

December
2014

ROVINOS

A Message from the President

Greetings to all,

The year 2014 is almost at its end, bringing reflections on the year's events and the opportunity to look forward to 2015. I had lots of fun along the way, and learned new things from you, whether during show and tell or through demos like the indigo workshop. This is, I think, what the guild is all about. A big "Thank you" goes to Marjorie for her efforts in bringing us the excellent Beth Smith workshop--it was so inspiring that I have since washed 3 pounds each of Cotswold and Border Leicester fleece in anticipation of spinning them up. This time I WILL know in advance of spinning what each fleece wants to be, and experiment re the technique to be employed. We need more hours in the day, I think. Our group has participated in many events this year which bring our love of spinning into the public eye, from the wool booth at the State Fair to the Eight Square schoolhouse. It would be interesting to have a listing of these events, for information on the extent of our outreach and to be a reference to opportunities available in the community for volunteering and demonstrating. To that end I will ask all to list events they participated in or know of, at the next meeting or by email, which will be organized and posted. Sort of like a calendar that we can refer to. We have events to look forward to in 2015, starting with our Roc Day celebration next month. Also scheduled are: a demo by Robin Nistock, our garage sale/member-made day, a roving and skein dyeing workshop, and more. Please do let Audrey or me know of any technique or skill that you would like to explore in a guild meeting. So come to the meeting for camaraderie, holiday food, the fashion show, and the gift exchange (if you wish). I have enjoyed the company of each and every one of you, and look forward to continuing that company, learning, and fun in the coming year.

—Sharon

December 13

**A Holiday Party!
Dress festively, bring
a holiday dish to pass
and a gift (\$10 or
under) for the gift
exchange if you want
to take part.**

President [Sharon Gombas](#)
Vice President [Sue Quick](#)
Secretary [Lynne Anguish](#)
Treasurer [Vickie Marsted](#)
Newsletter [Wayne Harbert](#)
Membership [Marjorie Inana](#)
Programming [Audrey Lowes](#)
& [Marjorie Inana](#)
Webmaster [Rosane Mordt](#)

**p. 2 FIBERY EVENTS, VENDORS,
CALL FOR ROC DAY
VOLUNTEERS**

**P. 3 PICTURES FROM THE
WORKSHOP, CORRECTIONS.**

P. 4 SEA SILK

P. 5 SKEIN COMPETITION GUIDELINES

PP. 6 - 7 ADS

The Black Sheep meet from 11am - 3pm on the 2nd Saturday of each month at All Saints Church Parish Hall, Route 34B, in Lansing, NY.

Still time to volunteer for Roc Day!

Help run the event! Contact Audrey.

Demonstrate! Spinners welcome, especially those who spin on unusual equipment or with unusual techniques, but we are also interested in those who can teach us about other, perhaps less familiar fiber-related crafts or skills. Contact Wayne.

Create items for the auction! Give them to Sharon or Ellie.

2015 Roc Day Vendors

Mary Miller/DearMary Handspun and Handwoven: Hand-woven and hand-spun towels, scarves, and placemats as well as hand-knit socks from my hand-spun yarns. Hand-spun skeins, from cobweb to chunky weight, from dyers such as Hello Yarn, Southern Cross, and Spunky Eclectic.

mmiller8@twcny.rr.com

Laurie Ament, glassmaker: Handmade drop spindles with glass whorls, other tools incorporating glass.

isinglassdesign@yahoo.com

Karey Solomon/Graceful Arts Fiber Studio: Dyed roving, hand-dyed sock yarns, knitting, crocheting and tatting supplies. threads@empace.net www.Gracefulartsfiberstudio.com

Holly Partridge: Teesdale fleeces and locks, other breeds to include Wensleydale.

Susan Sarabasha/Susan's Spinning Bunny: Hand-dyed fibers and yarns, wheels, patterns, kits, accessories and felting supplies. susan@spinningbunny.com www.spinningbunny.com

Jim Johnson/Hilltop Woodworking: Hand-turned spindles, folding spinning stools, Spin'n Rides, wheels and other spinning accessories. hilltoppaddles@earthlink.net

Lisa Merian/Spinner's Hill: Hand-dyed roving, fiber blends, batts and yarns. Also fiber arts supplies. www.spinnershill.com

Margaret Flowers/Trinity Farm: Icelandic fibers, hand-made soaps, other spinning-related products.

Kelly Terwilliger/Llady Llama Fiber Co.: Hand-painted yarn and carded fiber batts, hand-turned drop spindles, niddy-noddies, diz and threader sets, orifice hooks and shawl pins. Project totes and needle cases. www.lladyllamafiberco.esty.com

Robin Nistock/Nistock Farms: Roving, dyed locks, dyed sliver. Drop spindle kits, sheepskins. sheepmom@empace.net www.nistockfarms.com

Fibery Events

The 2015 retreat at Stella Maris is scheduled for the last weekend in February. Arrive Friday, February 27th and leave March 1st. Contact ahfurman@yahoo.com to reserve a place.

From the Beth Smith Workshop



The Beth Smith workshop was deemed a resounding success by all participants. Alison's experiments with spinning the full palette of fleeces is on display in this picture.

Corrections

Here follow some corrections of misinformation that escaped the editor's attention in the last newsletter. First of all, Elizabeth Kinne Gossner's specialty at Still Meadow Finnsheep (now in its 20th year) is limited to the breeding of heritage Finnsheep, contrary to what was reported. Elizabeth will be unable to join us at Roc Day this year, but information about her flock's lovely fleeces can be found at her website, www.stillmeadowfinnsheep.com

Second, there were some embarrassing and significant typos in the Skein Competition instructions. These have been corrected in the current issue. In particular, where it said "a sample of the fiber unseen" we really meant "a sample of the fiber unspun"! (My spell checker is responsible for that one. It doesn't recognize *unspun* as a word, and keeps changing it). We are truly sorry to those of you who were planning on submitting unseen fiber—intended, presumably, for the Emperor's new clothes. Evaluating it is simply too hard on our judges' eyes.

Editor's Corner: Silk from the Shells on the Shore of the Sea

The two objects pictured here both reside in France, and they are very old. Aside from that, they might not seem to have much in common. The fancier one, the Chasuble of Saint Yves in Louannec, is an extraordinarily exquisite piece of woven cloth, made in part with golden threads, intricately and luxuriously ornamented with griffins, the tree of life, and other motifs. It is reputed to have belonged to Saint Yves (1253-1303), an attribution held to be unlikely by some, since the good saint was a defender of the poor who preached the abandonment of material wealth. Obviously accorded the care due an object of great veneration in the centuries since it was made, it is still in pristine condition. The second piece, “cap of Saint Denis”, is much humbler in both its craftsmanship and its fortunes. It is a simple, unornamented knit cap, in plain stocking stitch, unexpectedly dug up during an archeological excavation of a waste pit near the cathedral of Saint Denis. Made in the early 14th century, it had apparently languished in obscurity there for several hundred years. As the picture shows, it is much the worse for this ignominious history, yet it is amazing that it still exists at all. Unassuming though it is, the cap has its own claim to fame, as one of the oldest surviving knit objects in Europe. (Knitting, as it turns out, is a fairly modern craft, scarcely a thousand years old. I've always found this surprising somehow, since it seems so obvious in retrospect.)



What ties the two articles together is that they are made from the “beards” of clams! From “fish wool”! From “water sheep”! From “sea silk”! Or, as the Chinese once called it, “mermaid silk”! Talk about exotic fibers! *Byssus*, as this substance is generally known, consists of the short fibers that grow from the feet of mollusks—particularly, the Giant Mollusk of the Mediterranean (*Pinna nobilis*), and serve to attach their bearers to rocks. Once dried, spun and treated with lemon juice, the fibers make a durable thread (though regrettably very tasty to moths, which accounts for the scarcity of old examples). They are of a never

fading amber color that shines like gold in the sunlight, and finer than the finest silk; according to the *Wikipedia* article on “Sea Silk”, a pair of women’s gloves made from byssus could be fit into half a walnut shell. Known to the ancient Greeks, the craft of spinning sea silk now has only one lone practitioner—Chiara Vigo of Sardinia, whose blog site is listed below. Hers is a dying craft, though, as the mollusks from which the fibers are taken are on the verge of disappearing, casualties of pollution, habitat destruction and overfishing. When they are gone, it will not only mean the loss of an ancient craft, but perhaps even a loss to modern medicine. A 2013 report in the *Telegraph* newspaper reports that researchers think the sticky fibers might have special virtue in repairing bones and tendons, and perhaps even replacing surgical sutures. —Wayne

Gray, Richard. 2013. “Mussel byssus could lead to new ways to repair bones and tendons” *The Telegraph*
The Website of the Museum of St. Denis: http://www.saint-denis.culture.fr/en/vignet_fich1.htm

Soie de Mer: La Chasuble de Saint-Yves

Salernitana, Adelisa. The St. Denis Cap, and experiments in silk spinning and knitting.

“Byssus” *Wikipedia*

“Sea Silk” *Wikipedia*

Chiara Vigo’s blog: <http://www.chiaravigo.com/wordpress/en/chiara>

“Medieval Knitting” Medieval & Renaissance Material Culture: <http://larsdatter.com/knit.htm>

Skein Competition Guidelines, Roc Day 2015

We look forward to receiving your entries for this event. You may submit 5 entries, which should be received by no later than 11 o'clock the day of the event. This year we will take one class at a time for judging, leaving the other entries on display, and return each class to the display table once judging for that class is complete. Awards will be presented at 3 o'clock. Participants may pick up their entries at this time.

There are no restrictions on the number of entries in any class, for a total of 5 entries.

Attach to each entry an envelope. The outside of the envelope should show the class, and information on the fiber, preparation and intended use. Your name and guild affiliation go on the inside please.

Classes are as follows:

- 1) Proficiency of spin: a two ounce skein 100% wool
- 2) Proficiency of spin: a two ounce wool blend or other fiber
- 3) Novelty yarn: 2 ounce skein, spun using any technique or fiber
- 4) Novice yarn: 2 ounce of yarn spun by a person new to spinning in the last year
- 5) Project basket: in a basket or container of your choice, artfully presented, provide the following:

The pattern for which the fiber is intended

At least 4 ounces of fiber spun for the project

A sample of the fiber unspun

A knitted, crocheted woven, etc., sample demonstrating the pattern.

PLEASE NOTE: For all classes, entries made on a drop spindle or charka may be submitted at weights half of those stated. Hence, for classes 1 through 4, one-ounce skeins will be accepted, and for the project basket 2 ounces will suffice. Be sure to identify these skeins, please.

We will be asking attendees to participate in our viewers'-choice selection. Vote on the submission you most like, for whatever reason. The entry with the most votes will be awarded a prize.

Yarn Culture™

NEW YORK

Open for retail beginning October 30, 2013

Hours: W - Sa 12p -6p

Open every day online at www.yarnculture.com

Guild members get 10% off for in-store purchases.

Find us at 1367 Fairport Rd. , Suite 885; Fairport, NY
(behind the AMF Fairview Lanes in the Fairport Office Park)
585.678.4894

Convert your Baynes hook flyer to a SLIDING PINCH HOOK FLYER for \$32.00 including rebalancing. See Jim Johnson at a meeting or call 607-564-7178 or email hilltoppaddles@earthlink.net.

FOR SALE: 1810 Great Wheel purchased from Bill Ralph. Miner's head, spins beautifully. For further info and/or to give it a spin, please contact shelly@chezmyers.com

In an effort to reduce my personal stash, I'd like to sell cotton warp, loop mohair, rug wools, fine wools, rayon and rayon chenille and other interesting stuff at prices ranging from low to ridiculous. I also have a Hansen e-spinner with woolee winder, two bobbins and kate for sale. Contact Karey Solomon at threads@empacc.net.

For sale from my own happy sheep and rabbits in Trumansburg: Navajo-Churro roving in a variety of natural colors

Angora rabbit wool in white
Contact Sharon Berger
@607-592-4649 or
saberger@twcny.rr.com




Hand Dyed Fibers & Yarns
Kits, Patterns, Needles
Baynes & Jim's Wheels
Jim's Spindles


www.SpinningBunny.com
607-564-7178
susan@spinningbunny.com
311B Tupper Road
West Danby, NY
Sat/Sun 11-3 or by appt.

To place an ad

The cost for ads is \$5.00 per month for non-members. Current members may submit one business-card sized classified ad per month for free. Send a check made out to BSHG to our treasurer, Vickie Marsted, 29 Lincoln Ave, Cortland, NY 13045. Send the ad in digital form to the newsletter editor, newsletter@blacksheephandspinnerguild.com. Black & white business cards are published free for current members.



CHEMUNG VALLEY FIBER
ARTS GUILD



Dedicated to Preserving & Teaching the Art
of Handspinning and other Fiber Arts.

<http://chemungvalleyguild.wordpress.com/>


Spinning Bunny

Hand Dyed Fiber & Yarn
Hand Spun Yarn, Patterns
Baynes Spinning Wheels, Spindles
Needles, Kits, Accessories

www.spinningbunny.com
607-564-7178, toll free #1-866-504-7236
usance@spinningbunny.com
<http://asthebunnyspins.blogspot.com>
311B Tupper Rd. W. Danby, NY

Coasters to Coverlets
WILLIAM E. BARTLETT

152 HART ROAD
DRYDEN, NY 13053-9524
Phone: 607-844-8042
Wmbartlett@aol.com
Wmbartlett@frontier.com



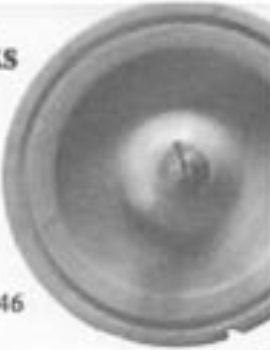
TRINITY FARM
Registered Shetland and Icelandic Sheep

hand-spun Yarns, Carbed Kevlar, Well-Shirred fleece

Margaret G. Flowers Matthew W. Dietert
Aurora, NY 13024
www.trinityfarm.net
315-246-1178 mflowers@wells.edu

Jim's Woodworks

Wheels & Spindles
Skeinwinders
Orifice Hooks
Folding Spinning Stools
Yarn Measurers
Wheel Repairs



607/564-7178 or 607/227-1346
<http://www.spinningbunny.com>

Stillmeadow E. Kinne
Finnsheep Pottery
since 1994



Elizabeth H. Kinne Grossner
5883 Randall Hill Road, DeRuyter, NY 13052
Ph: 315.852.3344 www.stillmeadowfinnsheep.com



Lady Llama Fiber Co.
Fine Fiber Arts Products

Kelli Terwilliger

Handpainted Yarn
Handspun Yarn
Spinning Fibers
Knitting Accessories
...and more

(716) 673-5050
ladyllamafiberco@gmail.com
Shop: www.ladyllamafiberco.etsy.com

yarn farm

Shannon Berndt

607-279-7148
PO Box 4123
Ithaca, NY 14852
<http://theyarnfarm.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/shannonsyarnfarm>
shannonsyarnfarm@gmail.com

*Felted
Flora*

Hand Knit & Felted Designs
by Renata Brenner

FeltedFlora@yahoo.com
www.etsy.com/shop/FeltedFlora

alpaca Place LLC

2427 Richardson Hill Road Moravia, NY 13118
Phone: 315-224-9827 Ask for Gerry or Dawn
Email: Info@alpacaplace.com

Stop and Visit In Person or on the Web
www.alpacaplace.com

