

Loco News

LECTURE WORKSHOPS

Barbara Decker

THe LOCO Guild will sponsor a double treat Friday and Saturday March 23 and 24 with lecture/workshops by Barbara Decker.

Her Friday program from 7 to 9 p.m. at FAVA, 39 S. Main Street, in Oberlin will be on Beautiful Warp. If you are a weaver wannabe, beginner or expert, you won't want to miss this one. Barbara has a unique perspective on how to make weaving wonderful from the warp out.

On Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. at FAVA she will discuss creating clothing as you weave a 28-inch wide fabric. In fact, she plans to help us plan an entire wardrobe using this width.

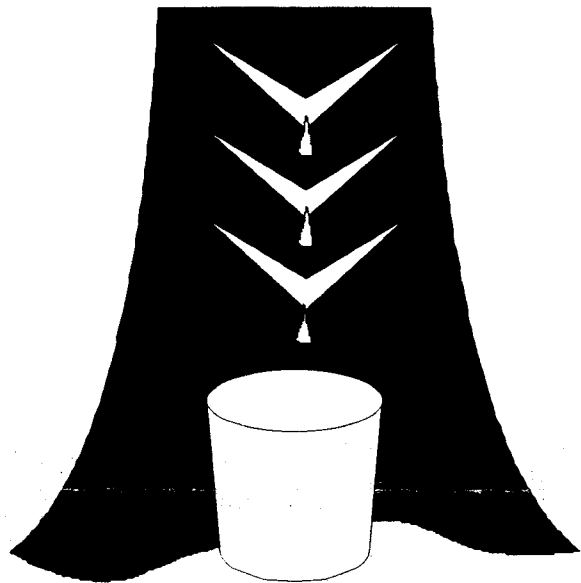
Fees for the program for guild members are \$5 for one lecture, \$8, for both. Non-guild members pay \$7.50 and \$12.

Bring a tape measure and a notebook Saturday and wear comfy clothes.

Coming attractions:

A Ukrainian egg program is on tap for April and in May we will learn about Kumihimo, the Japanese braiding technique.

The basket workshop by Chris Neumeyer, which was canceled due to bad weather in January, will be re-scheduled, possibly in April.



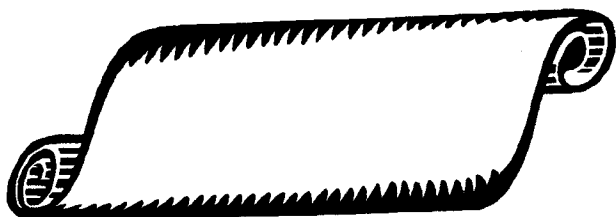
Name drafting

What is it and how do you do it? It's a weaving draft based on the letters of a name and is uniquely personal. This month Fae Evans will teach us how to do it.

Fae is one of our area's most outstanding teachers, with a broad background in fiber techniques, from shearing the fiber to producing exquisite textiles and designs, both woven and knitted.

She makes the most complicated techniques clear and understandable. Her workshops and lectures are memorable and not to be missed.

The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 13 at the Carlisle Visitor Center. Judy Keske and Chris Bruce will provide goodies.



Calendar

March 13: LOCO Guild meeting.

March 23: LOCO sponsors a 7:30-9:00pm Lecture by Barbara E. Decker: Making Beautiful Warps at the Firelands Association for the Visual Arts, 39 S. Main St., Oberlin.

March 24: LOCO sponsors a 9 a.m. Barbara Decker lecture and slide show on Designing a Wardrobe on a 28" Warp, FAVA, 39 S. Main St., Oberlin.

March 25, 26, 27: Medina Guild workshop with Jason Collinwood of the UK on Block weaves. Details on time and place to be announced. Information: Chris Spitzer at (330) 668-2414 or email Litlspitz1@aol.com

March 31: Black Swamp Spinners Guild and Upper Valley Fiber Guild will hold their Market Day and Fiber fair 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at a new location: St. Mark Lutheran Church, 315 S. College Dr., Bowling Green.

April 17: Lake Ridge Academy demo. Information: Cindy Bush.

April 19: Louise Mackie, curator of textiles, will present a video and lecture on "Threads of Time: Handmade Textiles for Weddings in Fez, Morocco, at 10:30 a.m. at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

April 21: Medina Guild workshop Spinning 101 for beginners by Fae Evans from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 2520 Shade Park Road in Bath, Oh. Sack lunch and drink. \$25 and \$15 materials fee. Information: Chris Spitzer, (330) 668-2414 or email Litlspitz1@aol.com

April 21: Toledo Area Weaver's Guild Scottish Tartans event 10 a.m. to noon at the Toledo Botanical Gardens. \$12. Information: Lou Ann Gover, 419-824-5373.

May 5-6: Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, Howard County Fairground, Howard County, MD. <http://www.sheepandwoolfestival.org>

May 12-13: Medina Spinners and Weavers workshop by Arlene Graham on spinning Silk Magic, Fuzzy yarns and Baubles, Bangles & Plumes at Medina Township Hall. \$60 for members, \$70 for non-members. Information: Chris Spitzer for more information (330) 668-2414 or email Litlspitz1@aol.com

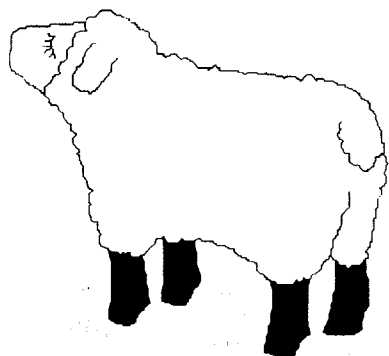
May 26-27, 2001: Great Lakes Fiber Show, Wayne County Fairgrounds, Wooster. Contact: Linda Reichert, (330) 264-9665 or email don47linda@valkyrie.net.

June 11-17: Midwest Weavers conference At Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. For registration brochure send \$3 to Tina Wilson, 13333 Windbrooke Lane, St. Louis, MO, 63146-2223 or email at Midwst2001@aol.com

June 18-24: 2001 MidAtlantic Fiber Association Conference, Towson University, Towson, MD. Brochure and information: Jean West, 1001 MAFA Conference, PO Box 5233, Clinton NC 08809 PH: 908-437-1361 or email mafa2001@exlipse.net, or <http://www.mafafiber.org>

June 28-Aug. 1: Fiberfest at Lakeland Community College and Lake Farm Park.

June 30, July 1-2: Medina Guild workshop by Anne Field of New Zealand on Weaving Around the World. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Cloverleaf Recreation Center. \$90 for members, \$100 non-members. Information: Chris Spitzer at (330) 668-2414 or email Litlspitz1@aol.com



Know your sheep

Romeldale

Animal size: rams 175-200 pounds

Ewes 120 to 150 pounds

Fleece type: red and silky

Numerical Count: 60s to 64s

Staple length: 4-6 inches

Breed origins: The Romeldale sheep was developed by A. T. Spencer in the early 1900s. He purchased several New Zealand Romney rams that had been brought into the United States for the 1915 Pan American Exposition in San Francisco. Spencer crossed the New Zealand Romney rams with his Rambouillet ewes to increase the staple and length of fleece and to improve the carcass quality. Through many years of selective breeding, the Romeldale breed was thus developed.

The Sexton ranch, which is the only commercial Romeldale grower, improves its stock by very careful culling. They don't show the sheep so they don't need to worry about what the judges are looking for today. They are strictly range raised.

Fleece: The status of the Romeldale is considered very critical by the American Livestock Breed Conservancy. There are about 50-100 Romeldales in existence. A registry for the Romeldales is kept by Linda Pfeiffer of

Washington. If you are interested in this breed contact the names below (as of Feb. 1997).

Sheep Characteristics: The Romeldale sheep generally has a clean face, although sometimes wool is found on the forehead. The body is sturdy and well boned, with a long, straight back. Hooves are black in color. Legs are medium in length, and neck and shoulders should be mostly free of skin folds. Eyes are large and ears are medium in size. Rams should be strongly masculine and virile (sometimes horned). Conversely, ewes should be feminine and refined. Mature rams should weigh 175-200 pounds and be virile, aggressive breeders capable of covering more than the average number of ewes. Ewes should weigh from 120-150 pounds and is prolific, protective and dedicated mothers. If left with the ram, ewes are known to breed while suckling lambs.

Fleece characteristics: There is a large variety of colors and color patterns, including dark gray, black, brown, moorit, white, silver and spotted. The fiber from the Romeldale is a long staple, fine wool, dense and of high yield, with a spinning count from 60s to 64s. The staple length averages between 4 and 6 inches, with between 7 and 12 crimps per inch.

The Romeldale's wool was for years sold directly to the Pendleton mills.

During the years that Glen Eidman spent developing the CVM breed there were some moorit colored lambs. As Glen did not like the brown or "moorit" sheep they were destroyed. Out of respect for Glen, these moorits are now registered as natural colored Romeldales rather than CVMs.

Spinning pointers: Recommended to use the same spinning techniques for this fiber as for finer wools such as Corriedale. There seem to be no limitations on the ways in which it could be spun. Due to the length of fiber, the best preparation for this particular type of fleece would be combing. In high quality fleeces, flicking the tips and spinning from the lock is also appropriate. It is not recommended to

send this type of a fleece out to be machine carded due to the length and the relatively fine count.

Breed Association: Linda Pfeiffer Cascade CVMs, PO Box 630, Carnation, WA 98014. Phone 206-333-4934

Ann Snyder, Board Butte Ranch, 8140 Hwy. 126, Powell Butte, Or 97753. Phone 5451-447-3949

Sources: The Black Sheep Newsletter, Winter 1997, Issue 90, The Rare CVM and Romeldale Sheep, by Ann Snyder

Compiled by Roni Rospert

Sheep to Shawl

Members of this year's LOCO sheep-to-shawl team will be Elizabeth Yasaki, Rosie Hauff, Cindy Bush and Sara Twining. Anyone else interested in participating should see Cindy.

Two centuries of Costumes in America

By Alice Morse Earle

During the American Revolutionary War, English officers and English soldiers sneeringly called George Washington's army "The Homespun."

It was a truthful nickname and one to be proud of. There was far deeper power and significance in that title than the English scoffers knew. Had it not been a homespun army, it could never have conquered the British. There were no great contractors to supply cloth and make uniforms for the Continental soldiers in those days. There was no money to pay them had there been such firms.

But, when in 1775 the Provincial Congress sent out through the land an appeal for 13,000 warm coats for the winter uniforms of these American

soldiers, there was a great army of loyal, loving, industrious women ready to supply the homespun garments.

At hundreds of hearthstones, wool wheels and hand looms were started within a day, within an hour, at work on the wool sheared from the home sheep. That order was filled almost wholly by these patriotic women.

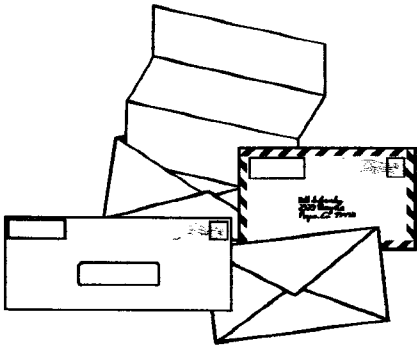
In the inside of each coat was sewn a label bearing the name of the town and the coat maker. Many a romance sprang therefrom. Some rather rudely shaped garments came from those homespun tailoresses but the coats were warm and substantial and when the choice was offered to each soldier of a coat or a bounty, he eagerly chose the homespun coat.

The list of the makers and wearers of these bounty coats is still saved in old New England towns and called a "Coat Roll."

From the Youngstown Guild newsletter



Corrections of your name, address, phone number or e-mail address should be given to Rosie Hauff for the Guild directory.



From the mailbox

The **Weavers Guild of Greater Cincinnati** will host a workshop April 6 and 7 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Coptic Tapestry Techniques by Nancy Hoskin. Participants must provide a tapestry loom, frame loom or a 2 or 4-shaft table or floor loom warped with one yard of 16/2 linen which will be ordered for the workshop as well as shuttles needles, sewing notions, scissors and tape measure. Materials fee of \$10. The workshop will explore the woven squares, roundels and bands common as clothing ornaments during the Coptic Era, third to seventh-century AD. Cost is \$80.

Information: Barb Gallagher (812) 576-3904 or e-mail weaving@nalu.net

Registration checks to the Weavers Guild of Greater Cincinnati can be sent to her at 24647 Zimmer Road, Guilford, IN, 47022.

A wearable art exhibit "The Air of the East" will continue until Sept. 2 in Rockwell Hall at **the Kent State University Museum** in Kent, OH. The museum is open Wed, Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday noon to 5 p.m. General admission is \$5 with those under 18 \$3 and children under 6 free. Senior citizens pay \$4. For group tours, by contact the museum secretary at (330) 672-3450.

The **Handweavers Guild of America** will offer its HGA Award to honor outstanding exhibited works of fiber arts in handweaving,

handspinning, dyeing and basketmaking at shows and exhibits. It is not given for demonstrations or contests. It may be presented at juried fashion shows, with entries judged for awards, state fairs and provincial exhibits open to the public for a minimum of one day. In the case of textile conferences the juried requirement may be waived. For a piece to merit the award, it must show a fresh, individual approach and express personal creativity, showing an awareness of aesthetic and functional considerations and demonstrating competence in technical skills. Mixed media shows must include an appreciable number of fiber art pieces. The granting organization should send confirmation postcards (one to the HGA Award Chair and one to the HGA office). Slides of winning work should be sent to : Editor Shuttle Spindle & Dyepot, Two Executive Concourse, Suite 201, 3327 Duluth Highway, Duluth, GA 30096-3301. For more information or to have your show considered for an HGA Award contact the HGA Award Chair Cheryl McWilliams, 22803 Whitewater Creek Circle, Katy, TX 77450. Phone (281) 395-6775 or email cherylmcw@mindspring.com

Fae Evans, a member of the Medina Guild who has done many workshops for LOCO Guild, is the new mill manager at the **Mischler Weaving Mill** in Smithville, OH, which is owned by the Smithville Community Historical Society. One of the rug weavers at the mill is out with a broken arm, leaving Fae to run one of the power looms. She needs to find someone who will learn how to operate the power looms and needs help finding someone to sew rags for the rug weavers. She will also need help warping two of the big power looms soon. New weavers welcome. The mill is open to the public every Wednesday 1 to 4 p.m. Anyone interested may contact her at home or come to the mill for a look around. Ph: 330-723-1895 or email Frescot@aol.com

Ohio Classified Ads

Sale: Loom Shed in Oberlin is marking 20 years in business with an anniversary sale all through the month of March. Among the items available are all of the Atwater and Davison data in *.wif format for both PC and the Mac. The Loom Shed is at 26 1/2 S. Main St., Suite 5 in Oberlin. Online: www.theloomshed.com. Email at loomshed@prodigy.net

For sale: Used Glimakra counterbalanced 60" loom with 4 harnesses, 6 treadles. Needs at little TLC but new Texsolv heddles and tie-ups are on order. If you do the work, \$600. If I do it, \$750.

Also have 2 harness Orco loom in need of clean up and missing ratchet handle and the warp beam crank (easily ordered). It has been altered to a standard beam (not a sectional.) As is—\$75.

Barb Gallagher, email: weaving@nalu.net

For Sale: Leclerc 60" counter balance loom. Solid maple, good condition. Fanny model. 4 harness, 6 treadle. Matching bench and 12 dent reed. \$950. Jill Cooley, (440) 777-1971 or e-mail at fiberbender@webtv.net

For Sale: 2H Union Victory Loom 36" weaving width (maybe wider). Has been woven on - all the pieces are there. Currently not assembled. Asking \$200. Contact Angie Ziels 614-529-5050 or email aziels@gateway.net

For sale: Harrisville, 22", 8 harness floor loom with 12-dent reed in great condition. Folds easily for workshops. \$600. Also Spin-Off magazine; Summer, Fall and Winter 96, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter 97, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter 98, Spring 99. All \$36. Contact Sally at 614-844-6638 or e-mail Tspwehrung@aol.com

For sale: Very old barn loom, probably from the 1800's. Made in Alfred NY by GW Smith. It seems to be all there and is now partially together. Not for the beginning weaver unless you truly understand how looms work, but for someone who wants a beautiful conversation piece and who wants to weave on a wonderful piece of history. 6.5 ft high, 3.75 ft front to back, and 3.75 ft wide. The back beam is 8" in diameter. It was originally a two-harness -two treadle loom, but has been adapted to a four harness-four treadle loom and can go either way. Includes box of spinning and weaving goodies, two sets of wooden pulleys for the harness system and a unique hand made raddle, 4 reeds (one is actually made out of reeds) but probably only one

of the four is usable. In Central Ohio close to the Outerbelt. \$500. Contact Julie Snyder at (614.882.1880) or e-mail jlsnyder@iwaynet.net

For sale: Majacraft Suzie spinning wheel. \$325. Betty White at 330-948-3767 or e-mail AGANDJW@aol.com

For sale: Fricke's finest carder. Only used a couple of times. Like new with all the tools. Asking \$500 obo. Chris Spitzer at Litlspitz1@aol.com or call 330-668-2414

For sale: 36-inch Union Loom in good condition. Two shaft, counterbalance with two harness and two treadles. 12 dent reed, excellent for rug making. Asking \$200. Call Don or Sandie Brochak at 216-289-8430 or e-mail don10bro15@aol.com

IF YOU GO...

The Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival is May 5 & 6 at the Howard County Fairgrounds in Maryland. You can access information at www.sheepandwoolfestival.org

If you wish to stay at a motel, there are three nearby but make reservations early as they fill up fast.

Confront Inn: 301-695-6200

Days Inn : 301-694-6600

Econolodge: 301-698-0555

HOW TO GET THERE FROM HERE

The Black Swamp Spinners Guild annual market day and fiber fair Saturday March 31, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. is being held at a new location at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 315 S. College Drive, Bowling Green. Lunch is available and admission is free. Take I-75 to Exit 181 (BGSU) and go west to Crim or College (just over one mile.) Information: 419-547-9210 or caytonsi@juno.com

Sixth Annual Great Lakes Fiber Show

The Great Lakes Fiber Show will be held May 26 -27 in Wooster, OH, at the Wayne County Fairgrounds. Vendors will have booths featuring everything from raw fiber to finished items, spinning, knitting and weaving supplies as well as some fiber related crafts.

Workshops and free demonstrations will also be going on.

The following full-day workshops have been scheduled:

Color to Dye For (and live happily ever after) by Mary Hal Cochran Davis.

Spinner's Reward: Luxury Fibers, by Fae Evans, lets you try all those exotics you wouldn't buy for yourself.

Nuno Felt by Gail Maraman, is felting onto a woven cloth for a fine, flexible felt.

Weaving on the Triangle Frame Loom, Carol Leigh Brack-Kaiser, is weaving both the warp and the weft with one continuous strand.

Workshops require-pre-registration, and instructional and material fees will be charged.

New this year will be two workshops planned with youth in mind but open to all ages. In the **Felting Fun** class, participants will make felt balls and perhaps a snake. Bring a new white cotton shirt to the **Tie-Dying** session and go home with a colorful shirt. A small material fee will be charged for these workshops but there is no pre-registration needed.

The sheepdog lady will be back this year and will demonstrate the herding abilities of her border collies. Area spinning and weaving guilds will demonstrate and there will be a **Lamb cook-off** contest Saturday

morning. Sunday at noon, culinary arts students from the Wayne County Schools Career Center will present a **Lamb Cooking Demonstration**.

The Fiber show will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free and food will be available. For registration forms and more information contact Linda Reichert at 330-264-9665 or e-mail Don47linda@valkyrie.net

The Great Lakes Sheep and Wool Show & Sale will be going on at the same time. Several breeds of sheep will be judged and auctioned off to the highest bidder. The wool fleeces will be judged and sold at prices set by the exhibitor. For more information about this show, contact Joan Hess at 937-652-3438.



LOCO OFFICERS

President: Elizabeth Yasaki

Vice president/programs: Stacey Allen

Secretary/ Demonstrations: Pat Harrison

Treasurer: Betty Roll

Newsletter: Pat Geisler, spin9r@aol.com

Librarian: Sarah Twining

Historian: Jo Babcock

Sunshine: Rosie Hauff

Public relations: Elsie Wise

Refreshments: Karen Morgan

Samples: Beth Hines, hinesssheep@aol.com

Workshops: Betsy Bruce