

# FOX VALLEY KNITTERS' GUILD NEWS

A newsletter by and for FVKG members

February 2011



fvkg.com

## FVKG'S PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy Valentine's Day!

Let me begin this letter by letting the Board know that we will be meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 P.M. till 5:00 P.M. at the Arcadium Coffee House in St. Charles. If any Board members are unable to make the meeting, please send to my attention any issues that need to be discussed. Thank you.

I cannot wait to hear our speakers this month. After Theresa and Mary were at the Guild last April, I went home and looked through all the patterns for sweaters and tops that I had. Realized that even though I may like a certain pattern, there may be reasons for me not to wear/make it.

Thank you to Deanne Karamanian, Christy Becker, and Linda Jones for volunteering for the Nominating Committee. If any member is interested in being on the Board, please get in contact with the committee members.

Hope to see all of you soon.

---Sandy Andrews

## HOSPITALITY

Thanks to the ladies who brought the treats to the January meeting and to those who have signed up to bring treats to the February meeting. The theme for the February meeting is Valentine's Day. If you would like to bring beverages, an appetizer, or dessert please give me a call at 617-308-6461. Your willingness to bring something to the meeting adds a special touch to our time together. Thank you.

---Stephanie Lofland

## FEBRUARY PROGRAM NOTES

Our February Guild program is one I have been waiting for. It is *What Not To Knit* part 2. Theresa Schabes and Mary Coen of Knitche in Downers Grove brought us their part 1 last April. This month they will be back to talk, model, suggest and recommend more things, all in the name of helping us be more satisfied and even delighted with our knitting. This second session with these fun and funny ladies will cover making adjustments to patterns so you will love the fit of the final project. If you have questions about projects you have in mind or sweaters that need some rearranging, bring them with you. I know we'll leave the meeting with lots to think about and try.

## UPCOMING GUILD PROGRAMS

### March:

We take good care of our knitting fibers. Now let's learn better ways to take care of our bodies' fibers, especially when we "knit too much!" Hear Jennifer Woods discuss the topic of body mechanics while knitting, while you knit.

### April:

Some of you have done good detective work and figured out that our very well known April guest will be Sally Melville. She will be in town for 2 days and we are very fortunate that she has agreed to present our April program, Making the Most of Your Yarn Collection. I can hardly wait!

### May:

End of the Guild Year party and spring cleaning stash sale.

---Gretl Kramer

## **FVKG MEETING DATES**

- February 9
- March 9
- April 13
- May 11

We meet the second Wednesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall of the St. Charles Episcopal Church at 994 North Fifth Ave. in St. Charles and start at 6:30pm

## **MYSTERY KNITTING PROJECT PART TWO**

How did you like part 1? There were a few odd things about it, odd holes and a bit of an odd shape. Hang in there and let's knit part 2. Part 2 continues from where you left off. You should have 31 stitches on your needle and be ready to start on a RS row.

### Techniques:

**M1R:** Make 1 right-leaning increase. Work to place for increase. Insert LH needle under horizontal strand between stitch just worked and the next stitch from back to front. Knit through front leg of this picked up strand.

**M1L:** Make 1 left leaning increase. Work to place for increase. Insert LH needle under horizontal strand between stitch just worked and the next stitch from front to back. Knit through the back leg of the picked up strand.

### **Seed Stitch:**

Row 1: (RS) Slip 1 st knitwise wyib, \*p1, k1; repeat from \* across row.

Row 2: Slip 1 st knitwise wyib, purl the knit sts as they face you, and knit the purl sts as they face you all the way across row.

Repeat row 2 for Seed Stitch

### Instructions Continued:

Work in Seed Stitch for 24 rows as described above. End with a WS row, ready to start a RS row.

### Next Section:

Row 1: (RS) Work 15 stitches as established in Seed Stitch, place marker, [p1, k1, p1] in next stitch, place marker, work to end in Seed Stitch. (33 st)

Row 2: Work in Seed Stitch to first marker, slip marker, p3, slip marker, work in Seed stitch to end

Row 3: Work in Seed Stitch to first marker, slip marker, k 3, slip marker, work in Seed stitch to end of row.

Row 4: Repeat Row 2.

Row 5: (RS) Work in Seed Stitch to marker, slip marker, M1R, k to marker, M1L, slip marker, work in seed stitch to end of row. (35 st)

Row 6. Work in Seed Stitch to marker, slip marker, p5, slip marker, work in Seed Stitch to end of row.

Row 7: (RS) Repeat Row 5. (37 sts)

Row 8: Work in Seed Stitch to marker, slip marker, p7, slip marker, work in Seed Stitch to end of row.

Row 9: Work in Seed Stitch to marker, slip marker, k7, slip marker, work in Seed Stitch to end of row.

Row 10: Repeat Row 8

Row 11: Repeat Row 9

Row 12: Repeat Row 8

That's all for now! ☺

## **KNITTED ITEMS FROM THE GUILD'S LIBRARY DISPLAYS**

Sandy Andrews has the remaining items Natasha was using for the library displays and will bring them to the February Guild meeting for their owners to pick up.

## **FVKG WRAP DESIGN CHALLENGE**

How about it fellow "wrappers"? Are you knee deep in design ideas for our wrap challenge (introduced at the December meeting)? Here's where I am. Last summer at Midwest Fiber Fair, I bought two different yarns from two different vendors: one was raspberry and the other limey green. When they got together in my shopping bag they were very happy, and when they got home, they nestled up against some pale raspberrish mohair. I thought they might be the basis for a wrap since I didn't have a lot of any of them. I could start with a large diamond shape for the back and then embellish it with dots and squiggles of the other two colors. Then I could attach two long scarves to the diamond shape so they could hang down in front or be tossed over one shoulder. Or maybe I could make one of these legs curve with short rows so it would naturally curve over my front and hang down the back, thus anchoring the wrap. I could add some knitted bobbles or beads along the bottom edge to help keep it in place. (One thing that keeps me from wearing more shawls is my must-have shoulder bag which is always dislodging the artfully draped shawl. Aside from the imaginary bearers I have tried to conjure up to follow along behind me to carry my stuff, there must be a solution.)

Then I went to the Lyric's production of the Mikado and there was a raspberry petaled apple tree against a creamy aqua sky punctuated by lime green parasols. The whole was beautifully framed by a sort of yellowy green Japanese paper screen with tone on tone apple blossoms. Was this a sign that I should add some aqua to the scheme? And what about that surprisingly successful yellowy green? Should I work in some intarsia Japanese blossoms? That wonderful Paternayan scarf in the Scarf Style book had little passages of fair isle in very fine yarn that I really loved. Could I work some of those in somehow?

Awash in too many ideas, I decided the next step must be to pick up some real yarn and needles to see what's going to happen next.

---Phyllis Deerinck

### **SHOW AND TELL**

Every Guild meeting we have Show and Tell as an opportunity for our members to show projects they have completed. Frequently members want to know what pattern or yarn was used for your project. We would like to start including that information in either our newly enhanced website or the newsletter. To help gather this information a form for Show and Tell is available at the welcome table for you to complete for any item(s) you wish to show at the Guild meeting.

### **LOCAL ARTIST EXHIBITING IN VERONA, ITALY**

Guild member Natasha Lehrer will have a piece of her fiber art displayed next month in Verona, Italy as a part of the international textile exhibit *The Silk Roads Meet in Verona*. Congratulations Natasha!

### **UPCOMING FIBER EVENTS**

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| June 24-<br>26, 2011  | The Midwest Fiber & Folk Art Fair at the Lake County Fairgrounds<br><a href="http://www.fiberandfolk.com/">http://www.fiberandfolk.com/</a> |
| July 28-<br>31, 2011  | Sock Summit the Second in Portland, Oregon<br><a href="http://www.socksummit.com">http://www.socksummit.com</a>                             |
| August 25-<br>28 2011 | Stitches Midwest Schaumburg, IL<br><a href="http://www.knittinguniverse.com/stitches/">http://www.knittinguniverse.com/stitches/</a>        |

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

The following Guild members are celebrating birthdays in February

- Dorothy Gaines
- Joan Mahoney
- Sue Plaster
- Shirley Remes
- Janet Siers
- Linda Young



### A DONATION REQUEST

Please join me in donating knitting needles, patterns, notions, and yarn to children in need. I am collecting these items to donate to Rush Children's Hospital. Recently a volunteer has been kind enough to donate her time to teach children at the hospital to knit while in care at the hospital. Donations can be given to me at the next Guild meeting or you can call me to donate and I will try to make arrangements to pick up. Please see me for my phone number if you would like to donate. We appreciate your kindness. Thanks FVKG members!!

*Guild Member Jessica DeRosa*

### YARN SHOP REVIEWS

Last week I was in Portland, Oregon, yarn town extraordinaire. Last year I counted about 15 yarn stores in the Portland area. Since then, two have closed and about 5 or 6 have opened. What a net gain for Portland knitters.

On my recent trip, I planned to visit a shop with a couple of my former high school classmates, also die-hard knitters. We had breakfast together early on Sunday knowing the shop opened at 11 a.m. After we ate we walked up the hill to the shop to find a sign on the door, "Closed for Holiday Staff Party." Whaaa??? One of us came all the way from Elgin, IL, one from Santa Cruz, CA and one from Eugene OR. Oh well! There were enough other shops to go around.

I visited 3 of the new shops, Urban Fiber Arts ([www.urbanfiberarts.com](http://www.urbanfiberarts.com)), Make One ([www.m1yarns.com](http://www.m1yarns.com)) and Happy Knits ([www.happyknits.com](http://www.happyknits.com)) and 2 old favorites, Knit Purl ([www.knitpurl.com](http://www.knitpurl.com)) and Yarn Garden ([www.yarngarden.net](http://www.yarngarden.net)).

**Knit Purl**, in downtown Portland, is a small shop with lots of unique yarns. They offer their own line of yarn and patterns, Shibui, and have a new book out to go with their new Shibui silk yarn called Heichi. They have a sock club, and patterns from past years' clubs are available. I found one from 2009 called Tessuto, a slip stitch pattern. They also carry SHELTER, the new Brooklyn Tweed wool and Jared Flood patterns that use it. Knit Purl also has lots of Habu yarns and some kits on their shelves. I bought "some" things and then lamented that I would not be able to fit it all in my suitcase. "We'll ship it to you! You have enough here for free shipping." The package got back to Elgin before I did.

Next I visited the **Yarn Garden**, a shop that has been in Portland for decades. Over the years, as adjacent shops closed, the Yarn Garden moved into them, growing to take up almost the entire

block. They carry many, many yarns and have a nice little book room. This time I left with nothing, however.

Then I crossed the street and went about 2 blocks east to the new **Happy Knits**. It will be interesting to see what happens with these 2 shops so close to one another, but they are very different and carry different brands. Happy Knits has a large room with yarn, a large room with books, magazines, couches and a fireplace, a kids' play area, and a classroom. I found it very cool that there were 2 men working there, along with a few women, and there were more male customers than female in the shop. How great is that? I came away from there with one small ball of mohair and 2 pair of sock needles, just in case.

Near my dad's residence is a new shop called **Make One**, so while he was at lunch I slipped out for a quick visit. Make One is a small shop with a hot teapot and snacks, a nice place to sit and knit and a little table for classes. They have a few samples displayed on top of their few yarn shelves, and I always find one that I love. So a pattern and some yarn generally come home with me. No exception this time. For a tiny shop, they sure have some great things. They introduced me to the Cedar Leaf Shawlette and now to the Vanamo fingerless gloves.

My last day in town I decided to visit the newest shop, **Urban Fiber Arts** located in Portland's Pearl District. (Pearl? Purl? Cool!) This is another tiny shop with beautiful yarn. What attracted me especially is that Urban Fiber Arts carries a large amount of locally spun and locally dyed yarns. Fiber artists from northwest Oregon and southwest Washington are well represented. I brought home some lovely turquoise baby alpaca from Abstract Fiber of Portland. I'm so glad I went here. Local products are my favorite souvenirs.

---Gretl Kramer

### **SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS AT ESTHER'S PLACE**

#### **"Heartfelt" Valentine's Day Celebration**

Sat. Feb. 12th 10-4 pm

Come enjoy a chocolate fondue bar, make your own truffles, felt a chocolate candy, make a heart card for the soldiers and share your love for all things warm and wooly!

#### **5th Annual Spring Open House**

Sat. and Sun. May 7-8th 10-4

Come join us in welcoming our lambs in our annual Mother's Day Celebration. Take a picture with a lamb, feed the sheep, take a farm tour, purchase fresh produce and more. Tours will be at 11, 12, 1, 2 & 3 o'clock, and there will be complementary lunch and homemade baked goods to enjoy. The fun starts at the shop, and be sure to wear your farm shoes!

Fiber Happenings at Esther's Place!  
201 RT 30, Big Rock, IL 60511  
630-556-9665/ [www.esthersplacefibers.com](http://www.esthersplacefibers.com)

### **ANOTHER KIND OF MYSTERY KNITTING**

I just wanted to share my views and experience with mystery knitting. I don't think you all really get it. First, as you know, I chose to make the Rembrandt Neckpiece in Brioche Knitting by Nancy Marchant. I thought that was mystery knitting. No schematic and the pictures always showed the same shoulder and never the piece straight on. She had a different number of increases and decreases on the shoulders. Really, are you shoulders different shapes? She also never really tells you where to put your markers for the increases. As a knitter, I didn't want to do her bodily harm, just steal some cashmere yarn from her stash to make her sorry, but now I feel bad.

The real mystery knitting was waiting for me in my own family room. The red fingerless gloves, do you know what row I stopped on? How many rows did I knit between gusset increases? Did I bind off in 1 or 2 colors? Well, neither did I. But that was the easy project. The notes for my navy vest? I have no clue where they are. At least I can easily count the number of stitches in the brioche ribbing, but what size needle did I use? How many increases in the cap of the sleeve for my father's sweater? Oh, by the way. After I figured that out and knit the second sleeve cap, I realized that I was going to rip the first cap out to lengthen the armhole. Now I get to rip out two sleeve caps, and lengthen the front and back.

This, my friends and fellow knitters, is real mystery knitting.

---Christie Cunningham

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## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Deanne Karamanian, Linda Jones and Christy Becker have started work on filling our board positions for next year. But, there is still room for you! If you would like to be considered for an office, please contact one of us by phone or e-mail. We will present a slate of officers in April. Here are the board positions. Along with attending board meetings, the responsibilities of each position are listed.

### **President:**

Sets agenda of meetings

Officiates at Board of Directors meetings and presides at Guild meetings

Is responsible for completing the calendar for the upcoming year

Submits "Letter from the President" for each newsletter

Appoints Nominating Committee

Shall appoint the chairmen of all Standing and Special Committees with the approval of the Board

### **Vice President:**

Assume duties of the President in her absence

Responsible for Guild programs for current year

Keeps records of the programs and program suggestions

Arranges and sets up any special equipment, such as video machine, slide projector, etc.

### **Secretary:**

Responsible for minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors

Responsible for Guild correspondence

Responsible for Guild publicity (e.g. club news and press releases in the local newspapers)

### **Treasurer:**

Responsible for Guild bank account

Keeps accounting record for Guild

Submits monthly reports to Newsletter Editor for publication

Provides records for annual internal audit

**Membership:**

Maintains membership records

Promotes and encourages Guild membership

Distributes membership applications and receives completed applications along with payment of annual dues. Monies to be turned over to the Treasurer.

Submits membership list to Newsletter Editor in October and May for publication

Forwards updated membership information to Newsletter Editor for publication

Provides annual membership card for each member

Organizes and distributes membership folders to new members

**Newsletter Editor:**

Responsible for preparing and mailing newsletter to all members prior to each meeting  
(September through May)

Collects information submitted by membership for inclusion in newsletter

**Hospitality:**

Responsible for preparing the room for each meeting

Provides nametags and arranges to welcome guests at each meeting

Recruits volunteers to prepare refreshments for each meeting

Recruits volunteers to host monthly Knit-Ins

**Gallery Show:**

Schedules the dates for the Gallery Show

Assists the Guild in generating a theme for the show

Corresponds with other area guilds to invite them to participate in the show

Encourages Guild members to plan special work for the show

Collects all items for display

Organizes committee to hang the show and dismantle the display

Organizes artists' reception

Organizes any other displays of guild members' work

---Christy Becker

## Special Yarn Shops

- **Esther's Place** 201 W. Galena St. (Route 30), Big Rock  
Phone: (630) 556-WOOL (9665) - Web: <http://www.esthersplacefibers.com/>
- **Fine Line** 6N158 Crane Road, St. Charles Phone: (630) 584-9443 - Web:  
<http://www.finelineca.org/>
- **Fishbed Knitting Emporium, Inc.** 320 N. River Street, East Dundee  
Phone: (847) 844-YARN (9276)
- **The Fold** 3316 Millstream Road, Marengo  
Phone: (815) 568-5320
- **Gene Ann's Shop**  
117 East Station St., Barrington  
Phone: (847) 842-9321 - Web: <http://www.geneannsyarns.com/TheShop.htm>
- **Knitche** 5150-B Main Street, Downers Grove, IL 60515  
Phone: (630) 852-5648 - Web: <http://knitche.com/>
- **Loopy Yarns.** 47 West Polk St. Chicago  
Phone: (312) 583-9276 - Web: <http://www.loopyyarns.com>
- **Needle Things** 426 South Third Street, Geneva  
Phone: (630) 232-9915
- **Never Enough Knitting** 119-121 North Main, Wheaton  
Phone: (630) 221-1007
- **Stitches in Time** 300 W. Washington, Oregon, IL  
Phone: (815) 732-4599
- **Wool and Company** 107A West Main Street, St. Charles, IL  
Phone: 630 444-0480 - Web: <http://www.woolandcompany.net/>

\*These shops are special because they offer discounts to FVKG members.

### FVKG Board

- President: Sandy Andrews
- Vice President/Programs: Gretl Kramer
- Treasurer: Diane Evinger
- Secretary: Kathy Schooley
- Hospitality: Stephanie Lofland
- Membership: Judy Jasper
- Newsletter: Linda McEwan
- Website: Lorraine Tompkins
- Gallery Show: Natasha Lehrer

### The Agenda for Each Guild Meeting

- 6pm—set up
- 6:30pm—gather to knit
- 7pm—Meeting begins:  
Introductions of new members/guests  
Announcements/reports  
Show and Tell and Door Prizes
- 7:30pm—Break
- 7:45pm -Program
- 9pm—Lights out

### FOX VALLEY KNITTERS' GUILD MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Fox Valley Knitters' Guild is to promote and foster an interest in knitting, to provide the opportunity for study and sharing to broaden one's skills, and to encourage high standards of design and technique in various forms of knitting.

### Newsletter comments, suggestions or article ideas?

Please contact me at [lmcewan@foxvalley.net](mailto:lmcewan@foxvalley.net) or at (847) 697-1513. Thanks! ---Linda McEwan