



BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD NEWSLETTER  
Number 94 - December 1986

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Upcoming Meetings

December 13, \*\*11 AM meeting for 1986 and 1987 Officers to exchange information.  
\*\*Noon--Annual Christmas Party. There will be a dish-to-pass lunch and a holiday show and tell of ornaments from handspun fibers.

January 10, Noon--Rock Day/St. Distaff Day Celebration. Bring a dish-to-pass. Pat Randorf is planning a surprise for this first meeting of the new year. Probably the biggest celebration for handspinners, Rock Day originated in Brittain where spinners celebrated on the day after Twelfth Night, Jan.7. "Rocken" in German means distaff. Rock Day marked the end of the holidays and the start of spinning work again. Apparently the ploughmen play largely in the day as they were still enjoying their freedom by teasing the spinners. Not quite sure just what a distaff was, I found an interesting definition in the American Heritage Dictionary:"1. A staff that holds on its cleft end the unspun flax, wool, or tow from which thread is drawn in spinning by hand. 2. A woman's work and concerns. 3. Woman, or women in general." The picture on this page shows a full distaff on the spinning wheel.

DUES are due now!! Please bring your dues and filled membership form to the Dec. meeting or send them to the Guild today. 1987 is quickly approaching.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Helen Kiker is moving to the Rochester area. She'll be attending meetings sporadically. We wish her luck and hope sporadic is often.

\*\*\*\*\*



## NEW OFFICERS - 1987

Thanks to Amy Brill and the nominating committee.

## President

Michelle Kurz  
R D 1, Box 207  
Trumansburg, NY 14886  
387-6760

## Vice-President

Pat Randorf  
Box 104  
West Danby, NY 14896  
564-7493

## Secretary

Jeanne Lawless  
PO Box 164  
Ithaca, NY 14851  
272-0055

## Treasurer

Kathy Halton  
RD 1  
2505 Danby Road  
Willseyville, NY 13864  
273-0533

## Librarian

Debbie Benzer  
707 North Aurora St.  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
277-6830

## Newsletter

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## Library Changes??

There was some discussion at the November meeting about dropping our subscription to Handwoven magazine in favor of a knitting magazine. Possibilities mentioned are Threads, McKnits, and Knitters magazines. General concensus was the latter as the most applicable to the most members. What do you think? Should we keep Handwoven? Let Debbie Benzer know your opinion soon as it is time to renew Handwoven. Also suggested was adding Kaffe Fassett's book Glorious Knits to the library. Which brought the discussion around to money. Some fund raising ideas: yarn sale; craft show and sell on the Commons; knitting kits for baby items to sell; divide up some carded wool (Joan Johnston has some to donate) to spin by members so there will be enough to sell of one type. For further discussion at the December meeting.

## Treasurer's Report

Rent at the Varna Firehouse has been paid through December 1986. The current balance: \$478.92. Helen assured us that that is good for this time of the year.

## New Members and Changes of Address

Mary Lou Szabol  
1071 Warren Rd #4  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
257-5758

Jeanne Lawless  
Box 164  
Ithaca, NY 14851  
272-0055

Sharon McCarthy  
509 S. Cayuga St  
Ithaca, NY 14850

Cherry Valley Spinners  
Shirley Howe  
5507 Mt Pleasant Drive  
Cazenovia, NY 13035-9331

Helen Kiker  
1134 The Grove  
Victor, NY 14564  
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Pat Randorf  
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