



Valley Fiber Arts Guild Newsletter

February 2025

Matanuska Susitna Valley Alaska

February Meeting

The general meeting is **Saturday February 1, at 10:00 AM** in the Turkey Red Banquet Room, 550 S. Alaska Street, Palmer.

The after-meeting program is a darning-mending demo. Bring a worn item that needs some repair and learn how to mend and extent it's lifetime.

The minutes from the January meeting are posted at the end of this newsletter ([January Minutes](#)).

And...

The Sheep Breed Study Continues:

There will be a discussion on last month's *North Country Cheviot* and the next fleece of the month: *Gotland* will be distributed.

To find the latest Sheep Breed Information sheet click the link below :

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

Challenge: Natalie has put out a challenge to participants in the sheep breed study. The challenge is to create something that incorporates the sheep breeds from the study and enter it at the Alaska State Fair. There will be a \$50.00 prize for the winner.

Time to pay annual dues:

Dues for calendar year 2025 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 876142, 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.

SPINNING BEE

Have you ever wanted to learn to spin your own yarn? Come on by and spend some time learning. We have all the supplies you need to get started.



SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 8, 2025
10 AM – 3 PM



AT TURKEY RED BANQUET ROOM

550 S Alaska St Palmer AK
99645

VALLEY FIBER ARTS GUILD



www.valleyfiberarts.org

Spinning Bee: Saturday February 8, at Turkey Red banquet room 10 AM – 3PM

Do you know someone who has always wanted to learn to spin? Bring them and yourself to the annual spinning bee.

This fun event is both the chance to gather and spin with fellow members and an educational outreach to pass on spinning skills to the valley community. There will be a few vendors with roving and batts to sell.

Board positions open for election this year

VFAG is seeking nominations for these positions on the VFAG board. Elections are held at the May meeting.

There are two officer positions open:

Vice President

Treasurer

And two volunteer positions:

Communications Director

Historian

Future Workshops

A fleece preparation workshop is coming in March 2025. The details of time and where are not yet available but Natalie will be filling us in on the details

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 (gmat@gmail.com; phone: 907-312-3107)

Spring Fiber Retreat at Camp Maranatha

April 19-21 Spring Retreat, this will be held in Langley Hall at Camp Maranatha. Natalie is looking into changing the dates to April 17 - 19 because April 20 is Easter.

Announcements

Next VFAG meeting is March 1, 2024.

This meeting will be 10:00 AM Saturday at Turkey Red Restaurant in Palmer.

Baby blanket squares

VFAG member Charlotte Miller, is due in June. We are accepting donations of finished 4" x 4" squares to assemble for a baby blanket. The squares can be knitted, crocheted, or woven. The preferred colors are earth tones. Please tag your square with your name. Bring your finished squares to the March meeting or if unable to attending a meeting contact Kelsey Gerke via email: (knitwitak007@gmail.com).

Knit Night every Monday at Vagabond Blues

After 5:00 pm. An informal gathering of fiber folks for fellowship and working on fiver projects.

DENALI ARTS COUNCIL

FIBER FEBRUARY

09 FEB FIBER SHOW

21 FEB FIBER WORKSHOPS

23 FEB

Are you Fiber curious, fiber phobic, or a fiber fanatic?

Announcing Denali Arts Council's inaugural Fiber February!

This will be a month of fiber fun with workshops and displays. Weavers, spinners, hookers, felters, crocheters, knitters, dyers, shepherds and all other fiber folks contact DAC if you are interested!

michelle@denaliartscouncil.org 907-733-7929

Fiber February is being held in Talkeetna by the Denali Arts Council. They are looking for instructors for their workshops. If you would like to teach a class, contact: michelle@denaliartscouncil.org

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.

- *Feb 8: [Spinning Bee](#) (outreach and gather to spin and teach others to spin)
- *April 18-20: [Spring Alaskan Fiber Arts Retreat](#)
- *May 3: [VFAG meeting catered lunch with election of new officers](#)
- *May 11: [Mother's Day at the Musk Ox Farm](#) (demo fiber art of your choice)
- *July 19-20: [Fiber Festival](#) at Alaska State Fairgrounds (third weekend of July)
- *Aug-Sept: [Alaska State Fair](#)
- *October: [Fall Alaskan Fiber Arts Retreat](#),
- *Nov 29: [Out of the Box Sale at the Palmer Depot](#)
- *Dec 6: [VFAG meeting catered brunch and gift exchange](#)

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

Historians: Linda Loven

Workshop Coordinator: Natalie Wolfe, gmat71@yahoo.com

Minutes from January 4 meeting:

4 January 2025 General Membership Minutes

Attendance: Julia Lenz, Amy Durgeloh, Natalie Wolfe, Susie Magone, Debbie Johnson, Stephanie Smith, Ute Olsson, Samantha Jamison, Marjorie Bellringer

Judy Niemeyer, Nancy Krebs, Tracey Eason, Amanda Johnson, Valerie Groseclose, Michaele Hennan, Carol Johnson, Lisa Krebs, Beverly Parker, Pat Miller, Charlotte Miller, Tina Osgood, Kelsey Gerke, Judy Cadra, Sharon Hein, Clair McKay, Dayle Ferry, Cary Fremin, Tulena Huddlestar, Linnea Nystrom, Stephanie Bass, Dawn Sloan, Jude Johnson, Sandra Cook

1015: Call to Order

Move to Approve the December Minutes (Tracey, Deb) Passed

Board Updates:

- Member engagement: paper only membership directory
- Monday at the Blue
 - Stephaine Bass
 - People are stopping by
- Educational grants
 - Fiber arts \$250 3-4 per year
 - Application will be on website
- New Years Resolution
 - Reading of last years

Treasurers

- 79 Paid member in 2024
- 9 Lifetime
- 6 Paid 2025
- Balances
 - Money Market: \$12,271.46
 - Checking: \$5,454.77
 - Savings: \$37.85
 - Total: \$17,765.08
 - Gaming
 - Checking: \$590.92
 - Savings: \$25.08
 - \$168 will go to Fiber Fest as a non-profit for shawl proceeds
- AK Business License (2206759) Paid through 12/31/2026
- Palmer Business License (005460) Paid through 12/31/2025
- Matsu Borough no longer requires a license, but trying to get refund for the among that was already paid
- Palmer train depot reserved for 11/29/2025 Small Business Saturday
- Po Box payment current through 2025

Spinning Bee

- 8 February 2025
- Turkey Red Conference Room
- 3 Vendors
- Will bring guild wheels

Vice President

- Spinning bags ordered

- Looking into purchasing one more Lazy Kate
- Demo February
 - Mending Demo (bring item(s) if you want

Board Positions Open in May

- Treasurer: it is organized on Google and systems
 - Tracey can mentor
- Vice President
 - Takes over if President can not be there
 - In charge of Rental Program
 - After Meeting programs
- Communication
 - Correspondence with Membership

Workshop

- Spring Retreat
 - 18-20 April 2025
 - Looking at moving to 17-19, or 18-19 because of the holiday
- March Fiber Prep
- Challenge
 - Create and enter item into fair with at least 1 or more of the Sheep Breed
 - Prize \$50

New Business

- Spin and ski
 - Last weekend of January
 - 6 spaces available for sleeping
 - 5 day passes and both days available
- Denali Arts Council
 - Fiber Arts in Talkeetna Jan 29-31 show

Door Prize: 23 Judy C.

1056: Motion to adjourned (Deb, Valerie) Pass