

Fox Valley Knitters' Guild *NEWS*

A newsletter by and for FVKG members

March 2012

President's Letter

Knitting for Love

I have discovered something interesting about myself: when I am worried or concerned about a loved one I find myself knitting for them with an urgent need. I figured for a while this jumping to different projects had more to do with my ADD than anything deeper, but this week has enlightened me.

My sister has been having a rough year – you know the kind we all have once in a while when everything unravels in your life – and after visiting her at Christmas, I decided she needed a pick-me-up, yarn-style, so I started one of those scarf/shawlettes I wrote about last month. My older daughter has been in Germany since fall, and though I knit her a cowl for her birthday, I felt she needed a shawlette, too. Both of these have occupied my mind and fingers for a couple of months. About two weeks ago, I became obsessed with finishing my daughter's so that her sister could hand-carry it to her. It came off the needles hours before the flight and left, unblocked and unwrapped. I went back to my sister's scarf. Then, as my concern about my younger daughter traveling alone overcame me, I cast on for a shrug for her. That was when I realized that what was driving my need to knit a particular thing was who I was worried about the most at the time.

This week, The Yarn Harlot wrote about the new baby in her family needing his blanket. Well, he had a blanket on in the picture, but we understand exactly what she really means – she needs to show her love for him with a knitted blanket. And every human needs the love of other humans to survive and thrive. So, yes, he needs a blanket.

So let us all keep using the power our talents to make our love manifest!

~ Kathy Schooley

In This Issue

2012 FVKG Retreat	7
Knitathon – Save the Date	7
Knitting for Charity	3
Mission Statement	2
President's Letter	1
Program Notes – April	6
Program Notes – March	2
Regional Fiber Events	6
Scenes from February	4
Show and Tell	5
Special Yarn Shops	7
Sweater-making Workshop	2
The Doctor Is In	6
Vendor of the Month	3
What I Learned at the Janesville Knit-In	8

2011-2012 Meeting Dates

September 14, 2011
October 12, 2011
November 9, 2011
December 14, 2011
January 11, 2012
February 8, 2012
March 14, 2012
April 11, 2012
May 9, 2012

St. Charles Episcopal Church
994 N 5th Ave.
St. Charles, IL

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

FVKG meets the second Wednesday of each month, September through May, in the Fellowship Hall of the St. Charles Episcopal Church in St. Charles, Ill. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.



Program Notes – March

The speaker for our March meeting will be Ann Budd. Her presentation will be based on her upcoming book, *The Knitter's Handy Guide to Top-Down Sweaters*. The book will be available in July (hopefully), but she will bring the garments and images from the book to show at our meeting.

NOTE: FVKG's March meeting (3/14) is a **members-only event**. If you are not yet a member, you will have the opportunity to join at the meeting.

Ann first learned to knit in 1968 when living in Switzerland for a year with her family. At the time, knitting was part of the curriculum for all schoolgirls. Back in the United States, Ann continued to knit through her high-school, college and graduate school years, earning a master's degree in geology.

In 1989, Ann eventually decided to forego the sciences and pursue her passion for knitting and fiber-related crafts when she began working as an editorial assistant for *Handwoven* magazine. Ann is the best-selling author of *The Knitter's Handy Book of Sweater Patterns*. She is also the author of *Getting Started Knitting Socks*, *Interweave Presents Knitted Gifts*, *Knitting Green* and *Simple Style*, and coauthor of *Bag Style*, *Color Style*, *Lace Style* and *Wrap Style*. She is a book editor and the former senior editor of *Interweave Knits*. She lives in Boulder, Colo.

You can find all of Ann's books and many of her designs at www.interweavestore.com (search for Ann Budd).

~ Lorraine Tompkins

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.

Sweater-making Workshop

Ann Budd, our featured speaker for March, is also doing a two-day workshop for Wool and Co. There are still a couple of spaces left – but only a couple – so if you have been on the fence, **sign up now**. You will learn so much from Ann. Join us on Wednesday, March 14 and Thursday, March 15, 9 a.m. – noon, and 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

This workshop is the answer to everything you have ever wanted to know about making a sweater.

Ann has written many books, and is a font of all knitting information that she is ready to share with you. So **sign up** for this wonderful opportunity to take your knitting skills up two or three notches. If you sign up, you will also be able to purchase Ann's books at a great discount.

Wool and Co. will also be bringing some of Ann's books for you to purchase on Wednesday night if you would like her to sign them for you.

~ Lesley Edmondson

Vendor of the Month

Our March vendor will be The Fold from Marengo, Ill. Toni Neal will be bringing a variety of special yarn, including some of the wondrous Socks that Rock from Blue Moon Fibers that you cannot buy any other place around here. Check out the Blue Moon Fiber Arts website at www.bluemoonfiberarts.com where you can read about its sock club and the 2012 Sock Camp. Tina, the owner and dyer at Blue Moon, hosts the Sock Camp and Sock Summit with the Yarn Harlot, Stephanie Pearl-McPhee.

You will be delighted by amazing colorways and incredible yarn. Toni will also bring a collection of needles and supplies, like stitch markers. And, there may even be some sale yarn! The Fold will be donating a door prize, so you will want to have a ticket. Bring your wallet and your credit card.



*Blue Moon Fiber Arts' Socks that Rock.
Colorway: Apple Valley Rd. Photo: Lisa Schroeder.*

For more information about The Fold or to plan a visit, its website is www.thefoldatmc.net.

~ Christy Becker

Knitting for Charity



St. John Neumann knitting group. Photo: Sharon Coyer.

Do you host an open-to-guild-members knitting group that meets regularly outside of meetings? If so, please provide when and where your group meets, so that the info can be published in the newsletter. Or, are you aware of charitable opportunities to knit? Likewise, kindly send in project specifications and gathering times for members who would like to contribute their talents to a worthy cause (for example, read about an upcoming knitathon on p. 7). Particulars can be sent to fvkgnews@gmail.com.

~ Lisa Schroeder

Scenes from the February 2012 Meeting

The program for February – an especial thanks to Lorraine Tompkins for organizing it – included an embellishment techniques fair, with several informative sessions members could attend to hone their embellishing skills. A few of the classes are depicted below. Photos: Claudia Frost.



Ruth Anderson explains how to make crocheted flowers.



Mary Gregory instructs Janet Goier on how to make nupps with a crochet hook.

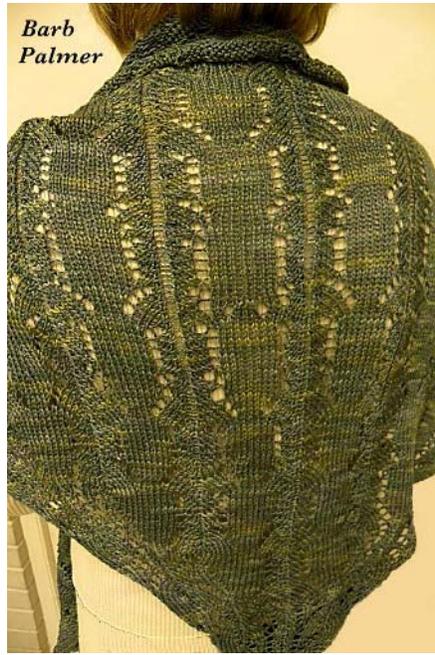


Leslie Edmondson(r) coaches knitters Jane Batte(l) and Tami Haroldsen.

Show and Tell – February 2012 Meeting



*Jan Krueger
Juliet Sweater*



*Barb
Palmer*



*Felted Embellished
Purse
Mary Stowe*



Dorothy Gaines Felted Cascade 220 Hat



*Ruth Dykstra
Charity Hat
by Lorna Miser*



*Christie Cunningham
Pink Baby Sweater*

Meetings always include a Show-and-Tell session as an opportunity for members to showcase their work. A small selection of lovely items from the February meeting is included here. To see other inspiring projects, please visit the photo gallery at www.fvkg.com.

Photos: Claudia Frost.

Program Notes: April

Based on how popular her class was in February, the speaker for April's meeting will be our very own guild member, Jenny Bezingue. She will be talking about what polymer clay is and how to work with it. She will show how this versatile medium can work with your knitting. Jenny will be bringing samples of her work to further inspire us.

Jenny's full-time job is as a writer for The Pampered Chef in its marketing department. She does freelance designing and writing for Polyform Products, a local clay manufacturer that has about 85 percent of the U.S. clay market with a number of different brands of clay.

~ Lorraine Tompkins

Guild Meeting Agenda

- 6:00 p.m. Set up
- 6:30 p.m. Gather to knit
- 7:00 p.m. Meeting begins:
 - Introduce new members/guests
 - Announcements/reports
 - Show and Tell
 - Door prizes
- 7:30 p.m. Break
- 7:45 p.m. Program
- 9:00 p.m. Lights out

2011-2012 FVKG Board Members

President: Kathy Schooley
VP and Website: Lorraine Tompkins
Secretary: Jennifer Duncan
Treasurer: Deanne Karamanian
Hospitality: Tammy Caltagirone; Linda Jones
Membership: Marge Clark
Newsletter Editor: Lisa Schroeder
Gallery Show: Claudia Frost
Library: Barbara Palmer; Marianne Moye

Upcoming Regional Fiber Events

April 14

Stephenson County Fiber Art Fair

Cedarville, Ill.

815-541-0897

www.suzybeggin.com

April 14

A Knitter's Fantasy 2012

Youngstown, Ohio

www.northcoastknitting.org

April 20-21

The Fiber Event 2012 at Greencastle

Greencastle, Ind.

www.thefiberevent.com

April 21-22

Wisconsin Spring Spin-In

Waukesha, Wis.

www.wispinin.org

May 18-20

Kentucky Sheep and Wool Festival

Lexington, Ky.

www.kentuckysheepandfiber.com

May 19

Michigan Fiber Fiesta

Greenville, Mich.

<http://mifiberfiesta.yolasite.com/>

May 26-27

Great Lakes Fiber Show

Wooster Ohio

330-264-9665

www.greatlakesfibershow.com

June 1-2

Hoosier Hills FiberArts Festival

Franklin, Ind.

www.hoosierhillsfiberfestival.com

The Doctor Is In

Problems both big and small, questions both hard and silly. If you are stumped by a pattern or have made a mistake that you cannot figure out how to fix, simply stop by the Knit Doctor. Each month, a guild member is ready to apply some wisdom to whatever is ailing your progress. This month, Sandy Andrews will be happy to sort things out for you and get you knitting again. It is painless and free!

~ Christy Becker

Special Yarn Shops

These shops are special because they offer discounts to FVKG members

Esther's Place

201 W. Galena St. (Route 30), Big Rock
630-556-WOOL (9665)
www.estersplacefibers.com

Fine Line

6N158 Crane Road, St. Charles
630-584-9443
www.finelineca.org

Fishbed Knitting Emporium, Inc.

320 N. River Street, East Dundee
847-844-YARN (9276)

The Fold

3316 Millstream Road, Marengo
815-568-5320

Gene Ann's Shop

117 East Station St., Barrington
847-842-9321
www.geneannsyarns.com

Knitche

5150-B Main Street, Downers Grove
630-852-5648
<http://knitche.com/>

Loopy Yarns

47 West Polk St., Chicago
312-583-9276
www.loopyyarns.com

Needle Things

426 South Third Street, Geneva
630-232-9915

Never Enough Knitting

119-121 North Main, Wheaton
630-221-1007

Stitches in Time

300 W. Washington, Oregon
815-732-4599

*Wool and Company

107A West Main Street, St. Charles
630-444-0480
www.woolandcompany.net

**Wool and Company has switched to a Stash Cash card program instead of a traditional discount.*

2012 FOX VALLEY KNITTING GUILD RETREAT

ARRIVAL DATE: October 26, 2012

ARRIVAL TIME: 2:00 p.m.

DEPARTURE DATE: October 28, 2012

DEPARTURE TIME: 1:00 p.m.

Room Rate:

Double – \$125 per person

Single – \$205 per person

Deposit: \$50

Balance due by September 12, 2012:

\$75 – for a double room

\$155 – for a single room

We are currently looking for members interested in being on the door-prize committee for the retreat. Their responsibility would be to contact various vendors to ask for donations.

We once again will have massages on Friday night. Reservations will be taken, and space is limited.

Please note that, once all rooms have been reserved, an amount will be announced for those wishing to attend only on Saturday, October 27, 2012.

~ Sandy Andrews

Knit Around the Clock – Save the Date!

During the last weekend of April, Loopy Yarns, Chicago, will be hosting a charity 32-hour knit-a-thon for The Women's Justice Program. The event starts the morning of Saturday, April 28, and continues through evening on Sunday, April 29. During the event, there will be food, raffles and door prizes for participants.

There will be two knitting shifts; participants can choose between one or both times: Saturday, April 28, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m., and Sunday, April 29, 12:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Stop in at Loopy to pick up registration and sponsor forms. There is a \$20 registration fee due by March 15 (\$30 late fee after), and sponsor forms are due on the day of the event. The registration fee includes access to the knit-a-thon, food and a commemorative T-shirt. For more information, visit www.loopyyarns.com.

~ Barbara Palmer

A Bit of Ravelry, a Blog and What I Learned at the Janesville Knit-In

A few short weeks ago, a few of your fellow guild members attended the Janesville Area Knitting Guild Knit In. The keynote speaker on Friday night was Amy Herzog from Boston, and luckily for Mary Gregory and me, she decided that she would take two more students in her classes on Saturday. We immediately signed up for the morning session of Fit to Flatter, and it was the best \$25 I ever spent!

Amy was amazing. Her sparkling personality and her glorious designs made every second of her presentation and the class fun and enlightening. I learned that the reason that I sometimes (actually quite frequently to almost always) don't like sweaters that I knit (or often buy) is that I have been choosing the wrong size. Now I understand ease –both positive and negative – and where I want each in my sweater.

Amy explained that really none of us have the ideal figure that sweaters are designed for, but that, by being aware of very simple design features, we can change how others perceive how we look. Now I know how I should be wearing scarves and shawls, how long my sweaters and tops should be, and what styles I should be looking for.

And, the next time you look in the mirror at yourself and check out your side view and sigh, remember that you will never walk up to someone, turn sideways and say "hi." Others will not make judgments about my body shape from viewing me sideways!

And, although I would love Amy to come speak to our guild, you can learn all we discovered and more through the magic of the internet and Ravelry.

Suggestion: Make Amy Herzog your friend on Ravelry. You can keep up with her latest blog entries there and see her knitting projects. Then join the Ravelry group called Fit to Flatter. If you decide to knit one of Amy's patterns, there are discussion threads and knitalongs here; Amy is the moderator.

Check out the Fit to Flatter tutorials. There are 10 installments on her blog, covering shapes, mindful project choice, necklines, sleeves, sweater length and shaping. These blog post installments all are free, and will stay up on her blog until her new book is on the market. If you desire to get the whole series as a professionally formatted PDF file for printing, the individual entries are \$2, or the whole series is \$10.

This is what Amy says about her tutorials and workshops:

"Loved the yarn, pattern is great, but I'm not thrilled with how it looks. It must be just me."

I've been part of the online knitting community for several years now, and this all-too-common sentence really makes me angry. It seems to imply that the knitter is somehow at fault for not having a body with the precise measurements a designer used when drawing up a pattern. Of course, designers need to use a standardized set of measurements when sizing patterns! But no knitter will match these measurements exactly, nor should they. To get wardrobe staples from their efforts, knitters need only to honestly analyze their shape, pay a bit of attention to the pattern's schematic, and possess the confidence to make modifications. I began my mission to ensure every knitter can make themselves flattering wardrobe staples by writing tutorials on the subject over the course of 2010. These tutorials cover basic principles of knitting to flatter your figure:

- *Determine your body's inherent shape.*
- *Discover how the visual elements of clothing alter that shape's appearance.*
- *Choosing patterns and making modifications to those patterns that will change the appearance of your shape in the ways you desire.*
- *Achieving a custom fit.*
- *More than a collection of tips and tricks, the tutorials offer a systematic and comprehensive way of understanding the ways clothing can change our appearance, and translating that understanding into knitted garments.*

You can go to her website: www.amyherzogdesigns.com.

~ Christy Becker