

Fox Valley Knitters' Guild *NEWS*

A newsletter by and for FVKG members

October 2012

President's Letter

Changing Seasons: A Knitter's Perspective

What a tough summer nature dealt us this year! It seemed to me that the trees just decided to cut their losses and pack it all in early this year; I can hardly believe how early so many trees started changing. The crisp fall air is a happy time for most knitters: We get to pull out and wear all the cardigans and vests that we have been pushing aside with disgust all those 95-degree weeks. Even the hats and mittens we've made look friendly and inviting again. I have been wearing those shawlettes I worked on all spring and summer and not feeling at all overheated. I actually am starting to look at my knitted lovelies and worrying that I need more. Like cardigans, because, after all, I can't wear my favorite Sock Monkey one every day ... And I never did finish those thrummed mittens, and I bet it will be a cold winter... How come I have so many purple turtlenecks, but no purple sweaters and socks... And don't get me started on my list from the *Stitch Red* book...

~ Kathy Schooley

In This Issue

Charity Knitting	5
Fiber Farm Fall Event	6
Flowers for Sandee	3
FVKG 2012 Retreat	6
FVKG 2012-2013 Board	7
Guild Meeting Agenda	7
Hospitality Note	2
Knitting vs. Stress	5
Membership Has Its Perks	3
Mission Statement	7
Special Yarn Shops	7
Spotlight on ... INTARSIA	8
President's Letter	1
Program for October	2
Upcoming Fiber Events	6
Unraveling Ravelry	4
Vendor of the Month	2
Welcome, New Members!	2

2012-2013 Meeting Dates

September 12, 2012
October 10, 2012
November 14, 2012
December 12, 2012
January 9, 2013
February 13, 2013
March 13, 2013
April 10, 2013
May 8, 2013

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

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

FVKG currently meets the second Wednesday of each month, September through May, in the Fellowship Hall of the St. Charles Episcopal Church in St. Charles. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.*



Program for October

Designing Women

If you've ever been unable to find the recommended yarn for a commercial pattern that you love, or bought a spectacular yarn but found no pattern to suit it, you might want to listen to what four of our adventurous guild members have to say about designing your own work. Jo Fritter, Judy Jasper, Gretl Kramer and Phyllis Deerinck will discuss the inspirations, processes and strategies they have employed to create one-of-a kind garments.

~ Phyllis Deerinck

Vendor of the Month

The Fold yarn store from Marengo, Ill., will be our vendor for the October meeting. This is the only local retailer who has Blue Moon (and Socks that Rock), so bring your wallet.

~ Judy Jasper

The Fold
3316 Millstream Road
Marengo, IL 60152
815.568.5730
www.thefoldatmc.net

Welcome, New Members!

Terry Caltagirone
Freida Donnan
Laura Maska
Diane Von Schnase
Marge Skold
Mary Tebeau

Membership Reminder

The dues for the 2012-2013 FVKG year are still \$30. If you haven't yet done so, please print and complete the membership form prior to the October meeting; it would be a big help. The form can be found at www.fvkg.com in the membership section.

We had 72 members sign up at the September meeting – a very impressive number.

~ Marge Clark

Hospitality Note

It's BYOB

Due to the difficulty in transporting large quantities of beverages, guild members should be sure to bring their own drinks to the meeting. Cups and some ice water will be available.

~ Tammy Caltagirone

Flowers for Sandee

FVKG member Sandee Staples passed away at the end of August. These knitted flower baskets are among those that were made by members of the guild and others – a wonderful, fitting memorial for someone who loved to knit decorative items. Her daughters really appreciated them.



Photos by Christie Cunningham.

Membership Has Its Perks

Yet another guild membership perk (as if you needed any more!):

The Fox Valley Knitters' Guild (FVKG) has a membership in The Knitting Guild Association (TKGA). This is the national association for knitters and knitting. TKGA has more than 10,000 members, and is the largest knitting association in America. It is a gathering point for new ideas, products, markets, patterns and fellow knitters. Visit www.tkga.com to explore its offerings, including the Master Knitter certification, tutorials, charity opportunities, conferences and travel, and free patterns.

Cast On: The Educational Journal for Knitters is the official publication of TKGA. Our FVKG library has back issues of this magazine that are available for check out. Each issue has many patterns, with several options to vary each pattern. Many knitting techniques are explained and illustrated. On www.tkga.com, FVKG members have access to the TKGA members-only section that is loaded with even more opportunities and patterns. This login and password are listed in our FVKG Members-Only pages on www.fvkg.com. There is a wealth of inspiration and tips available as your reward.

~ Barbara Palmer

Unraveling Ravelry

There's an App for That

One might think that there is nothing new to learn in Ravelry (www.ravelry.com). But, I am not sure that I will ever get to that point. The most exciting new adventure for me in Ravelry is the availability of Ravelry apps. There are several different options. Some are for iPhones, and some are for Android.

I have been using Ravulous, an Android app that offers several useful knitterly things on-the-go. It's no substitute for the amazingness of the Ravelry website, but here are some things you can do from your pocket or on your tablet.

- * Upload photos to projects and stashed yarns straight from your phone's camera or gallery (requires Ravelry Photo Uploader, a separate free app; see below).
- * Receive notifications when you get new Ravelry messages and unread forum replies.
- * Search for patterns and yarns by name, and look at photos and yardages required.
- * Look at your queued projects, with recommended yarn and yardages required – handy for yarn shopping!
- * See your project details and edit your project notes wherever you are. This means you can add your notes as you are knitting away and be able to find out what you did when you need it later in the pattern. And, your friends will love all your helpful hints and wisdom.
- * Admire your stash.
- * Access your needle inventory – very useful when you are buying yarn for a new project that you want to start as soon as you get home, but you cannot remember if you have the right needles or not. Of course, this will only work if I input my needle inventory.
- * Stay in touch with your friends. Now you can instantly find the new project that lato405 was working on, or which yarn grannyjannie used for her Annis, or access all your friends' helpful notes.
- * The Ravelry Photo Uploader is a free app that allows you to upload your photos directly to your projects and stash from your Android phone or tablet. Take a photo with your phone's camera, or choose one or more photos from your gallery, and select Share with Ravulous. Your photos will be uploaded to Ravelry, and you can add them to a project or stashed yarn.

If you have an iPhone, iPod or iPad, there are apps for that, of course. You will want to check out Wooly and Yarma.

All this information and much more is on the Ravelry homepage, where my stitches at? You can always get there by clicking on their logo (is that a ball of red yarn?) up in the left-hand corner.

Aren't we just amazingly tech-savvy?

~ Christy Becker

Knitting vs. *Stress*

You probably don't think of knitting and stress together. But you might be amazed at how knitting (and crocheting) can calm the nerves when life has thrown you one too many curves and you feel a good cry coming on. When it comes to knitting and stress, no one knows better than the people who've been there. And once you start listening to knitters talk, you realize how many people turn to crafting to relieve stress and anxiety. Divorce, children, illness, work, home and a crappy economy can start adding up on you quickly. It seems like modern life just piles stress after stress all over us. By the time you get home, all you want to do is collapse on the couch and curl up in the fetal position with a hot mug of tea – but there are still meals to be cooked, dishes to be washed, and children to be taken care of.

That's where knitting and stress come into play. It's amazing how many people started – or, more commonly, restarted – knitting during a period of extreme stress or anxiety. What is it about knitting that seems to calm our nerves and chill us out?

1. Repetitive Motions

The simple, repetitive action of knitting has a calming effect on the mind – sort of like a rocking chair. Your brain feels free to calm down and let your reflexes take over.

2. The Act of Creation

I've learned from people suffering from prolonged illnesses that they often feel useless and bored. "Knitting gives me a chance to make something," they explain. And charitable knitting is even better: It gives people a chance to offer something productive to society, even if they're stuck in bed. Gives you a new view of stress and knitting, huh?

3. Self-Expression

Psychologists have long recognized the arts as a useful way to reach people who can't express themselves verbally. Music, painting and other creative projects often help people with disabilities such as autism or Down's Syndrome engage in a type of self-expression not available to them verbally. People with autism sometimes act out violently, I've read, but it's not because they're violent people. It comes from the stress and frustration of wanting to express something and not being able. Apparently knitting, among other art forms, helps alleviate this stress. So next time you're feeling anxious or useless, you know what to do. Reach for your needles, secure in the knowledge that knitting and stress are old enemies – knitting always wins!

~ Mary Louise Watkins

Charity Knitting: Scarves for A.I.D.

Thanks for all the fun and fabulous scarves that were dropped into the A.I.D. box at the last meeting. I will be collecting scarves through the December meeting, so you still have time to create some showy, splashy scarves for A.I.D. (Plain ones are fine, too!) For additional information, please see the September newsletter.

~ A thousand thanks,
Ruth Anderson

Fox Valley Knitting Guild Retreat

October 26 to 28, 2012

Location:

The Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center, Oregon, Ill.

Arrival time on October 26: 4:00 p.m.

Departure time on October 28: 1:30 p.m.

Four rooms are still available for the retreat. Price includes meals on Saturday and Sunday. For those members who have paid their deposit, balances were due at the September meeting.

Double occupancy \$125.00 per person;
\$50.00 deposit, \$ 75.00 balance

Single occupancy \$205.00;
\$50.00 deposit, \$155.00 balance

If you are attending the retreat and require special dietary meals, please see me at the meeting so that a form can be filled out and given to the Stronghold in advance.

For those members attending the retreat, please remember to bring:

- Warm clothes and comfy shoes if you want to walk the outdoor labyrinth.
- Toiletries and medications
- Cozy pajamas and slippers for lounging in
- Knitting projects, needles and accessories
- Projects you need help finishing or fixing – someone else may have experience with that same pattern and can help you.
- A portable light and extension cord
- Mug for hot drinks
- Food/snacks – please remember to bring napkins, utensils and plates to serve the food.
- Guild nametag
- If you have a special comfy chair you like or a seat cushion, bring it along, as there will be hard chairs, table and some couches in the meeting room.

Please note, as you plan your trip, Route 64 is closed from Burlington to Route 47.

~ Your friend in knitting,
Sandy Andrews

Upcoming Fiber Events

October 20-21

New York Sheep and Wool Festival

Rhinebeck, N.Y.

www.sheepandwool.com

October 26-28

Vogue Knitting LIVE!

Chicago

www.vogueknittinglive.com

October 27-28

Fiber Expo

Ann Arbor, Mich.

www.fiberexpo.com

Fiber Farm Fall Event

Through our affiliation with Kate and Mary Stough's Happy Hoppers business, the FVKG has been invited to Clearview Farm in Waterman, Ill., for a tour of the farm and a visit to its Holiday House boutique. Clearview is a fiber farm owned by friends of the Stoughs, and this event takes place every fall.

The date is Saturday, Nov. 10. The event will open at 9:30 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. just for our guild.

Other guilds are invited, but FVKG will have the first opportunity to tour the farm, watch the demos, and shop at the Holiday House boutique; the other guilds are scheduled to arrive around noon. There will be light refreshments, but we would have to figure out what to do for lunch.

If you are interested in this adventurous excursion, please see me at the October meeting, or e-mail me at eileen42@sbcglobal.net. When we have a definite, committed number, we will be able to finalize logistics. Carpooling seems the best way to go right now.

See you at guild! I usually sit in the back.

~ Eileen Hoesly

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.com

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

2012-2013 FVKG Board Members

President: Kathy Schooley

Vice-Presidents: Judy Jasper; Phyllis Deernick

Secretary: Jennifer Duncan

Treasurer: Deanne Karamanian

Gallery Show: Claudia Frost

Hospitality: Tammy Caltagirone

Library: Barbara Palmer; Marianne Moye

Membership: Marge Clark

Newsletter Editor: Lisa Roberts

Website: Lorraine Tompkins

If you need to contact a board member outside of a meeting, visit the members' section of www.fvkg.com for individual contact information. The password is printed on the back of your guild membership card; it remains the same as last year.

To notify the guild at large, simply email fvkgnews@gmail.com to have your note distributed. Be sure to allow at least 48 hours' advance notice.

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.

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

Spotlight on ... INTARSIA

This month's Spotlight topic is intarsia knitting. Here is the definition of intarsia knitting from Wikipedia.org:

Intarsia is a knitting technique used to create patterns with multiple colors (or textures). As with the woodworking technique of the same name, fields of different colors and materials appear to be inlaid in one another, but are in fact all separate pieces, fit together like a jigsaw puzzle.

Unlike other multicolor techniques (including Fair Isle, slip-stitch color, and double knitting), there is only one "active" color on any given stitch, and yarn is not carried across the back of the work; when a color changes on a given row, the old yarn is left hanging. This means that any intarsia piece is topologically several disjointed columns of color; a simple blue circle on a white background involves one column of blue and two of white one for the left and one for the right. Intarsia is most often worked flat, rather than in the round. However, it is possible to knit intarsia in circular knitting using particular techniques.

Common examples of intarsia include sweaters with large, solid-color features like fruits, flowers, or geometric shapes. Argyle socks and sweaters are normally done in intarsia, although the thin diagonal lines are often overlaid in a later step, using Swiss darning or sometimes just a simple backstitch.

Bring an example of something you have knitted in intarsia. Share your expertise and tips with the rest of us. If you bring a written tip, you will be eligible to win a special door prize. This is a way for our experienced knitters to share their invaluable expertise with the rest of us.

~ Judy Jasper

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TIP FORM

TECHNIQUE: _____

TIP:

SUBMITTED BY: _____