

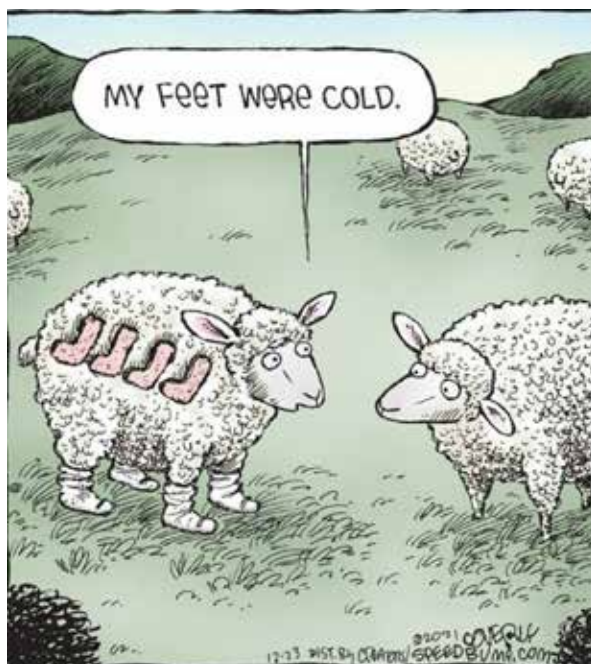


NEWSLETTER

March 2025

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It's been a cold February!



Message from the President

Dear Fellow Spinners,

Lately we had a bit of rain, but there is still a month to go before there'll be spring. My garden has turned into a glacier, making my place by the woodstove with my spinning wheel even more attractive than it usually is. Our next meeting will be a divided one: While some members will be on our annual retreat, others will meet as usual on Saturday, March 8th, from 11am-3pm, in the parish hall of the All Saints Catholic Church in Lansing (347 Ridge Road). Sharon Gombas has the key. Should there be as much ice on the parking lot as there has been at our February meeting, don't be shy to use ice melt out of the large plastic box right of the door.

Our next two upcoming meetings, April 12th and May 10th, will be rather busy. On our April meeting, we will hold our annual guild garage sale. It's an excellent opportunity to go through the stash, sort out fiber, yarn, patterns and books that don't spark joy anymore and sell them to another guild member, who will be happy to use them. On top of that, Melody Navarez will teach us how to spin a core yarn.

On our May meeting, we will award the first Marie Bryhan memorial prize. Marie was an avid spinner and shepherd. She also had endless stories to tell. It was impossible to get bored in a room that had Marie in it. The rules for the competition in her honor are as follows:

Submit one item made by yourself. The item has to be made of at least 50% sheep wool and at least 50% of the yarn used has to be handspun. Along with the item, submit a description on how you made it and what you have learned in the process. The winner will be chosen by popular vote.

We also will have a pot-luck on the May meeting.

Wishing you all a lovely March,
Angelika



March
2025



Guild News

Guild Meeting

The next Guild meeting will be on **Saturday, March 8th, 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



Wooly Minutes

Black Sheep Handspinners Guild

Feb, 8, 2025

Wooly Minutes

Thanks to Ann Murray-Bartels for finding a new location for the retreat, the Y at Watson, near Corning. Retreat is March 6-9, \$285.50 for a double occupancy. 2 double beds, ensuite. It is \$42.50 more than Casowasco. Thursday evening potluck, 7 meals (3 Friday, 3 Saturday, brunch Sunday). There is a kitchen in the work area with sink, refrigerator, microwave, coffee maker, no stove.

There will be an email about final payment coming.

Contact Anna about special dietary needs. There are still a few spots, contact Anna asap.

The March meeting falls on the retreat date, so **there will be a March meeting**, and Sharon Gombas has the key and will open up.

The Marie Bryhan prize will be at the May 10 meeting. To enter:

- 1 item you have made with your own handspun yarn, and explain what you learned.
- Item can have been made more than a year ago for this first contest. Subsequent years, it will have to be made that calendar year.
- At least 1/2 fiber has to be Sheepswool. At least half of the yarn used has to be handspun.
- There will be a potluck that day.

April meeting, there will be a core spinning workshop (Melody) and garage sale.

There may be a dyeing workshop this summer.

THANKS to Ruby and Rachel for a seamless handoff of the newsletter.

ROC DAY

- Well attended
- Raffle made 1100+
- Need to encourage membership. Membership forms at Welcome table.
- Yvonne contacted vendors for feedback, and they were ok with a member sales table as long as pricing was competitive.
- Music, YES
- There is a desire to know how many attendees, from where, how did they hear about it?

Need to update membership list. Louise collects dues and has names, and gives new names to Ruby for newsletter mailings. Roberta said she'd try to sit with Louise to update.



Member Ads and Announcements

Vickie Marsted is selling a sock knitting machine:

"I'd like to sell a refurbished Creelman Improved Moneymaker CSM. It comes with 4 cylinders (54, 60, 72, 80) and 2 ribbers (36 & 40). Also included are various additional supplies including new buckle, pick, and extra spring (Ehrlbacher) plus new mast rod & topper, heel fork and weight (Chambord). Photos are available. Inquiries can be sent to me at victoria22767@yahoo.com"

Mary White is looking for latchhook rug experts:

"Is there anyone in the group interested in repairing a latchhook rug? A friend asked me to work on a family heirloom, much loved. I was going to do it or at least try to. Then I wasn't quite sure of the best way to go about it. And then, before I got really engaged with it, I slipped and broke my right arm. I won't be doing any kind of fiber crafts for several months.

If there is someone who could fix this thing (it's just frayed a bit at the edges), please let me know and I will inform the rug's owner and hand it over to you. I believe the owner is willing to pay for the work, but I would leave that to be negotiated. My contact is 607-379-2039 or marylwhite1945@gmail.com"



Knitting pattern of interest:

Here is the pattern discussed at the February meeting for anybody who is interested. Thank you to Susan Sarabasha for finding this on Ravelry! "Hoodola: A basic hooded cowl" by Laura Nelkin. Looks quite warm!

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/hoodola-a-basic-hooded-cowl>



Call for CNY Fiber Producers

Kristi Wiedemann is a PhD Candidate at the Rutgers Bloustein School. She is conducting a survey/interview of fiber producers

The purpose of the study is exploratory in nature. It is being conducted for the following reasons:

- 1) to find out who is working with fiber (e.g., producing, gathering, hunting) in Central NY
- 2) to find out how people are working with fiber
- 3) to gain an initial understanding of what is being valued by people working with fiber
- 4) to gain an understanding of how those values are being realized in practice or not
- 5) to gather relevant background information (e.g., trends, policies).

See fully attached document pertaining to the study. If you are interested in taking part of this survey please contact Kristi at (609) 651-5405 or kristi.wiedemann@rutgers.edu

What will I be asked to do if I take part in the study?

If you are a subject-area expert with knowledge of fiber trends or practices in Central NY, you will be asked about background information such as general trends and policies and about other practitioners or other subject area experts you might know of. The interview will be carried out either via video conference (Zoom), by phone, or in-person and a digital transcript (from recorded audio) may be generated for research purposes.

If you work with fiber in Central NY, you will be asked questions about what you value about working with it and how those values are being realized in practice or not, as well as background information. The PI may request take photographs of you with any relevant aspects of fiber production (products, tools, animals, etc.), with your consent. If you are aware of others who work with fiber, you will be asked who is working with fiber, the type(s) of fiber they work with, what practices they do, as well as general background information about fiber.

Kristi Wiedemann will share a summary of the interview with the subjects within four weeks of completing the interview. She will re-share the final summary after incorporating any comments within two weeks of receiving comments. All interviews are confidential and will not be shared with other subjects.



Weaving News

See below for two pieces that may be of interest to weavers in the guild: a weaving competition at the CNY Fiber Arts Festival and an article, sent in by Marilee Williams, highlighting the spinning and weaving tradition from the Kachchh Desert.

CNY Fiber Arts Festival: Viv Fulton Memorial Weaving Competition

Attention all weavers! Here is a great chance to strut your stuff and maybe win a prize in the process! The CNY Fiber Arts Festival is June 7th and 8th, 2025 at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds in Frankfort, NY. The fairgrounds are east of Utica and easily accessible from the NYS Thruway. This fun, two-day festival has lots of vendors, classes, demonstrations, and more.

The annual Viv Fulton Memorial Weaving Competition is open to weavers of any experience level, both adults and teens. There are three categories: Home Decor, Wearables, and Novice. Cash prizes for first, second and third places will be awarded in all categories in addition to the People's Choice award. Entries will be judged on originality and execution and may be made from any natural fiber, including bamboo, rayon and Tencel™. Up to four weavings may be entered; the entry form must be completed by June 1st. Get your creative weaving juices flowing and plan to enter the competition!

Go to cnyfiberarts.org/weaving-competition for details and to register online. If you still have questions, contact Joyce Lock at joycelock3@gmail.com or Sue Szcotka at suezotka@verizon.net



Fiber arts from around the world:

Marilee Williams shared this short article highlighting Bhujodi weavers:
<https://maiwa.com/pages/bhujodi-weavers>

For those interested further, this feature, written by a student at Flame University, also speaks to the social and economic context of the weavers: <https://www.flame.edu.in/voice-of-flame/academics/from-heirloom-to-wardrobes-understanding-the-journey-of-bhujodi-weavers-kutch-gujarat-discover-india-program> and this page of the Handloom Design Center features a first-person video interview with a master craftsman: <https://hdc.cfsites.org/>



Fiber Fest Bulletin

Upcoming fiber fests and related events in the area

Shepherd's Wool Market, May 10th



**SHEPHERD'S
WOOL MARKET**
gvhg.org/shepherds-wool-market



**SHEPHERD'S
WOOL MARKET**

Organized by The Genesee Valley Handspinners Guild

May 10th, 2025 10am - 4pm

Rush United Methodist Church Rush, NY

Stay up-to-date! Follow **ShepherdsWoolMarket** on Facebook and visit gvhg.org/shepherds-wool-market for the latest information, updates, class offerings, vendor list and more

25+ Vendor Booths

Demonstrations & Activities

Spinning & Fiber Arts Classes



Thank you for support!



CNY Fiber Festival, June 7th-8th

CNY
FIBERARTISTS &
PRODUCERS



We are Moving!

CNY Fiber Festival
June 7 - 8, 2025

Herkimer County Fairgrounds
135 Cemetery St.
Frankfort, NY 13340

Come
celebrate
with us in our
new
location!



www.cnyfiberarts.org



Guild Vendors

TRINITY FARM
Registered Shetland and Icelandic Sheep
Handspun Yarns, Carved Kevlar, Well-Skirted fleece

Margaret G. Flowers Matthew W. Dietert
Aurora, NY 13026
www.trinityfarm.net
315-246-1178 mflowers@wellis.edu

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Wool + Yarn = Kevlar from an Ithaca
Local flock of Romney Longwool Sheep
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Instagram: @sheeplhollow
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www.nistockfarms.com - 607-522-4374



March
2025



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.