Dear Fellow Spinners,

Our wonderful president needs a bit of a break and some time to take care of family issues. So I’m grabbing the opportunity to say a big:

Thank You, Sharon, for all you do to keep our Guild spinning and especially for all the work you put into Roc-Day!

Next meeting is our annual guild garage sale. If you have some fiber sitting in your stash, that just doesn’t give you the joy anymore it did when you bought it, it’s time to drag it out and sell it to some fellow spinner. Same for yarn, spindles, wheels, pattern books or anything else fiber related.

The All Saints Catholic Church holds a service at 11am that day and asks that all guild members park their cars in the back parking lot to make the few front parking spots available for elderly church goers, who might have difficulties walking.

If you need help to bring all your goodies you plan to sell up to the parish hall or your beautiful new purchases down to your car, don’t hesitate to ask. Your fellow spinners will be happy to help out.

Cheers, Angelika
Guild News:
Meeting Minutes from Saturday Feb. 11th

Volunteers wanted: At our May meeting we will elect our Guild’s officers. We need a candidate to become our new president and a candidate to become Roc-Day Coordinator.

Roc-Day: This day roc day was very enjoyable to all attendees. The Chinese auction boasted more items than ever and together with the silent auction of fiber and charkha earned $790, which is enough to cover our yearly rent of the All Saints parish hall. After many years of organizing the Chinese Auction Ellie May is retiring from the job. Lynn Anguish will be our new Chinese Auction organizer.

Some of the vendors felt, that the many demonstrations pulled too much interest away from their merchandise. It was also noticed that sales were kind of slow at the begin of the event from 10am-11am. It was suggested that vendors might try an early bird special to improve sales in that time.

Many spinners joint us for Roc-Day from Watertown, NY. We discussed, if we like to keep track, who joins us for the Roc-Day celebration asking about how they heard of the event and if we might more use of name-tags.

Please see the treasurer’s statistics on Roc Day finances for the last nine Roc Days on page 3.

Membership dues: Your membership dues of $20 for 2017 were due in January. If you have not yet paid, please, bring the money to the March meeting or mail a check to our treasurer Vickie Marsted at 6 Circle Drive, Cortland NY 13045. We are planning to reduce the group of news-letter recipients to those who have paid their membership. Feel welcome to use the form on page, when submitting your membership dues.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Angelika St. Laurent

Guild Garage Sale & Parking in Back

At our next Meeting, March 11th, we will have our annual garage sale. Bring wanted fiber, books, and tools you would like to destash and sell them to your fellow guild members, who love a good bargain!

The All Saints Catholic Church holds a service at 11am that day and asks that all guild members park their cars in the back parking lot to make the few front parking spots available for elderly church goers, who might have difficulties walking.
Roc Day Statistics (Treasurer report)

Vickie Marsted provided us with the financial statistics for the last nine Roc-Days. Our vendors pay a fee to sell at Roc-Day. The Chinese Auction and Raffles bring in a fair amount of money. In previous years some members held small workshops for a fee. Occasionally, money was donated to us.

Every Roc--Day also has some expenses for advertising, prints etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Vendors</th>
<th>Auction/Raffle</th>
<th>Workshops</th>
<th>Profit</th>
<th>Donation</th>
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<td>378</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>-156</td>
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<tr>
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<td>270</td>
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</tr>
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<td>742</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

Sarah Anderson Workshop:

The registration for the Sarah Anderson Workshop on May 13/14 is now open to the public. There are still available spots in the workshop. Feel free to spread the word. We do need at least 15 participants to make the workshop happen. Sign-up sheet and information can be found on page 4.
SARAH ANDERSON WORKSHOP
Sponsored by the Black Sheep Handspinners’ Guild

When: May 13 and May 14

Where: Lansing Community Center, 29 Auburn Road, Lansing, NY 14882

Time: 9 am to 4 pm

Fee: 1 Day $100 2 days $200

May 13 DRAFTING:
Drafting refers to the way the spinner manipulates or draws out the fiber so twist enters it to create yarn. Different drafting methods produce very different yarns even from the same fiber and different fibers may require different techniques. In this class we will work on drafting techniques that spinners of all skill levels will appreciate including diameter control, understanding twist, drafting for different types of yarn, producing yarn compatible to an existing yarn and finishing techniques.

May 14 PLYING:
This class follows and builds on the drafting class. Students learn to use different types of singles in plied yarns. The class begins with basic plying and then moves into more complex types of plying such as spiral, chain, cable, crepe, boucle and core yarns. We do as many as time permits.

Bring To Class: A wheel in working order, lazy kate, and 3 bobbins. If you have a flick or hand carders bring them too.

REGISTRATION
NAME_____________________________________________________
EMAIL_____________________________________________________

MAY 13_______$100
MAY 14 _______$100

Make out check to Black Sheep Hand Spinners’ Guild
Mail check and form to Marjorie Inana 41 W. Court Street, Cortland, NY 13045

Registration is non refundable and is due by Roc Day at which time registration is open to anyone.
**Nuno Felted Scarf mini tutorial**

By  Laurie Ament

This is from my blog, which is mostly about glass beads, but has a wee bit of fiber stuff here and there.

The nuno (pronounced: New? No!) journey continues. The scarf used for this project is rayon, which, if loosely woven, seems to work nicely. And, yeah, another thrift store find (hence the 'new? no!' designation). I was kind of afraid to do this one because of the print, but I decided to take the plunge yesterday and just pay no attention to the printed side! Gives me hope for some of the other printed scarves I have been ignoring...

Five photos show the three easy steps and finished product. Did it turn out precisely right? Well, no, but I like it anyway! I will 'splain what I did and why below.

First, lay out the fiber (not too much!) on the wrong side of the (ironed) scarf on plastic on top of the bed. I do this dry so I can change it later if I don't like it. In this photo, the wool has been sprayed with cool water with just a wee bit of soap in it.

Next, I wanted to see what would happen, if I 'raked' the fibers-- just like a big bead! So I took a chop stick and carefully manipulated the fibers, making three lines. Then I filled in the empty space I made at the top with a little more fiber. Turns out this raking was not severe enough, so the pattern is pretty muted in the finished scarf. Oh- and that maroon? It's actually a lovely dark purple.
And, because I have it, I added a little bit of 'confetti'. Just take bits of plied yarn apart into its single plies and toss it about.

Whoops, no pictures, but next step is to roll it around a pool noodle, put a towel around it, tie it up tightly and roll gently. I do this for about 20-25 mins, then take it apart, check for empty areas that might need a bit more fiber, fix those, and put it back together for more rolling around~ while watching a good movie! By the end of the movie, you should have taken it apart 3 or 4 times and readjusted it (roll on noodle the opposite direction, etc.). Don't keep adding fiber, just the first time).

Hopefully, at the end of the movie it will be ready to slam on the counter 30-40 times, rinse in warm water, then water with vinegar, then cool water, wring gently, adjust and hang to dry. Go to bed and Bob's Your Uncle~ a new scarf to wear in the morning!

And here it is in all its glory. The back actually works nicely with the front. And it will be very warm!

One more shot- you can see that the raking made the lines wobbly and not much else. Better than straight lines, anyway!

Oh, this picture looks wonky because it is. This scarf is not on a flat surface!

Here is the blog: [http://isinglassdesign.blogspot.com/](http://isinglassdesign.blogspot.com/)
Handspun

Marilee Williams found this beautiful poem by Floyd Skloot

My wife sits in her swivel chair
Ringed by skeins of multicolored yarn
That will become the summer sweater
She has imagined since September.
Her hands rests on the spinning wheel
And her foot pauses on the pedals
As she gazes out into the swollen river.
Light larking between wind and current
Will be in this sweater. So will a shade
Of red she saw when the sun went down.
When she is at her wheel, time moves
Like the tune I almost recognize now
That she begins to hum it, a lulling
Melody born from the draft of fiber,
Clack of spindle and bobbin, soft
Breath as the rhythm takes hold.
Dear Fellow Spinners and Weavers,

We’d like to invite you to come for another great Wool Day at the Troy Fair on Wednesday, July 26th, 2017 from 9 AM until 5 AM. Wool Day is held in the Cattle Show Arena at the north end of the cattle barns.

Skeins and handspun projects will be judged starting at 10 AM. Please have your entries on the tables by 9 AM. We are looking forward to seeing all of your spinning from this past year. There will be “Fill A Bobbin” and “Drop Spindle” contests as well. Contest rules are attached for your information.

The Sheep to Shawl contest will begin at 12 noon and there should be a good turnout. Don’t be afraid to try. It’s a lot of fun and we all win because we all end up with a beautiful shawl! Please try to arrive at the fairgrounds between 8 AM and 10 AM to set up. Remember that the arena floor is sawdust and while plywood for the looms will be provided for each team, you will want to bring a tarp or rug for your wheels. Winners of the various contests will be announced around 4:00 PM. As always there will be many vendors coming with everything from spinning and weaving supplies to beautiful raw fleeces, wonderful finished products and sumptuous dyed roving.

The Troy Fair is located in Alperon Park in Troy, PA on Rt. 14 just north of Rt. 6 in Bradford County. Please enter the fairgrounds at Gate 3 off of Rt. 14 on the north end of the fairgrounds. There is a one-way road behind the fair that will bring you right to the arena to unload. You can then drive out and around the fair back to Gate 3 to park, so its handy for loading back up at the end of the day. The Fair does ask us to move our cars in and out quickly.

If your guild is coming to compete in the Sheep to Shawl Contest or just to spin, please contact me so I’ll be able to save room for you. Conversely if you then can’t come please let me know.

Also, if you’re interested in becoming a vendor or are a returning vendor please let me know.

So get your wheels, looms, handspun skeins, finished projects and come for a day of fun and excitement! If you have any questions, be sure to contact me.

Hoping to see you there, Lura

Lura Trossello – newerecreations@frontier.com
Mariah Holdren - mhold13@gmail.com
Welcome to Wool Day! Our aim is to educate the public about fiber animals, fibers and fiber crafts while having an enjoyable and informative day ourselves.

All items entered must have been completed during the past year and not previously entered at Troy Fair. Prizes, first through fifth ribbons, will be awarded if skill and competition warrant. Best of Show ribbons will be awarded for exceptional work at the discretion of the judges. All judges’ decisions will be final. All project entries must be on the tables by 9:00 AM. Items will be on exhibit Wool Day only and must be picked up by 5:00 PM. The wool Day committee assumes no responsibility for damage or loss, nor for returning unclaimed items.

A 3x5 information card is required for many of the entries in the different divisions.

On one side: Your name and address

On the other side: Category, Division, Class and this information – fiber content (animal breed, plant, color, etc.), preparation and spinning techniques and intended use (sweater, afghan, etc.).

**Category I. Hand Spun Yarn Items**

**Division A.** Hand Spun Skeins – Each skein must be 1 to 2 ounces, washed, and unobtrusively tied in at least three places. You must attach a 3x5 information card. Please include a 3”x3” swatch showing the intended use of the skein. This is not mandatory, but is for the education of our visitors and each other. The skeins will be judged on consistent even spin.

Class 1 – Child Spun – 12 years old and under

Class 2 – Novice Adult Spinner – The spinner has learned to spin within the last year.

Class 3 – Novelty Yarns

Class 4 – Singles Wool Yarn

Class 5 – 2 Ply Wool Yarn

Class 6 – Silk Yarn

Class 7 – Goat Fiber Yarn – mohair, pygora, cashmere, etc.

Class 8 – Angora Rabbit Yarn

Class 9 – Any Other Animal Fiber – camel, llama, yak, etc.

Class 10 – Plant Fiber Yarn – cotton, linen, ramie, etc.

Class 11 – Blended Yarn – list fibers

Class 12 – Any Fiber 3 Ply or more.

**Division B. Greatest Yardage** – A well spun 2 ply yarn prepared from any fiber. The aim is to produce the greatest yardage in a one ounce washed skein, while maintaining spinning quality. Attach a 3x5 information card.

**Division C. A Hand Spinners Yarn Basket** – A ½ pound to 1 pound amount of yarn, spun for use in one project, displayed in a basket. You must include a pattern and a sample swatch of the project as well as the 3x5 information card. This division will be judged on craftsmanship and creativity.

**Division D. Hand Spun Project** – this will include any sweaters, vests, mittens, socks, afghans, pillows, etc. made from hand spun yarn or natural fibers (as in felt). Attach a 3x5 information card. These classes will be judged on spinning, craftsmanship and creativity. At the discretion of the judges these classes may be broken down to sub-classes such as sweaters, small items, etc.

**Class 1 – Child – 12 years old and under.**

**Class 2 – Adult**
Category II. Wool Day Contests

Division A – Fill a Bobbin – this is a timed 10 minute event. The spinner will try to produce the longest yardage using their own carded fleece and any type of spinning wheel. Quality of spinning will also be judged.

Division B – Drop Spindle – This is a timed 10 minute event. The spinner will try to produce the longest yardage using their own carded fleece and drop spindle. Quality of spinning will also be judged.

Division C – Sheep to Shawl

Object: To spin an unwashed, in the grease, wool fleece into yarn and weave the yarn into a shawl in a four hour time limit.

Team: Each team may have six members – one weaver, one plyer, and four spinners. A team may participate with fewer members. Team appearance and identification is judged and is part of the fun.

Equipment: Flickers or hand cards, foot or hand powered spinning and weaving equipment is to be used. The loom may be a floor or table model.

Shawl Size: The finished shawl is to be at least 18” wide and 72” long, excluding the fringe. The shawl may be wider – up to 24”, but not less than 18” wide. It may also be longer.

Design: Team’s choice, but the warp should not be less than 8 ends per inch.

Warp: The warp is to be a two ply 100% wool yarn. A handspun yarn spun by the team members and / or guild members is preferred, but a commercial wool yarn is acceptable. The loom is to be warped before the contest.

Weft: The weft fleece is to be any in the grease wool fleece that has only been skirted prior to the contest. The weft is to be teased, flicked, and / or hand carded, spun and plied by the team during the contest.

POINTS:

Team identification and appearance………………..10 points
Design………………………………………………………………………………..20 points
Spinning……………………………………………………………………………40 points
Weaving……………………………………………………………………………..20 points
Overall (size, fringe, time)……………………………………..25 points

All teams will meet with the judges prior to the contest.
Membership Form

Please type or print

Date: ____________________________

DUES Record:

2016 2019

2017 2020

2018 2021

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!!!

Roc Day
Programming
Newsletter
Membership
Website
Outreach
Treasurer

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, 6 Circle Drive, Cortland, NY 13045
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, 6 Circle Drive, Cortland, NY 13045. Send the ad in digital form to the newsletter editor, angelika@simonstl.com. Black & white business cards are published free for current members.

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 woollee winder, two bobbins and kate for sale. Contact Karey Solomon at threads@empacc.net.

For Sale from my happy sheep and rabbits in Trumansburg: Navajo Churro roving in a variety of colors and white Angora Rabbit wool.

Contact Sharon Berger 607- 592-4649

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