

FAIRBANKS WEAVERS' & SPINNERS' GUILD

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

Thank You, Annual Meeting & Board Transitions

Greetings Everyone!

The FWSG in-person annual meeting in April was a rousing success, with pizza and refreshments courtesy of the guild, selected books available for a donation from the guild library, conversation and a wide variety of door prizes from hand-knit hats to roving to baskets and more. Everyone left with a little something under their arm and a smile on their faces.

Thanks to all who helped prepare for the annual meeting, and for all the donations.

Buffy, outgoing president, recapped the year and its transitions. The guild's future looks bright with programming, speakers, workshops and fiber fellowship.

Special thanks go to departing board members, some of whom gave very generously of their time and energy in the guild's move to a new studio, sales and distribution of Lathrop building items, and maintaining a foundation for the guild to thrive going forward. Thank you: Buffy YorkDeWitz (Pres.), Bonni Brooks (V.P.), Pat Costello (Sec'y), Laurel Herbeck (Historian) and Amy Mackinaw.

Board elections took place online after the meeting. Welcome new board members: Cathy Egan, Helen Howard, Jasmine Johnson-Kennedy and Kim Kortenhof. Among the eight members, officer positions will be chosen soon. Thanks to the four re-elected board members (Chris, Claire, Kate and Maureen) for their hard work also!

Congratulations all—Cheers to a new guild year!

Board Slate for 2022-2023

Board of Directors:

Cathy Egan
 Maureen English
 Kate Hedstrom
 Helen Howard
 Jasmine Johnson-Kennedy
 Kim Kortenhof
 Claire Spann
 Chris Waigl

Librarian: OPEN

Hospitality: OPEN

Newsletter: Amy Mackinaw, Chris Waigl

Website: Chris Waigl

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

Education & Outreach: Mina Doerner
mdoeart@gmail.com

Social Media: Bonni Brooks
 Maureen English

Dye Garden: Gail Mayo 479-3425

Spinning Group: Alice Stickney 479-3425

Busy Bees: Jodi Gouwens 474-9144



Annual meeting 2022

May Calendar 2022**Sunday, May 8, 4-5:30 pm****Speaker Series - Amy Meissner (virtual)**

Amy Meissner is presenting an online workshop with a focus on textile and garment repair. Amy Meissner has an MA in Critical Craft Studies with a research focus on the craft of repair in the circumpolar north. She is particularly

interested in fostering a social practice that views repair through the lens of an ethics of care. Sign-up at this [link](#) via the Folk School, and learn more about Amy Meissner's work on her [website](#).

Participants receive a supply list in advance (generally all materials on hand, especially for textile folks). There will be a short slide presentation in the beginning, tutorial(s), and facilitated discussion and/or Q&A during our repair time together. People should come with garments or textiles that can be darned, as this is a good starting place—worn socks or sweaters/knits with holes are a strong place to begin.

This artist-led mending workshop involves participatory skill sharing as we explore sustainability and relationship-building through the act of repair.

**Wed., May 11, 6:30 pm - Monthly Meeting**

All members are invited to meet at Davis Hall/Lions Club building on the fairgrounds, masks required.

Program: Card-making to prepare for a holiday bazaar in the fall; discuss other fundraising projects, member show-and-tell.

**Thursdays, May 19 and 26,
Beginning Wheel Spinning Workshop,
5:30 - 8 pm, in Davis Hall on the fairgrounds**

These workshops will prepare new spinners to successfully enjoy Calypso Farm's wool-intensive workshop series, [Beyond the Basics: Exploring Sheep Breeds](#) (June 2022), as well as upcoming spinning classes offered by the FWSG and Calypso.

The Guild's team of fiber arts mentors will teach you how a spinning wheel works; the basics of fiber separation; how to spin structurally sound worsted and woolen style singles yarns; how to ply your singles; how to prepare your yarn for its end use; and reasons that you might want to spin a worsted style yarn as opposed to a woolen style yarn for a particular project (so many reasons!!)

If you have any questions about this spinning workshop, please contact Mina at mndoeart29@gmail.com. Details will be posted on FWSG's events calendar at <https://www.fairbanksweavers.org>

**Saturday, May 21,
2:00 - 4:00 pm,
Spinning Circle (in
person at Davis
Hall)**

Please join the Guild in Davis Hall (Lions' Club building on the fairgrounds).

Everyone is welcome—new or seasoned spinners alike! Bring your wheels, your fiber and a mask.

**Next Newsletter Deadline - Tues., July 5**

Send any items including photos, Member Focus ideas, events to fairbanksweavers@gmail.com
Thank you!



"Winter Ermine"
by Mina Doerner

Alaska Tapestry Weavers: Invitation to exhibit in the Bear Gallery, July 2023

Alaska Tapestry Weavers have an exhibition in the Bear Gallery in July 2023! We are extending an invitation to all Alaskan tapestry weavers and other fiber artists to contribute to a group project to be featured in the show. To provide a unifying thread to the group project, and to help focus contributions, we want to choose an image/concept which appeals widely to our community. To this end, we request that you watch the video Bonni put together and then take the survey. The video illustrates a couple of possible group projects. The survey also will help us gauge your level of interest in participating in the group project. We would appreciate your help by completing the survey at your earliest convenience—before May 18 at the latest.

We realize that some folks may be new to tapestry and need some technical help so we are planning several Fall/Winter workshops to help you successfully create a tapestry piece for the show. There will also be some workshop content for more experienced weavers. (Cont'd)

(Cont'd) The ATW is meeting again (via Zoom) on Sunday, May 22 from 4 to 5 pm, to discuss results of the survey and to firm up ideas for workshops and other educational opportunities in conjunction with the Bear Gallery show. If you would like to be added to ATW's mailing list for the group project, please do include your email address in the survey. If you have any questions, please email Bonni (bonontherun@gmail.com) or Mina (mdoeart29@gmail.com). We hope you will join Alaska Tapestry Weavers in the Bear Gallery in 2023!

Video: <https://youtu.be/hGKASRysYp4>

Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S3JV37P>

Member News

Going Away Picnic for Sue Englebrecht -

May 7 Sue, a longtime guild member, is moving out of state, and there will be a goodbye potluck on Saturday, May 7, at the dance hall pavilion at Pioneer Park from 1 pm until park closing. Please bring something to share, your own fork and plate. Beverages provided.

Moving Sale! June 3-4 Molly Manaugh, weaver of tartans and other wonderful goods, is downsizing and moving to California. She invites you to a "Fiber" sale of supplies and some wovens on Fri/Sat June 3 and 4, 12-5 pm. Watch for an email of details closer to the dates.

Tanana Valley State Fair - Save the Dates

July 29 - August 7, 2022

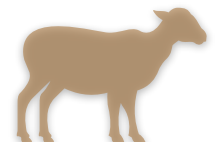
(entry the weekend prior)

Theme: Sheepherder in Paradise

Flower: Sunflower

Vegetable/Fruit: Pumpkin

Colors: Red, Orange, Yellow



May Book Review

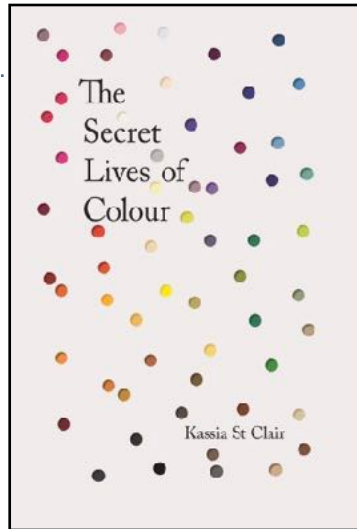
By Bonni Brooks

Do you know the story of arsenic green, literally a killer color? Or lead white, a common cosmetic ingredient used to create the perfect pale complexion from ancient times all the way through the early 20th century. These are only two of the deadly colors covered in Kassia St. Clair's fascinating and very readable romp through the color wheel, *The Secret Lives of Color*. Here are a few of the many questions you never knew you had that can be answered by reading this wonderful book:

- What does a queen vowing not to change her underwear have to do with a well-known color in the white family?
- Why are some colors considered royal?
- Why did Ferrari choose the color red?
- Are Van Gogh's sunflowers really fading? Why?
- How was mauve popularized and who was responsible?

St. Clair does a wonderful job weaving in elements of color theory, art history, textile history, chemistry, fashion, art conservation and more. She talks about pigments in paint and dyes for fabric as well as the economics and politics of fashion. Best of all, this wonderful book is organized by color groups and divided by specific hues within each color group, so the reader can select Prussian Blue as a good bedtime read and then pick up the next day at Indigo or skip ahead to Naples Yellow.

(cont'd)



(Cont'd.) To give you a better idea of how completely unique, witty and wonderful this book is, consider that the volume is composed of 75 different deep dives into individual hues. Some will be familiar – indigo, verdigris, Celadon, fuchsia – while others may not. Take Mountbatten Pink for example, a medium gray with a dash of red. The story is priceless – British naval commander

Lord Mountbatten believed that this color so closely mimicked the muted colors at dusk and dawn, the most treacherous times for naval attacks, as to make ships disappear on the horizon.

Whatever color means to you now, rest assured that *The Secret Lives of Color* will take you on new adventures to distant lands and times long gone. It's a wonderful read that can be savored one color at a time.

What will it be tonight? Isabelline? Terra Verte? Absinthe? Or maybe Gamboge?

The book starts with a quote from Victorian critic and artist John Ruskin: "The purest and most thoughtful minds are those which love color the most."

Yes.

Happy reading!

Membership Reminder Thanks to those who joined or renewed FWSG membership in April! If you haven't yet, and would like to keep benefits like the newsletter coming, please download the membership form, available on the website [here](#).

Member Focus - Laurel Herbeck

My Weaving Journey

My 40+ year weaving journey began in 1977 when I took a few lessons from Ann Scarborough in her studio in the Alaska House Gallery. I bought a small Schacht table loom, took a workshop from Nel Znamierowski and was hooked! That fall I was gifted a Glimarkra Counter Marche loom, joined the Fairbanks Weavers & Spinners Guild and signed up for weaving classes at the UAF Home Ec department with instructor Fran Reed. I took classes in weaving, basketry, dyeing, and surface design over the next few years and gradually met many weavers and spinners in the community.

From the late 70's to the early 80's I became good friends with Penny Wakefield. She and I were officers in the guild and were very involved with the programs and workshops as well as a Fiber Cooperative at Alaskaland.

She wrote grants to the AK State Council for the Arts and we began providing workshops with such luminaries as Peter Collingwood, Clotilde Barrett, Sharon Alderman, Madelyn Van Der Hoogt, Lydia Van Gelder, Doramay Keasbey, Nancy Hoskins, Lydia Van Gelder, Pat Hickman, Lillian Elliot, Diane Itter, Michell Whiplinger, Karen Selk, Virginia West, and many other weavers and fiber artists. We taught at conferences in Anchorage and attended Convergence.

When Fran moved to Anchorage, Penny and I took over the weaving classes I was the instructor of record, (cont'd)



(Cont'd.) and Penny did all the administrative work, but in truth we often taught together. In the early 90's in the coffee shop at the Fairbanks Athletic Club we hatched the idea of a summer fiber art program for youth.

From that conversation, we were off on an adventure that sustained the guild financially for many years.

In the meantime, I was taking art classes at UAF, to attain Secondary Art certification. In 1998 I began teaching art full time at the FNSBSD. Between teaching and family commitments I had to give up the evening classes, so Penny took over as instructor. I continued to teach a few sessions in the summer and attend some guild meetings. I tried to keep up a weaving practice in my spare time, and taught fiber art in my art classes in middle and high school. I have woven altar linens, vestments and stoles for my church, rugs, and household item for my home, lots of scarves, shawls and jackets, and many woven lace and summer and winter projects.

Now retired from the school district, I am hoping to spend more time on complex weaving, natural dyeing, and my other passion: book arts. I am experimenting with ways to combine my fiber art skills and book art skills in new and exciting ways. I continue drawing, painting in watercolor, and working in mixed media. (Cont'd on page 6)

(Member Focus - Cont'd from page 5)

I am also teaching book art classes, workshops and programs. I serve on the education committee of both FWSG and the Northwoods Book Arts Guild.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunities I have had. I'm still awed and inspired by all of the terrific instructors, mentors, students, and friends I've made on this journey. This is the third time an interest in fiber art has cycled around in my lifetime and I hope it will continue. It is human nature to see pattern, enjoy color and relish the tactile sensation of fiber, and magic to see cloth come into being on a loom. The multitude of structures is mind blowing and somewhat overwhelming. It's fair to say there would be no human civilization without weaving and fiber arts. This ancient art has sustained me for a lifetime.

Dye Garden Update at UAF Georgeson Botanical Garden

Completing construction of the Penny Wakefield Natural Dye Garden is a top priority for the Georgeson Botanical Garden this summer. They will be upgrading the main pathway to the Children's Garden as well, and the dye garden will have a branch path of that main artery. There will be some raised beds and rock work. Perennials and variety will be emphasized over production beds.

If you are interested in any of the dye garden particulars, including a prospective plant list, contact Gail Mayo at mayogail@gmail.com or 907-479-3425.

Fairbanks Weavers' & Spinners' Guild FAQs:

Mission Statement: (approved by membership April 2022) Our mission is to connect fiber artists across Interior Alaska and build community through practice, teaching and learning in the arts of weaving, hand spinning and related textile arts.

Membership Dues: Annual \$30, due in April, (half-year \$15 in Sept.). Download the membership form from the website [here](#).

Membership Meetings: Monthly may be either in person at Davis Hall/Lions' Club building on the fairgrounds or via Zoom

Website: <https://www.fairbanksweavers.org>

Find events calendar, newsletters, general guild info and other fiber-related resources.

Social Media: Follow the guild on **Facebook** and **Instagram**. Watch for Maker Monday, Tapestry Tuesday, Weave Structure Wednesday and Fiber Friday each week. Feel free to submit photos and events for those pages to fairbanksweavers@gmail.com

More questions? Email: fairbanksweavers@gmail.com



Suzanne S. and Joyce O. helping with the dye garden during a past summer.

