



A Message from the President

Greetings all,

and happy spring, I think. The birds seem convinced of it, and there are snowdrops, winter aconite and Hellebores in bloom in the garden. I don't know what to think, but am pleased to be laying out felting projects and carding wool in the sun-warmed greenhouse.

Are you ready for the Garage Sale? My goal is to reduce my stash by 25% (though my expectation is much lower), and to add to yours. Each item I examine tells me of its potential, and instead of relinquishing it to the for-sale pile I add usually add it to the to-do pile. At this rate I will be spinning into my nineties, at least, if I don't add more to the stash. So help me out by taking something of mine home please!

See you there!

March 2016

Our Mar 12th meeting will be in Lansing at All Saints.

Garage Sale

President [Sharon Gombas](#)
 Vice President [Sue Quick](#)
 Secretary [Angelika St. Laurent](#)
 Treasurer [Vickie Marsted](#)
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Roc Day Coordinator Sharon Gombas

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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. Exceptions are possible-see location changes in the latest newsletter!

Garage Sale March Meeting

It is time for our **Garage Sale!** at Black Sheep in April. The Spinsters are invited to examine their stash and DESTASH!!!! And then, RESTASH!!! Any fiber related tools are welcome along with fibers of all sorts, of course!!!! Put a price on it (or put a note on it – “free” has been used on some things). Bring along spinning wheels, looms, bags of fleece you will never get to..... One of the Most Fun meetings of the year.

Angelika's Report February Meeting

Sharon shared a couple of regional news:

The organizers of the biannual Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference are looking for volunteers to help organize the 2017 conference. The team mostly works over email and phone, so no extensive travel is required to help out. If interested, please, contact Peg Houseman, either by phone (716-648-2987) or by email (peghouse54@gmail.com)

David and Sue Richardson asked go announce their new Website featuring traditional Asian textiles (www.asiantextilestudies.com). The site features a multitude of detailed and academically presented information on natural dyes and cotton used in the south-east Asian textiles. It is not a site offering dye-recipes. The couple also organizes a Textile Tour. This year the trip will go to the lesser Sunda Islands to study tribal ikat weaving. More information can be found on their website.

The Ply-Away retreat will happen this year in Kansas City, Mo, from April 21-24. It is organized by the producers of the Ply Magazine. The retreat features classes from 13 reknown teachers. For more information and sign up, check their website (<http://www.plyaway.com>).

The Southworth Homestead in Dryden is asking for help organizing a Wool Heritage Day either on September 24th or October 8th. If interested in participating in the effort in any way (e.g. Spinning demos), please, tell Sharon.

(con't)

BSHG Meeting,

Sat. Mar. 12th, **“Garage Sale”**

Have we got a sale for you!!!! Extra yarn, Unspun fiber, Spinning tools and wheels that are languishing unused? Bring them to rehome and make someone happy. NOTE: This is a decrease/increase Stash Event.

BSHG Meeting,

Sat. Apr. 9th, **“Ice Cream Social”**

We make sheep happy, why not cows and humans?

PLY-Away retreat

April 21-24

<http://www.plyaway.com>

Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival

May 7 & 8

<http://sheepandwool.org/2016-maryland-sheep-wool-festival/>

BSHG Meeting,

Sat. May 14th, **“Dyeing for Color”**

Aug 20-21: Flax Symposium, Deerfield MA:

Sue Quick wants us to know about the New England Flax and Linen Symp. offered through Historic Deerfield. Go to historic-deerfield.org for schedule and cost Sue has signed up to go.

NOTE: Membership DUES ARE DUE starting in January for 1 year.

See signup sheet at back of newsletter. Or bring \$20 to the next meeting.

Generally, we wondered how many guild members are interested in public spinning on festivals/spinning demonstrations.

Rock-Day Discussion:

Most members reported having had a good time at the 2016 Roc-Day.

The Chinese auction has been a success. Ellie says thanks to everyone who contributed. Our yearly rent is now secured. Some lucky winners mentioned that they would have loved for contributed items to have a little tag from the maker specifying the details of their work. Please, consider making an item for the next Chinese auction in 2017. - Some discussion considered whether in future we should use numbered tickets in stead of tickets with names on them.

There were voices that asked to count the tickets to find out the most popular item in the Chinese auction. This year scarves appeared to be particularly popular.

Since the room felt a bit crowded, it was suggested next year placing the vendors all around the walls of the room and thereby create a bit more space for presentations and spinning circle.

The vendors had beautiful ware, however almost all of the fiber offered for sale was wool. It would be nice to have vendors offering other non-animal based spinning fiber, too.

The yarn contest attracted few contestants. We are now looking for alternatives to the yarn competition.

Ideas include: a) The guild hands out 4 ounces of unusual spinning fiber to contestants, which ought to be spun into a two ply skein, which can be judged by judges.

b) The guild hands out 4 ounces of fiber to be spun and knitted into a specific product (e.g. a hat). The winner could be determined by judges or voted by the public.

c) The guild hands out 4 ounces of fiber, which the contestants are free to process any way they fancy (including dying it) and create a finished project of their choice. The winner would be voted on by the public.

Please, make yourself heard with thoughts and ideas for next years contest.

Sharon announced that for 2017 we need a new Rock Day coordinator.

Laurie Ament related that a friend of hers affiliated with the Ithaca Crafts Institute is looking for help in establishing and tending a dyer's garden. If interested ask Laurie for more detail.

Respectfully submitted,
Angelika St.Laurent

HELP:

Come the end of May, a new newsletter editor for the Black Sheep will be needed, as Lois Swales has a heavy schedule for the remaining months of 2016. Her last newsletter will be in May.



Membership Form

Please type or print

Date: _____

DUES Record:

2015	2018
2016	2019
2017	2020

Name _____

Address: _____

Preferred email: PRINT NEATLY _____

Phone # _____

This information will be shared with registered guild members. If you wish to remain anonymous, please let Vicki Marsted know.

Please list your wheel(s) _____

Do you spindle spin? Yes or No (circle)

Do you Knit? Weave? Crochet? Dye? (Natural or Chemical?):

Would you be willing to share your skills with other members (ie: teach beginners, present a meeting topic, demo to the public, etc?)

If you raise fiber animals, please list them here _____

We need your help on committee(s). If you would like to volunteer, let Sharon Gombas, our president know!!

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Our newsletter is distributed electronically. If this is a problem, please contact Sharon Gombas.

Please fill this out and either bring it to a meeting or mail it with your check for \$20 to: Vickie Marsted, 29 Lincoln St, Cortland, NY 13045

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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@twcnv.rr.com



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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.



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