



A Message from the President

Greetings on this lovely spring day! Those fortunate souls who attended the retreat may have heard Shelly tell of "the Japanese art of decluttering and organizing" (this from the book's cover) that she is following. So I borrowed her book. "Keep all the things that speak to your heart. Then take the plunge and discard the rest," one category at a time. My intention is to start with fiber, (though how I will gather tubs from two bedrooms, two living rooms, the basement and greenhouse into one space is beyond me), with the knowledge that much of it will go to Abby; she can decide whether it speaks to her heart. I may decide to get a pint of Ben and Jerry's instead; more on that later.

So go to your stash and pick up each item and ask yourself whether it will bring you joy. If the answer is "no" bring it along to the garage sale, since one of us is likely to have answered "yes." Time to felt some Easter eggs. A happy spring fiber sorting to all! —Sharon

Old Hat



This is the Lappvattnet hat. Made of uncolored sheep's wool, it was found in a bog in the far northern reaches of the Scandinavian peninsula, and dates to between 1310 and 1440, making it one of the oldest European hats known. Bogs are highly congenial to the preservation of clothing, especially wool. Medieval paintings suggest that it was probably worn with the brim turned up.

April 11

Our April meeting will be our Garage Sale. Start sorting through your stash to see what you'd like to sell (or give away)! Come see what else you'd like to take home!

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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.

Robin Nistock lecture



Robin Nistock of Nistock Farms, Prattsburg NY treated us to a very informative lecture about the joys, challenges and business of raising a large flock of fine Cotswold sheep. There are still relatively few Cotswolds in this country, producers of a lustrous long wool, and very hardy. The wool is good for outerwear, felts very nicely, can be spun very fine, and makes good warp thread. She selects for luster and curl. She uploaded her fleece list for 2015 on March 15 (nistockfarms.com). If you are interested in one, she always recommends that you ask for a sample before buying a whole fleece.



Idea of the Month

Ellie showed us how to use an electric drill as a bobbin winder

Fibery Events

Yarn Cupboard's 5th annual Fiber Arts Retreat, April 17-19. Christ the King Retreat and Conference Center, 500 Brookford Road, Syracuse NY. Two-night stay with meals, \$250. Call 315-399-5148 to register.

www.yarncupboard.com

8th annual Shepherd's Market May 9, 10-4. Rush United Methodist Church, 6200 Rush Lima Rd., Rush NY 14543

Patsy Zawistoski Spinning Workshop. The Southern Tier Fiberarts Guild, with the support of the Mid Atlantic Fiber Association (MAFA), is offering a two-day spinning workshop in June, with Patsy Zawistoski. Contact Carol Wood
woodrose46@yahoo.com

The Ithaca Celtic Festival will be on Saturday, June 13, in Stewart Park and as usual they are looking for spinners. Contact Wayne

Finger Lakes Fiber Festival Sept 19 & 20. Hemlock Fairgrounds, Hemlock NY. 10-5. Adults \$7.00/ day.
www.gvhg.org/fiber-fest

Pictures from the March meeting



Shawl Competition for Roc Day

Dear Spinners/Weavers and Knitters! We are expanding our Roc Day yarn competition. This year we'll have a project competition. You have a choice of making a shawl using one of the two provided patterns as a beginning template. The yarn used for this project must be handspun. Any questions or additional suggestions regarding this project are welcome—
Alison and Sharon

Pattern 1: Eight Triangles Shawl

Spinner's Geometry: knit with basic right-angled triangles shaped using short rows. Because I am not an excellent knitter, and due to my own perceptual shortcomings, I require a pattern that tells me what I am doing and why. You will be making 8 triangles, each successive one offset from the previous by 15 stitches. Decide in advance on a cast-on that you can easily repeat at the beginning of each new triangle; the long-tail I chose for my first attempt is not a good one. A cable cast-on would do. Working with a multiple of 3 stitches works well for the pattern since every other row decreases by 3 stitches (short rows do not require wrapping; just turn). Edge stitches are slipped purlwise; others are slipped knitwise. There is one traveling marker. Other, stationary markers will be placed as triangles are added. Instructions are given using sock-weight yarn and size 4 circular needle. The model started with 78 stitches. Everything is up for experimentation, of course!

Cast on 78 stitches.

Row 1: Knit (front)

Row 2: Sl1p, knit 2, place traveling marker (this moves 3 stitches each even row), knit to end

Row 3: Sl1p, knit to marker, turn

Row 4: Remove marker, Sl1, knit 2, place traveling marker, knit to end

Repeat rows 3 and 4. The traveling marker will eventually reach the end of the row, at which time another triangle is begun:

Triangle 2 etc:

Row 1: Sl1p, knit until 15 stitches remain on left needle, turn.

Row 2: Place stationary marker (PM). Sl1, K2, place traveling marker (PTM), knit to end, CO 15 stitches

Row 3: Sl1p, K to traveling marker, turn

Row 4: Remove traveling marker, Sl1, K2, PTM, knit to end

Repeat Rows 3 and 4 until traveling marker reaches end of row.

To end: When you have knit the desired number of triangles, you will have on your needle your original 78 stitches plus 15 for each additional triangle knit.

Next row: Sl1p, knit all stitches, removing markers

Knit 4 rows. Bind off.

Pattern 2: Holey Shawl

This shawl is an alternation of stockinette rows and yarnover rows. This is a top-down triangular shawl: work a two-stitch garter stitch edging, a triangular panel, a 2nd yarnover, a **Middle stitch**, a 3rd yarnover, another triangular panel, a 4th yarnover, and finally a two-stitch garter stitch edging. On every right side row, you'll be adding 4 yarnovers. On every wrong side row, you'll be purling them. I usually have one marker next to the **Middle stitch**, so I don't forget to add yarnovers around it.

Stockinette design: RS: k2(edge), yo, k to marker, yo, sm, **M**, yo, k to last 2 sts, yo, k2(edge)
WS: k2(edge), p to last 2 sts, k2(edge)

Yarnover design: RS: k2(edge), yo, k1, yo, *k2tog, yo* to marker, sm, **M**, yo, *k2tog, yo* to last 3 sts, k1, yo, k2(edge)
WS: k2(edge), p to last 2 sts, k2(edge)

Cast on 2 stitches. Knit 7 rows. Rotate work 90 degrees clockwise. Pick up and knit 3 sts, one in each garter ridge. Rotate another 90 degrees clockwise, pick up and knit 2 cast on stitches. Total of 7 stitches.

Row 1 (RS): k2(edge), yo, k1, yo, pm, **M**, yo, k1, yo, k2 (edge)

Row 2 and all wrong side rows: k2(edge), p to middle st, **M**, sm, p to last 2 sts, k2(edge)

Row 3 (RS): k2(edge), yo, k to marker, yo, sm, **M**, yo, k to last 2 sts, yo, k2(edge)

Row 4 – same as row 2

Row 5 - same as row 3

Work at least 8 stockinette designs before start yarnover design. The more yarnover rows you have, the airier your shawl will be.

Example 1. *8 stockinette designs, 1 yarnover design*, repeat until ready for edging, 5 yarnover designs, bind off loosely.

Example 2. *8 stockinette designs, 1 yarnover design, 2 stockinette designs, 1 yarnover design*, repeat until edging, 6 yo designs, bind off loosely.

k – knit **p** – purl **M** – **Middle stitch** **k2tog** – knit 2 stitches together
yo – yarnover **pm** – place marker **sm** – slip marker **RS** – right side
WS – wrong side **st(s)** – stitch(es)



Your Guild Needs You! Call for Nominations (including Self-nominations)

Ours is an organization that succeeds because of the participation of its membership. Though all of our members contribute regularly to its success in a myriad of ways, certain of the chores involved in keeping things moving forward are delegated by our constitution to elected officers. A slate of candidates for these is presented to the membership at the April meeting, and voting takes place at the May meeting. Officers customarily serve for two years. **All of the following positions are now open for nominations, and self-nominations are encouraged.** Some candidates have already expressed an interest in some of these positions, but that shouldn't deter you from throwing your hat into the ring. If you think you'd like to stand for one of these offices, **please let the newsletter editor or the president know as soon as possible.** If you aren't sure, contact the president or the current office-holder for information on the duties and demands of the position.

President—presides at meetings of the guild, and receives correspondence addressed to the guild.

Vice President—presides at guild meetings in the absence of the president.

Secretary/archivist—takes minutes of the meetings, and submits them to the newsletter editor, maintains guild records.

Treasurer—manages the guild's finances, receives membership dues and other payments to the guild, and keeps the guild's books.

Newsletter Editor—produces and distributes a monthly newsletter, solicits announcements from the membership, and maintains the guild's mailing list.

These are the offices currently specified as elective by the constitution. The constitution also provides for a librarian, but, since the guild's library has been dissolved, we may wish to amend the constitution to eliminate this office. On the other hand, the guild's online presence has grown in ways not anticipated by the framers of the constitution, thanks in large part to the guild's **Webmaster**. The webmaster role is at present a volunteer office, though we would do well to change it to an elective office, in view of its centrality to our mission. Similarly, the **Roc Day Coordinator** role is another major volunteer position that we may wish to make into an elective office. In any case, if you are interested in considering taking on either of roles, you should let us know. Other important standing volunteer roles include **Programming Coordinator for monthly meetings** and **Programming Coordinator for special programs**. If you can imagine yourself in any of these roles, elective or volunteer, now is the time to step forward by letting Wayne or Sharon know of your interest, preferably before the April meeting.

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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-
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Contact Sharon Berger
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