



# Valley Fiber Arts Guild Newsletter

April 2021

Matanuska Susitna Valley Alaska

## April 3, 2021 Meeting Saturday

The Valley Fiber Arts Guild March meeting is **Saturday April 3, 2021 at 10:15 AM**. Via Zoom. [The board will meet at 9:00 AM using the same link. The board meeting is an open meeting and any member is welcome to attend.].

### To attend via Zoom:

Valley Fiber Arts Guild is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: VFAG Board meeting followed by General Meeting

Time: 09:00 AM for Board Meeting and 10:15 AM for General Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85491640747?pwd=cnpDMG5DQkISSVhzQ0VSSGEweWNSdz09>

Meeting ID: 854 9164 0747

Passcode: 091411

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 854 9164 0747

Passcode: 091411

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85491640747?pwd=cnpDMG5DQkISSVhzQ0VSSGEweWNSdz09>

Though we can't meet in person remember to visit the **Valley Fiber Arts Facebook** page (<https://www.facebook.com/ValleyFiberArtsGuild/>) for information on VFAG happenings and to share fiber projects, patterns, ideas and favorite sites for learning fiber arts.

## April Events

### Alaskan Fiber Arts Spring Retreat April 23-25:

The April retreat will be from 2pm Friday April 23 through Noon Sunday April 25 at Camp Maranatha (Big Lake area). Register for the retreat at:

<https://valleyfiberartsguild.regfox.com/2021-spring-alaska-fiber-arts-retreat>

All state and CDC health guidelines will be followed. There will be no classes at this retreat, but there will be at least one vendor, a couple massage therapists, and Dr. Dave will be available on Saturday to repair and maintain spinning wheels. The Saturday evening meal will be provided by the camp with brisket or prime rib, so if you have allergies/special dietary needs let Natalie, the Retreat Diva, know at ([retreatdiva@gmail.com](mailto:retreatdiva@gmail.com)). For more details see Natalie's message at the end of this newsletter ([Retreat Message](#)). If you plan to attend please signup ASAP as this helps the Retreat Diva with planning.

Dates of future retreats are :

Fall 2020: October 23-25

2021: April 23-25 and October 22-24

2022: April 22-24 and October 28-30

2023: April 21-23 and October 27-29

### Not at the Blues Knit Nights (every Tuesday)

You are free to come and go to this weekly meeting held every Tuesday via Zoom from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. Members visit and work on fiber projects. There is a door prize drawing at each meeting for attendees. If you would like a text message to remind you of the meeting send the text "Tuesday night blues reminder" to Sharon at 907-355-1857.

Zoom Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85216629072?pwd=NDRreDZDNzBuTnBrOVdZb3J5Z0tHQQT09>

### Wednesday Weavers (twice monthly)

This group gathers to work on weaving projects and share weaving problems and tips. These meetings are the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month via zoom 6:00-8:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend these meetings even if you are not a weaver. If you would like a text message to remind you of the meeting send the text "Wednesday Weavers" to Sharon at 907-355-1857

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83148957813?pwd=R3lpV3lVMkFnbVg4OGpnd1JZdmYzZz09>

### Common Threads (every other Saturday at 2:00 through April)

This group of Sutton area fiber art folks, gather every other Saturday at 2:00 PM via Zoom (and the Sutton Library) to visit and work on the project of their choice. They meet this Saturday April 3 at 2:00. See the “Sutton Community Calendar” on the Sutton Library website to find the Zoom link:

<https://tockify.com/suttonareacalendar/monthly?startms=1617264000000>

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## Future Events:

### May 1, VFAG General Meeting

At this time t meeting will be via Zoom. This is an important meeting and hope you can all attend to participate in elections for board positions. Currently these are the positions up for election and the current nominees:

#### Officers:

-**Vice President:** Sharon Hein

-**Treasurer:** Sabrina Strosin

#### Volunteer Positions:

-**Newsletter Editor:** Megan Ernst

-**Historian:** Judy Niemeyer

Nominations are open, if interested in any of these positions contact President Natalie Wolfe (gnat71@yahoo.com).

### ?May 9?, Mother's Day at the Musk Ox Farm: undetermined at this time?

The Musk Ox Farm at this time has not determined if they will be able to open for the Mother's Day event. Jude may have more information for us at the Saturday meeting. You might also want to visit The Musk Ox Farm website: <https://www.muskoxfarm.org>

### July 10, Palmer Garden & Arts Fair in Palmer

Opportunity to demo fiber arts and do outreach to the public. More details will come in future newsletters and news feeds.

### July 17 and 18 The Mat-Su Valley Fiber Festival

The 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of July all things fiber will be at the Agriculture Building of the Alaska State Fair Grounds. The guild will have a booth and do spinning demonstrations and public outreach. The festival organizers have suggested the guild look into holding a form of sheep to shawl. If you have questions Contact Michelle Olsen, email: [towerranchalaska@gmail.com](mailto:towerranchalaska@gmail.com)

## August 6, 7, 8: Alaska State Fair nonperishable Entries and Judging

The exhibit book is out (<https://www.alaskastatefair.org/site/exhibit/fiber-fleece/>)

Volunteers will be needed to help with fleece and fiber:

1. Entry days Friday and Saturday August 6th and 7th.
2. Judging (both judges and helpers) on judging day, Sunday August 8th.
3. Entry pickup day, Tuesday September 7th.

If you have questions contact Superintendent Jude Johnson: Text [989-277-1270](tel:989-277-1270), Email. [Judeinalaska@yahoo.com](mailto:Judeinalaska@yahoo.com).

## August 20 to September 6: Alaska State Fair demos

This year the State Fair will run for 14 days over 3 weekends (closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays August 24 – 25 and August 31 – September 1). We will be provided with more information on how spinning demos can be conducted in the Fiber and Fleece area.

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## Announcements

### Virtual Workshop Ideas and Instructors

Members can help make workshops happen. Program Coordinator, Mable Wimmer, is looking for members willing to do virtual workshops. If you have ideas for a virtual workshop or are willing to teach a virtual workshop, contact Program Coordinator, Mabel Wimmer at [mabelwimmer@gmail.com](mailto:mabelwimmer@gmail.com).

### Guild Equipment Inventory in Progress

Currently guild equipment is stored at Michelle Olsen's residence in the Butte area. Vice President, Sharon Hein, is updating the inventory list. If you have guild equipment or supplies please contact Sharon at [sharon2earth@gmail.com](mailto:sharon2earth@gmail.com).

### Door Prizes:

At each monthly meeting a fiber related door prize drawing is held for those present. The door prizes can be donations from members. If you have a fiber related item you are willing to donate as a door prize, contact Vice President, Sharon Hein ([sharon2earth@gmail.com](mailto:sharon2earth@gmail.com)).

### Membership dues for the calendar year 2021

Join the guild or renew your membership. Dues are \$30.00 for the calendar year so join early to keep in touch with fiber news happenings.

To Pay Dues:

- (1) Online at website: <https://new.valleyfiberarts.org/home/guild-membership-dues/>
- (2) Send a check to VFAG, PO Box 876098, Wasilla, AK 99687
- (3) Via Venmo (VFAG is a member) by phone or email, but email is preferred.  
Our Venmo payment information is:  
[valleyfibertarts@gmail.com](mailto:valleyfibertarts@gmail.com)  
907-795-6235

*When paying dues please be sure to include your email in order to receive the newsletter.*

### **Events VFAG participates in throughout the year:**

April: Alaskan Fiber Arts Spring Retreat, at Camp Maranatha  
May: Mothers Day at the Musk Ox Farm  
July: Palmer Garden & Arts Fair in Palmer  
July: Fiber Festival at Alaska State Fairgrounds  
August: Alaska State Fair  
October: Alaskan Fiber Arts Fall Retreat, at Camp Maranatha  
November: Out of the Box Sale at the Palmer Depot  
February: Spinning Bee at Turkey Red Banquet Room in Palmer

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## **Board of Directors:**

### Officers

President: Natalie Wolfe, [gmat71@yahoo.com](mailto:gmat71@yahoo.com)  
Vice President: Sharon Hein, [sharon2earth@gmail.com](mailto:sharon2earth@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: Tracey Eason, [tracey.eason@gmail.com](mailto:tracey.eason@gmail.com)  
Secretary: Amanda Johnson, [mandaj\\_29@yahoo.com](mailto:mandaj_29@yahoo.com)

### Volunteer Positions

News Editor: Julia Lenz, [moor.lenz@gmail.com](mailto:moor.lenz@gmail.com), 907-250-9136  
Historian: Judy Niemeyer, [jweaves0610@gmail.com](mailto:jweaves0610@gmail.com)  
Workshop Coordinator: Mabel Wimmer, [mabelwimmer@gmail.com](mailto:mabelwimmer@gmail.com)

## Retreat Message From Natalie

Good Day Fiberistas,

Our time together is fast approaching dear friends. Our Spring 2021 AFAR is coming up beginning 2pm Friday April 23 through Noon Sunday April 25 at Camp Maranatha 19780 W Camp Dr Big Lake, AK. Our retreats are a popular event and we love the time we get to spend together doing what makes us happy, creating with Fiber! Registrations are open and here is the link to register for the retreat:

<https://valleyfiberartsguild.regfox.com/2021-spring-alaska-fiber-arts-retreat>

It has been a year since we have gathered as a retreat, and many are excited about the opportunity to get together. We will be following CDC guidelines and while the decision to move forward with the event is one made with all necessary precautions, we respect your right to choose to come or not. Remember, this is your choice and only you decide what is best for your health. If you do come, please take the precautions you deem necessary to keep protected while respecting others. If you choose not to come, please respect others choices.

The camp has added new beds, new amenities, and dinner on Saturday evening will be provided by camp staff since our Kitchen DIVA can't make it. The Camp staff completely sanitizes the camp, but we encourage folks to bring their own bedding if they are concerned. Please limit the use of hand sanitizers as some of our friends are allergic to them. There will be a sharing table, please bring snacks to share if you wish. Shared refrigerators are available for everyone's use. We encourage folks to use discretion and precautions given the concerns around COVID, and if you choose not to attend, we will do our best to honor your Langely legacy status going forward.

Given the likelihood this will be a smaller event, we are not planning any classes but we are doing our Spin it to Win it prize drawing, a spa for your spinning wheel! At our Blended Fiber retreat, attendees were given fiber and the project was to blend the base white with other fibers and create something with your blends. Bring your creation as either yarn or a completed project to the retreat for an entry in the prize drawing. I have confirmed at least one vendor will be vending during the event. Day only options are available on Saturday since we aren't planning a full venue of classes.

When you register, if you opt in for a Langley room the legacy list will be double checked, and if you are a legacy member an email will be sent from the Retreat Diva confirming your room. If not, rooms are available to legacy members first and you will be placed on a wait list if rooms are available.

Looking forward to the Fall 2021 Retreat, we are hopeful we can have a big retreat chock full of classes, fun, and surprises. Keep the Fall Retreat from October 22-24 on your calendar! The THEME will be announced at the Spring retreat. As we get closer to retreat, I will send out more details. Until then please feel free to reach out and ask any questions.

Thank you, Retreat Diva

Directions: From Parks Highway in Wasilla take a left onto Big Lake Rd. Go 3.4 miles and turn right onto Beaver Lake Rd. Go 1 mile and turn left onto W Lakes Blvd. Go 3.8 miles and turn right onto the 2nd Horseshoe Lake Rd (do not turn at Smokey Bear sign, keep going until you see the Camp Maranatha sign). Go 1.3 miles and turn left onto Camp Dr. Go down the drive until you arrive at the Camp Maranatha.