

**MARCH
2026**

ROVINGS



Contents

- 2 Message from the President
- 3 Guild News
- 4 Marie Bryhan Memorial Competition
- 4 Volunteer for Spinning Demo
- 5 Member Ads and Announcements
- 6 2026 Retreat Photos
- 7 Article: Retreat Reflections
- 9 Column: Zoe Goes to Grad School
- 10 From the Archive
- 11 Guild Vendors
- 12 New Member Form

Fiber-y Events and Opportunities

Our March 14th meeting will be 11-3pm at 347 Ridge Rd in Lansing.

Homestead Heritage Day Fair
Saturday, September 19th in Dryden

Connected Stitches Retreat
June 26-28 at Casowasco



In Corning, from the retreat

Message from the President

Dear Fellow Spinners,

It's March and the snow is melting. It looks like spring is coming, but this being Ithaca, I won't take my winter tires of the car quite yet. I'm looking forward to our next meeting on Saturday March 14, 11am -3 pm, in the Parish Hall of the All Saints Catholic Church in Lansing, 347 Ridge Road.

I would like to thank Anna Bartels and Kylie Spooner for organizing this year's retreat. It was a lot of fun. More about it deeper into the newsletter.

I'm glad to announce that we have a few more volunteers for guild offices: Julia Grey volunteered to work on our website. Jennifer DeRosa and Beth Varieur are now curating our Facebook page. Jennifer De Rosa also volunteered to serve for a while as our Vice President. Our previous vice president, Rose Helmbright, had to retire for health reasons. We do need to formally vote for Jennifer on our next meeting. If there are other volunteers to become vice president, please, make yourself heard until then.

Our March meeting will be a quiet meeting. There are things planned for the up-coming meetings: On our April meeting, we will be holding our guild garage sale. If there is fiber or yarn in your stash that spark joy anymore, bring it to our April meeting and sell it to a friend, who'll appreciate it.

In our May meeting, we will host the second annual Marie Bryhan Memorial Competition. Bring one item you yourself have made during the past year 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. Since Marie also enjoyed good food, we will have a pot-luck, too. In our June meeting, there'll be a 'make your own spindle' workshop taught to us by Shoshe Cole.

Hope to see you soon,
Angelika



Guild News

Guild Meeting

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



Marie Bryhan Memorial Competition

The competition is held in Memory of Marie Bryhan, a longtime member of the guild. She was an avid spinner and sheep keeper. She was also a great story teller with a life that provided endless stories to tell. It was impossible to be in the same room with her and get bored. The prize was donated by her husband, Bob Morena, in her memory. The winner will receive \$100.

The roles are: Submit one item made by yourself. The items need to have been finished within the last year counted from the May meeting. 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. In case there are multiple winners, the prize will be split evenly between them.

Volunteer for Spinning Demo

The Dryden Historical Society is having their annual Homestead Heritage Day Fair in September. This year it is held on Saturday, September 19th at the Southworth Homestead. In the past they have had someone from the Guild demonstrate spinning and they would like to continue this tradition. There will be other demonstrators, crafters, vendors, music, and food. Please email Debbie Fisher at debfisher451@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.



Member Ads and Announcements

Remembering Jim Johnson

“Jim Johnson once told me, “I’m a process spinner.” I had to ponder that for a minute – Jim prefers to work on the process of spinning and is less interested in using the yarn. His silk was amazing and he loved talking to us about taking care of our wheels, but only once in the 17 years I knew him did I see a sweater or any garment made from his spun yarn, and Susan was the one who knitted it. I appreciated Jim for showing me that not all hobbies are for production – the joy of spinning is enough on its own.” -- Marianne

Looking for Lendrum Wheel

Louise Henry is looking for a Lendrum wheel. If you have one that you are willing to part with, or information about one that may be on the market, please text her at (607)-205-7717 or email her at henrielm6@aol.com.

Apple Tree Bark Available

Shoshe is getting a box of apple tree sticks from Black Duck Cidery as waste from pruning their orchard. If anybody would like some apple tree bark for natural dyeing, she will bring it to the March meeting.

Connected Stitches Retreat- Save the Date

Connected Stitches will be hosting a fiber arts retreat on June 26-28. Spinners welcomed! Connected Stitches is also looking for workshop teachers and ideas; please email Chris at chriscushmanknitting@gmail.com for details.



2026 Retreat Photos



Article: Retreat Reflections

By Jen DeRosa

Curious what spinning, floppy-fish handshakes, and Monty Python have in common? Read on and find out!

This year's Guild retreat was held at Watson in the Woods in Corning. I was a first-time attendee and was asked to share my experience of attending (I opted for the 2-day stay). In a word, it was unforgettable! If you have been considering going, or are a newbie member who felt awkward about going, let me offer you some insights...

What did I gain:

- 1. A fun time away from home and brushing off the winter doldrums.** I don't know about any of you but by February I'm feeling a bit house-bound and getting really tired of staring at the same walls. I'm eager for spring, bringing colorful flowers, green grass, and warming sun. However, we live in CNY and know it is probably still a month away. I drove away on Sunday reinvigorated and ready to face the lingering winter with a little more "spring" in my step.
- 2. Shared knowledge of fiber arts and new and unique project ideas.** Through observation - and out-right pleading for help - I gained so much more knowledge of our shared craft. My fellow guild members welcomed the opportunity to assist me and I am a better spinner for it. I gained more than just tangible skills, but also confidence through their kind words and encouragement. (We all had a good chuckle over my unique, creative, self-taught approach to 2-plying. It was decided I was not doing it completely wrong per-se, but just using my own creative approach.)

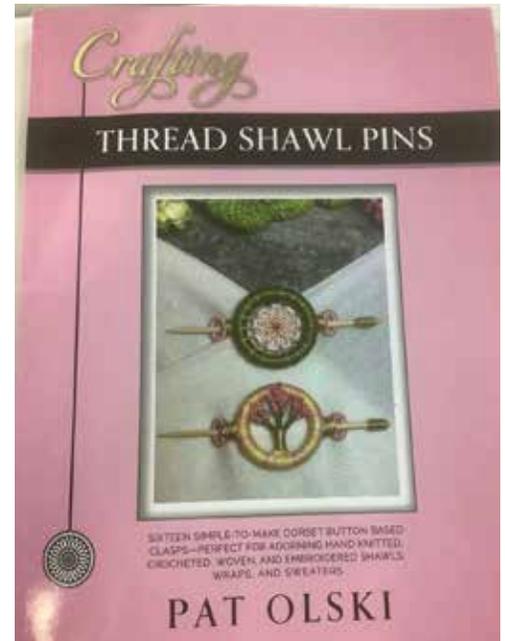
During our circle time, we had more personal conversations about our fiber art journeys, passions, and dreams. The vast array of what folks have done/are working on with their talents is mind-blowing. I learned about fellow members' artisan felted hats (just absolutely gorgeous), taking on the challenge to weave fabrics to be made into garments, and viewed a dynamic selection of wraps - each creation so unique and representative of the maker.

The pinnacle of Saturday was the great Dorsette Button class given by Kylie Spooner. Who knew you could make your own fabulous buttons out of embroidery thread!!! I had never seen these types of buttons and am so excited about making more of them. They are going to be a game-changer in the things I make! This sentiment I know is also shared with the others who attended as there was a collective buzz about the experience. Kylie did an amazing job in teaching this technique. Beautiful buttons were made by all.

(Continued on next page)



Article: Retreat Reflections



Buttons from Kylie's workshop

- 2. A closer sense of community and developing friendships with my fellow fiber fanatics.** I saved this item for last, as it was the most impactful for me. This experience really let me get to know my fellow Guild members in a new way. It is here that I can satiate your curiosity as to what “spinning, floppy-fish handshakes, and Monty Python have in common”. During our time spinning, sharing meals, shopping, and “fun” time, we could really let our true selves out. There was an abundance of laughter and singing coming from our space. Who knew so many of us were Monty Python fans?! All it took was one person to say a quote and the room was filled with others sharing some of their favorites. This led to sharing favorite video clips, singing/listening to songs with funny lyrics, and even a singing (screaming) goat. There were sing-alongs, games played (loved the Battle Sheep game personally), and a selection of funny handshakes, including one that was reminiscent of a floppy fish tail. These encounters combined help make up this unforgettable shared experience. For those of you I didn't lose through the spinning of my yarn (pun intended), this was a wonderful opportunity which I will not soon forget. Would I go again? Definitely! Did I get my money's worth? Without a doubt! Do I regret not doing it last year when as a newbie, I thought I was too new to attend? Yep - I couldn't have been more wrong. You are never too young, too new, or too seasoned to have fun, learn something new, share with others, or gain more friends. I just hope I gave back as much as I gained.

We hope you can come join the fun next year!!!



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!

It's midterms! This semester, I have been focusing on rivers, light, and currents in water. I have been researching, reading both scientific and philosophical papers, and putting what I learn into textile form. I visited Ithaca a few weeks ago, and while I was there, I went to Buttermilk and sketched the water flow that appears at the bottom of the gorge trail. Then I did an abstract drawing based on that sketch, and am now figuring out how to create it into a textile. I have been trying out new techniques such as wet felting and using an embroidery machine to create quilted wall hangings from the abstract sketches I draw. Next week is spring break, and I'm so excited to get back to Ithaca and have time to rest. I've been enjoying the warm weather here for the last few days and am really hoping it lasts longer so I can get outside during break! I'll be posting more detailed photos of my work on my Instagram if you would like to follow me at [@acreatorliveshere!](#)



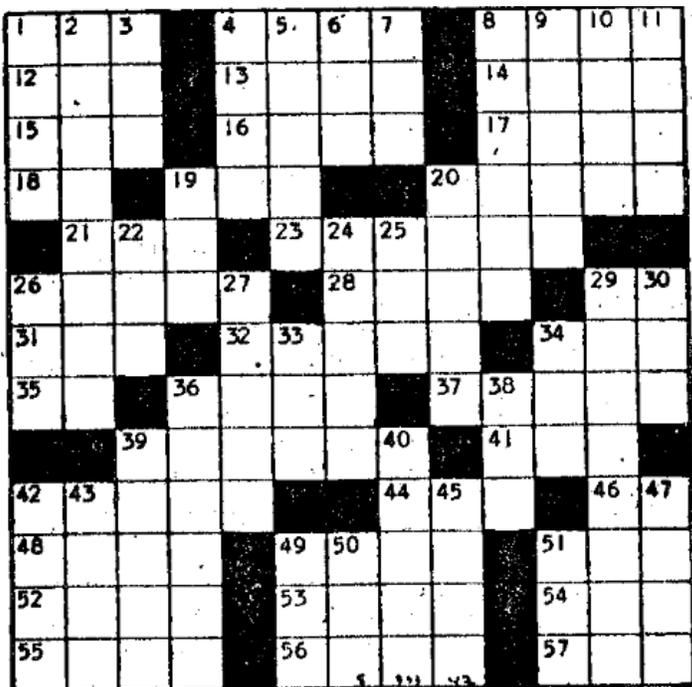
From the Archives

Enjoy this fiber-themed crossword puzzle from the March 1980 newsletter. Answers will be printed in the April newsletter.

BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD
Ithaca, New York

NEWSLETTER #33 -- MARCH, 1980
Edited by Jean Warholie

As this Newsletter "goes to press" it is raining out and decidedly spring-y. It is rumored that a few crocuses are up on the Cornell University campus, and some of our nights now smell like spring is arriving! We hope that this Newsletter will give you some interesting reading and a pleasant diversion from lambing and other chores this time of year... Life is getting busy again, very fast! (Did it ever let up?)



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

by Laurel Schoeler

Across

- 1. gone
- *4. to twist fibers to make yarn
- *8. second
- 12. a preposition
- 13. one trillionth (metric)
- 14. operatic melody
- 15. honest
- 16. easy _____ (bridge)
- *17. _____ ends
- 18. right end (football)
- 19. Noah's vessel
- 20. belief
- 21. a lyric poem
- 23. a country gentleman
- *26. _____ noddy
- 28. United States Dept. of Agriculture (abbr.)
- 29. a greeting

- *31. _____ ply
- 32. Chilean seaport
- 34. to consume food
- 35. daylight saving (abbr.)
- 36. _____ dusting
- 37. twin Leo's signs (astrol.)
- 39. _____ Abe
- *41. Shuttle, Spindle _____ Dye-pot
- 42. small birds
- 44. Underwater-to-air missile (abbr.)
- 46. _____-what?
- 48. the rump
- *49. sheep breed often has triplets
- *51. ends per inch (abbr.)
- 52. other (Gk)
- 53. stork relative
- 54. _____ Brynner
- 55. bodily attitude
- 56. woman's name
- 57. after ems

Down

- 1. from a long way off
- *2. French tapestry studios
- 3. metal-bearing mineral
- 4. boxing term
- *5. shots
- 6. frozen water
- 7. numbers (abbr.)
- *8. tool to photograph work
- *9. early mordant
- 10. _____ fish
- *11. Glauber's _____
- 19. to help
- 20. _____ wave
- 22. homonym for #19
- 24. sarcastic remarks
- 25. Univ. Southern California (abbr.)
- 26. land where Cain went (Gen.)
- *27. storytellers and spinners spin them - Snaathcloimh (Gaelic)
- *29. what machines can't duplicate
- 30. a contraction
- 33. fish eggs
- 34. largest time division
- 36. Texas town
- 38. International Assoc. of Machinists (abbr.)
- 39. cures
- *40. Algerian sheep breed
- *42. textile techniques
- 43. Real Estate Service
- 45. a looped handle
- *47. yarn lubricants
- 49. coniferous tree
- 50. a Kwa language
- 51. sight organ



Guild Vendors

Sheepy Hollow



Wool + Yarn = Kawaii from an Ithaca Local Fleecy of Romney Longwool Fibers from an Ithaca Fiber's Pop-Up Shop

Ithaca Sheepy Hollow Facebook: sheeplow.com

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



glass whorls for medieval & viking inspired spindles

Beads, felted puppets and scarves now at Ithacamad

www.glassbead.etsy.com
facebook.com/glassbeadstudio

CHEMUNG VALLEY FIBER ARTS GUILD




Dedicated to Preserving & Teaching the Art of Handspinning and other Fiber Arts.

<http://chemungvalleyguild.wordpress.com/>

UNDENIABLY Loopy

Award-Winning Design & Instruction

MARCIA WEINERT
knitting | handspinning | felting | crochet
583 872 4267 | undeniablyloopy@gmail.com | www.undeniablyloopy.com

Felted Flora

Hand Knit & Felted Designs
by Renata Brenner

FeltedFlora@etsy.com
www.etsy.com/shop/FeltedFlora

Nistock Farms
"Cotswold is our specialty!"




Fleeces, roving, spinning batts, natural and dyed curls, yarn, knitting kits, silk, glitz fibers, Unicorn products, moth repellent oils, blending boards, digital skein winders, rug hooking and punching frames, Oxford and UltraPunch needles, foundation cloth, books..... And more!

We have an on-farm store! Phone to schedule a personal shopping appointment!

www.nistockfarms.com - 607-522-4374



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.

