Greetings to all!

The Black Sheep sure had a great turnout, and a great day, at Linda Cortright's talk last month. Clearly the Shuttle and Spindle guild is equally gifted in setting out a varied and tasty repast; our thanks go to them for inviting us to share in their day.

Why is this message coming from me, you may well ask? After some time to think it over, Nancy has decided that given the distance to Lansing, and with a six year old at home, she can't reasonably commit to taking the position of guild president, but will join us as she can at meetings. This means that the position is available to you once again--no fighting please!

We will also discuss next-year's Roc Day Celebration at the August meeting, so please come with ideas. Do we go with the same format as last year? Open it to new and/or different vendors? More demos? These are all suggestions put forward; please bring yours for discussion as well. There are jobs to cover at, and before, the event as well. Feel free to send all comments to me by email in the event that you will be vacationing in Alaska on the day of the meeting.

Another day in paradise.....

Sharon
Guild News:

Guild Officers:

We have a new guild treasurer: Louise Henrie. We do not yet have a president. Please, step forward and volunteer!

During the August meeting we’ll also start planning for next Rocday.

Here are two photos from last Ric-Day as inspiration for the planning of the next. Lois demonstrating her distaffs and Abby working on the weaving project Tammy organized:

Upcoming BSHG Meetings:

August 12th, 11am-3pm
September 9th, 11am-3pm

Fiber Events:

Wool Day at Troy Fair
Wednesday, July 26th, 9am-5pm,
Junction Route 6 & Junction Route 14, Troy, PA 16947
http://www.troyfair.com

NY-State Fair
Saturday, August 26th, to Saturday, September 9th, 10am-10pm
581 State Fair Boulevard, Syracuse, NY 13209
https://nysfair.ny.gov/

Pennsylvania Endless Mountains Fiber Festival
Saturday, September 9th, 10am—5pm
and Sunday September 10th, 10am-4pm
Harford Fair Grounds, 485 Fair Hill Road, New Milford, PA 18834
www.endlessmountainsfiberfest.com

The 23rd Annual Finger Lakes Fiber Festival
Saturday, September 16th, 10am-5pm,
and Sunday, September 17th, 10am-4pm
Hemlock Fair Gounds, 7370 Water Street, Hemlock, NY 14466
http://www.gvhg.org/fiber-fest/

Adirondack Wool & Arts Festival
Saturday, September 23rd, 10am-5pm,
and Sunday, September 24th, 10am – 4pm
392 Old Schuylerville Road, Greenwich, NY 12834
http://www.adkwoolandarts.com
Field Trip to the Bement-Billings Farmstead Museum

By Wayne Herbert

A flock of Black Sheep wandered away from our July meeting to descend on the Bement-Billings Farmstead Museum in Newark Valley, help them celebrate the 20th anniversary of their Historical Society, and to listen their guest speaker, Linda Cortright, the editor and publisher of *Wild Fibers Magazine*. Linda held us all enthralled with a wide-ranging, fascinating, lively and moving description of her career as an adventurer in search of the roots of wild fibers and the meanings they have for the lives of the people who raise and use them, from ‘mustering’ sheep by helicopter in the wilds of New Zealand to her most recent enterprise, establishing a cashmere spinning center for nomadic women high in the Himalayas. Punctuated with amazing tales of personal adventure, her talk emphasized the ways in which economic, technological, environmental and cultural changes in recent decades have reshaped fiber traditions around the world, and, in turn, the lives of local communities, as well as the yet untapped promise of those traditions as a resource for improving people’s lives. The slide in this picture shows members of a qiviut knitting cooperative in Alaska. Though the muskox from which the fiber comes were already roaming the tundra in the time of mammoths, the use of qiviut as a domestic fiber is a practice of surprisingly modern origin. Our gracious hosts in Newark Valley treated us to a splendid dish-to-pass picnic lunch.
Welcome Blanket
July 18–December 17, 2017

Susan Sarabasha send this information about a participatory art project at the Smart Museum of Art in Chicago. At this point the exhibit is looking for participants. The deadline to participate is September 5th.

Created by LA-based designer and artist Jayna Zweiman—co-founder of the 2016 Pussyhat Project—Welcome Blanket confronts current issues around immigration, cultural displacement, and geographic relocation, and President Donald Trump’s border wall proposal by recasting the roughly 2,000-mile distance of the proposed barrier between Mexico and the United States into handmade blankets. Representing the distance of the wall in lengths of yarn, participants across the United States and around the world will create lap blankets and accompanying notes of welcome for new immigrants as well as for refugees seeking resettlement, a craft-based response to the current administration’s policies.

At the Smart, Welcome Blanket exists as a participatory project that marries artistic practice, freedom of expression, and community engagement. The exhibition opens tomorrow—July 18— as an empty site which will be quickly activated as a receiving station to sort and store the blankets. Blankets accumulate in the gallery over the run of the project, transforming it from a visually sparse site of potential action into a vibrant installation of crowd-sourced blankets. Throughout Welcome Blanket, visitors are invited to spend time knitting or sewing in the gallery or joining a series of public programs that will take place over the fall, creating spaces for conversations around issues of human rights, immigration, and the legacy of artistic activism. LEARN MORE ABOUT WELCOME BLANKET

How to participate:

Visit the Welcome Blanket project page for patterns for knitting, crocheting, and quilting, welcome note templates, and information on hosting events and other resources.

Shipping
The Smart Museum is finalizing a shipping method by which blanket-makers can send their contributions at no cost. Thank you for your patience as we finalize the details of this process, which will be announced soon.

The Smart also appreciatively accepts blankets from participants who choose to cover the cost of shipping their own packages. This support helps to keep Welcome Blanket programming free and open to all.
Finished Blankets can be mailed to:

Welcome Blanket
Smart Museum of Art
The University of Chicago
5550 S. Greenwood Avenue
Chicago, IL 60637

Deadline
The deadline to send your blankets and personal notes for inclusion in the project is September 5th, 2017.

Blankets will be exhibited within the Museum and photographed and published online as part of the project. Welcome notes and stories may be published online too—please include your name only if you are comfortable sharing it. Anonymous submissions will be accepted. Blankets will not be returned to senders and will not be accessioned by the Smart Museum. At the end of the exhibition, blankets will be distributed to new immigrants in coordination community partners.
Name__________________________________________________________________________

Address:____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________

Preferred email:  PRINT NEATLY ___________________________________________________

Phone # ____________________________________________________

This information will be shared with registered guild members. If you wish to remain anonymous, please let Louise Henrie 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 our president, know!!!

Roc Day
Programming
Newsletter
Membership
Website
Outreach
Treasurer

Our newsletter is distributed electronically. If this is a problem, please contact Angelika St.Laurent. Please fill this out and either bring it to a meeting or mail it with your check for $20 to: Louise Henrie, 417 2nd Street, Ithaca, NY 14850
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, Louise Henrie, 417 2nd Street, Ithaca, NY 14850. Send the ad in digital form to the newsletter editor, angelika@simonstl.com. Black & white business cards are published free for current members.