

April 2017

ROVING

Message from the President

Greetings to all,

I love spring! Shearing here was delayed by the cold (6 degrees this morning), and the water to the barn has disappeared. Shoveling the knee-deep, packed snow from the spring box reveals that it is near empty although all around it is soggy. So the pump went back in the creek to connect to 200' of plastic pipe (no joins) going to the garden outlet, but there is ice in those lines so out came 200' of garden hose to run from the house to the barn. Of course some of those were frozen as well but I am well stocked with hose so no more bucket hauling for the moment. That was yesterday afternoon. Shearing starts today. I love spring!

The guild hosts Karen Stern this month, she of the gorgeous Wensleydale locks. She loves her sheep, and is happy to talk to us about farm life, sheep breeding, how she uses their fleeces etc. Her enthusiasm is contagious, and you too will love her sheep.

I am off to the barn to puzzle out how to fill a wool sack that is 2' square by 7' tall (with the ceiling about a foot higher). I could jump up and down on/in their roughly 4' cubed predecessors, but this could be challenging.

See you there!

Sharon

April 2017

Next meeting is on April 8th from 11am-3pm, and we'll hear from

Karen Stern and her Wensleydales

President	Sharon Gombas
Vice President	Sue Quick
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Treasurer	Vickie Marsted
Newsletter	Angelika St. Laurent
Membership	Marjorie Inana
Programming	Marjorie Inana
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The Black Sheep meet from 11am - 3pm on the 2nd Saturday of each month at All Saints Church Parish Hall, Route 34B, in Lansing, NY. Exceptions are possible-see location changes in the latest newsletter!

Guild News:

Sarah Anderson Workshop:

The registration for the Sarah Anderson Workshop on May 13/14 is open to the public. There are still available spots in the workshop. Feel free to spread the word. We do need at least 15 participants to make the workshop happen. Sign-up sheet and information can be found on page 3.

Guild Officers:

This is it--time to step forward to be a guild officer. Check out the list of positions on the front of the newsletter and find one that sounds interesting to you. Current officers please let Sharon know whether you wish to continue in that position. We will have an election of officers at the May meeting. You may feel free to nominate someone you feel is right for the job; they of course may feel differently, but who knows?

The Tenth Annual Shepherd's Wool Market

May 13th, 2017
@ The Rush United Methodist Church
6200 Rush Lima Road
Rush, NY 14543

Time: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Offering for sale from local Fiber Farms:

Fleeces, Roving, Yarns, Sheep Hides,
Finished Goods, Soaps, Lotions,
Freezer Lamb & much more!

Free demonstrations throughout the day

Diane Seely of Acorn Works Fiber Processing will be at the market to pick up your fleeces for processing

For more information:

Amy Klee- stoneedgefibers@gmail.com

Robin Nistock- sheepmom@empacc.net



Fiber News

Upcoming BSHG Meetings:

April 8th, 11am-3pm

Karen Stern and her Wensleydale

Fiber Events:

The 25th New York's Washington County Fiber Tour

Saturday, April 29th, to Sunday, April 30th, 10am-4pm See: www.washingtoncountyfibertour.org

Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival

Saturday, May 6th, 8:30am-6pm,
Sunday, May 7th 8:30am—5pm.

Howard County Fairground, West Friendship, Maryland, 21794

Tenth Annual Shepherd's Wool Market

Saturday, May 13th, 10am-4pm

The Rush United Methodist Church
6200 Rush Lima Road
Rush, NY 14543

Hallockville Museum Farm Fleece and Fiber Fair

Saturday, May 20th, to Sunday May 21st, 10am-4pm.

Hallockville Museum Farm, 6038 Sound Avenue, Riverhead, NY, 11901

SARAH ANDERSON WORKSHOP

Sponsored by the Black Sheep Handspinners' Guild

When: May 13 and May 14

Where: Lansing Community Center, 29 Auburn Road, Lansing, NY 14882

Time: 9 am to 4 pm

Fee: 1 Day \$100 2 days \$200

May 13 DRAFTING:

Drafting refers to the way the spinner manipulates or draws out the fiber so twist enters it to create yarn. Different drafting methods produce very different yarns even from the same fiber and different fibers may require different techniques. In this class we will work on drafting techniques that spinners of all skill levels will appreciate including diameter control, understanding twist, drafting for different types of yarn, producing yarn compatible to an existing yarn and finishing techniques

May 14 PLYING:

This class follows and builds on the drafting class. Students learn to use different types of singles in plied yarns. The class begins with basic plying and then moves into more complex types of plying such as spiral, chain, cable, crepe, boucle and core yarns. We do as many as time permits

Bring To Class: A wheel in working order, lazy kate, and 3 bobbins. If you have a flick or hand carders bring them too.

REGISTRATION

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

MAY 13 _____ \$100

MAY 14 _____ \$100

Make out check to Black Sheep Hand Spinners' Guild

Mail check and form to Marjorie Inana 41 W. Court Street, Cortland, NY 13045

Registration is non refundable and is due at registration

Holey Moley, Olek!

By Marilee Williams

There is excitement building in Central New York and it is growing inch by inch from the hands of dedicated volunteers! Internationally-known artist Olek, currently based in New York City, is creating a public installation at the Schweinfurth Art Center in Auburn.

Born in Poland, Olek is a self-taught crochet artist and social activist who, through her art, draws attention to such issues as women's rights, oppression and inequality. Her latest project, to be installed on the front of the art center on Genesee Street in Auburn, honors Harriet Tubman, an escaped slave, Union spy, and conductor on the Underground Railroad. She retired to Auburn and ran a "home for the aged" on South Street in Auburn. Harriet's benefactor in that endeavor was William H. Seward, Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of State, whose own home is just a few blocks toward city center from Tubman's.

A banner will be constructed of 180 2'x2' crochet panels, forming a portrait of Tubman from black, white and bright pink Red Heart brand yarn donated by Coats and Clark. To create the panels, Olek has enlisted the aid of yarn artists from around the area and beyond. An urgent call for volunteers was met with enthusiasm and there were three opportunities in early March, on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday, for the teams to meet with Olek, see a power-point presentation along with a video of her previous works and then to pull out their crochet hooks and get started. Olek, dressed in her signature pink camouflage cargo pants and a sweater adorned with enormous pop-art style crochet flowers, circulated around the room, answering questions and dispensing advice.

I attended the meeting on Friday and three other Black Sheep guild members were also there: Susan Sarabasha, Loretta Louviere, and Rosane Mordt. I estimate there were at least 75 women gathered to lend their hands to the project, and that was only on that one day! One woman even drove all the way from Long Island to participate! She sat at the table with Rosane, Susan and Loretta and has become a long-distance friend via email.



After we crocheted sample squares, Olek inspected them to be sure our tension met the guidelines required and offered adjustments to hook size if the squares were not quite right. Graphs of each of the 180 panels were then distributed along with the yarn in the necessary colors and away we went.

I know how to crochet but knitting is my preferred technique, so I was only brave enough to accept the challenge of one panel, as did Loretta. Susan rose to the challenge to fashion two and Rosane took on the task of creating three squares! Wow!!

Crocheting volunteers gathered in Auburn

There was an incredible sense of community as we sat at our tables, hooking the yarn and chatting, getting to know each other as individuals and as collaborators on this fantastic project. The finished yarn mural will be installed in early April and we are all excited to see our work displayed as a part of the entire memorial to a powerful and important woman who helped to change the course of history during a troubled era in our nation's past.

Olek is an inspiration and a very talented artist with dedication to her social mission. Check out her website at www.oleknyc.com to see her multi-national installations. I daresay you will be impressed by the size and scope! And be sure to come to the Schweinfurth Art Center on West Genesee Street in Auburn to see how your fellow fiber artists have helped create a wonderfully colorful tribute to the power of many hands working toward the same end: honoring the amazing life of Harriet Tubman.



Volunteers and Artist working



One of Susan's pieces. Notice the tip of the shoe at the bottom of the picture for size.

Knitting Tip:

Sharon Gombas found this knitting tip in Beth Reinsell-Brown's monthly letter:

Technique of the month: The multi-strand cast on

I really like this old Gansey cast-on. Being purely utilitarian, it is a cast-on edge made of four yarns, which absorbs abrasion and reduces wear.

Using the long tail method, make a slip knot with double yarn, allowing almost an inch per stitch for the tail. You'll have two yarns over your index finger, and two yarns over your thumb. Cast on the necessary stitches, then work ribbing (1x1 or 2x2) for 4 to 6 rows. Then drop 2 of the yarns and finish the ribbing to the desired length. Now break off one more yarn. Only one yarn is left to work the rest of the garment. I am using this cast-on in a new gansey design.

Sweaters for Elephants and Chickens

Marilee Williams found this beautiful story: In a Wildlife SOS Elephant Conservation and Care Center in northern India elephants received handknitted and crocheted sweaters made by the local villagers to keep them warm in chilly nights and protect them from pneumonia and ease their arthritis. For the full article see [Elephant Sweaters](#)



Photo: Roger Allen

But elephants are not the only animals that can get cold during chilly nights. A group of knitting retirees in Massachusetts are [making sweaters for cold-sensitive fancy chickens](#).

Spider Silk

The fine threads spiders spin to weave their nets have fascinated spinners for millennia. According to a myth the Greek goddess of spinning and wisdom Athena (after all, spinning imparts wisdom) was once challenged by the gifted mortal weaver Arachne to a contest, which resulted in the mortal being transformed into a spider by the jealous goddess (The wisdom apparently only went so far, maybe the story would have gone differently, had the goddess sat down and spun a bit first, before using her transforming powers.) However, Arachne kept on spinning and weaving even as spider.

There have been throughout history several successful attempts to gather enough spider silk to make garments. Nevertheless, spiders are not fond of their own kind (except for culinary purposes), which makes it very hard to get enough spider silk for even small objects.

Recently, however researchers have succeeded to produce spider silk with the help of genetically modified yeasts. And produced a couple of spider silk ties. More details can be found in an [article](#) Shelly Marino found in the New Yorker.

Who knows? Maybe we will have yeast produce spider silk available for spinning in a couple of years.



Membership Form

Please type or print

Date: _____

DUES Record:

2016	2019
2017	2020
2018	2021

Name _____

Address: _____

Preferred email: PRINT NEATLY _____

Phone # _____

This information will be shared with registered guild members. If you wish to remain anonymous, please let Vicki Marsted know.

Please list your wheel(s) _____

Do you spindle spin? Yes or No (circle)

Do you Knit? Weave? Crochet? Dye? (Natural or Chemical?):

Would you be willing to share your skills with other members (ie: teach beginners, present a meeting topic, demo to the public, etc?)

If you raise fiber animals, please list them here _____

We need your help on committee(s). If you would like to volunteer, let Sharon Gombas, our president, know!!!

Roc Day

Programming

Newsletter

Membership

Website

Outreach

Treasurer

Our newsletter is distributed electronically. If this is a problem, please contact Sharon Gombas. Please fill this out and either bring it to a meeting or mail it with your check for \$20 to: Vickie Marsted, 6 Circle Drive, Cortland, NY 13045

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In an effort to reduce my personal stash, I'd like to sell cotton warp, loop mohair, rug wools, fine wools, rayon and rayon chenille and other interesting stuff at prices ranging from low to ridiculous. I also have a Hansen e-spinner with woolee winder, two bobbins and kate for sale. Contact Karey Solomon at threads@empacc.net.

For Sale from my happy sheep and rabbits in Trumansburg:
Navajo Churro roving in a variety of colors and white Angora
Rabbit wool.



Contact Sharon Berger 607- 592-4649

To place an ad

The cost for ads is \$5.00 per month for non-members. Current members may submit one business-card sized classified ad per month for free. Send a check made out to BSHG to our treasurer, Vickie Marsted, 6 Circle Drive, Cortland, NY 13045. Send the ad in digital form to the newsletter editor, angelika@simonstl.com. Black & white business cards are published free for current members.



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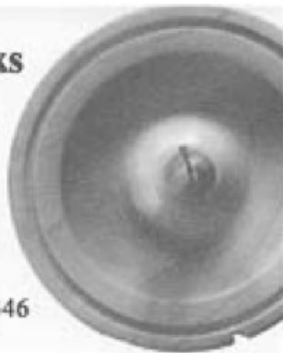
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