



NEWSLETTER

April 2025

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Group photo from the March retreat



Message from the President

Dear Fellow Spinners,

Last guild meeting, I saw a pair of bald eagles testing out the nesting post behind the church. I'm now very curious to see if they are now brooding there. Obviously, there are plenty of other reasons to look forward to our next meeting, beside the ornithological ones: We will have a pot luck and award for the first time the Marie Bryhan memorial prize. So, when you come to our next meeting on May 10th, 11am-3pm, in the Parish Hall of the All Saints Catholic Church (347 Ridge Road) bring a dish to pass and an item you made out of your very own handspun wool yarn. Of course, you are also welcome to attend the meeting, if you don't get around to bring a dish or an item for the competition.

The rules for the Marie Bryhan memorial competition are: Bring one item you yourself have made out of your own handspun yarn and a description of how you made it and what you learned during the process. Since Marie was both passionate about sheep and hand spinning, the item needs to be at least 50% sheep wool and at least 50% of the yarn used has to be spun by the person submitting the item. The prize will be awarded by public vote.

Speaking of the pot luck, our guild has many excellent cooks as members. Ruby Schnirman, our newsletter editor, is collecting recipes of yummy dishes that have been brought to guild events.

Our April meeting hosted our guild garage sale. Once again, I went home with some beautiful fiber to enrich my stash. Thank you everyone for bringing in your items! Also, Melody Navarez taught us how to spin a core yarn. Many thanks for all the work you put into teaching us, Melody!

Hope to see you all soon,

Angelika



May
2025



Guild News

Guild Meeting

The next Guild meeting will be on **Saturday, May 10th, 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



Guild Cookbook: Call for Recipes

Guild meetings and Roc Days have featured many excellent dishes from our members. In the tradition of community cookbooks, I would like to put together a small collection of recipes from our Guild so that these recipes can be enjoyed outside of meetings!

Please forward recipes that you would like to be included to Ruby at rschnir@gmail.com. These can be dishes that you have brought to Guild meetings, but they do not need to be.

If you are bringing a dish to the May potluck meeting, please consider contributing the recipe!

Anybody who is feeling inspired to draw or create images for the cookbook-- food-focused, fiber-focused, or otherwise-- is encouraged to contact Ruby as well.



Member Ads and Announcements

Large loom for sale

Suzanne Horvath, sister of the late Bill Horvath, who was a longtime member of the Guild, is selling Bill's large loom. Please contact Suzanne at fshorvath@frontiernet.net to make an offer or for more information.



Various fiber items for sale

A friend of Wendi Boettcher in Windsor, NY is selling a number of spinning and fiber-related items. See below; there appears to be a great wheel, a treadle sewing machine, and a yarn winder. Please contact Marie at (607) 348-5729 for more information.



Member Ads and Announcements Continued

Wheels and loom for sale

Several wheels and a loom are for sale through Connected Stitches in Dryden. Please see below for more information on each wheel, and contact Chris at chriscushmanknitting@gmail.com for more information or if you are interested in purchasing a wheel.



Older Ashford Traveler. Single treadle, scotch tension with 4 bobbins. Asking \$350. A nice lightweight wheel.



2 Vintage Louet Wheels and a skein winder that can be used with either wheel. Possibly an ST S71 and S75 - \$300 each - Skein winder \$100. Willing to talk about packaging skein winder with one of the wheels if bought with either wheel. Both wheels have been restored to working condition with new parts as was needed and each have 3 original bobbins.



Ashford 32 inch RH loom and stand plus the 4 heddles and a pair of double heddle block blocks as a package for \$400.00.



Louet Julia S11 - with lazy Kate and 4 bobbins - \$500.

Parts of the wheel I didn't know to look for

Rachael Skye

When I received an 1829 flax wheel, I had to learn a lot about the parts of a spinning wheel in order to properly repair it. A year later, I'm still learning more! The wheel is double-drive, and has two grooves to hold the drive band. When I got it, there was an old hemp cord fit snugly into one groove. I wasn't quite sure what it was. Leftovers of an old drive band? Decoration? Well, it wasn't in the way, so I left it.

Fast forward through a year of use, and I was happily spinning at the Guild retreat when that cord suddenly snapped. It had dry-rotted enough that it pulled apart with a gentle tug. Again, I thought it was decorative, so I just shrugged and kept spinning – only to find that the draw on my wheel was gone. I cranked the tension high enough to be uncomfortable, and it still wouldn't draw nearly as strongly it had before the cord snapped.

After consulting with the spinning circle (thank you, Roseanne and Marianne!) I realized that this innocuous hemp cord had actually been a critical part of the wheel. It provides extra friction to the section of the drive band which rotates the bobbin, preventing it from slipping and ensuring that the bobbin rotates faster than the flyer. I had no idea; I hadn't seen (or at least, hadn't paid attention to) any such cord in other antique wheels while I was doing research for my original restoration work. I'm curious how many other double-drive wheels have such a feature. Is it correcting a little imbalance in my wheel, or is the cord standard?

The fix was easy enough. I borrowed some linen string and twisted it to the right thickness, then did some fussing to splice a tight cord without leaving a big knot. As soon as I did, I felt the draw come right back to my wheel. Simple, and very fun to learn something new!

(continued on next page)

Incidents like this always make me think of new spinners. I was lucky that my wheel still had a cord when I found it, so I was immediately able to tell that the problem was with the part, not me. If the cord had been missing, I never would have thought to add it. Without help, I probably would have assumed that I wasn't skilled enough to repair this wheel to working condition, or maybe that time had damaged it irreparably. I've seen several new spinners pass through the Guild with a wheel they found in a garage sale or an attic, frustrated that they can't learn to spin and assuming the fault is with them. In reality, often the problem is the wheel, whether it's badly in need of oil, missing a part, or sometimes poorly made. It just takes one experienced spinner to sit down and be able to tell them "it's not your fault!" Sometimes it actually is the equipment. That person is so important! Thanks to everyone in the Guild who has ever been the fixer.



Volunteer at the NY State Fair Wool Center

Please consider signing up to volunteer at the New York State Fair's Wool Center! The Wool Center at State Fair runs 8/27 through 9/1 with mornings, afternoons and evenings slots. **Contact Linda Miller, 315-440-6049 for more information or to sign up by June 15th.** Volunteers get free state fair passes and parking tickets!

This year there will be a new Wool Center much closer to the parking lot and with air conditioning. The children's area will have a loom, drop spindles, a box tape loom, frame with rug hooking, coloring board, handouts, and iPad or kindles with question and answer info.

Many Guild members have volunteered at the Wool Center in previous years. Susan Quick says "This is really fun to meet new spinners and show fair attendees what the craft is all about. I've demoed for many years, and I always have a good time."



Fiber-y Opportunities in the Ithaca-y Area

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 spotlight."

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



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

May 10th, 2025 10am - 4pm

Rush United Methodist Church Rush, NY

25+ Vendor Booths

Demonstrations & Activities

Spinning & Fiber Arts Classes



FAMILY
FRIENDLY

CNY Fiber Festival, June 7th-8th

CNY
FIBER ARTISTS &
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

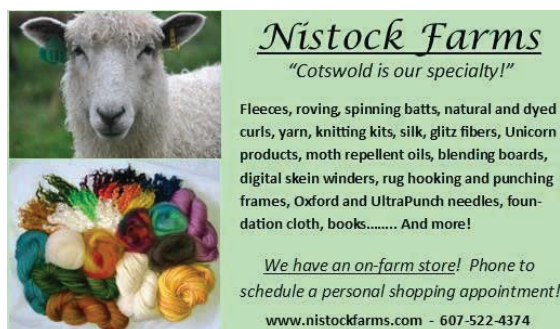
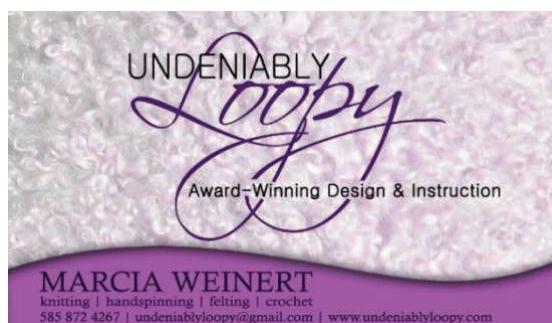


**Handmade Glass Whorls
Buttons, Pins & Beads
by Isinglass Design**



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scarves now at Ithacamide www.glassbead.etsy.com
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May
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.