
NEWSLETTER

April 2025

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Goat from the 2025 retreat, courtesey of Rachel Skye

Message from the President

Dear Fellow Spinners,

Spring is here. It's beautiful, there are snow drops and crocuses flowering in our yard. The maples are flowering. Each time I go downtown, I'm amazed just how much is already blooming. It's hard to stay indoors. Nevertheless, I'm looking forward to our next meeting on April 12 th , 11am-3pm, at the All Saints Catholic Church in Lansing, 347 Ridge Road.

During the April meeting, we will have our annual Guild Garage Sale. If you have fiber, yarn, books or tools that don't spark joy anymore, please bring them and sell them to your fellow spinners, who will give them the loving attention they deserve.

Also, during our April meeting, Melody Navarez will teach us how to spin core yarns. The fiber for the class will be provided, bring your own wheel/spindle.

Looking forward to our May meeting: During our May meeting we will award the first Marie Bryhan memorial prize. To participate, bring an item you have created yourself and a description how you made it and what you learned in the process. To honor Marie's love for sheep and hand spinning, the yarn used for the item needs to be at least 50% sheep wool and at least 50% of the yarn used has to be handspun. The winner will be chosen by public vote. This year, the item can be of any age. In future years, all items submitted have to be finished during the past 12 months.

I'm hoping to see you on Saturday,

Angelika



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Guild News

Guild Meeting

The next Guild meeting will be on **Saturday, April 12th, 11-3 PM**, in the Parish Hall of the All Saint's Church

Address: 346 Ridge Rd, Lansing

New Members

If you know of folks who would like to join, please have them contact Louise Henrie and pay dues at: henrielm6@aol.com.

Address List

We put together a list of names, email addresses, and telephone numbers for guild members. This list is available in printed form at guild meetings or by request to Secretary, Roberta Sibley at robertainez@yahoo.com.

Guild Dues

For all members who have not yet paid dues, they are \$25 for the year of 2025. Please pay at a meeting, send your check for \$25 to: Louise Henrie, 417 2nd Street, Ithaca, NY 14850, or now you may send money via Venmo to Black-Sheep-NY

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, Louise Henrie, 417 2nd Street, Ithaca, NY 14850. Send the ad in digital form to the newsletter editor: rschnir@gmail.com

Guild Officers

President	Angelika St. Laurent	Newsletter	Ruby Schnirman
Vice President	OPEN	Workshops	Marianne Pelletier
Secretary	Roberta Sibley	Webmaster	Rosane Mordt
Treasurer	Louise Henrie	Roc Day Coordinator	Yvonne LaMontagne

Garage Sale Wishlist

Collected at March meeting

- Hand carders, small and/or large
- Supported spindle
- Interchangeable needles
- Niddy noddy
- Lazy kate
- Accessories for spinning
- Spinning wheels, used
- Fleeces
- Roving of the Month fiber packs
- Finn Fleece from Elizabeth :)
- Alpaca/camelid fiber
- Prepared wool
- Fiber!!!
- Soft, easy-to-spin fibers
- Dyed or natural colored roving (not white!)
- Dye flower seeds
- Dye stuffs

Member Ads and Announcements

Wool for sale

Elizabeth Kinne Gossner has 12 lbs. Natural White Wool Yarn from her flock available in 4 oz. skeins. Spun by MacAusland Woolen Mill in Canada as 2-ply worsted weight. Priced at \$5/ per skein. This yarn is ideal for Indie Dyes. Please contact prior to the April 12th meeting if you are interested. Either phone at (315)852-3344 or email at stillmeadow-finnsheep@frontier.com.

Looking for shearing experience

Zoe and Ruby are interested in learning how to shear. If anyone is willing to let us observe them shearing, or has any information on resources about how to learn to shear, please email rschnir@gmail.com and zng120@gmail.com

Angora Kids

Kat Doxater Thomas, a long time member, who has recently moved to Virginia, had Angora goat kids born.



Yarn Setting Test

Angelika St. Laurent

Yarn Setting Test

At the end of spinning and plying, comes the setting of the yarn. When I started to spin, I read the book 'Teach Yourself Visually Handspinning' by Judith MacKenzie McCuin. There I learned a method of setting yarn: Fulling and Snapping. That is agitate the finished yarn in hot soapy water, transfer the yarn a few times from hot water to cold water and back with some additional agitation in the hot water, a final rinse, some gentle drying either in the salad spinner or rolled in a towel, and finally taking the wet skein by one end and slapping it firmly against a hard surface. The following seventeen years, I have followed this approach.

Eventually I learned, that there are spinners, who for reasons of their own forego the pleasure of slapping a wet skein of yarn against their door frame. Some other spinners even considered my approach to yarn setting downright barbaric. While being called a barbarian obviously couldn't stop me from slapping door frames and outdoors furniture with wet yarn, it still got me thinking. How much does the finishing method affect the final yarn? So, I decided on a little experiment, comparing four different ways of yarn-finishing.

First, I carded a few batts from left-over fiber from a Romney-Merino cross. Then I spun and plied two of these batts into a balanced two-ply yarn. I separated the yarn into four skeins, each finished separately. Finally, I knitted four swatches using a size 7 needle and following the same pattern, one from each of the yarns.

- 1) The first skein received no treatment beside being wound into a ball.
- 2) The second skein was steamed for ten minutes, and dried lying flat.
- 3) The third skein was gently washed in lukewarm water with a bit of dish detergent in the sink, rinsed in lukewarm water. Then I expressed the excess water with a towel and dried the skein lying flat.
- 4) The fourth skein was agitated in very hot water with dish detergent and transferred several times from hot to cold water and back. After that it was rolled up in a towel to express excess moisture. Then I slapped it four times against the pillar of the our patio. Finally, the yarn was allowed to dry lying flat.

At the first glance, the four skeins didn't appear much different from each other. The third and fourth skeins smelled a bit fresher than the two that had not been submerged. When knitting, I noticed that the yarn of the first, second and third skein had a tendency to split, while the yarn of the fourth skein remained more solid. The finished swatches had a subtly different texture. The swatches knit with the second (steamed) and the third (washed) yarn felt smoother and tighter, while the first (unfinished) yarn and the fourth (fulled) yarn resulted in fluffier and squishier swatch. The size of the swatches also differed: The rows knitted with unfinished and

fulled yarn were higher, resulting in longer swatches, while the steamed and washed yarn produced shorter swatches.

Personally, I preferred the texture of the fourth (fulled) yarn over all others and intend to continue in my barbaric yarn slapping ways. I'll bring the swatches and yarns to our next (April) meeting.



Foto: The four swatches: 1. Untreated (upper left) 2. Steamed (lower left) 3. Washed (upper right) 4. Filled and Snapped (lower right).

Photos from the 2025 Retreat





Cookies & Nametags

Chocolate haystack cookies

Eliza Brown brought some delicious cookies to the March meeting, and was kind enough to share the recipe below.

3 Tbsp butter

Heaping cup semi or bittersweet chocolate chips

2 eggs

2/3 cup sugar

1/3 cup flour

1/4 cup cocoa powder

1/2 tsp baking powder

1/4 tsp salt

4 cups chunky things-- dark chocolate chips, toasted almonds, dried cherries, shredded coconut, etc.

1. Melt butter and chocolate together.
2. Whip eggs and sugar together until foamy. Mix in melted chocolate and butter.
3. Add flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, and salt.
4. Gently mix in the chunky things.
5. Spoon onto a pan and bake at 350F for 10 minutes.

What's Your Name Again?

Lois Swales

At the March meeting the topic of nametags came up again. With lots of new people the fear of Social Embarrassment is a bit of a problem. Some of us remember spinners mostly by spinning wheels. But we can't just go around calling owners by, say, 'MS Lendrum' or 'Supported Spindle Redhead'.

Lois Swales pulled out a cell phone and writing paper and circled the room of more than 20 people to capture everyone there as a jpg and a name. She plans to print out low tech multiple biz cards on a copy sheet along with a safety pin for each person. That way, the spinner is in charge of ID'ing themselves. She can send jpg's of attendees to them on request (Lois.Swales@gmail.com).



Fiber-y Opportunities in the Ithaca-y Area

Fiber Activity at the Soil Factory

Roberta Sibley

The Soil Factory? In the event you haven't heard about the Soil Factory, it's a newish community endeavor that ties together sustainability and the arts. It is located near Ithaca Beer off route 13. The Soil Factory is an old warehouse, and there are all sorts of activities. The one that might be of interest to fiber folks is the Mending Circle. It meets once a month, usually in the Soil Factory. At the same time is a sewing machine circle, with about 8-10 machines available for use. There is also a clothing swap.

This month (April) there will be 2 Mending Circles, see dates below. The Commons is having an Earth Day event, and the Soil Factory is participating, including menders. At the Mending Circle, there are fabric scraps, scissors, needles threads, yarn, and instruction from Katrin in using the tools to mend & techniques, and Jackie runs the sewing machine section. People of all ages are there, and usually some nice conversation, tea and cookies. I'm not sure how the Commons event will work, but it might be a good time to say hello & see if you are interested. There is also a ceramics studio & darkroom, not very fibery.

Join the Ithaca Mending Circle in April for sewing, storytelling, and community events, with the first event on Thursday, Apr 17 from 4:00 p m to 6:00 p m at SewGreen, and the second on Saturday, Apr 19 from 12pm to 5pm at The Commons.

Here's the Soil Factory website: <https://thesoilfactory.org/> There's a link for Newsletter signup. At this point, everything is free. They are looking to not be dependent on grants, and are asking people to make a donation if possible. I signed up for \$5. a month, and I usually go on the Sunday every month for a few hours. My husband has helped with sewing machine repair.

I think it's a great community resource, and worth investigating if you are interested.

Volunteer to help mend clothing on Earth Day in the Commons on April 19th



Support the Earth Day Clothing Swap & Mend



Our Earth Day Festival will feature a clothing swap and mending station. You can help by donating clothes or volunteering your skills! Drop off sewing materials to CCE Tompkins by April 18, or collect clean clothes to donate on the day of the Earth Day Festival.

[Sign up online to volunteer your mending skills](#) or contact Jerry at js3724@cornell.edu with questions. Thanks to all who have already donated or signed up to volunteer!

Sign up link here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfRJLiozpHOEzvy-dZqVOkNXwcMZo344OS6G83kqrDuTcCgrCA/viewform>



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Fiber-y Opportunities in the Ithaca-y Area, continued

Open house in South Otselic, NY, on May 17th

I'd like to invite members of your guild to Old School Wool and Weaving Center, in South Otselic, Ny 13155 on May 17, 2025 . It is our open house, but also the town celebration of the Gladding family founding of our town. You can reach me here on FB - at Old School Wool and Weaving Center- The Journey Kathryn

Central New York Flaxseed to Fabric Initiative

The newly formed CNY Flaxseed to Fabric Initiative is an opportunity to become involved in growing, processing, and/or spinning flax, in partnership with the Old School Wool and Weaving Center. From their website:

"The CNY Flaxseed to Fabric Initiative is dedicated to preserving and revitalizing the ancient art of flax-to-linen production. Our mission is to educate the community about the historical significance and contemporary applications of this versatile fiber. Through hand-spinning, hand-weaving, and human-powered creation of small-batch cloth yardage, we celebrate sustainable and traditional practices.

Our inclusive initiative offers educational events, skill-sharing workshops, and public demonstrations, all aimed at fostering a deeper connection to flax and linen. Join us as we embark on this journey from flaxseed to fabric, promoting a global movement to bring this "most useful" fiber back into the spot-light."

For more information please go to <https://brand.page/cnyflax> or email cnyflax2linen@yahoo.com.



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Fiber Fest Bulletin

Upcoming fiber fests and related events in the area

Genesee Country Village & Museum Fashion & Textile Symposium, April 24-27

GENESEE
COUNTRY
VILLAGE &
MUSEUM

Revolution, Resistance, & War
Historic Skills Conference & Fashion Symposium
Thursday, April 24 – Sunday, April 27, 2025

Spring 2025 Fashion & Textile Symposium

Fashion in Action – Revolution, Resistance, & War explores how fashion, garment, and textiles have been used as tools of revolution, resistance, and war during extraordinary times in American history. Presenters and guests will consider how 19th-century fashion, garment, and textiles were affected by rapid cultural, societal, technological, or political change.

This two-day symposium will spotlight three exciting speakers, including keynote speakers Neal Hurst (*Curator of Textiles and Historic Dress, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation*), and Marvin-Alonzo Greer (*Managing Partner, Impact Strategies*).

Shepherd's Wool Market, May 10th



**SHEPHERD'S
WOOL MARKET**

gvvhg.org/shepherds-wool-market



May 10th, 2025 10am - 4pm

Rush United Methodist Church Rush, NY

25+ Vendor Booths

Demonstrations & Activities

Spinning & Fiber Arts Classes



CNY Fiber Festival, June 7th-8th

CNY
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**We are
Moving!**

CNY Fiber Festival
June 7 - 8, 2025

Herkimer County Fairgrounds
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celebrate
with us in our
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www.cnyfiberarts.org

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Wool + Yarn = Romance from an Ithaca Local Flock of Romney Longwool Sheep
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Instagram: @sheezyhollow
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New Member's Form

Name _____

Address _____

Email (Print Neatly) _____

Phone # _____

This information will be shared with registered guild members. If you wish to remain anonymous, please let Louise Henrie 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 our president, Angelika St. Laurent know.

Roc Day Programming

Newsletter

Membership

Website

Outreach

Treasurer

Our newsletter is distributed electronically. If this is a problem, please contact Ruby Schnirman (401)-486-7237 . Please fill this out and either bring it to a meeting, mail it with your check for \$25 to: Louise Henrie, 417 2nd Street, Ithaca, NY 14850, or send via Venmo to Black-Sheep-NY.