

Black Sheep Handspinners Guild Newsletter

April 2011

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<http://www.blacksheephandspinnersguild.org>

The Black Sheep meet from 11am-3pm on the second Saturday of the month at the All Saints Church, Route 34b, Lansing.

President's Message

Jim Johnson

As spring starts rolling around this year let us remember how fortunate we truly are to have a year with four seasons. The beauty of the area as the snow disappears and greenery appears is something we can celebrate. Also, it is still cool enough so that I at least am motivated to keep spinning, hopefully you are as well. This coming meeting is going to have a spring cleaning garage sale, or maybe it is an anti-spring cleaning depending on whether our personal stash is decreased or increased. I am looking forward to seeing you all on the 9th.

Agenda

1. Check in, introductions and show and tell.
2. Report of the nominating committee.
3. Revisit T shirts (volunteer to coordinate)
4. announcements
5. spinning

Fleece to Shawl!

Marianne Pelletier

Marianne, Ruth Allen, and Ellie May got together last weekend to start a fleece to shawl team. We opted to try to see if we could rustle up two teams -- one for the Troy Fair, July 27 (Wednesday) and one for the New York State Fair, Sunday of Labor Day Weekend (not yet announced but this is when they had it last year).

We're looking for good fleeces (gray is best) and for team members. Please contact Marianne at fudger28@yahoo.com if you're interested -- 277-1758.

Program for April Meeting

Susan Sarabasha



Etiology of the Kitchner Stitch

Jim Johnson

April 1, 2011

Lady Eloise Cochrane was a member of Queen Victoria's Spinning, Knitting Tat and Chat Circle. She was a young woman of no special beauty, but she had one charm that made her especially desirable to young English gentlemen; a very large dowry. Eventually Sir Harold Kitchener, the second son of Baron Ronald Kitchener, won her hand and the associated prize. As he was a second son he thought he needed to do something to increase his position in the world, so he took a portion of the dowry and bought a commission as Cornet in a regiment stationed in India. Perhaps, he thought, he could not only add to his stature but to his finances in India. Unfortunately for the pair of them this did mean at least a temporary sojourn to that distant place.

After arriving in Bombay Sir Harold discovered to his and Lady Eloise's distress why he was able to purchase this commission. His regiment was stationed in NORTHERN Punjab and was active in the fighting there. Alas, this meant separation for the newlyweds, since the North of Punjab was no place for a gentlewoman from England. So Lady Eloise took up residency in the English quarter and prepared to wait for her husband's return.

Lady Eloise took it upon herself to personally knit scarves, gloves and socks for Sir Harold's journey to the wild and woolly frontier of British India. Unfortunately she had no idea how to close the toes of his socks or the fingers of his gloves, so she simply left them open (fingerless gloves, toeless socks). As it turned out the fingerless gloves were a lifesaver the first time Sir Harold's regiment was in a close battle and he had to fire and reload his own pistol. The cold feet that winter were not such a blessing.

Not to insult his lady wife by acquiring other socks Sir Harold ordered his orderly to sew closed the front of his socks. This was slightly uncomfortable, but much warmer. His toes now staying above frostbite level Sir Harold began to wonder why the socks his dear wife knit for him were so inferior to the ones worn by the mere commoners in his regiment. Good English wool knit by a proper English Lady should not be inferior in any way to stockings made by the common women for the riff raff he commanded.

With this thought firmly in mind he ordered Corporal O'Hara, his orderly to discover the difference in the style of knitting and to refurbish all of the stockings Lady Eloise had knit for him. Corporal O'Hara privately raged at this request as he thought that it was below his status to do any knitting. So the good corporal took aside one of the married Irish troopers and ordered him to have his wife fix the stockings and show him how this was done. O'Hara planned to write the process down and get credit with Sir Harold.

Three days later he proudly presented the now completed stockings and the procedure description to Sir Harold. This was greeted with no particular expression of thanks from the great man, but Sir Harold did remember to keep a copy of the description for closing the toes of his socks.

As far as corporal O'Hara and the private soldier were concerned this is where the entire thing ended. But, two weeks later Lady Eloise received her latest missive from her absent husband with a clear description written in his own hand off the procedure for closing the toes of stockings.

Lady Eloise carefully followed this description for Sir Harold's next pair of stockings and when he received them Sir Harold proudly showed his major and captains the fine foot wear his dear wife had made for him. This prompted them to send letters to their wives asking them to do the same for them. Lady Eloise proudly showed the other wives the method of closing the toes that her dear husband had "invented".

Two and one half years later Sir Harold received devastating news, both his father and elder brother had been killed in a horrid accident when the horses pulling their carriage bolted upon hearing a steam whistle and ran onto the tracks of an approaching train. As sad as this was it also meant that Sir Harold was now Baron Kitchener. The Baron found a buyer for his commission and Baron and Lady Kitchener returned to England. Once again in London, Lady Kitchener rejoined the Spinning, Knitting, Tat and Chat Circle. She showed all her peers the clever way that Baron Kitchener had derived for finishing knitted items. From then it was but a short time until Baron Kitchener's name became immortalized in the Kitchener stitch.

Save the Date! Workshop

(Almost) Master Spinner Marjorie Inana

On Oct 29 and 30, Celia Quinn will do 2 workshops for the Guild.

Oct 29 spinning to Specification

Oct 30 Novelty yarns

Each workshop can host 20 people. Workshops will be held at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Cortland from 9-4. Course descriptions and prices for workshops will follow.

Editor's Notes

Marianne Pelletier

From Anne Furman: Here is a great article. <http://www.prurgent.com/2007-08-17/pressrelease3269.htm>

Notes from the March Meeting

Carole LaBorie

1. Introductions
2. Vicki Marstead will replace Cathy Chesnut on the Nominating Committee.
3. Ayn Sheldon developed a prototype membership card, which the group voted to adopt. Members of guilds can apply for 10% off at Joann Fabrics (via the website), but must also show a guild membership card in order to receive the special discount.
4. Upcoming events:
 - Spinning at Oak Hill Manor 3/31/11 from 10-11:15 a.m. Contact Audrey if interested.
 - Dairy Day at the Dryden Historical Society - Handspinners needed for demos on June 11.
 - Ontario Handspinners seminar in Guelph, ON - topic is silk
 - MAFA Seminars in Gettysburg, PA beginning 7/7/11
 - Wool and Fiber Frolic at Beaver Lake Nature Center in Baldwinsville on 4/16/11, sponsored by the Golden Fleece Spinners Society.
5. Ayn Sheldon suggested using Survey Monkey, a free website, for questionnaires, and the group voted to support this idea.
6. Sheep to Shawl teams - Troy Fair the 4th Wednesday of July, and State Fair the Sunday of Labor Day weekend - see Marianne Pelletier if interested.
7. Guild Library - it was decided to sell our magazine collection at a future meeting. We will discuss what to do with the books after the magazines have been sold.
8. Retreat - The spring retreat at Stella Maris was great fun. Carol LaBorie will contact Stella Maris about dates for a fall retreat.

9. Marjorie will coordinate arranging a Celia Quinn workshop for the guild. The workshop will be limited to 20 attendees, per Celia Quinn's policy.

10. There is interest in having guild T shirts and sweatshirts printed. Ellie May indicated that Gould's can do this for us. We just need someone to coordinate this.

11. Roc Day proceeds were \$1163 in and \$483 in expenses, yielding income of \$680. The auction netted \$543.

12. Elizabeth Kinne Gossner has a 60 inch hard maple jack loom (4 feet by 6 feet) that she would like to give to a good home. See her if interested.

Sale: Longstanding Member

Jean Currie is coordinating a sale of Jean Warholic's equipment. See below for the items and how to buy them. Jean Warholic has been a member of the Guild for longer than I know, and she served as newsletter editor for several years. --ed.

Jean says: Must be able to pick up at the BSHG meeting or from my house
Jean Currie, 7872 County Rd 153, Interlaken, NY 14847
607-532-4372 jeancurrie@gmail.com

1. Large modern skein winder: \$140

2. Older skein winder. Handwritten label
Ross-Hill Weavers: \$50



3. Upright, box style, 3 bobbin
Lazy-Kate with one hand made
(rather folk-arty) bobbin: \$40



4. Yarn winder (will need a base to
enable turning): \$3



5. "Mini" Great Wheel, wheel only: \$20



6. Yarn winder with four legs and clicker yard counter: \$100



7. Yarn winder with four legs & clicker yard counter: \$100



8. Spinning wheel, double treadle, double wheel, one bobbin, 40" high: \$250



Great wheel. Spins very true, in excellent condition: \$300



Upcoming Events

Marianne thanks Knitters Review for a lot of these entries.

From Eleanor (hartquist@frontiernet.net): The Weavers' Guild of Rochester also has a Weaving and Fiber Arts Center where a variety of courses are offered. Please go to www.weaversguildofrochester.org/center and click on the Courses link.

Chancellor's Sheep and Wool Showcase

Clermont State Historic Site, Germantown, NY, April 2. Can't you picture this guy walking around in academic garb blessing sheep? Clermont State Historic Site, Germantown, NY

Connecticut Sheep Spring Wool & Fiber Festival

Tolland Agricultural Center, Vernon, CT, April 30.
http://www.ctsheep.com/sheep_and_wool_festival

Artistry in Thread: A Celebration of the Fiber Arts

Rochester Museum & Science Center, April 30 & May 1
Eisenhart Auditorium, 657 East Avenue (at the corner of Goodman Street), Rochester, NY 14607. Admission: \$4. Free for children 12 & under. 585-271-4310

Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival

I can't go. My fiber room is full. Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD, May 7-8.
<http://www.sheepandwool.org/>

The 2011 Ontario Handspinning Seminar

Wild About Silk June 10 - 12, 2011
University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario
www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca

Mid-Atlantic Fiber Association Conference 2011

Thanks to Anne Furman
You may not know it but our guild has been a long time member of this fiber dedicated association. The MAFA conference this year will be from July 7 to 10 in Gettysburg, PA. As usual the range is heavy in weaving but includes spinning, dyeing, felting, and jewelry. Please give the conference catalog a look. The instructors are well known experts.
<http://mafafiber.org/11-23.pdf>

Workshops Hosted by Who Knows

Thanks to Jim Johnson
Thought you might be interested in these upcoming workshops, for more information contact Sara Burnett at sjburnett@frontiernet.net. They will be held in **Canandaigua NY**.

Michele Wipplinger (founder and owner of Earthues in Seattle, WA): indigo and woad...the blues....july 28-30...2011. surface design with natural dyes...silk screen, discharge, shibori, painting and more...july 31-august 2...2011. **Joan Morris**...shibori and natural dyes....june 22-26...2012.

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2009: "Best In Show" Natural Colored Fleece
New York State Sheep and Wool Festival
Rhinebeck, N.Y.

Christine Johnson
johnson.chris123@yahoo.com

201201

To place an ad

A check for \$5.00 made to BSHG for an ad to run three times (a year is \$15) should be sent to the current treasurer, Sharon Gombas, 177 Salmon Creek Rd. Lansing, NY 14882. Send the ad to the newsletter editor, Marianne Pelletier, at: fudger28@yahoo.com. If you have a question for her or others, you can email us through the links at the top of the newsletter.

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