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FROM YOUR PRESIDENTS

Winter Greetings to you all,

Here comes another wonderful winter day that is just right for staying in to knit. I think the snow is lovely as long as I don't have to be in the cold to shovel it!! For those of us who keep our thermostats set low, thank goodness for wool.

I hope you have each had some success with your knitting resolutions for 2010. I am off to a slow start but am please to share that I have finished two items that languished for some time waiting to be felted. I will bring them to Guild to share with you. I admit though that - I did start a new project. I haven't yet found the way to stop that compulsion!!??? It's really all Judy Jasper's fault—she talked me into joining the Vivian Hoxbro knitalong group. I must say that it is really fun to knit with friends—but don't we all know THAT.

Gretl is very sorry to have missed the January meeting and looks forward to seeing you all in February. She was attending to her father in Portland, Oregon, and actually got a fair amount of knitting done while sitting with him and sharing family stories or just letting him sleep. Sometimes it is the knitting that helps us get through the tough times, isn't it? We are so lucky to have this wonderful habit and passion.

Let's Stay tuned for that Magical Mystery Bus tour—it sounds like so much fun!!

Until we meet again, happy knitting,

---Dorothy and Gretl

FEBRUARY 10TH GUILD MEETING

Our February program is More Joy of Socks. If you are a sock knitter, or have always wanted to be one, helpful hints are coming your way!

---Linda Jones and Christy Becker

THIS MONTH'S VENDOR

Dream in Color is coming to be our vendor at the February meeting. This yarn is simply luscious!

--- Christy Becker

MAGICAL MYSTERY YARN SHOP TOUR

Our March 13th trip to Chicago fiber destinations still has seats on the bus. Members and their friends can sign up with Christy Becker at the meeting. The cost for Guild members is \$15, and for non-members the cost is \$20. We'll be leaving at 9 am from Let Me Arrange It at 799 S. McLean Blvd. in Elgin. There will be handouts, prizes and fun on the bus. One stop will include restaurants for a dining option or bring your own lunch or snacks--just no nuts or dairy on the bus. We will return by 5 pm.

---Linda Jones and Christy Becker

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.

MEMBERSHIP

We had 8 new members join the Guild in January:

- Patty Turner from Yorkville
- Stephanie Lofland from Geneva
- Susan Mulcahy from St. Charles
- Amy Bordoni from St. Charles
- Sharon Coyer from St. Charles
- Erin Frazier from Batavia
- Louise Anderson from Batavia
- Donna Elftmann from Batavia

Welcome to our Guild!

The Guild currently has a total of 98 members.

---Judy Jasper, Membership

KNITALONG NEWS

We're having a great time knitting at the Borders store on Randall Rd. We are a lively group helping each other with our Central Park Hoodie and other projects that we're working on. We meet on Wednesday mornings at 9:30. You can just drop in, no sign up required. Hope to see you there.

---Barb Harris, Hospitality Chair

HOSPITALITY

We thank the ladies who brought refreshments to the January meeting. The refreshments are always delicious and appreciated. We've included a couple of the recipes this month in the spotlight section. The sign up sheets will be on a stand on the refreshment table and we hope you will sign up for the upcoming months. Your willingness to bring something to the meeting adds a special touch to our time together. I can be contacted on my cell: 630-710-4652, if you would like to add your name to the list.

---Barb Harris, Hospitality Chair

SPOTLIGHT ON RECIPES FROM OUR JANUARY MEETING

MAGIC FILL DATE BARS

4 eggs	2 teaspoons vanilla
2 cups granulated sugar	2 cups chopped dates
2 cups all purpose flour divided	2 cups chopped pecans
1 teaspoon baking powder	Confectioner's sugar

Sift one cup of flour, mix with dates and pecans and set aside. Beat eggs until thick and lemon colored-this will take some time. Then add sugar gradually. Add vanilla. Sift remaining flour and baking powder together and add to egg mixture. Fold in dates and pecans by hand. Spread into greased 17X12 sheet pan. Bake 325F. After 20 minutes "crack" top crust of bars with a large spoon. Continue baking for about 10 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from oven and cut while still hot. Dust with confectioner's sugar. When completely cool, store in tightly closed container.

This recipe is from the 'about.com' website.

VEGETABLE PIZZA

2 pkgs. Crescent Rolls
2-8 oz.pkgs. Cream cheese,
softened
Fresh dill

1 C mayonnaise or sour cream
1 pkg Hidden Valley Ranch Dressing
1 C shredded Cheddar cheese

Press Crescent Rolls onto a cookie sheet (I used a sheet pan -12"x17"). Bake 10 minutes at 400° F or until lightly browned; cool completely. Mix cream cheese, mayonnaise, and dressing; spread on crust. Sprinkle with chopped fresh dill. Finely chop any fresh vegetables you want* and put on top. Top off with Cheddar cheese. Press lightly on top of complete pizza and chill for a few hours or overnight.

*Vegetable suggestions: green onions, black olives, green olives, broccoli, green pepper, mushrooms, shredded carrots, cauliflower.

This recipe is from Diane Evinger.

THE KNITTING OLYMPICS ARE COMING SOON

The 2010 Winter Olympics begin soon in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, February 12, to be specific. They will end on February 28, a bit over 2 weeks later. Are you up for an Olympic knitting event? Have you been in training?

Ravelry, the online knitting universe, (ravelry.com) is sponsoring the Winter 2010 Ravelympics based on The Yarn Harlots Knitting Olympics during that last international event. The way that knitters can participate is to cast on for a challenging project during the Opening Ceremonies and finish before or as the Olympic flame goes out at the end of the closing ceremonies. Planning and swatching before the Opening Ceremony is allowed because, after all, that is part of the training routine! Ravelry offers many fabulous events to chose from including:

Sock Hockey (All things socks and slippers)
Giant Slalom-ghan (Afghan, blankets, throws)
Cable Cross-Country (All things cables)
Nordic Colorwork Combined (Colorwork, intarsia, fair isle)

You can see the full list of zany events on Ravelry at
<http://www.ravelry.com/groups/ravelympics-2010/pages/EVENTS-2010>

If you want to be part of a Ravelry team, lots of the teams already formed will accept new members. There is even a WIP team whose goal is for members to finish Works In Progress. Or you can start your own.

You can participate as part of Ravelry, as part of a team, as a solo competitor, or start your own Person Olympics, offline, and work on a project on your own. Remember, in the Olympics there are team AND individual sports. The point is to challenge yourself with something new and go for the gold!

Anyone already on a team? Let us know about it and about the project you have chosen when we meet in February! We will cheer you on toward the finish line.

---Gretl Kramer

HELMET LINER DRIVE

As of January 30th, Wool and Company had almost 100 wool helmet liners. Thanks to everyone who contributed to our drive.

---Lesley Edmondson

RUSSIAN TEA

A recipe for a warm drink to enjoy while knitting:
In a jar layer the following ingredients

1 and 3/4 cup of an instant orange drink
2 teaspoons of cinnamon
2 cups of sugar

1 cup of instant lemonade
1 cup of unsweetened instant tea
1 teaspoon of cloves

When you are ready to serve, just add 3 teaspoons of the tea mixture into a cup of hot water.
Stir and enjoy.

---Sandy Andrews

YARN REVIEW

Manufacturer: Rowan

Name of Yarn: Lima

Content:

84% Baby Alpaca, 8% Merino Wool, 8% Nylon

Texture (single,plied,etc):

Unique construction, almost a braided texture with the nylon strand holding it together.

Gauge:

5 st inch on size 9 needle. Got gauge with size 9 needle. Didn't have problems getting gauge.

Grams/yardage:

50 grams / 109 yards

Where bought:

Knitche in Downer's Grove

When bought:

October 2009

Price/Price per gram: (Note prices listed are before any discounts.)

\$13.15 ball = \$.26 per gram

Project used for:

Brea cabled tunic from Rowan Lima book

Pattern Comments:

A very simple cabled sweater. Because the cables are knit in centered panels, you don't have to worry about them when shaping. The cable patterns were easy to memorize. I didn't find any errors in the pattern.

Appearance/overall comments:

This is a very beautiful yarn. The colors are quite striking. I used a heathered purple. The tone on tone colors make this yarn unique. When looking at this yarn in the sunlight, it has every color in the rainbow as an undertone.

This yarn is very soft because of the alpaca.

Knitting/working with yarn:

I enjoyed knitting with this yarn. It doesn't split much because of the braided construction, but sometimes the needle would catch the yarn in the middle.

The yarn is quite even width.

I did have several knots in many of my balls. I did not try to spit/splice this yarn because of the braided construction.

Because of the braided construction, the yarn is quite strong. No problems seaming with it.

Results:

Stitch Definition: Pretty good stitch definition. Even though yarn has some loft, it looks great in cables.

Itch Factor: (On a scale of 1-10, 1 being low, 10 being high. Note that I have a hard time wearing any wool next to my skin, so my scale may be more sensitive than yours!) I'd say about a 5. Feels very soft, but I can't wear it next to my skin.

The sweater pattern has only two rows of garter for the edging on the bottom and sleeves, and then changes to stockinette stitch. This meant that it rolled quite a bit while knitting. However, I was able to block out all the rolling with a wet blocking and blocking wires.

Stretch factor:

This yarn DID stretch lengthwise during blocking. Watch out for this.

This yarn is a bit expensive, but I would say it is worth it. I would definitely use this yarn again.

---Judy Jasper

TREASURER'S REPORT

FVKG Treasurer's Report	Guild Fund	Retreat Fund	Ending Balance
Balance Dec 31, 2009	\$ 4,163.03	\$ 253.72	\$ 4,416.75
Expenses:			
Hospitality -	\$ (18.86)		
Program	\$ (17.90)		
Rent - St. Charles Episcopal Church - Dec	\$ (50.00)		
Retreat 2010		\$ (45.00)	
Website	\$ (92.94)		
Balance Jan 31, 2010	\$ 3,983.33	\$ 208.72	\$ 4,192.05

---Diane Evinger, FVKG Treasurer

TIP OF THE MONTH: CABLE SPLAY

When knitting a pattern with cables you will frequently find that your knitting will flare out at the base or top of your cable. This is called cable splay and occurs because the knitting gauge for the cable knitting is different than the gauge for the non-cable knitting portion of your project. Doing gauge swatches for both the cable and non-cable knitting can give you an idea of how much distortion may occur.

As a general rule Janet Szabo in her book *Cables, Volume 1: The Basics* suggests the following solution for a smoother transition between cables and "regular" knitting

- If the base of the cable is wider than 4 stitches increase 1 or 2 stitches for each cable crossing just before beginning the cable section and make corresponding decreases at the end of the cabled section.
- Start and end your cable section within a row or two of a cable crossing for a more finished look to your cables and to also help control flare.

DO IT IN PUBLIC (SUPPORT THE ARTS IN ILLINOIS!)

The sponsors of the Midwest Fiber & Folk Art Fair (this year July 16-18 at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Grayslake) have scheduled several opportunities for you to do your art (lacemaking, knitting, spinning, basket weaving, hand quilting, etc) in public:

- Tuesday Feb. 9th, 7pm at Borders Books at Crystal Point Mall, 6000 Northwest Highway, Crystal Lake
- Wednesday Feb. 17th, 7 pm at Barnes & Noble, Vernon Hills, Hawthorn Center Mall, Rts. 60 & 21, Vernon Hills
- Feb. 28th, 1 pm at Borders Books, Danada Square East Shopping Center, 101 Rice Lake Square, Wheaton

For more information check their website at <http://www.fiberandfolk.com/>

---Sandy Andrews

FVKG'S LIBRARY

Did you know that the Guild has a library? This year Guild member Kathy McConnell is managing the collection for us. Below is a list Kathy has created of the book, video and dvd titles currently in the collection. These are loaned out for \$2.00 a month with the money used to purchase additional titles for the collection. Kathy will have them available at our Guild meetings.

	Title	Author	Topic
Books	The Shop on Blossom Street	Debbie Macomber	A novel about four lives knit together...There's a little shop on Blossom Street in Seattle where four women are brought together by their knitting. They make unexpected discoveries about themselves and each other. (This novel is also available in cassette.)
	A Good Yarn	Debbie Macomber	A novel about three women who join a knitting class and an unbreakable bond is formed among them. This is a story of real women with real problems becoming real friends.
	Knitting Memories, Reflections on the Knitters Life	Lela Nargi, Editor	Knitters such as Lily Chin, Betty Christiansen, Teva Durham, Clara Parkes, Caroline Herzog and Lela Nargi take you into their confidence, sharing with you the whimsy, the insights, and plain pleasure that knitting has brought into their lives.
	Knitting Lit, <i>the Third</i>	Linda Roghaar & Molly Wolf, Editors	A collection of stories about the ups, downs, ins and outs of knitting with more than seventy contributors.
	Knitting	Anne Bartlett	Knitting is a wonderful novel about two untimely widows trapped in grief and the interwining, surprising paths they take as they attempt to rebuild their lives.
	The Sweetgum Knit Lit Society	Beth Pattillo	In this novel, the ladies of the Knit Lit Society enjoy two things that connect them; a love of knitting and a passion for books.
	Cheaper than Therapy	Annie Modesitt, Editor	28 essayists discuss the positive impact that knitting, crochet, spinning & all fiber in general have had on their lives. Funny, touching, moving and inspirational, this collection reaches into the soul.
	Drunk, Divorced & Covered in Cat Hair	Laurie Perry, aka Crazy Aunt Purl	If you've ever been dumped, duped, or three minutes from crazy, you'll love this novel. This is the true-life misadventures of Laurie Perry, a slightly off-beat displaced Southerner trying to create a new life after her husband leaves her.
DVD	Knitting Korner, How to Crochet	Nenah Galati	You will learn all the basic crochet stitches, as well as six other patterns that you can use to make a scarf, baby blanket or afghan.
	Knitting Korner, Sock III	Nenah Galati	Eight leg patterns using self-stripping or varigated yarn for the foot.
	Knitting Korner, Halter Top, Turtle Neck & Tank Top	Nenah Galati	Instruction to create a top in all sizes plus a formula to adjust/create your own pattern.
	A Knitters Companion, Knitting Gems 1	Lucy Neatby	Topics in Gems 1 include; the one-row buttonhole, applied edges, cords, braids and bobbles as well as the picot family and a straight look at twists, kinks and bias.
	A Knitters Companion, Knitting Gems 2	Lucy Neatby	Topics in Gems 2 include; knitting and purling with either hand, standed knitting and weaving techniques, color dominance, as well as steeks for necklines and armholes. Exlore short row techniques at length and discover the mystery of the two-row gully.
	A Knitters Companion, Knitting Gems 3	Lucy Neatby	Topics in Gems 3 include; a cornucopia of beading techniques, cabling (with and without a cable needle), lace basics with a look at charting and useful tricks for serene yarn handling.

	Elizabeth Zimmermann's Baby Surprise Jacket	Elizabeth Zimmerman & Meg Swansen	One of the most unique & ingenious of all of EZ's designs, the BSJ was introduced in 1968, and has grown in popularity ever since. In this DVD Meg takes you step by step through the jacket construction.
VHS	Elizabeth Zimmermann's Knitting Glossary I & II	Elizabeth Zimmerman & Meg Swansen	EZ and Meg demonstrate over 100 knitting techniques.
	Wool Gathering #41	Elizabeth Zimmerman & Meg Swansen	In this video, EZ and Meg knit a typical Norwegian Pullover. This tape includes the 8th and 9th episodes of EZ's Wool Gathering Video Series, and is supported by Chapter 7 of her book <i>Knitting Around</i> .
	Knitting Workshop	Elizabeth Zimmerman & Meg Swansen	12 half-hour lessons from beginners to master classes.
	Knitting Vacations, Saddle-Sleeve Sweater	Meg Swansen	This sweater is worked on circular needles from the lower edge to within 3-4" of wanted height to shoulder. The tape includes a Bavarian Twisted Stitch Clinic demonstrating all permutations of working this technique
	Knitting Vacations, The Mimbres Vest	Meg Swansen	This vest is worked on circular needles from the lower edge to wanted length to underarm, where steek stitches are cast on for future cutting and the armhole is shaped.
	Hand Knitting, Shawl-Collared Vest	Meg Swansen	In this video, Meg knits the design featured in EZ's Wool Gathering #48. This circular garment is knitted in moderately heavy wool from the lower edge up. The center front and armholes are stitched and cut open.
	Vogue Knitting, Fair Isle without Fear	Alice Starmore	Alice Starmore shows how to read pattern charts, choose wools and colors, and use stranding techniques.
	Nancie Knits, Entrelac & Seamless Bobbinless Argyle Socks	Nancie M. Wiseman	This video presents two techniques; Argyle socks without the bobbins and seams and the Entrelac technique. In the Argyle technique, each section is created separately while being joined to the next section, therefore, you don't need bobbins or graphs and makes the work less complicated. In Entrelac the left and right slanting squares resemble basketweave and create a puffy effect. Each of these processes can be easily translated to sweater work.
	Nancie Knits, Learn to Knit Basic Knitting and Sweater Finishing	Nancie M. Wiseman	Nancie presents all the information needed to become a proficient knitter. Besides all the get-started information, she also works you through a miniature sweater so that you can learn increases, decreases, picking up stitches, sewing seams together, and finishing off a sweater. A good, basic video for a beginning knitter.
	Nancie Knits, Three Techniques for More Colorful Knitting	Nancie M. Wiseman	Learn three color techniques; slipped stitches, intarsia and fairisle.
	The Knitters Guide to Buttonholes & Bands	Leslye Solomon & Dorothy T. Ratigan	In this video you will learn; special casting on techniques for bands, how to create a variety of attractive bands, buttonhole placement calculations and more.
	Socks Knit T to T	Joyce Williams	In this home video, Joyce demonstrates the knitting of a well fitting sock starting at the toe, but the alternative method of knitting a sock from the top to the toe is also described.
	The Original Philosopher's Two-Handed Fair Isle & Other Stories	Philosopher's Wool Company	Instruction in the original two-handed fair isle technique, plus dozens of sweater styles and colorways.
	Knitting, Multi-Color Technique for Handknitters	Susie Hodges	In this course you will learn how to knit with several colors of yarn all at once, similar to those processes found in patterns by popular modern designers and in the work of traditional ethnic knitters.
	Knitted Trims for Woven, Pieced, Felted, Crocheted and Knitted Projects	Ginger Lutens	This course will teach you how to hand knit a wide variety of trims than can be used to finish knitted, woven, crocheted or felted fabrics.

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>
- **Gifted Purl** 120 West Main St., West Dundee
Phone: (847) 783-4650 - Web: <http://www.giftedpurl.com>
- **Knitche** 5150-B Main Street, Downers Grove, IL 60515
Phone: (630) 852-5648 - Web: <http://knitche.com/>
- ***Needle Things** 426 South Third Street, Geneva
Phone: (630) 232-0015
- **Never Enough Knitting** 119-121 North Main, Wheaton
Phone: (630) 221-1007
- **Sheep's Clothing** 257 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso, IN
Phone: (219) 462-1700
- **Stitches in Time** 300 W. Washington, Oregon, IL
Phone: (815) 732-4599
- **Wool and Company** 23 South Third St., Geneva
Phone: (630) 232.2305 - Web: <http://www.woolandcompany.net/>

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

2010 FVKG MEETING DATES

- February 10, 2010
- March 10, 2010
- April 14, 2010
- May 12, 2010

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 6:30p

FVKG Board

President: Dorothy Gaines & Gretl Kramer
Vice President/Programs: Christy Becker & Linda Jones
Treasurer: Diane Evinger
Secretary: Sandy Andrews
Hospitality: Barb Harris
Membership: Judy Jasper
Newsletter: Linda McEwan
Website: Christie Stotko
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

Newsletter comments, suggestions or article ideas?

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