

Eastern Great  
Lakes Fiber  
Conference  
2025

Biennial Report





# Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference 2025

## Table of Contents

- Letter from our Conference Chair ...pg 3
- Conference Highlights ...pg 4
- Our Gifts and Décor ...pg 5
- Your Outgoing 2025 Board Members ...pg 6
- Your Incoming 2027 Board Members ...pg 7
- Fiber Angel Honorees ...pg 8
- Calling all Fiber Angels ...pg 9
- Our 2025 Promise and Results ...pg 10
- Our Financial Report ...pg 11
- Evaluation Summary ...pg 12
- Letter from the Kniselys ...pg 13
- Save the Date ...pg 14

# From the studio of our EGLFC 2025-2027

## EGLFC Chair Jane Andrews



Dear Fiber Friends,

My family has been vacationing at Chautauqua since 1980! As a newish weaver, I was thrilled to be at this historic bastion of life-long learning for EGLFC 2023. My workshop combined two passions: sewing and weaving. I was in heaven for the conference offered much joy and creativity. That is a rare gift. Like so many other all-volunteer organizations, leadership makes a difference. This conference could easily fade into oblivion and become a thing of the past. Because I believe EGLFC matters I agreed to chair the 2025 conference.

I'm so grateful that a cadre of like-minded folks joined the Board. With teamwork, updates were made. Chautauqua was undergoing renovations, so we pivoted to St. Bonaventure. We listened to our members and built on past successes. We found efficient, affordable ways to handle tasks, took advantage of our non-profit status and captured new sources of revenue.

The Board visited three potential sites; we unanimously selected St. Bonaventure University. Leadership took everything to the next level. Attendees noted outstanding instruction and camaraderie. Modernization of registration processes provided ease. Our Fabulous Fashion Show and successful Studio Bonanza, were big hits. Our Mid Atlantic Fiber Association Grant and support of individual and guild Fiber Angels helped contain fees. Because of our now healthy reserve we are making website technical upgrades to membership and education processes.

Feeling like we just got started, I agreed to continue as Conference Chair for 2027. Luckily, three officers are continuing on our Board, and seven new volunteers have joined. That says more about EGLFC's health and commitment than anything else could.

What about 2027? We have excellent venue choices (Chautauqua or St. Bonaventure). A Springtime decision is promised. We pledge to give you a fabulous conference with great learning and camaraderie, keep costs affordable and inform you as soon as core decisions are made. Don't hesitate to share this report and other EGLFC news as it comes your way. Your participation, encouragement and love of all things Fiber Arts could help another newbie, as I had once been, to consider EGLFC.

Gratefully,

*Jane Andrews*





## Conference 2025 Highlights

**\$3,200 Obtained in MAFA grant funding**



**\$1,900 Received in individual donations from Fiber Angels**



**\$770 Received in donations from Fiber Angel Guilds**



- Chautauqua County Fiber Arts
- Southern Tier Fiber Arts
- Weavers' Guilds of Buffalo and Rochester

**\$1,000 Raised from inaugural Studio Bonanza Ticketed Event**

**\$23,400 Obtained from Conference Fees**

**50 Fiber Artists attended the Conference**



We offer our humble thanks to our individual and guild members who donated time, talent and treasure to embellish our conference atmosphere and create a spirit of collegiality. Some of the donations include:

Handwoven Needle Cases,

Weavers' Guild of Buffalo

Handwoven Tech Cord Holders,

Chautauqua County Weavers' Guild

Handwoven Key Rings,

Syracuse Weavers Guild

Hand-spun Mini Skeins,

Golden Fleece, Cherry Valley and

Genesee Valley Spinning Guilds

Fabric Pumpkins,

Lynda DeLallo and Cheryl Molesky

Greeting Cards Handwoven Window,

Marianne Antczak



## Thanks to our EGLFC 2025 Leaders

We are grateful they said “YES” and served members

Diane Howard, Publicity Chair

Hope Herting, Editor

Mary Ann Proia, Exhibits & Studio Bonanza

Maria Pacheco, Fashion Show

Lynda DeLallo & Cheryl Molesky, Banquet Co-chairs

Cheryl Molesky, Menu Planning

Tina Filarowski, Webmaster

# The EGLFC 2027 Board

We are thankful for our new volunteers who have stepped up to serve the upcoming conference.

- ▶ Jane Andrews, Chair
- ▶ Jill Rouke, Treasurer
- ▶ Marianne Antczak, Program Co-Chair
- ▶ Chris St. Clair, Program Co-Chair
- ▶ Nancy Gaus, Registration Co-Chair
- ▶ Jenny O'Shaughnessy, Registration Co-Chair
- ▶ Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson, Publicity Chair/Editor
- ▶ Debbie Penley, Communications and Social Media
- ▶ Nancy Gaus, Webmaster
- ▶ Laurie Jones, Fiber Angels and Studio Bonanza
- ▶ Ute Buttkus, Exhibits
- ▶ Joy Pate, Fashion Show
- ▶ TBD, Menu Planning and Banquet



## In memory of *Uarda Taylor* 2025 Fiber Angel HONOREE

Uarda began weaving later in life, working first as an art teacher and watercolor artist. She served as president of the Western Reserve Weavers and Spinners Guild of Ohio. Her memory lives on through a generous financial gift. At age 90, she was described as a “firecracker,” sharing her passion for weaving and teaching.



## *Joyce Robards* 2025 Fiber Angel HONOREE

Joyce has been a weaver and textile artist for over 50 years. She is a founding member of the Weaving and Fiber Arts Center of the Weavers’ Guild of Rochester. She is Handwoven magazine’s 2016 Teacher of the Year. Joyce was featured in 2025 HGA Textiles and Tea.



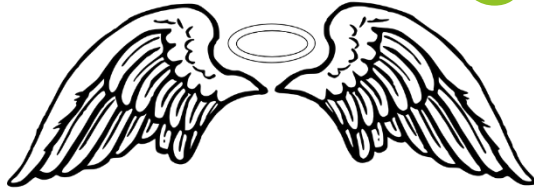
## *Mary McMahon* 2025 Fiber Angel HONOREE

Mary is an accomplished weaver and seamstress; but is best known for her tapestries. She is a gifted teacher and able to express concepts in an easily understood way. She is ever patient, encouraging, kind and generous in sharing her knowledge in class and in the WGR Tapestry Study Group at any time.





## Our Fiber Angels



**Our Fiber Angels support EGLFC by donating additional financial support to our nonprofit.**

These donations are accepted in the spirit of generosity, and these funds promote the camaraderie of our beloved fiber arts community. These donations directly benefit our conference attendees.

### **How do I become a Fiber Angel?**

We accept donations during registration or at any time at [EGLFC.org/donate](http://EGLFC.org/donate). Consider adding EGLFC to your yearly donation list, including Qualified Charitable Distributions (QDC).

### **What are the Benefits of being a Fiber Angel?**

Individuals who donate get a tax deduction for giving to a meaningful cause.

Individuals gain satisfaction knowing they are ensuring a successful conference event.



## Our Results and Our Promise

We plan to go forward with our 2025 results by making it into a promise for 2027. We promise strong leadership in the arena of Fiber Arts, and to deliver a premium, approachable and affordable two-and-a-half-day regional conference leveraging against economic challenges, venue uncertainties and honoring constituent desires.

- The recent, highly rated October 10-13, 2025 conference served 50 participants. First time fund-raising efforts surpassed goals. Cutting from six classes to five, our reserve account allows for future improvements. Minimally, three variables will be considered for 2027: projected conference fees, ability to offer wet techniques, and dedicated space for informal conversation and mentorship.
- There's nothing magical about having six classes. The conference is solid when the classes are of premium quality, no matter the number. Registration demonstrated greater interest in advanced weaving classes.
- We are creative! From extraordinary exhibits to a jaw-dropping fashion show, we were inspired to be even more creative.
- We want to catch up with others. Yes, we heard the registrants. They want a dedicated space for informal gathering. Wine included!
- Fundraising is inspirational. We acknowledged some of our Fiber Angel honorees. We heard from many more potential Fiber Angels, we learned that getting the word out matters.
- Fundraising is fun! Our Studio Bonanza (a ticketed event) surprised everyone with both quality of donations and level of laughter. We plan to double table donations for the next Bonanza!
- Non-profit charity status has benefits. Tax exempt status reduced fees at the hotels/conference center and allowed us to buy affordable financial software. Plus, donors received tax advantages.
- Protecting our IRS 501c3 status is important. Our by-laws call for an election of four officers, which was done at the conference. The NYS required Conflict of Interest Policy is now in place.

# EASTERN GREAT LAKES FIBER CONFERENCE 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

Actual income	2025	2023	
<b>Beginning Bank Balance</b>	<b>\$4,008.33</b>	<b>\$10,435.61</b>	
Registration Fee Income	\$23,400.00	\$39,643.78	
Fund Raising Income	\$3,260.31		
Grant Income	\$3,200.00		
Lodging portion of Fee	\$16,725.00		
<b>Total Cash Available</b>		\$50,593.64	\$50,079.39
<b>Actual Expenses</b>			
General Misc Expense	\$1,895.00	\$2,676.79	(\$1,483.53 Paypal)
Instructor Expenses	\$11,067.22	\$14,936.23	
SBU/CHQ Expenses	\$10,776.24	\$28,458.04	
Hotel Expense	\$16,929.27		
<b>Total Actual Expense</b>		\$40,668.64	\$46,071.05





## Taking Stock: Participant Evaluations

### What we learned!

We are heartened by our 80% response rate (46 responded out of potential 57 participants and instructors). Our instructors all received lavish praise and in return told us that they loved their teaching experiences! Registration, Venue, Food and Classroom Sections were all highly rated. Most participants want to see the Exhibits, Banquet, Fashion Show, Studio Bonanza and Meet & Greet return.

### What will improve!

Recommendations for the next conference include more time and casual space for informal mentorship, discussion time amongst participants and fellowship opportunities.



## A letter from the Knisleys

October 18, 2025

Dear Marianne and the entire EGLFC Board,

Congratulations on hosting such a wonderfully run conference. Everything went smoothly. All needs were taken care of. No detail was left undone! Lots of extra special details were sprinkled into each day. All of this was GREATLY appreciated!

Both Tom and I appreciate the attention to details. Both during the planning stages and during the conference, everything was taken care of SO well Your attention to the little things meant that things, at least from our perspective, ran super smoothly. We know 'It Takes A Village' to put on a great conference. Your village did a fantastic job putting on the 2025 conference!

From the moment we arrived, with name tags, lanyards, folders and snacks, we felt welcomed, and informed. We were greeted by smiles and knowledgeable people.

The maps, directions, and daily plan were super helpful during the weekend. The leaves sprinkled in the hallway of the classroom building was a genius idea (and so much better than breadcrumbs). Everything Tom requested was provided. You even provided Kleenex! Thank you!

The nightly programs were fun and informative. The dinners were great. The exhibits and fashion show truly showed off the artists works. We were in awe! Even the table settings, with nightly gifts were so well done. We are so grateful.

I am especially grateful to have been welcomed so warmly. I was sorry that my class didn't fill, but you welcomed me anyway. I am truly so grateful for that. Both Tom and I had a really wonderful conference. Thank you for all of your hard work to make it so wonderful.

Sincerely,

Cindy (and Tom) Knisely



# Remember SAVE THE DATES Fiber Artists

Our upcoming conference is October 8-11, 2027. Be sure to mark your calendars and send in your early registration fee to get the Early Bird Special (10% Discount)



# EGLFC

