

## FAIRBANKS WEAVERS' & SPINNERS' GUILD

Mailing address: PO Box 73152, Fairbanks, AK 99707, Studio: Davis Hall, TVSF Fairgrounds  
[www.fairbanksweavers.org](http://www.fairbanksweavers.org), [fairbanksweavers@gmail.com](mailto:fairbanksweavers@gmail.com), (907) 452-7737

### President's Letter

Greetings,  
 Hope this finds you all well! After the initial adjustment to the cooler/darker season, I find myself thinking about all the possible projects I might do!



I kicked off the season with a Double Rainbow doubleweave weave class with Jennifer Moore. They say if you learn one thing in a workshop, it's a success. I learned several things in that workshop and enjoyed every minute. I made my own 8 cone holder which helped making a warp with 4 colors at a time. There were 6 different combinations of 4 colors to wind! I learned what doubleweave is and how to play with blocks. As Jennifer Moore says, "if you know blocks in weaving, you have the keys to the kingdom." Jennifer is a wonderful instructor and she was very accessible via email for any questions. I don't fear Zoom anymore! I'm so thankful there's a way to connect in these strange times.

I definitely prefer live interaction with people, and the guild has some opportunities for in person and virtual gatherings. There will be weaving and loom building workshops coming up at Davis Hall. On November 21 we will have an in studio work session to prepare for the Mega Bazaar on November 27. The Bazaar will have all handmade items and the guild will have a table of member made items. In January there will be open studio nights and we will celebrate our first ROC Day! Details about ROC Day in newsletter.

Looking forward to seeing you! Enjoy whatever you do! Cheers, Buffy

### Officers & Board Slate for 2021-2022

President: Buffy York Dewitz 347-5370  
 Vice President: Bonni Brooks 980-3126  
 Secretary: Pat Costello 457-7033  
 Treasurer: Maureen English 388-4465  
 Historian: Laurel Herbeck

#### Board of Directors:

Kate Hedstrom 590-1420  
 Chris Waigl 699-9943  
 Claire Spann 978-7104  
 Amy Mackinaw

Librarian: OPEN

Hospitality: OPEN

Newsletter: OPEN

Fair Supervisor: Moxie Pender 479-8443  
 Kate Hedstrom 590-1420.

Rob Cermak

Workshops: OPEN

Dye Garden: Gail Mayo 479-3425

Spinning Group: Alice Stickney 479-3425

Busy Bees: Jodi Gouwens 474-9144

### Not sure about your guild membership status?

Contact: [fairbanksweavers@gmail.com](mailto:fairbanksweavers@gmail.com) and update your membership today! \$15 after Sept. 1; \$30 annual in April. The membership form is also available on the website: [www.fairbanksweavers.org](http://www.fairbanksweavers.org). FWSSG thanks you for supporting the guild and participating in its mission to build community across Interior Alaska through practice, teaching and learning in the arts of weaving, hand spinning, and related textile arts.

## FWSG Calendar-Upcoming Events

All events are limited to 10 people at this time. Members may preregister for some guild events through EventBrite links.

### **Nov. 12, Fri, 6 to 8 pm, Guild Studio @ Davis Hall Lions Club at the Tanana Valley State Fairgrounds**

Build your own sturdy pipe loom for tapestry weaving. Loom dimensions are about 8 inches wide and 16 inches high. Register through [The Folk School](#) website.

### **Nov. 17, Wed, AND Nov. 18, Thurs, 5:30-8 pm, Guild Studio @ Davis Hall Lions Club**

OPEN WARP SESSION for rigid heddle looms. Sessions are free, but we do ask that you RSVP to Bonni at [bonontherun@gmail.com](mailto:bonontherun@gmail.com) by Nov. 16 if you wish to participate. This is a Fairbanks Fiber Festival workshop.

### **Nov. 19, Fri, 6-8:30 pm, Guild Studio @ Davis Hall Lions Club**

Intro to weaving on a rigid heddle loom. Looms are limited, so please do email Bonni at [bonontherun@gmail.com](mailto:bonontherun@gmail.com) before registering through [The Folk School](#). This is a Fairbanks Fiber Festival workshop.

### **Nov. 21, Sun, 10 am-2:30 pm, work session, Guild Studio @ Davis Hall Lions Club**

Join us for a crafting session to make cards for the Fairbanks Arts Association Mega Bazaar on Nov. 27, or drop off handmade donated or consigned items. Please preregister for a morning or afternoon session through this free [EventBrite link](#)

### **Nov. 27, Sat, 10 am-5 pm, Fairbanks Arts Association Mega Bazaar, Pioneer Park Civic Center**

Sign up for a shift to help at this guild fundraiser or come and shop as we participate in this bazaar with more than 60 vendors and all handcrafted items. To volunteer, or to drop off donated or consigned handmade fiber items for the sale if you can't attend the earlier work session, please email: [fairbanksweavers@gmail.org](mailto:fairbanksweavers@gmail.org)

### **Dec. 12, Sun, 4-5 pm, Alaska Tapestry Weavers, Zoom**

This will be a virtual open studio session. Do you have questions about materials, equipment and/or techniques? Let's figure out the answers together! Please email questions ahead of time to Mina at [mdeart29@gmail.com](mailto:mdeart29@gmail.com) .

### **January 5, Jan 12, Jan 19, Jan 26, Feb 2, Wednesdays, 6-8 pm, Guild Studio @ Davis Hall Lions Club**

Open Studio Nights! Come try weaving on a different kind of loom or bring your own loom and questions. Currently, we are limited to 10 people in the Studio space; RSVP is required to save your place. Please preregister through this free [EventBrite link](#)

### **January 8, Sat, 4-5:30 pm, Zoom, First Annual Roc Day Celebration**

Join the Guild to celebrate our first Annual Roc Day! Grab some eggnog and nibbles in the comfort of your home or possibly gather in person (we will update closer to the event) and settle in to see what everyone has made over the last year. We will have Show and Tell with a twist, and a fun giveaway.

### **January 12, Wed, 6 pm, Zoom, monthly guild meeting**

The importance of value in the fiber arts. This presentation was previously given to the Alaska Tapestry Weavers in 2021.

(Continued next page)



## Calendar (cont'd)

### February 9, Wed, 6 pm, Zoom, FWSG and IKCC, monthly guild meeting

Kate Hedstrom will present a crochet vest pattern that makes the most out of yarns such as Noro. She will also have some notes on using handspun.

### March 9 OR 16, Wed, 6 pm, Zoom, monthly guild meeting

Encore presentation of Inspiration for Creativity featuring Laurel Herbeck and Lori Alexander (recorded Alaska Tapestry Weavers meeting from Oct. 24).



## Alaska Tapestry Weavers

Recording of October Meeting

[Link to YouTube Video](#)

For those of you who are not yet familiar with the group, Alaska Tapestry Weavers is a new group dedicated to the study of tapestry and providing opportunities for members to share and exhibit their work. Many members of the group belong to either the Fairbanks or Anchorage Weavers' and Spinners' Guilds, but guild membership is not a requirement for participation - all are welcome. The group is statewide and welcomes not only tapestry weavers but anyone in related fiber arts interested in learning about design elements of tapestry that can apply to other fiber art forms.

The October presentation is about design and features presentations by local potter Lori Alexander and by art teacher and weaver extraordinaire Laurel Herbeck. We also take a brief look at the work of Claire Spann and Jasmine Johnson Kennedy.

Monthly meetings include presentations by Alaska teachers and fiber artists as well as guest speakers from around the country...and perhaps even around the world soon! We hope you enjoy the recording and will join us for our next meeting on Sunday December 12th at 4:00 p.m. For more information or to be added to our mailing list, contact Bonni ([bonontherun@gmail.com](mailto:bonontherun@gmail.com)) or Mina ([mdoeart29@gmail.com](mailto:mdoeart29@gmail.com))

**New Website!!**

Check it out at

[www.fairbanksweavers.org](http://www.fairbanksweavers.org)

Features include upcoming events, membership form, fiber arts resources, and more. What would you like to see on the guild website?

Email [fairbanksweavers@gmail.com](mailto:fairbanksweavers@gmail.com)

with your ideas!

Also, follow us on the Fairbanks Weavers' and Spinners' Guild

Facebook page or on Instagram

[@fairbanksweaversguild](https://www.instagram.com/fairbanksweaversguild)



“Cali Girl” by Mina Doerner

## Farewell and Thank You...

A Weavers Yarn's store location has officially closed, but we want to thank Susan and Martin for all their support of the guild and keeping us in fiber and supplies over the years. We wish them well in their new ventures and look forward to the opening of their online store sometime next year!

New store information will be posted as soon as it is available.

### Special Note

**We will be requiring masks, social distancing and limits on class/group sizes to conform with CDC guidelines regarding Covid-19. Requirements may change as those guidelines change.**



**Who: All Guild Members**

**What: Mega Bazaar, Guild Fundraiser**

**Where: Pioneer Park Civic Center**

**When: Nov. 27, 10 am-5 pm**

**Would you like to sell your handcrafted fiber art this holiday season on consignment or donate handmade items for sale to help the guild? Or would you like to volunteer on the day of the event? Email [fairbanksweavers@gmail.org](mailto:fairbanksweavers@gmail.org) for more information.**



**First Annual Roc Day Celebration**-January 8, Sat, 4-5:30 pm, Zoom or possibly in-person

Grab some eggnog and nibbles and settle in to see what everyone has made over the last year. We will have Show and Tell with a twist, and a fun giveaway.

What is Roc Day? What is a Roc?

In the Middle Ages, extending from about 500 to 1400 CE, St. Distaff's Day was a traditional day in for women to return to spinning and weaving after Christmas celebrations. Women picked up their wool or flax again on Saturday but men didn't return to work until Monday, leaving them free to tease and harass the women, all in good fun. Today, many fiber guilds celebrate finishing and gifting handmade items during holiday time by gathering to spin, weave, knit, crochet and share homemade comfort foods with their fellow guild members. Hopefully in 2023, we will gather in person for Roc Day.

Rokkr (Icelandic) and rok (Danish, Dutch) are words for distaff, a tool used to manage fiber, like flax or wool, for spinning on a spindle or wheel.

**ROC DAY (The Morrow After Twelfth Night)**

Partly work, and partly play,

Ye must on St. Distaff's day:

From the plough soone free your teame,

Then come home and fother them.

If the maides a spinning goe,

Burne the flax, and fire the tow;

Bring in pailles of water then,

Let the maides bewash the men

Give St. Distaffe all the right,

then bid Christmas sport good-night.

And next morrow, every one

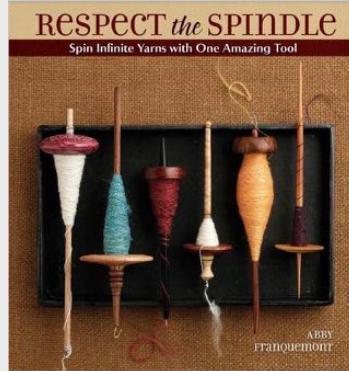
To his owne vocation.

(17th c., Robert Herrick)

## November Book Review

MK Romberg

Hello everyone! It's been awhile since we had a book review as part of the newsletter and I thought it would be a lot of fun to bring back the tradition. I hope you enjoy this, the first of a new series of book reviews. While this particular book is not in the Guild library, I'm happy to loan my copy. Just reach out to me at [mkrinnome@yahoo.com](mailto:mkrinnome@yahoo.com). Happy spinning!



*Respect the Spindle*, Abby Franquemont, (2009)  
Interweave, Fort Collins, CO

Available through [Amazon](#), [The Woolery](#) and [Barnes and Noble](#)

Abby Franquemont's book *Respect the Spindle: Spin Infinite Yarns with One Amazing Tool*, is a fabulous read. For any person wanting to learn the ins and outs of spindle spinning this is the book; it covers it all!

Abby Franquemont spent a portion of her childhood in the Andes Mountains surrounded by the Andean people and their culture of amazing textile arts. As a child living in a rural mountain community, spindle spinning became a daily activity that was integrated into her young life. It is apparent from reading this book and looking at the websites and magazine articles that she has authored, her experience in the Andes continues to inform her life today. Franquemont's experience, passion and knowledge for spindle spinning gives this book a unique quality. I was eager to read it! (Continued...)

## Book review (cont'd)

In the introduction of the book entitled "Why the Spindle," we learn of Ms. Franquemont's journey through life with the spindle, from her childhood years in the Andes into her present day's passion with the craft. The main portion of the book is divided into three sections: Part 1. "Know the Spindle," Part 2. "Spindling on the Spindle," and Part 3. "Spindle Spun Projects." In a nutshell, the book contains information on parts of a spindle, types of spindles and their uses, tutorials on how to use the spindle, and ways to fine tune the art of spindle spinning for creating specific kinds of yarns. The last chapters include a bibliography and resources on spindles, tools, and fiber.

I enjoyed reading this book especially since I'm a beginner learning to use a spindle. As a new spindle spinner, I found the step-by-step instructions and photos helpful. My favorite parts of the book were looking at the beautiful colored pictures of different kinds of spindles, learning about the types of fiber these spindles were made for and where these spindles were used around the world. Fascinating, I had no idea! This book will be a great resource to help me become a proficient spindle spinner. I am also interested in learning more about the history of spindles and spindling in the ancient world.

I've learned that Franquemont is right, one can "Spin Infinite Yarns with One Amazing Tool," the spindle!

