Yet another impending polar vortex to slog through, they say, but I take heart from the growing light, warm memories of a bustling, spirited, blizzard-free Roc Day celebration in the company of a remarkable group of people, and the realization that by the time of our next meeting we’ll be past the crest of winter. On Roc Day, as is our tradition, we responded to the dark and chill by swirling up our own little counter-vortex of camaraderie, levity, idea sharing, and creativity. We attracted a large and enthusiastic crowd and sent them home with high spirits and renewed energy. As always, our dedicated community invested hours of effort in the event, and we are grateful to everyone—vendors, demonstrators, planners, volunteers, cooks, set-up and clean-up crews, organizers of and contributors to the raffle, participants in the competition, and all the assembled spinners (from as far away as Michigan)—who contributed to its success. Most particularly, thanks to Yvonne, who undertook the daunting task of organizing and choreographing all of that. I hope you’ll all be able to join us at the February meeting, for a bit of self-congratulation and recreational spinning. Valentine’s Day is coming up the following week, so feel free to bring some Valentine’s goodies to share.

--

Wayne
Guild News

New Newsletter Editor: Tammy Fazzi volunteered to become Newsletter Editor. Her first Newsletter will be the June newsletter.

Guild Retreat
Our annual spinning retreat will happen on the weekend of February 22nd-24th. Kathy Thomas is organizing. We have reserved the 'Galilee' house at the Casowasco Camp and Retreat Center, 158 Casowaseo Drive, Moravia, New York 13118. The cost of the weekend which includes 4 meals will be $177.50. We will bring our own food on Friday (22nd) evening and we will have leftovers on Sunday for lunch.

If you are planning to attend the retreat and have food allergies or have ethical/religious objections to certain food groups, please, let Kathy know by February 8th.

If you would like to participate in the retreat or have any questions or need to record food preferences, please contact Kathy at katis2@yahoo.com.

MidAtlantic Fiber Association Conference
The MidAtlantic Fiber Association (MAFA) holds this year its biannual conference from Thursday, June 27th, to Sunday, June 30th, in Millersville University, Millersville, Pennsylvania 17551. The conference features in depth 16 hour workshops. Housing and meals can be booked alongside with course registration. The Black Sheep Handspinners Guild is a member organization of MAFA, that gives guild members the opportunity to sign up early for the conference, starting February 2nd at 9am. To sign up and for more information follow this link: https://mafafiber.org

Ellie May endorsed the Mafa conference as follows: Back in the days when MAFA was held at Bucknell quite a few Blacksheep members attended. It was a fantastic experience. The workshops were well organized as was the whole situation. We made friends with people from all over. These workshops sound even better because you focus on one topic. I only wish I had enough energy to attend.
Guild News Continued:

Vending Opportunity at the Genesee Valley Fare and Ware Festival

Genesee Valley Council on the Arts is looking for vendors for June 15th and 16th for their third annual Fare & Ware festival at Letchworth State Park, Castile, NY 14427. The deadline for vendor applications is February 15th. For more information, follow the following link: [http://gvartscouncil.org/fare-and-ware/](http://gvartscouncil.org/fare-and-ware/)

Roc Day Photos

Left: Dorset Button Workshop

Right: Chakra spinning workshop

Photos: Wayne Harbert
Left: Spinning Circle

Right and Left: Cinch making demonstration.

Left: Baltic style band weaving demonstration.

Photos: Wayne Harbert
Recipes from Roc-Day

Some of the dishes served at Roc Day were so delicious, that members asked for recipes.

**Sue Weaver’s Scalloped Pineapple Recipe:**

Beat 3 eggs in a mixing bowl.

Add 1/2 cup sugar and 2tbsp flour.

Mix well, then add one 20oz can crushed pineapple with juice.

Mix well and pour into greased baking dish.

Dice up 3-4 slices of bread and place on top (could use some sort of fancy bread!)

Melt 1/4 cup butter and drizzle over bread.

Bake at 350 degrees for about 1/2 hour.

She doubled the recipe for Rock Day but did not double the topping and baked it for about 1 hour.

**Karey Salomon’s Black Bean/Chickpea Brownie Recipe:**

Melt 1 1/2 c semi-sweet chocolate chips

In a food processor, blend

  2 cups cooked chickpeas, drained and rinsed/ this is one can/ you can also use 1 can of black beans

  3 eggs / or 1 cup egg substitute

  3/4 c sugar

  1/2 tsp baking powder

  2 tsp instant coffee

  1 tsp vanilla or orange extract

Add melted chocolate and blend again

Pour into lightly greased 9” square cake pan

Bake at 350 degrees 45 minutes or until a tester or knife can be poked in and removed clean. Cool, cut into wedges and serve with a raspberry sherbet or sorbet.
Jonah Larson is only 11 years old but he’s already an international celebrity—in the world of crocheting. The Wisconsin sixth-grader often arrives home from school to find balls of yarn and fan letters sent by the thousands of people who follow the crochet prodigy on social media. Jonah began crocheting at age 5 and is now a speed knitter who can finish an ornate, beautiful blanket in a mere eight hours. Admirers from as far afield as England, Malta, and Lebanon now ask the youngster to post tutorials online and have ordered hundreds of his creations, including crocheted octopuses, dog sweaters, and shawls. “I’m an old soul,” Jonah says, “in a young person.”
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. Business cards are published free for current members.