



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2022

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Message from the President

Dear Fellow Spinners,

The year is coming to an end and this up-coming meeting we are going to celebrate a bit. We will meet on Saturday, December 10th, from 11am-3pm, in the Parish Hall of the All Saints Catholic Church in Lansing, 347 Ridge Road.

We will have our annual gift exchange. If you want to participate, bring a small wrapped fiber related gift. If you don't like to participate in the gift exchange, come and spin and socialize as usual. Also, tasty baked goods would be appreciated.

Last month, we enjoyed a silk spinning workshop by Nancy Morey. Many thanks to Anne Furman for organizing this. During the workshop, we got to try our hands at some of the fiber, that is our next Roc Day challenge. Compared to most of the other fiber we got to sample, our challenge fiber was about the easiest to spin. So, thanks again to Anne for picking our challenge fiber wisely. Also, if you haven't yet decided, whether to join into the Roc Day challenge, this tussah silk top is about as good a start into silk spinning as there is.

Speaking of Roc Day. We will not have Roc Day in January. Chances that we'd have to cancel last minute for another Covid spike are just too high. Then plan is to have a celebration outdoors during the warmer half of the year. Let's talk more about this during the meeting.

During our meetings, we ask that all attendees wear a face mask.

Hope to see you soon,
Angelika

Next Meeting

The next Guild meeting is on Saturday, December 10th, from 11am-3pm, in the Parish Hall of the All Saints Catholic Church in Lansing, 347 Ridge Road.



December
2022



Guild News

Guild Dues

For all members who have not yet paid dues, they are \$25 for the year of 2022. 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

Guild Meeting Location

All members are asked to be on the lookout for a new guild meeting location in a reasonable price range. It must have adequate parking.

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 Officers

President	Angelika St. Laurent
Vice President	Sue Quick
Secretary	Roberta Sibley
Treasurer	Louise Henrie
Newsletter	Rachael Skye
Workshops	Marianne Pelletier
Webmaster	Rosane Mordt
Roc Day Coordinator	Yvonne LaMontagne



Roc Day Challenge 2023

This year's Roc Day challenge will build on the silk spinning workshop with Nancy Morey, though attendance is not necessary for participating in the challenge. Brief details are below, and more will come as get get closer!

Use the 2+ ozs. top of tussah silk top to spin a two ply yarn. Spin S and ply Z. Use regular plying, no special plying techniques such as boucle, spiral, or slub. Use only the fiber provided with no dyeing or additions of any kind.

You can create any gauge yarn you want, fat or spider web thin. Judges will be looking for even twist, appropriate plying twist, consistent thickness of yarn, durability of the structure (that it doesn't fall apart when pulled)

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: rachael.siems.skye@gmail.com.

General News

Local Fiber

The Local Fiber pop-up is happening again in Downtown Ithaca! Check them out right off the Ithaca Commons at 108 W. WLK Jr. St.



LOCAL FIBER POP-UP SHOP

November 23 thru December 2022
Wed - Sun 11-6pm, Thurs till 8pm
108 W. MLK Jr. St, Ithaca, NY

Across from the State Theater and next to Handwork
ALL LOCAL WOOL, MOHAIR AND OTHER NATURAL FIBERS,
HANDSPUN AND MILLSPUN YARN, SPINNING FIBERS,
HANDMADE GOODS, AND MUCH MORE!

WHERE DOES YOUR FIBER COME FROM?

This special event is made possible by:
LocalFiber.org and
Downtown Ithaca Alliance





Dye Giveaway

Kathy is giving away dye supplies at the December meeting:

I am giving away my supplies from years of natural dyeing. I have some dyes, and some mordants, and also some interesting books about it that I would be glad for someone to take and use. I'll bring it all in at the December meeting and people can take what they want.

Silk Workshop with Nancy Morey

Thank you so much to Anne Furman for organizing the silk workshop, and to Nancy Morey for her teaching. A few photos are below, as well as a delicious carrot cake cookie recipe that we all enjoyed.

FOR COOKIES

- 3/4 c. (1 1/2 sticks) butter, softened
- 1 c. packed brown sugar
- 1/2 c. granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 c. packed shredded carrots (from 2 medium carrots)
- 3/4 c. unsweetened shredded dried coconut
- 1/2 c. raisins
- 2 c. old-fashioned oats

CREAM CHEESE GLAZE

- 1 c. powdered sugar
- 1 oz. cream cheese, at room temperature
- 4 tsp. milk
- 1/4 tsp. pure vanilla extract



<https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/recipes/a50448/carrot-cake-cookies-recipe/>
Carrot Cake Cookies by Joanna Saltz

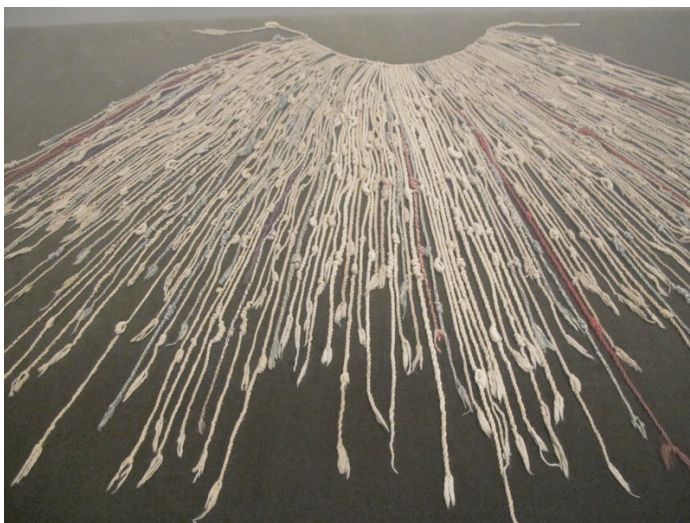


Stories from the Guild: Meaning in Knots

Shelly Marino sent in an article about decoding the meaning between Incan Khipus, a record system based on knots. Read the full article here:

<https://getpocket.com/explore/item/the-college-student-who-decoded-the-data-hidden-in-inca-knots>

“With the help of his professor, Gary Urton, a scholar of Pre-Columbian studies, Medrano interpreted a set of six khipus, knotted cords used for record keeping in the Inca Empire. By matching the khipus to a colonial-era Spanish census document, Medrano and Urton uncovered the meaning of the cords in greater detail than ever before. Their findings could contribute to a better understanding of daily life in the Andean civilization.”



“Medrano noticed that the way each cord was tied onto the khipu seemed to correspond to the social status of the 132 people recorded in the census document. The colors of the strings also appeared to be related to the people’s first names. The correlations seemed too strong to be a coincidence. After spring break, Medrano told his professor about his theories. ”



Stories from the Guild: What do you do with your first handspun?

Rachael Skye has a story about finding the right project for her the first yarn she ever handspun.

Like everyone's first try, the first yarn that I ever spun was not very good. It was lovely, very sheepy wool from Sharon's farm, and spun on Sharon's Louët S10. As I was learning with it (spinning for exactly 1/2 hour every night while I watched Jeopardy), the yarn ranged from worsted weight to as thick as my thumb, and I ended up with maybe 50 yards of a very overspun and bulky 2-ply.



Nonetheless, it was the first yarn I had ever created, so it is special. I didn't want to do just anything with it, but it was difficult to find a pattern for such a small amount of bulky wool.

Eventually, though, I was browsing shawl patterns and one caught my eye. Named Wool Weaver by Kalurah Hudson, it is designed for ultra-bulky yarn. It's a simple pattern, but fringe, tassels, and garter ridges give it character. I decided to try it out for my handspun yarn.

This ended up being, of course, more difficult than planned. I first had to get my hands on size 17 knitting needles with a long enough cord for a shawl. Then, I realized that I had enough of my first handspun for about 1/4 of the shawl, so it makes up the white V at the center. I found a dark brown yarn I got from a guild stash dump a few years back, and held it doubled to provide the bulk of the shawl. Finally, a gift from my parents - white and electric blue alpaca - made up the color pops that caught my eye on the original pattern. Do you know how much yardage is in fringe? I sure do now! I filled my drop spindle about 5 times over.





I had some spun electric blue from early in my learning, but not nearly enough for all that fringe. To top it off, I ran out of my first, special handspun one row early and needed a matching white, so I set to spinning my white alpaca to match my first handspun.

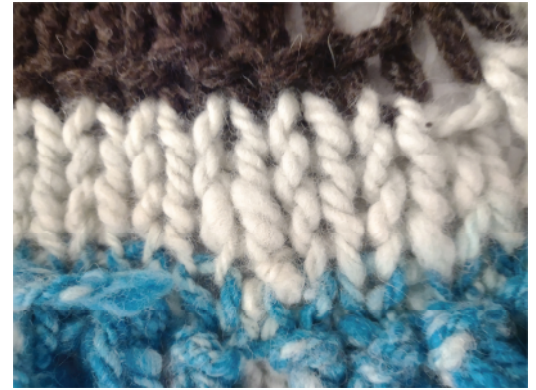
This was the most interesting and difficult part of making the shawl: after 3 years of study, how do I put that focus into texturally matching the yarn I made when I had no idea what I was doing?

It took some experimenting, and I was never able to get quite as thick or as overspun as my original yarn, but it was close enough. I found that the trick was to spin extremely fast, with almost no drafting at all. I just tore the roving into strips and spun that.

The final step was soaking this massive thing in my biggest mixing bowl, and then patting it out to dry for several days. Finally, though, I have a shawl! It's bigger than my armspan, deliciously warm, and wildly impractical for most uses. I may hang it on my wall as a tapestry in the summer.

My first day wearing it out was during the big snowstorm that hit Buffalo and sent us a few flakes. I was delighted to find that, because most of this yarn is pure wool with some grease still in it, it's remarkably waterproof. I wore the shawl walking from Cornell to Northside, got absolutely covered in snow, and then shook it off, took it inside, and found it dry as a bone. I love wearing it, and most mornings it now keeps me company as I take coffee and breakfast on the front porch.

I'm glad this is how I used my first handspun yarn. This shawl embraces all of the qualities I love about it, and celebrates characteristics that a different pattern could have made flaws.



The transition from 2019 to 2022 is in this photo: can you find it?





Vendors

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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 Rachael Skye (734) 476-0634. 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.