



fvkg.com

FROM YOUR PRESIDENTS

When the sun comes out, as it has from time to time during the past few weeks, it actually starts to look like Spring is on the way. But we are pretty sure it's just a big Mother Nature tease. The Farmer's Almanac predicts a snowy March ahead, so we think there is still plenty of time to wear our warm hand knits. That is one thing we can say about this weather: lots of woolen items came off our shelves and saw the light of day. Gretl made more mittens and hats than ever before. Having a lap full of wool is somehow very comforting when the wind is blowing and the snow is snowing.

Our Guild membership count has soared, and we are now more than 100 members strong. The hundredth member to join is Kathy Swenson. Welcome to you and to all the new members who have joined us. We look forward to getting to know you and sharing our knitting passion with you.

The February Guild program by Emily Parson on Stash Busting Knitting was just wonderful. Emily very generously shared with us much about her personal color, design, quilt and knit history and experiments. It was just inspirational. We have put together a list of many of the projects and patterns Emily showed and talked about. It appears later in this newsletter. Emily had help from other Guild members who also brought stash busting projects to show. Thanks to you all.

Breaking news: you will find that the lid's off the mystery bus trip. Read on for more information. We think you will be very excited! We are.

As this letter closes, the Vancouver Olympics and the Knitting Olympics are coming to a close. We are wondering how you are doing if you are one

Continued from Col. 1

of the many Knitting Olympics competitors. Did your training pay off? Did you choose the right event for your skills? How did your team do? Did you have a good coach, urging you on? We would love to see your projects, so bring them to our next meeting, finished or not, so we can see you on the Guild show and share medal stand.

Keep Warm and Keep Knitting,

---Dorothy and Gretl

MYSTERY REVEALED! BUS TRIP ON MARCH 13TH

Our outing is no longer a mystery-----we just can't keep it under wraps any longer! Our morning will be spent at Lorna's Laces for a tour and shopping (bring cash or checks, no credit cards). Then we head to the south loop for shopping at Loopy Yarns and lunch. There are several restaurants right by Loopy Yarns or if you only want to shop, you can bring a brown bag from home (no dairy or nuts).

All members and guests who have signed up will be accommodated. Payment must be made by the meeting of March 10.

Again, we gather at Let Me Arrange It at 799 S. McLean Blvd. Elgin before 9 AM. Please aim to arrive by 8:50, the bus leaves at 9 sharp and we'd hate to leave you behind! Also, please plan to tip our driver \$2 - \$5 per person. Questions, call Christy at (630) 377-4369.

If you want to join the fun, you may sign up and pay by Wednesday March 10. But, any future participants will have to wait on the bus or in the neighborhood--shopping or coffee--until some folks finish inside. Then, they can check out the yarn for sale! There is room at Loopy and the restaurants for everyone who wants to come!

---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.

MARCH 10TH GUILD MEETING PROGRAM

In March I will be presenting Knit One Below. This is based on a 2008 book by Elise Duvokot called Knit One Below. In the program I will give an overview and show some samples of what can be done with this technique. Then (for those who are interested) we will be casting on the 'Inside/Outside scarf'. This is a free pattern from Knittinguniverse.com at <http://www.knittinguniverse.com/flash/DownloadsList.php?CategoryID=33> . Do some stash diving (or use this as an excuse to visit your local yarn shop), and pick 110 yards each of 2 different yarns that go well together.

They can be

- same yarn, different colors
- 2 different texture yarns, same colorway
- 2 completely different yarns
- Whatever you want! Use your creativity!
- Any weight - keeping in mind that if you choose a lighter gauge yarn, you may need more stitches to get the width you want
- You can use the same yarn for both, (that is what the scarf pattern calls for), but make sure that when beginning, you use different colors from the balls so you can tell which is which.

My only suggestion is that you be able to easily tell each yarn from the other. That will make the demonstration easier.

You will also need circular needles (YES, they MUST be circular), in a size appropriate for your yarn.

If anyone has ever used this technique, and would like to show us what they have done, please bring in your project!

---Judy Jasper

THIS MONTH'S VENDOR

How often can you actually see the animals your natural fiber comes from? This month's vendor, Happy Hoppers Angora Rabbits & Soap, provides an opportunity to see a German Angora rabbit and the beautiful, luxurious fiber that comes from them! Angora isn't just for babies... fingerless gloves, scarves, shawls, cowls.... all feel glorious against your skin- and they are SO warm.

---Mary and Kate Stough (<http://happyhoppers.wikidot.com/>)

MEMBERSHIP

We had 4 new members join up in February..

Maxine Peretz Prange

Kathy Swenson - is our 100th member! She will be receiving a gift in the March meeting.

Lisa Schroeder

Jennifer Duncan

Welcome to our Guild!

There are now a total of 103 members.

Reminder - the password to the fvkg.com is on the back of your membership card.

---Judy Jasper, Membership

HOSPITALITY

Thanks to all the lovely ladies who brought the refreshments and beverages to the February meeting. They were delicious. Knitters do everything well! We are still short on refreshments for the March meeting. We have one fruit and one dessert signed up. If you would like to bring beverages or an appetizer or vegetables or fruit or dessert just give me a call on my cell: 630-710-4652. Your willingness to bring something to the meeting adds a special touch to our time together. Thank you.

On another note we had a couple of members request, at the November meeting, that we have a catered event or an off site dinner instead of a potluck meal. The banquet idea has been researched for the May meeting. The locations that were called were: Gen Hoe, Citizen Kane, St. Charles Place, Mill Race Inn, Prairie Landing and Pheasant Run with many questions asked. All of the venues reported costs ranging from \$22 to \$41 per person. It was decided that the cost per person is too high to ask our members to pay. Even a catered in meal would run us at least \$10 - \$15 per person. It seems much more practical to have our usual potluck with everyone bringing either an appetizer or a dessert and enjoying our time together in an informal setting. The guild budget is for education related expenses and is not intended for a catered dinner. It would be an additional cost to the members if we ever decided to plan such an event with reservations being made and money being collected in advance.

---Barb Harris, Hospitality Chair

SPOTLIGHT ON A RECIPE FROM OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

The delicious roasted vegetables at the last meeting were from Phyllis Deerinck. Here is her recipe: Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Cut up the vegetables. (Cauliflower, brussels sprouts, carrots and onions make a nice combination. Peppers, onions, mushrooms, and zucchini also seem to go together. Put each type of vegetable into a ziploc bag with a little olive oil, salt and pepper (perhaps appropriate spices if you feel like it). Shake it up spread in one layer on a cookie sheet and bake for about 20 minutes. I like 'em with a little brown on the edges.

KNITALONG NEWS

- Even though many of us have finished the Central Park Hoodie we have a continuing group that meets at the Borders on Randall Rd. on Weds. mornings at 9:30. We would love to have you knit with us and see what everyone one is working on and enjoy the fellowship of knitting. You can just drop in, no sign up required. Hope to see you there.

---Barb Harris

- The Vivian Hoxbro Knitalong is still going strong. For those of you who don't know, we are knitting our garments with size 1-3 needles, and fingering weight yarn. We expect that this Knitalong may take quite some time! Come and join us the first and third Thursday of each month at the Arcadium Coffee Shop in St. Charles at 6:30 pm.

---Judy Jaspers

LOOKING FOR A WEBSITE EDITOR

The Guild is looking for a volunteer to assume responsibilities for our FVKG website. This involves updating and editing the website. If you have these skills and/or know of a guild member that would share her talents please contact either Dorothy (dsgaines@mindspring.com) or Gretl (gkramer@foxvalley.net).

TREASURER'S REPORT AND 2011 BUDGET

Fox Valley Knitters' Guild					
Regular Account	Actual Exp Sept '09 - Feb '10	Proj Expenses Mar '10 - Sept. '10	Total Proj + Actual Exp Sept '09-Sept '10	Proj Exp of total exp 'Sept '10- Sept'11	Budget 2011
Beginning Balance	\$1,824.51		\$1,825		\$2,215
Income:					
Membership dues	\$3,225.00	\$45.00	\$3,270		\$2,250
Nametags	\$190.00	\$30.00	\$220		\$-
Off-site event - (bus trip)	\$410.00		\$410		\$700
Yarn Sale	\$-				
Regular Income	\$3,825.00	\$75.00	\$3,900		\$2,950
Expenses:					
Bank charges	\$17.00	\$20.00	\$37	1.05%	\$50
Gallery Show	\$-	\$-	\$100	2.85%	\$350
Hospitality	\$68.96	\$90.00	\$159	4.53%	\$200
Membership renewal premium	\$-	\$500.00	\$500	14.25%	\$600
Membership	\$150.00	\$-	\$150	4.27%	\$-
Nametags	\$64.70	\$25.00	\$90	2.56%	\$-
Newsletter	\$95.66	\$100.00	\$196	5.57%	\$225
Office Supplies	\$64.51	\$75.00	\$140	3.97%	\$175
Off-site event - bus trip	\$859.00	\$-	\$859	24.47%	\$1,000
Program	\$337.11	\$250.00	\$587	16.73%	\$1,500
Rent St Charles Epis Church	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$600	17.09%	\$900
Website	\$92.94	\$-	\$93	2.65%	\$125
Total Expenses	\$2,049.88	\$1,360.00	\$3,510	100.00%	\$5,125
Ending Balance	\$3,599.63		\$2,215		\$40

Actual membership expenses for the first six month of this membership year were \$2049.88. February ending balance of \$3599.63 will cover projected expenses for the remaining six months of the current membership year and provide funds for the Program Chair to book some nationally known speakers for the 2011 membership year. Nationally known speakers must be booked several months in advance so we need to have a balance in the Treasury for these speakers.

Our Guild has many very skilled knitters who may not be known nationally, but this past year they have shared their expertise at a reduced cost to our members as our program speakers and technque experts. Their efforts have provided us an opportunity to build a treasury balance for speakers for the year 2011.

---Diane Evinger, FVKG Treasurer

YARN REVIEW

Manufacturer: Berocco

Name of Yarn: Blackstone Tweed

Content: wool, mohair, angora

Texture (single,plied,etc): tweedy, two ply

Gauge 18 sts = 4 inches

Grams/yardage: 130 yards/50 grams

Where bought: Wool & Company

Project used for: Nuss Sweater

Pattern Comments: Pattern is well written if you are comfortable with a little interpretation.

Appearance/Overall comments: This soft, tweedy yarn gets even softer with blocking and wears well. Blackstone Tweed offers many gorgeous, earthy colors.

Knitting/working with yarn: Working with the yarn was a dream. Seaming was difficult as the yarn would break easily.

Results: A beautiful (favorite) sweater. I would definitely work with this yarn again.

---Laura Keiken

RUTH'S MARKET BAG

This pattern is from Guild member Ruth Dykstra:

Ruth's Market Bag

Materials

2 balls cotton Sugar n' Cream yarn or equivalent

Size 13 (9 mm) 18" long circular needles

Size 10 (6 mm) double pointed needles (you only need 2)

Stitch markers

Abbreviations

k2tog knit two stitches together

pssso pass slipped stitch over

ssk slip, slip, knit

yo yarn over

Knitting the bag

Cast on 70 stitches. Join together without twisting, placing marker at beginning of row.

Knit one row, then begin pattern.

Row 1 Knit

Row 2 yo, k2tog - repeat to end of round

Row 3 Knit

Row 4 ssk, yo - repeat to end of round

Continue in this pattern until desired length is reached. Remember that the bag will stretch when filled.
Bind off.

Closing the bottom

Turn the bag inside out and flatten out so that the bottom edge lies flat together. Sew evenly along this edge to close up the bag and weave in your ends.

Attaching the I-cord handles and border

Lay your bag flat and decide where you will attach the handles. I place a marker on each side of the bag about 1/3 of the way from each end (4 markers). You will apply I-cord around the rim of the bag from the left marker on the front of your bag (as it is laying on the table) around the side and to the marker on the back and then knit plain I-cord for the length of the handle before attaching to the other end of the bag and then knitting the second handle.

Provisional Cast-on

Using waste yarn and a large crochet hook, crochet a chain of about 10 stitches.

Knit into the loops on the back of these stitches with your double pointed needle and your good yarn for 6 stitches.

Attached I-cord

Slide the stitches down the needle so that the yarn is coming from the left side of your stitches and hold the needle in your left hand.

K5, sl 1. Beginning at the left front marker of the top of the bag, Dip the needle into the edge of the knitting, and bringing the yarn around to knit, pick up a stitch. You should now have 7 stitches on your needle. Pass the slipped stitch over your last stitch and off the right needle. You have six stitches on the right needle, and the yarn is coming from the last stitch on the left, closest to the point of the needle.

Without turning the needle, slide the stitches down the needle to the opposite end and move the needle to your left hand. The yarn is coming from the last stitch on the left, now furthest from the point of the needle.

K5, sl 1. Pick up the next edge stitch as you did the previous one. K1, pss0.

Repeat this process until all of the edge stitches up to the adjacent marker on the “back” of the bag have been incorporated into the I-Cord.

First Handle

When you reach the marker, continue making I-cord without attaching it to the bag. Knit 6 stitches, Slide the stitches down the needle to the opposite end and move the needle to your left hand. Repeat until the handle is the desired length. The handle will stretch some when the bag is loaded. You can make it short for a hand bag or longer for a shoulder bag.

Completing the Handles

When first handle is the desired length, begin attaching the I-cord again at the other marker on the “back” of your bag. When you reach the last marker on the “front” knit another I-cord handle the same length as the first one. Leave the stitches on the needle

Join beginning and end of I-cord

Use one of your double pointed needles to weave through the stitches of your provisional cast-on to pick up your 6 stitches and remove the waste yarn. Use the Kitchener Stitch to graft the 2 “live” ends of the I-cord together.

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 during the month of March:

- Tues, Mar 9, 7pm: Barnes & Noble, Arlington Heights, The Annex of Arlington, 13 W Rand Road, Arlington Heights
- Wed, Mar 17, 7pm: Borders Books Crystal Lake, Crystal Point Mall, 6000 Northwest Highway, Crystal Lake, IL
- Sun, Mar 28, 1pm: Borders Books, Lincolnwood, 6103 N. Lincoln Avenue, Chicago, IL 60659

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

---Sandy Andrews

EMILY'S AND FRIENDS' HIT PARADE OF STASH BUSTER PROJECTS

The following is a list of many of the wonderful and colorful stash buster knitting and crochet projects shown to us by Emily Parson at the February Guild meeting. There are likely many items missing from this list, and that is entirely my fault. Some links lead to patterns and others are just pictures. What an inspiration her program was. Thanks so much, Emily!

Sweaters, Vests, Jackets

Koigu 10-row Stripes Sweater in *Vogue Knitting*, Holiday 2004

Elizabeth Zimmerman's Baby Surprise Jacket
http://www.knitting-and.com/wiki/Baby_Surprise_Jacket

EZ's Adult Surprise Jacket
http://www.knitting-and.com/wiki/Adult_Surprise_Jacket

Sally Melville's Styles book has Tweed Stitch and other patterns good for stash busting.

Mym's Wedding Jacket as seen on Ravelry knit from leftover embroidery thread!
<http://www.ravelry.com/projects/poppalina/myms-wedding-jacket>

Chris Bylsma's Crayon Box Jacket
http://www.chrisbylsmadesigns.com/crayonbox_bigger.html

Stickfia's Red Cross Baby Jacket on Ravelry
<http://www.ravelry.com/projects/stickfia/red-cross-101>

Blankets and Afghans

Babette Blanket - crocheted many-color blanket (Thanks, Jodee, for bringing yours!)
Photo of a Babette Blanket
<http://www.interweavestore.com/Crochet/Patterns/Babette-Blanket.html>

Zig and Zag Sock Yarn Pram Blanket pattern (can also be knit narrower for a scarf)
<http://whatsthatgonnabe.blogspot.com/2009/06/little-lovey.html>

Barn Raising Sock Yarn Blanket by Larissa Brown of the Stitch Marker blog and author of the book *Knitalong*.
http://larissmix.typepad.com/stitch_marker/2009/04/barn-raising-quilt.html

Scarves and Shawls

Chevron Scarf from *Last Minute Knitted Gifts* uses 2 skeins of 2 different colors, sample here: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/sandiegozoo/3548932678/in/pool-chevronsarf>

Multidirectional Scarf (could use Magic Ball)

Pattern:

http://douma.net/Karen/knitting/Accessory-Scarves/Multidirectional_Diagonal_Scarf.htm

Photo:

<http://media.wendyknits.net/knit/multiscarf1.htm>

Scrappy Scarf (Great way to use up bits!)

<http://zona.livejournal.com/2008/09/11/>

Braided Scarf (no knitting or crocheting involved!)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/lollyknit/312403944/>

Charlottes Web Shawl - designed for 5 different Koigu yarns, but use what you have!)

<http://blog.katydidknits.com/2007/10/17/charlottes-web-20-modeled/>

Northern Lights Shawl on Ravelry

<http://craftylis.blogspot.com/2009/03/fo-revontulinorthern-lights-shawl.html>

Socks and Slippers

Ballet Slippers - various patterns and all can be embellished, knit with intarsia flowers, etc. Here is the book they are in - scroll down on page to book and flip forward to page 7

<http://www.interweavestore.com/Knitting/Books/Knitted-Gifts.html>

Stashbuster Spiral's Socks - this link has an online class at Hipknitism.com for making these socks:

http://hipknitism.com/classes/stashbuster_spirals/

Hats and Mittens

Andrea's Mittens and Andrea's Shawl - can use multicolor stripes

http://throughtheloops.typepad.com/through_the_loops/2010/01/andreas-mitts-andreas-shawl.html

Fourth Grade Hat (Entrelac Hat)

<http://www.twistcollective.com/collection/index.php/component/content/article/60-winter-2008-patterns/164-fourth-grade-hat-by-abby-franquemont>

Etc. and Misc. and Minis

Mitered Squares can be used for almost anything

Here is a YouTube video on mitered squares:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0Gak1VU3rA>

Knitting at Knoon Mitered Square Afghan directions:

<http://www.knittingatknoon.com/afghanpatt.html>

Cascade 220 Chocolate Bar Coasters (but you can knit them in any flavor!)

<http://www.purlsoho.com/purl/products/item/6812>

Knitted Flowers can be used to embellish anything or just as a pin.

Nicky Epstein's book *Knitted Flowers*

<http://www.amazon.com/Nicky-Epsteins-Knitted-Flowers-Epstein/dp/1931543887>

Flower knitting video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fapWjkr7OY>

Whitney's Pine Tree Sachets

<http://www.purlbee.com/whitneys-pine-tree-sachets/>

Little Knitted Hearts

<http://mochimochiland.com/weblog/2007/02/free-pattern-hearts/>

<http://knitting.about.com/od/accessories/p/heart.htm>

Little Knitted Easter Eggs

http://littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk/free_knitting_patterns/2008/01/knitted-easter.html

<http://www.curlypurly.com/eggs.html>

Bunny Nuggets Finger Puppets

http://rebeccadanger.typepad.com/rebecca_danger/2009/04/its-the-first-free-pattern.html

Alpaca Sox Mini Socks

<http://www.classicliteyarns.com/WebLetter/62/Issue62.php>

Mini Sweater Ornaments

<http://berroco.com/exclusives/minutia/minutia.html>

Cat Bordhi's Sock Bookmark

<http://www.catbordhi.com/>

Piccola Sock Bookmark Search pattern name_on Ravelry

<http://www.ravelry.com/>

Magic Ball Knitting

Emily sells Magic Balls of her own yarns, and you can make your own. Here are a couple of online resources.

How to make Magic Balls from Knitter's Review:

http://www.knittersreview.com/article_how_to.asp?article=/review/profile/010726_a.asp

and here from the Anchorage Daily news:

<http://www.adn.com/2007/08/14/220412/make-your-own-magic-using-knotted.html>

and a video from Jimmy Beans Wool:

<http://www.jimmybeanswool.com/secure-html/onlineec/instructionalArticle.asp?iaid=55>

Magic Ball Hat from ImagiKnit:

<http://imagiknit.com/?cat=11>

Magic Ball Legwarmers:

<http://hpnknits.blogspot.com/2009/01/magic-ball-leg-warmers.html>

More Inspiration

Kathryn Alexander Knitting - for great inspiration (Thanks, Phyllis, for bringing in the Color on Color Scarf):

<http://www.kathrynalexander.net/>

Watch what your fellow Guild members are knitting!

Also, a last suggestion: If you are on Ravelry, do a pattern search using the word "leftovers" and you will find even more ideas. Have fun and clean out some of that stash at the same time!

--- Gretl Kramer

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

- 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