



Valley Fiber Arts Guild Newsletter

January 2025

Matanuska Susitna Valley Alaska

A New Year for Fiber Creations

The Valley Fiber Arts Guild general meeting is **Saturday January 4, starting at 10AM** in the banquet room of Turkey Red Restaurant in Palmer, 550 S Alaska Street.

The meeting will include a reading of 2024 Fiber Goals and making new 2025 Fiber Goals.

The after-meeting program is our annual gathering to spin together in celebration of St. Distaff's Day. Bring your spinning wheel and fiber to draw together to visit and spin in the new year. Or if you would prefer to bring another type of portable fiber art, please bring that to share in our celebration.

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

Sheep Breed Study at January Meeting

There will be a discussion on last month's Castlemilk Moorit and the next fleece for the month, North Country Cheviot will be distributed.

The sheep breed study is now full and not taking any more students. For more information on the study or to find the latest Sheep Breed Information :

<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.

Spin and Ski Retreat Weekend January 24-26

This is a joint outing that includes both the Anchorage and Valley Guilds.

Experience total relaxation in the gorgeous Mountain Streams B&B near Hatcher Pass. <https://www.mountainstreamslodge.com/>.

Amenities include sauna, fabulous kitchen, welcoming host and lovely views from 3 floors in this well-appointed home.

Hang out with friends for a mellow weekend with your fabulous fiber projects. And bring your favorite spinning chair to ensure comfort. You don't have to ski but if you are a Nordic Skier, bring your gear! Groomed trails start right outside the door and connect to Government Peak ski trails. No vendors or formal classes. However, sharing your fiber knowledge is always welcome.

Cost for the entire weekend is \$150.00. Find details and signup at Sign Up Genius with this **link**:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E44AEAC2BA1FC1-53574098-2ndannual>

Questions? Text or email Sharon Hein at 907-355-1587 or Sharon2earth@gmail.com

Spinning Bee, February 8, 2025

As part of VFAG's mission of outreach and education a Spinning Bee is held in February.

This year the gathering will be February 8, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, in the Turkey Red banquet room. All members and the public are invited to gather to spin together and teach visitors how to spin.

Pay Dues for Calendar Year 2025

Starting a new year means time to pay annual VFAG membership dues. Dues paid in January are good for the whole calendar year. Dues are \$30.00 annually.

Your options to pay are:

- (1) Pay online at our website: <http://www.valleyfiberarts.org/>
- (2) Attend a meeting and pay the Treasurer.
- (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.

Positions up for Election May 2025

There are two officer positions open for election at the May meeting:

Vice President

Treasurer

And two volunteer positions:

Communications Director

Historian

Spring Retreat April 18-20 2025

The Spring retreat at Camp Maranatha will be held at Langley Hall only. Because these dates unfortunately fall on Easter weekend, Retreat Diva, Natalie is looking into the possibility of moving the dates to April 17 – Saturday 19 at noon. If the dates change you will be notified.

Request for 1-2 days fiber arts skills teacher in Delta

This was sent out to members on Monday, but is included here in case anyone missed the announcement. The request is from Eve Karczmarczyk, for the Cooperative Extension Service Delta Junction. If interested contact Eve: her phone number is 907-895-4215 or email at: EEKarczmarczyk@alaska.edu. Here is her message:

Hi yu'all,

I am hoping to stimulate and encourage some fiber art/craft and production activity up here in our Delta ag community.

I'm wondering if you know or could recommend someone willing and able to come to Delta Junction to teach a one or two day fiber arts class in March-May (spinning or felting or better yet, two classes to cover both! Maybe even something about raising sheep could).

We have a small budget to cover expenses and teacher stipend.

Eve Karczmarczyk,
Administrative Program Assistant,
Cooperative Extension Service - Delta Junction
University of Alaska Fairbanks
1420.5 Alaska Highway
PO Box 349, Delta Junction, AK 99737
907-895-4215

Don't forget Knit Night on Mondays 5-7 PM

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.

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

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

December 7 Meeting Minutes:

General Membership 7 December 2024

Attendance: Kelsey Gerke, Kaylynn Godwin, Debbie Johnson, Tracey Eason, Valerie Groseclose, Juliet Bartolo, Natalie wolfe, Kristina Tornquist, Linda Loven, Jessica Newton, Carol Johnson, Amy Durgeloh, Lisa Krebs-Barsis, Marjorie Bellringer, Stephanie Bass, Judy Niemeyer, Michael Hannam, Susie Magone, Pat Miller, Kellee Wilson, Tina Osgood, Sharon Hein, Judy Cadra, Barbara Stanfill, Malin Campbell, Krissy Deal, Samantha Jamison, Linnea Nystrom

10:15 Called to Order

Explanation of how gift exchange is going to work

Minutes approval: Tracey, Sam 2nd

- Treasurer
 - Balances
 - Money Market: \$12,265.73
 - Checking: \$6,108.17
 - Savings: \$37.84
 - Total: \$18,411.74
 - Membership
 - 9 lifetime
 - 2024: 77 paid
 - 2025: 4 paid
 - Licenses are all current for 2025
 - Rack cards were reordered because returned by post office
 - November sale
 - Successful, but not as much as previous years
 - Scheduled for Small Business Saturday 2025
 - Position is up May 2025
- Vice President
 - Year at a glance
 - January Spinning time after the meeting for St. Distaff's Day
 - February: Darning Demo after meeting
Spinning Bee 8 Feb 2025 10-4 Turkey Red Banquet Room
 - March: nothing scheduled for after meeting
 - April: nothing scheduled for after meeting

- May: Catered Brunch, Guild Election
- Will be buying bags for rental equipment
- Position is up May 2025
- Sharon Hein
 - 2nd annual small retreat at ski resort for new years. Unstructured watch for emails, \$150 per person limit 22
- President
 - Increase participation
 - Member directory fill out
 - Update website
- Stephanie Bass
 - Knit night going well, starting to pick up
- Natalie
 - 18-20 April Spring Retreat
 - Possibly 17-saturday noon
 - Sandra Cook offered to help with workshops for 2025
 - Sheep Breed study is full
- New Business
 - New members add in gift exchange
 - Fiber goals

Adjourned 1044 Valerie, Sam 2nds