

FEBRUARY
2026

ROVINGS



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Fiber-y Events and Opportunities

Our February 14th meeting will be Valentines Day, 11-3pm at 347 Ridge Rd in Lansing.

The BSHS Retreat will be February 26th-March 1st. Email Anna Murray-Bartels at janedoe727@aol.com to sign up.



"It's an infinity scarf. I work to scale."

From Marilee Williams

Message from the President

Dear Fellow Spinners,

Thank you for a wonderful Roc Day! Many thanks to our new Roc Day coordinators, Anna Bartels and Marianne Peletier, and all the wonderful people, who organized the kitchen, the welcome table, the spinning circle, and the Ellie Mae paper bag auction. And thanks to everyone who womanned a table, sold tickets, played music, taught a class, did a demonstration (or two, thanks Lois!), washed dishes, mopped the floor and moved furniture. And of course, thanks to Ruby for keeping us all connected and to Louise for keeping our finances straight.

Our next meeting will be on February 14 th , 11am-3pm, in the Parish Hall of the All Saints Catholic Church in Lansing (347 Ridge Road). It is Valentine's Day. If you enjoy sharing edible treats, it's a good occasion to bring some along. For Halloween, we brought fibers that scared us, for Valentine's Day, bring some of the fiber you love to spin the most.

Next up is our Retreat to the Watson Woods in March. Anna Bartels and Kylie Spooner are organizing. If you are interested in participating and you have not yet officially signed up, please contact the organizers as soon as possible.

I hope to see you all on our February Meeting,

Angelika



Guild News

Guild Meeting

The next Guild meeting will be on **Saturday, February 14th, 11-3 PM for Roc Day**, 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



Member Ads and Announcements

Retreat spot available

There is still one spot available for the guild retreat. It is for a shared room Friday 2/27 through Saturday 3/1. The cost is \$204.55. That is a great bargain for fun, food, field trip, Dorset button class and lots of spinning. If you are interested please reach out to Anna right away through text at (607)-592-8330 or through email at janedoe727@aol.com.

Donating a Schacht weaving loom

Lydia Shift is giving away her late husband's 8-harness Schacht (52-inch wide) solid cherrywood weaving loom with 10 treadles to a passionate weaver. Please contact Lydia at shiftlydia@gmail.com if you are interested.

Fabric, Needle Felt Foam, and Dacron Stuffing

Roberta Sibley will bring fabric, upholstery foam for needle felting or stuffing, and Dacron stuffing to the February meeting. Please bring your own bag if you want stuffing as I don't have any at home.

Questions? robertainez@yahoo.com.

Barbara Walker obituary

Kay Stickane sent over this New York Times obituary for Barbara Walker, prolific knitter, pattern designer, and knitting archivist: https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/22/style/barbara-g-walker-dead.html?unlocked_article_code=1.G1A.ylJ_.RtJvsP1vxuwh&smid=nytcore-ios-share



Roc Day 2026 Photos



Articles of Interest

Thanks to Kay Stickane for sending in these two timely articles.

“A red hat, inspired by a symbol of resistance to Nazi occupation, gains traction in Minnesota”

From NPR: <https://www.michiganpublic.org/2026-01-31/a-red-hat-inspired-by-a-symbol-of-resistance-to-nazi-occupation-gains-traction-in-minnesota>
You can purchase the pattern on Ravelry here for \$5; all proceeds go to two local nonprofits, STEP and the Immigrant Rapid Response Fund: <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/melt-the-ice-hat>



Handmade red "Melt the Ice" hats are on display at Minnesota's own fiber & yarn.

“Team USA Olympic uniforms once again feature Shaniko Wool”

From Capital Press: <https://capitalpress.com/2026/01/27/team-usa-olympic-uniforms-once-again-feature-shaniko-wool/>



Team USA athletes pose in uniforms they'll wear at the 2026 Winter Olympics opening ceremonies on Feb. 6 in Milan-Cortina, Italy. Several items include fiber from Shaniko Wool Company, headquartered in Oregon. (Courtesy Ralph Lauren)



Roc Day Quince/Parship Dish Recipe

For those of you asking about the quince/parsnip dish that Jean Currie brought to Roc Day, Jean has generously shared the recipe below. She notes that she doesn't see quince in the shops so you may need to find someone who has a tree!

Quince & Parsnip Stew

Saute:

1 large onion, chopped

1/4 cup olive oil

Then add and cook about 5 minutes:

2 x 14 1/2 oz cans diced tomato

1 tsp curry powder

1/2 tsp cinnamon

2 tsp coarse salt

1/2 tsp black pepper

1/2 tsp red pepper flakes

Then add and cook for about 2.25 hours:

4 cups quince (peeled, cored, bite sized)

1 x 15 oz can garbanzo beans

4 cups parsnip (peeled etc. bite sized)

1/2 cup parsley

1/2 cup currants

1 cup vegetable broth

Sprinkle chopped pistachio on serving

Serve with polenta or rice or couscous or...

Jean Currie

Don't know where it came from!!



Column: Zoe Goes to Grad School

Zoe Gras is on an exciting journey in an MFA program in textiles. Zoe will be sharing dispatches from her experience here!

I've officially started my second semester of graduate school, and I can safely say that the more time I spend away from Ithaca, the more my affinity for water grows. This semester, I will be doing a project about water pollution in New York State. I will look at the flow patterns of water and translate them into textiles through knitting and fabric manipulation, and incorporate objects found in beach cleanups as embellishment... at least that's my starting plan. If anyone has any ideas or research they'd like to share, please let me know. I've started knitting on the knitting machine with my handspun yarn, which I was told was impossible, but I have had some lovely results! Don't let anyone say you can't do something until you try it yourself, especially when it comes to textiles! I am taking a class this semester about biomaterials (sustainable materials derived from renewable, biodegradable, or organic sources), and my final project will be to make beads to use in my big project about NY waterways. I've included a photo of my bulletin board with all the samples I've created over the past three weeks, along with some inspiration photos.



From the Archives

It seems that we are having a shockingly similar winter to 1979 this year. Here's a bit about dyestuffs.

BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD
Ithaca, New York

NEWSLETTER #23 - February, 1979
Edited by Jean Warholie

What a miserable couple of weeks we had earlier this month! Hope you didn't have problems with frozen pipes and cars not starting with those bitterly cold below-zero temperatures! But now it is warming up -- bet you never thought before this that 20°F was warm -- and maybe Spring really is on the way!!!

The purpose is to investigate the potential of a dyestuff as fully as possible and as scientifically as possible. The method is simple, but requires order and a systematic approach.

Step I. PREPARE WOOL. Pound lots are ideal. Divide wool into 8 skeins of 2-oz. each for each premordant pot. Tie loosely (not a butterfly tie), wash, and rinse well.

Step II. PREMORDANT. (1) Alum - for 1-lb. of dry wool: 4 gal. water and 3-oz. (84 g) alum for fine wool or 4-oz. (112 g) alum for coarse wool, and 1-1/2 oz. cream of tartar. Enter wet wool. Simmer one hour. (Note: enamel pots are preferred for the mordanting, dyeing operations.)

(2) Chrome - per 1-lb. of dry wool: 4 gal. water and 1/2-oz. (14 g) chrome. Enter wet wool, cover, simmer one hour.

Remove from mordant when cool enough to handle. Rinse. Enter into prepared dyebath.

Step III. PREPARE DYE BATH. Make a strong solution and enough to be divided between the alum and chrome. Strain, bring each pot up to 3-1/2 to 4-gal. by adding water. (If dyebath prepared in more than one pot, pour them back and forth to "even" dyebath.) Enter 8 alum skeins in one pot; 8 chrome skeins in the other. Simmer 45-minutes, lifting to air occasionally.

Step IV. MODIFICATION. First, the alum series.

- Wash, rinse, hang to dry - one skein mordanted and dyed. Label this: *alum only*.
- Enter 1 skein in pan with enough dyebath to cover, and some ammonia (1 tablespoon). Simmer 10 minutes. Wash, rinse, hang to dry. Label this: *alum ammonia*.
- Enter 2 skeins in 1/3 remaining dyebath, with 3.5g tin dissolved in it. Simmer 15 minutes. Take out one skein, wash, rinse, hang to dry, and label it: *alum tin*.
- To that afterbath with one skein remaining in (c), add 1-tablespoon of non-sudsing ammonia. Simmer for 10 minutes, wash, rinse, hang to dry, and label that skein: *alum tin ammonia*.
- Enter 2 skeins in 1/2 the remaining dyebath in which 7g copper were dissolved. Simmer 15 minutes. Take out one skein, wash, rinse, hang to dry. Label this: *alum copper*.
- To that afterbath with the one skein remaining in (e), add 1-tablespoon of ammonia. Simmer for 10 minutes, wash, rinse, hang to dry. Label this skein: *alum copper ammonia*.
- Enter 2 skeins in the remaining dyebath in which 7g of iron have been dissolved. Simmer for 15 minutes. Take out one skein, wash, rinse, hang to dry, and label this skein: *alum iron*.
- To that afterbath with the one skein remaining in (g), add 1-tablespoon of ammonia. Simmer for 10 minutes. Wash, rinse, and hang skein to dry, labeling this last skein: *alum iron ammonia*.

REPEAT this series for the chrome-mordanted 8 skeins. (In the chrome series, a, b, c, or d can be very similar and b, c, d, may be eliminated for all practical purposes.) These two series will give you, however, a range of 16 colors from one dyebath!

Step V. LABELING. It is best to do it as you go, or even beforehand. Use an indelible pen and Chlorox bottle tags. A convenient code is below:

2	7	9	-	1	2	-	1	s	modification code
↑	↑	↑		↑	↑		↑		
year	month	date		no. of dyepot/mordant	(e.g., onionskins alum)				



Guild Vendors

Sheepy Hollow



Wool + Yarn = KOWA! from an Ithaca Local Place of Roving Longest Fibres from an Ithaca Fiber's Pop-Up Shop

Instagram: @sheezyhollow Facebook: sheezyhollow

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

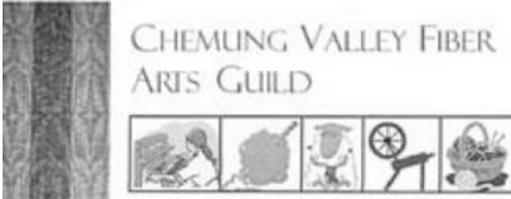


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New Member's Form

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.

