Hi, All:

My calendar tells me that today is Saint Catherine’s Day, who was the patron saint of spinners back in olden times. Now that I’ve retired I have less occasion to consult the calendar than I used to, and it’s mostly our monthly guild meetings, and more recently the realization that it’s time to sit down and write another of these messages, that pull me back into calendrical reality. And they always catch me by surprise. How can it possibly be almost December already??

Our November meeting, of course, featured a memorable presentation by Alena and Sasson on (literally) how to make a bed. Those of you who couldn’t join us for that are being treated to a step-by-step report of this very interesting project elsewhere in this newsletter. The event was made all the more successful by the high level of audience interaction, and I came away from it, as I always do, in awe of the collective expertise and experience of our group. (It would be great if we could host more presentations of this type, so if you happen to know of other people who are doing something interesting in another lesser-known corner of our craft, please bring them to our attention.)

In my excitement about this presentation I neglected to make time during our meeting for show-and-tell. Sorry about that. To make up for it, we’ll devote all the more time to sharing at the December meeting. Please bring your current project and/or the most exciting one you’ve done over the course of the year to show off, model or pass around.

The December meeting is also the occasion for our holiday party. Guests, Christmas sweaters, no matter how garish, dishes-to-pass, no matter how calorie-laden, and all other festive trappings of the season are warmly welcomed. (Reindeer must be left outside.) If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, you should bring a fiber related gift—in the $10 range—to put on the table.

See you soon,
Wayne
**Guild News:**

**Minutes from November 11th 2017**

**Holiday Party:**

Traditionally, we celebrate our holiday party on the last meeting of the year. Bring some baked goodies to share, if you like. There will be a gift exchange. If you’d like to participate, bring a wrapped fiber related gift of about $10 value.

**Roc Day:**

Yvonne reported on Roc-Day preparations: Eight of our vendors agreed to return. One hadn’t answered yet. Still Meadow Finn-sheep will not return as a vendor, but Elizabeth plans to attend Roc Day as a non-vendor. It was decided not to try invite an alternative vendor, but rather leave the space open for demonstrations.

We need to let the congregation know, which rooms we’d like to use for workshops. The chakra and felting workshops were considered to likely benefitted by the by the quieter setting of a separate room. Other demonstrations will happen in the main room.

After some discussion about the hat competition, we decided to change the rules, in that that a hat submitted to the competition does not have to be a donation to the Chinese Auction. (see competition rules on page 3) We did not yet decide on the prize for the winner.

Lynn mentioned that she had already plenty of hats for the Chinese Auction and would love a few scarves.

Lois offered to donate one of her wheels, likely a great wheel, to the guild to be used for fundraising at Roc Day.

**Workshop:**

Majorie Inana raised the question of topics for a future weekend workshop, likely to happen in 2019. Previously, it had been sometimes difficult to get enough people to participate to recuperate the workshop costs.

Generally, there was a feeling that a workshop incorporating the use to the spun fiber would be helpful. While workshop dedicated to spinning very fine yarns and knitting lace in the Orenburg tradition seemed for some people to specialized, it was to have the next workshop to be combination of spinning and knitting.

A couple of years ago, Jean Currie had participated in knitting workshop with a local teacher, where she had learned a lot, despite being an accomplished knitter already. It was decided to try and contact the teacher, either for a presentation or a workshop.

Angelika St.Laurent
Roc Day Competition:

Show What Hand Spun Yarn Can Do in a Hat

Use any technique for a hand made hat that uses 100% of your own hand spun yarn and of your own making. That means the hat can be knit, naalbinding, woven, crocheted, knit/fulled, etc. The hand spun can be any fiber(s), plies, or colors. Only hand spun yarn, no beads, no ribbons, no feathers, no shells, sticks or stones, etc.

If you want to enter more than one hat in the competition, they must be different techniques or patterns. For example with 2 knit hats, 1 Fair Isle/1 cabled. Or 3 hats, 1 knit/1 crocheted/1 woven. Or 3 hats, 1 intarsia knit/1 rib knit/1 woven. Or 4 hats, 1 knit/fulled/1 brioche knit/1 lace knit/1 crocheted.

A small sample (12 inches or so) of the hand spun yarn used should accompany the hat. The hats need to be turned in at the competition table by 11 AM in order to be up in time for them to be numbered and displayed and time for people to vote on them. Hats will be judged by the public as each person entering will receive a voting ballot to be deposited in a large container labeled Vote for Your Favorite Hat. The prizes will be announced at 1:30 PM just before the auction. There will be first, second and third prizes.

Hat entries may be donated to the Chinese Auction, however this is not mandatory. You can take your prize winning creation back home with you, if you like.

We can discuss prizes at next guild meeting.

Fiber Samples Wanted for the Fiber Tasting Table and Fiber Quiz

For our fiber tasting table/fiber quiz we need samples. If you happen to have some unusual fiber sitting around in your stash, please, consider donating a sample to our fiber tasting table. Angelika will be happy to collect the fiber samples at the December meeting.

The fiber tasting table is supposed to give people in the spinning circle the chance to try out a new kind of fiber. It is also meant for new spinners to have some fiber and spindles available to try out the craft.

The fiber quiz is related, mostly meant to feel fiber and guess their origin. There will be a prize drawn at the end of the day, for one person who matched all the fibers and origins correctly.
Roc Day Workshops and Demonstrations:
We have planned two workshops and several presentations for Roc Day:

Workshops:
- Charkha spinning (Kathy, Tammy, Lois, Glenna)
- Felting (Laurie)

Demonstrations:
- Marjorie Inana: Kumihimo
- José Buenaventura: Traditional Spinning, Dyeing and Weaving from Oaxaca, Mexico
- Sue Quick: Flax Spinning
- Kathy Halton: Spinning Cotton
- Lois Swales: Sock Knitting Machine
- Wayne Harbert: Pendulum Wheel, Double Flyer Wheel

A Fiber Tasting Table (Angelika)
LocalFiber from farmer to maker, an Ithaca based company, launched by Dana Havas and Victoria Hantout, was born out of concern for infrastructure issues that small flock fiber farmers face, particularly in the north east where fiber farmers raise a variety of breeds of fiber producing animals. A major component in the sheep to shawl chain is consumer education and marketing opportunities for these farmers. The LocalFiber pop-up, being sponsored by SewGreen Ithaca, hopes to start addressing the farmer to maker chain.

The pop-up shop will be selling yarn and other fiber-y goods produced by 9 Finger Lakes fiber farmers including:

- Windsong Farm, Burdett NY raising Wendesydale & other long wool sheep
- Wolftree Farm, Burdett NY raising Icelandic sheep
- Laughing Goat Fiber Farm, Ithaca, NY raising Angora and Cashmere goats as well as sheep and alpaca
- Shepherds Creek Alpaca Farm, Trumansburg NY raising Alpacas
- Forget-Me-Not Farm, Candor NY raising Jacob sheep
- West Creek Family Farm, Newark Valley NY raising Finnsheep, Angora goats and Angora rabbits
- Orchard View Lincolns, Bergen NY, raising Lincoln Longwool Sheep
- Trinity Farm, Aurora NY raising Icelandic and Shetland sheep
- Ironwood Hill Farm raising Finnsheep.

The pop-up will run from Dec. 1st to Dec. 23rd at SewGreen Ithaca, 112 N. Cayuga St, Ithaca NY, and will be open 6 days a week: Tuesday – Friday 4-6, Saturdays 11-6, and Sundays 12–5. Besides selling fiber-y goods, a variety of demonstrations and talks are also planned:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Demo</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday December 1st</td>
<td>4 - 8 pm</td>
<td>LocalFiber Pop-up Launch Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday December 2nd</td>
<td>12 - 3pm</td>
<td>Needle felting demonstration with Linda Schwab</td>
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<td>3 - 4 pm</td>
<td>From Fleece to Yarn: a presentation by Sharon Gombas</td>
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<td>Sunday December 3rd</td>
<td>12 - 1 pm</td>
<td>Engaged Learning with New York Farm-to-Fashion by Helen Trejo</td>
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<td>Saturday December 9th</td>
<td>12 - 3 pm</td>
<td>Drop spindle demonstration with Rosane Mordt</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 - 4 pm</td>
<td>Alpaca’s and their Fiber: a presentation by Barb Sodums</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday December 16th</td>
<td>12 - 3 pm</td>
<td>Table loom weaving demonstration with Sarah Gotowka</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3 - 4 pm</td>
<td>The Campaign for Wool: a presentation by Helen Griffiths</td>
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To keep up with the LocalFiber campaign and the LocalFiber pop-up shop like the LocalFiber Facebook page and follow our Instagram page @localfiber.ny.
Wool Mattress Making

in the style of Azerbaijan

Presented to the BSHG by

Alena Hutchinson and Sasson Rafailon

When he was a very little boy, Sasson remembers his grandmother emptying all the wool out of their mattresses and fluffing it up before putting it back. Not only did he sleep on a wool mattress, in the winter he slept covered with a heavy wool blanket. In fact it was the best blanket he’d ever had. That wool blanket pinned him down in the morning and made him want to stay in bed. He knew that every few years, you had to remove the mattress wool, fluff it up to put the air back into it, and stuff it back in.

Alena had heard about these wonderful, healthy European/American wool mattresses and wanted one. The European/American mattresses were very ‘spendy’. She was happy to discover the practical Azerbaijan method from Sasson and decided to make one as a school project while she studied Mechanical Engineering at Cornell. Sasson, studying Architecture at Cornell, decided not only to help, but to build the supporting wood frame as well.

Further searching on the internet using the term for döşak (wool mattress) - and yorğan – (wool blanket) is fruitful. For websites in foreign languages, google translate can be helpful. A search for wool mattress and wool pillow can also be informative.

Below you will find the full article Alena so generously shared with us in a second file send out with this newsletter.

Submitted by Lois Swales
Membership Form

Please type or print

Date: ____________________________

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, Wayne Harbert, 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.