

FAIRBANKS WEAVERS' & SPINNERS' GUILD

Mailing address: PO Box 73152, Fairbanks, AK 99707, Studio: Davis Hall, TVSF Fairgrounds www.fairbanksweavers.org
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President's Letter

Happy New Year!

Hope you are all dug out and warm! Mother Nature is still the Boss! I would like to recap last year as it was pretty extraordinary – to say the least!

In January we started to sort through the Lathrop studio rooms as well as the Guild room. We knew we had until April 2022 so we had time. Gayle and Sherrill took specific rooms, and the rest of us spread out and started digging in. Bonni started cataloguing books. Susan Wilsrud graciously offered to help the Guild forge a path forward – the Visioning Process began. We found a handwritten inventory of UAF looms and equipment that was dated 1991. MK Romberg did her presentation on Shave Em to save Em program. Pretty good start to the New Year.

Sorting, organizing and cleaning continued through Feb. and March. Gayle organized the first big "Hallway Haul Away", which was a huge success. The hallway was EMPTY and we were thrilled. It didn't stay empty long. Shawna and Terry did a very thorough inventory of ALL looms. They also assembled looms that were apart to make sure all pieces were there – then they disassembled them and wrapped them up.

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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: Amy Mackinaw, Chris Waigl

Website: Chris Waigl

Fair Supervisor: Moxie Pender 479-8443

Kate Hedstrom, Rob Cermak

Education & Outreach: Mina Doerner

Dye Garden: Gail Mayo 479-3425

Spinning Group: Alice Stickney 479-3425

Busy Bees: Jodi Gouwens 474-9144



"Fishing for Compliments" towels by Buffy. Pattern by Sherrie Amanda Miller.

President's letter (cont'd.)

Conversations with the property manager at UAF were beginning regarding the University property.

In April we had a meeting with the landlord and asked if we could break the lease. That meeting actually went better than any of us expected, and with some negotiation, the lease was broken- we would vacate the premises Sept. 30. This accelerated our time table!!! Mina and Bonni hosted an Alaska Tapestry study group which is ongoing and very fun!

Election of new Board members occurred in May. Bonni began talking with the Folk School about collaborating on some workshops.

Sales of yarn and looms started happening in June and continued into July. Meanwhile many of us were sorting and cleaning madly in preparation for the big move. Bonni had been in touch with TVSF and the Lions Club regarding renting space at Davis Hall on the fairgrounds. The Board voted to rent for a year and then reevaluate. We had some money in the bank from sales and felt this was a good option for us.

The Guild's booth at the Fair was a success. Maureen's beautiful cowl brought in a good amount of money. After the Fair we started packing up. Laurel suggested we wrap everything in cellophane- that was brilliant!

September we moved! It looked a bit scary in Davis for a bit but we have culled down some and plan to do even more.

The Intro to Weaving workshop in October was a huge success. I believe we have some new weavers in our midst. Sadly in October we said Goodbye to A Weaver's Yarn and wished Martin and Susan all the best in their new venture. (cont'd above)

(Pres. Letter cont'd.)

Maureen organized a card making party at Davis Hall in November. We had a table at the Mega Bazaar at Pioneer Park and many cards sold.

I'm sure I left a few things out, but you get the general idea- we had quite the year! Here's to the New Year and all it has to offer, Stay tuned for fun in 2022!

Cheers,
Buffy



FWSG rejoined the Handweavers Guild of America as an affiliate guild member, and Laurel Herbeck and Kim Kortenhof will attend a virtual one-day guild development retreat in January. We're excited about the ideas they will bring back to the guild!

Also, there are some benefits guild members can receive, including Textiles & Tea, a complimentary program of HGA, presented virtually. Each week HGA hosts a conversation with well-known fiber artists. Find links to register for upcoming talks and past recordings [here](#).

For additional information about HGA, visit <https://weavespindye.org/>



"Thank You" All Around!!

The Guild's participation in the Fairbanks Art Association Mega-Bazaar 2021 was a great success! We sold 76 hand-made cards and numerous hand-crafted items. After subtracting card processing and consignment fees, we raised \$966.89 in a single day! Just as importantly, we learned a lot and are ready for more similar opportunities in 2022.

Many thanks to those who helped in multiple ways with logistics of the bazaar, including gathering items, move-in and set-up, helping at the table during the day, and take-down and redistribution of unsold items:

Maureen English, Amy Mackinaw, Claire Spann, Chris Waigl and Buffy York-Dewitz

Thanks to all who helped with making cards for the Mega Bazaar in November. People loved them! We hope to spread this project out going forward and meet more regularly to create cards and other items for future bazaars.

Thank you:

Mina Doerner, Maureen English, Kate Hedstrom, Helen Howard, Tina Lipscomb (special thanks to Tina who made 80 cards at home and sent them up to Fairbanks in time for the Bazaar), Amy Mackinaw, Gail Mayo, Clair Spann and Buffy York-Dewitz

And last but not least, thanks for donated and consigned items. It was a beautiful variety of work for the public to choose from and to help spark community interest in weaving, spinning and the fiber arts.

Thank you:

Bonni Brooks, Maureen English, Kate Hedstrom, Amy Mackinaw, Molly Manaugh, Terry Roberts, Claire Spann, Alice Stickney, Buffy York-Dewitz and Sally Young. Apologies if we missed anyone.

For sale - Glimakra Loom

Glimakra 45", 10 harness loom

Really great wide sheds and wonderful for everything from rugs to lace! Similar to photo but with built-in bench and many extras, disassembled.

\$1800 or best offer. Pick up in Fairbanks or buyer arranges handling/shipping from Fairbanks, Alaska.

Contact: fairbanksweavers@gmail.com



January/February/March Calendar

Saturday, January 8, 4pm to 5:30pm - First Annual Roc Day Celebration (Zoom)

Distaff Day, also called Roc Day, is January 7th, the day after the feast of the Epiphany. It is also known as Saint Distaff's Day, one of the many unofficial holidays not exactly on the church calendar. The distaff, or roc, used in spinning was the medieval symbol of women's work and in many European cultural traditions, women resumed their household work after the twelve days of Christmas. Traditionally, men wouldn't return to farm duties until the following Monday, so Roc Day became not just a time for spinning and other household arts, but also a time for merriment among women and among the community of spinners. Grab some eggnog and nibbles (and maybe your wheel or spindle!) in the comfort of your home 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. No registration necessary. Email with Zoom link will be sent on request.

Wednesday, January 12, 6pm to 8pm - Monthly Guild Meeting and Open Studio Night (in-person and Zoom options will be considered depending on Covid-19 conditions)

The main feature of our Open Studio Night will be a discussion of the importance of value in selecting colors for tapestry and other fiber arts. For those who come to the live Open Studio night, we'll have yarn to sample and will practice some techniques for working with value. Open Studio night will also feature instructions on using a warping board to create a warp in preparation for learning to warp your multi-shaft

loom in the next two Open Studio nights. The Fiber Elves will, of course, be on hand to answer any questions. Register using [this free Eventbrite link](#)



Wednesday, January 19, 6pm to 8pm - Open Studio Night (FWSG Studio)

For this open studio, we've got two major points of focus. The first will be on warping your loom. If you're new to warping, plan on coming for two sessions on both the 19th and 26th. If you know the basics but just want a bit of help troubleshooting, we can work with that too! Our other area of focus for the fiber prep and spinning enthusiasts in the crowd will be hand carding basics and techniques for blending with hand cards. Register using [this free Eventbrite link](#)

Wednesday, January 26, 6pm to 8pm - Open Studio Night (FWSG Studio)

In this session, we will continue with help warping looms. Fiber elves will be on hand to answer questions about tapestry, rigid heddle weaving and whatever else may come up through all the great work and conversation in January. Register using [this free Eventbrite link](#)

Saturday, February 5 AND Saturday, February 12, 2pm to 5pm - Beginning Spinning: Learn to Spin Your Own Yarn! (Sophie Station Suites)

TWO-DAY WORKSHOP. FWSG instructors will guide you through the basics of spinning wool into yarn on a spinning wheel. Cost is \$90 for the workshop plus a \$20 materials fee. Class size limited to 10 participants, COVID-19 vaccination required. Any questions, please contact Mina (modoeart29@gmail.com). More information and registration on [Eventbrite](#).

Wednesday, February 9, 6pm - Monthly Guild Meeting with Interior Knitting and Crochet Community (Zoom)

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. Save the date - Zoom link will be sent out closer to the date.

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Calendar (cont'd.)

**Sunday, February 27, 4-5:30 pm
Conversation with an Artist via Alaska
Tapestry Weavers**

Gail Priday, a well-known, local Fairbanks artist, is studying tapestries in the book *The Art is the Cloth* (Micala Sidore) in preparation for talking to us about “why tapestry” as an art form as opposed to another medium. Gail’s perception of tapestry as a non-tapestry artist should be fascinating.

Ms. Priday’s talk will be a ticketed event. In order to make it possible for the ATW to present high profile speakers, they offer an honorarium, and most of the ticket sales go to pay the speakers. ATW hopes that you will share the opportunity with your fiber friends far and wide! Register using this [link](#) for Gail's talk via Zoom.

Saturday, April 9, time TBD - Save the Date for Lily Hope Presentation

Lily Hope is an artist, teacher, and a community facilitator. She intertwines indigenous techniques and spiritual teachings with traditionally sturdy artist communities, supporting and enthusing Chilkat and Ravenstail weavers internationally.



The guild recently received a note along with some 1997 snapshots of the Spinning & Weaving Division at the fair from long-time member

Helen Howard. Helen says, “Thank you for keeping the Weavers’ Guild going after the tragic loss of Penny Wakefield.”

They are big shoes to fill, but we are looking forward to a successful fiber art community continuing in the Interior.

Helen is wearing her award-winning qiviut merino nachaq in this photo.

Thank you, Helen, for all you've done for the guild over the years.

Kate Hedstrom's embroidered cat bag. See more about Kate in Member Focus on page 7.



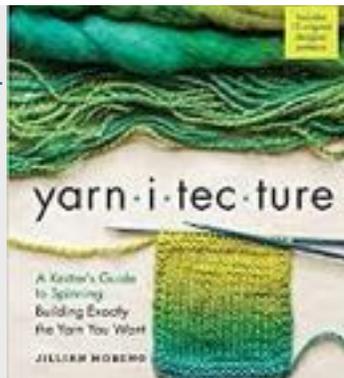
In Memoriam...

Long-time guild member Linde Kienle passed away in December 2021. She will be remembered by many as a master bookbinder, artist and teacher and for her wonderful laughter and sense of humor. Here is the link to her [obituary](#).

January Book Review

MK Romberg

Yarn-i-tec-ture A Knitter's Guide to Spinning: Building Exactly the Yarn You Want by Jill Moreno, (2016) North Adams, MA, Storey Publishing.



I absolutely loved this book! Having been a weaver, then knitter before learning to spin, the author Ms. Moreno takes you on an all-encompassing journey on how to spin yarn for your specific knitting projects.

Using the metaphor of an architect using the practice of architecture to design and build a home, Moreno describes herself as a “yarnitect” and uses the term “yarn-i-tec-ture” for the practice of spinning fiber to create yarn. Each chapter title matches the architectural terms with spinning terms to explain the step by step process for creating yarn from handspun. To carry on with this architecture theme, the chapters are cleverly titled:

- Chapter 1 - Blueprint = yarn vision or idea,
- Chapter 2 - Foundation = fiber,
- Chapter 3 - Frame = Fiber Preparation,
- Chapter 4 - Walls = Drafting,
- Chapter 5 - Roof = Plying,
- Chapter 6 - Paint = Color,
- Chapter 7 - Front Door = Finishing,
- Chapter 8 - Landscaping = Knitting,
- Chapter 9 - House Warming = Patterns.

Each chapter in the book is written in easy to understand detail.

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(Cont'd.) She describes spinning methods with step by step procedures accompanied with large, colorful pictures. For example in Chapter 7 “The Front Door - Finishing” she explains the numerous ways

for finishing a yarn with the pros and cons of each: steaming, soaking, snapping, centripetal force (lasso), whacking, fulling, and menacing. Moreno concludes the book with Chapter 9 “Housewarming = Patterns.” She includes twelve lovely patterns by different designers encouraging one to create with your handspun yarn. The appendix includes suggested readings, a glossary of techniques and abbreviations for knitting and sources for fiber, wheels, and tools.

My favorite part of the book was Chapter 1 “The Blueprint” or your yarn vision. Moreno questions us to think about why we spin. Is it to relax, to practice a technique, to be creative, for a project or gift? She wants us to consider all the reasons we spin and then helps us prepare! Throughout this chapter, she encourages us to stay true to our spinning vision with ideas for: 1. labeling and organizing our fiber; 2. brainstorming with note keeping, journaling and reading; and 3. exploring and experimenting with our fiber, tools and wheel. These are all factors to consider so we will spin with motivation and intention.

Yarn-i-tec-ture is a must read for the knitter who is learning to spin to knit.

Welcome to our newest feature:

Member Focus - Each issue we'd like to feature a member and their fiber art story, short or long, new or experienced! Share your story to: fairbanksweavers@gmail.com

Member Focus - Kate Hedstrom

I came by the fiber arts through my family. My mom taught me to sew, knit, and crochet when I was a kid. She also taught me to weave looper pot holders and I still have that loom somewhere. Her mom had a yarn store in their home at one point, and Mom still has a lifetime supply of straight needles from that. I took a break from knitting until grad school when I made a sweater on each of two month-long research cruises (the Lopi sweater only took two weeks). After I moved to New Jersey, Mom told me about the Stitches East knitting conferences that were just a few hours away from me. I went and took classes, shopped the market, and kept going back every year. It was in a sock knitting class that Priscilla Gibson-Roberts talked me into learning to spin, which I did the following year. That class was on spindle spinning only, but Mom sent me her starter Ashford Traditional, and I eventually learned to use it in a workshop at MAFA '99.

In 2001, we moved to Fairbanks. We managed to get to Maryland Sheep and Wool just before the move, and I bought an Ashford Joy wheel there. Once we got to Fairbanks, we got the newspaper and I saw a notice about a presentation of waulking wool put on by the guild. I've been a guild member ever since. I've been on the board for some years, and I've also been involved with the fair since Jane Gregory stepped down except for a few years when we've been out of town then.



Photos

The photos are of things I've made in 2021, including adventures in snow dyeing, a handspun Aeria shawl, a bag done in boro and sashiko, with a woven linen strap, and handspun Christmas stockings. I've been taking many online courses, on everything from folk art embroidery to sashiko to band weaving. I also started watching the Arne and Carlos Sit and Knit for a Bit YouTube channel - they designed the stocking with the house on it.