

# Valley Fiber Arts Guild Newsletter

May 2024

Matanuska Susitna Valley Alaska

## May 4, 2024 Meeting Saturday

The Valley Fiber Arts Guild March meeting is **Saturday May 4 at 10:00 AM**, at Turkey Red Restaurant banquet room (located at 550 S. Alaska Street, Palmer). This will be the last meeting before summer break, the next guild meeting will be in September.

- Catered brunch by Turkey Red
- Election for new board members:
- Approval of the proposed budget.
- Show and Tell
- Door Prize

## Election of Board Member Positions

- Election (re-election) of board members: Unless someone else steps up for these positions the people who currently hold these positions have volunteered to run one more 2-year cycle.
  - President, nominee: Kelsey Gerke
  - Secretary: nominee: Amanda Johnson
  - Workshop Coordinator: nominee: Natalie Wolfe

## Summer Events



### May 12 Mother's Day at the Musk Ox Farm

- \*The guild sets up a table as outreach to the public.
- \*To participate: You don't have to stay all day. You chose your time, bring any portable art project or just come to talk fiber.
- \*Come see the musk ox babies.
- \*Hours are 10 AM to 6 PM.
- \*The Musk Ox Farm is located off the Glenn Highway north of Palmer at 12850 E Archie Rd
- \* [Mother's Day at the Musk Ox Farm](#)

## **July 20 and 21, Fiber Festival**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of July all things fiber will be in the Agriculture Building at the Alaska State Fair Grounds. There are food trucks and numerous booths with fiber folk from all over the state. The fiber animals (sheep, alpaca, rabbits) are here for judging and show. There will be classes and gatherings of spinners and machine knitters. If you have questions contact event organizer Michelle Olsen, email: [towerranchalaska@gmail.com](mailto:towerranchalaska@gmail.com).

Check for updates on the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MatSuFiberFest/>.

## **Seeking someone to coordinate the Sheep to Shawl Demo!!**

We really need someone to step up and oversee the development and running of this event. It takes place during the Fiber Festival (July 20 and 21). There will be 3 teams: our VFAG team, the AWSG team (Anchorage), and Eagle River team.

To jump start participation, Kelsey passed around a signup sheet at the April meeting. Click here to view the current sheet ([Sheep to Shawl](#)). If you are interested in the coordinator position or in signing up for a time slot: contact Kelsey 907-982-7502 or [knitwitak007@gmail.com](mailto:knitwitak007@gmail.com).

## **August 2, 3, 4: Alaska State Fair Entries and Judging**

Volunteers will be needed to help with

1. Entry days Friday and Saturday August 2 and 3, from 11 AM to 7 PM.
  2. Judging (both judges and helpers) on judging day, Sunday August 4th (10AM - 7PM).
- A Sign-Up-Genius page will be sent out sometime in July.

See the Fleece and Fiber exhibit information at:

<https://www.alaskastatefair.org/site/exhibit/fiber-fleece-2024/>

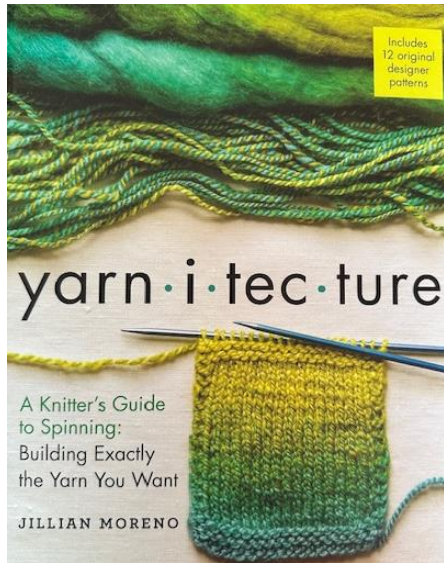
**Click this link to see the VFAG Calendar: [VFAG Calendar](#)**

## **Upcoming Workshops:**

### **VFAG Dye Day in June 1, at Natalie's Home**

- \*Dye Day will be at Natalie Wolfe's house June 1, 10 AM to 4 PM.
- \*Ute Olssen will be doing a natural dying workshop
- \*Acid dyes will be available for use.
- \*Bring your own fiber, yarn, or fabric.
- \*Members and non members are invited.
- \*Cost is \$5.00 per item to cover dye and supply costs.
- \*We will be having a potluck picnic, please bring a dish to share and your camping chair.
- \*More information and directions to Natalie's place will be sent out soon.
- \*No registrations needed, just show up and plan for a fun filled day!

## Jillian Moreno Workshop, September 21st and 22<sup>nd</sup> Anchorage



VFAG and AWSG (Anchorage Weavers and Spinners Guild) and the Fairbanks Weavers Guild have all coordinated to bring Jillian Moreno to teach spinning classes in Alaska.

You may know her as the author of the best-selling book, *Yarnitecture: A Knitter's Guide to Spinning: Building For much more information about Jillian and the Workshop offerings. Click: [Moreno Workshop](#)*

There will be 3 classes offered and held in Anchorage:

One full day class and two half- day classes. Sign up will be happening in May via Sign Up Genius and we will get that information out to you ASAP. For more information

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 Workshop Coordinator, Natalie Wolfe ([gnat@gmail.com](mailto:gnat@gmail.com); or text to: 907-312-3107)

---

## Announcements

Kelsey Gerke setup a booth for the Valley Fiber Arts Guild at the Alaska Homestead Expo that was held April 27 and 28 in Big Lake area. She was kept busy handing out more then 100 rack cards. For many people it was the first time they had heard about the guild. Thank you to Kelsey for staying both days and doing excellent out reach for the guild.

Debbie Johnson instructed two rug twining classes on April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Colony Inn in Palmer. I took one of the classes and can report that it was fun to learn the rug twining process. We all left the class with new knowledge, a collapsable loom and enough scraps to get the rug going. Debbie is a great knowledgeable, cool, calm, helpful instructor. I highly recommend this class especially if you have material around that needs using up.

Guild Equipment storage area at Michelle Olson's home has been inventoried. Valerie Groseclose is in the process of surveying members to learn what equipment they feel needs to be added to the inventory for rental. Valerie will setup a system for members to rent the equipment available.

---

## Opportunities for Fiber Gatherings

### Every Monday at Vagabond Blues

After 5:00 pm. An informal gathering of fiber folks for fellowship and working on fiber projects at Vagabond Blues in Palmer.

### Sit and Spin at Fiber and Ice

The first Saturday of each month spinners gather at Fiber and Ice yarn shop in Wasilla to visit and spin. Starting at noon.

### Knitting at the Palmer Senior Center

Every Thursday 10 AM to Noon

## Shop Local

**Peak Outpost** in Palmer: <https://www.facebook.com/thepeakoutpost/>

(Check in with them for possible fiber art classes.)

**Fiber and Ice** in Wasilla: <https://fibernicealaska.com/>

(A great source of yarn and all things fiber plus they offer various classes)

**Yule Farm** in Palmer area: <https://yulefarm.squarespace.com/>

(Check for upcoming workshops)

**Becca's Alpacas** in Palmer: <https://beccasalpacas.com/>

## Membership dues for 2024.

The dues for calendar year 2024 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 876098, 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](mailto:moor.lenz@gmail.com)

*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](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)

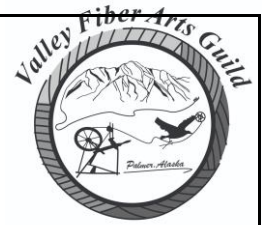
### Volunteer Positions

Communication Coordinator: 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)

## VFAG Calendar



### January

January 6th, 2024      9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room  
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room

**After Meeting Program:**      Make Drop Spindles for St. Distaff's Day

Dues Reminder, Goals for the year,- Committee Sign-ups, New Year Declarations read and made

### February

February 3, 2024      9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room  
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room

**After Meeting Program:**

Knitting Machine Workshop February 10th

Spinning Bee February 24th from 10am-4pm in the Turkey Red Banquet Room

### March

March 2, 2024      9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room  
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room

**After Meeting Program:**

March 23rd 12-4pm      Fleece Woolen & Worsted Prep (Comb/Card) at Turkey Red Banquet Room

### April

April 6, 2024      9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room  
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room

**After Meeting Program:**

Board Nominations Committee

Spring Retreat April 19-21st- Langley Lodge Only, space limited

### May

May 4, 2024      9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room  
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room

**Board Elections and Catered brunch**

Summer Events Planning

Dye Day- date TBA

Musk Ox Farm Mother's Day May 12th- Spinning

### June

No meeting

### July

No meeting

July 20-21 Matsu Fiber Arts Festival – Sheep to Shawl

## August

No meeting  
State Fair -

Entry dates: August 2 & 3  
Judging date: August 4 & 5

## September

September 7, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room  
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room  
**After Meeting Program:**

## October

October 5, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room  
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room  
**After Meeting Program:**

Planning for November Sale  
Fall Retreat October 18-20th- Out of State Felting Artist Weekend Long Workshop

## November

November 2, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room  
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room  
**After Meeting Program:**

Planning for November Sale- Last minute details

November 23rd, Saturday *Out of the Box Guild Sale* at Palmer Train Depot  
Setup at 8am runs 10am-4pm

## December

December 7, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room  
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room  
**After Meeting Program:**  
Holiday Brunch Meeting  
Gift Exchange

## Sheep\_to\_Shawl\_Signup

### 2024 VFAG Sheep to Shawl Team (July 20-21)

Please see our preliminary Sheep to Shawl team below. We have room for carders, spinners, another plier, and someone to be responsible for the 2024 Fair entry.

Contact Kelsey 907-982-7502 or [knitwitak007@gmail.com](mailto:knitwitak007@gmail.com) to fill in our gaps.

Opportunities	Prior to Event	Saturday, July 20 2 hour commitment	Sunday, July 21 2 hour commitment
Set up x 2		Lisa & Nancy 9-11am	
Record Keeper for Fair Entry		Natalie	Kelsey
Loom To Use For Event	Julia L.		
Warp Donation	Sally		
Shepherd	Michelle O.		
Fleece Scour	Natalie		
Fleece Dye	Done at June Dye Day		
Attach Warp to Loom	Julia & Sally		
Weaver 2x		Sally Julia	Kelsey- fill in
Carder 2x		Nancy Lisa	
Spin 5x		Tracey E. 10-12pm Michaela 10-12pm Natalie- all day	Natalie- all day
Ply 2x		Natalie	Kelsey- all day
Photographer		Natalie	Natalie
Take Down x 2			Kelsey
Fair Entry (August 2024)	Jude J.		
Raffle Ticket Table and Guild Info.		Natalie W.	Natalie W.

## MORENO\_Workshop

JILLIAN MORENO IS COMING TO ALASKA IN SEPTEMBER to teach us how to make the yarn we really want!

We are so excited to have world-famous Jillian Moreno traveling to Alaska this coming September to share her spinning wisdom! Both the Valley Fiber Arts Guild and the Fairbanks Weavers' and Spinners' Guild have contributed to help us offer this adventure to Alaskan spinners. Jillian will be traveling to both Anchorage and Fairbanks to do workshops! You might want to save the date on your calendar now; she'll be in Anchorage on 21st and 22nd and in Fairbanks on the 14th and 15th. Jillian has been called a "yarn goddess" and has taught workshops in craft schools and online at Knitty.com, PLY Magazine, and Spin Off Magazine, and was a writer for the popular Yarn Detective column for Modern Daily Knitting. You may know her as the author of the best-selling book, *Yarnitecture: A Knitter's Guide to Spinning: Building Exactly the Yarn You Want*. When she is at home in Ann Arbor, Michigan, she can be found wantonly basking in her stash and working on her next book.

Jillian is passionate about investigating the structure of yarn and color, and using them in intentional ways in knitting, stitching, and weaving. She explores, questions, and plays with fiber and wants to take as many people as possible along for the ride.

She believes all yarn is beautiful and useful and enthusiastically encourages her students to feel joy making and using their handspun. Jillian believes in making yarn you like and want to use, she throws 'must' and 'should' out the window, though does enjoy the fun that comes from the phrase 'it depends'.

Combining technical and intuitive approaches to spinning, her students gain confidence as well as solid skills to build any yarn they can dream of. In her classes Jillian shows there is never only one way to make a yarn. Knowing and seeing the outcomes of a variety of spinning skills frees students to build unique and useful yarns to use with any project they have in mind.

In her classes Jillian's students play and experiment with fibers and color, gain an enthusiasm for sampling, and come to see that their own definition of beautiful, consistent or perfect yarn is the only one that matters.

If you are wondering if Jillian's classes are for you, know that if you are familiar with your wheel, can spin a continuous thread, and have made a 2-ply yarn (even once), the answer is a resounding YES! Jillian has been curating a lovely stash of fibers that she will bring for our enjoyment and use. Her kit will include your choice of fibers and colors from a variety of wool and wool blends in her "Rolling Stash".

### **We will be offering 3 classes in Anchorage—**

one full day class and two half-day classes. We thought you might like to know what is on the menu! It's going to be so much fun! Mark your calendars; keep your eyes peeled for future emails with sign up information.

Check out these wonderful spinning and learning opportunities:

#### **About Yarnitecture: Building Exactly the Yarn You Want with Jillian Moreno 6 hours**

Is the yarn in your head the yarn in your hand? Do you always spin the same (default) yarn? Do you have a dream yarn you just can't make happen? Are you unhappy with what happens to the colors when you spin a variegated top or roving? Do you love your handspun yarn, but don't like how it looks knitted?

In this class, we'll focus on making yarn that inspires you from commercially dyed roving and top--yarn you'll love to knit or weave with. We will start by spinning and labeling your default

yarn. Throughout the class you will use this most-favorite of your yarns as a springboard to make an intentional yarn for any of your projects. Together we'll build your yarn from fiber braid up to a knitted swatch. We'll start by talking about the blueprint for a yarn—the yarn vision. We'll break yarn down into all of its parts. We'll build your yarn's foundations by exploring fiber breeds and preparations. We'll explore the walls which are the different drafting and plying methods we build with. Finally, the roof goes on as we manipulate variegated top and roving to make sure the colors you've chosen end up just the way you want them.

All along the way you'll get tips to keeping your yarn's end use or yarn vision in mind and your yarn consistent. Based on the best-selling spinning book, this class will give you confidence to build the yarns you want to knit and weave with!

### **Mix It Up: The Basics of Combining Color using Braids 3 hours**

This class focuses on the fun of mixing and blending painted braids with other colors and other braids.

We'll explore how to choose colors that go together, what affects color in spinning, and how to avoid mud in your yarn. You'll learn how to mix and blend colors in the ply and draft, and how to choose the easiest fibers that work well together.

While you practice your mixing and blending, Jillian will show you how to choose colors to turn up or turn down the brightness of a braid, and the best way to stretch braids for projects. Finally, she'll show you how to sample to learn the most about spinning braids for color, and how to use those samples as shortcuts for your future braid spinning.

### **Spinning Singles: Structure and Color. 3 hours**

Learn the ins and outs of spinning a singles yarn that won't bias when used for knitting or weaving. The secret to a sound singles is getting the twist right, plus practice.

We'll discover exactly the type of twist a singles yarn needs and learn to measure it both with tools and with just your hands and eyes. You'll get to practice your new twist by exploring spinning singles with variety of fibers, blends, and preparations, to see how each change affects singles.

We'll talk about the different ways to finish your singles, and how best to use your singles yarn. Think you are out of luck with playing with color and spinning singles? Think again! We'll make variegated, gradient, intermittent, and marled yarn while we combine colors, naturals, and braids. You'll learn about fractal singles and find out what happens when we combine different color methods into a singles yarn for a kaleidoscope of color.

You'll leave this class with the inspiration and know-how to make your perfect singles yarn.

\*\*\*And just in case you're curious, the Fairbanks Guild will be offering the following classes:

All the Singles Ladies: Spin and Knit Sensational Singles (3 hours)

Match Game: Spinning for Knitting (3 hours)

Spinning Braids: All the Fun, None of the Stress (6 hours)