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BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD  
Ithaca, New York

Newsletter #8 -- April 1977  
Edited by Jean Warholic  
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What a month March was -- with all that rain, glorious sunny days, warm temperatures, and the lionish roar of a snowstorm toward the last of the month!!! Going into April, we are starting to see the crocuses and snowdrops, leaf buds swelling on trees, daffodils beginning to bud out, lawns and wheat fields greening up beautifully. The bees have been getting busier, too -- the dandelions will be their first major honey source, then the fruit trees (if we don't have a severe frost). How exciting Spring can be, especially after such a bad winter...

Included with this Newsletter is the 1977 Membership List (and a few other goodies if you haven't made it to the last few meetings and are still a member of the Guild). Please look it over and let me know if I've erred in your address, phone or other information. We'll do a supplemental list after Wool Day and can easily take care of corrections then. We should have the new Constitution out then, also.

The display in the Tompkins County Public Library (312 N. Cayuga) will be up by the time you receive this Newsletter. Do stop in and see it! It sounds as though it will be an especially nice exhibit -- you might see a few things you hadn't seen before -- and you might even tell the nearest librarian how pleased you are that they are letting groups use the display cases! (Compliments never hurt, after all!!) Again, the display will be up from April 2-18th. And our thanks to the Guild committee for putting it together, especially Laurel Scheeler...

HORROR OF HORRORS. By now you've started your very own Black Lamb Pin with Jean Nowack's directions. I made a terrible error in typing them -- leaving out Rows 4 and 5. Please sit right down and add them to your sheet right now before you forget. They should read:

Row 4: Sc in first 5 stitches, chain 1 and turn. Row 5: Sc in each stitch, chain 1 and turn.

My apologies! The other directions will have the corrections made (those going out to new members)... Now you can finish your pin!!

The Tompkins County Arts Council is listing our meetings regularly now! If you have not seen their listing of arts-related events in the area, copies are available at a number of places around Ithaca. I seem to find a copy readily at the public library. It is a most useful and interesting compilation of special events you might otherwise not hear about...

THE APRIL 14 MEETING of "Spinning Improvement, Plying, and Novelty Yarns," led by Maureen Huebsch, will definitely be a work session. Come prepared to work! You might want to bring your carders, fleece, wheel(s), and some prepared rolags. If the weather is decent, Jean Warholic will bring her big walking wheel so you would have an opportunity to spin on one if you haven't already. The program will also be an idea-sharing one and it promises to be great fun and a good learning (or re-learning?) session... As always, bring an interested friend too!

THE ASHFORD WHEEL ORDER went out the last week of March -- 17 wheels total. They should begin coming in about July or August. We do not expect to pull together another order until about June or so. (That would be an order which would produce wheels in time for Christmas presents, now that I think of it! Hmummm. Better keep that in mind...)

OUR 2nd ANNUAL WOOL DAY! It was decided at the last meeting that we would sponsor a Wool Day again this year. Put it on your calendar NOW: Saturday, May 7, at the Stewart Park Pavilion from noon to 4:00 p.m. (and don't pack away your winter woolies yet, you'll probably need them that day!) The three-woman committee organizing the event: Gretchen Sachse (handling the sheep end of things again), Laurel Scheeler (publicity, contacting judges, etc.), and Barbara White (coordinating the committees you'll see below, generally pulling it together, and worrying about all the other attendant nitty-gritties of which there are plenty)... This is our BIG event of the year and if everyone helps out wherever, whenever they can, the work won't be crushing and we can all have a wonderful day. *We need YOU!* The committees and general work slots are below -- and the scheme of having one key person for each thing, plus some helpers has worked out well in the past -- and there is no reason why we cannot have 100% Guild participation in this. Be thinking of what you want to do. If you are particularly anxious to work in a particular spot on Wool Day, call Barb White now (844-9235), or sign up at the next Guild meeting. Those whose names are already listed have said they will be responsible for that particular event, but there are a few blanks and a number of helpers are definitely needed... That means YOU!!!

Set-up (move tables, help people get unloaded and set up, and generally get the Pavilion ready for the day) -- Jean Warholic. (This also means getting there about 11:00.)

Displays (exhibits set up, signs where needed, etc.) -- (you?)

Children's Corner (where children can try carding, spinning, touch and feel [this might save a little wear and tear on those spinning elsewhere in the Pavilion and should be a good addition to the Day!]) -- Carolyn Cook.

Registration Table (register/record fleeces as they are brought in for sale, tag them, etc.) -- Joan Johnston.

Treasurer (make change, handle money, sales tax particulars, keep books on the day) -- lucky Jean Nowack.

Demonstration Committee (who is spinning what and where, or dyeing, or weaving, "sheep-to-shawl" [???]) -- Marge Ehly.

Guild Table -- Linda Olds (items for sale by members) and Jean Warholic (Guild memberships, Ashford wheel orders, beginning spinning workshop sign-ups, etc.)

Golden Fleece Contest (coord. of judges, get fleeces grouped, sort a fleece [?], etc.) -- Gretchen Sachse.

Fleece Sales Table (actual sales and weighing of fleeces, handling money, etc. [money sense and cool head a must here]) -- (you?).  
(We miss you, Frankie Whitman.)

Clean-up (move back all those tables back, sweep out Pavilion, you know the rest or can guess) -- Barbara White.

Barbara is still tracking down a group to handle the food, similar to the plan of last year's Bluebirds -- suggestions are welcome. We should be all set after the April meeting. Don't be shy about pitching into this. Those who were involved last year can tell you it was FUN, especially when everyone did their part! If you can't be there on that day, help round up fleeces to sell (call Jean Warholic or Gretchen Sachse for further information), spin up some yarn to sell at the Guild table (the Guild takes only 10%, unless you would rather make it a donation item), make some

cookies for the food table (but check with Barb White first), or SOMETHING... It is OUR DAY, it will be great fun, and we will see you there (if not before)!!!

WOOL DAY AT LORENZO, combined with the Cherry Valley Spinners and Thistledown Guild. The Black Sheep Guild will be involved informally and plans for the day are still being formulated. That Wool Day will be Saturday, May 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Jean Warholic has a promotional brochure to pass around at the April meeting if you are interested in learning more about Lorenzo per se.) Tentatively, BSHG is committed for Rainbow Dyeing and helping with the Golden Fleece Contest, and demonstrating or helping wherever else we are needed. More concrete details to be given at the April meeting. We have about a half-dozen people signed up to go -- how about YOU? It will be another day you should not miss -- lots of fun, spinners galore, all sorts of activities and interesting things going on. See Jean Warholic or Suzie Hokanson if you want to go. Car-pooling a real possibility. But we need you for this event, too, if you can manage it...

LOST AND FOUND items will be brought to the next meeting. We still have a few things left from the Christmas party. (Now really!)

What is "gill spun" flax for weaving? In a supplier's list from England, it was listed along with dry spun and wet spun flax as a third type of thread. Please speak up if you know what it is -- Jean Warholic is particularly curious about it...

MUSIC TO SPIN BY. Jean Nowack reports that on Tuesday, April 29 at 8:30 a.m., there will be a one-hour program of music related to the spinning wheel on WSKG-FM (89.3). The program will be repeated on Saturday, May 2, at 7:00 p.m. This is the National Public Radio Station in Binghamton. (Invite a spinner to dinner if she doesn't get that station...)

IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE IN THE TERRITORY... Jean Travers forwarded information on the Arachne Guild's Handspinning Seminar to be held May 21 and 22 at Gunston Hall, Lorton, Virginia (between Alexandria and Manassas, south of Washington, D.C.). Lots of interesting events are planned (although how could it ever be better than the Thistledown Seminar?), exhibits, sales opportunities, etc. Registration fee is \$7 per day or \$12 for both days; accommodations, food extra. Deadline for Registration is May 9. Jean Warholic will circulate poop sheet for further information...

While we are at it, here is another date to add to your collection: June 11-12, Fabius Dairy Festival, Fabius, N.Y. (Sounds like fun from the poster circulated at Marathon, but a \$15 demonstration fee [OUCH!] -- contact Georgia Houck, Main Street, Fabius, N.Y. 13063 if you are interested.)

THE SATURDAY GROUP met at Ernestine Wright's on March 19, and had a nice session making God's Eyes with Ernestine and Sue Spitz. Those two have certainly made some striking ones!!! It was a very nice afternoon... Those present: Carolyn Cook, Cora Brearey, Sue Spitz, Eleanor May, Ernestine Wright, Jean Warholic, Averil and Samuel Bell -- not to mention the assorted birds and squirrels we could watch at the birdfeeders outside the windows!

April's meeting (the 30th) will be at Carolyn Cook's house, and will be RAINBOW DYEING. This will be primarily a demonstration, with lots of wool dyed by others to look at and get ideas from. DO bring things to the meeting that you have made or are working on -- the "show and tell" (or bring and brag, as you like it) part of any meeting is a real shot in the arm for all concerned, for ideas and encouragement. And bring your wheel -- make it a productive session. If it isn't going, we will try to

get it going. Bring failure projects, too -- they are always a learning experience!!  
Directions to Carolyn's: Take Rt. 34 north out of Ithaca. Turn left on 34B at Rogues Harbor Inn, as if you are going to King Ferry. Go past the schools and keep going until you get to Cecil's (on the right). Do not stop and have a beer, but turn left on Lansing Station Road. In about one mile, there is a V, and turn right (Ludlow Road). The Cooks are the 4th house on the right (a log house, set back a bit). The driving time is about 30 minutes for cautious drivers, from Ithaca.

You will need to think about future program ideas and decide what you would like to do for the next few sessions. A training session on the carding machine might be timely. (And plan to spin from the bat carded to see if you like it or not.) Or how about spinning on a great wheel, or polish up your drop spindle spinning, or a natural dye session, or ????. Be thinking and have some ideas ready to go. See you at Carolyn's on the 30th (1:00-5 p.m.)!!!

Another little contribution from Country Jean Nowack's Caning... (From The New York Times, too, I should add.) "Theory or game? R. Fielding of St. Paris, Ohio, writes: 'If I am not mistaken, language from the first peculiar mouthings of man has been based on perception - plus the desire to let others know. Possible development of transmissible perceptions appears limitless so it's just a bit scary to play with it.' (Nevertheless, he did play with it as follows.)

Myriada litl am,  
 Mits fleaze wa zwytaż no;  
 An every witchat Marie whered  
 The fleas were arin to gro-o-o.

Try reading it aloud, but not too loud. Then forget it."

GABBLE, GABBLE, GABBLE... A big welcome back to Doris Brown, from her trip to Australia! She sent the Guild a wonderful, sheepy (of course!) postcard which arrived the day after the last Guild meeting. Will bring it for circulation in April. We've missed her cheerful presence and fabulous show-and-tells... // Laurel Scheeler has returned from the momentous Coliseum Show in New York City. She was still recovering at last word, partly from a case of laryngitis. We hope she will tell us about it at the meeting coming up -- not many of us would ever have the opportunity (if it was that) to participate in something like it. Laurel says (diplomatically) that she is in the process of gaining "perspective" about it... She also has a bit of very sad news to relay at the meeting. // The BIG EFFORT AWARD this spring goes out to Mildred Scudder, for her woven coat! // And the Quote of the Month goes out to Margaret Straight, for her comment made during the Wool Day discussions at the March meeting: "You can hit two flies with one stone!" The runner-up was Karey Solomon with her comment that also had a ring of truth: "If a dye job turns out hopeless, make mittens." // Colleen Stone is alive and well in New Mexico. She sent us a sparkley, nice letter which will make its appearance at the April meeting. Also, Frankie Whitman has been heard from, at last! Her letter will be brought for sharing, too. // Linda Olds has Norwegian sweater patterns to lend. // Sharon Møen is picking up on the Doris Brown tradition of Buckthorn berry dyeing -- she had a lovely piece for the March meeting. // Nan Keech knows a man who will make flax breaks at \$75 each. // Don and Jean Warholic are pleased to report that they will be moving to their "new" house in late April/early May, with plants, bees, spinning wheels, wool, and all. (Groan!) After May 1st: 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. // Suzie Hokanson now has the curly maple spinning wheel that had been in the family for years. Norm Hall has it working for her now, we understand. // It was fun to see Cindy Smith knitting with her first handspun! // Dora Swart reminds us that she has the

Guild's supplies sources materials. It is well worth looking through at the meetings -- you'll get a good feel for what is available from whom and where, prices, etc. Donations of materials, brochures, price lists, etc. will always be welcomed to help keep the sources current.

A spinner is still needed to demonstrate to elementary school groups during April in the Newfield area. Mileage reimbursement possible. Laurel Scheeler asks that you send your name to Karin Eisenberg, 429 Main Street, Newfield (564-3542).

There will be a short (really!) Newsletter come out before the May WOOL DAY, but only if there is enough to justify it. Send me your items/news as soon as possible, with the DEADLINE being April 25th.

As usual, think WOOL DAY and get yourself in gear!!!

See you at the April meeting...

-- Jean Warholic

God loveth sinners  
Dyers and spinners  
Weavers even  
May hope for Heaven.  
When naught is left  
Of warp and weft,  
With spindle and loom  
They will meet their Doom;  
The Lamb's white fleece  
Has brought their peace.

--Hilary Pepler

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AD SECTION (No name yet!)

Looms for rent -- four harness, 24" (\$5/week or \$20/month), two harness, 16" (\$3/week or \$10/month). Jean Nowack, R.D.1, Spencer, New York 14883. (607/564-9241) 3/1\*

MAIL ORDER WOOLS: We have 8 kinds of wool from many countries - over 50 colors; also natural, unbleached wool in many weights & shades. Bulk-order discount on local Finger Lakes Finest (good for dyeing), 2 & 3-ply, cream & oatmeal. Books, original designs & circular needles. Samples & booklist, 50¢. Meg Swansen, Trumansburg, NY 14886. (607/387-8862) 3/2

Saxony and wool wheels made on order, plus repairs on all wheels. Niddy-noddys and Turkish drop-spindles. Norm Hall, Box 648, North Norwich, N.Y. 13814. (607/334-7336) 3/2

For sale: Clean carded cotton fiber for spinning, \$1.00 per pound. For swap: "loop-ers" for rug-making, handwoven and other woven materials. Karey Solomon, RD #1, Trumansburg, N.Y. 14886. (607/387-6952) 3/2

RED EAGLE ANTIQUES, Lansing Plaza (Rt. 34 near the Post Office) has old handwoven coverlets for sale (mostly overshot) and a quilling wheel for sale. Open 1-5 p.m., Tuesdays through Sundays, 533-4194. Also, a nice selection of antique furniture, crocks, glassware, pictures, clocks, kitchen utensils, and other necessities. 1/1

THE TABBY SHOP carries Harrisville Designs loom kits - 22" and 36" (jack type, floor looms) - as well as bobbins, shuttles, reeds, heddles, winders, etc. Plans for making your own loom (42" to 54"). Looms to rent, \$5/week. Yarns are mostly cotton, linen. Need a boost to get started weaving? Call Mildred Scudder, 273-3308. 3/1\*

For sale: Two walking wheels and one quilling wheel (none have working spindles), one four-arm yarn winder. All need some work. Prices vary. Will bring yarn winder to April meeting. Jean Warholic, 533-7504 (evenings). 1/1

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Please place my ad in the Guild's next Newsletter! It should read as follows:

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Ads are 50¢ per ad per issue, or 3/\$1.00. Maximum of four lines per ad. Items advertised must be related to spinning or the fiber arts. One free ad given in the event of typist's error (\*). Deadline for ads: 25th of each month. Sorry, we cannot run photographs or drawings with your ad.

Send payment with ad (checks payable to Black Sheep Handspinners Guild) to: Mrs. Jean Warholic, RFD #8 - 388 Salmon Creek Road, Lansing, N.Y. 14882. (Call if questions, 533-7504 evenings.)

Date of your ad order \_\_\_\_\_