



BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD NEWSLETTER  
Number 93 - November 1986

Editor: Deborah Serviente  
63 Neimi Rd  
Freeville, NY 13068  
607/347-6631

#### Next Meeting

Saturday, November 8-noon Bring in any projects of handspun completed this past year for display, discussion, and gentle critiquing. This is a good opportunity for beginning as well as experienced spinners to get feedback on technique and to get inspiration from others. The latter is perhaps one of the finest benefits of attending meetings: seeing others' work, conversing about various techniques, and generally encouraging further exploration and development of one's spinning and dyeing. Last month's program on color variegation with Pat Randolph was an exceptional example. Samples were constantly passing around the room. After Pat's presentation, one member was aided with her spinning wheel while others congregated to continue the discussion on possibilities with dyeing fibers. So plan on attending the next meeting with your projects--crude and polished.

The November meeting will also be an opportunity to elect new officers for 1987. Varna firehouse on Rte. 366 is the meeting place.

#### Subsequent Meeting

December 13-Noon Annual Christmas Party\*\*\*\*\*Bring a dish-to-pass for lunch and ornaments made from handspun fiber for a holiday show and-tell.

#### Dues

Send in your dues along with a completed membership form no later than the December meeting. Dues are important in maintaining the Guild Library, the newsletter, and rental of space for our meetings.

#### Local Fiber Sources Directory

If you are a local source of fibers for spinners or know of one, please send pertinent information to the editor for an updated directory. The last directory was compiled in 1980. A more updated version should be beneficial to us all. Deadline: December 1, 1986.

## Dyeing

Beginner Dyers\*\*Many Guild members are very experienced with dyeing. In addition, The Guild has several books on dyeing in the Library and copies of two handouts available to members on the subject: Natural Dyeing Bibliography and Traditional Dyeplants--Indigo, Madder, Cochineal, Weld, and Woad.

A Note on Hazards---Dyed wool and other fiber is beautiful and exciting but should be done with care and knowledge. The following is a brief synopsis from the book Artists Beware by Michael McCann. Additional information can be found in the book and from the non-profit group, Center for Occupational Hazards, 5 Beekman St., NY, NY 10038, 212/227-6220. Many dyes and mordants pose hazards of varying degrees to the dyer. In general, avoid skin contact by using rubber gloves, prepare natural dyes by soaking materials yourself rather than purchasing prepared powders, avoid breathing fine powders, and wash your hair after working with a powder since the powder can get trapped in hair. Of the various chemicals used in dyeing, glacial acetic acid, concentrated sulfuric acid, ammonia (ammonium hydroxide), oxalic acid, and potassium dichromate (potassium bichromate, chrome) are rated as high in toxicity. Gloves, goggles and a ventilation system are recommended with usage.

## Notes on Membership

Please note the following for your membership list:

## Changes of address

Linda Gorham  
47 Ontario St  
Honeoye Falls, NY  
14472

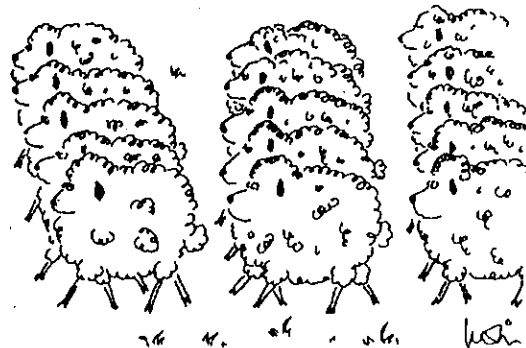
Elaine Case  
c/o Mrs. George R. Case, Jr.  
RD#1 Maxfield Rd  
Cortland, NY 13045

## New Member

Debbie Benzer  
707 N. Aurora St  
Ithaca, NY 14850



Separate yourself  
from the crowd.



VARIGATIONS ON A THEME...

(Or, ways of adding color to your handspun yarns)

Jean Warholic  
280 Ringwood Road  
Freeville, NY 13068Dye at Various Stages

1. In the fleece or raw fiber
2. In the carded or processed form - roving, sliver, top, brick, batt
3. In the skein - singles, plied
4. In the fabric or unfinished piece
5. In the finished piece or garment

(Also remember that entering dry fibers or skeins will give you a variation, whereas entering them wet will lend more consistency.)

Methods of Dyeing for Color Variety

1. Sprinkle on - rainbow dyeing (simmered in kettle)  
casserole dyeing (baked in oven)  
spot dyeing (dye small areas; bake as for casserole dyeing)
2. Spray on - simmer or bake as for rainbow or casserole dyeing
3. Dip selectively - such as dipping half a skein in a dyepot
4. Paint on - as for warp
5. Tie-dye - ikat (tightly tied), plangi (fabric stuffed and tightly tied), tritik (fabric stitched/tightly gathered)
6. Resist dye - batik (wax) or starch resist dyed (usually for fabrics)
7. Printing - usually for fabrics (various methods include block, stencil, silk screen, transfer, etc.)
8. Cross-dyeing - dye different fibers (such as a cotton and wool blend) with dye which will take to only one fiber, not the other.  
A planned difference in "take."

Methods of Combining in a Yarn

1. Spin directly from the fiber - no preparation
2. Tease lightly by hand
3. Handcard colors - roughly blending or finely blending
4. Machinecard colors - roughly or finely
5. Handcard or machinecard and layer the colors for two or more colors before spinning. (Keep in mind for same or different fibers.)
6. Dye colors separately and:
  - a. spin together (for an almost plied effect)
  - b. ply together
  - c. spin alternately (for example, red/pink/red/pink)
  - d. ply alternately (for example, a two-ply yarn using three singles)
  - e. spin a yarn, inserting small amounts of another color(s) for texture and color interest
  - f. ply two or more yarns, inserting small amounts of color.

## Coming Events

- November 3+4, 10AM-6PM Williard Straight Hall Flea Market. Contact  
Dave Lewis 204 Williard Straight Hall, Cornell University,  
Ithaca, NY 14853. 607/255-9507
- November 7+8 Anne Kreckle Workshop hosted by Seven Valley Weavers Guild.  
Fashions from Handwoven Fabric. Pattern adaptation,  
finishing techniques, and construction details. Bring  
handwoven fabric. For info, contact Mary Ann 257-5754.
- December 1-3 Cornell Crafts Fair, juried. For info, contact Sharon  
Adams, Dep't of Unions and Activities, Williard Straight  
Hall, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY 14853. 607/255-4311.

## Advertisements

Advertising Rates: 1-3 lines, \$1 for one time, \$2 for 3 times  
4-12 lines, \$5 for one time  
13 lines-½ page, \$10 for one time

- \* For Sale: Handcrafted Putney Mountain Loom. Solid Cherry, Jack type,  
4 harness (room for more). A beautiful loom. 50" weaving width.  
Excellent condition. Pat Maxon, Waystation Yarns, Greene Depot, Green,  
NY 13778. 607/656-7669. 3/3
- \* For Sale: 45" Nilus Le Clerc Loom- 4 harness, 6 treadle, 2 reeds, bench,  
and shuttle included. Fine condition. \$625 (would be over \$1000 new)  
Denise Nunn 607/642-5568 3/3
- \* For Sale: 8 harness Loom. Journey Wheel. Also Hand cards, Warping Board,  
and Reel. German Angora rabbits and 2 hanging rabbit cages. Erica  
Lynne 315/422-3505. Leave message. 2/3
- \* For sale: 45" Leclerc 4 harness counter-balanced with sectional warp  
beam and multiple tie up. Also oak warping board and some yarns and  
shuttles. Cindy Carpenter 272-4625 (607)
- \* Yarn for sale. 100% wool, moth proofed, on cones. Strong enough for  
warp. Good for knitting, too. \$3.50 per pound. Debbie 607/347-6631
- \*For Sale: Studio/Singer bulky ribber used about 3 times, \$175.  
Spring lamb fleeces, clean and soft. Kathie Garnsey 315/364-8889

\*\*\*\*\*

During the 1950's my youngest daughter had sheep as her 4-H project. As she grew older she wanted so much to learn to spin, but we couldn't find a teacher until she was in college. I took the lessons instead.

My teacher had classes during the week. Because I worked, I had my lesson alone on Saturday. My first was on a warm fall day. She greeted me on her warm sunny porch with the proclamation, "The only way to really experience the joy of spinning is to do it in the sun in the nude!" To say the least I was surprised! She went on to explain the nearness of the neighbors made this impossible, however, the next best way to know the joy of spinning in a relaxed manner was to start with a glass of sherry! That first Saturday was a happy blend of sunlight, sherry, and spinning!

As time went on, though the sherry was no more, the relaxed atmosphere was always there. The frustrations that go with learning to control the wheel and one's hands never seemed distressing. I looked forward to my time with her as a time of peace and happiness.

\*\*\*\*\*

During the years my mother lived in a nursing home, my husband and I were active volunteers, helping with parties, carving ham or turkey on holidays, setting up the pins for bowling, etc. One of my activities I remember with great pleasure. On Friday afternoons I took my spinning wheel and for two hours I sat in the midst of a group of women with occasionally a man joining us. I wore my long-skirted spinning dress and apron.

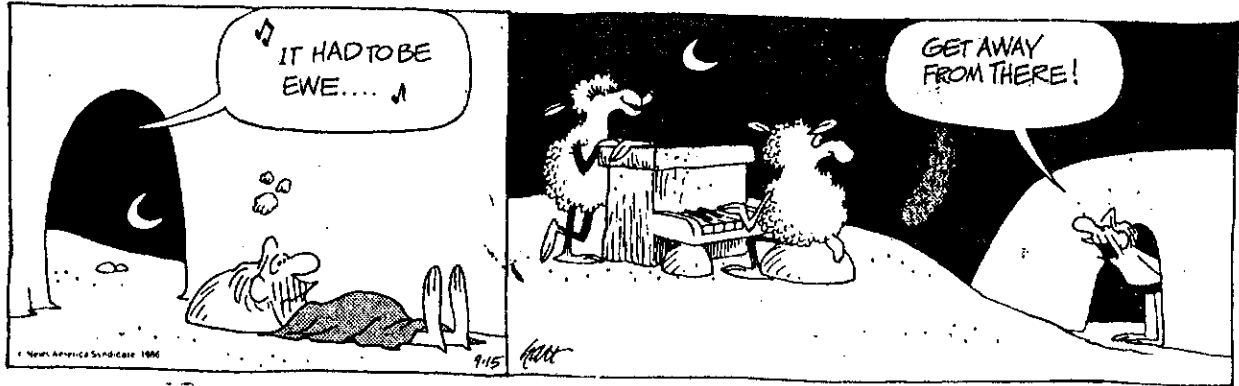
In the beginning we talked about spinning and I showed them some of my finished articles. All of this stimulated long-ago memories. One woman was delighted to recall the farm, sheep, and spinning of a happy time in her life. Several remembered their grandmothers' spinning.

As time went on we did less talking. I would spin while my mother sat next to me teasing wool. Everyone was in a circle watching me and I could feel the peace descend on us all. Many, including my mother, would doze off from time to time and that was okay. There was always contentment and quiet at a time of day that was often difficult with a restlessness coming upon many as the day came to a close. The director often told me that looking in on us always filled him with a great sense of peace.

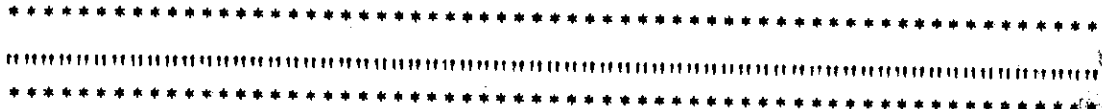
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These stories were contributed by Kerstin Tribby. If you have personal anecdotes or straight factual information to share with the Guild they would be very welcome.

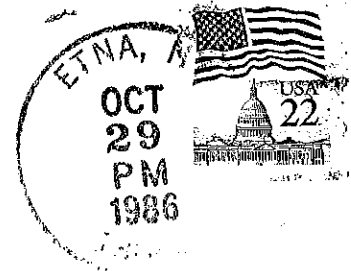
B.C.



It's a girl!! Congradulations to Marie Bryhan and family!



BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD  
 PO Box 6701  
 Ithaca, N.Y. 14850



**FIRST CLASS**

Kay Riddell Stickane  
 486 Hayts Road  
 Ithaca, NY 14850

STI 06 6R31MC91 10/31/86  
 NOTIFY SENDER OF NEW ADDRESS  
 STICKANE  
 64 WILLOW CREEK RD  
 ITHACA NY 14850-9517