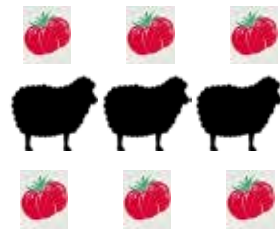


AUGUST
2026

ROVINGS



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Fiber-y Events and Opportunities

Our August 8th meeting

will be 11-3pm at 347 Ridge Rd in Lansing.

SEFAA Flax & Linen Symposium August 21st-August 23rd, National Museum of the American Coverlet, Bedford PA, or virtually online

New York State Fair August 26th-September 7th at the Syracuse Fairgrounds

Homestead Heritage Day Fair

Saturday, September 19th in Dryden

Looking for demonstrators!



Marilee Williams sent in this photo from a calendar from the National Holocaust Museum that features tiny items from their collection. This flax doll is only 4"x1.4".

Message from the President

Dear Fellow Spinners,

We are having a lot of rain lately. Somehow, getting too wet outside, makes me much more inclined to do some lovely stuff with fibers indoors. I'm looking forward to our up-coming guild meeting on August 8 th , from 11am-3pm, in the Parish Hall of the All Saints Catholic Church in Lansing (347 Ridge Road).

On our July meeting we did a fleece to shawl practice run. We carded, spun, and plied enough wool to become the weft of a shawl woven on Melody Navarez's loom. Thanks to everyone who participated and brought tools along and transported equipment, and especially thanks to Melody for warping up her loom ahead of time and finishing up the weaving afterwards.

The fiber for our 2027 Roc-Day challenge will start being available on our August meeting. This year the challenge will be to spin Ramie, a cellulose fiber from the Chinese nettle, *Boehmeria nivea*. Thanks to everyone, who tried out spinning various fibers and gave input to what fiber to choose. The left-overs of our trial fibers will be available on the August meeting, as well, for spinners, who like to experiment a little.

Our September meeting will again be the time to elect new guild officers and reaffirm the old officers. If you are interested in holding an office in the guild, let me know, and/or show up on the September meeting ready to raise your hand to volunteer. In the coming month, I'll contact all guild officers and ask if they are still comfortable to continue in their position. If you could see yourself as guild president, please, step forward and volunteer. I have been president for six years by now, and groups do benefit from an occasional change in leadership.

Also upcoming in September: The Dryden Historical Society invites hand spinners to demonstrate their craft on September 19 th from 10am-3pm on their Homestead Heritage Day, on 14 North Street, Dryden. They'll provide a tent, chairs and a small table. If you have time, please, consider volunteering.

Hope to see you on Saturday,
Angelika



Guild News

Guild Meeting

The next Guild meeting will be on **Saturday, August 8th, 11-3 PM**, in the Parish Hall of the All Saint's Church

Address: 347 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 2026. 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	Rose Helmbright	Workshops	Marianne Pelletier
Secretary	Roberta Sibley	Webmaster	Rosane Mordt
Treasurer	Louise Henrie	Roc Day Coordinator	Marianne Pelletier and Anna Bartels



Black Sheep Winter Retreat 2027

The Black Sheep Winter Retreat 2027 will be on February 25th-28th 2027

Below you will find the registration link and options. Note that Room, Program Fee, and Meals are combined into one booking:

2 nights (Feb. 26-28), private hotel room with two dinners, breakfast, lunch, and brunch -- **\$350**

3 nights (Feb. 25-28), private hotel room with two dinners, two breakfasts, two lunches, and brunch -- **\$470**

2 nights (Feb. 26-28), shared hotel room with two dinners, breakfast, lunch, and brunch -- **\$225**

3 nights (Feb. 25-28), shared hotel room with two dinners, two breakfasts, two lunches, and brunch -- **\$280**

1 day (Feb. 27) commuter with lunch and dinner -- **\$50**

You can register at: <https://rochesterywatsonwoods.campbrainregistration.com/Landing>

To register, please scroll down and create an account or log in if you have registered for previous events. Then go to **Overnight Retreats and Events 2026** and scroll until you find the **Black sheep Hand Spinners Guild 2027** event.

Then, pick your preferred booking and then **add it to your cart**, click continue, please fill out the Household Form and the Retreat Roommate and Special Diet Form. If you book a private room, you don't need to tell us a roommate.

Then click **continue**, click **Pay in Full** and you will be able to make the payment. You can cancel your booking two weeks prior to the event. **Please reach out to Anna Murray-Bartels at janedoe727@aol.com with any questions.**



Ads and Announcements

Schacht Lady Bug Wheel For Sale

Sharon Gombus is downsizing her fiber equipment the first wheel to be sold is a Schacht Lady bug. The Schacht Ladybug Spinning Wheel is a compact, light-weight, and portable spinning wheel designed for both beginners and experienced spinners. It combines solid Schacht craftsmanship with a charming, bug-shaped design that makes it visually appealing and easy to transportable. Asking price \$500 contact Debbie Benzer for specifics 607-279-7174 Wheel will be displayed at Saturday's guild meeting.

Spinning wheel For Sale

Significant Elements in Ithaca has a spinning wheel for sale that is believed to be early-mid nineteenth century (see photos below). It is a flax wheel that is almost in spinning condition-- it just needs one leather bearing for the flyer but is otherwise complete, and is priced at \$95. Significant Elements is a program of Historic Ithaca, a nonprofit focused on historic preservation. It's open Fridays and Saturdays 10am-4pm, and Kristen Olson is a board member.



Yarn, Weaving, and Crafting Supplies and Business for Sale

Priscilla went camping in Akron, NY and visited the store Daft Dames: "Daryl, the owner, was a blast! She had a large, lovely selection of yarns and threads for weaving and crafting. She'd wind them right off the cone to your desire. She had beautiful looms too. She is super knowledgeable and a delight to chat with. She would like to sell her business (and/or supplies) and I told her I'd let you all know. Definitely worth a visit if you are near Buffalo!"



2027 Roc Day Challenge

Ramie is a bast fiber obtained from the stalks of the Chinese nettle or silk plant, *Boehmeria nivea* L. *Boehmeria nivea* belongs to the same plant family as the stinging nettle (Urticaceae). Ramie is grown in East Asia, predominantly in China, but also in Korea, the Philippines, Russia, Brazil, Madagascar, Egypt and several sub-Saharan African Countries. Ramie fiber has been used in East Asia since the Neolithic. The plant had been transported to Ancient Egypt and has been used occasionally in clothing and mummy wrappings. Under good conditions, the Chinese nettle is highly productive with up to six harvests a year. However, two or three harvests are more common. The plants also prevent soil erosion and improve soil fertility.

Ramie fiber is praised for its resistance to bacteria and molds, and its water whisking ability, which make it comfortable to wear in hot, humid weather. The fiber is non-elastic and relatively brittle. It also has a bit of shimmering silky appearance, hence the name silk plant. Like other bast fibers, extracting spinnable fiber from the stalks is a multistep process: First the bark of the plant has to be removed from the core. This has to happen right at harvest, once the plant dries out, separating bark from core becomes difficult. Then the bark has to be dried quickly, to prevent microbial growth. Then the outer part of the bark has to be scraped away from the fiber bundles. Finally, the fiber has to be washed, dries and degummed. The many labor-intensive steps have made ramie a less popular fiber choice for modern textiles. Here is the link to a video, showing traditional Korean Ramie-processing: <https://www.unesco.org/archives/multimedia/document-2223>

Roc Day Challenge: Every participant will receive 2 ounces of ramie fiber. The challenge is to spin this fiber into a yarn and show how the yarn works up in a small project. On Roc Day 2027, January 9 th , by 10:30am, submit a small skein of your hand-spun ramie-yarn and a small item made for this yarn. At least one ounce of fiber should be used for skein and project. Submissions may be given earlier than that date to Angelika.

Participants may spin the fiber at any thickness and number of plies. The project might consist of a swatch, or a complete item. Any fiber art (e.g. weaving, knitting, crocheting, bobbin lace) may be used to show the yarn in action. Dyeing the fiber is allowed (please, remember, ramie is a cellulose fiber and not compatible with acid dyes.). Only the ramie fiber handed out for the challenge may be used for the yarn and the submitted item (The use of additional yarn in creating the item is allowed, however, this needs to be removed before the item is submitted.). Judging will happen with two popular votes: Most Beautiful Yarn and Most Beautiful Item. We'll also have a judge to award a prize for best craftsmanship. P.S: Since many spinners are not familiar with spinning Ramie, there is an ounce of extra fiber provided for spinners to experiment, before they decide on how to spin and use their entry. There is enough fiber for 16 spinners to participate.



Testing a hat pattern

By Shelly Marino

I just finished a test knit for a soon-to-be-released hat pattern by designer Joy Friedman. It was great to go through my stash and dig out handspun that had been hiding in there for decades. The hat is a quick and easy knit, worsted weight, and I'm happy with the result. Both yarns are, I believe, 100% wool. I don't recall the source of the brown fiber, which I spun into a 2-ply yarn, but I do remember that the multicolored roving was dyed by Lisa Merian, and I'd been saving it for years because it the best singles I've ever spun and I just like to take it out every now and then and enjoy seeing and touching it. Since the hat used so little of it, I guess I can go on doing that.



Guild Vendors

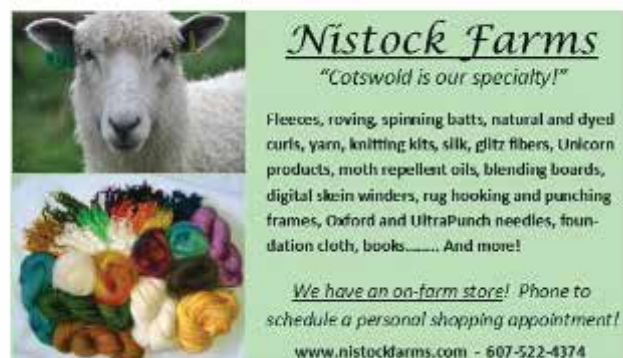
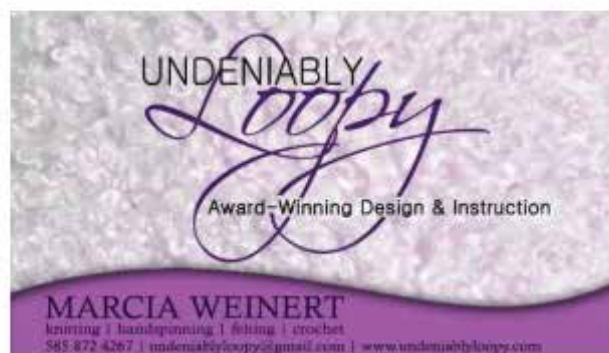
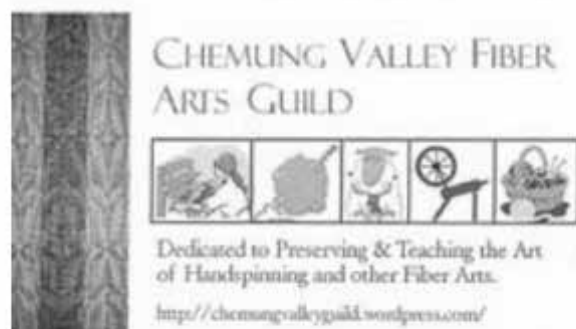


**Handmade Glass Whorls
Buttons, Pins & Beads
by Isinglass Design**



glass whorls for
medieval & viking
inspired spindles

Beads, felted puppets and
scarves now at Ithacamide www.glassbead.etsy.com
facebook.com/glassbeadstudio



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.

