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December 2023 Newsletter Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers Guild

Welcome everyone!

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)



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(aren't they cute??)

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Guild Membership Meeting/Program Info (AKA Hospitality Happenings this month)

October Meeting Minutes link:

October Video link:

Zoom link for December Meeting : [click here](#)

Meeting ID: 828 0528 9112

Passcode: 047038

Meetings usually begin at 10 AM and generally conclude shortly after noon. Meetings are held at the Fredericksburg branch of the library at 1201 Caroline Street, in Room #2 (in the basement.) There is ample parking behind the library.

Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers Guild **Holiday Party**

Will be held this Saturday from 10:00-12:30 at a ***NEW*** location.

We will meet at the social hall of
Hull's Memorial Baptist Church
[420 Enon Rd, Fredericksburg, VA 22406](#)

There is plenty of parking - the door to the hall is at the rear of the building
(farthest from the church).

The location is about 10 minutes North of the library where we have recently been meeting, just over the bridge a few miles in Stafford. It's on the same road with Stafford High School.

Advantages are that the space is large and configurable with many tables and chairs. We have access to an industrial kitchen with multiple ovens, stovetops, refrigerator and freezer.

Which is really handy, because this party is POTLUCK! Bring your favorites – there is no sign-up or coordination.

Show off your best savory and sweet treats! We are able to pop things in the oven to warm during the first part of the meeting if that's helpful.

Please mark if your dish is Gluten Free, or has nuts, etc. for folks who are sensitive.

Also don't forget to bring your presents for the (optional) Gift Exchange. We upped the top-limit on "monetary value" to \$25 this year, as it's very hard to get much for \$15 any more. But keep in mind that's a top limit – you do NOT have to spend that much! Bring your gift wrapped and we will draw numbers to pick gifts. Traditionally we tag the packages with "for a spinner" or "for a knitter/crocheter" or "for a weaver" or "for anyone" just in case the gift is a

knitter/crocheter or for a weaver or for anyone just in case the gift is a particular match. There is no "stealing" as in some exchanges, but you can always swap later secretly, I guess!!!

Those who want to come early to set up, let me know what time you want to arrive and I'll make sure to be there to open the door.



From the President's Desk

Greetings All,

This is my final "From the President's Desk". I can't believe how fast the last four years have been. Trying to write something to express the emotions and feelings summing up the experiences from over the last few years is very difficult, especially without sounding cliché.

I want to say thank you to all those that have helped me over the years. Keeping me on track could be someone's full time job. I realize that none of you have to do these things, we're all just volunteers at the end of the day, but you all do, and that means so much.

To my fellow board members and committee chairs, I think you know that the guild would not be in the position we are now without your input, critical thinking, forward vision and execution.

Everyone in the guild has their individual touch points on various causes and connections to the community. Trying to think about everything and not forgetting some aspect is not something that I could do without the help of everyone in our community.

We have had to undergo some pretty significant changes over the past four years. I think everyone knows I'm referring to COVID. We really had to pivot with that one. Thank goodness we were already MAFA members and had the ability to make use of the benefits of that membership. From the Zoom meetings to the micro-grant allowing us to buy the necessary equipment to hold our meetings virtually, we were able to weather that storm and become even stronger on the other side. We also started meeting at the library instead of the guild space; we just plain outgrew the space for the membership meetings, even with holding hybrid meetings. I think that is a wonderful problem to have.

I also want to take some time to remember members that we've lost over my tenure as president:

Rita Brown

Susan Hatch

Margaret Hermann

Mary Schmidt

Mary Schmidt

Sally Vinroot

Elizabeth Woodford

Although I'm leaving the position of president, I am not leaving the guild. I will still be here doing the technical support for things. Running the website and modernizing processes as needed/requested by the board. Again, I want to say thank you for all the encouragement and support from everyone that I have been so lucky to receive over the years.

Thank you

Lesley Reynolds

President

Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers Guild

[READ MORE](#)

Vice President's Report

MEETING LOCATION

Please note that the December and January monthly meetings will be held at different locations. The December meeting and holiday gathering is at Hull Memorial Baptist Church (420 Enon Rd., Fredericksburg VA 22406) – see the holiday party announcement in this newsletter for details. The January meeting will be held at Florence Ridderhof's house. Watch your email for more details!

Hybrid meetings: We will continue to hold most of our meetings in a hybrid format (in-person and Zoom), which allows participation by people who, for whatever reason, cannot or prefer not to attend in person.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

DECEMBER 9: Our annual **holiday gathering and gift exchange**. This year, with more people showing up in person for meetings, we are going back to our traditional gift exchange. Each person brings a wrapped or gift-bagged gift that is fiber-related in some way. Handmade gifts are welcome, as are items from your stash in excellent condition. Please mark if your gift is for a weaver, spinner, knitter and/or crocheter, or will work for anyone. Due to inflation, we set an upper spending limit of \$25 this year. See the holiday party announcement for more details!

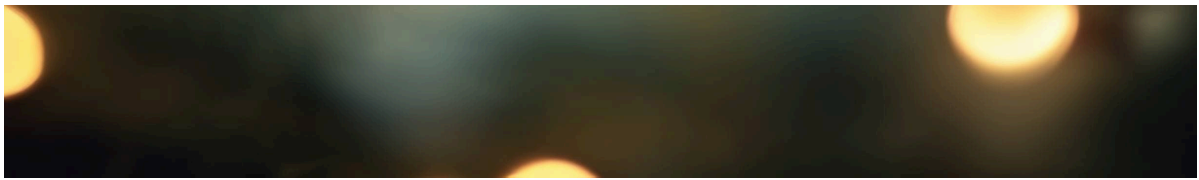
JANUARY 13: We'll hold our **meeting and annual Guild sale at Florence's house!** Many thanks to Florence for offering to host us again. This is the sale where we bring donations to sell; the proceeds go to support the Guild. It's a great way to clear out those tools and items from your stash that you bought but never got around to using.

We need two volunteers: one to price the items for sale, and one to collect the money. Please contact Kara Pekar at vice_president@fswguild.org if you can help. You can donate spinning fiber, yarn, crochet or weaving thread, tools (knitting needles, craft scissors, shuttles, etc.), and equipment (loom, yarn swift, etc.) Please make sure it is in usable condition. Bring cash or your checkbook! There are always some great deals.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: If you have an idea for a post-meeting program, a class, or a workshop, please let us know! It doesn't matter whether it's something you

can present, something you have seen elsewhere, or just something you would like to learn more about—we still want to hear about it. You can email Kara Pekar at vice_president@fswguild.org .





Education and Outreach

from Keren Pritchett

We have two more events for this year, both on the same day!

The DAR talk on Spinning which Linda George has graciously agreed to do. That will be on the afternoon of Dec. 9th at the DAR meeting.

It's the Fourth Annual Cookies with the Clydesdales at 81 Whispering Pines Lane, Stafford VA starting at 9:30 am. on Saturday, December 9th. Beth Honrine, a spinning student of Mary & Lori's, is the organizer of this event that is held at her farm. She would love to have us there to demonstrate. We would need a tent, table and chairs. Free food is available for the volunteers/demonstrators like chili & sandwiches, hot cocoa and cider. There will be electrical hookup so we could use a space heater if needed. So many attend that they need to schedule entry for folks by the half hour.

This is a family friendly event for our military and first responder community.

Yes, it's also the day of our Guild meeting/holiday party, but I believe Mary Snellings & Lori Green will try and attend it after our party. Please let me know if anyone else is interested in going.

Keren Pritchett

Arts & Crafts Night Out 2nd Thursdays, 6-7 PM

All spinners, weavers, knitters, and crafters are invited to Arts & Crafts Night Out, 6-7 PM, second Thursdays at the Howell Branch of the Central Rappahannock Regional Library (806 Lyons Blvd.). We'll gather on the comfy sofas in front of the fireplace.

The next meeting is Thursday, December 14, at 6 PM. Bring your current project!

Contact Beth Spragins at bethspragins@yahoo.com for further details.



Election Results

Election results are in.

Nicole White will continue in the office of secretary.

Aileen Campbell will be the next president, effective January 2024.



Annual Dues

Annual dues are past due!

Our treasurer, Denise Kash, sent out a reminder to all who have not yet paid their 2024 guild dues. Those who have not paid their dues by the January meeting will be purged from the guild's email distribution list, which means no more guild emails, no more guild newsletters.

So don't forget to send / bring a check to Liberty Town OR bring it to our next meeting on December 9th. You can also pay via PayPal, but please read the directions in every newsletter so PayPal doesn't get a portion of the \$\$\$. If none of these options work for you, you can pay in cash :)



Committee News

Guild Engagement Committee

The next scheduled meeting is January 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)

Library News!

Most of the Spin-off magazines have been put in 3-ring binders and those binders are now in the white cubbies at the guild space (blue labels). White labels are Handwoven magazines.

We will also be doing the same thing to Shuttle, Spindle & Dyepot soon. The binders help preserve the magazines and make access to them much more efficient. They are an outstanding resource on “everything fiber” that the guild pays for. Check them out!!

Denise Kash
FSWG Librarian

MAFA Updates

Guild Representative to MAFA is now Georgette Champagne

Mafa has a few upcoming lessons and lectures starting in January.

Take a look at <https://www.lessonface.com/mafa>.
Their Bi-weekly movie nights start back up in January, no names announced yet.

Find virtual class and lecture details, and registration on Lessonface: [lessonface.com/mafa](https://www.lessonface.com/mafa)

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



Book Review - by Kara Pekar

Andrea Rangel's *KnitOvation Stitch Dictionary* is exactly what the subtitle claims: 150+ modern colorwork knitting motifs. In other words, stitch patterns for repeating motifs worked in two colors. Featuring visually interesting designs and clear, easy-to-follow charts, this book is a welcome addition to any collection of stitch pattern books.

The book begins with a section discussing the impact of yarn choice on the finished piece. Photographs of swatches worked in the same pattern but in different types of yarn demonstrate how a variety of factors influence the look of the final product.

The stitch patterns make up the bulk of the book. Each is shown with both a chart and a photo of the knitted swatch. There is a wide variety of motifs, including flora, fauna, curved and rectilinear patterns, and miscellaneous common items. You'll find everything from dragons to rubber ducks, maple leaves to abstract waves. Many motifs are beautiful or visually interesting; some are clever, even amusing. The book's only real weakness is that the motifs are mixed somewhat randomly, rather than organized into logical groupings. To find one, you have to either browse the entire selection, or look up the motif by name in the index.

Ms. Rangel also includes three patterns to demonstrate how one can apply the motifs to three-dimensional clothing items: a hat, a sweater, and a pair of mitts. The pullover sweater pattern uses two motifs in the yoke. It's graded for 13 sizes, ranging from a chest circumference of 33" all the way up to 69", so it's very size-inclusive.

Following the motifs, Ms. Rangel includes a list of abbreviations used in the patterns, and a glossary of techniques accompanied by illustrations. Finally, there are four separate indexes: a stitch count index, a row count index, a pattern-name index, and a subject index; the latter covers topics found in the book, but not the subjects or categories of motifs.

This is a terrific collection of repeatable motifs for knitting or designing knitwear, and has definitely earned a place among my knitting books. I love the look of so many of the motifs, and I know I will turn to the book over and over for my own knitting.

Lessons/classes

Spinning, Rigid Heddle Weaving, and Harness Loom Weaving are offered through the guild!



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Spinning Classes:

Beginning Spinning classes are taught by guild members Lori Green and Mary Snellings. Sign up by contacting Mary at 540-589-0173 or marysnellings@yahoo.com.

Beginner Spinning Class Update: Lori and Mary are thrilled to have 3 new students this month, Amelia, Ai-Lihn, and Beth. All three have shown some interest in the guild, so if you meet them at the meeting, please welcome them.

* We have been evangelizing a bit with the UMW club Yarnworks - we have one student from the college so far, and we have decided to have a half-price rate for college students to encourage more participation.

* We have also been given the green light to replace the gasket on the guild's drum carder, so that we can use that to experiment and demonstrate fiber prep. We may eventually hold a fiber prep class, maybe next spring or summer.

* Speaking of fiber, Fran Slaterbeck has graciously loaned us her tall plastic clothes basket to use for storage of fibers for class - thank you Fran! I'll donate the old baby tub to Goodwill and we'll tape the labels onto it so folks know why it's in the corner. Speaking of fiber, if anyone is doing fall cleaning and has decided they really aren't going to use some of their fiber stash, we are accepting donations.

Rigid Heddle Weaving Classes:

Rigid Heddle Weaving Lessons are now available and being taught by Fran Slaterbeck. Contact her at fslaterbeck040@gmail.com for details. She is so excited to have her rigid heddle loom in the guild studio space available for visitors to try.

Harness Loom Weaving Classes:

Weaving Lessons are also available and are being taught by Georgette Champagne. Contact Georgette at silverknot67@gmail.com for details.

Notes from Georgette about her classes: The fifth student is weaving her way to the end make of her scarf and should be done by December 9th. So far 3 out of the five students have bought themselves a loom to pursue the craft further, I think 4 have joined the guild. Please welcome Elizabeth, April, Ruthy and Roxanne to the world of weaving! There are two more students signed up for January - the teacher is taking December off.

Opportunities from Georgette: Any guild member who does not know how to weave but would like to learn, you are more than welcome! I would be more than happy to give you complimentary beginners lesson. The lessons would be at the Studio on either a floor loom or a table loom. There are 4 lessons that usually last 1-2 hours, and for some of that you would be on your own after you learn how to actually weave. Contact Georgette at silverknot67@gmail.com if you are interested in this opportunity to jump into the world of weaving!



Studio News

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

Besides our extensive **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.****



Wooly links

Brought to you by Kara Pekar

Washing wool with snow: <https://www.thewoolchannel.com/snow-washing/?ref=the-wool-channel-newsletter>

Wool helps you stay cooler under pressure: <https://www.wool.com/news-events/news/wool-helps-you-stay-cool-under-pressure/>

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 Café 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 12/04/2023, the guild has grown to 65 members (though not all have paid their 2024 dues).

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 \[specedt1@gmail.com\]\(mailto:specedt1@gmail.com\)](#)

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 kjpritchett11@gmail.com

Newsletter - Aileen Campbell spcedt1@gmail.com

MAFA Rep - Georgette Champagne fswg_mafa_rep@fswguild.org

Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers Guild

fswguild@gmail.com

0123456789



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