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BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD  
Ithaca, New York

NEWSLETTER #30 -- November, 1979  
Edited by Jean Warholio  
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By the time you receive this, you will have been turkeyed, goosed, hammed, or lambd and we hope that you had a wonderful THANKSGIVING with friends and relations, caught up a bit with making all those Christmas presents, and beginning to feel festive and ready for all the doings to come!!!

DUES ARE DUE... for 1980. Our memberships run for the calendar year, beginning January 1. Those who've joined the Guild since Sept. 1 do not have to renew, but the rest of us do! Please send yours (or give to her at the Guild meeting), checks payable to Black Sheep Handspinnners Guild, to: Linda Dickinson, Box 179A, Spencer, N.Y. 14833. Just in case you need a reminder: \$6.00/year for Inactive Membership (for those who cannot get to meetings, help with Guild activities, and who want mainly to be on our mailing list); \$4.00/year for Active Membership; and \$2.00/year for (full-time) Students.

MOVING, OR MOVED? Please let Jean Warholio know your new address/telephone number, etc. as soon as possible. Furthermore, we have a non-forwardable goodie package that will go our into the mail in early December, and we would hate for you to miss it! (A postcard will suffice: 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068.)

NEW GUILD OFFICERS FOR 1980 were elected at our November 17 meeting. The Nominating Committee presented the slate, and unanimously elected were:

President - Gretchen Sachse

Vice President - Jean Warholio (who will continue with the Corresp.  
Sec'y and Newsletter responsibilities)

Treasurer - Linda Dickinson

Recording Secretary - Patty Mutkoski

Librarian - Judi Becker-Greenfield

(Nominating Committee for next year: Virginia Lance, Suzy Hokanson, and Paula Curtin.)

We would like to thank the Nominating Committee (Alice Wood, Nancy Morey, and Suzy Hokanson) for the nice job they did and efforts put forth, despite not hearing from anyone with suggestions/volunteering for offices this year. We will also take this opportunity to thank our officers of last year -- although if you look closely, you will see that the new batch is not so very different from the old batch! And applause certainly goes out to Gretchen Sachse (the role of president is not easy, and is usually thankless) and to Paula Curtin for the excellent job she did as Librarian.

Saturday's meeting was great fun -- and what a pleasure to see so many there, given the gorgeous weather outside and the usual things that vie for Saturday time for all of us -- and the handspun/handmade things were all so lovely and well-done!! You missed an extra nice time if you didn't get there... MANY THANKS, too, to Jean Travers for her comments and ideas! (And, we should add, Jean just became vice president of the Thistledown Guild so perhaps we'll be seeing more of her this next year!). After seeing the calibre of things that appeared for the Thistledown seminar and the Nov. 17 meeting, this tired old editor with the jaundiced eyeballs thinks that we are doing more interesting, well-done projects with our handspun and dyes than ever before -- it is very VERY exciting to see what you've all been doing! REALLY!!!

SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY, before we go any further... In the event of severe snowstorms or truly incimate weather, cancellation of the meeting (decided by the officers) will be on the radio (WCHU, WTKO) by 7:30 or 8:00 a.m. Unless stated otherwise, the meeting will be postponed to the next Monday, same time. When in doubt, call your nearest officer. Use your horsesense too -- if it is a blizzard outside, stay home -- we would much rather

have you stay home and spin cozily by the fire, than be out there shoveling yourself out of a snowdrift. No snowbound, stuck spinners, please! Saturday Groupers should call Eleanor May or Ernestine Wright, and with you being as spread out as you are, and our weather probably doing different things than yours, it becomes extra important!

DECEMBER 10 MEETING. Our annual Christmas Party! Dish-to-pass. Handspun ornament exchange! Always a nice time, and we hope that you will come -- call a friend if you need a ride. We will meet (10 a.m. as usual) at Maria Steve's NEV house (see directions below). Bring your dish, plate and silver, and a mug. And bring a friend if you'd like!

Directions to Maria's, from Ithaca: take Rt. 96 west out of Ithaca toward Trumansburg. At the first four corners (near the county home), turn left onto Cold Spring Road. Keep going after the stop sign (Halseyville Road), and it is the third house on the right. (Gray Cape Cod.) If you really get lost, Maria's telephone is 387-5559.

*See you there!*

THERE WILL BE NO JANUARY MEETING -- come to Rock Day instead!

ROCK DAY, January 5 (Saturday). Dryden Presbyterian Church (the brick one near the stop-light), from 10 a.m. to about 4 p.m. Dish-to-pass, bring own plate, silver, mug -- and spinning wheel! Coffee, tea provided. Soup-pots (a good idea on those cold days!) are welcomed!! Tradition (below) aside, this has always been a wonderful, cozy day when a number of us spinners scattered hither and yon (some of whom we don't see much of otherwise), get together for spinning and lots of TALK!! Always GREAT FUN!!! Don't miss it!!!

SATURDAY GROUP. The December meeting will be the 8th, from noon to 4 p.m., at Northeast School. As usual, bring spinning wheels/and-projects, and it would not be surprising if there were a Christmassy note there too!

No January meeting is planned to date -- come to ROCK DAY instead!!!

ROCK DAY. If someone ever asks you if spinners have a special day, this is IT. The following description came from an early Thistledown newsletter...

"Rock, rocke, and roc are obsolete words for that important distaff, the implement used for holding unspun fibers (not just flax) when spinning was accomplished solely with a handspindle... From the German rocken, which means 'distaff' came the long-used phrase, 'spinning on the rock,' and the name of the ancient English holiday, Rock Day or St. Distaff's Day. Rock Day followed Twelfth Night, the Festival of Epiphany, which marked the end of Christmas merrymaking and, on this day, the maids were expected to resume their constant chore of spinning. (No spinning being permitted during the Christmas holidays.) The plowmen, however, were free until Plough Day, the first Monday after Twelfth Night, and they amused themselves by playing pranks on the spinning maids... Most recently, our Colonial ancestors celebrated the Monday after Twelfth Night by having a 'Rock Day,' a gathering of neighbors for a day of spinning. It was much like the coming together on other days for quilting bees."

SNOW DATE FOR ROCK DAY: January 12. Same place, same time...

Lost and found department. Small brown mug and spoon were left at Nov. 17 meeting. See Jean Warholic...

WE STILL HAVE two pewter sheep pins by the Guyot Designworks, at \$14 each (+ 23¢ if we have to send it to you). A very special present for a spinner. Write or call Jean Warholic if you are interested.

WITH CHRISTMAS COMING SOON, do take note of our Ad Section. Our advertisers offer many gift possibilities, help with projects, and good ideas in general, and have helped keep our newsletters interesting and (relatively!) solvent! They would love to hear from you or have you stop by anyway -- they've been good friends this year...

COUNTY FAIR entrants, be patient! Your premium checks are tied up temporarily, but will be mailed to you before long... They know you are waiting and wondering!



MEMBERS OLD AND NEW... We've gained a new inactive member: Jean Travers, RD #1 - Box 250, South New Berlin, N.Y. 13849. (599-2515) (Spinner; weaver; dyer; knitter; crocheter; spinnable dogs, cats.) And we have a number of corrections/new addresses from gone-away members: Rebecca Church is now at 29 Rochester Street, Dryden, N.Y. 13053 (844-9344). Kathy Tunnell is temporarily with her parents (563 Tanglewood Lane, Devon, Pa. 19333) until she heads for Switzerland where she hopes to become a textile design major at RISD, starting this spring. It sounds exciting -- keep in touch, Kathy! Susan Richter has surely had her baby by now (Susan?) and she and the care all at 205 West Court Street, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850 (277-3149). Marion Boratynski is now at 6005 Route 227, Trumansburg, N.Y. 14896 (387-5541). Dolores Jacoby is toasting her bones (we presume!) down on sunny 276 Monroe Drive, West Palm Beach, FL 33402. Maybe she will welcome Ithaca visitors if they have enough of winter by springtime...

SPIN-OFF '72 is now out... And complete with an article by our own Erica Rowe. Learn about raising your own flax, spinning facts and folklore, the great wheel, musk-ox wool, handspun art, and MUCH more! Copies are \$5.50 postpaid. Write: Interweave Press, 306 North Washington, Loveland, Colorado 80537. OR get it for less through a Guild quantity order. Speak up at the next meeting if you are interested...

We will modestly announce (if you haven't heard by now) that MASA KINOSHITA won both the Judge's Choice Award and the Handweavers Guild of America award for her "Tied and Dyed Weft Rung No. 4" at the wonderful Great Lakes Fiber Conference back in late September. BRAVOS to Masa -- it was quite something and she should be very proud!!!

THE GUILD WILL BE SELLING at several places in the next month or so. If you can help out, please call Jean Warholic as soon as possible (539-7643)...

THE FAMOUS (and splendiferous!) TRUMANSBURG CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE will be Dec. 1 and 2, at the large red barn only 3.8 miles north of Taughannock Park. Hours: Sat., 10-4 p.m., and Sunday, 12-4 p.m. (Sales Tax only 4%.) This is their 10th Annual Sale, and a favorite of many of us for quality handmade crafts of all descriptions (and prices) The Guild will have a spot there -- look for it! DRESS WARMLY and we hope to see you there...

A NEW CRAFT SHOP at Willard Straight Hall, Cornell University, is opening/has opened (by the time you get this). They are looking for handmade items to sell, of all descriptions and prices. They are asking a 30% commission and are accepting items for 30-60-90 day consignments. For more information, call Mike Bovi at 256-4312. The Guild is placing yarns and yarn packets there for a trial basis...

EXHIBITS YOU SHOULD NOT MISS department. The Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibit Service, in conjunction with the Rockwell Corning Museum, has a very special exhibit on thru Dec. 30, titled "Patterns and Sources of Navajo Weaving." The Museum is at the Baron Steuben Place at the corner of Market St. at Centerway in Corning. Hours: 10-5, Tuesday through Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. Sundays. There is an admission charge; group rates are available. Group tours on Mondays may be made by prior arrangement -- contact Jenny Monroe, 607/937-5386). A catalog of the exhibit is available also. Those who've seen it already are quite enthused -- how about a group going from the Guild??? Approximately 60 examples of Navajo weaving from the William Harnsen Western Americana collection trace the history of this art from its early Spanish-influenced beginnings, to the present; examples of Pueblo weaving, chiefs' blankets, Navajo twills, and womens' apparel weavings are also on view. (How can you resist?)

A QUALITY CRAFT CATALOGUE is apparently still in the works, with elegant quality items emphasized (and good prices as well). If you are interested, call Jean Warholic for more information, or write the person directly: Celia Brandon, 122 West 74th Street, #3B, New York, N.Y. 10023. She will need to be able to see slides or small photos of your work, a price list, and something about yourself. You should also be able to produce... (Not mass-produce, but quantity is a must.)

THE ROCHESTER FOLK ART GUILD is having their annual Holiday Exhibition and Sale, at the Women's Community Building (100 W. Seneca St.). Schedule: Friday, Nov. 30, 6 pm to 9 pm. Saturday, Dec. 1, 10-6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, 12-6 p.m. There is an admission donation of \$1.50. (Another good place to see quality handcrafts and special things for special people!)

CRAFT AND SKILL AUCTION will be held for the Bernadette Powell defense fund --- Dec. 15th. Anyone interested in donating either a finished product (yarn, weaving, whatever) or their skills for making something (hat, sweater, ?? to order?), please contact Smedleys Bookshop now (273-2325) or Joan Adler (273-0896). For those of you sympathetic to this case, here is your chance to help!!!

IF TEXTILE CONSERVATION INTERESTS YOU, then drop a postal card to The Textile Museum at 2320 S Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008, and request a copy of their information brochure and publications list. There is something for everyone there...

KEEP YOUR EARS OPEN for a forthcoming RCHA (Regional Conference of Historical Agencies) workshop on hanging shows and exhibits... One is in the works for March at the 1890 House, Cortland. If you have ever suffered at the thought of handling an exhibit or hanging a show, or have gone through an exhibit trying to think of better ways of hanging it, this workshop will be for YOU! Charges are usually nominal (\$5) for these. We will keep you informed as plans finalize...

THISTLEDOWN FLEECE SURVEY. Linda MacRae asks that we fiber-raisers help compile a fiber resource list. Deadline is January 1 and will be published in the Feb-March newsletters. Spinners and growers will be able to make good use of this list --- fibers to include wool, mohair, angora, etc. On an index card, please write the following and mail to Linda MacRae, RD #1, DeRuyter, N.Y. 13052. (Do it NOW before you get buried alive by the holiday activities!)

Name, Address, and Telephone Number  
 Type of Fleece (fiber) and color  
 (example: French Angora - black)  
 Price per pound or ounce  
 Animals for sale or loan?  
 When available

(This should be interesting --- we look forward to seeing YOU and yours listed!!!)

ODDS AND ENDS, at the end... The Cherry Valley Country Spinners Guild has its next meeting on Thursday, Dec. 6, South Cottage at Lorenzo House, Cazenovia. The Seven Valley Weavers Guild has its next meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 4, 1890 House in Cortland. Thistle-down Handspinners Guild meets (I believe, not having the newsletter in front of me... sorry!) on Saturday, Dec. 15, Museum on Rexford Street. (And don't forget us --- meetings on Dec. 3 and 10, depending on your group!) ALL WITH CHRISTMASSY/HOLIDAY doings and festivities!!! This can be such a nice time of the year...

NEXT NEWSLETTER: Mid-January. With a mixed-bag of goodies coming through the mail to you sometime between now and then! (So get those address corrections/changes to Jean Warholic PRONTO!) Please send in/deliver to (or whatever) those dues, too! Our cut-off of newsletters to delinquents after thatnJanuary Newsletter. (Fair warning!)

*We look forward to seeing you at the December meetings, and at Rock Day!! And hope you get a little spinning in, in the meanwhile...*

--- Jean Warholic