



Changes coming soon..

There are a few changes coming to the newsletter. This section will soon be home to a member spotlight.

For many of us, the guild is a way to foster connections with other fiber enthusiasts. We're hoping that through a member spotlight we can all get to know each other better and share what draws us to fiber arts. In addition to the newsletter write up, the spotlighted member will also be highlighted at the next meeting and will receive a little special something for being a good sport.

The member spotlight form can be completed several ways. It is included at the end of the newsletter and attached to the email, it [can be found at this link](#), and will be distributed at the next meeting. We're hoping to start the member spotlight in November.

I'm also looking forward to including an inventory of the guild's rental equipment with an upcoming newsletter. The board will be relaunching the rental program soon and an inventory list will let everyone know what is available. I'm excited to see that this benefit of guild membership is making a return!

Keep reading for an agenda of our next meeting, workshop updates, retreat news, and website updates. As a reminder, the board meets prior to the general meeting at Vagabond Blues. All general meetings are the first Saturday of the month at 10am at Turkey Red, unless otherwise noted. We are going to continue offering a Zoom link to the general meeting.

Oh, and please pay your dues if you haven't already, there's an exciting new option for membership! More information is included with the website updates.

Thanks!

Grace Beargie



UPCOMING MEETINGS

October 1, 2022
10am
Turkey Red

November 5, 2022
10am
Turkey Red

December 3, 2022
10am
Turkey Red

Guild Updates

New President

At the last meeting Kelsey Gerke was voted in as president. 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

Agenda for General Meeting

Welcome

Events

- Retreat
- Workshops
- November Sale (Nov. 26)- Julia model inventory process for Guild Table items w/ tags

Committee Updates

Tech- website updates, fleece producers, dues

Sheep to Shawl '23 Matsu Fiber Fest Team Lead nominations & selection

Rental procedures

New Business

Member Spotlight- hand out forms

Adjournment

Door Prize

Show & Tell

After Meeting Program- Extra time for questions on how to tag and inventory items for the November Sale. Fleece to Finish Team planning time, those interested please stay.

Upcoming Events

Fall Retreat—October 21-23 —Camp Maranatha

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

Fall Retreat at Camp Maranatha

Retreat Diva Natalie Wolfe is looking forward to welcoming everyone to Camp Maranatha in Big Lake from October 21-23 for the fall Fiber Arts Retreat. This retreat has a special focus on color theory, and a registration link will be coming out soon. If you have not been to retreat before there's a retreat recap in the May 2022 newsletter that has some great info for first timers or you can reach out to Retreat Diva Natalie with any questions you may have.

Out of the Box Sale—Julia will have more info/demo at the meeting!

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.

More information will be provided at the October meeting and will be sent out in future newsletters. If you have questions about the sale or wish to volunteer please contact sale coordinator, Julia Lenz, via email: moor.lenz@gmail.com ; or call/text cell: 907-519-9145.

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

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)

Fairbanks Fiber Festival

The Fairbanks Fiber Festival is running from October 8-9 in person in the Civic Center in Pioneer Park (2300 Airport Way, Fairbanks, Alaska, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM). See their website for more information: <https://www.explorefairbanks.com/event/2022-fairbanks-fiber-festival/6631/>

Website Updates

Have you visited the guild website lately? ([Valley Fiber Arts Guild – The Mat-Su Valley's source for Fiber arts](#)) Tracey Eason has been hard at work making some fantastic updates to our site! What has she been up to?

- The By Laws and General Policies are now available on the About page
- The About page has been updated with current board members/officers
- You can access prior copies of the newsletter on the Newsletter page
- You can pay your dues online AND you now have the option to purchase a \$300 lifetime membership.
- The schedule page now includes a link to a calendar of upcoming events
- What's Happening talks about any current events (right now it has info for the fair)

Coming soon— a directory of fiber resources including fleece producers

Tired of Tracey having all the fun? Join the technology committee today!

What is this business with a lifetime membership? At the last board meeting (9/10) the board voted to add lifetime membership as an option for new and renewing members. For a one time payment of \$300, a renewing or new member will be granted lifetime membership to the guild. As a reminder, regular dues run on a calendar year and are \$30 annually. You can purchase a lifetime membership or simply renew your dues on the guild website, pay in person at a guild meeting, or mail a check to: P.O. Box 876098, Wasilla, AK 99687.

Dues are used to support guild business activities like the purchase of licenses, taxes, printing, and advertising. Dues are also used towards the sponsorship of the MatSu Valley Fiber Festival in July and towards our sponsorship of special awards at the state fair. If you have any questions about the usage of funds collected from dues you're welcome to contact the guild treasurer or any board member.

As a guild member in good standing you will continue to receive periodic guild communications like the newsletter, access to sell at the Out of the Box Sale, priority sign up for workshops, access to rental equipment, and a vote at all general elections.

If you have any questions about lifetime membership or dues please reach out.

Valley Fiber Arts Guild Member Spotlight: Getting to Know Our Members

What is your name? Do you have a nickname that you enjoy being called?

What is your favorite fiber to work with?

What's your favorite way to relax on weekends?

What kind of music do you like?

What or whom first interested you in fiber arts?

What was your first project?

What is your favorite book and why?

What do you or did you do for work? Why did you choose that?

Is there a type of fiber art you've always wanted to try or to learn?

What do people usually ask you for help with?

What is the most adventurous fiber related thing you have ever done?

What kind of foods do you like to eat when you are cooking at home?

What is a skill or ability you have that most people don't know you possess?

How would you summarize your family or those you are most close to?