

# FOX VALLEY KNITTERS' GUILD NEWS

A newsletter by and for FVKG members

October 2009



fvkg.com

## PRESIDENTS' GREETING

AND WE'RE OFF!!

Hi Knitters! We are off and running with our 2009-2010 Guild year, and what a great start we had at the first meeting. We very much missed those of you who were not there, but September is such a busy time for everyone, isn't it? There were lots of conflicts, and many of you had to be somewhere else that night. There will be a bit of a summary of the September meeting, including information about Chris Bylsma's presentation, later in the newsletter. We hope that gives you a little taste of what it was like.

It may seem way too early to ask this, but has anyone started knitting for holiday gifts? Gretl's favorite thing about knitting, as she confessed this summer, is starting things. So she has lots of gifts started and many others planned, for children and grandchildren and husband. Will they be done in time? Can we help each other with encouragement and some knit-alongs? If some of us are working on the same things, perhaps knitting together once a week on that project will be the push that gets things finished. Let's check with each other at the next Guild meeting. December will be here in 2 shakes of a lamb's tail, as my mother used to say.

As this is being written, the wind has picked up and the temperature has dropped. We may miss summer, but isn't it great weather for knitting?

See you soon,

*- - -Dorothy Gaines and Gretl Kramer*

## PROGRAM NOTES

Elizabeth Prose, a well-known teacher from Madison, WI will do a hands on workshop on casting on and binding off.

If you wish to participate, please bring: two colors of worsted weight yarn and appropriate size needles for casting on several unbound off swatches for binding off a crochet hook and blunt tip tapestry needle

*And now for coming attractions.....*

Our popular Techniques Fair will again be held at the November meeting. If you have a skill you'd like to share with our members, please contact Christy Becker or Linda Jones. With such a creative group, we know we'll have the best instruction!

*---Linda Jones and Christy Becker*

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## CHARITY KNITTING OPPORTUNITY

Family Services Agency sign: Knitters Wanted for Childrens Mittens Call 815-758-4718. This is the sign that usually promotes the DeKalb County Big Brother organization.

---Sign recently spotted by Diane Evinger's sister-in-law Deb.

**FOX VALLEY KNITTERS' GUILD**  
**2009 FALL RETREAT, 23-25 OCTOBER**

It is almost Retreat time, and I am going to be giving a final head count for beds and meals to Stronghold after the October Guild meeting.

SO:

1. Would you like to come for the day on Saturday but have not signed up yet? Just let me know at the meeting. Cost for Saturday lunch is \$8, for breakfast and lunch is \$16. We will have a wonderful program after lunch, and I hope we will be busy with another activity in the morning.
2. Can you come for the weekend after all? It looks like there are 4 beds still available, and Stronghold will still let us add you to the list. Just let me know right away. Remember, cost is only \$120 for a shared room with private bath for 2 nights, 4 meals, and all the knitting fun you can cram into 2 ½ days.

There will be handouts at the October meeting with details for the weekend including directions, schedule, town resources, what to bring, etc. Oh, I can hardly wait. Have I got some surprises for y'all!

*Gretl Kramer*  
[gkramer@foxvalley.net](mailto:gkramer@foxvalley.net)  
847 331-3043

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

Thank you to all the knitters who renewed their membership in September. I hope everyone is enjoying their needle gauge member gift.

For those of you who renewed in the mail - your new membership card and member gift will be at the sign-in desk at the next Guild Meeting.

We had 5 new members join up in September.

Ruth Dykstra from Batavia  
Kelly Jun from Streamwood  
Sue Plaster from Bartlett  
Mary Ann Sturn from Geneva  
Carolyn Swenson from St. Charles

Welcome to our Guild!

---Judy Jasper, Membership

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to all of the Guild's members for the card and gift. You brought tears to my eyes. The Guild has meant so much to me over the past 21 years.

*Happy Knitting,  
Roxanne*

## **REMEMBERING THE FIRST GUILD MEETING OF THE YEAR**

The first meeting of the new knitting season was just what the knitting doctor ordered. The room was full, membership forms were flying, and loud, happy greetings were shared. Some folks had been meeting over the summer, but many were together again for the first time since May.

I missed Dorothy Gaines, the co-president, and mistakenly announced that she was in Italy. Nope, that was a different trip. She was in Ireland, and I am sure she will have some great stories to share with us. Wonder if she saw any wool or yarn there.

Anyway, this meeting was the first with our new feature, a vendor. We were lucky to have our own Emily Parson of Sophie's Toes selling her sock yarn plus her new worsted weight hand dyed beauties.

We had some really fun and some really stunning show-and-tell items. Jodee DeBates showed us a couple things including the cutest pair of baby trousers. What a great kid or grandkid gift! Kate Stough brought, among other things, 2 very sweet knitted turtles to give to Tracey Uher for her Moyamoya project. Tracey walked into the meeting just as Kate finished introducing us to the turtles. (The pattern for Sheldon and his shell is available at [www.knitty.com](http://www.knitty.com). Search the archives for Sheldon.) And the stunning project was Marion Biagi's "Shawl ala Elizabeth Zimmerman." It is a huge, beautiful, creamy and lacy thing that looks like it could almost be pulled through a wedding ring. Beautiful work, Marion. And thanks to everyone for sharing. If you have items for next month's meeting, think about filling out a Show and Tell form so we can write about your project for the next newsletter.

Next at the meeting was a presentation by the gracious, lovely, funny, beautiful and talented Chris Bylsma. Chris talked about how she started her knit design business. She published her first pattern less than 10 years ago. She decided to self publish and not affiliate herself with a particular magazine or yarn company. That allows her to mix and match her yarn brands and offer many yarn choices to knitters. Her Crayon Box Jacket is one of her most popular patterns and uses a variety of yarns from many different companies. Chris showed us quite a few knitted samples, all lovely and inspiring. She wore her new jacket, Summer Hours, an asymmetric jacket incorporating cables, texture, dropped stitches, half a shawl collar, half a notched collar, well, you get the idea. See it at [www.chrisbylsmadesigns.com/patterns.html](http://www.chrisbylsmadesigns.com/patterns.html)

Chris had many little hints to give us. Here are a few of them, in my own inadequate paraphrasing. No one can convey them like Chris.

- Experiment and don't be afraid of your knitting! Mistakes can turn into discoveries of something new and wonderful.
- Swatch LARGE, maybe 10" x 10" so you can get a real good look.
- Don't ever forget that there are many different ways to do something in knitting so consider them exactly that, "different," not right or wrong.
- Have fun!!

Chris had so much more to say. If you ever have a chance to talk with her or to take a class from her, grab it. She's just great, and we were very lucky to have her with us. Thanks to Linda Jones and Christy Becker for making the arrangements. Chris Bylsma helped us get off to a great start.

*---Gretl Kramer*

## HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Thanks to all those who brought refreshments for our Sept. meeting. Please sign up to bring something to an upcoming meeting if you have the time. We'll be spotlighting some recipes each month as requested by our members. We have Diane Evinger's Beer Dip and my Lemon Cake this month. Enjoy!

---Barb Harris, Hospitality Chair

### **BEER DIP**

2 - 8oz pkg cream cheese, softened  
1/3 cup beer or nonalcoholic beer  
1 envelope ranch salad dressing mix  
2 cups (8 oz) shredded cheddar cheese  
Pretzels

In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese, beer and dressing mix until smooth. Stir in cheese. Serve with pretzels. Refrigerate leftovers.

Yield: 3-1/2 cups

*Diane Evinger, from the Taste of Home website*

### LEMON CAKE

#### Cake:

1 Lemon cake mix  
4 eggs  
1 16 oz. can lemon pie filling

Mix all of the above ingredients in your mixer. Pour into a greased 10 ½ x 15 inch (jelly roll) pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 18 to 20 minutes until a toothpick inserted in the middle of the cake comes out clean.

#### Frosting:

4 oz. light cream cheese  
1 stick butter, softened  
2 cups confectioners sugar  
1 ½ tsp. vanilla extract

Beat cream cheese and butter together, add vanilla. Then beat in conf. sugar until smooth. Frost cooled cake and refrigerate.

*Family favorite from the kitchen of Barb Harris (originally from Mary Bradley)*

## **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

This month our member spotlight is Eileen Hoesly.

**FVKG: Your name please.**

EH: Eileen Hoesly

**FVKG: Where do you live?**

EH: Rural Western St. Charles

**FVKG: How long have you been a member of the Guild?**

EH: 18 years. I was pregnant with my youngest and she just started NIU last month.

**FVKG: How long have you been knitting?**

EH: Learned to knit 45 years ago. Became a serious knitter 24 years ago as a stay at home mom. After stitching years of needlepoint and dabbling in quilting my old size 10 needles from 1964 called to me to try it again. I heeded the call and never looked back

**FVKG: Tell us about one of your favorite Knitting Designers. Why do you like him/her? What patterns have you knitted? Where can we find more information about this designer?**

EH: My favorite designer is Melinda Goodfellow who is Yankee Knitter Designs. Her patterns tend to be uncomplicated, easy to follow, and not overly trendy. Also, many of her patterns have baby, child and adult sizes in one so more bang for the buck. I have made many of her pullover sweater and cardigan designs, hats and mittens. I might have the whole collection of her work but haven't taken the time to do the inventory.

**FVKG: Favorite Yarn - review one of your favorite yarns. Tell us the Brand/Name/Content/Weight and what you like about it. Tell us about the projects you have used it for.**

EH: Alpaca and alpaca with silk or wool is my favorite yarn to work with. I do best with worsted weight and have made many, many sweaters, scarves, hats, and mittens.

**FVKG: Why did you decide to take up knitting? What do you like the most/least about it? What are your challenges?**

EH: There is nothing I don't like about knitting. I've been a substitute teacher for 13 years in U-46 and have given many lunch time lessons to the kids over the years. I found the Special Needs classes really take to it. The BOYS with Autism surprise me with their fascination at how the working needles actually make something.

What frustrates me is patterns that are overly complicated just to be artsy or the designers have something to prove. I do this to relax and have a creative outlet.

An exciting time for me is going through all my knitting stuff and discovering I had something I forgot about. Or just watching T.V. or listening to music while knitting. The Guild has provided me lots of fun times and friends.

It has been great times and many kinds of experiences. I could write a book.

## **OCTOBER'S VENDOR: Wool and Company**

Our vendor for October will be Wool and Company. This is a chance for the Guild to see, touch and even bring home with them some great yarn and ideas! Lesley reports:

We will bring a selection of the season's latest goodies including new sock yarns, some new 'bobble' yarn that is all the rage, the newest pattern booklets and books. We will also have a special basket full to the brim of \$2 per skein (up to 80% off) yarns....perfect for making or adding to your holiday gifts. If anyone would like us to bring anything in particular, (e.g., a certain size of needles, a book or accessory) email me at [lesley@woolandcompany.com](mailto:lesley@woolandcompany.com) and I can make sure we pack it.

## FVKG TREASURER'S REPORT

	Regular Account	Retreat Account	Total
Balance Aug 25, 2009	\$ 1,764.51	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,914.51
<b><u>Income:</u></b>			
Membership	\$ 1,935.00		
Retreat		\$ 1,836.00	
<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>			
Hospitality	\$ (16.99)		
Membership cards, bookmarks	\$ (75.00)		
Newsletter	\$ (24.31)		
Office Supplies	\$ (29.01)		
Rent	\$ (50.00)		
Retreat		\$ (1,965.05)	
<b><u>Balance Sept 28, 2009:</u></b>	<b>\$ 3,504.20</b>	<b>\$ 20.75</b>	<b>\$ 3,524.95</b>

---Diane Evinger, FVKG Treasurer

### TIP OF THE MONTH: SLIPPING STITCHES

When a pattern tells you to slip a stitch, it rarely explains whether you should do this *as if to purl* or *as if to knit*. Here is a plan. If you need to slip a stitch and then it will wait until you come back to it on the next row, slip the stitch *as if to purl*. (*As if to purl* refers to the direction you are entering the stitch only, so *as if to purl* means go into the stitch from top to bottom--or you might think from right to left. *As if to purl*, does not want you to move your yarn to the front. A pattern will tell you to do that if needed. If it doesn't say anything, leave the yarn in back.) If you are going to do something with this slipped stitch, then slip it *as if to knit*. For example, if you are doing an SSK, then slip the stitches *as if to knit*. One way to remember this is a simple mantra.

KNIT NOW, PURL LATER

However, we are talking about knitting here, where the only rule that exists is, Do Not Split Your Yarn. So, there is still Knitters Choice!

For example, some knitters prefer an SSK that is done as Slip the first stitch *as if to knit* and slip the second stitch *as if to purl*. Next month, we'll look at slipping a stitch along the edge of a scarf or a heel flap!

---Christy Becker

### **2009 FVKG MEETING DATES**

- October 14
- November 11
- December 9

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

### **OTHER KNITTING EVENTS**

- YarnCon Oct. 17, 2009, Pulaski Park Chicago. <http://www.yarncon.com/>
- FVKG Retreat October 23-25 at the Stronghold Conference Center in Oregon, IL

### **KNITALONG OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Central Park Hoodie Knitalong**

Have you wanted to start this sweater since it appeared in Interweave's Knitscene, Fall '06 or when Rosemary Anderson modeled hers in Show & Tell? Well, now is your chance! Rosemary Anderson is very willing to get us all started on this great sweater. She's currently working on her 3<sup>rd</sup> hoodie. She said the pattern's not complicated. We'll meet on Weds. mornings (from 9:30 am to ?) at the Borders Bookstore in the Marshall's shopping center on Randall Rd. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Weds. morning will be Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>, 1 week after our guild mtg. That gives you time to get all of your supplies ready. Please call if you need further info. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Barb Harris, Hospitality Chair  
Cell # 630-710-4652

#### **Knitalong Anyone?**

I would like to get a Knitalong going. I have three slightly challenging projects I would like to start. If anyone has these projects in their queue, let me know and maybe we can organize a Knitalong.

Shadow Knitting - I have 2 Vivian Hoxbro shadow knitting kits. I'm dying to get going on one.  
Harlequin coat by Jane Slicer Smith - this is the cover swing coat from her new book 'Swing, Swagger and Drape' that debuted at Stitches.  
Nimbus Hoodie from the most recent Interweave Weekend magazine. Designed by Annie Modesitt.

If you are interested, let me know. Either in person at Guild, or send me an email at [judy.jasper@comcast.net](mailto:judy.jasper@comcast.net).

Judy Jasper

### 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.

### 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