

# Fox Valley Knitters' Guild *NEWS*

A newsletter by and for FVKG members

May 2013

## President's Letter

This is my last president's letter.

I keep thinking of song lyrics: "I'm so glad we had this time together..." and "My bags are packed, and I'm ready to go..." and "So long and thanks for all the fish!" (I bet hardly any of you know that "Hitchhiker's Guide" reference.) Of course, I am not really going anywhere; I will be knitting with you for a long time to come, God willing. Thanks to a wonderful board over these last two years, the guild has educational and entertaining programs, beautiful shows and displays, updated and accessible library, a winder and swift, as well as a help desk. I am looking forward to the new year and new board.

Please offer a "thank you" to any of the outgoing board members who you might be knitting near for their service, as well as a warm welcome to our newly elected board:

**President:** Christie Cunningham  
**VP&Program:** Shirley Remes & Rachel Neville  
**Secretary:** Jennifer Duncan  
**Treasurer:** Jane Holt  
**Gallery:** Janan Hudek  
**Newsletter:** Janet Goier & Tami Stencil  
**Membership:** Ellen Gilmartin

- Kathy Schooley

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## 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.



## The BIG DAY – Design Contest Fashion Show

Well, the big day is almost here! The day we have all been waiting, planning, designing and knitting for will be here very soon. The Fashion Show for the Design Contest will be our official program on May 8.

The evening will kick off with the Fashion Show starting at 7:00 pm. I hope there are a lot of entries. I warn you that if there aren't, I could spend several hours talking about my Julius Caesar shawl, which is one of my entries. I don't think you want that to happen, so please bring your designs!

If you are bringing an entry, please take the time to fill out the entry form at the bottom of the newsletter. Please do this BEFORE the night of the Fashion Show, and bring it with you.

There will be announcers who will read your entry form as you parade up and down the runway.

Each entry will be assigned a number – and be put on a table for display.

*During the break:* All attendees can look close up at all the entries, and then vote. Each person will vote for one item for each category.

*During the second part of the meeting:* While the normal guild business is being discussed, the votes will be tabulated.

*At the end of the meeting:* The winners will be announced and prizes awarded.

Doesn't that sound like fun? Since there is so much going on this May – we will NOT be having the normal May yarn sale and potluck.

Let's go over the Design Contest rules one last time:

- It has to be a wrap. What does this mean? Well, you decide. Some ideas are: shawls, capes, scarves, fichu, cowl.
- You have to design it. You can't use a pattern.
- You can certainly be INSPIRED by other designs, and use some of those aspects to design yours. But it should be YOUR original design.
- It can be ANY kind of yarn. It can be one yarn, or many yarns. YOU decide. It probably should be yarn. But if you design something fabulous with recycled Jewel plastic bags, that's up to you.
- Stitch patterns: can be one or many. No restriction. Feel free to use stitch patterns from stitch dictionaries or other patterns.
- It should be primarily knitted. I thought about allowing crocheted items, but we are a knitting guild. You can use crochet as an edging, but the bulk of the garment should be knitted.
- Only FINISHED projects are eligible.
- The most important rule is to have fun with it.

And here are the categories that will win a prize:

- Most Creative
- Best Use of Color
- Best Lace
- When can I get the pattern for this?
- Best Use of interesting stitch patterns

If you made something for the Design Wrap Challenge we had a year or so ago, those items are definitely eligible as entries to this contest.

Feel free to contact Judy Jasper if you have any questions about the contest. [judy.jasper@comcast.net](mailto:judy.jasper@comcast.net) is her email address.

~ Judy Jasper  
Co-Vice President (Programs)

## Last Call: October 2013 FVKG Retreat

**Place:** Stronghold Retreat Center  
1922 Illinois Route 2 North  
Oregon, Illinois 61061  
815-732-6111

**Dates:** *October 25-26-27, 2013*

**Deposit:** \$50.00 per person

**Arrival Time:** October 25, 4:00 P.M.

**Room Rate:**

\$125/person for double occupancy/4 meals included

**Departure Time:** October 27, 2:00 P.M.

\$205/person for a single occupancy/4 meals included

We are again having Betsy Pool come on Friday night for massages. If you are interested, please let me know, as space is limited. The price is \$18 for 15 minutes and \$25 for 20 minutes. Also, on Friday night, we are planning on having pizza and salad for dinner (price not included in room rate), or you can have dinner at one of the local restaurants.

Just to let Guild members know, if we do not have at least 13 members sign up for the retreat by the May meeting, the reservation will be canceled at the Stronghold. We are also in need of a volunteers, to write to local shops and yarn companies for donations to the retreat. If you are willing to help, please let me know.

Thank you,  
Sandy Andrews

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## Farm Days in June at Esther's Place

Come on out to Esther's Place for our 7th Annual Farm Days, Saturday, June 1, and Sunday, June 2nd! Pet baby lambs at our farm, meet "Esther" the sheep, take pictures with the flock, walk the market gardens and enjoy the beauty of fresh country air. Then come back to the shop where you can browse our brand-new artisan market on the grounds of Esther's Place full of unique, hand-crafted items from the community. Talk with the artists and purchase one-of-a-kind creations. Then enjoy goodies, create a needle-felted make-and-take, and pick up fun supplies for all your fiber-art projects. Tours start at the shop and continue onto the farm, starting at 11, 12:30, 1:30 and 3 p.m. each day. All the events are free and wonderful for the whole family. Please make plans to mark this fun event on your calendar and join us for Farm Days!

Esther's Place, located on Rt. 30 in Big Rock, is an easy 30-minute drive from the St. Charles area, and is an inspiring place to come for classes, retreats and supplies for spinning, felting, knitting, weaving, dyeing and more. Please call Natasha at 630-556-9665, email [info@esthersplacefibers.com](mailto:info@esthersplacefibers.com) or check out [www.esthersplacefibers.com](http://www.esthersplacefibers.com) for more information.

Sincerely,  
Natasha Lehrer,  
Esther's Place

## Special Yarn Shops

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

### Elgin Knits Works

8 Douglas Ave., Elgin  
847-627-4700  
<http://elginknitworks.com>

### Esther's Place

201 W. Galena St. (Route 30), Big Rock  
630-556-WOOL (9665)  
[www.esthersplacefibers.com](http://www.esthersplacefibers.com)

### Fine Line

6N158 Crane Road, St. Charles  
630-584-9443  
[www.finelineca.org](http://www.finelineca.org)

### The Fold

3316 Millstream Road, Marengo  
815-568-5320

### Gene Ann's Shop

117 East Station St., Barrington  
847-842-9321  
[www.geneannsyarns.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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

## Looking for Bits of Wool Yarn to Felt

My daughter is making wool dryer balls. These speed drying time (saving on your electric bill) and eliminate wrinkles (without having to buy dryer sheets.)

Each ball weighs two ounces. We all know how the cost of yarn adds up! Thus, I have been cleaning out my stash and my leftovers for her. I thought your stashes may need a little culling and fluffing, too.

If you have any bits -- large or small -- of non-machine washable wool, from DK weight to chunky, please bring them to the May meeting. And if you would like more information on how to make dryer balls, or would like to buy some, let me know!

Thanks so much!  
Christy Becker

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## Announcing the Arrival of a New Knitter!



*Mary Smith was born Feb. 10, weighing 5 lb, 13 oz and 20 inches long. This is a two-month picture of Mary. She spends a lot of time smiling, looking at her toys, and sleeping.*

~ Michelle Smith

## For Judy – a Literary Approach

*(Editor's note: For context, please see the April issue of the FVKG newsletter, in which Judy Jasper discusses her response – or desired response – to those who suggest she should knit for money.)*

I must agree with your last month's rant about people who seem to expect your knitting to be monetarily productive. Why is knitting, of all hobbies, singled out in this fashion? I can only recall a line from Ibsen's *Doll House* in which a dim husband requests that his wife, Nora, trade her knitting for needlework. He finds knitting ungraceful and unfeminine. He would prefer to watch the more fluid movements of her hand pulling the thread through cloth to the elbows akimbo, hands tucked in the lap, rapid and secretive hand movements of knitting. He wishes his wife to do something less useful than knitting, something more merely ornamental so that she will remain a decoration rather than becoming a person. Needle workers produce pillow covers, fine linen table cloths, exquisite lace, and pictures to be framed; knitters make sweaters one can wear while chopping wood.

I'm afraid knitting will always be seen as something other than art because it is so practical and down-to-earth. It creates all those cozy mittens, hats and gloves – so genuinely useful that they seem out of place hanging on a wall (in spite of our magnificent gallery shows). Knitting is so necessary. I suppose that is part of what inspires folks to frequently wonder what sort of profit might be made from doing it.

And, yet, in an attempt to help Judy set the world straight, I will offer these literary replies. When someone suggests that you should be trying to make a living with your knitting, you might sigh pensively and quote Wordsworth: "The world is too much with us/Getting and spending we lay waste our powers." And just leave your mystified audience to ponder. Or you be snappish and quote from Thoreau's *Walden*: "Trade curses everything it handles, and though you trade in messages from heaven, the whole curse of trade attaches to the business." In other words, why would I want money for what I do for love?

~ Phyllis Deerinck

*"And in the act of making things, just by living their daily lives, they also make history. Knitting is clothing made in spare moments, or round the fire, whenever women gathered together ... It's something to celebrate – clothes made in love and service, something women have always done."*

~ Anne Bartlett, *Knitting*

