



# Valley Fiber Arts Guild Newsletter

October 2024

Matanuska Susitna Valley Alaska

## October Monthly Meeting

The monthly Valley Fiber Arts Guild meeting is **Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00 AM** in the banquet room of Turkey Red Restaurant in Palmer, 550 S Alaska Street. The minutes from the September meeting are posted at the end of this newsletter ([September Minutes](#)).

## Sheep Breed Study at October Meeting

For those signed up for the Sheep Breed Study there will be a discussion about the Jacob fleece distributed in September and a new fleece (Leister Longwool) will be distributed. If you don't know about this study control-click this link:

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

At this website scroll down to the bottom to find more information about the study under the links:  
[VFAG Member Workshop Sheep Breed Study 24-25 handout](#)

[Sheep Breed Study Information Sheet](#)

And for fact sheet information about the breeds scroll to:

[Jacob](#)

[Leicester – Longwool](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Fall Alaskan Fiber Arts Retreat October 18-20<sup>th</sup> at Camp Maranatha

Retreat registrations are up and the information has gone out. The sign up link is [2024 Fall Alaska Fiber Arts Retreat \(regfox.com\)](#). An email was sent out to the membership with a message from Retreat Diva, Natalie with all the information regarding the retreat.

## Out of the Box Sale 2024 is Saturday November 23 at the Palmer Depot 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

- Note this is the Saturday before Thanksgiving instead of the usual Saturday after Thanksgiving. For those unfamiliar with this sale: This is the annual VFAG sale when members are provided a venue to sell their handmade goods. This doesn't need to be just fiber, but it does need to be a handmade product. Attached is a file with a detailed explanation of the sale and how it works. Julia Lenz is sale coordinator this year.

A couple of winning State Fair entries at Show and Tell



Judy Cadre models her wet felted koi jacket and Michael Bagenski shows his woven warp-faced rug.



Vintage loom for free. Hoping to find a good home for old loom. Needs repair. Need to find a new owner soon. Tanya Beck

Tanya sent the dimensions

Height 36.5"

4 3/4" wide

38 1/4" long

If interested contact Tatiana Beck:

Tatiana Beck <[tlbeck@mtaonline.net](mailto:tlbeck@mtaonline.net)>

## Announcements

\*Anyone who knows the location of the VFAG banners, last seen at the February Spinning Bee, please contact Lynx Mullen. The guild needs these returned so they can be used at other events.

\*The next VFAG meeting will be Saturday November 2, 10:00 AM at Turkey Red in Palmer.

\*New rack cards have been ordered as we are almost out of the 500 ordered last year.

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

### **Creative Weaving Event offered by Anchorage Weavers and Spinners Guild at the Anchorage Museum**

Learn how to express your creativity with weaving in this beginner's weaving workshop taught by the Anchorage Weavers and Spinners Guild. With expert guidance from skilled weavers, dive into weaving from start to finish. Choose from a variety of colors and textures to weave your fabric and use the provided Saori Piccolo looms prepared with black cotton warp – the perfect canvas for any color you choose for the weft. With the provided materials, weave a beautiful piece of cloth to take home. \$65, registration required. For mature teens and adults.

#### **10/26/24 Creative Fabric Weaving with the Anchorage Weavers & Spinners Guild (Class 1)**

**9 a.m. - noon. Saturday, Oct 26** *Reynold's Room, Education Wing, First Floor*

**In-Person Event**

[Anchorage Museum \(ticketapp.org\)](https://www.ticketapp.org)

[Calendar Event Details - The Anchorage Museum](#)

#### **10/26/24 Creative Fabric Weaving with the Anchorage Weavers & Spinners Guild (Class 2)**

**1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct 26** *Reynold's Room, Education Wing, First Floor*

**In-Person Event**

[Anchorage Museum \(ticketapp.org\)](https://www.ticketapp.org)

[Calendar Event Details - The Anchorage Museum](#)

#### **10/27/24 Creative Fabric Weaving with the Anchorage Weavers & Spinners Guild (Class 3)**

**1 - 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27** *Reynold's Room, Education Wing, First Floor*

**In-Person Event**

[Anchorage Museum \(ticketapp.org\)](https://www.ticketapp.org)

[Calendar Event Details - The Anchorage Museum](#)

## 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 8:00 PM at Vagabond Blues. All are welcome to come visit and work on knitting or other portable fiber projects.

## Online VFAG Swag Store:

Here is the link to order Valley Fiber Arts Guild shirts, hoodies, aprons or totes:  
[www.hiresgraphicsak.com/valley-fiber-art-guild](http://www.hiresgraphicsak.com/valley-fiber-art-guild)

## 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.*

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## List of VFAG Events of Note Throughout the Year

Upcoming VFAG events: These are events which the guild participates and sometimes sponsors throughout the year. Volunteers are always appreciated to help at these events.

- \*October 18-20: Fall Alaskan Fiber Arts Retreat, at Camp Maranatha
  - \*November 23: Out of the Box Sale at the Palmer Depot
  - \*December 7: VFAG meeting catered brunch and gift exchange
  - \*February: Spinning Bee
  - \*February: Joint VFAG + AWSG retreat at Mountain Streams B&B
  - \*April: Alaskan Fiber Arts Retreat at Camp Maranatha
  - \*May: VFAG meeting with election of new officers
  - \*May : Mother's Day at the Musk Ox Farm
  - \*July Fiber Festival at Alaska State Fairgrounds (third weekend of July)
  - \*Aug-Sept : Alaska State Fair, .
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## ZBoard of Directors:

### Officers

President: Kelsey Gerke, [knitwitak007@gmail.com](mailto:knitwitak007@gmail.com)

Vice President: Valerie Groseclose; [groseclosevr@gmail.com](mailto:groseclosevr@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Tracey Eason, [tracey.eason@gmail.com](mailto:tracey.eason@gmail.com)

Secretary: Amanda Johnson, [mandaj\\_29@yahoo.com](mailto:mandaj_29@yahoo.com)

### Volunteer Positions

Communication Director: Julia Lenz, [moor.lenz@gmail.com](mailto:moor.lenz@gmail.com)

Historian: Linda Loven

Workshop Coordinator: Natalie Wolfe, [gmat71@yahoo.com](mailto:gmat71@yahoo.com)

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## September Meeting Minutes:

### General Meeting Minutes for Valley Fiber Arts Guild

Saturday September 7, 2024

Start: 10:15 AM, 33 members present

May meeting minutes unavailable, will be approved at next month's meeting

#### Treasurer Report:

Money Market: \$17,248.91; Checking: 3,895.24; Savings: 37.88

#### Vice President Report:

Currently reviewing the survey of equipment needs that was taken last spring to help determine equipment needed to meet member needs.

#### Workshop Coordinator:

The new monthly meeting **Sheep Breed study** was explained. Papers explaining how the study will work and a breakdown of breeds and payment plans were passed out to all those present. September's breed is Jacob. After show and tell, Kelsey weighed out the fleece for those interested in participating. Contact Natalie if you can't attend a meeting and arrange a way to pick up a fleece or have it mailed to you.

**October Retreat** is Oct 18-20 at Camp Marantha: The retreat will be at Langley Hall only (Camp Marantha now requires 80+ participants before they open the gym for use). Natalie is looking for other places that might be able to accommodate our needs better. The master felter that was originally planned for the October retreat has been postponed.

#### November "Out of the Box" Sale

Julia Lenz reports that the date of the sale this year is Saturday November 23 at the Palmer Train Depot. Of special note is: this is the Saturday before Thanksgiving instead of the usual Saturday after Thanksgiving. She is asking for more help at the sale, mainly with cleanup of the depot after the meeting.

#### Sharon Hein reports

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

#### Recap of Summer Events

\*Mother's Day at the Musk Ox Farm: Jude had a table for anyone to bring a fiber project and visit.

\*\*Dye Day at Natalie's, Nancy Krebs reported that 5 people attended and it was a great learning experience. She encourages more people to participate next year.

\*Michelle Olson reported on a very successful Fiber Arts Fair in July, with more vendors than ever before. 2025 will be the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary so this will be a special one. The 3 shawls from the 2023 Sheep to Shawl were raffled off and this bought in \$170.00.

\*Julia Lenz reported on the 2024 Sheep to Shawl. This year there was a VFAG team and an Anchorage Weavers and Spinners Guild (AWSG) in friendly competition. Both teams successfully completed their

shawls and got them submitted to the State Fair. Thank you to all who participated. Members are encouraged to participate next year.

Lynx made an urgent request:

There is a tub with two VFAG banners from the February Spinning Bee missing. She cannot recall who offered to take the tub, but they need to be returned to the VFAG. Whoever knows the whereabouts of those banners, please get in touch with Lynx. We will greatly appreciate these banners being returned to the VFAG.

A boxed Union loom was donated by Karen McMasters to VFAG, and currently is stored at Michelle Olson's. The VFAG board will decide what to do with the loom.

Reminders were made that members can order VFAG swag. Tote bags, aprons, T-shirts, and sweatshirts with the VFAG logo silk screened on.

We have almost burnt through the 500 rack cards we ordered last year. A new order of rack cards is being made by Tracey.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:45 AM

After Meeting: Show & Tell and weighing of sheep fleece for the Sheep Breed Study.

Submitted by: J. Lenz