

Letter From the President

Here we are, in second winter waiting patiently for spring to arrive. Soon the ewes will start lambing and there will be many healthy fiber babies running around to ooh and awe over. Did you get all of those fleeces processed over the winter as planned? With spring comes shearing and all new fleeces to process. If you are interested in getting your hands on locally grown fleeces reach out to us at info@valleyfiberarts.org or contact your local favorite fiber farmer.

A reminder to pay your annual membership dues this month, \$30 for the year. The funds go to support all of the guild activities and costs. You can send a check to our PO Box 876098 Wasilla, AK 99687 or pay on our website at <https://new.valleyfiberarts.org/>.

We are meeting in person!!! Turkey Red in Palmer has graciously offered us the use of their banquet room at no cost for our monthly meetings. We held our February meeting there and it was wonderful! Turkey Red has really shown support for local groups, and please take a moment to thank them for their generosity. We did have to adjust our meetings times to accommodate their schedule. Our March meeting is Saturday March 5. The Board meeting is at Vagabond Blues from 9 to 9:45am. Then we transition to Turkey Red for our general meeting from 10 to 11:30am. There will also be the ZOOM option for online attendance at every meeting.

Have you signed up for a committee yet for this year? If we don't have committees, we don't do that activity – it's just that simple. The committee signs up are available and will be sent out with the newsletter. If you want to sign up, please email your committee choices to info@valleyfiberarts.org. Be sure to note if you want to be a member or the chair. We are looking for folks to join the technology committee to help the guild with our technology/social media needs. If you have that talent, please consider serving your guild in that way.

The Valley Fiber Arts Guild has the mission of outreach and education, we would like to hear your stories of being an ambassador for natural fiber arts. Do you have suggestions for how we can connect up more in the Matsu community? We would love to hear them! Talk with you soon!

Natalie



UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 5, 2022 @ Turkey Red

- Board Meeting @9AM
- General Meeting @ 10AM
- Zoom Meeting Available

April 2, 2022 @ Turkey Red

May 7, 2022 @ Turkey Red

VFAG Does Not Meet In June, July, or August

September 3, 2022 @ TBD

Upcoming Elections

A nomination committee needs to be formed to accept nominations and conduct the election. If you are willing to head up or serve on the nomination committee, contact VFAG President, Natalie via text: 907-312-3107. You can also reach out to Natalie for more info on the open positions and if there is someone that you would like to nominate.

Officer Positions Open

President (two-year term)

Secretary (two-year term)

Volunteer Positions Open

Program Coordinator (two-year term)

Newsletter Editor (elected last year but was vacated and needs to be filled for another year)

Current Officers

President: Natalie Wolfe, gnat71@yahoo.com

Vice President: Debbie Johnson, debbiejcsr@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Sabrina Strosin, sabrinajmonaghan@gmail.com

Secretary: Amanda Johnson, mandaj_29@yahoo.com

Current Volunteer Positions

News Editor (Interim): Grace Beargie, gracebeargie@gmail.com

Historian: Judy Niemeyer, jweaves0610@gmail.com

Workshop Coordinator: Lynx Mullen, lynxmullen@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

VFAG Spring Retreat

April 22-24, 2022 @ Camp Maranatha. Please watch for future updates and register early! We will be focusing on color theory at this retreat.

Mother's Day at The Muskox Farm*

May 8, 2022 (*Tentative)

Other Events

Art on Fire—June—
Transportation Museum

Palmer Garden & Arts
Fair—July—Palmer

Fiber Festival—July—
Alaska State Fair
Grounds

Alaska State Fair—
August—Alaska State Fair
Grounds

Fall Retreat—October—
Camp Maranatha

Out of the Box—
November—Palmer Train
Depot

Volunteer Opportunities

A committee volunteer sign up sheets was attached to the e-mail with the newsletter. The following *events* need a chair and volunteers or the guild will not participating/putting on the event.

- **Spinning Bee**—This event occurs annually in February
- **Art on Fire**—this event is scheduled for June at the Transportation Museum in Wasilla and would be a new venue for the guild. There is a lot of room for someone to apply their own creativity for guild participation in this event.
- **Out of the Box Sale**—this event occurs in November and is held at the Palmer Train Depot. If you would like more info about the Out of the Box Sale contact Julia Lenz via text to 907-519-9145 or email moor.lenz@gmail.com

These events currently have a chair and are seeking volunteers:

- April: Alaskan Fiber Retreat, Spring: Natalie Wolfe
- May: Mothers Day at the Musk Ox Farm: Jude and Amanda Johnson
- July: Palmer Garden & Arts Fair: Lynx Mullen
- July: Fiber Arts Festival, Michelle Olsen
- August: Alaska State Fair: Jude Johnson
- October: Alaskan Fiber Retreat, Fall: Natalie Wolfe

Volunteer opportunity with VFAG: Reformation of the Technical Committee

The Technical Committee has dissolved. This committee oversees the advancement of the VFAG website and administers the Facebook page and other social media. Tracey Eason is looking into finding a contractor to update and organize the website.

Volunteer spokesperson on the development of a fiber arts garden

The Rebarchek Farm Project, <https://www.alaskastatefair.org/site/rebarchek-ag-park/> is a historic piece of acreage located on Alaska State Fair (ASF) land that was part of the Raymond Rebarchek Colony Farm. The ASF is in the planning stages of developing this land as a demonstration farm for the public. The VFAG would like a member to work with the planners to include a “fiber arts garden” (with dye plants and fiber plants like flax) with the idea of using this garden as a fiber arts demonstration area in the future. This has the possibility of being a joint guild project in conjunction with the Anchorage Weavers and Spinners Guild. For further information contact Sharon Hein 907-355-1587, Sharon2earth@gmail.com or Elena Prisekin (443) 995-7483, epabgohome@gmail.com.

Updates

Workshops

Program Coordinator, Lynx Mullen, is seeking input from members for the kind and type of workshops they would like to see developed and offered. Contact Lynx by texting to 907-240-9093. Lynx really needs your input to help guide her in organizing classes so please contact her.

In the meantime Lynx suggests that if you are looking for workshops and classes to check the schedules from Yule Farm and Fiber N Ice.

Yule Farm: <https://yulefarm.squarespace.com/classes> or their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/yulefarm/>

Fiber N Ice: <https://www.facebook.com/fibernicealaska/>

Fiber Festival

Festival organizer, Michelle Olsen, reports that she and her committee are busy planning this year's festival. The festival will be the third weekend of July, for 2022 (that will be the 16th and 17th) at the Alaska State Fair grounds. Vendor applications will be coming out soon. Tracey Eason is looking for volunteers to demonstrate drop spindling and represent the guild during the festival.

General Announcements and Points of Interest

New Newsletter Editor

My name is Grace Beargie and I've lived in Eagle River since 2018. I have been a guild member since 2019 and a knitter since 2007. I've recently begun learning to weave on a lap loom and spin with a Turkish drop spindle. One of my favorite things about the Valley Fiber Arts Guild is the diversity of fiber arts practiced by our members. There is always something new to learn in the world of fiber arts! If you have any ideas for the newsletter, articles you want to write, pictures you want to share, or items to sell/trade please let me know and I would love to include them! My e-mail address is gracebeargie@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Handweavers Guild of America presents Textiles & Tea for 2022

The Handweavers Guild of America, Inc's (HGA) interview series, Textiles & Tea takes place every Tuesday at 4PM ET. HGA has invited some of the most respected fiber artists in the field to join them for an hour long conversation where they will discuss their artwork and their creative journey. HGA invites you to make a cup of your favorite tea and listen in as they talk about fiber, creativity, inspiration, process, and so much more. Textiles & Tea is broadcast via Facebook Live and Zoom. Cost: Free [Textiles & Tea - Handweavers Guild of America \(weavespindye.org\)](https://www.weavespindye.org)

Book Review

“60 Quick Knit Blanket Squares” by The Editors of Sixth&Spring Books.

The full title of this book is 60 Quick Knit Blanket Squares: Mix & Match for Custom Designs Using 220 Superwash Merino from Cascade Yarns. Yes, it's a promo for Cascade, but even though I haven't tried it, I suspect that these designs would translate well to any worsted weight yarn. The book does not include tutorials so if you're a new knitter (or even a not so new one) it's worth having Google on hand. Just a glance at the list of designers for these patterns yielded names like Patty Lyons and Amy Herzog so I'm not too worried about a lengthy errata.

Each pattern is rated for difficulty using a line broken into four segments with one shaded segment being the least difficult and four shaded segments being the most difficult. Most patterns fall in the two to three range. The patterns are broken into four categories: Knit & Purl, Cables, Lace, and Combos & Unique Stitches. At the very end of the book they've put together a few blankets which I always find to be a nice jumping off point for a design of my own.

I think this is a great little book for both beginning and advanced knitters. I liked that the patterns were broken into sections because sometimes I really want to work on cabling and other times I would rather poke myself in the eye than do THAT again. These patterns could easily be extended into scarves and cowls or, if you used a cotton, some lovely washcloths. If you're thinking of starting a blanket project then you've got a tremendous amount of material to work with here for an heirloom quality sampler blanket.

This book is part of a collection of “60 Quick Knit” books. Other titles focus on toys, baby items, and accessories. It looks like the Anchorage Library system has copies of “60 Quick Knit Baby Essentials”.



Published: 2021

Craft: Knitting

Available on Amazon
(paperback) for \$14.21

I did not find this title
available at local libraries