

BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD
Ithaca, New York

NEWSLETTER #38 -- January, 1981
Edited by Jean Warholio

I'll renew for you. How about sitting down at
the plans with this newsletter?! (see pp. 11-13)

WARM HELLOS to all of you, after the holiday festivities!!! We hope you had a lovely Christmas and rousing New Year celebration, and that 1981 will be a terrific year for all of us! Warm hellos especially after these subzero temperatures we've been having, too...

However, COLD GOODBYES if we don't receive your membership dues renewal soon. If we don't hear from you by the February 9 meeting, this will be your last newsletter -- and while we won't abandon you forever, we will miss you greatly! DUES: \$4.00 Active Membership; \$6.00 Inactive; and \$2.00 Student (full-time). Checks payable to Black Sheep HandspINNERS Guild. Send to our new Treasurer, Daisy Kirkpatrick (P.O. Box 100, Slaterville Springs, N.Y. 14881). Or give to Daisy at the next meeting. Please advise if your address or telephone number has changed from what we have listed (or where this newsletter goes). *Do it now, before you forget!*

JANUARY 31 -- SATURDAY GROUP MEETING. Noon to 4:00 p.m., Room 530 in the Vet School Building, Cornell University. If you've lost your Dec. newsletter with the map already, or can't remember how to get there, or have any questions, please call Jean Currie (64-9346). Bring your lunch, show-and-tells, and a friend! Coffee, tea provided.

FEBRUARY 9 -- MONDAY GUILD MEETING. 10:30 a.m. to about 2:30 p.m., Tin Can, near Stewart Park. Business meeting, then program. Program: *FIBER BLENDING* with Suzie Hokanson. Bring: carders, spinning wheel or drop-spindle, washed wool, unusual fibers you can share, anything else of interest on the subject (things you've made or purchased, etc.). The Guild will provide some fibers. This should be fun for all of us, beginners or otherwise -- hope to see you there!! As always, meetings are open to anyone interested, so do bring a friend. Coffee, tea provided.

FEBRUARY 28 -- SATURDAY GROUP MEETING. 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m., see above. There is a possibility that we will be demonstrating at the INSULATION show instead. Plans should be definite by the January 31 meeting, or call Jean Currie.

A REMINDER: The Guild meets the second Monday of each month, usually at the Tin Can, near Stewart Park. When in doubt, call Maria Steve (387-5559) or Doris Brown (273-6173). Summer meetings are usually at a member's home. The Saturday Group meets the last Saturday of the month -- now at the Vet Building, Cornell University; summertime usually at a member's home. All meetings are subject to inclimate weather or holiday changes, and this will be mentioned in our newsletters or, during the winter when we have unexpected snowstorms, over the radio (WHCU, WTKO).

THE MONDAY MEETING PROGRAMS for the rest of the year have been tentatively planned by Doris Brown and Maria Steve. As always, suggestions are welcomed for programs -- talk with either of them about your ideas or wishes...

March - Felt (Nancy Leahy, Doris Brown); plan Wool Day.

April - Flax.

May - Wool Day (in lieu of our regular meeting?)

June - to be announced.

July - Indigo, cochineal dyepots.

August - Dyepots-to-pass.

September - Chemical Dyeing.

October - Color Blending, with the dyed fibers from prev. months.

November - Annual Critiqued Show; election of 1982 officers.

December - Christmas Party

INSULATION SHOW, Feb. 28 and March 1, Women's Community Building, Ithaca. Hours: 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Ithaca Textile Arts Guild (Liese Bronfenbrenner, Edith Johnston). Our Guild will have a sales table and will be demonstrating. We will plan any last-minute details at the Feb. 9 meeting, but in the meanwhile, if you can demonstrate and/or help with the sales table, call Maria Steve (387-5559). We need a few more people for Sunday, Mar. 1, for the day... This could be quite an exciting show and exhibit, along the theme of its title (to warm the body and cheer the spirit), with work and helping hands between now and then...

ROCK DAY was January 10 -- we missed some old (and new) faces, but a good time was had by all!!! There was plenty of good food (see below for Nancy Leahy's squash soup recipe, printed here unavoidably by popular demand!), excellent company (of course!), and with MANY fun and interesting show-and-tells. We hope you made note of them all, although certainly one of the biggest attention-getters was Phil Sponenberg's bicycle spinning wheel (dubbed, of "Schwin-Ashford" make!). Alas and alack, no spinners from Cherry Valley or Thistledown country...

We had a spinning contest to see who could spin the longest and finest yarn in 10 minutes -- working in pairs (a spinner and a carder who switched after 5 minutes), we had seven teams competing and it was pretty lively! Especially after we have them their handicap (which will sound familiar to Thistledowners from a seminar years ago) of wearing HEAVY WORK GLOVES while spinning! What anguish! (And a nod of appreciation to Ed Kabelac and Cornell's Buildings & Grounds Dept., who were kind enough to loan us the gloves!) The winning team of Chris Matijas and Daisy Kirkpatrick spun 93 feet, and even when we docked them for three feet for a big thick spot, they spun considerably more than their nearest competitors. The prize was a 1/2-lb of rayon each. The booby prize went to the team of Carolyn Steve (age 8) and Ann Olson (just learning to spin on a wheel) who made a valiant effort and spun a total of 12 feet!

We were pleased to meet Leslie Sayet and Marie Scott, guests of spinners who came. It was a WONDERFUL day to start off the New Year!!!

Nancy Leahy's Squash Soup

(Recipe makes a big pot!)

Cook and mash four big (butternut) squashes. (Any kind will do.) Make a medium-thick white sauce (margerine, flour, milk), about a quart. Put in squash, add 1/2-lb. cheddar cheese, box or envelope of sour cream dip with onions, salt to taste. Add 1/4-cup of maple syrup! Puree in blender. Heat through. Add one can of evaporated milk (or regular milk if already quite thick) before serving.

GET WELL WISHES go out to Alice Wood, who has been feeling under the weather these past few weeks. It was an uncomfortable Christmas for her, we missed her at Rock Day, and know she would like to hear from her friends... (#304, DeWitt Park Apts., North Cayuga Street, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. 273-7191.)

KAY ROSS just got back from a glorious week of skiing in Canada! You might want to ask her about it, the next time you stop in at the Heritage Craft Shop! ...and sign her cast!

Madeleine Mau may have thought she was going to spend the next few months keeping warm in Florida, but judging from the temperatures we've heard reported (8°F, Tallahassee), she obviously took some of our weather with her!!!

STILL FOR SALE: A Green Spring spinning wheel, compact, ready for traveling. Essentially unused. \$80.00. Also, one pair of curved-back carders, \$15, also unused.. Call Pat at 564-7651. *3/3*

SILK IN JANUARY... Luxuriously beautiful white and tussah in combed and carded rovings. Send SASE for our new price list and free samples. Cocoons, waste silk, silk hankies, spindles, and MORE. Silk is perhaps the most beautiful fiber of all (naturally!). FALLBROOK HOUSE, RD #2 - Box 17, Troy, PA 16947. (717/297-2498) 6/9

BLACK RAMS for sale, ready for breeding, yearling or spring lambs. Corriedale and Finn blood. All twins, born from flock with 190% lambing average. \$75 each. Also, wool socks (replicas of W.W.I army socks). Libby Llop, 3079 Fowlerville Road, Caledonia, N.Y. 14423. *3/3*

HONEY FROM OUR BEES. \$1.00/pound. (Quart jar holds about three pounds.) Will have at Guild meetings, or call to order: Donald Warholic, 539-7648 evenings. *3/3*

THE TABBY SHOP has information on Harrisville Design's new 40" loom. It's heavy enough for making rugs. \$480 Plus shipping for the kit. For rag rug weavers and others: cutting paper, leather, vinyl. And there's the new "revolutionary" OLFA POTARY CUTTER at \$11.90 (including mat to cut on). Replacement blades, 2 for \$3.25. Cotton and linen yarns, reeds, heddles, shuttles, warping frames, etc. always available! Mon.-Thursday, 12 to 5 p.m., 49 German Crossroad, Ithaca. (607/273-3308). 1/3

YARN TO EWE has new hours: evenings, 5-8 p.m., and Sat./Sun., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. We have yarns for weavers, fleeces, carded New Zealand wool, Beka looms, and other supplies to help you or your favorite spinner make fiber magic! Our shop also features old and antique items. Handcrafted consignments accepted. Genegantslet Road, Greene, N.Y. 13778. (607/656-8359, Gloria Alamo.) 2/3

REMEMBER US for all your fiber needs -- spinners, weavers, quilters, knitters, and rug hookers alike! The new little "mini" Louet wheel is finally in; be sure to try it! Lots of spinnable fibers: alpaca, Karakul, low camel, mohair, rayon, yak, flax, silk, pima cotton, and wool. Sheep stamps, posters. Moshimer rug patterns, quilters' stencils, templates, leather thimbles, and marking pens. Knitting patterns, notions, and yarns. Dyes for any fiber. Books galore. THE HERITAGE CRAFT SHOP, Dryden, N.Y. (607/844-4381) Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. 2/3

DON'T FORGET -- The Guild Carding Machine and Spinning Wheel (Ashford) may be rented by members (or borrowed for demonstrations). Sign-ups for both are slow right now -- call Marion Wikoff (607/387-5410) to put your name on the list for either of them. And be sure to check out the wonderful books and periodicals in our Guild Library -- available at each meeting... (BSHG ad)

WE ARE REALLY CHEAP -- yes we are! Ads in this newsletter are 50¢ each or 3/\$1.00 for a four-line ad. Deadline is the second Monday of each month (although the newsletter comes out 8-10 times per year). Make check payable to Black Sheep Handspinners Guild and send it with your ad copy to: Jean Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (Or call for further information, 607/539-7648 evenings.)

BOOK REVIEW. The Run of the Mill: A Pictorial Narrative of the Expansion, Dominion, Decline, and Enduring Impact of the New England Textile Industry by Steve Dunwell. First printing, 1978; second, 1979. (Boston, Mass.: David R. Godine, Publisher, 306 Dartmouth Street, Boston, Mass. 02116.) The first part is a history of textile mills and related processes in the New England area. The second part is a unique look at what is there now, recollections of people who've worked or are working in the mills, and a look toward the very bleak future of the towns and their people. Outstanding text; excellent photographs and illustrations. Jean Warholic is trying to locate some copies on remainder; otherwise, order from the publisher or Merrimack Valley Textile Museum. (Approx. \$30.00)

CLASSES BEGINNING SOON... The TC3 weaving classes will be getting underway shortly. Call Mary Kelly for more information: 844-8311, ext. 237 or 442. // The Heritage Craft Shop has quite a variety of classes starting in January -- call them or stop by for their list: 844-4381 (Dryden, N.Y.) // The Homespun Boutique on The Commons in Ithaca has classes starting also: 277-0954. // The North Campus Union Craft Shop at Cornell University is getting their class listing ready: 256-6238. // The Women's Community Building will also be offering classes: 272-1247. // There are undoubtedly others offering classes relating to the fiber arts, too -- check around to see what is going on in your area. Often, course listings are available for the taking at the Tompkins County Public Library...

LIBRARY BLACKLIST. As startled as everyone was about the number of overdue books out, we still don't have many of them back. Ahem. If you have lost or seriously damaged these books, it is up to you to replace them. Once again, we would like our books back: Kay Goodman, Jean Magacs (not Travers, sorry!), Susan Richter, Loretta Pompilio, Patty Mutkoski, and MaryAnn Beale. Check the last newsletter (#38) if you can't remember the titles due, or call Jean Warholic (539-7648). PLEASE bring them back or send them with someone who is coming to the meetings if you are not...

Erica Rowe's fame is spreading! She had an article titled "Honey in Holiday Treats" in a recent issue of Mother Earth News.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1980. We had a beginning balance of \$446.24 as of January 1, 1980, and an ending balance of \$554.26 as of December 31, 1980. A general breakdown of our books for the year is below, so you can see where our monies went. Thank you's to Linda Dickinson for all her work this year as treasurer!!!

<u>Income:</u>	Membership dues	\$ 493	<u>Out-go:</u>	Program costs	\$ 209
	Workshop profits	49		Newsletter	285
	Wool Day	126		Postage (not nl)	73
	Misc. sales	76		Printing (not nl)	77
	Library income	15		Library purchases	44
	Carding machine rent	24			\$ 688
		\$1083			

nl = newsletter

Figures are rounded to nearest dollar.

(This is general; books balance even though above does not!)

By the way, HAPPY NEW SPINNING WHEELS to several of our members! Santa brought them for Christmas to (at least) Ann Olson and Judi Becker-Greenfield. (Any others?)

The PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART is having an exhibit of "Children's Clothing, 1760-1980" through April 5 if you are going to be in the area. And save a little time to get to the Goldie Paley Design Center at the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science (4200 Henry Avenue, in the East Falls section of Phila.) --- they have some exhibits on that will interest you!

IT WAS A TREAT to see Paula Curtin and her new little son, Kevin at the Christmas Party in December. Kevin was born in October (hope that's right, Paula!). We've missed you, Paula, and hope to see you at our meetings... Kevin, too!!!

In case you hadn't heard yet, the New York State Craftsmen organization is going under. According to the January issue of The Crafts Reporter, the entire Board of Directors has resigned (eff. Nov. 10) and the group has a \$85,000 debt. They've closed their offices and terminated the services of Executive Director Harry Dennis (in July). Much of that

debt has been attributed to poor management and unsuccessful ventures, apparently. New York State Craftsmen, Inc., had been organized in 1953, and, if this editor's memory serves her correctly, it originated here in Ithaca. It as an organization had been removed from here for quite awhile, in body as well as spirit...

There is a group forming statewide that hopes to promote and encourage crafts in a number of ways, including through its "Crafts Information Exchange" publication (bi-monthly). For more information about them, or to receive the publication, contact Randy Richter (277-3149), one of our area representatives (the others: Susan Andrews, Elinore Bly, and Louise Haupin). Or write directly to: Crafts Task Force of New York State, c/o Martha Strodel, 14 Alden Avenue, Warrensburg, N.Y. 12885. (518/623-2508).

And of course, there is our trusty Upstate Crafts organization, with its annual show scheduled for August 6-9 in Ithaca. If you wish more information about this group, please contact either Doris Brown (273-6173) or Elinore Bly (273-7793)

Speaking of major events... the MidAtlantic Fiber Conference, sponsored by the MidAtlantic Fiber Association, is to be held July 31, Aug. 1 and 2 at Rider College at Lawrenceville, New Jersey. Flyers with workshop information, fees, etc. are being mailed now -- and to get your copy, write NOW to: Lois Breslauer, Registrar, 657 Shadowlawn Drive, Westfield, N.J. 07090. They list a tantalizing group of general session and mini-session speakers/teachers, and are planning a big showing of fiber suppliers' wares, as well as an exhibition of fiber works. WOW OH WOW!!!

Jean Case of FALLBROOK HOUSE does it again -- and again. Her new 1981 silk catalog is bigger and better than ever and CHOCK full of information, instructions, etc. (At last she has begun to write things down, as we have been urging her to do!) For your copy of this FAT, interesting epistle and price list, send her a 28¢ stamp and she will do the rest!! (See her ad in this section, or: FALLBROOK HOUSE, RD. #2 - Box 17, Troy, Pa. 16947. Or send her a couple of those 28¢ stamps and have her send copies to some of your spinning friends -- don't keep all the good stuff to yourself!)

Masa Kinoshita wrote us a FAT postcard (if that is possible!) about her doings in Japan this fall. (She will be back sometime in the summer, so far as we know. If you want to write her, please contact Jean Warholic for her latest address.) She has been busy visiting, learning, sightseeing, collecting, etc. She is spending at least one day a week learning more ways to make the bobbin braids. And was to take a one day workshop on silk pulling (to make thread from mawata) at the time she sent her card. She sold her ikat rug, which had been exhibited at the Japan Craft Design Assoc. Annual Exhibition. She feels the Japanese are definitely weak in dealing with wool -- even in hand-spinning, they rely on washed, carded (imported) wool -- and the texture of wool is not explored enough. Their silk and cotton weavings (and other things) are exciting, though. (As we can imagine!) We can hardly wait to hear all about it, Masa! What a year for you -- we are envious!!!!

More wonderful news dept. Kristin Hokanson (age 9), who participated with her mother, Suzie, in the "Teach a Friend to Weave" Contest, sponsored by Interweave magazine, was able to finish her entry (a pretty blue vest!) and send it in by the deadline! We are so pleased, Kristin, and can hardly wait to hear how you did! (Winners are to be notified in March -- we hope you are one of them!!!) You've had a good teacher, and we hope this is just the beginning for you...

And last, but definitely not least, Marion Wilkoff has a (commissioned!) wall hanging somewhere in the depths of the Cortland Hospital, outside an office. It is quite lovely and we hope that you will be persistent and go find it!!! And praise its beauty and compliment whomever is appropriate for having the bright idea of commissioning something like that in a public place... Good for you, Marion!!!

It's good to see how many people read the ARTiculator (Wayne Co. Arts in Action, Inc.) and picked out the same poem to send for the newsletter! Many thanks to Doris Wolf, Alice Hemenway (and one or two others?), for sending it -- and to Eleanor May who found the poem in toto. It is the "Song of the Loom" from Songs of the Tewa:

Our Mother, the Earth
Our Father the Sky,
Your children are we,
and with tired backs
We bring you the gifts
you love.
Then weave for us a
garment of brightness;
May the warp be the
white light of morning,
May the weft be the
red light of evening,
May the fringes be
the falling rain,
May the border be
the standing rainbow.
Thus weave for us a
garment of brightness,
That we may walk fittingly
where birds sing,
That we may walk fittingly
where grass is green,
Our Mother the Earth,
Our Father the Sky.

When the show "Casting Off the Corset" was at the Hinckley, Jo Ann Flynn of Penfield, N.Y., submitted two poems:

"Life's Weaving" (Anon.)

My life is but a weaving
Between my God and me;
I may not choose the colors
He knows what they should be
For He can view the pattern
Upon the upper side,
While I can see it only
On this, the under side.

Sometimes He weaveth sorrow,
Which seemeth strange to me;
But I will trust His judgment,
And work on faithfully;
'Tis He who fills the shuttle,
He knows just what is best;
So I shall weave in earnest
And leave with Him the rest.

At last, when life is ended,
With Him I shall abide,

Gretchen Sachse also sent us "The Spinning Song" from Deirdre, by W.B. Yeats.

There are seven that pull the thread.
One lives under the waves,
And one where the winds are wove,
And one in the old gray house
Where the dew is made before dawn;
One lives in the house of the sun,
And one in the house of the moon,
And one lives under the boughs
Of the golden apple trees;
And one spinner is lost.
Holiest, holiest seven,
Put all your power on the thread
I have spun in the house this night!

Another from Gretchen -- by Luranah Hammond, 1897.

Where women sat beside their looms,
A hundred years ago,
And wove in cloth the threads they spun
of linen, wool, and tow,
Now great King Steam, in work shops large,
like some old giant elf,
Gets up with angry puff and roat
And does the work himself.

Then I may view the pattern
Upon the upper side;
Then I shall know the reason
Why pain with joy entwined,
Was woven in the fabric
Of life that God designed.

"Tracery" (by Eddie Cohen)

There is in man a deeper weave
Whose pattern only shows
In one who can believe beyond
The certainties he knows.

The brittle cloth of threadbare fact,
Warped on the loom of mind,
Throughout all time has lacked the bond
Which faith along can find.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (that we haven't mentioned already in this newsletter!). Get out your pencils...

Month of January - Quilts and Baskets Show (trad. and contemporary) at the Cortland County Arts Council (CCAC) offices, and sponsored by them. They are now above Rite Aid on Main Street, Cortland (next door from where they were if you went to the Koopman workshop last year).

February 12 - Basket Workshop at Harford, N.Y., four weeks (2-1/2 hour session per week), \$20 fee. To register, call Suzie at 849-3345 or the CCAC offices. Another workshop is planned for March, in the Virgil area.

February 23 - INSULATION SHOW. Don't forget!

April 4-5 - The Famous Marathon Maple Festival! Spinners/dyers are needed to demonstrate. Please sign up with Maria Steve at the next meetings! You are needed any combinations of hours -- morning and/or afternoon -- you can manage. Free lunch! A FUN place to demonstrate. A number of us "oldies" made our spinning demo. debuts there! This is a nice place to demonstrate for the first time as a beginner -- team up with someone more experienced (good way to learn and makes it more fun for both!) and have a nice day...

Gretchen Sachse's Flax project grant is off and running now. That, together with the fact that the featured fiber this year, for the annual Thistledown Handspinners Guild Fall Seminar, is flax, should be good incentive for us to collect articles, information, things made from flax and share this information with those around us. Please feel free to bring things to meetings, maybe some can be mentioned in the newsletter, space permitting, and so on. This will also stand us in good stead for workshops, lectures, and demonstrations coming up that deal with flax this year. (And we are working on them, so fair warning!) We as a Guild have not spent a long period of time studying and working intensely with a fiber (except, perhaps, wool). It would be good exercise for us!!!

We presume that Linda Berry Walker has had her child by now. Any news? We are still looking forward to a workshop with her sometime in the future...

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER! We hope to see her at meetings before long!!!

Sue Trevor, 7170 Rosewood Circle, No. Syracuse, N.Y. 13212. (315/458-8311)
(Weaver; knitter/crocheter; dyer; over 50 sheep, mostly Romney crosses; spinnable St. Bernard; black rams.) (Inactive member.)

GET WELL WISHES also go out to Kay Goodman who has been ill all fall. We hope you are feeling better by now!

WE'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD of a fabulous exhibit/series of workshops coming up at the Roberson Center in Binghamton! Surely, we can assemble some carloads from up here to get to these...

Exhibit: "Our Shining Heritage: Textile Art of the Slavs and Their Neighbors"
When/where: Feb. 1 thru March 15, 1981, at the Roberson Center for the Arts & Sciences, 30 Front Street, Binghamton, N.Y. 13905.
(607/772-0660)

Textile art from the peoples of East Europe and Russia. This will be a large exhibit showing a variety of techniques and forms of textiles which people made and used. There will be 125 articles from 30 contributing lenders. (Special group guided tours by request, with Joanne Branford, curator.)

The following events are scheduled in conjunction with the exhibit...

Feb. 1 - Exhibit opening, 1-4 p.m. Performance of village music. Free

Feb. 8 - Films of Ritual and Dance, 1-5 p.m. Free.

Feb. 14 - Ukranian Festival. (Tickets, \$3) Dance group and band from Philadelphia will perform traditional Hutzul songs and dances. Film, "Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors." (In evening.)

Feb. 15 - Ukranian Festival. Dance performances, craft demonstrations, displays, food, etc. (Free.) (Afternoon.)

Feb. 21 - Czech, Moravian and Slovak Festival. 2 p.m., Čápec making workshop. (practical workshop making women's beaded and embroidered caps), led by Elizabeth Capozzi. (Fee: \$2.00)

Feb. 22 - Czech, Moravian, and Slovak Festival. (Afternoon.) Films, crafts, etc. (Free.)

Feb. 27 thru March 1 - TEXTILE ARTS WEEKEND.

(1) "Hands on" workshop on East European Folk Lace, led by Brigita Fuhrman. (Fee: \$20) This all-day (9-4) workshop will be offered twice: #1 on Friday, Feb. 27, and #2 on Sat., Feb. 28. Pre-register by telephone. Limit of 15 each.

(2) Films on Textile Production in Eastern and Central Europe, interpreted and discussed by Joanne Segal Branford. (Films show weaving, spinning, felting, etc.) Scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 28, beginning at 2 p.m.

(3) TEXTILE SYMPOSIUM (Sunday, March 1)

Part I. (Tickets, \$3) 1:00 p.m., discussion among the following people:

Andor Czompo (dance specialist, Cortland) on "Hungarian Folk Dress and Its Relationship to Dance and Folklore." William G. Lockwood (anthropologist, Ann Arbor, Mich.) on "The Ethnographic Context of Textiles in Yugoslavia." Helen Zemek Baine and Helene Baine Cincebox (from Syracuse and Rochester) on "The Survival of Folk Dress in Moravia and Slovakia."

4:30 p.m. Anne-Louise Schaffer (costume specialist, Washington, D.C.) will speak on "Your Folk Dress and Textile Collection: Identifying and Sharing." (Bring textiles to share.)

Feb. 28 - Yiddish Evening. (Tickets, \$3)

Mar. 7 - Polish Festival. (Tickets, \$3) Party, crafts, food. (Evening)

Mar. 8 - Polish Festival. Free. Films, crafts, food. (Afternoon)

Mar. 15 - Slavic Festival. Children's Dance Performances. (Free.) (Afternoon) Exhibition and Closing. Concert. Afternoon and evening, fee charged.

There are a few other events not listed here, some of them at night. I have listed these as being perhaps the most provocative in terms of textiles. More information at our next meetings. It is quite an exhibit and series of workshops. (The exhibition has been made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, with programs sponsored by The Bowers Foundation.) You will need to call in your registration for the lace workshop, or write or call for more information about this whole group of activities...

An interesting new magazine is out these days for the creative knitter and crocheter: INTERLOOP. Articles in their Fall 1980 issue dealt with mandalas in crochet and knitting, the home knitting machine as a lacemaker, irish crochet lace, frame knitting, and more. Subscription rate is \$12 per year in the U.S. -- write for a sample copy (\$2.00?): INTERLOOP, 328 S. Orange Street, Suite A., Escondido, CA 92025.

HANDWOVEN and INTERWEAVE are combining issues/magazines shortly. It sounds as though they will be bigger and better than ever!

Thought you would enjoy the definition of "spinning wheels" from The Dictionary of Needlework by Caulfield and Saward (1882; reprinted by Dover Publications). (p. 458)

"SPINNING WHEELS. These appliances have long been adopted for the purpose of turning the spindle, round which the yarn is wound, instead of the ancient method of striking it perpetually, to keep it in motion. What was designated a "one thread wheel," was first invented; and has long been employed in India, as well as for cotton, flax, and wool spinning in Europe. Various descriptions of yarn require different kinds of wheels for their respective spinning. That for flax is turned by a treadle, moved by the foot; a catgut cording passes round in a groove in the rim of the wheel, over the pulley of the spindle on which the thread is wound. The wheel for cotton and wool spinning is of a different kind from that for flax. The spindle is made of iron, placed horizontally upon the extremity of a wooden frame, supported on legs. Upon this there stands a wheel, round which, and the spindle likewise, a band passes. Worsted is spun more after the manner of flax. Spinning wheels were universally employed on the Continent of Europe and in this country until the year 1764, when a wonderful series of mechanical inventions were adopted by all the weaving manufactories, and left the pretty spinning wheels of the olden times to decorate the cottages of the peasantry, and supply the artists with a charming object, to break the hard straight lines in his sketch."

Ahem.

ITEMS FOR THE INSULATION SHOW. Please bring the items for our sales table with you to the January 31 or February 9 meetings, and get them to either Maria Steve or Jean Warholic. If you cannot get them to the meetings, then make sure you leave them with Jean Warholic. (NONE will be accepted at the sales table at the INSULATION show.)

Your items must be tagged with the following information: Your name/address. Fiber content. Care instructions. Price. (The Guild will skim 10% of anything that is sold to cover the costs of the table rental/fee, so price your items accordingly.) If you are willing to take orders for items (i.e., different colors, sizes, etc.), tell Jean or note it on your inventory sheet.

If you have more than one item, Jean will need an inventory sheet -- list the items for sale, their prices, a brief description (gray poncho, brown shawl, etc.), whether you will take orders, and your name/address. This is for your record as well as ours. Items for sale preferred. Items for exhibit only should be tagged as if for sale, but instead of a price, mark NSF prominently on the tag.

Questions? See Jean Warholic. All helping hands welcome on the sales table -- sign up at the meetings coming up. Customers will be contacting you directly for orders (we won't take any at the show); otherwise, all sales are final.

This should be an inspirational show! We hope you will come and help for whatever length of time you can spare that weekend. And be sure to look around, see what others are doing these days...**MEAND COME BUY!!!!**

THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES FIBER CONFERENCE is going to be held in Rochester this fall. You will hear more about it as plans finalize. The 7VWG has been asked to consider hosting it in 1983...

WE WERE SORRY to hear that one of Eleanor May's bred ewes was killed by a dog recently. Roaming dogs, particularly pets, can be a real problem for anyone with sheep, and any time during the year. We all hope Eleanor doesn't have any more trouble. (The dog was shot and wounded, but no one has owned up to it as being theirs yet.) And the Mays have a very small flock, which doesn't make the loss any easier...

WHEW -- long newsletter. Glad you've born with it so far... (Grinning, too?)

THE THREE INDIGO DYEPOTS handout, from the dyepots we did last summer, is at long last included. Hope you will put it to good use! Certainly we will use it in July at our indigo/cochineal dyepots session. The list of references is not intended to be exhaustive, but ones you can either find readily at your favorite craft shop, or order. If you spot any gross errors in the handout, please let Jean Warholic know -- it was typed in a rush and at a rather bleary-eyed hour...

Just received the bonus newsletter from Interweave Press. Interweave and Handwoven become Handwoven, eff. March 1981. They are also going to put out "Interweave Technical Papers" for those of us who are playing Bach fugues on our looms while others are still at chopsticks. (\$10/year: Interweave Technical Papers, 306 North Washington, Loveland, CO 80537. For "hard-core" weavers... Spin-Offs will continue annually! We have Interweave in our modest Guild library (although our subscription may have lapsed?), if you wish to check it out... And their subscription rates go up (what doesn't, these days?) as of March 1.

MANY THANKS to Daisy Kirkpatrick for her rendition of the Spinning Wheel Song included with this newsletter, at Rock Day on the church piano. It was FUN to hear -- hope you will sit down and play it, if you missed Rock Day, or lean on someone who is piano-inclined... (We should take the author of the description of the song to task -- the spinning wheel turning may be repetitious, but not monotonous! Or maybe that is just a spinners' point of view...) Spouses have been known to feel differently!

Well, this newsletter goes into the mail a little later than planned. Your editor's bout with the flu didn't help. DEADLINE for next newsletter is February 9, although it will go into the mail toward the end of the month. We may well have a new format for the newsletter by then... Hmmm...

-- happy spinning

Jean

THREE INDIGO DYEPOTS

Indigo is one of the oldest dyes known to man. Its history and dye processes are documented in a number of publications, old and new -- you may read more in the references at the end of this sheet. Too often, today's spinners and dyers are reluctant to dye with indigo, largely because it has seemed too complicated and unpredictable. This handout should help you understand the processes better and, hopefully, allay those fears. Most fibers (all natural and many man-made ones) may be dyed with indigo with no additional preparation other than cleaning and wetting. The indigo dyepot can be renewed and used over a long period of time, which would add to its economy. With overdyeing (or topdyeing), indigo offers a whole new range of color possibilities for us. And it is a rather spectacular process to see and do -- with a little practice, you can add a "magic feat" to your dyeing demonstrations!

As with any new dye process, you should read carefully through these directions and recipes. Decide which appeals to you. The first method is mentioned in dyebooks more frequently, but involves more caustic substances. The Spectralite process has some advantages, one of which is that it does not deteriorate over a period of time, and less quantity is needed. The last method, using ammonia, is relatively inexpensive, but smelly. (The purists are welcome to go ahead and use stale urine if they choose, instead of the purchased ammonia!) Ideally, you should try all three methods at some point, for the experience...

It is important to understand something about what happens during indigo dyeing, so that you can do some problem solving when things go wrong. (For considerably more information, see Gerber's indigo book. The rest of this paragraph is a paraphrase from his book, p. 28.) The first step in the preparation of the dyebath (we ~~use~~ assume that you are using purchased indigo, ready to use) is the *REDUCTION* of the indigo, converting it to indigo white. Pulverize the indigo to aid in its water solubility and add to the sodium hydrosulfite solution to chemically change, or reduce, it. No reduction, no color. Then there is the *SOLUTION* of the indigo white in a suitable alkaline bath. (Deoxygenizing takes place here too, so do not stir the dyebath vigorously at any time.) Depending upon the recipe used, that alkaline bath is the sodium hydroxide or the ammonia bath. Incomplete solution will result in a chalky precipitate on your dyed fiber -- it will wash out, but is a waste of dyestuff when you can rectify it. On the other hand, insufficient alkaline bath can result in the fiber turning blue in the dyebath instead of after its removal and exposure to air. Then there is the *APPLICATION* of the reduced and dissolved indigo white to the fibers, and the *REOXIDATION* of the indigo white, in place on the fibers -- or the dipping/dyeing process. "Crocking" or the rubbing off of dye from the fiber indicates that oxidation took place before the dye attached to the fiber -- check your balance between the acid and alkaline used.

So now you are ready to dye. The dyebath should be a yellow-green color. Test for readiness with a piece of fiber. Your fiber should be clean and thoroughly wetted (to insure even dyeing), and squeezed to get rid of excess moisture. Introduce the fiber carefully, without adding air bubbles or stirring actively. (Some dyers press it against the side of the pot and ease it in.) Squeeze it gently in the pot, to release trapped air bubbles, and move it slowly in the pot a few times to insure even exposure to the dyebath. Leave in the dyebath about 10 minutes (depending on the color you want, but read on!). Bring the fiber out of the dyebath carefully, squeezing out the excess dye. Shake the fiber in the air. (This is when it magically turns blue, as the indigo reoxidizes.) Keep shaking, turning the fiber. The fiber's oxidizing should be in direct proportion to the amount of time in the dyebath -- i.e., 10 minutes in the dyebath, at least 10 minutes in the air. *COLOR is built up by successive dippings, not by the quantity of indigo dye used or increased time in the dyebath.*

Before you begin, a caution: WEAR RUBBER GLOVES. Caustic substances are involved and handle them carefully -- always add acid to water, not vice versa; be careful of splashing.

After you are through dyeing; Air the fiber overnight (24 hours is preferred), then wash in warm, soapy water, rinse well, and hang to dry, preferably out of direct sunlight. The dyebath may be stored in glass or enamel containers, with lids on. Revive as needed, using the above guide to determine what needs to be done...

And HAVE FUN, with many happy blues!!!

(Recipes are for about 1-lb. of dry fiber.)

RECIPE I. Hydrosulfite Vat Process (Violetta Thurston)

3-oz. caustic soda (sodium hydroxide) [alkali]

2-oz. sodium hydrosulfite [reducing agent]

2-oz. powdered indigo (or paste)

hot water (130°F)

non-iodized salt

2 pint jars

1 large pot for stock solution

saucepan

glass or steel stirring rod

thermometer

(If you have trouble obtaining the sodium hydroxide, you may use sodium carbonate [washing soda] or lye [100% active ingredient is sodium hydroxide]. For sodium hydrosulfite, try Tintex or Rit Color Remover as they contain this chemical.)

Part A. (1) Pulverize indigo. Make into paste by adding a little warm water. (2) Add sodium hydroxide to one pint of hot water. (3) Add sodium hydrosulfite to one pint hot water. (4) In saucepan, add nearly all sodium hydroxide solution and then the sodium hydrosulfite solution. Warm to 125°F. Let stand 30 minutes.

Part B. (1) Fill large pot with water at 120°F. (2) Add 2-oz. hydrosulfite solution and 1-oz. non-iodized salt. Stir well and leave for 20 minutes. This deoxygenates the water. (3) Add 1-oz. of indigo stock solution, avoiding making air bubbles. If vat feels slimy, there is too much sodium hydroxide (add a little sodium hydrosulfite). (4) Temperature should stay between 120°F and 130°F -- the vat can be destroyed at 140°F.

RECIPE II. Spectralite Process

Follow Recipe I, using the following: 1 teaspoon Spectralite for the 2-oz. sodium hydrosulfite (and wherever the hydrosulfite is required). Have vat temperature at 80°F to 100°F, not hotter. Add small amount of Spectralite if vat becomes blue from introduction of air into the liquid. (Be careful that your enamel pot does not have a chip down to metal as it will cause the Spectralite to decompose.) Spectralite should be available through your nearest dye supply shop, or have them order it for you.

RECIPE III. Ammonia Process

Part A. Using the proportions of Recipe I, combine in a quart jar, 2-oz. sodium hydrosulfite (or use 1 tsp. Spectralite) and one pint warm water, then add the indigo paste. Stir thoroughly. Stir in one pint of ammonia (non-detergent, non-sudsing plain ammonia). Let stand 30 minutes. Part B. Fill the large pot with water at 140°F. Add a small amount of sodium hydrosulfite or Spectralite. Let stand 15-20 minutes. Add about 1/2-pint of indigo solution, stirring slowly. Dyebath ready in 10-15 minutes.

SELECTED REFERENCES (Easily found, we hope!)

Adrosko, Rita, Natural Dyes and Home Dyeing (Dover). Bemis, Elijah, The Dyer's Companion (Dover). Davenport, Elsie G., Your Yarn Dyeing (Sylvan Press, London). Gerber, Frederick H., Indigo and the Antiquity of Dyeing, and The Investigative Method of Natural Dyeing (Frederick H. Gerber, P.O. Box 1355, Ormond Beach, FL 32074). Lesch, Alma, Vegetable Dyeing (Watson-Guptill Publications). Weigle, Palmy, Ancient Dyes for Modern Weavers (Watson-Guptill Publications).