



Newsletter December 2019

Issue #12



This Newsletter is dedicated to the generous spirit of Ellie May. It was an honor to have been given the opportunity to learn from her.

Suzanne M. Schwartz, Editor

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Message from the President

Dear Fellow Spinners,

It is unfortunately time to share sad news. Ellie May died Sunday, November 24, 2019. She was a long time member of the Guild. She had been Guild president and, until a few years ago, Ellie May organized our paper bag raffle on Roc Day. We will miss her cheerfulness and the wonderful soups she used to bring to our holiday parties and Roc Day.

This year, again, we will have our annual holiday party. If you are interested in participating in our traditional gift exchange, bring a wrapped small fiber-related gift, not more expensive than \$10. Edible holiday goodies are very welcome.

We also will have to plan for Roc Day. If you have not yet signed up to help out, please do so. Roc Day lives because of our participation. If you have something for the paper bag raffle, please bring it in December. It is difficult to set up donations that arrive late.

Wishing you all a peaceful holiday,

Angelika

Special Memorial to One of Our Own.



Eleanor "Ellie" May

Ithaca - Eleanor "Ellie" May, age 90, died on November 24, 2019 at home surrounded by family in Ithaca, NY. Ellie was born in Chicago on September 23, 1929, to the late Marian Elizabeth Porter and Leslie Wyman Porter. She is survived by her loving husband, Montgomery "Monte"

May Jr., whom she married on August 17, 1957, and her daughters Marianne May-Rodda (Phil) and Patty Van de Bogart (Ray), and her grandchildren: Sam, Benny, Daniel, and Natalie "Lili." She was predeceased by her eldest daughter, Leslie May-Mettler (Charlie). She is also survived by her adoptive family in Israel: Mendel and Abby Breitstein, and their children: Aryeh, Ezra, Noam, Meital, Amram and Tehilla.

Ellie graduated with a degree in Nursing from Chicago Wesley Memorial Hospital in 1950 and worked at Shriner's Hospital, and the children she worked with at that time have always held a special place in her heart. She went on to get a degree in Public Health Nursing in Seattle and from that point on always considered herself to be a public health nurse. She moved to Ithaca with her family in 1971 where she became a school nurse teacher for 20 years. Ellie was always an active member of the community working to make it a better place. She was President of the Board of Visiting Nurse Services, County Office of the Aging, and Friends of the Tompkins

County Public Library. She also volunteered at Lifelong helping seniors with taxes and health insurance (HICAP), and was active in 4-H and Girl Scouts when her daughters were involved in them. These are only a few examples of organizations she worked with in the community; we are still learning about and uncovering the vast impact she had. Ellie loved her friends that she made in the Blacksheep Handspinners, Fingerlakes Live Steam Club, her book club, and her biweekly breakfast with the Nurses. Ellie was extremely family-oriented and loved her family above all else. She was constantly setting up family get-togethers and adventures, and we will forever cherish those memories.

Ellie being Ellie, was working on drafting her obituary when she died, so we have included a quote directly from her: "I have been blessed with fantastic friends without whom I would not have survived the joys and sorrows of life. Your family is supportive but friends add a whole new dimension. I have treasured each of you. Monte and I had the pleasure of owning the Stewart Park Merry-Go-Round for fifteen years. I had a special job as a nurse teacher in the Ithaca School District. My volunteer jobs enriched my life. I leave this earth knowing I used my life as best I could. It pains me to leave those I love to grieve, but know I am always in your heart."

Calling hours will be held on Monday, December 2, from 4-7pm at Perkins Funeral Home, 55 W. Main St., Dryden.

If you want to honor Ellie's memory, please volunteer in your community, or you can donate to Lifelong at 119 W Court Street Ithaca NY 14850.

Online condolences at www.perkinsfh.com

(Published in Ithaca Journal from Nov. 29 to Dec. 2, 2019)

Messages from Guild Members

Wayne Harbert:

Our spinning community has lost a valued friend and champion. Ellie May died last week at the age of 90, after a remarkable career as a nurse, teacher, and volunteer in many worthy organizations. Her obituary appears in Saturday's Ithaca Journal. In our own Black Sheep community, she was a constantly inspiring, creative presence. A member of the guild since its earliest years, she served it with great dedication in innumerable roles, including a term as its president, and she will be remembered especially as a cheerful, welcoming, expert teacher and mentor for those of us who came to the craft in later years.



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Kathy Halton and Kay Stickane:

Eleanor (Ellie) May, a longtime member of the BSHG, passed away this past week. She was one of the early members of the guild, and had been a major teacher, friend, encourager, and support to many of us who knew her. Her practical approach to all things spinning (and life too) was an inspiration. She will be greatly missed by so many people. Reading her obituary made me realize how much she gave back to her community, and to her friends. I hope we can take some time at Roc Day to honor her memory.



Jean Currie:

Eleanor (Ellie) May, a longtime member of the BSHG, passed away this past week. She was one of the early members of the guild, and had been a major teacher, friend, encourager, and support to many of us who knew her. Her practical approach to all things spinning (and life too) was an inspiration. She will be greatly missed by so many people. Reading her obituary made me realize how much she gave back to her community, and to her friends. I hope we can take some time at Roc Day to honor her memory.



Guild Business News

The next guild meeting will be on Saturday, December 12, 2019 from 11:00am-3:00pm at All Saints Church Parish Hall, Route 34B, in Lansing, NY. We will have our annual holiday celebration with a small gift exchange. Everyone who wishes to take part should bring one wrapped fiber-related gift, not more than \$10 worth. (Spinners who do not wish to participate in the gift exchange are very welcome to just sit and spin as usual.) Also, edible holiday goodies are very welcome, too.

The Guild meets on the second Saturday of every month. Exceptions are possible-see location changes in the latest newsletter!

Old News

Guild Meeting Location

All members are asked to be on the lookout for an alternative potential meeting location in a reasonable price range. It must have adequate parking.

Raise in Membership Fees

In order to cover our higher rental bills, we voted to increase membership fee to \$25 yearly starting January 2020.

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Address List

We put together an address list featuring, names, email addresses, and telephone numbers. The list is available in printed form at guild meetings or by request to Secretary, Wayne Harbert at weh2@cornell.edu or phone [607-564-9328](tel:607-564-9328) .

If you know of folks who would like to join, please have them notify and pay dues to Louise Henrie at: henrielm6@aol.com

Guild Officers

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

Upcoming Fiber Events, Craft Fairs and Workshops

Temple Beth El in downtown Ithaca will be holding its Hanukkah Fair on Dec 15 with local crafts, food, music, etc. It starts at 9am. All are welcome. Here's a link with a little info:

<https://iaujc.org/hanukkah-festival>

Lansing Library Artisan Fair should be on your list of things to do! It's Dec 6 & 7. Here's their Facebook page with more info:

<https://www.facebook.com/lansingartisanfair/>

General Announcements

Knitters/Crocheters Needed!

It seems that the winter weather and cold is already upon us!

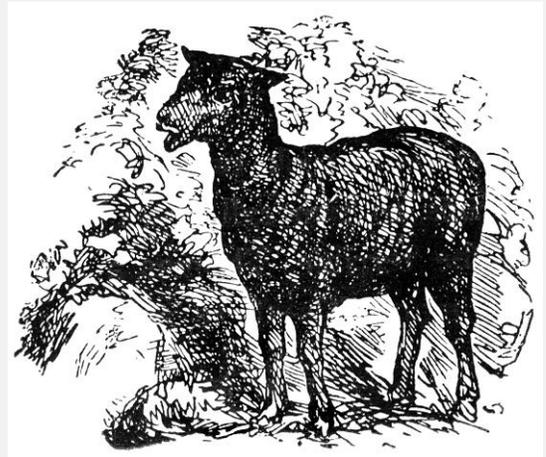
The Boutique at The Cancer Resource Center is running very low of handmade knitted winter hats which are so needed and very much appreciated by our clients.

We are reaching out to you for your "loving hands" support. Can you help us? For more information contact rocio@crcfl.net or Jyl Dowd jyl@crcfl.net.

Thank you!!

Roc Day 2020 Spinning and Knitting/Crochet Challenge

Spin 3.5 oz of Targee wool roving to create yarn. Spinning techniques are your choice – any gauge, any ply, any technique. Use the yarn you spin to knit or crochet a neck warmer (can't be a scarf or a shawlette). You may choose the pattern. Use **only the fiber provided** with no dyeing or additions of any kind. It is not necessary to use all the fiber. It is necessary to use only the fiber provided.



10:30 deadline for neck warmers to go into the judged contest. Anything entered after the deadline will be entered into the popular choice judging.

There will be two judgings: one by people's choice and one by Black Sheep members for proficiency of spinning, knitting or crocheting.

Contact person for this event is Anne Furman.

ahfurman@yahoo.com

[607-387-4141](tel:607-387-4141)

From Yvonne LaMontagne

Roc Day 2020!

The Black Sheep Handspinners Guild will be holding their annual Roc Day celebration on January 11 from 10:00 till 4:00 at All Saints Church in Lansing, NY. Plans and preparations are

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underway, and it looks like we will once again have a festive and enjoyable day filled with opportunities to spin and visit, enjoy a potluck lunch, purchase from vendors, take part in a workshop, display wares, win something in the raffle, or watch a demonstration. We are still looking for a few volunteers and the volunteer sign-up sheet will be circulating at the December meeting. We also need items for the RAFFLE. Please consider donating an item for the raffle and bring it to the December meeting. If you can't bring your item to the December meeting, either give it to someone else to bring to the meeting, or bring it to All Saints on Friday January 10 at 4:30 when we will be setting up. We are also thinking of having a table where BSHG members can display their handspun creations. More information to follow. If you have any questions feel free to contact me, Yvonne LaMontagne. Looking forward to a great day!



Blacksheep Handspinner's Guild Winter Retreat 2020

February 21nd to February 23rd

Price of \$175 includes - Shared Room w/shower, 4 meals and linens. A deposit of \$25 is required to hold your spot.

The cost includes meals: Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner, and Sunday breakfast. We bring our dish to pass, goodies and drinks (wine) etc for Friday night. (We always have more than enough.)

New Members welcome!

Special Dietary needs can be accommodated if Kat is notified at least one week in advance.

PLEASE NOTE: No walk-ins are allowed. *You MUST Sign Up and Pay to attend.* That's why there are 4 months to pay, no exceptions.

Contact:

Kat Thomas - 607 345-7919 katiris2@yahoo.com
1554 E River Rd
Cortland NY 13045

Pay with check, cash or PayPal. Non-Refundable Deposit Required.

It's a fun event held at Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center we stay in Galilee.

Galilee

Galilee is the renovated, former summer home of the Case Family. The history of the building melds beautifully with hotel-style accommodations, creating an ideal place for groups to meet. This is the building most guests equate with Casowasco because of its history, location on the lake, and beauty.

The Rusty Best Memorial Library features an unmatched view of Owasco Lake and a cozy place to enjoy a book. Galilee also has a large living room that is typically used as the main meeting area for groups. The 2nd Floor has seen the most work and has become one of the most luxurious place to stay on site. Almost all of the bedrooms feature their own full baths and a beautiful view.

Galilee includes 12 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms, and 9 showers to accommodate up to 29 guests. Pillows and blankets are included with each room. The building features a piano, kitchenette, two gas fireplaces, and two covered porches. The larger porch has been updated for extended use in colder seasons with a transparent vinyl enclosure and propane patio heater. The campfire circle is located a short distance off the south porch, along the shore of Owasco Lake.

History

The history of Galilee is part of its unique charm. The building we now call Galilee was the former summer home of Theodore and Gertrude Case. Built in 1896 and uniquely designed to fit the contour of the shoreline, it quickly became the centerpiece of the Case estate. The rail road that runs along the property dropped off many famous guests during those years - including an alleged visit by Mr. Walt Disney.

After the purchase of the property in 1946, Galilee began to undergo what would be several changes, all with the intent of making the building into a retreat facility. In the late 70's, it was almost closed for lack of funds to make the upgrades - but through volunteer work and an aggressive fund raising campaign, Galilee survived. Recent history has been very good to the facility. A large gift given by Peg Shields in the name of her parents, the Veters, has enabled a massive renovation - insuring that this beautiful piece of history will be used for many years to come.

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General Fun stuff

Interesting Reading

Marilee Williams send me the following link.

A couple fiber-related stories about Mr. Rogers and his iconic sweaters I thought you might enjoy:

<https://www.today.com/parents/hospital-dressed-babies-mr-rogers-it-s-very-cute-t167174>

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, choonja43@gmail.com.

Vendors

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Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

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, Angelika St.Laurent know!!!

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Roc Day | Website |
| Programming | Outreach |
| Newsletter | Treasurer |
| Membership | |

Our newsletter is distributed electronically. If this is a problem, please contact Suzanne Schwartz, 114 Sears St. Ithaca, NY 14850 (607) 277-6903. Please fill this out and either bring it to a meeting or mail it with your check for \$25 to: Louise Henrie, 417 2nd Street, Ithaca, NY 14850