



Valley Fiber Arts Guild Newsletter

April 2024

Matanuska Susitna Valley Alaska

April 6, 2024 Meeting Saturday

The Valley Fiber Arts Guild March meeting is **Saturday March 6 at 10:00 AM**, at Turkey Red Restaurant banquet room. Turkey Red is located at 550 S. Alaska Street, Palmer.

More Baby Blanket Squares being accepted at the April meeting.



If you missed the March meeting here is the baby blanket made from guild members squares. This blanket is for Cookie's January born daughter, Ciq'.

And please keep the baby blanket squares coming as Vice President Valerie, is due in May with a baby boy. The finished 5"x 5" squares can be knitted, crocheted, or woven. The preferred colors are shades of blues. Please tag your square with your name. Deliver your finished squares (ends woven in and blocked) by the April meeting or if unable to attending the meeting contact Kelsey Gerke via email: (knitwitak007@gmail.com).

Upcoming Events

Spring Fiber Arts Retreat April 19-21, 2024:

It is spring time Fiberistas, and time for RETREAT!!! The 2024 Spring Alaskan Fiber Arts Retreat (AFAR) is coming up beginning at Noon Friday April 19 through Noon Sunday April 21 at Camp Maranatha 19780 W Camp Dr Big Lake, AK. There are lots of details to share, please read the following in its entirety!:

Registrations are open, copy and paste this link into your web browser : <https://valleyfiberartsguild.regfox.com/2024-spring-afar>. This retreat we will be only using Langley Hall, so space is limited to the first 30 weekend registrations. There are a few Saturday only options available. Since we are meeting at Langley, there will be no classes.

Remember our Color It to Win It challenge?? Last fall the challenge for this year was to bring a photo that inspires you to the Spring retreat and talk about how you plan to translate the images or colors in the photo into a finished project to enter into the Fair and bring to the 2024 Fall retreat for a chance to win an awesome prize! With all the work we have done around Color Theory this should be a really fun project and inspiring for all!

During this weekend there will be a sharing table where folks can bring goodies to share with others if you choose. If you don't wish to share please keep your food items in your room or seating area rather than the designated sharing table area. A shared refrigerator will be available for everyone's use, please clearly mark your items. Meals are on your own over the weekend, other than a catered dinner on Saturday. Please let me know if you have any allergies, the Camp will do its best to accommodate them. All Langley rooms have a in-room mini-fridge (make sure to check if it is plugged in) and microwave.

We have been trying something new with good success. Saturday we have provided a registration option (Saturday part day) for junior fiber friends that would like to attend retreat. Here are the rules:

- Junior participants must be at least 9 years old
- Hours for junior participants are Saturday only (any other requests are at the discretion of retreat diva and must be pre-approved)
- They must be supervised by a parent/grandparent and be well behaved (unruly behavior will be asked to leave)
- They must be respectful of other's machines, space, ect..

We like to see the fiber arts encouraged in our juniors and invest in the creativity of our next generation.

There were lots of positive comments about this so far and thank you to everyone for supporting each other.

We will have a vendor or two and a massage therapist available during retreat. Vendor space is limited, please be sure to register and mark the vendor box. You will get a confirmation email if you are approved to vend. If you would like to request approval before you register, please email retreatdiva@gmail.com with your request.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me by sending an email to retreatdiva@gmail.com. I am eager to see everyone again and welcome new friends! 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.

Workshops and Future Workshops (still in the planning stages):

Spring Retreat: April 19-21

Dye Day in June at Natalie's Home (date: TBA)

Advanced Plying (April? TBA)

Double Weave Workshop at Yule Farm this summer

Wet felting workshops at the October Fiber Retreat

If you have an idea for a workshop you would like to see, or if you are willing to teach a class or workshop, contact Natalie Wolfe (gnat@gmail.com; phone: 907-312-3107)

Announcements

Next VFAG meeting is May 4, 2024.

This meeting will be 10:00 AM Saturday at Turkey Red Restaurant in Palmer. There will be election of officers and a catered brunch paid for by the guild.

Board positions open for election this year in May

Nominations are still being accepted for these positions on the VFAG board.

President: current nominee: Kelsey Gerke

Secretary: current nominee: Amanda Johnson

Workshop Coordinator: current nominee: Natalie Wolfe

Seeking someone to coordinate the Sheep to Shawl Demo!!

VFAG is looking for someone to volunteer to coordinate the sheep to shawl exhibition at the Fiber Festival in July. Without a coordinator we will not be able to participate in this lively fun event. We need someone to step up by May.

Online VFAG Swag Store:

Don't forget you can order your own VFAG swag in the form of T- shirts, hoodies, aprons or totes. Click this link to view the goods and order:

www.hiresgraphicsak.com/valley-fiber-art-guild

Name Tags:

Name tags have been ordered. Since the new source for the tags has proved costlier, we will be charging \$6.00 for replacement cards.

Opportunities for Fiber Gatherings

Every Monday at Vagabond Blues

After 5:00 pm. An informal gathering of fiber folks for fellowship and working on fiber projects at Vagabond Blues in Palmer.

Sit and Spin at Fiber and Ice

The first Saturday of each month spinners gather at Fiber and Ice yarn shop in Wasilla to visit and spin. Starting at noon.

Knitting at the Palmer Senior Center

Every Thursday 10 AM to Noon

Shop Local

Peak Outpost in Palmer: <https://www.facebook.com/thepeakoutpost/>

(Check in with them for possible fiber art classes.)

Fiber and Ice in Wasilla: <https://fibernicealaska.com/>

(A great source of yarn and all things fiber plus they offer various classes)

Yule Farm in Palmer area: <https://yulefarm.squarespace.com/>

(Check for upcoming workshops)

Becca's Alpacas in Palmer: <https://beccasalpacas.com/>

VFAG events throughout the year:

Upcoming VFAG events: These are events which the guild sponsors or participates in throughout the year. Volunteers are always appreciated to help at these events. [Also see VFAG Calendar](#) at the end of the newsletter.

- *May 4: [VFAG meeting catered lunch with election of new officers](#)
- *May 12: [Mother's Day at the Musk Ox Farm](#) (demo fiber art of your choice)
- *April 19-21: [Spring Fiber Arts Retreat](#)
- *July 13: [Palmer Garden and Arts Faire](#) in Palmer
- *July 20-21: [Fiber Festival](#) at Alaska State Fairgrounds (third weekend of July)
- *Aug-Sept: [Alaska State Fair](#)
- *Oct 18-20: [Fall Fiber Arts Retreat](#),

- *Nov 23: [Out of the Box Sale at the Palmer Depot](#)
*Dec 2: [VFAG meeting catered brunch and gift exchange](#)
*Feb : [Spinning Bee](#) (outreach and gather to spin and teach others to spin)

[Membership dues](#) for 2024.

The dues for calendar year 2024 are \$30.00 for both new or renewing members. Your options to pay are:

- (1) Pay online at our website: <http://www.valleyfiberarts.org/>
- (2) Attend the meeting.
- (3) Send a check to VFAG, PO Box 876098, Wasilla, AK 99687

When making your payment please be sure to include your email in order to receive the newsletter. If you have paid your dues but are not getting the newsletter, please contact Julia Lenz at moor.lenz@gmail.com

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Board of Directors:

Officers

President: Kelsey Gerke, knitwitak007@gmail.com
Vice President: Valerie Groseclose; groseclosevr@gmail.com
Treasurer: Tracey Eason, tracey.eason@gmail.com
Secretary: Amanda Johnson, mandaj_29@yahoo.com

Volunteer Positions

Communication Coordinator: Julia Lenz, moor.lenz@gmail.com
Historian: Linda Loven
Workshop Coordinator: Natalie Wolfe, gmat71@yahoo.com

VFAG Calendar



January

January 6th, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room

After Meeting Program: Make Drop Spindles for St. Distaff's Day

Dues Reminder, Goals for the year,- Committee Sign-ups, New Year Declarations read and made

February

February 3, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room

After Meeting Program:

Knitting Machine Workshop February 10th

Spinning Bee February 24th from 10am-4pm in the Turkey Red Banquet Room

March

March 2, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room

After Meeting Program:

March 23rd 12-4pm Fleece Woolen & Worsted Prep (Comb/Card) at Turkey Red Banquet Room

April

April 6, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room

After Meeting Program:

Board Nominations Committee

Spring Retreat April 19-21st- Langley Lodge Only, space limited

May

May 4, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room

Board Elections and Catered brunch

Summer Events Planning

Dye Day- date TBA

Musk Ox Farm Mother's Day May 12th- Spinning

June

No meeting

July

No meeting

July 20-21 Matsu Fiber Arts Festival – Sheep to Shawl

August

No meeting
State Fair -

Entry dates: August 2 & 3
Judging date: August 4 & 5

September

September 7, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
After Meeting Program:

October

October 5, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
After Meeting Program:

Planning for November Sale
Fall Retreat October 18-20th- Out of State Felting Artist Weekend Long Workshop

November

November 2, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
After Meeting Program:

Planning for November Sale- Last minute details

November 23rd, Saturday *Out of the Box Guild Sale* at Palmer Train Depot
Setup at 8am runs 10am-4pm

December

December 7, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
After Meeting Program:
Holiday Brunch Meeting
Gift Exchange