



The Anchorage Weavers and Spinners Guild

and

The Valley Fiber Arts Guild

Proudly Present



## The Orenburg Tradition: The Mystique of Russian Lace

Until recently, the specific techniques for hand knitting Orenburg lace were passed from generation to generation, within the family structure, by word of mouth only. There existed no known record of comprehensive written instructions, patterns or designs. This meant that if the current generation of young women lost interest in learning the craft, it would most likely succumb to age.

Orenburg knitted lace has represented an important part of the Russian character for centuries. For the women of Orenburg, it has meant so much more – a tradition...a legacy...a livelihood that has guided generations from adolescence to adulthood, providing a basic sense of personal achievement and dignity.

Galina A. Khmeleva, owner of Skaska Designs and author of *Gossamer Webs: The History and Techniques of Orenburg Lace Shawls* and *Gossamer Webs: The Design Collection*, has earned the reputation as one of the most respected and knowledgeable lace knitting instructors in the country. She set as her personal goal and dedicated her company's resources to keep Orenburg's legacy alive.

This workshop will provide an extensive overview of Russian lace knitting, including the fiber preparation process. Students will be introduced to the unique elements of knitting design – from pattern to border to corner techniques-that result in elegant Orenburg lace shawls and scarves, with plenty of knitting time and hands-on coaching from Galina. And, as always, a Skaska workshop will provide an unforgettable cultural experience. One VFAG scholarship will be available, please email Alice Scherp at [ronhoney@gci.net](mailto:ronhoney@gci.net) for information.

**Cost:** \$125.00 (there will also be a material cost of \$15-20. depending on the type of fiber you choose to work with)

**Dates/Times:** Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 9:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** AT&T Sports Center (Conf. Rm), Wasilla (746-7529)

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### The Orenburg Tradition: the Mystique of Orenburg Lace April 5-6, 2008

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Balance Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO THE VALLEY FIBER ARTS GUILD, OR VFAG. Send payment and completed registration form to: Alice Scherp, PO Box 521001, Big Lake, AK 99652. Current Guild refund policy applies. If class space is limited, priority is given to AWSG and VFAG members first.