



Valley Fiber Arts Guild Newsletter

December 2024

Matanuska Susitna Valley Alaska

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year

The Valley Fiber Arts Guild December meeting is **Saturday December 7 starting at 10:15 AM** in the banquet room of Turkey Red Restaurant in Palmer (550 S Alaska Street). The minutes from the November meeting are posted at the end of this newsletter ([November Minutes](#)).

To celebrate the holidays Turkey Red provides a catered brunch buffet for all attendees and holds a brown paper bag gift exchange. The brunch is paid for by the guild. This is also a way to thank Turkey Red for providing this meeting room to us free of charge all year.

The gift exchange is optional. If you plan to participate in the fun, bring an unwrapped gift that fits into a lunch size brown paper bag. Gifts are not limited to fiber items.

Sheep Breed Study at December Meeting

There will be a discussion on last month's Castlemilk Moorit fleece. The fleece for December is: Cotswold (lamb) - Heritage Breed.

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).

Scenes from the VFAG November “Out of the Box Sale”

The Out of the Box Sale was a big success. Huge thanks to all of the participants and especially those who helped at the checkout table, with early morning setup, and after sale cleanup. You all made it happen in splendid fashion!



Events in first quarter of 2025:

*January 4: VFAG Meeting at Turkey Red, New Years resolutions from last year will be read and new ones made. After the meeting we gather to spin and celebrate Saint Distaff Day. So, bring your spinning wheel or drop spindles and prepare to share a bit of time spinning with your fellow members.

*January 24-26: The second annual Spin and Ski Retreat will be held January 24 – 26, 2025 at Mountain Streams B&B near Hatcher Pass. Cost will be \$150.00. A formal invite from the Anchorage Weavers and Spinners Guild will be sent via email on Thursday evening, December 5, 2024.

*February 2025: Spinning Bee at Turkey Red

Announcements

Creating a Member Contact Directory:

President Kelsey is working on putting together a directory of members and their skills that can be shared with others. This is in order for any member with a question about a fiber technique to find someone to contact for help. A paper list is being passed at meetings where you can enter your name,

phone, email, and fiber skills you are willing to share. This directory will be paper copy only and will not be put online or any social media site.

Equipment Rentals

Find the list of rental equipment on the VFAG website (valleyfiberarts.org):

Click the menu link: "Membership Information";

Scroll down to:

Equipment Rentals

Please review and complete the Equipment Rental Policies [here](#).

Click [Here](#) for a List of Equipment in Our Rental Program

You can pay your monthly rental fees for Guild Equipment [here](#).

Contact the current Vice President via email to request rental equipment. All officers and their emails are listed at the end of this newsletter.

Knit Nights every Monday 5-7 PM at Vagabond

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 2025

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

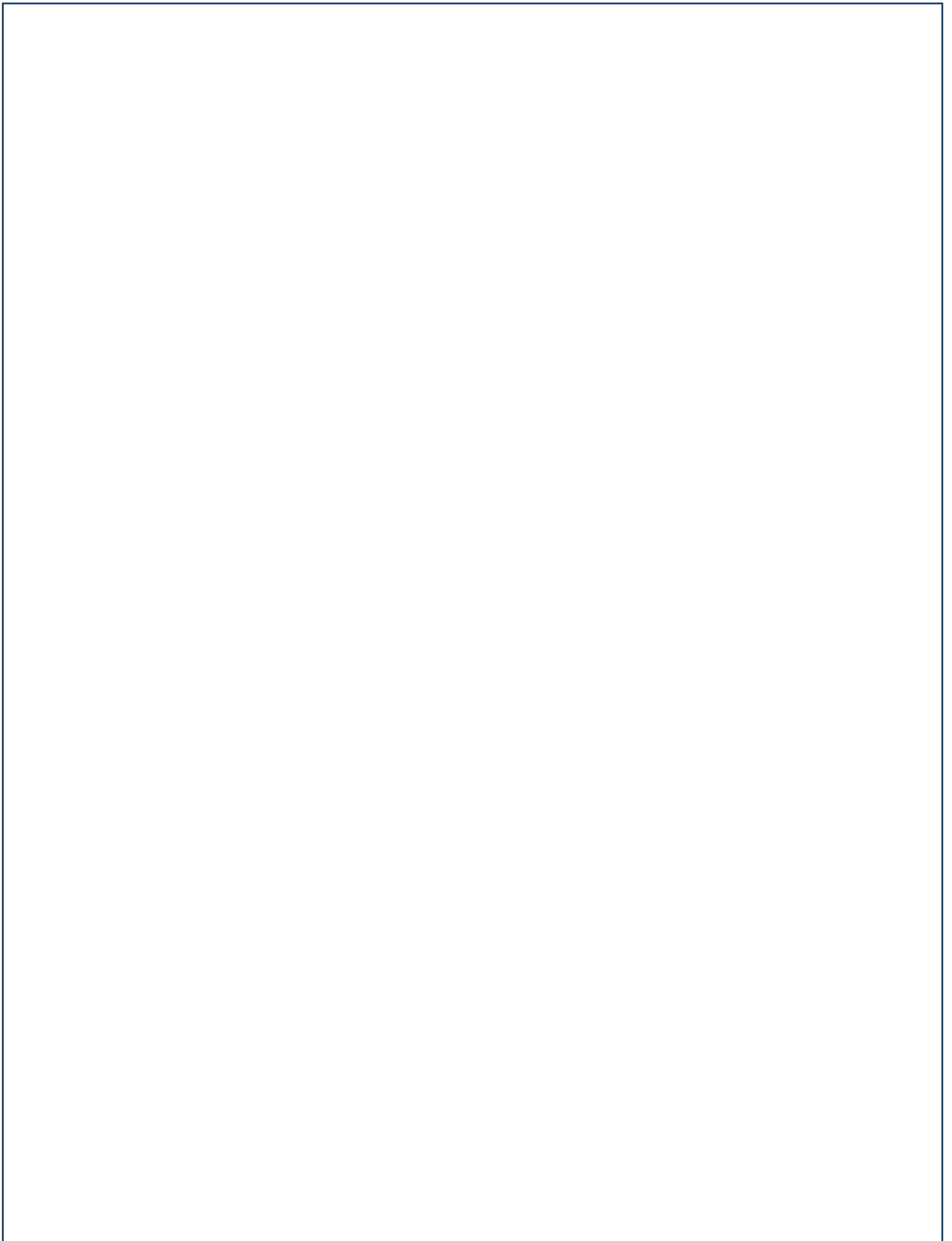
Secretary: Amanda Johnson, mandaj_29@yahoo.com

Volunteer Positions

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

Historian: Linda Loven

Workshop Coordinator: Natalie Wolfe, RetreatDiva@gmail.com



November Meeting Minutes:

General Membership 2 November 2024

Attendance: Julia Lenz, Judy Niemeyer, Tracey Eason, Amanda Johnson, Samantha Jamison, Somer Snider, Barbara Stanfill, Kristina Kovich, Dawn Sloan, Amy Durgeloh, Dayle Ferry, Annette Born, Linda Loven, Beverly Parker, Neena Levan, Sandra Cook, Ute Olssen, Pat Miller, Carol Johnson, Marjorie Bellringer, Nancy Krebs, Judy Cadra, Natalie Wolfe, Susie Magone, Charlotte Miller, Lennea Nystrom, Ava Perkins, Kristina Tornquist, Kaylynn Godwin, Teri Schweitzer, Kelsey Gerke, Jessica Newton, Tina Osgood

10:14 Called to Order

Move to Approve the Minutes (Kristina Tornquist, Pat Miller)

Goals of President

- Member engagement
- Member Directory
 - Paper only
 - Only available at meetings for member
 - Only name, phone number, email, what you do
- Monday at the Blues
 - People are coming
 - Monday 5-7
- Update Community events signup, no members signed up

Natalie

- Fall Retreat
 - 38 people
- Spring Retreat
 - 18-20 April (Easter weekend)
 - Is always held on the 3rd weekend
 - Langley only
- Still looking for a different venue for the future
- Workshops
 - Sheep Breed Study
 - Nothing more on the workshop schedule, but if interested let Natalie know
 - Goal of having a weaving workshop

Year at a Glance

- Volunteer after meeting or want to learn something let us know
- Rental program
 - It's under Membership on the website
 - If you want to rent, email the VP for current available list

Tracey

- Membership
 - 69 paid 2024
 - 2 paid 2025
 - 8 lifetime members

Positions up for elections in May

Treasurer

VP

Communications Director

Historian (Monitors activities and photos)

Turkey Red catering/rental upped in budget to \$1200

Spinning Bee

Julia (out of the box)

- Runs 10-4
- All tables are filled
- Flyers will be sent so word can be spread
- 2025 back on Small Business Saturday

December will have the Ornament Exchange, put in a brown paper bag

Sheep breed

1140 adjourned (Sam Jamison, Tracey Eason)