



## General Updates

### Member Spotlight

As a way to help us get to know each other better, each month at our meeting, we are going to shine a loving spotlight on someone. The person spotlighted will then be spotlighted in the following month's newsletter to spread that light for any members who were not at the meeting. To facilitate this, there is a short online form to fill out about yourself (which means no wrong answers). Please click here to go to the form: <https://forms.gle/VHASnnKfXs5ubDEa8>

### Guild Equipment Rental

Vice President Deb Johnson has been working on updates to the guild equipment rental policy. Please review the document attached to the email with the newsletter. These updates will be voted on at the General Meeting.

### Sheep to Shawl

Guild President Kelsey Gerke is the VFAG point person for the 2023 MatSu Valley Fiber Festival Sheep to Shawl Challenge. Kelsey will have more info on this project throughout the year and will be posting an online volunteer sign up in late Spring 2023.

### Officers and Old Business

Officers are as follows:

President: Kelsey Gerke

Vice President: Debbie Johnson

Treasurer: Sabrina Strosin

Secretary: Amanda Johnson

Newsletter Editor: Grace Beargie

Historian: Judy Niemeyer

Workshop Coordinator: Natalie Wolfe

Notes from our prior meeting are attached to the email with the newsletter. Please review them so we can vote on them at the meeting.



### UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 5, 2022  
10am  
Turkey Red

December 3, 2022  
10am  
Turkey Red

January 7, 2023  
10am

**Valley Fiber Arts Guild**  
**General Meeting Agenda**  
**November 5, 2022**

Welcome & Sign Ins

Approve October Minutes

Member Spotlight

Events

- Retreat Recap & Workshop November 12 & 13, Upcoming Workshops- Natalie
- November Sale (Nov. 26)- Julia
- Monday Knit Night at Vagabond Blues 5-7pm

Committee Updates

- Tech- Tracey
- Sheep to Shawl 2023 Matsu Fiber Fest Team Update- Kelsey

Guild equipment rental policy update (discussion and vote)- Debbie

New Business

Adjournment

Door Prize

Show & Tell

After Meeting Program- Fleeces for Sale

## Upcoming Events

Fleece Prep—Nov. 12-13—Yule Farm

Out of the Box—  
November 26—Palmer  
Train Depot

December 10—Intro to  
Spinning—TBD

December 11—Advanced  
Spinning TBD

# Upcoming Fall Events

## Out of the Box Sale

The Guild's annual "Out of the Box Sale" is scheduled for Saturday November 26 at the Palmer Train Depot from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

This sale is held once a year for members to sell their handmade products to the public. Some members have numerous items and a vendor table themselves. For those members who have a small quantity of items to sell, there are a couple of tables available for displaying those items. As long as you are a guild member there is no charge for a table, but the Guild receives a 15% commission.

If you don't have anything to sell you are welcome to attend the sale and/or volunteer to help with the setup, cleanup, or on the sales floor. Julia will take all the volunteers she can get and support from guild members is what makes this sale a success!

If you have questions about the sale or wish to volunteer please contact sale coordinator, Julia Lenz, via email: [moor.lenz@gmail.com](mailto:moor.lenz@gmail.com) ; or call/text cell: 907-519-9145. Thank you Julia for providing demos and more information about the sale at the October meeting.

Thanks to Julia Lenz for this write up and the photos! \*Note—space for individual vendor tables is FULL



-----

## Updates

### Workshops

This year's workshops will center around a new division for the Alaska State Fair called Fleece to Finish. Each workshop will include a skill necessary to complete a project from a raw fleece. Some workshops will be held in conjunction with the Anchorage Spinners and Weavers Guild.

**Fleece Preparation - Nov 12-13 10am-3pm at Yule Farm** (3855 N Campbell Rd, Palmer, AK 99645) with Tracey Eason and Natalie Wolfe. Day One is all about preparing and washing raw fleece. You will learn about different methods of washing fleece and practice washing your own fleece. Day Two you will learn to card or comb your clean fiber in preparation for spinning or felting. All supplies will be provided; however, you can bring your own fleece if you have one you want to work with. **Cost \$50.**

**Introduction to Spinning Fiber—December 10 (TBD)** with Laurie Sitkiewicz. This class is for the beginning spinner. Try your hand at the ancient craft of spinning natural fibers on a wheel. \*If you have already learned to draft your fiber on a traditional drop-spindle, you will find learning to spin on a wheel much easier.\* In this class, you will learn how to spin using already prepared wool roving. You will learn the steps that take the roving (that is, strands of fiber) and teach you how to spin the fiber into a finished yarn. You will then learn how to ply your yarn and make a skein of homespun yarn that you can take home. Cost TBD

**Advanced Spinning Techniques—December 11 (TBD)** with Laurie Sitkiewicz. This class is intended for established spinners. Learn more about your wheel and different techniques to improve your spinning or a technique that is new to you. Cost TBD.

## General Announcements and Points of Interest

### Local Meetups

**Common Threads**— Resumed meeting on September 23 and will continue meeting every other Friday at Noon at the Sutton Public Library. For more info call the Library at 907-861-7640. Updates are posted to the Sutton Library Facebook.

**Stitch Social**—Facebook group that hosts in person events. Join the group to RSVP to their next event. Locals and House of Bread are favorite meeting locations.

**Monthly Yarning Meet Up**—Once a month meet up at Black Birch Books. Follow the book shop on Facebook for announcements.

**Monday at the Blues**—Join VFAG for an informal meet up every Monday from 5-7 at Vagabond Blues in Palmer.

### Trading Post

Jeff Kase (Palmer) is looking for someone to spin a small batch of qiviut. He has a pillowcase full of tundra qiviut but it has been washed and most guard hairs removed. He is not sure if it needs to be blended. We can give you Jeff's contact info. You will need to decide pricing and other details with Jeff.

## Fall Retreat



On Friday the fog rolled in but Saturday and Sunday dawned clear as a bell. Camp Maranatha has beautiful views of the mountains. Perfect for a little color theory inspiration! (photo Grace Beargie)

On Saturday Juliet Bartolo lead a step by step workshop to create these adorable wet felted pumpkins. (photos AFAR Facebook)



**THANK YOU!!**

Thank you to Natalie Wolfe (Retreat Diva) for another wonderful retreat and to Tracey Eason for being Natalie's right hand woman. Thank you to Juliet Bartolo, Emily Gelino-Bequette, and Jenny Feuilles for putting on workshops. Thank you to "The Kangaroo Dyer" Gail Callahan for her donations in support of Natalie's presentation of "The Color Grid". Thank you to all of the vendors and their support teams (Born Fuzzy, Dancing Skies, Grumpy Bunny, Fiber N Ice, Julz Naturals, Guilded Dragonfly) and to the wheel doctor, Dr. Dave. Thank you to the Camp Maranatha staff for all of the work they put into the camp and their support of retreat. Thank you EVERYONE!!!

I'm already looking forward to spring!