Welcome one and all!

Code for Member Portal on the guild [website](#):

X^8Y5Rex

(the Member Portal is your gateway to guild newsletters,
the roster, the guild's subscription to Handwoven
magazine, and guild forms)

In this issue...

Guild Meeting Information

From the President's Desk

On the Horizon (Fiber Festivals, Education/Outreach, Hospitality)

Tour de Fleece

Looking Back...the next Scotland installment is here!

Committee News

MAFA

Guild Groups Information

Lesson/Classes

Studio News

Bits and Pieces (new)

Guild T-Shirts & other Guild Logo Merch (new)

Selling Your Work at LibertyTown

Membership and Dues

Guild Links

Leadership Information



Guild Membership Meeting/Program Info

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

March and April Meeting Minutes link: pending

March and April Meeting Video link: pending

Zoom link for May Meeting :

[click here](#)

Meeting ID: 828 0528 9112

Passcode: 047038

Meetings begin at 10 AM and generally conclude shortly after noon.

Bring your Dorset buttons to the May Meeting! They need to be mailed shortly to the MAFA Conference Committee! Each button will be put into a plastic sleeve along with one of the guild's cards. The buttons will be distributed along with other trinkets into the conference "goodie" bags for the June conference. If you cannot attend the meeting, you have until May 15 to get your button(s) to Aileen Campbell - you can also put them in the container in the newsletter editor's cubby at the guild studio.

VP's REPORT:

MEETING LOCATION

Just a reminder that we are now meeting at the Fredericksburg branch of the library (Caroline Street), Room #2 (in the basement.) There is ample parking behind the library. We will continue to hold meetings in a hybrid format, allowing participation by people who, for whatever reason, cannot or prefer not to attend in person.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

APRIL: Abby Pasinski will teach us about loom knitting. She has even brought a lot of looms and scrap yarn so we can try them out!

Other programs on the horizon include:

JUNE: A class on inkle loom weaving with Bonny Davia.

JULY OR AUGUST: MAFA Conference report and show-and-tell

~~Our annual conference report and show and tell.~~

We'll hear from our members who are attending the MAFA conference. If you're going, please be prepared to share your experience when you get back – and take pictures during the conference if you can! Our annual **picnic and yard sale** (probably after September's meeting)

And of course, our annual **holiday gathering and secret-elf gift exchange** in December.

If you have an idea for a program, class, or workshop, please let me know! You can email me at vice_president@fswguild.org .

Finally, make sure you check out the Tour de Fleece announcement in this newsletter! If you are a spinner, now is the time to start planning for this annual spinning event.

A few examples of knitting looms...

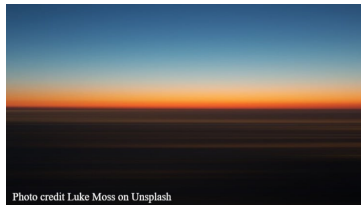




From the President's Desk

It's such a busy time of year for each and everyone of us. Hope to see many of you at this Saturday's guild meeting - make sure to bring those Dorset buttons so Aileen can collect and send them off to the MAFA Conference Committee. Also, let's get excited for Abby's presentation during this month's program - creating treasures on knitting looms!

On the Horizon...



Education and Outreach

from Keren Pritchett

Thank you to those who came to demonstrate at Earth Day.

Mother Nature decided to cut our time short, and the festival ended around 12:30 so we could pack up and get out before the rain poured down. It was a nice crowd while it lasted. Let's hope for better weather at our next events.

Saturday, May 13 is Living History at Port Royal from 10 - 4 pm. on the grounds of the Main Museum. Let me know if you'd like to join Lesley there.

Saturday, May 27 is International Family Day at the James Monroe Museum. This event is open house style with rotating vendors in the garden with correlating crafts. Mary Snellings & Lori Green will be on first thing, demonstrating spinning from 10 - 11:15 am. If anyone would like to help kids with the craft of weaving bookmarks (from our kits) during that time period, let me know.

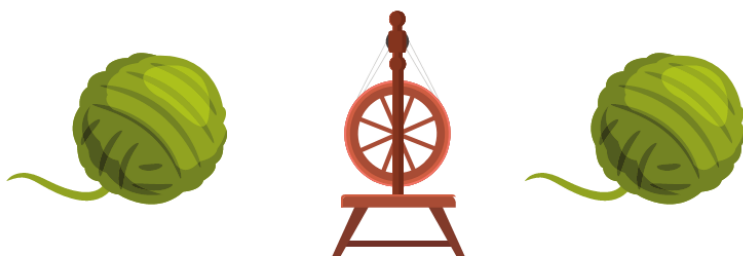
More details on upcoming events will be discussed at the meeting.

Hospitality Happenings

Many thanks to everyone who has signed up for snack duty last month at the guild meeting. We still have openings, so if you wish to participate call or text Mary Snellings or us Sign-up Genius by looking for FSWG Hospitality or Mary's name.snack at the

For any questions, contact Mary Snellings @540-589-0173.

Team FSWG



Tour de Fleece 2023

July 1 - July 23



Tour de Fleece

Spin with Team FSWG for Tour de Fleece!

What is Tour de Fleece?

It's a celebration of all things spinning that takes place during the Tour de France (July 1 – July 23, 2023.) Spinners are encouraged to set personal goals and challenges to complete during the event. We know that events like this can be overwhelming and intimidating, but we're here to reassure you that you've got this! Whether you're brand new or a spinnin' pro, we'd love to see your Tour de Fleece projects. Spin at your own pace - have fun! By spinning every day, you are spending time practicing your skills. And each time that I finish the tour, I am a better spinner.

The premise is that you spin every day that the tour is on. On the rest days (July 10 and 17), you can take the day off. And when the cyclists are in the mountains, you have a challenge day (July 9 and 16.) Your challenge can be learning a new technique or maybe spinning longer and farther than your usual day. The point is to have a goal in mind for the challenges.

Why should I join Team FSWG?

As a participant in Team FSWG 2023, you'll get encouragement and support from your fellow spinners. Post pictures of your progress, ask questions, and chat on our Ravelry forum. (Need help getting started on Ravelry? We can help with that, too.) We are also planning weekly in-person meet-and-spin events, as well as several virtual spin-ins. These are optional, but a great way to enjoy the camaraderie of spinning together! There will even be a few prizes at the end of the event, awarded by random drawing.

In-person meet-ups will take place in the studio on Sunday afternoons (time TBD) on July 2, 9, 16, and 23. We will also meet during the July First Friday event on July 1 (in the studio), and following the July 8th Guild meeting (in the Fredericksburg library.) The schedule for virtual spin-ins will be announced later.

The sign-up will be posted on Ravelry in a week or two, and we will send out an email with details and a link to the sign-up post.

If you have any questions, please contact Kara Pekar at kpekar9@gmail.com or Mary Snellings at marysnellings@yahoo.com.

Scotland

Guild members Linda George and Mary Hardy travelled on an adventure to Scotland last fall. Here is the next episode from their trip:

Memories Galore

We traveled on and went to the delightful Island at the Edge Croft that is located in Edinbane on the shores of Loch Greshornish~Isle of Skye. There are about 20,000 Crofters in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland with approximately 33,000 crofters and their families living in the homes on the property.

We spent our time with Yasmin. She is warm, funny and knowledgeable about the animals, fiber and all that goes into making the Croft successful. We got up close and personal to the Highland Cows (Heilan Coos), the shaggy, friendly residents of the moors and highlands. The sheep were playing and keeping a distance from us. Crofting is a form of land tenure and small-scale food production particular to the Scottish Highlands, the islands of Scotland, and formerly on the Isle of Man. Within the 19th-century townships, individual crofts were established on the better land, and a large area of poorer-quality hill ground was shared by all the crofters of the township for grazing of their livestock. Be sure to wear appropriate shoes as you will most probably end up in the muck several times. My shoes had to be tossed, but that was fine because spending time with Yasmin and the animals warmed my soul.

We talked about the fiber process and how all things are put to use. We went to the shop where we learned about the different designs and their meanings on a hand knitted Fisherman's Gansey and discussed more about the high quality of knitting, crocheting, spinning and land-based courses for those who might be interested in crofting.

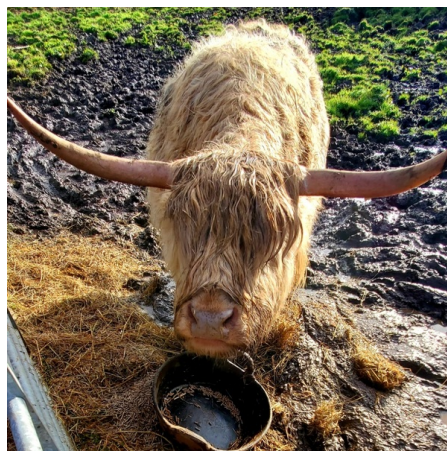
Yasmin's husband owns and operates Skye Marina, and if time allows will take you out on the water where you can see dolphins, porpoises and seals. The croft is an amazing experience and this one was very welcoming and fun!

I couldn't leave the shop without purchasing a few treats. I got some of the Croft's yarn and a knitting belt that was hand made by Yasmine. Knitting belts were an essential tool for generations of knitters who had the lifelong task of hand knitting garments for their families. They are used with double point needles. I first saw knitters use these in Shetland. Yasmin demonstrated the belt and how to use it. She is an extremely talented woman.

Oh, and there is more...we ended up in their living area where she had prepared coffee, tea and a variety of pastries for us. We ate, chatted and hated to leave the Island of the Edge Croft, but the special memories remain.

Enjoy the photos and don't pass up a trip to a croft. A most delightful and learning experience!

Mary Hardy
Isle of Skye
October 2022





Committee News

Guild Engagement Committee

The next scheduled meeting will be May 4th at 7 PM.

All guild members are welcome to attend.

The purpose of this committee is to explore and promote ways in which the guild can support its members' fiber interests, as well as grow the guild and expand its reach into the local community.

Zoom link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89028356071?
pwd=aHo2aUlwQXZTNDRhbmJKZnZlWEs5Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89028356071?pwd=aHo2aUlwQXZTNDRhbmJKZnZlWEs5Zz09)

Meeting ID: 890 2835 6071

Passcode: 720624

All meeting dates can be found on the guild calendar on our website
(www.fswguild.org)

MAFA:

June 2023 Conference News:

It's getting closer! The MAFA 2023 Conference will be held at Millersville University (near Lancaster, PA), June 22 - 25, 2023.

The latest MAFA info (their bi-monthly newsletter) has been saved to the guild's Dropbox folder. That newsletter can also be found [here](#).

MAFA Virtual Mini Conference registration is in full swing. All the info you need to check it out can be found at mafafiber.org or click [HERE](#). Let me know if you have any questions!

MAFA Virtual!

Also, remember that **MAFA Virtual!** signups for classes are on-going! The purpose of MAFA Virtual! is to make classes and workshops available for everyone to participate in, regardless of ability to attend the conference in person.

LEARN ALL ABOUT **MAFA VIRTUAL** [HERE](#).

Questions? Email virtual@mafafiber.org

MAFA VIRTUAL Registration for all classes and lectures will be on [Lessonface](#). [CLICK HERE](#) for class details and to register. Classes for the beginning of this year (dates listed are beginning dates if there are multiple class sessions):

- Paint Two, Beam One: Painting Two Warps & Weaving Them as One (\$50) Apr 28
- Learn to Use Weaving Design Software (Fiberworks) (\$200) May 2

MAFA MOVIE NIGHTS will take place on Zoom, on the second Wednesday of each month, at 7 p.m. Eastern. Sign up at movies@mafafiber.org to receive reminder emails and the Zoom link for these movies.



Guild Groups

Our guild has four 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. **This year we are studying Blocks and Profile Drafts. We are following along with the Jane Stafford School of Weaving course.** 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. Currently meeting face-to-face.

The **Circular Sock Machine (CSM) Group** meets the 4th Saturday of each month in the guild studio area from 10 am to 3 pm. Let [Aileen Campbell](#) know if you are interested in attending. All are welcome, including non-guild members.

Lessons/classes



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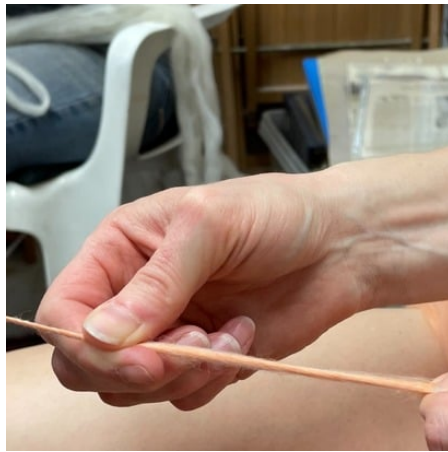
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Beginning Spinning Classes:

Beginning Spinning classes are resuming this month (yay!). We have about 4-6 more on the "interested" list but we'd love to have more - tell your friends about the class or sign up yourself by contacting Mary at 540-589-0173 or marysnellings@yahoo.com.

We will be starting the May class on May 14 after our "field trip" to Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival on May 6-7. Lori and I both attended!

Studio News

The guild studio at Liberty Town is open to all guild members!

Be sure to peruse our extensive library of books and magazines regarding all things fiber. **A list of all 88 new books recently added to our library can be found [here](#).** A comprehensive and searchable list of our entire library inventory is available in the guild's drobox account. Or just [click here](#) to view it.

Besides our **library**, there is an area for individuals or small groups to sit, shelves full of guild inventory, boxes for guild officers and those who rent space from the guild, as well as looms/spinning wheels that belong to those who are renting guild space.

Please Please Please - when you use the guild studio space be sure to tidy up before you leave.

Please remember that no food items should be put in the guild trashcan unless you empty it before leaving for the day. Food refuse may be deposited in the LibertyTown trashcans. Replacement bags are in the white cabinet adjacent to the refrigerator.

Bits and Pieces

First Fridays at LibertyTown - First Friday of each month is an event to celebrate art, community, and Downtown Fredericksburg. LibertyTown participates in First Friday and would love for our guild to have a few members in residence in the guild studio space during First Fridays. For more information on First Fridays, check [this](#) out. Having someone in the guild to coordinate this would be a terrific way to help the guild and get to know other guild members while only taking up a few minutes each month. If you are willing to consider handling this, please contact Mary Snellings at 540-589-0173 or marysnellings@yahoo.com for details.

Facebook - all guild members are encouraged to join the [guild's private Facebook page](#).

T-Shirts and other items with our Guild Logo

Well, Judy Klehm figured out an easy way for all guild members to order their own merchandise with the guild logo on it! Judy ordered her shirt from Zazzle - she played around with placement and size of the logo and voila! a really cool shirt! A few of the guild engagement committee also ordered shirts to test the quality and speediness - all was quite satisfactory!

So, how to order your own? An easy, peasy way is to follow [this link to Zazzle](#), as the logo is already on a shirt. Then play with the many choices of type of T-shirt, colors, sizes, etc. You can even order aprons, tote bags, and a myriad of other items! Then order and wait until your package arrives.

Or, you can access the jpeg file for the logo in the guild's dropbox by [clicking here](#). Copy the file and use to create your own items at sites like Cafe Press, Zazzle, etc.

Thank you Judy!!!



Interested in selling your work at LibertyTown?

If you are interested in selling and would like to have your items reviewed for approval, please complete the application on our [web site](#) in the members only section. This is an electronic submission and will go to the committee chairperson. You may also complete a paper submission. The forms are on the Bulletin Board at LT and in the Handbook which was recently distributed. Please leave your paper copy on the seat at Judy Klehm's loom. You will be contacted and told when to bring your items to Liberty Town. The \$10.00 review fee will be collected when you drop off your items to be reviewed. Future review dates will be scheduled. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Klehm at 540-842-1970 or jwklehm@gmail.com

Membership & Dues

As of 05/08/2023, the guild has 53 members in full standing (dues are paid).

Dues (\$30 annually, \$15 out of state & youth/student \$5) are due each year by September 30. Members who do not submit their dues by December 30th are 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 \(revised 2022\)](#)

[Guild Website](#)

[Handwoven Online Access Instructions](#)

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

[Instagram](#)

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

Guild Calendar: if you would like an item added to the Guild calendar, please send the details to Aileen Campbell at specedt1@gmail.com

Leadership (executive board members)

President - Lesley Reynolds president@fswguild.org

Vice President - Kara Peckar vice_president@fswguild.org

Secretary - Nicole White secretary@fswguild.org

Treasurer - Denise Kash treasurer@fswguild.org

Additional Leadership

Librarian - Denise Kash librarian@fswguild.org

Membership - currently vacant

Hospitality - Mary Snellings marysnellings@yahoo.com

Education/Outreach - Keren Pritchett kjpritchett1@gmail.com

Newsletter - Aileen Campbell specedt1@gmail.com

MAFA Rep - Aileen Campbell fswg_mafa_rep@fswguild.org

Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers Guild

fswguild@gmail.com

0123456789



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