Looking out my office window across the Vale of Ithaca, I see nary a leftover speck of our recent snows. Dare we hope that the deep winter, at least, is behind us? Twelve weeks to the day until the average last frost date, in any case, and I plan to commemorate it by planting my leeks in pots down in the laundry room. And speaking of commemorations, it’s barely over two weeks until Roc Day Respun on March 10! I’m very much looking forward to joining you in celebrating our first ever Roc Day in the spring. It will be exciting. Hope to see you all there.

—Wayne

Next meeting is on March 10th from 10am-2:30pm, and we’ll celebrate Roc Day Respun

President Wayne Harbert
Vice President Sue Quick
Secretary Angelika St. Laurent
Treasurer Louise Henrie
Newsletter Angelika St. Laurent
Workshops Marjorie Inana
Webmaster Rosane Mordt
Roc-Day Coordinator Yvonne LaMontagne

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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!
Hat Competition

Since Roc Day had to be postponed to the 10\textsuperscript{th} of March, there is still a chance to participate in the hat competition. Even for those who had a too busy holiday time to get anything done. Here are the rules again:

**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.

**Home Textile Tool Museum**

The Home Textile Tool Museum in Orwill PA will be opening again on May 19\textsuperscript{th}. Among other activities, Kathy Halton will be demonstrating flax spinning. The Museum will be open every Saturday until Saturday August 26\textsuperscript{th}.

Every Saturday there is a different theme, including sheep shearing, a sheep to shawl event, a cotton day, and a flax day. On June 17\textsuperscript{th}, Kathy Halton and other members of the Black Sheep Handspinners Guild will demonstrate cotton spinning. Additionally, the Museum offers workshops, usually on Friday covering topics from sheep breed survey, over cheese and basket making to building a timber frame loom.

For more information see: [http://www.hometextiletoolmuseum.org](http://www.hometextiletoolmuseum.org)
Roc Day Schedule

Doors open 10:00 to 2:30

All-Day Events:

Pendulum wheel, Wayne Harbert
Fiber Tasting Table, Angelika St.Laurent

10:30-11:30 Workshop: Felting
11:00  Last Chance to Hand in Your Hat for the Hat Competition
11:00  Demonstration: Electric Spinner, Lois Swales
11:30  Demonstration, Kumihimo, Marjorie Inana
11:30-1:30  Dish-to-pass lunch
11:30-12:30 Workshop: Charkha Spinning
12:30  Demonstration: Spinning Cotton on a Great Wheel, Kathy Halton
1:00  Demonstration: Spinning Flax, Sue Quick
1:00  Sale of Raffle Tickets ends
1:30  Presentation of raffle items to winners, followed by awarding prizes to the winners of the hat competition.
2:30  Cleanup begins
Sixteen members of the Guild went to our annual retreat. We went to Watson Homestead Retreat Center in Painted Post. We had a fun weekend spinning, knitting, laughing, exploring the local hiking trails, and trying to remember the seven deadly sins. We got gluttony right away (see the cookie recipe) and none of us came up with wrath.

During our April meeting, we’ll discuss, whether to return to the same location next year or try a different one.

**Gluten Free Chocolate Chip Cookies**

1 stick butter  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 egg  
1/2 teaspoon of baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon of salt  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
1/8 teaspoon powdered allspice  
1 tablespoon powdered cocoa  
1/4 cup ground hemp seeds  
1 cup oat flour  
1 cup dark chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 400F. Beat butter until soft, add the other ingredients and mix into a dough. Use spoons to set little heaps on a baking sheet. Bake for 16 min.
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.