



Letter From the President

Here we are, the last meeting of the Spring of 2022 before our summer break. The Alaska Fiber Arts Retreat was held in April and it was great to see new as well as familiar faces! The Fall AFAR is October 21-23 and the theme is COLOR THEORY! We hope to see you there!

We have a fun meeting planned for our annual meeting this Saturday May 7, so I hope to see you at Turkey Red! The Board meeting will be held at Vagabond Blues at 9am on 5/7, and the general membership annual meeting will be at Turkey Red in the banquet room at 10:15am. Please be sure to RSVP if you plan to attend in person, and as always please feel free to join us via ZOOM if you prefer the online option.

This is my last meeting as the Guild President after being in this role for 4 years. I appreciate the friendships that I have been blessed with and talented folks I have met as I was given the opportunity to lead the Guild. Someone new now has the opportunity to provide their leadership to the Guild, please consider serving as President for the next two year term. At our annual meeting on Saturday we will hold our elections, and the positions open for election in May are: President, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and Workshop Coordinator. If one of these positions interests you we encourage you to join the candidacy and share your strengths with us. We will entertain nominations before we begin elections on Saturday.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 7, 2022 @ Turkey Red*

*This is the annual meeting, more details on following pages.

VFAG Does Not Meet In June, July, or August

September 3, 2022 @ TBD

Letter from the President (cont.)

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. If you are a local fiber farmer please remember to send me an email so we can build a resource book of fiber and fleece providers for the Valley, and I am working on adding Anchorage as a part of this book as well.

A reminder to pay your annual membership dues, \$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/>.

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. We only have a few committees full yet, so please be sure to sign up!

This summer we have some really fun and education events planned. Starting out is Mothers Day at the Musk Ox Farm, the Fiber Festival, the State Fair, the Palmer Garden and Arts Fair, and Art on Fire. Please come out and support your favorite summer time activities and events through volunteering to help at the event.

And as always, 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

Event Updates!

Annual Meeting—May 7, 2022 @10am

The annual meeting will be held at Turkey Red in Palmer on May 7, 2022 at 10am. Elections will be held for all open positions and the board has voted to have the meeting catered by Turkey Red. Positions open for election are as follows (nominees are in parenthesis): President (seeking nominations), Secretary (Amanda Johnson), Workshop Coordinator (Natalie Wolfe), and Newsletter Editor (Grace Beargie). Additional nominees will be accepted at the meeting. The board is meeting ahead of the annual meeting at Vagabond Blues at 9am.

It is always such a pleasure to gather as a guild and the board has planned some fun surprises for in person attendees. If you forgot to RSVP ahead of time please let us know if you will be attending at info@valleyfiberarts.org. As a reminder Turkey Red is located at 550 S. Alaska St. in Palmer, AK. A Zoom meeting link has been included with this e-mail for those who prefer an online option.

Mother's Day at The Musk Ox Farm

Mother's Day at the Musk Ox Farm is ON. Please feel free to join other members who will be at the farm on May 8th from 10-5 with your fiber art project of choice. The location at the farm will depend on the weather so layer up in case we're outdoors and remember MASKS ARE REQUIRED at the Musk Ox Farm. The Musk Ox Farm is located at 12850 E. Archie Rd. in Palmer.

***The guild is always looking for volunteers at events. Going forward if there aren't volunteers then the guild will not participate in the event. For volunteer opportunities e-mail info@valleyfiberarts.org. A committee sheet has been attached with the newsletter.**

Upcoming Events

Mother's Day at The Muskox Farm

May 8, 2022

Other Events

Art on Fire—June 25—
Transportation Museum

Palmer Garden & Arts
Fair—July 29—Palmer

Fiber Festival—July 16 &
17—Alaska State Fair
Grounds

Alaska State Fair—August
19 thru September 5—
Alaska State Fair
Grounds

Fall Alaskan Fiber Arts
Retreat—October 21 thru
23—Camp Maranatha

Out of the Box Sale—
November—Palmer Train
Depot

Updates

Workshops

If you are looking for workshops and classes this Summer check the schedules from Yule Farm and Fiber N Ice. Once the guild resumes meeting in the Fall be on the lookout for information on workshops from the new workshop coordinator via e-mail, newsletter, the VFAG website, or on Facebook.

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

The Fiber Festival will be the third weekend of July, 2022 (that will be the 16th and 17th) at the Alaska State Fair grounds. Contact Michelle Olsen or any of the Fiber Fest committee members if you would like a vendor application for the festival. Tracey Eason is looking for volunteers to demonstrate drop spindling and represent the guild during the festival.

General Announcements and Points of Interest

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.hga.org/textiles-tea)

Fiber and Fleece Purchasing Directory

Natalie Wolfe is working with the guild to assemble a fiber and fleece purchasing directory. If you are interested in purchasing a locally grown fleece please reach out to the guild at info@valleyfiberarts.org or contact your local fiber farmer. If you are a fleece or fiber provider please send your information in so that we can add you to the directory. Natalie is working on providers in the Valley but plans to expand the list to include providers in Anchorage as well.

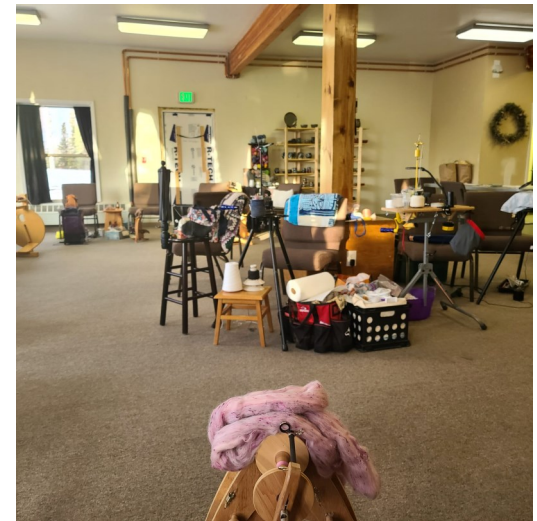
Spring Retreat Recap 2022

First, a hearty THANK YOU is due to Retreat Diva, Natalie Wolfe. She always does such a wonderful job planning retreat and this retreat was no different! This was my third retreat. I attended for the day at the Fall retreat in 2019 and Saturday overnight in Fall 2021. Now that I have been to retreat a few times I thought I would share a retreat breakdown for anyone who has thought of attending but just has too many questions or for anyone who wasn't able to join in this time who wants to know what we got up to. Spoiler alert—we worked on our projects, laughed a bunch, ate a bunch, and had a wonderful time. We missed you and we hope you can join in next time!

I joined retreat on Friday afternoon and the festivities at Camp Maranatha were in full swing. The drive out to retreat is pretty straight forward and I like to take my time and enjoy the sights. There's no set time to be at retreat which really adds to the relaxing vibe although technically things start at Noon on Friday. By the time I got there members of VFAG as well as fiber artists from Anchorage and beyond were set up in Langley Hall. Upstairs massage therapists were working their magic for attendees who had signed up for a relaxing service to set the tone for their retreat weekend. Massage therapists at retreat are available on a first come first served basis. Sign up sheets are in Langley Hall and massages are offered at an additional cost for all attendees.

There's really no such thing as overpacking for retreat in my mind. It's all about comfort and indulging in my love for fiber arts so if it helps me in that endeavor then into the bag it goes! Chairs are available in the hall (they're the cushy stacking kind, not the folding aluminum kind) but table space is always at a premium. There are also not a lot of outlets in the hall so if I needed to charge something then I did that in my room. This year I brought my hammock chair (no such thing as overpacking, remember?) and my folding camp table. The dress code is casual and don't forget your slippers! Your outside shoes (I recommend boots since it always seems a bit muddy) are not allowed in the hall just to avoid tracking a bunch of mud in. I made a few trips in from the car, settled into my room, and joined the fun down in the hall.

(More on next page!)



Wheels at the ready in Langley Hall on Saturday AM.

Photos by Natalie Wolfe

Spring Retreat Recap 2022

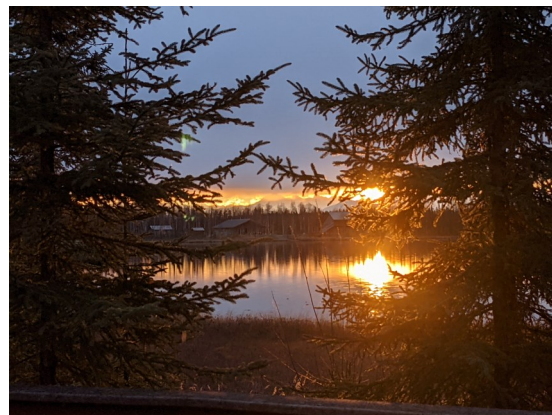
If you're staying in the hall your room is shared with a roommate (you can list a preference at registration if you want to stay with a friend) and you get a twin bed, a microwave, a mini fridge, a Keurig, and a full bath with all linens provided. Cabins are also available if the hall fills and these are the classic summer camp style dry cabins with bunk beds and a separate shared shower house. Cabins are just a short walk from all the buildings at Camp Maranatha.

The hall is filled with the gentle whir of spinning wheels, the soft clicking of sock machines, sunshine, and great conversation. Oh, and snacks galore! Attendees are asked to bring a snack to share and I took this as an opportunity to bring something that I love but could never eat an entire container of by myself...cheese balls in the big plastic barrel. YUM! My snacks went onto the big counter in Langley and my meals went into the mini fridge in my room. Attendees are responsible for all meals other than dinner Saturday night so I brought some microwave breakfast sandwiches and a few salad kits.

I was up as late as I wanted to be on Friday night and I got a great night's sleep. In the morning I was greeted with a very pleasant surprise; the little coffee shop on property was opening up from 8am-10am. This was new this year and let me tell you, they make a great hazelnut latte. Cash is preferred at the coffee shop but they can take card. There's also free coffee (regular and decaf) and hot water for tea available in Langley Hall as well as a full sized fridge, a microwave, and a half bath.

A few more fiber friends joined us for the day on Saturday and we all enjoyed the beautiful weather and the view from the wall of windows in the hall. The Wheel Doctor joined us on Saturday and his sheet was quickly filled with requests for wheel tune ups. I browsed what the vendors had in stock, made just a few purchases (okay more than a few), had a great time visiting, worked on all of the projects I brought, got a massage, and then it was time for dinner. What a day!

Dinner this year was cooked up by the camp staff and we all sat down to enjoy a delicious chicken fettuccini alfredo dinner with a breadstick, side salad, and dessert. Then it was back to the hall and eventually off to bed. Sunday morning we all worked on our projects for a bit and then leisurely packed up to leave but I had a great time seeing new and old friends at retreat and I can't wait for the Fall and the workshops on color theory!



Photos from Fall Retreat 2021. The views from Camp Maranatha never disappoint.

Photos by Grace Beargie