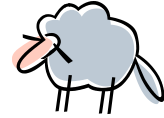


WOOL GATHERINGS...



The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Fleece Spinners' Society

The mission of the Society is to preserve and perpetuate the art of hand spinning; to promote interest in spinning by educating the public through demonstrations, lectures, displays, and news/social media; and to provide instruction and social life in spinning for its members.

Next Meeting: Saturday May 18th, 2024, 10:00 AM
First United Methodist Church
17 W Genesee St
Baldwinsville, NY

Open Spin

Hostess: Sue Jones, Treats: Jules Heller, Christina Rotondo

Note the May meeting is at the First United Methodist Church in Baldwinsville.

Bring your spinning, knitting, crocheting, etc for a relaxing few hours of crafting and conversation. If you want coffee, please bring your own since we don't have the facilities to make it at this church.

Elections for guild officers will be held at the meeting. Anyone thinking about becoming more involved in the day-to-day work of the guild should consider becoming an officer. Please contact one of the officers if you are interested in running for an office. Don't be shy!

If you have allergies (fiber, food, perfume, etc), please inform one of the officers so we can work to avoid the allergen coming into the meeting or prepare attendees in advance of a possible encounter. See the guild [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) webpage for more information.

APRIL MEETING

President Jill Robinson called the meeting to order.

Everyone was reminded to wear their name tags. All meeting hostess and treats spots have been filled.

Marilyn Brown, a founding member of the guild passed away April 22nd at the age of 93. A sympathy card was passed around for members to sign. A service will be held

Wednesday May 8th, 11:00am at the Grace Episcopal Church in Baldwinsville.

Treasurer Angela Mann reported a balance of \$7795.11. The March auction brought in \$1699.

Frolic Report: The raffle made \$718. Guild members voted to donate \$250 of the raffle proceeds to the “Friends of Beaver Lake”. Jill will ask Beaver Lake about having working lights and outlets for next year’s Frolic since some were not working this year.

The guild voted to continue to receive *PLY* magazine. Post meeting note: the guild subscription runs through June 2025 so no need to renew now. Angela Mann has an article in the next issue of *PLY*.

Maker Faire is May 4th at the New York State Fairgrounds. Nicole Massenzio is all set with volunteers to teach drop spindling.

Officer elections will be held at the May meeting. Please contact one of the officers if you are interested in running for an office.

The **Golden Harvest Festival** is September 7th and 8th at Beaver Lake Nature Center in Baldwinsville. Guild members decided to demonstrate at the festival again this year. If we have trouble staffing the booth again like last year, we won’t sign up for 2025.

A signup sheet for demonstrating in the guild booth at the **CNY Fiber Arts Festival** June 8th and 9th was passed around. We still need volunteers for Sunday 10-1 and 1-4. Demonstrators get free admission to the festival. Contact Joyce Lock joycelock3@gmail.com to sign up. Members were also reminded to sign up for the Weaving Competition. There are three categories: Home Goods, Wearables and Novice with three cash prizes in each category. See <https://cnyfiberarts.org/weaving-competition/> for details.

Our **May 18th meeting** will be held at the **First Methodist Church in Baldwinsville** because of a scheduling conflict with Grace Episcopal.

Leftover Breed Study balls of Finn wool were sold for \$7.50. Members reported enjoying spinning it, even with a bit of vegetable matter in the grey.

Sue Jones will provide a Bio for the May newsletter.

A local woman donated a number of raw uncoated fleeces (alpaca, merino, and some mystery fleece) to the guild. Members were invited to take them; Jill will take the remainder to Acorn Works Fiber Processing for evaluation and processing.

The meeting was followed by Show and Tell. Linda Miller then directed us in cleaning our spinning wheels.

Announcements

[Shepherd's Wool Market](#), May 11th, Rush, NY

Syracuse Weavers Guild Exhibit at [Thousand Islands Arts Center](#), April 24th – May 24th, Clayton, NY

[Massachusetts Sheep & Woolcraft Fair](#), May 25-26th, Cummington Fair Grounds, MA

MEMBER BIO: Sue Jones

My earliest memory of any type of fiber art was of my mother teaching me to knit. She was not a knitter, but knew how to cast on and do the knit stitch. She had some double-pointed needles, yarn, and a book, *The Complete Book of Knitting*, copyright 1947, which I still have. I “knitted” some squares that became skirts for my Barbie doll.

At fourteen, I went to a local yarn shop and, with instruction, was able to knit a cardigan. Over the next several years, I did some knitting, taught myself to crochet, did crewel embroidery, needlepoint, and cross stitch. My mother also taught me to sew, and I made my own clothes.

When I was eight years old, the only toy I wanted for Christmas was the Little Red Spinning Wheel. Apparently so did every other little girl that year, and sadly, my parents were unable to get it for me. I recently saw one at an estate sale and found that it didn't really spin, it was more like spool knitting, so no big loss!

In the late 1990's, while searching for information about learning to weave, I met Madeline Adkins at the Wool Center at the NYS Fair, and she encouraged me to come to a spinners' guild meeting. At the September meeting, she taught me to spin on her wheel, an Adkins wheel built by her husband. We were both driving from Oswego and agreed to carpool to meetings, which allowed me to get to know her and hear wonderful stories. She was one of the founding members of the guild and was a wealth of knowledge and much of what I know came from her. At that first meeting, I rented a Louet wheel from a member and over the next month spun my first yarn. Unfortunately, I didn't know that you were supposed to spin in one direction and ply in the other. The result was a massive tangled mess, which I promptly threw away! I later learned to use a drop spindle and was able to spin a skein of usable yarn, which I still have.

I have been a member since 1998, and in 2000 was able to buy my dream wheel, the Schacht Matchless. I love spinning on it, but knew that as time went by, I would need a lighter travel wheel, so I bought a Schacht Sidekick. I have a Woolee Winder that is interchangeable between the two wheels, as well as the flyer, whorls, and bobbins. If you can afford it, the Woolee Winder is a wonderful accessory that makes spinning easier and faster. I recently added a Schacht Baby Wolf loom to my equipment.

I've been attending the NYS Sheep and Wool Festival since 1999 and the Maryland Festival since 2000. In the early years, I traveled to the festivals with members Marquette Bennett, Diane Tice, and Marilee Williams, who became lifetime friends. Marquette dubbed us the Rhinebeck Rhinos and the Frederick Four depending on which festival we were attending. Many wonderful times were had and great memories formed. Sadly, Marquette passed away a few years ago, but whenever we can, the remaining three of us travel together to the festivals. Another fond memory was a trip to Rhinebeck with a large contingency of guild members camping in cabins at a KOA campground in nearby Saugerties. We shared a great bring-a-dish-to-pass meal, campfire, and wonderful companionship, besides all the great shopping at the festival. I have met so many wonderful people over the years and have made many lifetime friends.

My favorite fibers to spin are BFL, Finn, Polwarth, Targhee, and Shetland. I prefer to buy my fiber processed, dyed, and ready to spin, and usually chain-ply my yarn. I knit whenever I have the opportunity, knitting socks, scarves, cowls, sweaters, and hats and mittens for my grandchildren.

I also enjoy gardening, singing, baking, and hiking with my husband. We have three grown children and five grandchildren.

Something that people might not know about me is that I learned carpentry at night school with my husband when we were 21, and we built our first home completely by ourselves. Prior to my teaching career, I worked with my husband as a home remodeler. We also did most of the work, both inside and out, on our current home. My husband's carpentry skills have been very helpful in my crafting. He has built me a blending board, a warping board, and shelving to store equipment and weaving yarns. He also assembled and applied finish to my first spinning wheel, which was a kit with no instructions that a member found at a garage sale.

I would highly recommend any spinner/knitter/handicrafter to volunteer at any guild demonstration event, no matter your skill level or experience. Some of our best demonstrators are the people with less experience, because they can easily relate to the people who are hesitant to try. It is very rewarding and people are very easy to talk to and are interested in anything we can offer.

Events for your Calendar (* indicates events we provide spinning demonstrations)

May 11, 2024	Shepherd's Wool Market , Rush, NY
May 11-12, 2024	New Hampshire Sheep and Wool Festival , Deerfield, NH
May 18-19, 2024	Central Pennsylvania Fiber Festival , Hughesville, PA
May 25-26, 2024	Massachusetts Sheep & Wool Show , Cummington, Ma
June 8-9, 2024	CNY Fiber Arts Festival *, Bouckville, NY

2023-2024 Calendar and Program Plan (at the church unless otherwise noted)

September 16, 2023	Welcome to New Members, Luncheon, Market Day
October 28, 2023	Ornament Collection for Everson Museum Festival of Trees and Light
November 18, 2023	Charity Knit and Crochet
December 16, 2023	Holiday Party
January 20, 2024	Roc Day Celebration
February 17, 2024	Open Spin
March 16, 2024	Guild Auction
April 20, 2024	Fiber Frolic at Beaver Lake Nature Center
April 27, 2024	Spinning Wheel Maintenance with Linda Miller
May 18, 2024	Open Spin at First Methodist Church in Baldwinsville
June 15, 2024	Silk with Nancy Morey
July 20, 2024	Open Spin, Onondaga Lake Park
August 17, 2024	Open Spin, Onondaga Lake Park
August 24-25, 2024	Guild Weekend at the NYS Fair Wool Center

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Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/GoldenFleeceSpinnersSociety>
