



NEWSLETTER

June 2024

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Coming up: I've been spinning llama! I took a fibery friend out to Marianne's to use her drum carder and went home to see the farm in Michigan and meet the adorable baby llama (I have his momma's fleece).

Article to come when I have time...

-Rachael



June
2024



Message from the President

Dear Fellow Spinners,

it's summer now. The air is warm and humid, and it is sometimes hard to find the motivation to spin yarn for some warm hat or similar items, that seem so self-explanatory in winter. All the more reason to attend our next meeting on Saturday, June 8th, from 11am-3pm, to get some inspiration from each other. The meeting will again be in the Parish Hall of the All Saints Catholic Church in Lansing (346 Ridge Road).

Our June meeting will be a regular meeting, with a small workshop to learn beaded knitting from Susan Sarabasha. Spinners who do not plan to attend the workshop, are very much invited to attend the regular meeting and enjoy the usual spinning and socializing.

This weekend is also the weekend of the Central New York Fiber Festival in Bouckville. The fiber festival happens on both Saturday and Sunday. Members interested in going on Sunday and are interested in car-pooling, please speak up, either via email or during the meeting.

On our July meeting, we hope to focus on various ways of fiber preparation. I have been delaying on this message to include good news about our website. Unfortunately, we are not quite there, yet, and I don't want to make Rachael wait any longer. My husband Simon has been able to recover our lost files from the internet achieve. Our old newsletters are backed up. We hope during the next few weeks to get our website up and running again.

Hope to see you one Saturday,
Angelika



June
2024



Guild News

Guild Meeting

The next Guild meeting will be on Saturday, June 8th, 11-3 PM, in the Parish Hall of the All Saint's Church

Address: 346 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 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



Guild Dues

For all members who have not yet paid dues, they are \$25 for the year of 2024. 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: rachael.siems.skye@gmail.com.

For Sale in the Guild

Tuffer hand cards (made in Montan
For fine wool and cotton. \$50
Contact Kay Stickane at krs3@cornell.edu





Guild Retreat 2025

I'm happy to say that the Black Sheep Handspinners Guild has secured Camp Casowasco once again! After a Sunday morning discussion with the retreaters, we decided as a group to move the event a little bit farther in the year to March in hopes of having fewer snow storms and ice to manage. Of course, this is upstate NY, so good luck with that! We also decided to have a three night option for folks who can't get enough of the fiber frolicking.

The 2025 retreat will be held March 6-9. For those who want to stay 3 nights, the cost is \$242, and for those wanting to join in Friday, the cost will be \$193. You'll notice their prices have gone up over last year, but the two night package includes a dinner on Friday night provided by the retreat center. The potluck will take place Thursday night. Bedding, blankets a towel and washcloth are provided, but you might want to bring an extra blanket if you're a person who gets cold easily.

We have room for 20 participants, and we hope you'll consider joining in! The retreat is a lovely time to get to know your fellow guild members, squish all the fibers, and explore new gadgets. During past retreats, we've gotten to try out a blending board, a drum carder, and a sock knitting machine! You'll find many different makes and models of spinning wheels, knowledgeable people who will answer questions and help make adjustments to get your own spinning wheel humming, and every kind of fiber under the sun. It's a revelation in spinning knowledge!

There are also games, hiking, and great meals on offer.

Please put the new date on your calendar. We'll be taking reservations as they roll in, and accepting payment in the month of October. We'll be requiring full payment then, rather than deposits and full payments later as we found that to be too cumbersome last year. Start planning ahead now! We hope to see you in 2025.





Guild Workshop Announcement

Spiral Beaded Bracelet

Announcing a Guild workshop led by Susan Sarabasha. Susan will be giving this workshop at the June meeting, on June 8, in parallel to the regular meeting.

Learn how to easily add beads to your knitting with a small crochet hook.

We will be making a beaded cuff bracelet and learning a couple of Elizabeth Zimmerman techniques, particularly internal Icord and Icord bindoff.

I will have a selection of colors of yarn and beads for you to choose from, plus a crochet hook.

Please bring size US5 dpns or 2 circular needles and scissors. Class size is limited to approximately 10 people.

Please email Marianne at mpellet771@htva.net to reserve a spot. She will keep a class list and a waitlist.





Fiber Events

Central NY Fiber Festival & NYS Fiber Animal Conference

The Central NY Fiber Festival is happening this year in conjunction with the NYS Fiber Animal Conference. On June 8 and 9, the Fiber Festival will be open, admission \$5. On Sunday June 9th, the Fiber Conference will occur in the same location, and registering for the Conference will get free admission to the Festival.

Conference description: Beginners as well as more experienced fiber producers are sure to gain valuable hands-on skills and knowledge with respect to fiber quality and what to look for. You will be touching, feeling and seeing the difference between various fiber and fleece types in the presence of an instructor who will display and demonstrate what you need to look for in a quality fleece or fiber. You will also learn how to skirt a fleece and what the best uses are for the different fibers. There will also be a sheep shearing demonstration with a commentary on what needs to be done at this stage to insure the best quality.

Conference Website: <https://caahp.cceext.net/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=193>

Festival Website: <https://cnyfiberarts.org/>





How do YOU keep track of your fiber?

Some interesting insights and challenge from Kay Stickane. If you want to join, contact the editor at rachael.siems.skye@gmail.com and I'll do the writing, or send in your story!

Shelly Marino once did a series of articles, called The Stash Inspector, for the guild. She would visit various spinners, usually known for their "stash", and report on what she found. We recently spent a delightful afternoon going through the fiber trove that I have collected over time, dating back to at least the 80's when I had angora rabbits, and then the 90's when I had sheep. Along the way, we also revisited some of the fibers that I "discovered" at a couple of the MAFA conferences a long time ago. I seem to have collected more fiber over the years than I could have imagined. Who knew?? And what system works to keep some track of what one has accrued? We made a visit to unprocessed fiber that I have stored in the crawlspace of my house. I remember placing it all down there when I moved in 2015, but honestly lost sight of just how much was there.

I discovered that I had 6 bins and a total of 21 different batches of unprocessed wool. Not all of each batch was a full fleece (thank goodness), as I have split fleeces with other spinners (Shelly, Kathy Halton) when we found a particular fleece or color that we liked. This count also does not include the bin of gray and brown individual batches of fleece that I brought up from the crawlspace LAST year to sort through with the idea that I would spin, and I never got around to it.





I pulled together a quick reference of the out-of-sight fiber by first labeling each bin/-container (A, B, C . . .), taking a sample of each different fiber, placing it in a zip lock bag and labeling (A-1, A-2, . . .), and then putting those sample packets in a large shoe-box. I also then tried to identify the fiber and source (white, fine wool lamb, farm name), and made up a list in a notebook.

The next step of the plan is to spin up a very small sample of each fiber, and then decide whether I will really keep it or pass it on to someone else who might find a use for it. During our foray into this stash, I was inspired by Shelly's enthusiasm and encouragement. We found the dyed mohair that we purchased years ago and, I think, that it was my first project that I used on the picker, and then left it in a bag. With Shelly's "help," I ended up bringing up a bin of fiber with two fleeces that might blend well with the mohair that we found, and maybe start me on my way to using up some of the fiber that I have held in storage.

How do YOU organize or keep track of your fiber or yarn?? Do you use Ravelry, or a notebook, or a spreadsheet, or memory?? Do you acquire fiber or yarn for a particular project or just for what strikes you?? It's all been an interesting process and a bit of a revelation as to all the lovely stuff that I do have. Gosh, I better get spinning!!





Guild 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.