

Black Sheep Handspinners Guild Newsletter

May 2011

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<http://www.blacksheephandspinnersguild.org>

The Black Sheep meet from 11am-3pm on the second Saturday of the month at the All Saints Church, Route 34b, Lansing.

President's Message

Jim Johnson

Agenda for the May Meeting

1. introductions and show and tell
2. election
3. tee shirt announcement
4. Celia Quinn
5. announcements

It is now May and I don't know about you, but I am getting tired of stoking the stove and watching the sky fall on me. I realize that griping about the weather does nothing to change it, but there is nothing else I can do about it so consider this a big gripe.

We are starting a new year in the life of the guild, so since it is all of ours please consider how you want the guild to go forward. Not just things for someone else to do, but decide what you can do to make it a better place to share spinning knowledge and friendship.

Workshop!

CELIA QUINN WORKSHOP

Sponsored by



When: Saturday, Oct 29 and Sunday, Oct 30, 2011

Where: Hampton Inn and Suites, Cortland, NY

Time: 9am – 4 pm

Fee: 1 Day \$80 or 2 Days \$155

Oct 29 - Spinning to Specification

Learn to monitor the diameter and twist of your yarns in simple ways to develop greater consistency. Practice expanding your skills by spinning yarns of widely different sizes and twists. Exercises include making a successful singles warp yarn, a balanced 2 ply, a gossamer yarn, spinning for a specific knitting gauge, and discussing margin of error between skeins in the same project.

Oct 30 - Novelty Yarns

Expand your repertoire of handspun yarns by learning to produce various novelties that are attractive complements to simpler yarns. At day's end, your bobbins will hold an intriguing array of colorful, textured, looped, fuzzy and flecked yarns. Our sampling includes boucle, seed yarn knickerbocker yarn, mohair halo yarn, eyelash yarn, Navajo 3 ply, and garneted yarn.

Members Only REGISTRATION

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

OCT 29 _____ \$80

OCT 30 _____ \$80

BOTH DAYS _____ \$155

Make check out to: Black Sheep Handspinners' Guild

Mail check to: Marjorie Inana, 41 W. Court St., Cortland, NY 13045

Registration is non refundable and due by June 11.

Learning to Spin from Spinners

Marianne Pelletier

This is how learning goes in my experience: you take a class, read some books (maybe), try it out, and then get a habit. This is what the theorists teach me about learning: some people learn by hearing, some by doing, and some by seeing, so, when I teach, I have to explain aloud and draw on the board and then invite the class to try it.

I've been spinning since 1994, or so, when I received a spinning wheel as a gift and took a class at the Fiber Loft in Henniker, NH. Since then, I've bought books and tools and have even gone to SOAR for a conference, which was the most fun conference I've ever been to.

But there are occasional magic moments in a person's life when she gets a tip from someone who knows what she's doing, and I found myself standing in my living room last week, ankle deep in luscious gray wool. learning how to pick out the locks of wool (Oh! That's right! We talked about that in Beginner Spinning), flick them, and then spin from the cut side (Oh, yes! That was Advanced Spinning, right?). I sat in m own living room next to very experienced spinners and made the thinnest, most consistent yarn I've ever made, and in the grease.

Now I get it! It's preparation! Funny how I've forgotten that in my zeal to get a lot of yarn made. Oh! And paying attention! to the yarn, no less. And feel! The right feel! It's called Hand Feel, right? I've gotten lost in my mindless TV watching/spinning habit. I've forgotten to enjoy the spinning itself. Just holding the flicker the right way left me feeling like I'd reconnected to the Earth again and suddenly the wool was cooperating.

None of the dozens of books on my shelf walked me through those steps as carefully as the Fleece to Shawl team did, and I really appreciate having Guild members handy to improve my work. Someday, maybe I can pass it on. If I'm paying attention.

Fleece to Shawl!

Marianne Pelletier

We've met a second time to run a practice on the fleece, and we have gorgeous fleeces. Please let Marianne know if you're interested in being a spinner on this team. We have just enough spinners, which worries me. Please contact Marianne at fudger28@yahoo.com if you're interested -- 277-1758.

Editor's Notes

Marianne Pelletier

I'd like to thank you for being so encouraging while I created these newsletters every month for the past two years. It's been a real pleasure to be able to serve the Guild in this capacity -- I write better than I speak and I do both better than spin.

I will not serve as newsletter editor this coming two-year term. I hope that, if you have a hankering for expressing yourself and have organizational skills to herd cats so they will get you their columns on time, on top of patience with people who are not getting their newsletter, and a twinge of technical skill to make sure that everyone does, that you'd be interested in taking this on. I spent two or three hours per month on this project, and I met the deadline almost all the time. The satisfaction comes from the finished product and those who congratulate you or demand copies or respond to your articles.

Thanks again for everything -- this experience, the lessons in spinning, and for your friendship.

The Jo-Ann Fabrics Discount Card!

Here's the link! Keep it for when you get your Guild membership card.

http://www.joann.com/joann/common/content_custservice.jsp?catName=VIPDiscounts

Upcoming Events

Marianne thanks Knitters Review for a lot of these entries.

From Eleanor (hartquist@frontiernet.net): The Weavers' Guild of Rochester also has a Weaving and Fiber Arts Center where a variety of courses are offered. Please go to www.weaversguildofrochester.org/center and click on the Courses link.

Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival

I can't go. My fiber room is full. Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD, May 7-8.
<http://www.sheepandwool.org/>

Maine Fiber Frolic

June 4 and 5, Windsor Fairgrounds, Windsor, ME. Those curmudgeons know how to frolic?
<http://www.fiberfrolic.com/>

The 2011 Ontario Handspinning Seminar

Wild About Silk June 10 - 12, 2011
University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario
www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca

World Wide Knitting in Public Day

June 11. Now is the time to take your knitting out of the closet.
<http://www.knittycity.com/blog/kevent/overview/3>

Wiawaka Knitter's Weekend

June 17-19, Wiawaka Holiday House, Lake George, NY.
<http://www.wiawaka.org/calendarlist.html>

Mid-Atlantic Fiber Association Conference 2011

Thanks to Anne Furman

You may not know it but our guild has been a long time member of this fiber dedicated association. The MAFA conference this year will be from July 7 to 10 in Gettysburg, PA. As usual the range is heavy in weaving but includes spinning, dyeing, felting, and jewelry. Please give the conference catalog a look. The instructors are well known experts.

<http://mafafiber.org/11-23.pdf>

Workshops Hosted by Who Knows

Thanks to Jim Johnson

Thought you might be interested in these upcoming workshops, for more information contact Sara Burnett at sjburnett@frontiernet.net. They will be held in **Canandaigua NY**.

Michele Wipplinger (founder and owner of Earthues in Seattle, WA): indigo and woad...the blues....july 28-30...2011. surface design with natural dyes...silk screen, discharge, shibori, painting and more...july 31-august 2...2011. **Joan Morris**...shibori and natural dyes....june 22-26...2012.

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Southern Adirondack Fiber Festival
Greenwich, N.Y.

2009: "Best In Show" Natural Colored Fleece
New York State Sheep and Wool Festival
Rhinebeck, N.Y.

Christine Johnson
johnson.chris123@yahoo.com

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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, Sharon Gombas, 177 Salmon Creek Rd. Lansing, NY 14882. Send the ad to the newsletter editor, Marianne Pelletier, at: fudger28@yahoo.com. If you have a question for her or others, you can email us through the links at the top of the newsletter.

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For more information, go to...
www.cnyfiber.org


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