

Black Sheep Handspinners Guild Newsletter

February 2008

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<http://www.blacksheephandspinnersguild.org>

The Black Sheep meet from 11am-3pm on the second Saturday of the month at the Varna Community Center Route 366 in Varna, New York. Exceptions are the months of December, July, and August when we meet in member's homes.

February 9th from 11 AM to 3 PM

Those at the February meeting instead of the retreat will have fun learning, teaching and improving skills.

JIM JOHNSON will be willing to "tweak" our wheels, remind us how and why to lubricate wheels, how to measure for a new band and what to use.

KATHY HALTON will teach us drop spinning. It is said you understand spinning better when you learn on a drop spindle. Let's find out. She will have spindles to use and Jim will have some for sale as well or bring your own. She is such a talented spinner on the spindle she even sells her yarn!

ELLIE MAY will bring carders and the drum carder (if you have the guild one or one you can bring please do). Bring your fibers and try your hand at carding and blending or whatever you wish. Just imagine the unique yarn you can make by blending it yourself.

KAY STICKANE will talk about the difference between woolen and worsted spinning and the advantages of both.

If you would like to learn something else call Ellie (272 8224), She will try to find an instructor. If you already know all of this please come anyway to spin, to share, and to enjoy each other's company.

Raffle at Rock Day from Ellie May



Thanks to the generosity of members and vendors we had a delightful selection. I am grateful to those of you who put considerable effort in your gift. The number of tickets sold is in direct proportion to the prizes. We made \$310 on the raffle. Some people told me it is the best part of the day, and others said they really look forward to it. I hope you continue to be generous with the gifts. You could start now to make your contributions for the 2009 raffle. They would make good "show and tell" items for meetings.

Roc Day 2008 from Carol LaBoire

January 12 turned out to be a surprisingly mild day, and a wonderful break from the bleak and dark winter, as about 300 people visited the Varna Community Center for our annual Roc Day celebration. 12 vendors displayed a variety of fiber-related items ranging from hand-dyed yarns and fiber to felted dolls, knitting kits, hand woven scarves and table items, to handmade baskets ideal for holding fiber projects. The vendors reported that it was a successful day for them, and they really appreciated the guild's organization of the day. Some are already asking about next year.

Ruth Allen's Kids' Corner was well-received by children of all ages who tried their hands at weaving and spindle spinning. Our guest speaker, Daina Taimina, spoke to a packed house about her work with crocheted mathematical models. Ellie May's raffle was very popular as Roc Day participants bought tickets and "voted" for the items that they wanted to win. Thank you to Ellie and Deb Miller for running the spinning contest. Guild members and vendors were most generous with their donations for the raffle and door prizes. Vickie Marsted kept things running smoothly in the kitchen for our pot luck lunch.

Our lovely handspun and hand knit luxury afghan was beautifully displayed at Roc Day, and we sold a number of raffle tickets (professionally produced by Penny Spingarn –Thank you, Penny!)

Many members of other upstate New York guilds attended, and joined the spin-in. This year's event was also well-attended by the public, who came out to see how handspun yarn is made and the variety of spinning wheels, including a selection of antique wheels and tools for spinning.

Chairman Jim Johnson did an excellent job of keeping the Roc Day Committee focused and on track. He did a lot of small jobs that were needed, arrived early and stayed late to keep things running smoothly on January 12th.

The Roc Day Committee would like to thank everyone who pitched in to make this day successful - the setup crew, door volunteers, kitchen volunteers, those named above, and the cleanup crew.

Jim Johnson, Chairman
Audrey Lowes, Parking Coordinator
Ruth Allen, Kid's Corner and Publicity

Vickie Marsted, Kitchen Coordinator
Susan Sarabasha, Brochure, Poster, Ad
Carol LaBorie, Vendor Coordinator and Publicity



Matt and Daina Taimina



Daina on art and math



Jane North and Julia Gray

Upcoming:

Guild meeting
February 9, 2008
Varna Community Center
Varna, NY

Fiber Fallout
Johnsonburg, NJ
September 26 to 28, 2008

this is an early post but check out the instructors
<http://www.northcountryspinners.org/retreat.htm>

Quality in your hands.

Susan's Spinning Bunny



Fondle This!

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plus

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angora

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<http://www.spinningbunny.com> susan@spinningbunny.com
607/564-7178 1-866-504-7236

**Come see us at: 311B Tupper Rd,
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wheel for sale. You can
contact her at:
jl Burr@frontiernet.net.

Wanted to Buy or Rent

Tabletop loom with 4 or more
shafts call Ellen after 5 PM at
607 733 5269

To place an ad

A check for \$5.00 made to BSHG for an ad to run
three times (a year is \$15) should be sent to the
current treasurer, Eleanor May, 1360 Slaterville
Road, Ithaca, NY. 14850. Send the ad to the
newsletter editor, Anne Furman at
jbfglass@lightlink.com. If you have a question
for her or others, you can email us. through the
link at the top of the newsletter.