



BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD NEWSLETTER
Number 112 - September 1988

Editor: Debbie Serviente, 63 Neimi Rd, Freeville, NY 13068. 347-6631

UPCOMING MEETINGS *****

September 10, Noon. We'll be back in Varna at the community building/
Fire Station on Rte 366. Join us for a program on Blending Exotic
Fibers with Nancy Morey. Be sure to bring wheels, cards, cotton
cards, for a hands-on experience. If you've spent time at Nancy's
booth at Market Day, you already have some idea of what's in store for
us during this meeting. Blending fibers can add a whole new dimension
to your spinning. It's been a long (hot!) summer -- come share your
summer projects or get back into spinning now that the weather will be
cooling down.

October 8, Noon in Varna. Do you have lots of old goodies lying
around that are beginning to seem like junk to you? Bring them to the
Oct. meeting for a swap and barter where your dust collectors can
become someone else's treasures. We'll also be forming a nominating
committee for next months' officer elections. Or maybe you're interested
in taking on an officer position?! It's so easy to fall into the
pattern of relying on a few people to do the organizing, but no where
near as much fun and interesting as sharing the tasks among many.
Rotating the responsibilities brings new ideas, keeping the guild
alive and hopping.

November 12, Noon For BSHG-ers, November traditionally is a month
of beginning and of ending. Each member agrees to make at least one
project a year from handspun. In Nov, members bring their projects
for critquing. This year Kay is arranging to have someone not in the
guild come in to critique our work. So if you have something started
that's been sitting in a corner waiting for the right moment to be
finished, why not get it ready for Nov? Through such events, we can
all move on to more and better spinning. We will also be electing new
officers for the coming year. In addition, there will be a discussion/talk
on presentation of your handspun for exhibitions and competitions,
such as the State Fair. What do the judges look for? What is the
best way to tie up skeins? etc.

SUMMER GUILD NEWS ***** On Friday, August 26, I was greeted by Shelly at the Wool Center at the New York State Fair. For a few morning hours we passed the time spinning and answering the questions of visitors to the Fair. I soon left, though she stayed on till 8 PM, arriving home with enough yarn for a sweater! The fiber this year was Cheviot. Bags of carded fibers were displayed on shelves behind us in a large array of dyed colors. Across the aisle, one person carded fleece while another demonstrated natural and kool-aid dyeing. Another woman was spinning on a vertical spinner, a large peice of wooden wonder which spun 10 skeins at once from pencil rovings. Another woman was weaving, while yet another spun on the great wheel. Several of the wheels present were made by Ed Adkins, who was spinning on a weighted spindle to my left. His treadle wheels had two pedals, one for each foot, which alternated. Before long, Shelly was whizzing along at great speeds on it to my right, and Madaline Adkins was doing likewise on my left. Sometime later Nancy Morey showed up as well as members of local Syracuse guild. We had a lot of fun demonstrating. It is amazing how excited passers-by become by all the activity. Thanks to everyone who helped out and especially to Millie in Syracuse who kept it all going smoothly. If you missed this opportunity to demonstrate, check out Pioneer Days at the Cayuga Nature Center in October. Details to follow →

SHEEP-SHAWL CONTEST at the State Fair is scheduled for September 4th. This is the first year that BSHG is sending a team, so if you can make it, come to Syracuse to cheer them on! Ellie May reports:

The sheep-to-shawl team is ready to go! Our shawl will have a multi-colored warp, beautifully dyed by Debbie Miller, and a grey handspun weft, the fleece donated by Michelle Reif and flock. We have practiced twice and finished in the allotted time, so we are hopeful to do well!

Jay Miller is our good-natured and -humored shearer and carder. Spinners are Debbie Miller, Jean Currie and Debbie Benzer. Weaver is Ellie May. Kay Stickane and Michelle Reif are good moral support, with Kay serving as back up person.

Come join us September 4th!



September 1988

AND MORE NEWS ***** Ellie May met past president Suzie Hokanson recently. She is currently working as a teacher for migrant teenagers. She still has time for some spinning and weaving, and she hopes to come to the September meeting. Her daughter Kristin left this week for Japan as a Rotary Exchange Student.

For long-time members who remember several Cherry Valley Country Spinners who often came to our Rock Days or workshops, we are sorry to relay some sad news: Kathy Nash's son B.J. was killed in a tragic motorcycle accident on the night before our Spinners Market Day in June. He was only 20 (?) and some of us remember how helpful he was with the spinning seminar in Norwich and at other events Kathy was involved in. Dee Atknison is battling cancer, enduring chemotherapy and its side-effects, but keeping a positive outlook. She is home most of the time and would appreciate hearing from friends (315/673-1156 -- or call Jean Warholic for address.) Shirley Dietz died recently. Again she was very active in the CVCS, especially in its early days. The CVCS is planning to add a book in her memory to their library. If you would like to contribute, call Shirley Howe (315/655-8883.)

Alice Wood, a long time BSHG member from years past, is in the process of weeding out some of her spinning accumulations. She has her Ashford wheel (ca. 1974?) for sale for \$150, including the lazy kate and extra bobbins. She has generously given the guild her backlog of dyestuffs. (Jean W. will bring these to the Sept. meeting.) Guild members are welcome to the dyes, etc. -- while it would be nice to have these used for guild projects or workshops, they don't have to be. See if there is something you can use...

Unfortunately, the August field trip to Bill Ralph's was cancelled because not enough people could attend. Thank you Bill and Victoria for your generous offer. I hope we can reschedule this trip for later in the fall.

The July meeting at Mary Ann Sumner's was small and pleasant. We gathered for a lunch, sat spinning in her new addition. It was too hot for dye pots! Perhaps the dyeing program should be shifted to the

September 1988

fall when the weather is more conducive to standing over a fire.
(Same thing happened last year!) Also natural dye plants are more available then.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS ***** Please update your lists....and WELCOME!!

Gail Fulkerson	Joanna Wanagel	Marlee Champoux	Barry
19 Dawson Hill	266 Sheldon Rd	128 Christopher Circle	
Spencer, NY 14883	Freeville, NY 13068	Ithaca, NY 14850	
589-4886	347-4756	257-2330	

Carol D Nicoll	Alison Lovejoy
RD. 1, Box 188A	1022 Sarah Lane
Parson Road	Endicott, NY 13760
Berkshire, NY 13736	748-3525
657-8491	

THE CENTRAL NEW YORK SPINNING SEMINAR ***** is filling up fast -- send in your registration if you plan to attend. Don't have the information? Call the Bixby's at 315/337-7217.

This year's promises to be bigger and better than ever -- how can it not be with the Bixby's heading it?! -- and some of us "oldies" were glad to see the introduction of new faces and talents from previous years. Yes, it is expensive, or at least more so than in past years, but it is also a turning point for this seminar and it is an important investment in YOURSELF and your spinning interests. And we have been spoiled in the past by cheap workshops -- yes, we have!

There is something for everyone at the Seminar. It is our major handspinning seminar to attend in New York. Take a good look at the offerings, and plan to go. And, of course, one of the best fringe benefits is the opportunity to meet new spinning friends...

--Jean Warholic

*THEY MEET EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT:HUNGARIANS IN TOMPKINS COUNTY *****

It may sound like the title to a spy novel, but it's actually the title of a new exhibit at the Dewitt Historical Society at the Clinton House museum, 116 N Cayuga St in Ithaca. The exhibit includes some beautiful items especially of interest to those working in textiles. Concurrently there is a modest American Indian exhibit at the Dewitt; the beadwork items are well worth admiring. There is no admission fee at the museum. Hours are 12:30-5:00 PM, Tues-Fri, and 10-3 Sat. The exhibit will be up into Spring 1989.

September 1988

UGA NATURE CENTER PIONEER FESTIVAL *****

Proposal by Eleanor May

This is always a neat place to demonstrate because the people that come are really interested in learning. Lots of parents bring their children and help the children understand and practice with them. This year I suggested to the organizers we might be willing to do the whole process -- not a sheep-to-shawl contest -- rather demonstrating the whole process, and have drop spindles and wheels for practice. I could bring my Ashford and the guild's as well. We would need people to card, spin, weave, knit, etc. Maybe even dye. And many people to teach. Will you help at this particularly nice event???

Date is October 22, 10-4

There will be a sign-up sheet at the September meeting, or call me at home, 272-8224. I need to make a comittment to the Nature Center. If 10-4 is too long a time, we could have shifts. It's nice, too, to have time to see other exhibits. (P.S. In years past, The Nature Center has given a free membership to demonstrators.)

"The Festival will include music, storytelling, dancing, nature walks, contests, and an old-fashioned, hearty meal. It is a fun, educational and all-around worthwhile experience which draws 1000-1500 people each year. It gives exhibitors unique exposure while they provide an education for young and old alike who come from around the Finger Lakes region."

EXTRA WARM FLEECE-LINED MITTENS ***** by Nickie Shannon, Genesee Valley Handspinners Guild

Materials: Wool Fleece (about 3 oz,) or rovings with a fairly long staple, 2-3 inches. Fleece should be carefully washed and carded. Then divide fleece into small "tufts" with individual fibers going parallel. One tuft should be about the diameter of a #5 knitting needle. Knitting Yarn suitable for mittens.

Cast on your favorite mitten pattern. Knit ribbing for cuff as usual. Change to stockinette and knit about one inch. While continuing in pattern, begin adding fleece every 5th stitch and every 4th row or according to your gauge. You want the fleece tufts to be one inch apart with about 1/2 - 5/8 inches between rows of fleece.

How to Add Fleece: Place right needle through stitich on left and lay tuft over the same way yarn is placed for an ordinary stitch. Add yarn and knit yarn and tuft together as one. The fleece ends both remain on back or inside. On the following row knit yarn and tuft together. This "locks" fleece in place. If fleece color contrasts with knitting yarn, a pattern can be created while adding fleece.

The wool fleece liner tends to mat up with wear, but it can be carefully combed with a heavy-duty dog comb. Mittens should be washed by hand and liner can be combed out when dry.



NEW YORK STATE FAIR WINNERS 1988 HANDSPUN *****

Yarns for Clothing
 1st Madaline Adkins
 2nd Marguerite Hickernell
 3rd Wendy Chavin
 4th Michelle Reif
 HM (Honorable Mention)
 Marilyn Brown
 Edith Cook
 Patricia Schneider
 Mary Lynch
 Thomas Coe
 Blanche Marsalla

Garment for Infant/Child
 Sandra Squires
 Kay Stickane

 Vernice Church

Heavy Duty Yarns
 no entries

CONGRATULATIONS
 ALL!!!

Adult Sweater
 1st Edith Cook
 2nd Madaline Adkins
 3rd Lisa LaRue
 4th Chris Radigan
 HM Lee Ilissoo
 Marilyn Brown
 Vernice Church
 Michelle Reif
 Sharon Wuerschmidt
 Patricia Schneider

Adult Hat/Scarf or Mittens Set

Lee Ilissoo
 Mary Lynch



Other Adult Garment
 1st Vernice Church
 2nd Sharon Wuerschmidt
 3rd Blanch Marsella
 4th Edith Cook
 HM

Wallhanging
 Edith Cook

 Betsy Walker
 Wendy Chavin

TREASURER'S REPORT AUG 87 - Aug 88 *****

	<u>CREDIT</u>	<u>DEBIT</u>
Membership	\$674.00	
Wheel Rental	25.00	
Carder Rental	20.00	
Insurance		\$177.00
PO Box Rental		22.00
Library (\$57 magazine subscription)	19.30	117.76
Newsletter Ads	23.00	
Newsletter Printing	227.72	227.72
Newsletter Postage		60.86
Hall Rental		135.00
Refreshments		6.63
Rock Day		45.14
Market Day	675.42	130.61
Beginners Workshop	37.00	13.06
Misc Programs		12.47
Other (donations to Arts Council, NY State Fair, etc)		83.36

TOTALS

\$1473.72 \$1031.61

Current Bank Balance : \$784.92 (8/15/88)

September 1988

A VISIT TO THE RIBBON FACTORY

On Thursday, August 4, Jean Warholic joined a group of handspinners from the Cherry Valley Country Spinners (Cazenovia, NY) for a tour of the L.A. Najarian Ribbon Factory in Greene, NY. While it was another one of those blisteringly hot, humid days we've been cursed with this summer, we all enjoyed the tour immensely and learned a great deal.

The factory was established in 1932 in Greene, has been in the same building since 1937, and is now run by the founder's son, Dick Najarian. There are six employees in the factory, most of whom have been with the business for years, and all of them are familiar with every step of the production process.

We were treated to seeing the whole process, from warping to finished (and sized) ribbons. All work is done on small, mechanized tape looms. There are also several jacquard looms (set up to do clothing labels) which were not in operation when we visited.-- they are a combination of mini-jacs and dobbies.

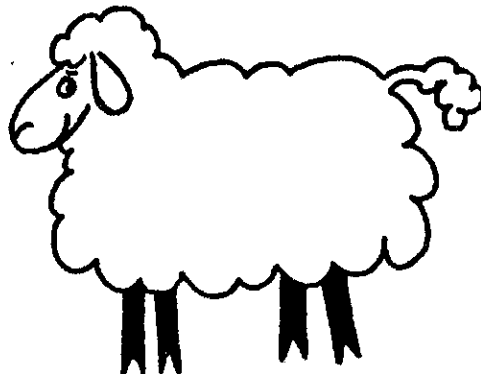
At the time we visited, they were finishing up the ribbon and tape orders for Christmas -- so we saw a lot of red, green, gold, and silver being used. Shortly, they will gear up for the spring orders and warp and re-thread for those colors and patterns. The factory does only custom orders for other companies, and weaves widths from $\frac{1}{4}$ " to 5". They use polyesters, rayons and metallics, and they do lace weaves, plain, twill, and grosgrain weaves, in addition to a variety of embroidered patterns. They do specialize in metallic ribbons as well.

The L.A. Najarian Ribbon Factory is "the biggest of the small manufacturers" in New England -- where the few ribbons factories in the U.S. are located. In addition to the many tapes and ribbons they make, they also produce what we might not think of in relation to a ribbon factory: diploma ribbons, camera straps, clothing labels, hat bands, and other specialty items. Much of what they produce now is for crafts and florists -- stiff ribbon for looking at, not for constant use and washing. The production of florists' ribbon is perhaps the biggest boost to the ribbon industry in recent years, since trimmings have not been "big" on clothing in some years. (Although owner Dick Najarian thinks that since the clothing designers have now made everything as plain and simple as possible, trimmings may be in for renewed interest, to keep women buying clothes.) They are also getting in machinery soon so they can produce "watermark" ribbon.

One of the attractions of the factory for a number of people is the craft/ribbon outlet at the back of the factory. That sales area is about to be moved into spiffy new quarters -- at the time we visited in August, a new addition is being built on the factory to house the shop. They carry a big variety of ribbons (their own and other companies') as well as every conceivable craft/hobby item. Their overruns and odd lots are also available there.

It may come as a surprise to some BSHGers that we have such an interesting place so closeby. (Greene is about a 40-minute drive from Ithaca.) Dick will gladly give a tour (groups preferred) with adequate notice. Perhaps we should consider a "field trip" for one of next year's programs. There is much to see and learn from a visit there -- and you will never look at a piece of ribbon with the same eyes again!

-- Jean Warholic



CONVERGENCE '88 *****

Marianne and Tim Horchler of The Woolery in Genoa went to Convergence this year. I spoke to Marianne on the phone for her impressions: Convergence is a fiber conference sponsored by The Handweavers Guild of America. These are the folks that publish Shuttle, Spindle, and Dyepot magazine. The conference is held every two years, usually in the summer. Two years ago it was in Toronto; this year it was in downtown Chicago; two years from now it will be in San José, California. Convergence is one of the largest fiber events going on. This year there were 85 teachers, some of whom offered more than one class. Classes were given in weaving, felting, basketry, spinning, dyeing, bobbin lace and other areas of fiber arts, with an emphasis on weaving. July 8,9,10 were the main days of the conference with classes and exhibits all three days. Following that were 3-5 day workshops for registrants. During the three main days there were over 100 exhibitors, including most of the major manufacturers and distributors in the field. The 1700 registrants for classes came from all over the U.S., including Hawaii and Alaska, and overseas. In addition, the exhibits were open to the public, as were the fashion show and other side events. As it got to 120° F (!) Marianne spent most of her time in the cool of the Hyatt Regency which housed the event. In addition, because of haziness and pollution, there were "ozone warnings" of #2. I'm not sure what that means, but it doesn't sound pleasant.

They met many people in the field. Richard Ashford from New Zealand (of Ashford Wheels) informed them that The Woolery is one of the top 5 sellers of Ashfords in the US. They also met Mabel Ross from Scotland, author of several good handspinning books. She was selling a new item, Spinners Knee Cloth, a device designed to help control the thickness and twist of your yarns. While it is difficult to describe how it works, everyone who took Mabel's class bought one. There was a couple selling a book called Sleeves which was all about different sleeve possibilities for garments. Each of them wore a different and very fancy sleeve on each side of their garments. Harrisville had some new yarns and colors and they are working with Peter Collinwood to create a Counter-Marche loom for next year. The Woolie Winder is now available for the Schacht wheel. The winder moves the yarn along the bobbin on your wheel so that you don't have to stop to change hooks. Some interesting new books to look for: Indigo from Seed to Dye by Dorothy Miller; Hands-On Dyeing from Interweave Press; Knitting on the Loom by Birgit Barron.

ADVERTISEMENTS *****

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

Mohair (raw) \$6/pound, mohair form kid \$10/pound. Fleece from assorted breeds of sheep, \$1.75 and \$2/pound. Angora doe kid \$200, bucks, wethers \$150. Laura 564-9223. 3/3

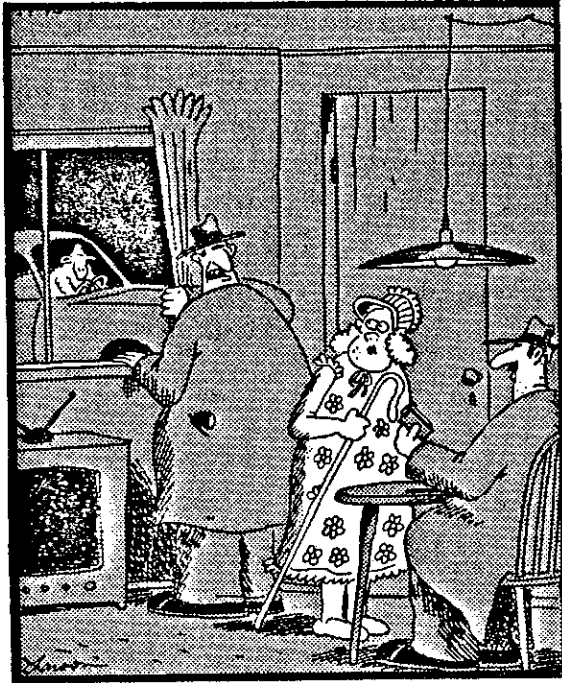
Holly Near at Bailey Hall Friday, Sept 30, 8PM. Childcare provided. Wheelchair assessable. ASL interpreter. Opening Act, The Brothers - Afro-Latin, Afro-American, African percussion music. Benefit for childcare in Tompkins County and in Nicaragua. Tickets available in town or call Debbie 347-6631.

UPCOMING EVENTS *****

- Sept 11 & 18 Beginning 4-Harness Weaving with Mary Ann Sumner at The Woolery 315/497-1542
- Sept 24 Octagon Fair, Elmira College
- Sept 24 & Oct 1 Beginning Handspinning. The Woolery. 315/497-1542
- Oct 1 Fiberfest, Cobleskill Fairgrounds, Sponsored by Schoharie County Sheepman's Ass'n. Commercial exhibitors, demonstrations of spinning, weaving, knitting, fleece grading, sheep dogs, shearing, etc. Ann Vicary, Box 784, Cooperstown, NY 13326
- Oct 8 & 9 Eighth Annual Ithaca Lace Day sponsored by Finger Lakes Lace Guild at the Women's Community Building, 100 W Seneca
- Holly Van Sciver 277-0498
- Oct 8 & 9 1988 Harvest Craft Show and Sale sponsored by Downtown Ithaca Business Ass'n.
- Oct 9 Beginning Bobbin Lacemaking. The Woolery. 315/497-1542
- Oct 15 & 16 Central New York Handspinning Seminar. 315/337-7217
- Oct 22 Wool Festival and Bred Ewe Sale, Rheinbeck, NY. Alice Johns invites BSHG-ers to call her to set up B&B arrangements with local guild members
- Oct 22 Pioneer Festival at Cayuga Nature Center
- June 15-18 Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference 1989, SUNY Geneseo, NY To get on Mailing list: Laurel Araghi, 906 DeWitt Rd, Webster, NY 14580
- June 23-25 1989 World Congress on Colored Sheep. A gathering of fibre artists, craftsmen, sheep and wool producers from around the world. Info: Sheepville Productions, PO Box 131, Bear Creek Rd, Curtin, Oregon 97428. 503/942-2577.

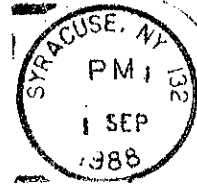
September 1988

Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome. I'd particularly like to see pictures and articles.
Deadline for October newsletter is September 26, Monday.



"Hold!!! There's a car across the street—
you sure you weren't followed, Mary?"

BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD
PO BOX 6701
ITHACA, NY 14851



**** OCTOBER 5-11 ****
** NATIONAL SPINNING & WEAVING WEEK **



Kay R Stickane
64 Willow Creek Rd
Ithaca, NY 14850