

Fox Valley Knitters' Guild NEWS

A newsletter by and for FVKG members

May 2015

President's Letter

May 4, 2015

This is the last of my president's letters for you and I'd love to end my term with a few pithy words of wisdom. AVOID YARD SALES WITH YARN. Guess where I was? You guessed it, Pat Thompson's sale. I did buy a few things for door prizes for next year, so it wasn't all about me. The other 25 skeins included yarn to make slippers for gifts. See, I can think of others.

While thinking of others, I'd like to thank every one of the members of the guild for the last two years. Whenever I've asked for some help, someone has stepped up and offered it. Others have taken time to go out of their way to compliment the things that have been done. There's nothing quite like hearing "Thank you, I've enjoyed the program/activity." The members of the board each year have done their jobs so well, that my part was quite easy. (Have I mentioned that I like an audience?) I really enjoy being part of a group that likes to have fun while learning.

I look forward to seeing many of you this summer at the gatherings and next year when I'm a part of the audience again.

Christie

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2014-2015 Meeting Dates:

September 10, 2014
October 8, 2014
November 12, 2014
December 10, 2014
January 14, 2015
February 11, 2015
March 11, 2015
April 8, 2015
May 13, 2015

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: May's Meeting is End-of-Year Party and Members Sale.

Challenge for Charity

Condensed message from Christie from last month's newsletter:

Well. I'm extending a 'push' to the whole guild while we have plenty of time to execute. At the last meeting, Teri said that we have 75 members. So, I challenge the guild to produce 75 hats or scarves by the October meeting; that gives us 8 months.

I've sent a picture of the Slip Stitch Stash Hat that I made. I found the pattern on Ravelry. It's a free download by Renee Rico. This is just a suggestion. The size and pattern are up to you. There are lots of hat patterns that use only 1 skein



Challenge for Charity

LET'S EXCEED THE CHARITY CHALLENGE!

The challenge has been extended to our members to accumulate 75 knitted items for charity by October of this year. These items could be hats, scarves and mittens for adults and children, baby afghans and other baby items, chemo caps and preemie caps.

We will donate these things in the fall to Lazarus House, Eileen Hoesly's friend who is a foster mother, Living Well Cancer Center and the hospital. Members are invited to recommend other charities at this time, but may have to mail/deliver the items themselves. This could be a perfect project for your languishing leftover yarns.

Or perhaps there are a few skeins in your stash in a color that looked good on you 10 years ago, but not now. Let it free to live a useful life in perpetuity! There will be a box at each meeting in which you can deposit your donations.

Thank you from your charity elves,
Linda Jones and Ruth Anderson

Summer Knitting with the Guild

Some of us thought it would be great fun to meet during the summer in the evening to knit. I've called around to local Panera Bread locations and found that it's an easy place to meet. The other advantage is that they have locations up and down the Fox Valley, so we can spread the driving around. I've used every other Wed. The time will always be 6:30 to 9. The early birds may have to wait for others.

People like me may have the opportunity to be thrown out at 9pm. The Batavia location has a separate room that I've reserved for our first meeting. The only requirement is that we not bring in any outside food.

If we get tired of Panera, changing the location is only a group email away – so stay posted.

Wed 6/3: Batavia
154 West Wilson St
Phone: 630.761.1835

Wed 6/17: South Elgin
322 Randall Rd
847.841.1925

Wed 7/1: St Charles
2871 East Main
630.513.1044

Wed 7/15: Geneva
1960 S. Randall (Randall Sq.)
Note: New location
The old Applebee's
630.262.9800

Wed 7/29: Batavia
154 West Wilson St
Phone: 630.761.1835

Wed 8/12: South Elgin
322 Randall Rd
847.841.1925

Wed 8/26: St Charles
2871 East Main
630.513.1044

IT'S A PARTIAL SKEIN PARTY
Wed June 3rd – 6:30 to 9:00
Panera – 154 W Wilson St., Batavia

I specifically scheduled the first summer knitting at the Panera in Batavia because they have a separate room with tables that will work wonderfully for spreading out yarn. Here's the story:

1. Bring your leftover partial skeins of yarn and we'll put them out on the tables.
2. I will print a few patterns for hats, scarves and cowls from Ravelry that use leftover yarns.
3. We'll all take what we think will work well together to knit an item for charity.

I'll also bring the directions for the Russian join in case you don't like to have to tuck in a lot of ends. I think this way we can make up our own variegated skeins whether they be bold color changes or tonal.

Feel free to bring yarn for others and then knit your current project.

Feel free to take some yarn, even if you don't have a partial skein to share (trust me, I have enough to cover you). This is a great chance to learn something, share something, and have some fun.

Christie Cunningham

630.584.4243

Book Review

I don't know how Margaret Radcliffe does it but she put out two super knitting books in two years, each one of them a great resource on how-to's, quick fixes and tips for beginners to advanced knitters.

I've been meaning to write a review on "The Knowledgeable Knitter: Understand the Inner Workings of Knitting and Make Every Project a Success" (2014, Storey Books) since I read it last year and bought my own copy. That last sentence is an indicator that I like the book, as I HARDLY EVER buy books. I go to the library. I take notes on books from the library. If I really really really like a book (IOW there are too many good ideas to write them down) I will buy it.

Many of you know I like knitting in the round and am always talking about steeks (where you cut the yarn to put in sleeves and necklines, etc.) Margaret's book had more steek techniques than I have ever seen before. So that book is now on my shelf.

And then this year; she followed up with a new edition of "The Knitting Answer Book: Solutions to Every Problem You'll ever Face, Answers to Every Question You'll Ever Ask," (where does she get these long titles???) 2015, Storey Books as well).

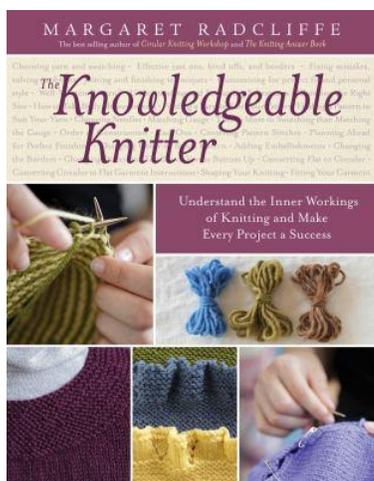
This is a much smaller guide, a thick pocket-size, but full of great info. Tips that I really liked are how to do a purl long-tail cast on so your first row is knitted not purled, how to fix a twist in a circular cast-on when you find it a few rows up, making the last stitch not have a lump when you pull your yarn through, and tips for making a join in circular knitting without a gap.

Useful for beginners as well as advanced knitters. Something for everyone.

I did not buy this one. I took notes. But you might want to.

Margaret, what are you going to be able to do for an encore? I'm waiting to see.

Shirley Remes



Save the Date – Knitting Retreat

The knitter's retreat at Cantigny is on along with the services of the Knitting Goddess for Saturday, August 15. If you plan to attend our retreat for knitters on August 15, you should be prepared to sign up at our May meeting. Signing up includes a deposit of \$15.00 in "earnest money," which will also pay for your lunch. If you have a friend in the guild who cannot attend that meeting, it will be most helpful if you could sign up for her as well.

Since this will be our last official meeting until September, we would like to go into the summer with a solid number of attendees. Last year, after guild members had signed up, we opened up registration for non-members (for an additional fee). This year the deadline for member sign-up will be June 1. After that all open spaces will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you have any thoughts send them to me at my correct
Email: TednPhee@outlook.com. Phyllis

Members' Party and Sale

The last meeting of the 2014/2015 FVKG year will be the Members' Party and Sale.

Please bring a food item to share. You may also bring any books, yarn or other materials you would like to sell. Putting them in plastic zip lock bags and labeling your name and price is helpful to those that are buying your treasures. It's a good idea to have a supply of small bills to make easy change for items you are selling and want to buy yourself.

IN MEMORIAM

Our former member, Karen Ortlund, passed away on March 5th. Karen had been a member for quite a few years, but did not join this year due to declining health. Karen was an able knitter who knitted a variety of things.

She enjoyed participating in our meetings and other guild events. A smart and funny lady, Karen enjoyed a good conversation as well. Karen was retired, but had been a nurse in her working life. She graduated from Augustana Nursing School in Chicago.

We will miss her wit and friendship.

FVKG Treasurer's Report

April 2015

Beginning Balance	4,673.93
Expenses	
Room Rental	75.00
Speaker	250.00
Door Prize	56.71
Printing	13.20
Nametags	58.65
Income	
Membership Dues	.00
Ending Balance	4,220.37

~ Ruth Dykstra

Special Yarn Shops

These shops are special because they offer discounts to FVKG members

Elgin Knits Works (10% off on regular priced yarn)

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

Esther's Place (TBD)

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

Fine Line (10% discount)

6N158 Crane Road, St. Charles
630-584-9443
www.finelineca.org

The Fold (10% discount)

3316 Millstream Road, Marengo
815-568-5320

Gene Ann's Shop (10% off on regular priced items)

117 East Station St., Barrington
847-842-9321
www.geneannsyarns.com

Knitche (10% off most yarns)

5150-B Main Street, Downers Grove
630-852-5648
<http://knitche.com/>

Loopy Yarns (10% discount)

47 West Polk St., Chicago
312-583-9276
www.loopyyarns.com

Needle Things (20% off yarn, patterns, & notions)

426 South Third Street, Geneva
630-232-9915

Never Enough Knitting (TBD)

119-121 North Main, Wheaton
630-221-1007

Stitches in Time (20% Discount)

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.*

2014 – 2015 FVKG Board Members

President: Christie Cunningham

Vice-President: Nicky Jo Herner

Secretary: Tami Stencil

Treasurer: Ruth Dykstra

Gallery Show: Janan Hudek

Hospitality: Bridget Christianson

Library: Teri Larson

Membership: Ellen Gilmartin

Newsletter Editor: Karen Haley

Website: Dee Heavington

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