



NEWSLETTER

February 2023

Contents

- 2 Message from the President
- 3 Guild News
- 5 General News
- 6 Weaving Workshop: Kit Preparation
- 7 MAFA News
- 8 Stories From The Guild
- 9 Vendors
- 10 New Member's Form





February
2023



Message from the President

Dear Fellow Spinners,

We got a bit of a taste of winter this weekend and now I'm all excited about warm woolen things and spinning the yarn for it. Conveniently, there is our next guild meeting coming on this Saturday, 2-11-23, from 11am-3pm, in the Parish Hall of the All Saints Catholic Church in Lansing, 347 Ridge Road.

Our February guild meeting features a workshop: Our very own Arija Restberg will teach Baltic style pick-up weaving. We will start with the instructions at the beginning of the meeting. So everyone has time to pick colors, warp, and weave during the course of the meeting. Arija will be bringing all the necessary materials. If you are interesting in taking a belt-weaving kit home, these will cost \$15 – however, you can use them during the meeting for free. Please check out the information on the event in the newsletter and the email that has gone out earlier, especially, if you are interested in making a weaving frame.

Members, who are not interested in belt-weaving, are invited to spin and socialize as usual.

We also have a speaker for our March meeting (3-11-23). Judy Maierhofer will teach us about the traditional spinning style of the Blackfoot nation and talk about her work on maintaining the Navajo Churro breed of sheep. Judy will bring spindles as they are traditionally used, which can be purchased. Members interested in trying out a traditional spindle are asked to speak up ahead of time, so there will be enough spindles.

Continued on the next page



During our January meeting, we discussed a couple of things for the up-coming year:

- a) We discussed if we wanted to continue to wear masks during indoor meeting. The members present felt, that they preferred to use masks. So, until further notice, kindly bring and wear a facemask during our meetings.
- b) We discussed our options on how to do Roc Day in future. Eventually, we decided to go back to our traditional indoors celebration the second Saturday of January 2024.
- c) We will hold a guild-only potluck combined with a guild garage sale on April 8th. This will also be the day that we will judge our silk-yarn skeins from this year's spinning challenge.
- d) We hope to return to the Brooktondale Farmer's Market during the summer months for this year.

Hope to see you Saturday,
Angelika

Guild News

Guild Dues

For all members who have not yet paid dues, they are \$25 for the year of 2023. 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.



February
2023



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

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

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)

February Weaving Workshop

Arija will be running a belt-weaving workshop for the Guild this February! Thank you so much for volunteering to set this up, Arija.

Details on the workshop and on how to prepare your own loom, should you want one, are in this newsletter.

Kits will be available for free during the meeting, and they will be \$15 if you would like to purchase one to bring home.





February Weaving Workshop: Loom Kits

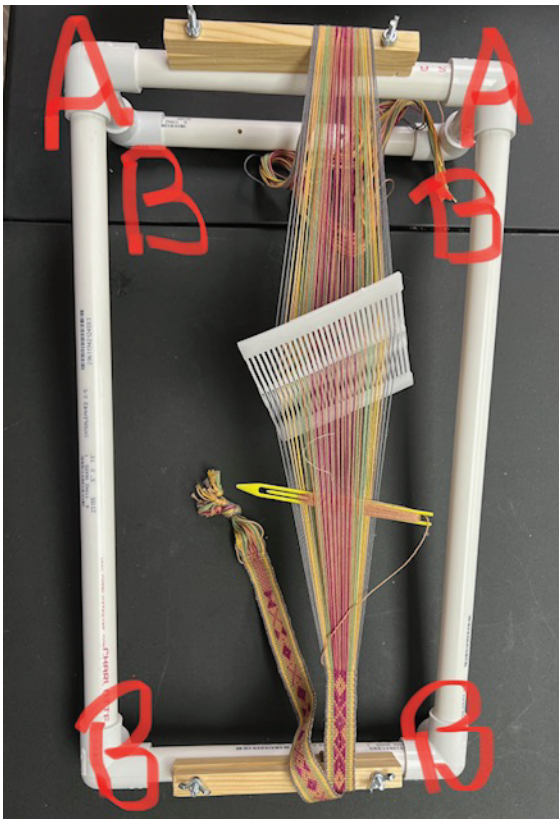
Alternate tie-off methods will be taught during the meeting, but if you would like to prepare and make your own loom, here are instructions. Feel free to contact Arija for help

The kits available at the meeting will contain: three dowels (1 round and 2 squares) 2 screws and wing nuts, a ridge heddle, fish net needle, a ruler and needle threader. You can choose your own thread color.

To make your own loom:

If you would like to use wood, you will need to buy a 10" and 18" stretch bars of the sort pictured. They can be ordered through Amazon, Michaels, or Jo-Ann Fabrics.

If you want to make a PVC Pipe Loom, you will need to buy 1" PVC PIPE that measures 76" long . You will also need to buy 2 of A and 4 of B pipe connector parts.



Online Only

Masterpiece® Classic Stretcher Bar

Item # D257968S

★★★★☆ 40

\$1.59





MAFA News

As members of the Black Sheep Handspinners Guild, we are all also members of the Mid-Atlantic Fiber Association (A big thank you to Louise for keeping up with MAFA!) There's several events happening this month; here's some news.



The 2023 MAFA conference is happening!

Register now for workshops, classes, and events at: cvent.me/PrY5em



MAFA Movie Night

MAFA Movie Night

MAFA hosts regular virtual movie nights to watch fiber-related documentaries and videos. The next is this Wednesday!

Igshaan Adams, originally a painter, learned to weave while working with the mothers of malnourished children. His studio in Cape Town can accommodate colossal works which are often created with the assistance of a team of weavers from neighboring townships or friends, neighbors, and family members - including his mother, a seamstress.

<https://zoom.us/j/96800027165?pwd=dzhvQUhYZzN1a0ZhMEtNTU9PV2kxZz09>

Meeting ID: 968 0002 7165

Passcode: 294759



Stories from the Guild

Silk Hankies

If you attended November's silk spinning workshop, Kay Stickane sent in an article about working with the "handkerchief" style of silk fiber that may be of interest. The full article is here:

"Multiple silk hankies have found their way to my stash over the years- they are just so pretty with their vibrant, saturated colors! And I have tried to spin them using the commonly-recommended technique of poking a hole through one thin layer and gradually stretching the sheet into a thinner, larger ring. Then you simply pull the ring apart at one point, and you have a pre-drafted length of silk ready to spin on a drop-spindle or wheel. (Because the silk is so "grippy" in hankie form, you can also knit this strand, as it can handle being pulled on somewhat.)

It sounds simple and straightforward, but sadly, I just never enjoyed the process. It took so much hand strength for me to get the silk stretched to a thin, consistent strand, and the very large loop/strand had to be managed carefully to avoid tangles. The most I ever spun was a wee sample skein of a few yards or so. So pretty, but not enough to motivate me to persevere."

Read the full article here:

<https://weavingworks.com/blogs/news/spinning-silk-hankies>





Stories from the Guild

Indigo Dye

A few years ago, the Guild held a natural dyeing workshop which proved to us all just how difficult it can be to work with indigo (I seem to recall we got overexcited and oxidized our batch, leading to no indigo for anybody). Kay sent in an interesting article about the history of this dye plant.

“The sky on a clear day. The water of the oceans. Robin eggs in a nest. A pair of jeans. What do these have in common? The color blue! For Colonial Americans the color blue could only be obtained through one source: the indigo plant. Indigo became a popular crop to grow in a specific region of the southern colonies and is an unexpected agricultural product that came from America’s colonial period.”

Read the whole article:

<https://www.morningagclips.com/experiment-in-blue-colonial-americas-indigo-industry/>





Vendors

TRINITY FARM
Registered Shetland and Icelandic Sheep
Handspun Yarns, Carbs Roving, Well-Skirted fleece

Margaret G. Flowers Matthew W. Dietert
Aurora, NY 13026
www.trinityfarm.net
315-246-1178 mflowers@wells.edu

spinning Bunny
Hand Dyed Fiber & Yarn
Hand Crafted Spindles & Stools
Patterns, Kits, Accessories
www.spinningbunny.com
www.etsy.com/shop/spinningbunny
607-227-1216
311B Tupper Rd, W. Danby, NY 14883

Handmade Glass Whorls
Buttons, Pins & Beads
by Isinglass Design

glass whorls for
medieval & viking
inspired spindles

Beads, felted puppets and
scarves now at lthacamadé

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/>

Lady Llama Fiber Co.
Fine Fiber Arts Products

Kelli Terwilliger
(716) 673-5050
ladyllamafiberco@gmail.com
Shop: www.ladyllamafiberco.etsy.com

Handpainted Yarn
Handspun Yarn
Spinning Fibers
Knitting Accessories
...and more

UNDENIABLY
Loopy
Award-Winning Design & Instruction

MARCIA WEINERT
knitting | handspinning | felting | crochet
585 872 4267 | undeniablyloopy@gmail.com | www.undeniablyloopy.com

*Felted
Flora*

Hand Knit & Felted Designs
by Renata Brenner
FeltedFlora@stvy.cz.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, foun-
dation 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 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.