



FAIRBANKS WEAVERS' & SPINNERS' GUILD

Mailing address: PO Box 73152, Fairbanks, AK 99707, Studio: Davis Hall, TVSF Fairgrounds
 website: <https://fairbanksweavers.org>, email: fairbanksweavers@gmail.com, 907-452-7737

FWSG Presidents' Letter

Hello from Claire and Kim!

Hope everyone is happily getting ready for winter. It seems like September is always a frantic race to get all the outdoor projects done before it snows.

The guild has been busy these last few months! We had a good fair turnout and beautiful entries. Last month, we had a dye day at Claire's house for our guild general meeting. It was so much fun and, as always, the indigo dyeing is just like magic! Check out the photos on our Facebook page.

We've started Open Studio Weaving Wednesdays at Davis Hall starting at 2:00 p.m. We'll be there every week until 6:00 p.m. with some weeks until 8:00 p.m. We hope to provide guild members with a good communal space to sit and chat and work on projects. We had weavers and spinners and all sorts of projects going on last week. Come check it out! Even if you only have time to stop by and say hi and grab a coffee and snack, we'd be happy to see you. And remember, there are several looms warped and ready to be woven into whatever you want to make. There are several cotton warps and a scarf-width wool warp currently on the looms. Jasmine posted some great photos on FB.

Claire had a great idea to put together a study group and since I confused myself recently trying to define the difference between Rosepath and Bird's Eye patterns, we decided that we should do a Rosepath Study Group. Anyone interested? We can work out the details during our Open Studios. The advantage of Rosepath is the great flexibility and variety that one warp can give. Bring ideas and suggestions.

Thanks, Kim and Claire

Officers & Board Slate for 2022-2023

Co-Presidents: Kim Kortenhof 907-712-4431
 Claire Spann 907-978-7104
 Vice President: Kate Hedstrom 907-590-1420
 Secretary: Cathy Egan
 Treasurer: Maureen English 907-388-4465

Board of Directors:

Helen Howard. hmh@acsalaska.net
 Jasmine Johnson-Kennedy
jjohnsonkennedy@gmail.com
 Chris Waigl chris.waigl@gmail.com

Librarian: OPEN
 Hospitality: OPEN
 Newsletter: Amy Mackinaw
 Website: Chris Waigl
 Fair Supervisor: Moxie Pender 907-479-8443
 Kate Hedstrom
 Rob Cermak
 Education: Kate Hedstrom
 Social Media: Bonni Brooks
 Maureen English
 Dye Garden: Gail Mayo 907-479-3425
 Spinning Group: Alice Stickney 907-479-3425
 Busy Bees: Jodi Gouwens 907-474-9144

Alice dyes yarn at dye day at Claire's house



September - October Calendar 2022

**Saturday, Sept. 10, 2 p.m. - ?
General Meeting, Garage Sale and Picnic,
Davis Hall studio/meeting space on the
fairgrounds**

The fair garage sale runs September 9 and 10 from 10 until 4, but the guild will only participate from Davis Hall on the 10th. Maureen will be at Davis Hall around 10 a.m. in case any prospective buyers stop by before our guild sale/picnic that starts at 2 p.m. Please bring a dish to share for the picnic.

Photos below show some of the listed guild items for sale; prices are flexible and should be used as a general guideline to get weaving equipment into the hands of people who may use it.

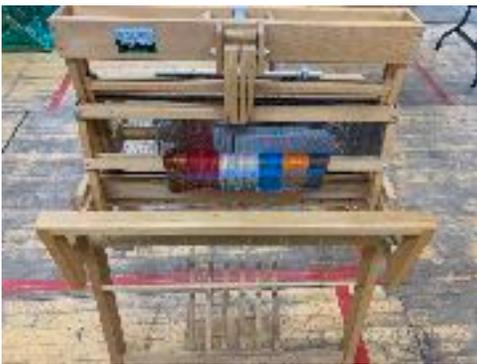
- Free** - Storage Units and Containers
- \$1.00 each** - Books, Small Skeins of Yarn
- \$5.00 each** - Large Skeins of Yarn
- \$10.00 each** - Reeds, Shuttles, Yarn Holders
- \$50.00** - Benches
- \$100.00** - Looms, Spinning Wheel

**Wednesdays, Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28; Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26; Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28;
2 pm - 6 pm (sometimes 8 pm)
Open Studio Weaving Wednesdays at Davis
Hall studio/meeting space on the fairgrounds**

Bring a project to work on or use the guild's pre-warmed looms, sit and chat with fiber friends, and enjoy coffee and a snack. Stop by for a quick visit or spend the afternoon. Free for members. We hope to see you there!

**Saturdays, Sept. 24, Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17,
3-5 pm, Monthly Spinning Circle/Spinning Bee
(in person at Davis Hall on the fairgrounds)**

Everyone is welcome—new or seasoned spinners alike! Bring your wheels and your fiber. Davis Hall is the yellow building (Bingo building) across from Badger Hall. The Blue Gate will most likely be open and you can drive right to the building. For all additional information, please email fairbanksweavers@gmail.com.



Calendar (cont'd from page 2)**Saturdays, Sept. 24 & Oct. 1, 2022, 1-3 pm,
Rigid Heddle Weaving Basics: A Parent/Child
Project (in person at the Folk School
Fairbanks)**

Taught by FWSG's own Bonni Brooks and Buffy York-Dewitz! Rigid heddle looms are easy to use, sturdy and portable yet offer many of the great weaving options of more complex floor looms. We will be doing two different projects - a wall hanging for the 7 and under age group and a warm and cozy cowl for kids 8 and older. Each parent (guardian)/child combo will work together on a project selecting materials, weaving the project, taking it off the loom and finishing it for display. Everyone will leave the workshop with enough knowledge to try new projects at home! Maximum number of students: 10 parent/child pairs. Age Range: Kids: 6 to 14 years of age, adults any age. Cost: \$50. For questions, contact Bonni Brooks at bonontherun@gmail.com. Registration only - please register on the Folk School website: <https://folk.school/events/event/rigid-heddle-weaving-basics-a-parent-child-project/>

**Saturday, November 26, 10 am-5 pm
Fairbanks Arts Association
Handmade Holiday Market, at the
Centennial Center for the Arts, Pioneer Park**

The guild will have a table at this market again this year. Last year it was a fun and successful event, with many items sold and community outreach for the guild and its programs. Watch for information about upcoming get-togethers to make cards and work on other items. Also, members may bring handmade fiber items to donate or consign.

Next Newsletter Deadline - Tues., Nov. 1
Send any items including photos, Member Focus ideas, events to fairbanksweavers@gmail.com
Thank you!

Fairbanks Weavers' & Spinners' Guild FAQs:

Mission Statement: 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.); email fairbanksweavers@gmail.com

Membership Meetings: Monthly may be either in person at Davis Hall/Lions' Club building on the fairgrounds or other locations as noted

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**. We welcome photos and events for those pages to fairbanksweavers@gmail.com

More questions? Email:
fairbanksweavers@gmail.com

Please Note: The guild phone line will be disconnected at the end of September 2022.
Thank you—



Thanks to all who helped at the fair this year with setting up, judging, booth sitting and take-down. It was a beautiful display with a great variety of work! (Kate, pictured above)

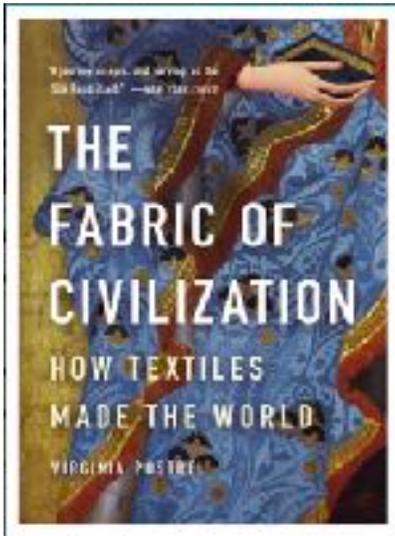
Book Review(s)

By Laurel Herbeck

The Fabric of Civilization: How Textiles Made the World

By Virginia Postural

Basic books <http://www.basicbooks.com>



In this book the reader takes a fascinating journey through time, from the dawn of civilization to the present, and into the future. The history of humanity is the history of textiles, fiber production, trade, technology, and ingenuity. The

seven chapters in the book weave an incredibly rich evolution from fiber to thread to cloth, as well as dyeing, trade, consumers and innovators throughout the span of human time. The author explores archeology, chemistry, economics, history and culture of textile production. In her own words, "Hidden in every piece of fabric are the actions of curious, clever, and desiring men and women past and present, known and unknown, from every corner of the globe...it is all of these, cumulative and share-human story, a tapestry woven from countless brilliant threads." I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in textile art, history and how textiles truly made the world!

Laurel owns copies of both of these books and would be happy to lend them to members to read. Contact her at laurelherbeck15@gmail.com

The Golden Thread: How Fabric Changed History

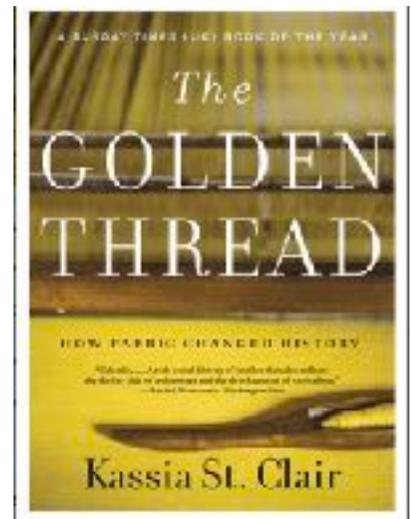
By Kassia St. Clair

Liveright, New York, London

<http://www.wwnorton.com>

This book, while essentially covering the same subject as Virginia Postural's book, *The Fabric of Civilization*, approaches it from a feminist viewpoint, confronting the enduring and often demeaning association of textile production with "women's work." St. Clair takes the reader far beyond that narrow point of view, into the fascinating history of the cloths that define and enrich human civilization. She spins a tale from fibers in caves, mummy wrappings, silk production and trade, and Viking woolen sails. From there she goes on to cotton, slavery and the American Trade, clothing to conquer extreme cold, rayon's dark past, fabric for Space, sports fabric, and finally Spider Silk. St Clair is an amazing storyteller structuring her book into vignettes. This reader cannot wait to read her other best-selling book, *The Secret Lives of Color*. (This book was reviewed by FWSG member Bonni Brooks in the May 2022 issue of the guild newsletter ([link](#)).

In conclusion, I highly recommend both books. While they cover many of the same histories, fibers, and technologies, each approaches the subject from a unique and engaging point of view, and together offer the reader a complex history of humanity. I have not read such fascinating textile history since Elizabeth Wayland Barber's landmark *Women's Work, the First 20,000 Years*.



How to Murder a Weaving Project and Why You Maybe Should

By Kim Korten Hof

Last week I committed the unthinkable for a weaver. I cut an unfinished project off a loom and threw it away.

We often think of our weaving projects as being practical, maybe beautiful, and even an exercise in the good stewardship of fibers and fabric. We recycle curtains into rag rugs and placemats and feel a little proud of our frugality. At least, I do. Did.

Well, I had a placemat project on my table loom since January that was obviously going nowhere. I used old 8/4 cotton warp and tried rags, multiple colors, and weights of cotton, and I liked none of it. I think the problem was one of scale. The twill pattern had a break in direction for a small block that just looked like a threading error.



Original Project - cut off!

I already struggle with working on my table loom, and having an unpleasant project really didn't help. So I cut it off and, more important, threw the warp away. I wasted maybe five dollars of warp yarn I bought 30 years ago.

Then, I quickly rewarp the loom with leftover 8/2 cotton and cotton boucle and wove five towels in four days. And then, I quickly rewarded the loom again with other leftover 8/2 cotton and cotton boucle and am weaving four or five more towels. I also used warping paper instead of warping sticks this time, and I think I really like using the paper. I warped my big loom last night using paper for the first time, too.

Lesson Learned: Life's too short to work on a "fun" project you dislike, and now I have a new batch of towels!



New Project in progress

Finished New Projects!



Do you have a fun fiber story to share?
Please feel free to send it to
fairbanksweavers@gmail.com

Sheep to Shawl - Tanana Valley State Fair - Thanks to all who helped! Photos by Maureen English



...from shearing...



...to dyeing...



...and spinning...



...and weaving on a rigid heddle loom...



...to the final project, a beautiful shawl!