



# LOOSE ENDS

DEDICATED TO THE FIBER ARTS

## WOOLGATHERING "Thank You!"

**A**s 2011 comes swiftly to an end so does my tenure as the President of our Guild. I am leaving with mixed emotions. There have been some trying times as well as wonderful experiences. I have worked very hard to keep our group of diverse individuals moving forward as one. It has been a labor of love. I did not do this alone. My fellow officers and committee members have also given their time and talent to make the organization what it is today. To all of you that assisted me, simply put, THANK YOU.

My new years wish for 2012 is that SVSWG can continue along the path I set out before us when I began as your leader. That vision is to be a professional artistic organization that is loaded with talent and treated with respect by members and those outside our Guild. We are there now and are facing some new and exciting choices next year.

The move to our new location brings new opportunities. We will definitely have more public exposure. We now have a place to host guest speakers and hold workshops. We are giving every member a chance to have a retail selling

experience and teach classes. In addition our equipment can all be stored in one location. This will make renting of Guild equipment as easy as coming to a meeting. I know change is difficult for many of us and I suspect there will be an adjustment period but I know that we are a resilient group and we will prevail.

As for me I will be able to spend some quality time with my wheels and the 10 pounds of llama fiber I purchased. I also have two alpaca fleeces waiting and we won't even count the amount of wool. Let's not forget the knitting projects I have planned. I have a loom already threaded and begging for a weft. I also plan to take apart my countermarche loom for cleaning and adjustments. Then there is my newest addition, the great wheel, which I plan to master this winter. I think I can find plenty of ways to keep busy.

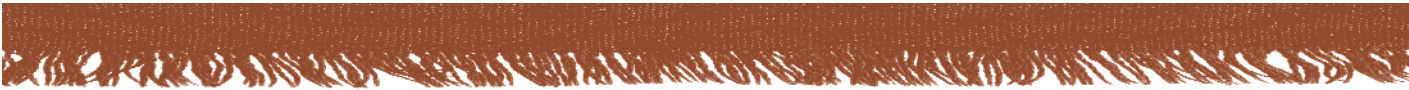
So as my time serving SVSWG comes to a close I would like to wish everyone the best as we move into a new location with new leadership and new experiences. Happy New Year!  
—Brenda Ocker

## UPCOMING GATHERINGS

*Meetings take place at our new location: The Daily Grind, 6404 Old Turnpike Rd., Mifflinburg, PA. Meetings begin at 1:30 pm for food and schmooze; 2 pm for the program. Call Eva Hurliman (658-4972) or Brenda Ocker (966-9489) for directions or for information listed here.*

**January 8: Rock Day.** In England, as well as other countries, the days from Christmas through Twelfth Night were considered a time of rest from the labors of spinning. The maidens returned to their work on St. Distaff's Day, January 7th. This day was also known as Rock Day, which is derived from the German word rocken, which means both distaff and woman's. Joy McCracken, Anna Raschi and Caroline Owens will help the Guild celebrate the day by bringing their "rocks" such as "hackles, swift, crook, fringe, combs and more." Members are encouraged to bring their "rocks" to work on and to show and tell.

**February 12: Susan Kesler-Simpson** will present a program on sewing hand woven material into garments. Susan is an expert in the area and has created beautiful high



fashion clothing from her own hand woven material.

**March 11:** **Cindy Burkhart**, another expert Guild weaver, will present a program on creating miniature rugs for dollhouses. Her talk is titled “Size really does make a difference.” Evidently there is a whole new world out there of miniatures and miniature (full size people attend) gatherings, and a large market for the products.



**April 13, 14, 15:** **Sharon Costello**, a nationally ranked “guru” in felt making, will present a three day workshop for 14 lucky members of the Guild, and on that Sunday, give a presentation of her work to the Guild meeting

**Spinners’ Study Group:** An informal gathering after 1 p.m. the last Wednesday of each month, at **Peggy Lauver’s** Farm in the Hollow, Mifflinburg, *unless otherwise announced*. Not for spinners only! Everyone is welcome! Bring any handwork: carding, knitting, crocheting, needle felting, sewing, beading ... whatever. It’s a good opportunity to exchange ideas, learn from one another, and revel in congeniality.

### PAST GATHERINGS

*Complete minutes of Business Meetings are available from Vicki DeVett, secretary.*



**September 11:** **Show and Tell** for the meeting included the following: **Ruth Burnham**, triangle shawl; **Maura Adams**, weaving samples; **Debbie Mote**, insoles (for shoes) from **Eva Hurliman’s** scraps; **Dawn Chalmers**, crackle and treddle, dyed yarn; **Susan Kesler-Simpson**, triangle loom shawl and scarf made while stranded (how awful) at Manning’s during the flood; **Susan Kesler-Simpson, Dawn Chalmers, Marie Minnich**, hats, scarves, material, as gifts for our attorney and accountant. The program following the meeting was an **Antique Coverlets** presentation by member **Gay McGeary**. Gay’s talk included the history of antique coverlets, and the patterns and fibers used in their making. She had a large collections of patterns that were used to weave the coverlets and a wonderful coverlets to illustrate her presentation. I am not a weaver and I found it incredibly complicated. Gay, on the other hand, knew her craft and did her best to explain to folks like me, how to create a coverlet from the patterns. Maybe in my next life. —*AI*

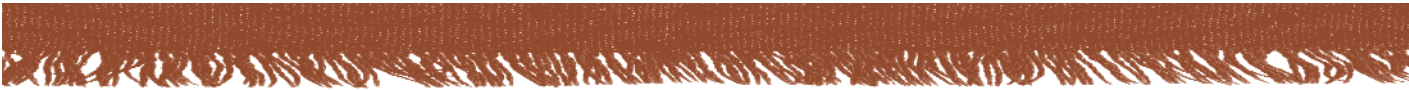
**September 28:** **The September’s Spinners Study Group** was hosted by **Joy McCracken**. Getting to her house was definitely a challenge due to road construction in the hinterlands but members persevered and overcame to have a fun afternoon with friends and fiber.

We were amazed and just a little jealous of the McCracken’s new addition to their home. When Joy showed us her new studio we were all green with envy. Joy’s son and husband should be very proud.

As we settled down in the new kitchen Joy made everyone feel right at home with her hospitality. **Brenda Ocker** was spinning cotton, **Karen Laubach, Ellie Prizer, Betsy Hartzell, and Liz Harer** were knitting away, while **Lindy Van Fleet** was spinning wool. Stories were shared and tales were told. Everyone had a lovely afternoon watching the sheep graze in the pasture while working on their projects. Thank you, Joy, for opening your home and heart to members. This afternoon was another day when each of us wanted to stay just a little longer. —*Brenda Ocker*

**October 9:** **The Guild’s 25th Anniversary Celebration** was “kicked off” with a luncheon and presentation of member’s work. Members had a delicious lunch at The Front Street Station in Northumberland. The scrapbooks from our beginning were on display so we could all look back to see what we were working on in the past and also see how we have changed through the years.

There was a slide show of our photos from the past 25 years as well. Members brought items they have created and took the time to discuss their work with everyone. Each of us was very impressed with the work of other Guild members and everyone left



this special celebration day full of inspiration. —*Brenda Ocker*

**October 29–30: The Guild’s 25th Anniversary** continued with an open house and demonstration at the historic Gutelius House in Mifflinburg. Many members loaned beautiful items to the Guild to be put on display. We also had members available to greet visitors and demonstrate our skills.



Now the weather was bad, we had 4 to 5 inches of snow the first day. Jim and I decided that we would sit in the house the first day since the weather was so dreadful. We figured that the worst that could happen is that we would spend a beautiful day spinning and weaving in a historic house while watching the snow pile up on the window sills. To our amazement we still had guests that braved the weather to come and explore the fiber arts and chat with us throughout the day.

On the second day the snow was gone and the sun was bright so many members came out to spin and weave. It was a wonderful day to have everyone working together, helping each other to improve their craft, and catching up with their friendships. We didn’t have many visitors but we definitely had a great day together. It captured the spirit of our 25 years together beautifully. —*Brenda Ocker*

**November 13:** The meeting started with show and tell. **Dawn Chalmers** had a soft hat; **Debbie Andretta** crocheted a shawl made with yarn that had thin strands of sterling silver; **Debbie Mote** had a really neat hat made with some of **Judy Anderson’s** leftover supplies. The list of new Guild Officers and Committees was accepted and is included under the heading of **Guild Business**. The program speaker, **Susan Whitnell, delighted our members with an over the top presentation about angora rabbits.** Members learned about genetics, life style, habitat, fiber characteristics, diet, and breeding associations. Susan described the differences between English, French, Silk, Giant, and German breeds. Then it was time to meet the bunnies. There was a collective aaawwwlllll as her German angora rabbits were introduced to us. I think everyone wanted to hold the rabbits but we quickly learned why we couldn’t touch them. Susan also brought many samples of the angora wool for members to learn how to card and spin into the lofty luscious fiber we all call bunny love. Susan taught us about blending the fiber with wool vs. using it as a primary source. We learned how to properly prepare and care for angora. I think we were all a little sad to see the bunnies go but we each left with an increased knowledge about another source of fiber. Please visit Susan’s web site for additional information. You can find her on the web at Storybook Dreams Angora Rabbitry, [www.prismportal.com/fiberarts](http://www.prismportal.com/fiberarts) —*Brenda Ocker*



Awesome program today! Thanks for setting this one up, I learned a lot and really enjoyed seeing everyone again. It’s been too long. —*Debbie Knelly*

**November 20: Weaving Study Group met at Anna Raschi’s home.** **Anna, Cecile Stiner, Brenda and Jim Ocker, Diana Carey, Denise and Maura Adams, Eva Hurliman and Marta Carleton** were present. We talked about weaving and looms, yarns, the Guild and programs for 2012. The next meeting will be February 26, at our new home, The Daily Grind. The project is weaving material for a garment. Anna is the teacher and inspiration for this group. Just looking around her beautiful home there are hand made objects wherever your eyes rest. Brenda and Jim, with their shared love of weaving and re-enactment, are about the hardest working couple anyone could find. Brenda wants to make a jacket for her colonial costume. Maura was doing a great job on the drop spindle. Cecile was wearing a jacket she had made when she went to Japan and was presently working on an appliqué flower piece. Marta had just finished the weeklong beginning weaving class at The Mannings. She had some



Loom.....



samples and a beautiful green and sparkling gold scarf. Diane Carey, who was attending the Weaver's Group for the first time, has taken weaving lessons from Anna. It was fun talking to her and discovering her interests and skills. Now at these meeting we learn about weaving but we also learn about the wonderful people who make up our Guild and who share the excitement and experimentation of trying to create. We share food and our life and, as always, a good time was enjoyed by all. —*Eva Hurliman*

**November 30: The Woolies met at Peg Lauver's** home the last Wednesday of the month. It is always nice at Peg's with her warmth and hospitality. There were ten of us there but **Judy Anderson** was also there in spirit. She passed away just over a year ago and everyone remembered her wonderful personality and kindness. Judy stories and remembrances were shared with much laughter and of course, some bittersweet moments. At least now we know where her beautiful hand spun, dyed, and knitted, purple sweater is residing. **Lindy Van Fleet** was working on blue and black patterned mittens for her large son. Lindy commented that the hard part is doing the second one. **Karen Laubach** was knitting a cable sweater out of a beautiful muted green yarn. **Betsy Hartzell** had picked up a bag of colorful yarn at a yard sale and was knitting scarves for neighborhood children. **Ellie Prizer** was spinning a **HUGE** bag of wool from her own sheep. Ellie is already bottle-feeding some lambs. One of our new members, **Lori Weaver**, worked on felting scarves, christmas balls, and a tam. I was working on Christmas ornaments. I have never done ornaments before but I had scrapes from making jackets and vests plus felted alpaca scrapes. I put them together, added beads and felted balls and we'll see how they sell. Others attending and working busily were **Mary Candland, Ann Inderbitzin** and **Del Kennedy**. —*Eva Hurliman*

## PAST DEMONSTRATIONS

**September 24: Laurelton's Bicentennial Celebration.** You missed a nice gathering of Guild members at the Laurelton bicentennial and we had nice weather too! As requested, we all were in costume and did we look fine! As **Eileen Barnes** said, the organizers of the event were very well organized and accommodating. We were under roof with a cement floor, decorated by the infamous blue "oriental rug." **Ellie Prizer** mesmerized people with her rhythmic clicking spinning and showed off her walnut hull hand-dyed sock. Gorgeous warm brown color! Eileen was spinning such brilliant and soft white wool and showing kids how she needed to card it first. **Jim Ocker** was the token male and showed off his skill as a weaver. **Brenda Ocker** was a spinner of pretty gray wool roving. **Martha Hockenberry** was learning how to knit socks using the Magic Loop method and **Del Kennedy** was knitting a purple and a pink sweater for her granddaughter. **Liz Harer** came to knit a green prayer shawl and brought her granddaughter **Kristen** who was carding some of her own black wool from her **Owens Farm** sheep. She had two bags full—one washed and one "in the rough" (there's a sheep expression for that, isn't there? It's just not creeping out of the cobwebs of my mind right now). Visitors to the booth made comments like: "I didn't know anyone ever did this anymore," or "I have my great-great- grandmother's Big Wheel but never used it," and others who said when they had some time in their schedules, they'd love to learn how to spin (yeah—the spinners got all the attention!) and a couple of women who said they used to have sheep and sure do miss them. But I don't know who was more fascinated—the kids or their parents! We had a good crowd from the beginning and many stayed in the booth for a while. Guild members enjoyed a day out, having a good excuse to sit around and "work" on their fiber skills. —*Del Kennedy*

**September 29, 30 & Oct 1: Bloomsburg Fair, Bloomsburg, PA** was cancelled because of flooding.

**December 8–10: Christkindl Market, Mifflinburg.** Christkindl Mart was a big success this year. Beautiful displays, great craftsmanship, lots of people, lots of sales. And oh,

## MEMBER NEWS AND MUSINGS

*Please send me your news, tips and thoughts to share in this column —A.I*

the weather wasn't too bad either. Congratulations to the Guild on such a wonderful demonstration!

While I was at my husband's 50th Kalamazoo College reunion I met one of his classmates wives from Spruce Pine, NC, who works with fiber. I can't remember exactly what she does but she mentioned there is a wonderful crafts school near her home. I asked for her card with the name of the school and said it would be in our Guild's next newsletter. So here it is. Penland School of Crafts [www.penland.org](http://www.penland.org) I looked up the website and if you have the time and the interest it would be wonderful. Take a look. —Ann Inderbitzin

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

*Update your Membership List, and please inform Membership chairs Marie Minnich or Cecile Stiner of any changes in your information.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS /WORKSHOPS/MUSEUMS

*Please send me notices of upcoming fiber-related events so they may be listed in this section. —A.I.*

**Deb Lusby**, 470 Valley Road, Sunbury, PA 17801 490-8686

**Mad About Ewes' classes and workshops for Fall/Winter 2011-2012** are NOW posted on the website: [www.madaboutewes.com](http://www.madaboutewes.com) —Libby Beiler

**The Mannings Handweaving School and Supply Center.**  
<http://www.the-mannings.com>

**National Museum of American Coverlets in Bedford, PA.** Great web site. <http://www.coverletmuseum.org>

**San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textile, San Jose, CA** Another great web site. [www.SJQuiltMuseum.com](http://www.SJQuiltMuseum.com).

## WWW.SVSWG.ORG

**Check out the Guild's Website:** We have added a calendar feature that will have information about the monthly programs and demonstration schedules, as well as times dates and places of any study groups that are meeting. See photos of recent Guild events, as well as the *Loose Ends* features **Fiber Lovers' Haunts** and **Websites of Wonder**. Send anything you want posted on the site to **Brenda Ocker**: photos of fiber activities, things you have created, and the like; items for sale; classified ads; recipes. Any member who has a personal or business Website may have a link to the Guild's site. Contact Brenda to set it up.

## EQUIPMENT/CLASSIFIEDS

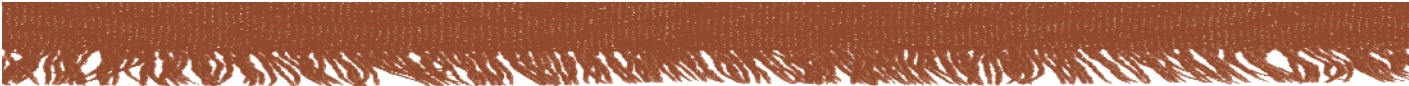
The Guild has **equipment for rent** by members. Looms and the spinning wheels are \$15 per month; the drum carder is \$10 per month. Any piece of equipment may be rented for a consecutive month if no one else has requested it. The display racks are \$10 per month or \$5 per event. Contact **Jim Ocker, Matrtha Hockenberry** or **Debbie Andretta**.

**Note:** Equipment must be relinquished when the pieces are needed for Guild Demonstrations.

**For Sale:** 44" Cherry wood Norwood 4 harness, 6 treadle loom, for sale with additional reeds. It is equipped with a 1 yard sectional warp beam that can be used when warping regularly. \$500 call Cyndy Shaffer 523-7064 or email: [cshaffer@dejazzd.com](mailto:cshaffer@dejazzd.com)

**Fleeces for sale:** I have available raw fleece from both CVM and Icelandic sheep, top and roving from both and yarns from CVM fiber (some blended with silk or alpaca) in varying weights including sock/fingering, DK, and worsted. More colors will be available as soon as I get fleece to Gurdy Run. For more information call **Marie Minnich** at 672-8602 or email her at [minnich39@msn.com](mailto:minnich39@msn.com)

**Yorkshire Meadows Knitting and Spinning Shop** opened recently in Mansfield, PA. Raw fleeces, processed wool, yarns, knitting and felting supplies and patterns,



spinning and knitting lessons, are available. For more information contact Liz McLelland at [woolymum@npacc.net](mailto:woolymum@npacc.net) or go to her web site at [www.yorkshiremeadows.com](http://www.yorkshiremeadows.com)

## GUILD BUSINESS

The 2012 Officers are listed on page 7 of this newsletter.

### LUCY E. CLARK WILKINS

passed away Sunday,  
December 4, 2011

She had been a member of the Guild for a number of years. Lucy said she came to bring her grand daughter, Naomi Clark, but she always contributed to the meetings. She seemed to help out where ever she was needed. I remember many times warming up at Lucy's home while minding our outdoor booth at ChristKindl Mart. Lucy's hand embroidery and smocking were truly lovely. She had been in very poor health for a long time.

### News for 2012

The members of SVSWG voted for and adopted many changes for 2012.

1. **Location of Meetings.** The monthly meetings of SVSWG will be held in Vicksburg located on Route 45 midway between Lewisburg and Mifflinburg. The physical address is "The Daily Grind," 6404 Old Turnpike Road, Mifflinburg, PA.
2. **We increased the amount of membership dues** to \$20 annually.
3. **SVSWG is now a nonprofit organization.** You annual donation of \$20, along with any other contribution, is tax deductible. Talk to you tax preparer to learn how to tax these tax credits.
4. **Members now have an opportunity to sell fiber related items or teach classes** at our new location. The Membership Marketing contract, which is available by calling Brenda Ocker, must be completed to participate. Please get the contract completed ASAP.

### Refreshment List for 2012

The following months need volunteers to bring refreshments: May, July, September, and October. Please call Eva Hurliman to sign up.

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| January 8   | Colette Frantz, 490-6322, <a href="mailto:colette2@ptd.net">colette2@ptd.net</a><br>Cynthia Smith, 966-0912, <a href="mailto:clsmith@dejazzd.com">clsmith@dejazzd.com</a>               |
| February 12 | Caroline Owens, 898-6060, <a href="mailto:info@owensfarm.com">info@owensfarm.com</a><br>Debbie Andretta, 374-8248, <a href="mailto:debslov4dolls@yahoo.com">debslov4dolls@yahoo.com</a> |
| March 11    | Liz Harer, 524-7720, <a href="mailto:mlharer@gmail.com">mlharer@gmail.com</a><br>Denise and Maura Adams, 394-1226, <a href="mailto:adamsm22@gmail.com">adamsm22@gmail.com</a>           |
| April 15    | Susan Kesler-Simpson, 275-7872, <a href="mailto:dsimpson@aol.com">dsimpson@aol.com</a><br>Brenda Ocker, 966-9489, <a href="mailto:ockerbj@dejazzd.com">ockerbj@dejazzd.com</a>          |
| May 20      | Two people needed   |
| June 10     | Marie Minnich, 672-8602, <a href="mailto:minnich39@msn.com">minnich39@msn.com</a><br>Judy Hardy, 524-7720, <a href="mailto:jhardycrna@yahoo.com">jhardycrna@yahoo.com</a>               |
| July 8      | Two people needed   |
| August 12   | Picnic?   |
| September 9 | Ruth Burnham, 523-8311, <a href="mailto:rburnham@bucknell.edu">rburnham@bucknell.edu</a><br>One person needed   |
| October 14  | Martha Hockenberry, 966-9407, <a href="mailto:mgberry7@dejazzd.com">mgberry7@dejazzd.com</a><br>One person needed   |
| November 11 | Vicki Devett, 428-5822, <a href="mailto:devett@vzw/blackberry/net">devett@vzw/blackberry/net</a><br>Joy McCracken, 584-3594   |
| December    | Christkindl Mart  |

## EDITOR'S END



How do Mary and I do it, and to think we used to do it every other month for the past 5 years (5 years for me at least)? Mary's been doing it forever. When I started doing the newsletter I had no past experience and I'm sure it showed. Mary has always been a pro. Then Pat Bontinen came along and my part of the newsletter went up about 24 notches; I'm sure it has slipped a bunch of notches since she left. Think of Brenda and all the time, energy and hard work she puts into the Guild. I guess the secret to these kinds of things we do with out thinking of the work involved is summed up in the Nike ad, "just do it." So deep, so profound. You know I used to be a runner. —A.I.



## THE SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY SPINNERS & WEAVERS GUILD

### Dedicated to the Fiber Arts

#### 2012 Officers

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**Secretary ...** Vicki DeVett, Lewisburg · 524-7266 · [devett@vzw.blackberry.net](mailto:devett@vzw.blackberry.net)  
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**Gutelius House Liaison:** Anna Raschi, Mifflinburg · 966-9895 · [raschia@dejazzd.com](mailto:raschia@dejazzd.com)  
**Packwood House Museum Liaison:** Ruth Burnham, Lewisburg · 523-8311 · [rburnham@bucknell.edu](mailto:rburnham@bucknell.edu)

*Note: All phone numbers are preceded by the 570 area code unless otherwise indicated.*

#### Loose Ends

Ann Inderbitzin, *editor*; Mary Candland, *designer*

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