



Valley Fiber Arts Guild Newsletter

November 2024

Matanuska Susitna Valley Alaska

A Month to be Thankful and Count Your Blessings

The Valley Fiber Arts Guild meeting is **Saturday November 2 starting at 10:00 AM** in the banquet room of Turkey Red Restaurant in Palmer, 550 S Alaska Street. The minutes from the October meeting are posted at the end of this newsletter ([October Minutes](#)). **Red Challenge:** Bring your submission for the red challenge that was thrown down at the October meeting.

Sheep Breed Study at November Meeting

Natalie will do a Q&A for fleece preparation: come with your questions.

There will be a discussion on last month's Leister Long-wool fleece and a new fleece, Castlemilk Moorit, will be distributed.

If you don't know about this study, click this link:

<https://valleyfiberarts.org/whats-happening/2024-2025-sheep-breed-study-workshop/>

Scroll down to the bottom of this page to find more information about the study under:

VFAG Member Workshop Sheep Breed Study 24-25 handout

Sheep Breed Study Information Sheet

A suggested book to reference for this study is *Fleece and Fiber Sourcebook* by Carol Ekarius and Deborah Robson

Note: if you are only interested in the fleece of particular sheep breeds in any specific month you can pay for the month(s) you want at the meeting or if you can't make that month contact Natalie (Retreatdiva@gmail.com).

Out of the Box Sale

Saturday November 23 at the Palmer Depot 10:00 – 4:00

Only 3 weeks until the November Sale! At the meeting there will be advertisement flyers passed out for members to post. Julia Lenz will bring inventory sheets and explain the process for tagging your sale items and filling out inventory sheets.

Highlights from the October Meeting



A few photo shots from the October Show & Tell: Kelsey's sweater; Linnea's scarf woven with bits of yarn; Sally's rug woven with T-shirts; one of Shiloh's needle-felted figures.



October Meeting

*Treasurer's Report:

- The treasurer's report was passed around: Money Market has \$12,254.45; Checking has \$4,966.82; Savings has \$ 37.84. There are 75 members paid up so far for 2024. New rack cards have been ordered, and both the post office box and taxes have been paid.

*Equipment rentals:

Vice President Valerie presented the results from the May survey on rental equipment needs. The survey revealed the most requested items were for spinning. Since the guild already has 6 wheels available, Valerie will concentrate on creating beginner kits with everything that is needed for spinning and these will be rented with the spinning wheels.

* President Kelsey opened discussion for ideas on how to better engage the membership.

-A request was made for someone to anchor the Monday knit night at Vagabond Blues and Stephanie Bass volunteered.

-Suggested: A directory of members and their skills that can be shared with others, so if a member has a question about a technique there is someone to contact.

-Suggested: Craft Day / Intro to a craft day (i.e.: Learn to knit, spin, crochet, etc.) or something like a drop-in craft day. The Wasilla Library was suggested as a possible place to gather.

*Report on the State Fair from Jude:

-More entries encouraged, for this year the number of entries is up but the number of those who make entries is slightly lower. Jude encourages more people to get involved and enter your fiber creations in next year's Alaska State Fair.

-A big change in entry next year is that all entries will be digital. More information on how all that will work will be coming in early 2025.

-The State Fair theme for next year has been announced as "Reach for the Stars"

Announcements

*December 7, VFAG Meeting This is always a special end of the year gathering. After the business meeting, the guild pays Turkey Red to cater a brunch and members have a gift exchange. Turkey Red does not charge us to use their room for our meetings, so this is a way to give back to their generous support of our guild.

*The joint guild (Valley and Anchorage guilds) retreat will be in February 2025 at Mountain Streams B&B. Cost will be around \$150.00.

*Knit Nights every Monday, you are free to come and go to this weekly informal gathering of fiber enthusiasts every Monday evening from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Vagabond Blues. Stephanie Bass has been hosting. All are invited to come visit and work on knitting or other portable fiber projects.

Membership dues for the calendar year 2024

Join the guild or renew your membership. Dues are \$30.00 for the calendar year so join early to keep in touch with fiber news happenings.

To Pay Dues:

(1) Online at website: <https://valleyfiberarts.org/>

(2) Send a check to VFAG, PO Box 876098, Wasilla, AK 99687

When paying dues please be sure to include your email in order to receive the newsletter.

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 Director: Julia Lenz, moor.lenz@gmail.com

Historian: Linda Loven

Workshop Coordinator: Natalie Wolfe, RetreatDiva@gmail.com

October Meeting Minutes:

5 October 2024

Attendance: Natalie Wolfe, Jessica Newton, Linda Loven, Julia Lenz, Beverly Parker, Cookie, Kelsey Gerke, Michelle Olsen, Dawn Sloan, Judy Niemeyer, Carol Johnson, Tracey Eason, Valerie Groseclose, Sally Hoople, Nancy Krebs, Pat Miller, Marjorie Bellringer, Susie Magone, Kaylynn Godwin, Kristina Tornqiet, Lisa Krebs-Barsis, Shiloh Morrison, Judy Cadra, Ava Voelker, Amy Durseloh, Lori Schweitze, Stephanie Bass, Stephanie Smith, Amanda Johnson, Debbie Johnson, Samantha Jamison, Malin Campbell, Claire McKay, Tina Osgood, Sandra Cook, Linnea Nystrom, Neena Levan

- September Minutes are in Newsletter
 - Move to publish with slight modification (Tracey, Debbie)
 - Near the end “Board” to clean...
- Kelsey
 - Goals
 - Ways to engage new members
 - Knit Night at the Blues
 - Requested a volunteer to be there and act as the point of contact and in return receive a paid membership for the year
 - Stephanie Bass volunteered
 - Directory of Art with Pictures
 - Craft day at the library
 - Poster of Projects
 - Winter Fiber Fest kind of thing
 - People’s paper/Make a scene
- Workshop
 - Fall Retreat Oct 18-20 at Camp Maranatha
 - Open if questions contact Natalie at retreatdiva@gmail.com
 - Felting pumpkins, sock machine knitting, fleece prep
 - Maranatha: now must have at least 80 people to be able to use the gym and the cabins
 - Place to look into for the historical numbers (since covid) girls scout camp
 - Jullian Moreno
 - VFAG Helped with 1/3 cost of travel, funds came from workshop budget

- The workshop focus is the sheep breed study
- Fleece prep workshop at Fall Retreat
- Looking for an assistant workshop coordinator
- VP Report
 - May 2024 Survey on the Rental program
 - Spinning
 - Going to create beginner kits with everything that is needed for spinning and will be rented with the spinning wheels
 - Information is on the website
- Treasure's Report
 - 67 Paid Members
 - 8 Lifetime
 - Balances
 - Money Market: \$12,254.45
 - Checking: \$4966.82
 - Savings: \$37.84
 - Will be ordering new rack cards
 - PO Box paid
 - Taxes paid
 - Paper filled out for Linda
- Committee Sign-up
 - Updated to fiber season September-May
 - Technology
 - Board nomination
 - Spinning Bee (February 2025)
 - Mother's Day at the Musk Ox Farm
 - Alaska State Fair
 - Out of the Box
 - Outreach
- State Fair-Amanda on behalf of Jude Johnson
 - Hours
 - 220 hours volunteering including 150 hours of demonstrating

- 17 gift certificates given for special awards
 - Fiber 2023: 178 entries, with 72 enterers
 - Fiber 2024: 185 entries, with 69 enterers
 - Fleece 2023: 16 entries, with 5 enterers
 - Fleece 2024: 25 entries, with 6 enterers
- 2025 entries will be digital
- Theme: Reach for the Stars
- Out of the Box-Julia Lenz
 - November sale
 - Once a year sale for members to sell items
 - At Palmer Depot November 23 10-4
 - Couple tables for member's items, but you can get a full table if you have a lot.
 - Tables are 8 ft if you want one let Julia know.
 - There is a sales table
 - 15% commission fee to VFAG
 - New tablecloths going to be ordered. Some this year, some next year
 - Sign-up list passed around
 - Morning: 8-10 Set up
 - Day: help with whatever
 - 10-12
 - 12-2
 - 2-4
 - After Sale: 4-cleanup
 - Hard copies of flyer will be available at November meeting as will the digital
 - 2011 Boys Valley Revolution Soccer team will run concession stand
 - This sale started back in the early 2000s.
- Sheep Breed Study-Natalie
 - Jacob
 - If you want to sign up, still spots
 - 3 different plans link on the website
 - Fleece Book

- *Fleece and Fiber Sourcebook* by Deborah Robson, Carol Ekarius
- New Business
 - Red Challenge for Show and Tell
 - Prizes by Stephanie Bass

Move to Adjourn (Debbie, Tracey)
11:17

Door Prize Winner: Carol Johnson

Curly Hair Brush- for weaving
Crave Naturals Glide Thru Detangling Brush