

# Fox Valley Knitters' Guild NEWS

A newsletter by and for FVKG members

April 2014

## President's Letter

I hate to have to mention that I'm writing this in sunny southern California – not really, but it is polite to say so. I'm here visiting my daughter and then on to a tradeshow in Las Vegas. That means two long and one short plane rides. Lots of knitting time. So of course with my priorities in line, I packed my knitting before my clothing. You know how it goes – it has to be a project small enough to fit in the bag under the seat on the plane. A large enough project, timewise, so that I don't run out of knitting. Enough yarn along, but not too much. And, the most important, a good looking project so that people will comment on it. Maybe even oh and ah over it. No wonder one has to pack this before clothing.

It turns out my neighbor is expecting, so I can make an Aran baby sweater. Easy. I have enough WoolEase in the same color to make the sweater. I can take two skeins of yarn. Everything works. Off to pack the mundane.

My seat on the plane? Am I by another knitter? No. Am I by a pregnant woman or a grandmother? No. I'm in between two men. One man sleeps and the other seems to be watching sports. Why don't I ever get the person who's impressed with knitting? One day my planning is going to pay off. I know it will.

~ Christie Cunningham

## In This Issue

Book Review.....	4, 5
Designer of the Month.....	5
FVKG Info .....	3
Knit Blogs .....	10
Knitting Groups .....	12
Knitting Olympics Finishers .....	6, 7
March Show and Tell .....	8, 9
Podcast Review .....	11
Mystery Knit Item .....	4
President's Letter .....	1
Program in April .....	2
Special Yarn Shops.....	3
Treasurer's Report.....	4
Upcoming Programs and Vendors .....	2
Vendor in April .....	2
Yarn of the Month .....	10

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## 2014 Meeting Dates

**April 9, 2014**  
May 14, 2014

**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 of the Month – April 2014

### **Yarn Tasting With Joan Looi**

Joan Looi will be our speaker. Joan has been a yarn rep for twelve years and covers four Midwestern states. Joan worked in IT before she became a yarn rep. One of the companies Joan represents is Imperial Yarns - the American company that made the sweaters for the Olympic team. Joan is a skilled knitter and lives in Wheaton with her husband and two children.

Joan will be bringing an assortment of yarns for us to learn and feel and maybe knit.

What a great chance to see some new things coming to the marketplace. Please bring an assortment of needle sizes to try some of the new yarns!

~ Rachel Neville

## Vendor of the Month – April 2014

### **Wool and Company Lesley Edmondson**

Wool and Company is a fourteen year old business owned by our guild member Lesley and Neil Edmonson, located at 307A West Main Street in Saint Charles.

Phone: (630) 444-0480

Wool and Company is a deeply stocked, full service knitting and crocheting store with an online presence as well. Open knitting times are posted in the store and on the website: [woolandcompany.com](http://woolandcompany.com).

~ Rachel Neville

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## Anticipated Program/Vendor Schedule

(Subject to change)

### **2014**

April 9	"Yarn Tasting" Joan Looi	Wool & Co. St Charles
May 14	End-of-Year Party	Members Sale

~ Shirley Remes

## 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.

## 2013 – 2014 FVKG Board Members

**President:** Christie Cunningham

**Vice-Presidents:** Rachel Neville, Shirley Remes

**Secretary:** Jennifer Duncan

**Treasurer:** Rebecca Reinke

**Gallery Show:** Janan Hudek

**Hospitality:** Bridget Christianson

**Library:** Teri Larson

**Membership:** Ellen Gilmartin

**Newsletter Editors:** Janet Goier, Tami Stencel

**Website:** Dee Heavington

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

## Mystery Knit Item March 2014 Meeting



This Ysolda Teague  
“Marin” wrap looks so nice,  
but we don’t recall who  
made it.

Your newsletter editors  
want to give proper credit  
to every item we include in  
the guild’s newsletter;

unfortunately, we don’t remember who made this one.

If you know who made this piece, please fill us in at the  
April meeting (or send us an e-mail [fvkgnews@gmail.com](mailto:fvkgnews@gmail.com))  
and we’ll reprint the photo and details in the May  
newsletter. Thank you!

~ Janet Goier and Tami Stencel

## Treasurer's Report

### March 2014 Budget Report

Beginning Balance:	6,410.73
Expenses:	
March Rent	75.00
Engraving	42.75
February Speaker	175.00
Printing	11.00
Door Prize	43.60
Income:	
Deposit	30.00
Ending Balance:	6,093.38

~ Rebecca Reinke

## Book Review

Adventures in Yarn Farming: Four Seasons on a New England Fiber Farm, by Barbara Parry. (Roost Books, 2013).

I wasn’t going to read this when I first saw the book described because my first response, was, I don’t want to read about farming. But when I found out it had a few patterns in it, I put it on hold at my library. Boy, was my first impression wrong.

I got hooked into this book right away, with Barbara, a former English teacher, explaining that she had always been a yarn fanatic and had always wanted to have some sheep someday. And her husband, who thought he was going to retire to a life of golf and travel, got pulled into her dream.

Set up by the seasons, this tale tells what it is like to choose sheep (she now has a flock of more than 100), raise them, feed them, grow food for them, shear them, birth the lambs, clean the wool, send it out, dye it, sell it and start all over again.

Absorbing and lyrical, life on the farm lives by the seasons: breaking ice in water buckets in 20 degree weather, hauling it back and forth from spigots to barns, not minding the messy business of lambing in spring, or the hot, sticky baling of hay in summer.

Some of the stars were surprisingly not the sheep, who, while attractive, don’t have the personalities of the llama Crackerjack who rides herd on the lambs and the goats who insist on riding shotgun in the farm cart.

The patterns turned out to be the least interesting to me, although you might like all the info on dyeing. I can’t imagine myself doing that.

But I learned a lot, and it was fun feeling like you were living with Barbara for a year. Without the muscle aches, but with the rewards, of a very intense, physical life.

Oh. And there are lots of pictures. Good ones.

~ Shirley Remes

## Designer of the Month – April 2014

There are so many wonderful designers in the knitting world today, many of them ‘big’ names with which most knitters are familiar: Debbie Bliss, Kaffe Fassett, Jo Sharp, etc. The list goes on and on. But through the magic of Ravelry, we now have many other ‘lesser’ knitting designers from which to pick, should we so desire.

Today I would like to introduce you to Susan Ashcroft, ‘stitchnerd’ on Ravelry. Susan’s designs run the gamut, and while she does produce a lot of shawls, she also throws in a sweater, a hat, and quite a few cowls for your consideration. I recently saw her “G’Day Boomerang” on display at the String Theory knitting shop in Glen Ellyn, knit up in some lovely Dream in Color Perfectly Posh Single, and it was a stunning one-skein project. It is a variation on a slip stitch, and displays variegated sock yarn at its most glorious best.

A number of Guild knitters are familiar with Susan’s “TGV: High Speed Knitting” shawl, which a group of us knit several summers ago as our Olympic Knitting project. Many of Susan’s designs are perfect for showcasing a favorite skein of sock yarn, should you have any of those lurking in your stash!

Susan’s group on Ravelry is a very lively place, and if you like to do test-knitting, Susan is always looking for knitters to test her designs. You can find the information on participation in various threads on her wonderful Ravelry forum, which is called, unsurprisingly, “Stitchnerds”. To find this group on Ravelry, just go to the ‘Groups’ tab and type in ‘stitchnerds’ in the search box. Then join the group and prepare to meet new and wonderful knitters from around the world. Susan lives in France, but many of the knitters active in the group hail from the good old US of A. A very fun place in which to while away as much time as you would like. Happy Knitting! ☺

~ Janet Goier

## Book Review

Botanical Knits 2, by Alana Dakos. (NNK Press, 2014)

I was driving to work, one chilly day in March (as if there were any non-chilly days) and listening to a knitting podcast, of course. My library of knitting books has remained modest in size, but later that day my book collection expanded a wee bit, thanks to the tempting descriptions of the Botanical Knits 2 patterns discussed in that particular episode of the Never Not Knitting podcast. It’s Episode 79, released February 27, 2014, if you care to listen.

I preordered the book, and it is due to ship to me sometime in June. How can I possibly wait until June, you might wonder. Well, thanks to preordering the book, I received a code which allowed me to download the e-book for free, immediately. (Please note, the two-for-one (book plus e-book) offer is limited to preorders.)

Botanical Knits 2 contains four gorgeous sweater patterns and several patterns for darling, nature-inspired accessories (hats, wraps, fingerless mitts, etc.). The beautifully charted pattern pages are accented with lovely drawings. The book’s photographs are magnificent. They will pretty much leave you wanting to fast-forward through summer into the crisp days of autumn. (OK, OK. Maybe we do long for at least a few hot days before heading into fall.)

My iPad will accompany me to the guild meeting and you are encouraged to stop by for a visit and spend a few minutes scrolling through the pages of this stunning collection.

~ Tami Stencel



## FVKG – Knitting Olympics Finishers

Finished items in our Olympic Knitting contest shown during the March 2014 meeting.



Hurricane Boot Cuffs  
knit by JoAnn Miranda



Blue "Alice" dress  
Vogue Knitting 2009; pattern by  
Kristen Rengren; yarn "mystery"  
knit by Jane Batte



Easier Clogs for Women & Men  
in Patons Merino – worsted  
knit by Christy Becker



Fair Isle Mittens  
Pattern from Classic Elite site  
Knit Picks yarn  
knit by Bridget Christianson



Baby Bonnet with Picot Edge  
Pattern: Sirdar Snuggly #3780  
(vintage)  
Yarn: Patons Beehive Baby Sport.  
knit by Roxanne Mikulecky



A shawllette  
knit by Phyllis Deerinck  
in dark green yarn



"Simple Sprinkle" by Veera Valimaki;  
Yarn: The Fibre Company Acadia  
knit by Diane Brown



Simple Shibori Cowl designed by Gina Wilde  
Alchemy Yarns Silken Straw  
knit by Pat Litzo

~ Photos by Janet Goier

FVKG – Knitting Olympics Finishers

(Continued)



Fair Isle Hat  
Yarn: Knit Picks Peruvian Wool  
knit by Bridget Christianson



Felted Entrelac Bag in various  
wools  
Pattern: Peacock Entrelac Bag  
knit by Ruth Dykstra



"An Echo in Sochi" knit in Plucky  
Fingering Yarn  
Pattern: Almost an Echo  
Designed and knit  
by Christy Becker



Sandnes Garn Lanett  
Babyull Superwash  
Original design baby sweater by  
Christie Cunningham



Blue baby hoodie made of Dolly  
Baby yarn from Wool & Co.;  
pattern is "Comfy Hoodie," from  
book Granny's Favorite Knits for  
Baby by Marquart  
knit by Shirley Remes



Lion Brand Heirloom Cables  
Baby Sweater and matching  
booties in Plymouth Encore DK  
knit by Sue Robinson



Camel Yoke Pullover Yarn: Imperial Yarns Erin  
Designed and knit by Judy Jasper

~ Photos by Janet Goier



## FVKG – March's Show and Tell

A sampling of the finished items in our Show and Tell session during the March 2014 meeting.



Ellen Gilmartin's Gold Necklace  
One of three bead creations Ellen shared



Hat in alpaca yarn  
knit by Karen Haley



Plaid Shawl/Poncho - Camus  
Pattern knit in Irish Wool  
knit by Barb Palmer



Socks and a sweater. The green cardigan was KFI Gaelic Aran yarn, pattern inspired by Lion Brand free pattern "Cropped Raglan Sweater." I made sleeves and body longer and added cables and a zipper. Red socks: self-patterning yarn by Trekking, one of my favorite sock yarns. Just a simple stockinette toe-up sock.  
knit by Shirley Remes



Cat Bed; knit in fun fur and  
Ella Ray Wool Classic Print  
knit by Sandy Swenson



Baby Alpaca Chunky Cowl from Cascade Yarns  
knit by Ruth Dykstra

~ Photos by Janet Goier



FVKG – March's Show and Tell

(Continued)



“Life is Good” neck warmer  
Free Ravelry pattern by Janet Avila  
Yarn: Mountain Colors Jeannette in Loganberry  
knit by Tami Stencil



Sock projects – Toe-Up Two-at-a-Time socks;  
L to R: Knit Picks Chroma, pattern is Twisted  
Basket. Knit Picks pattern – Tuscany  
The little ones are sample socks from Bridget's  
class in February  
knit by Bridget Christianson



TGV by Susan Ashcroft knit in two skeins of Liberty  
Wool Light #6620 Faded Brocade, and one skein of  
Kraemer Sterling Silk & Silver  
knit by Claudia Frost



Inspira Cowl (extra long) in Classic Elite's Liberty  
Wool in #7899 Cloudy Dawn and #7897 Sunrise  
knit by Claudia Frost



Herringbone Mosaic Cowl by Elizabeth Elliott in  
Interweave Knits Holiday Gifts 2012  
Yarn: Mirasol Miski  
knit by Roxanne Mikulecky



Criss-Cross Coverlet by Tanis Gray from book  
60 Quick Baby Blankets by Cascade  
Yarn: Cascade 220 Superwash Sport  
knit by Shirley Remes

~ Photos by Janet Goier

## Yarn of the Month – April 2014



Ah, so many yarns, so little time! I confess, I am a Yarn Addict of the worst kind – I have many, many beautiful skeins from which to choose when I want to begin a new project, but yet every time I see a new yarn, dripping in gorgeous color and feeling divine to the touch, I must purchase it and add it to my collection.....sigh.....but my downfall is your gain, because I am here to share my latest ‘yarn porn’ with you, thus satisfying your craving to see luscious color but not having to spend any cash of your own. Of course, should my description of said yarn compel you to run out there and grab some for your very own self, that is another matter entirely, and I disavow all responsibility for your decisions. ☺

I had heard of SweetGeorgia Yarn before, but had never seen any in person until recently. A local shop that carries a small sampling of SweetGeorgia is String Theory, located on Main Street in Glen Ellyn, should you want to see/feel in person before purchasing.

SweetGeorgia is located in Vancouver, Canada (road trip, anyone?), and is an “artisan, hand-dyed yarn company”. Their colors are highly saturated, and their yarns feel divine. They are not at the lower end of the price spectrum, but sometimes it is worth it to splurge on that one skein that will feel divine next to your skin, isn’t it?

You can order these beautiful yarns directly from the SweetGeorgia website at [www.sweetgeorgiayarns.com](http://www.sweetgeorgiayarns.com), where you will be treated to a wondrous selection of color and yarn composition, from the finest laceweight to Superwash Chunky. The website is lovely and very easy to navigate. I think that you will be pleased with what you see. I found the colors to be quite accurate to real life, as I recently obtained some Merino Silk Fine in the colorway “blood orange” and it looks exactly the same sitting in front of me as it does on the website. Above is a picture of this lovely yarn, which is composed of 380 yards of 50% fine merino wool and 50% silk.

Till next month, Happy Yarn Shopping! ☺

~ Janet Goier

## Knit Blogs

So many lovely knitting blogs from which to choose – this month, in keeping with our Yarn of the Month – SweetGeorgia Yarns – I would like to tell you about the SweetGeorgia blog as well. I recently discovered it and found it to be very interesting, colorful, and informative. It can be found by clicking on the “Felicia’s Blog” tab at the top of the page at [www.sweetgeorgiayarns.com](http://www.sweetgeorgiayarns.com). It is a fairly active blog, with quite a few posts each month, on topics ranging from spinning, to new yarn colors in the line, to pattern discussions. I hope that you will enjoy reading it!

If you have a favorite blog that you would like spotlighted in the FVKG newsletter, please send it along to us, and we would love to include it. Happy Knitting! ☺

~ Janet Goier

## Podcast Review

The Knit Picks podcast provides a marvelous variety of topics to its listeners, including frequent interviews of remarkable people. Sometimes the interviewees are people we admire, or even worship, like Stephanie Pearl-McPhee, AKA the Yarn Harlot (Episode 58), and Franklin Habit (Episode 78). Sometimes lesser known, wonderfully interesting guests are interviewed, such as North Carolinian, Frances Fisher, an enthusiastic knitter of socks (among other things) who has been knitting most of her eighty-plus years (Episode 206). Occasionally, the podcast features an interview with someone with whom we are quite familiar, like Jen Lucas, author of [Sock-Yarn Shawls](#). Certainly, you remember Jen; she was the program presenter at our March 2014 guild meeting. If you missed that meeting, you have an opportunity to catch up with Jen's lively discussion of her new book by downloading and listening to Episode 215 of the Knit Picks podcast. It makes me wonder, who will be the next Knit Picks guest on this long-running podcast . . . could it be you?

Could you use a bit of coaching on the steps involved in knitting a pair of socks? Just listen to Knit Picks' owner, Kelley Petkun's explanation of the sock-knitting process in Episode 235. Would you like to know more about adding I-cord to a garment, learn a new cast-on method, expand your knowledge of ribbing techniques, or become more enlightened on the subject of steeking? There's always something exciting and relevant around the bend, when you subscribe to the free podcast. Do you enjoy looking through the latest Knit Picks catalog, but find yourself wishing that you could hear about the new products in addition to looking at their photos? You will appreciate the companion podcasts, which provide excellent commentary on the catalogs' products. (Caution: you may find yourself wanting to buy stuff!) Podcast Episode 236 (released March 27, 2014) "New Spring Yarns and In Bloom" will walk you through the newest yarns and pattern collections.

Special thanks to Jenny Konopinski, the Marketing Director at Knit Picks, (and one of the podcast's hosts) who contributed to this month's podcast review column by sending me the following overview.

The first **Knit Picks** podcast aired in April of 2007 and allowed Kelley Petkun to connect with other knitters near and far. Staying engaged with the knitting community was extremely important to Kelley, and the podcast served as a way to stay connected, share thoughts, discover new projects and learn interesting techniques.

Almost 7 years and over 230 episodes later, the Knit Picks podcast is still going strong! Throughout the years, Kelley has had the opportunity to chat with so many interesting, thoughtful and engaging knitters ranging from designers, authors and bloggers. Additionally, if you're a fan of listening to audiobooks to keep you busy as your needles are clicking away – you're in for a real treat! Kelley often shares her latest (and favorite) books, both knitting and non-knitting related. Many members of the Knit Picks team also make frequent appearances on the podcast to talk about everything from new yarns and pattern collections to the latest crafting obsession that is taking over the office.



The **Knit Picks** podcast can be found on iTunes, on the Knit Picks Stash Blog [blog.knitpicks.com/wpblog](http://blog.knitpicks.com/wpblog) and at the Knit Picks podcast RSS feed [knitpicks.libsyn.com](http://knitpicks.libsyn.com).

Please give podcast-listening a chance, if you haven't already. Send your own podcast reviews to [fvkgnews@gmail.com](mailto:fvkgnews@gmail.com) to be included in a future newsletter. Happy knitting and happy listening!

~ Tami Stencel

## Knitting Groups

Last month, we requested guild members' comments about local knitting groups.

Thank you, Roxanne Mikulecky and Nicky Jo Herner for taking the time to respond!

Regarding places with open knitting, I regularly knit at Elgin Knit Works, 8 Douglas Avenue, in Elgin.

The shop has Open Workshop (knit, spin, crochet, needle-felt) on Sundays from 12 – 4 PM and Wednesday nights, 6 – 8 PM. If streetside parking is all taken, there is a free city parking lot one block north on Douglas. Betsy and Linda (owners) are both retired school teachers and great ladies (daughter/mother) who draw a large crowd of vivacious knitters of all ages and skill levels. There are three work tables and supplies to make tea. Also, EKW offers a discount on purchases to FVKG members.

~ Roxanne Mikulecky

A few of us meet every Thursday night, 6:30 - 7 until 9 PM or whenever at Starbucks on Barrington Rd. in Schaumburg. The Starbucks closes at 10 PM.

Also the charity group at my church meets the first and third Tuesday night of the month at my house. Everyone is free to work on whatever they please. My address is 6831 Appletree St., in Hanover Park. We start 6:30 - 7 PM until 9 PM. We work on charity items and personal projects.

Anyone and everyone is invited to join us. My church is Trinity Lutheran Church in Roselle. The charity items go to the needy.

~ Nicky Jo Herner

The list from the FVKG website is below. If you attend any of these groups (or other groups), please consider e-mailing some comments (to [fvkgnews@gmail.com](mailto:fvkgnews@gmail.com)), about your experiences. We would be happy to include those details in the May issue of the FVKG newsletter. With the current guild year drawing to an end after our May meeting, it would be helpful to know of other gathering opportunities to visit during the summer months.

Additionally, If any of the information below is incorrect, we appreciate having the corrections sent to us, so the website may be brought up to date.

Tuesday	1 PM – 3 PM - Living Well, Geneva
Tuesday	4 PM – 6 PM - Panera Bread, St. Charles
Wednesday	9:30 AM – 11:30 AM - Arcadium, St. Charles
Friday	10:30 AM – 12:30 PM - Wool and Co.
Friday	6:30 PM – 9 PM - Wool and Co.
Sunday	3 PM – 5 PM - Wool and Co.

~ Tami Stencel