

**JANUARY
2026**

ROVINGS



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Fiber-y Events and Opportunities

Our January 10th meeting will be Roc Day, 10-4pm at 347 Ridge Rd in Lansing.

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

Fiber Arts Bingo 2026				
Make something red	Use a new to you technique in a project	Use the very nice but fiddly or time consuming finishing technique	Use a technique you've been scared to try	Speed Challenge! Project start to finish in two weeks
Use a technique you've previously attempted without success	Use the precious skein (or fabric/ wire/ floss/ beads/etc)	Complete a project using only stash	Make a material for your primary craft (eg: spin or dye embroidery thread, tan leather, etc)	Unravel/ rip out/ otherwise break down for parts an unsatisfactory project
Complete a project using only secondhand materials	Use a new to you material or textile in a project	Free Space	Submit a project to your local state fair or equivalent	Mend/repair an older finished project
Follow a pattern or instructions published before you were born	Make it again! Repeat a pattern/project you've made and loved	Multicraftual project! Use 2+ crafts in the same project	Try a pattern from a new to you designer	Make something with the waste/leftovers of other projects
Make something to trade in a craft-swap	This is the excuse to start a new hobby square! Try a new fiber art	Finish a wip that's been lingering for over a year	Freehand a project! No pattern	Multicolor project! 3+ different colors

Fiber Arts Bingo Board found by Shoshe Cole

Message from the President

Dear Fellow Spinners,

Roc Day is coming! It's less than a week from now. I'm really excited for it, and have to hurry to finish my scarf for the competition. The doors to our celebration will open at 10am and close by 4pm. Please, check in this newsletter for the program and the lists of volunteers.

Organizing this event is a big undertaking. I'm very glad for each and everyone who volunteered to put in time and effort to make Roc Day happen.

I'm hoping to see all of you this Saturday,
Angelika

Roc Day Announcement

Saturday, January 10th is Roc Day!

For those helping with setup **Friday evening**, we will start at **4:30 pm**.

Saturday mornign the church will be open at **8am** to finish setup, and **10am** for attendees.

The schedule of events and volunteer sign ups are included in the newsletter. There will be a table near the entrance where you can show off your finished projects. Don't forget a **dish to pass**!



Guild News

Guild Meeting

The next Guild meeting will be on **Saturday, January 10th, 10-4 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 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	Rose Helmbright	Workshops	Marianne Pelletier
Secretary	Roberta Sibley	Webmaster	Rosane Mordt
Treasurer	Louise Henrie	Roc Day Coordinator	Marianne Pelletier and Anna Bartels



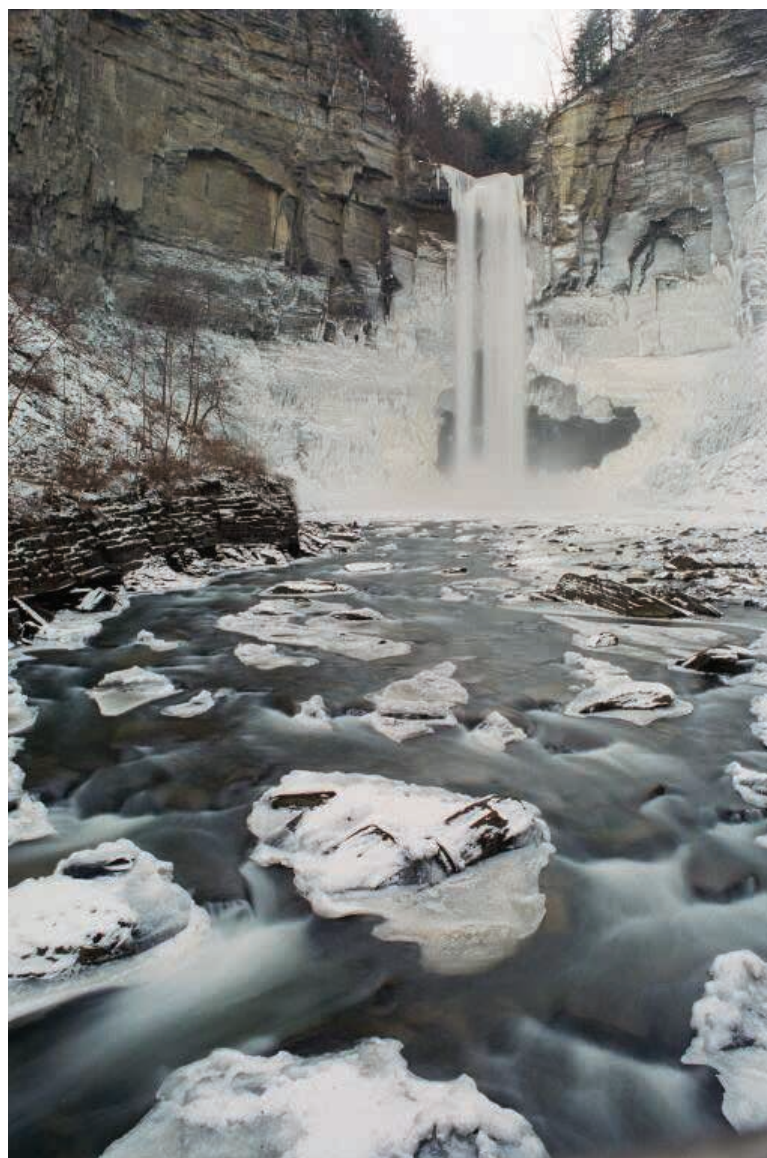
Roc Day 2026 Competition

Angelika St. Laurent

Objective: Create a scarf inspired by the photo of Taughannock Fall in Winter*.

Rules: All yarn and thread used in the project has to be handspun by the person submitting the project, this includes warp yarn, sewing thread etc. The scarf may be constructed with any fiber art technique known to humankind. Any fiber or blend may be used. If you want color, you may either dye your own fiber at any state of the process or resort to commercially dyed fiber. The finished object has to be submitted latest at Roc Day 2026, January 10th , by 10:30am. With the submission add a note about which fibers and techniques you used in the creation of the scarf and how they relate to the photo-inspiration.

All submitted scarfs will be judged in three categories: Most Beautiful, Best Interpretation of the Photo (both by public vote), and Best Technique (by a team of judges).



The guild has a limited number of 8-ounce bags of white Finn 2 wool available for members, who do not feel they have suitable fiber in their stash for the project.

With any questions contact Angelika St.Laurent, angelika@simonstl.com, 607-277-8105 or 607-793-4215.

*Photo credit: Susan Verberg

**Sheep raised by Elizabeth Kinne Gossner.



Roc Day Volunteer Schedule

Volunteer Schedule for 10 January, 2026

Set-up Friday 4:30 - 6pm –Anna & Marianne 1. Sue Quick 2. Mary Nichols 3. Arya Restberg 4. Angelika St. Laurent 5. Ronda Porras 6. Raffle Set-Up - 7. Lynne Anguish 8. Ruby Schnirman 9.	Welcome Table – Kathy Halton 9:45-10:45 Kylie Spooner 10:45-11:45 Ronda Porras 11:45-12:45 Barbara Bowman 12:45-1:45 Kylie Spooner 1:45-2:45 Marjorie Inana 2:45-3:45 Kathy Halton
Spinning Circle - Melody Narvaez 10-11 Jen DeRosa 11-12 Priscilla Reyer 12-1 Kathy Halton 1-2 Eliza Brown 2-3 3-4	Raffle – Debbie Benzer & Roberta Sibley 10-11 Lynne Anguish 10-11 Beth Varier 11-12 Jen DeRosa 11-12 Kay Shickane 12-1:30 Marilee Williams 12-1:30 FLOATER 1:30-3 Vicki Marsted 1:30-3 FLOATER 1:30-3
Kitchen – Jean Currie & Sharon Gombas 1. (9-11) Sue Quick 2. (9-11) Matalin Pirtz 3. (11-1) Carlin McMahon 4. (11-1) Sarah Mason 5. (11-1) Vickie Marsted 6. (1-2) Kay Shikane	Floater s – Anna Bartels(Please check in with Anna at the beginning of your hour. Thanks!) 10-11 Melody 11-12 Kylie Spooner 12-1 Jen DeRosa 1-2 Sharon Gombas 2-3 Betsey Messenger 3-4 Suzanne Schwartz & Gina Campbell
Competition – Angelika St. Laurent Competition Table 1. (9:30-10:30) Angelika 2. (10:30-11:30) Raven Magill 3. (11:30-12:30) 4. (12:30 till announced)	Clean-Up 4 - 6:30 pm – Anna Bartels 1. Arya Restberg 2. Angelika St. Laurent 3. Julia Gray 4. Sarah Davis 5. Jean Currie
Beginning Spinning Class Leader: Angelica St Laurent Assistant: Marjorie Inana Assistant: Carolyn Ravello	Needle Felting Class Leader: Julia Gray Assistant: Sarah Davis Assistant: Anna Bartels



Roc Day Agenda

Roc Day 2026

- 10:30** **Last chance to register items for the contest – Main Room**
- 10:30** **CLASS: Beginning Spinning - Classroom**
- 10:45** **DEMO: Lace – Demonstration table - Main Room**
- 11:30 – 1:30: Dish to Pass Lunch, Announcements, Music (Music from 11:30-12:30) - Main Room**
- 1:00** **DEMO: Aglets – Demonstration table - main room**
- 1:30** **Raffle ticket sales end**
- 2:00** **Presentation of raffle winners – main room**
- 2:45** **Contest winners announced – main room**
- 3:00** **CLASS: Needle Felting – Classroom (must be 15yrs old to participate)**
- 3:00** **DEMO: A look at the Hallstaff salt mine textiles 1500-400BC from a spinner's point of view.**
- 4:00** **Event ends. See you next year!**



Roc Day Silent Auction

Have you been dreaming of learning to weave but never took the plunge? This is your chance to win a loom at the Roc Day Silent Auction. This year we have a nice variety of looms (see below).



Rigid heddle lap loom 22" height and 9" wide.



Small Navajo Loom 19" height X 17" wide



Mirrix Tapestry and bead loom 25 1/2" high X 20" wide



Harrisville Easy Weaver



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 have officially completed my first semester of graduate school! My finals all went well, especially my final art piece, as seen in the photos below. This final project had to be based on an emotion, mine being Sadness. Here is the description for the piece:

This knitted canopy hangs just above head height and is suspended by a hook and rope, creating an intimate space that the viewer can step into. It is made of yarns in shades of blue, the color of the ocean right before a storm, and white, the absence of color. This piece reflects a particular form of sadness: a feeling of despair marked by longing for something unattainable. Standing in the canopy, the viewer enters a sacred space where the body is embraced by texture, weight, and scent. It is a space where the viewer may find themselves wanting to linger, as sadness can become a comfortable and familiar state. As the viewer stands inside, the canopy may sway and swirl, creating a disorienting sensation.

I am currently back in Ithaca until mid-January, and I'm using the time to catch up on all the knitting projects I didn't get to make this semester, including making the Sophie Hood by PetiteKnit. Thank you for following along on my journey for this first semester - there will be more to come in 2026!



Article of Interest

STITCHES & THEIR SIGNIFICANCE

- 1. Blackberry or Trinity**
The Blackberry stitch represents nature. Some call it the Trinity stitch and give it religious significance.
- 2. Double ZigZag**
Depicting the ups and downs of married life, also this represents forked lightning and cliff paths.
- 3. Ladder**
It symbolises the pilgrim's road to eternal happiness.
or
Tree of Life
Symbolises a long life & sturdy sons.
- 4. Carrageen Moss**
(Seaweed with medicinal properties)
It represents wealth to the fisherfolk.
- 5. Trellis**
Represents the stony fields of the west of Ireland and the nets of the fishermen.

- 6. Honeycomb**
It is a tribute to the bee. It symbolises hard work bringing just rewards.
- 7. Cable & Rope**
Represents the fisherman's ropes, safety and good luck while fishing.
- 8. Diamond**
Usually formed in Moss Stitch - is said to represent wealth & success.
- 9. Basket**
The fisherman's basket and the hope for abundant catches.
- 10. Link**
The eternal link, for those who have left the island.

HISTORY OF ARAN ISLANDS

The people of Aran have lived there for centuries and have made their living by fishing and the cultivation of the land - entailing hard work as where there is soil covering the rock, it is often thin. Great use is made of seaweed to enrich and manure their crops. They also trade with the mainland in cattle, swimming out and then being hauled aboard ship with ropes.

It was said that if a fisherman were drowned at sea and washed ashore far from home, he might be identified by the stitches or pattern of his gansey (sweater) or other garment.

100% Wool
Hand Knitted Garments

Aran Islands Collection
BY ERIN KNITWEAR LTD.

From Nancy Nosewicz

Stilt-Walking Shepherds

To compensate for the flat and marshy heathlands in France's Landes region, 17th century shepherds developed a unique adaptation—they traveled on stilts. From this elevated view, a shepherd could easily keep track of their flock and watch for wolves. According to RareHistoricalPhotos.com, the people of Landes were trained in stilt walking from a young age, and were capable of astonishing dexterity and balance, easily running, hopping, and even bending down to pluck flowers. When Empress Josephine visited the region in 1808, an escort of stilt walkers greeted her, their long strides allowing them to keep pace with Josephine's trotting carriage horses.



From Marilee Williams



From the Archives

Here are some excerpts from the December 1982 newsletter. I can tell you from personal experience this year that Gyre Caroline must be losing her patience, since my partly-full bobbin was not magically finished by New Year's Day.

This is from the Black Sheep Handspinners Guild to YOU, its members, with best wishes for the warm and cozy holidays this winter. We hope you enjoy this bundle of goodies and that it gives you food for thought and spinning in 1982!!!

-- Jean Warholic

Weaver John

Down in a cottage lives Weaver John,
and a happy old soul is he;
Maud is the name of his dear old dame,
and a blessed old dame is she.

Wickety, wackety, click and clack,
How the shuttles do glance and ring,
Hear they go, there they go,
forth and back, chorus
And a sociable song they sing.

Pussy is frisking about on the floor,
with her kittens, one, two, three, four.
Towser is taking his wonted nap
On the settle behind the door.

Chorus

Soft as the hum of the dame's low wheel
Does the music of time roll on;
Morning and noon of a useful life,
Bring a peacefully setting sun.

Chorus

From a children's book from 1888

Sunshine all The Year Round

"a choice collection of Poetry, Games,
Stories, and Songs"

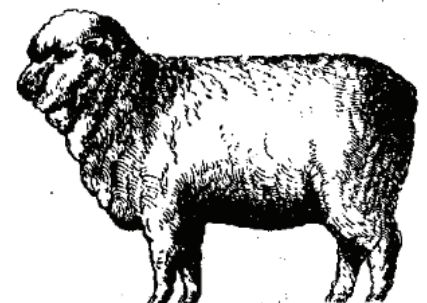
This poem is set to music with these instructions:

"For the chorus the arms form half curves,
and move in and out like shuttles."

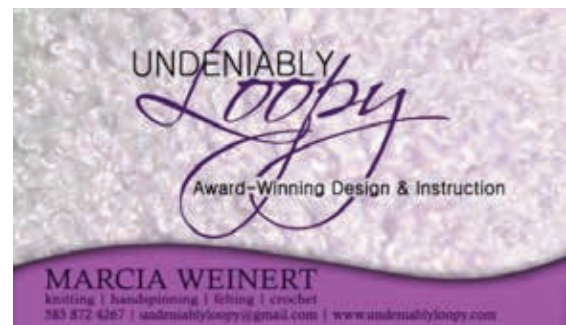
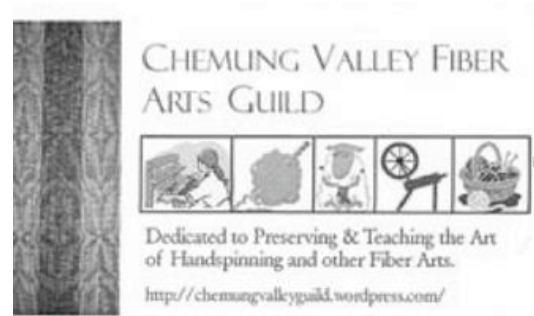
The fairy witch of Scottish peasants is a Nordic, named Gyre Carline. You must look to her for skill in spinning and if you are lucky, she will grant it to you. She also comes to your home on New Year's Eve to inspect your wheel, which you must leave with the drive band loose and the bobbins empty. If you have left a partly-full bobbin on the wheel, she will spin up the rest for you, but she will mutter and curse you for being lazy.

(From Spin, Span, Spun by Bette Hochberg, 1979)

(Ed.'s Note: I wonder if she dusts, too? -- JW)



Guild Vendors



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.

