

FOX VALLEY KNITTERS' GUILD NEWS

A newsletter by and for FVKG members

December 2010



fvkg.com

FVKG'S PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Tis the Season.....

I cannot wait to see all the hats that were made for the hat exchange this month. I know that I enjoyed picking a pattern for the yarn that I received and thinking about the person that I was knitting for made it even more enjoyable.

Soon, it will be time to nominate new officers for our Guild. If you would like to be on the nominating committee, please see me after this month's meeting. If you would like to serve on the Board, please let the nominating committee know.

For those members interested in the Master Knitter Level I Program through the TKG, please let me know. Once everyone receives their materials, we could meet once or twice a month and discuss the materials required to complete the program.

We all know about the Winter and Summer Olympics but what about a Holiday Olympics for knitters. It would start on December 1st and go to December 23rd. During this time, knitters would rush to their favorite yarn shop, pick up enough yarn and patterns for everyone on their list and try to get all done by December 24th (including blocking and sewing together all those sweaters everyone requested). As for medal winners, we would all get medals for just trying to get it all done in time. If you couldn't tell, I am already behind on my holiday knitting and cutting down on the list of those getting knitted items this year. Oh well, there is always next year.....

Happy Holidays from the Fox Valley Knitting Guild Board to all our members and their families.

Sincerely,

Sandy Andrews

DECEMBER HOLIDAY CHOCOLATE PARTY

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

December already? No way!

Yes, way, so let's celebrate the end of the year at a Knitters' Guild party with chocolate (and other) goodies to eat, chocolate knitting projects, a great members' "garage sale" of yarn, patterns and other knitting related items, the unveiling of the Brown Bag Mystery Hats, and some wonderful vendors with lovely holiday gifts,.

Chocolate Knitting Projects

Bring yarn and needles to make a couple of fun little items. Bring chocolate brown yarn and a tasty crème color and another contrasting color or two, worsted weight of you have it, and appropriate size needles. One of the projects needs either 2 double points or a circular needle, one project calls for 4 double points, and the rest can be knit on any kind of needles. Samples and patterns will be available.

Garage Sale of Stash and Stuff

Bring your extra yarns, books, needles and other supplies for your fellow guild members to buy. Bag up yarns, preferably in clear bags. Label all items with your name and your price. We'll have lots of tables filled with things for sale. Both as seller and buyer, it's a good idea to bring small bills and some change to make the transactions easy. This is an opportunity for some of us to clean out a few things and others of us to add to our collection. Lots of treasures have changed hands in past years!

Brown Bag Mystery Hats

Hope you're almost done with your mystery hat knitting! Pop your finished hat

Continued on p. 2

Brown Bag Mystery Hats
(continued from page 1)

back in a brown bag. Be sure to put YOUR name in the bag so the recipient will know who her Secret Santa is, and write the recipient's name on the OUTSIDE of the bag. You can decorate the bag if you wish, add a trinket or a note, etc. At the meeting we'll have an official unveiling and take lots of pictures. I can't wait to see what some Secret Santa has created using my brown bag yarn!

I can't wait to see what you all have been working on for holiday gifts. Bring some of them for Show and Tell and inspire the rest of us!

See you on the 8th!

---Gretl Kramer

DECEMBER NATURAL DYEING WORKSHOP

On Saturday, December 11, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., Stefania Isaacson will teach a hands-on Natural Dyeing workshop for us in the Fine Line dye studio. The Fine Line is located at 6M158 Crane Road in northern St Charles, 1 block west of Randall Road.

This workshop will take place only if we have enough participants. If we have 15 people, the cost for all day including supplies will be \$70. If we have only 10, the cost will have to go up to \$85. So far there are only 4 of us registered, so I have sent out an invitation to members of other area knitting guilds and fiber organizations to see if we can get enough people. Members of our Guild will have priority as long as I hear right away that you want to attend. The other guild members have until December 3 to register.

I hope that we don't have to cancel this event, so let me know ASAP at phone 847 331-3043 or email gkramer@foxvalley.net. If we do have to cancel, I will let you know by the end of the week.

---Gretl Kramer

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Hello Fellow Knitters,

We now have 91 members.

Our new member from November:

- Sabine Vorkoeper-Orchard

Welcome to our Guild!

---Judy Jasper, Membership

FVKG MEETING DATES

- December 8
- January 12
- February 9
- March 9
- April 13
- May 11

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 6:30pm

KNITTING BOOK REVIEWS

Knitting Brioche

Nancy Merchant

I can't tell you how much I love this book. I've had stitch pattern books for years that included Shaker Knitting and/or Brioche stitches and I've just zoomed on by thinking that they were complicated and/or difficult. Well, they're neither and it's a great way to use color without having to strand. This book has patterns for scarves, hats and sweaters, but to me the best part are the excellent how-to pictures and descriptions for increasing and decreasing.

The downside is that Merchant has decided to name the stitches brioche knit - brk, and brioche purl - brp. In my mind they sound like bark and burp. It also makes the pattern directions look more difficult than they need to be. Once you move beyond this, look at the beautiful things to knit.

I'm buying this one.

The NEW Knitter's Template

Laura Militzer Bryant and Barry Klein

This book I don't love, not that it doesn't have a lot of great information. Reading the book for the questions we should all ask before starting a garment, but seldom do, is wonderful. There is a lot to take notes from, so get it from the library.

If you want to use it to design a garment, I really don't like it. After the template for filling in your measurements, it too confusing. The templates are lists that go from left to right over 2 pages without column lines. The people who have a finished bust/chest size of 30 or 32 are in luck. Everything will work well for them. Estimating the amount of yarn needed? Just buy an extra skein, you'll love it in your stash later. Discussing sleeves, "The most important aspect is to make sure that the initial shoulder width is correct and to alter the body pieces if it is not." Guess what, they leave this change up to you.

---Christie Cunningham

2011 KNITTING GUILD RETREAT AT STRONGHOLD
October 28-30, 2011

The dates have been set, the lodge reserved, and the first deposit paid for next year's Fox Valley Knitters' Guild Retreat. We'll gather again in the Heritage Lodge at the Stronghold Conference Center in Oregon, Illinois. The massage therapist who came to the last retreat, Betsy Pool, would love to come back again. And I am sure there will be some wonderful surprises in store for us. You can hold your spot with a \$50 deposit that will go toward the cost of the weekend. Please bring it to the December or January meeting, and your room will be reserved.

Who will work on retreat arrangements in 2011? A small group of 2-3 people would be perfect. Those of us who have organized past retreats will pass on to you all our records, notes, names, numbers and advice. It's fun and very rewarding! So give it some thought, get together with your best knitting buddies and let President Sandy Andrews know you will be next year's retreat committee!

--Gretl Kramer

SHOW AND TELL

Every Guild meeting we have Show and Tell as an opportunity for our members to show projects they have completed. Frequently members want to know what pattern or yarn was used for your project. We would like to start including that information in either our newly enhanced website or the newsletter. To help gather this information a form for Show and Tell is available at the welcome table for you to complete for any item(s) you wish to show at the Guild meeting.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

The following Guild members are celebrating birthdays in December

- Christy Becker
- Diana Brown
- Erin Frazier
- Nancy McFarland
- Lisa Schroeder
- Kathy Swenson
- Carolyn Szarmach
- Patricia Thompson



UPCOMING FIBER EVENTS

Jan. 21-23, 2011	Vogue Knitting Live! in New York City http://www.vogueknitting.com/live.aspx .
Feb. 18-19, 2011	Janesville Area Knitting Guild Knit-In http://jakg.org/
Feb. 25-27, 2011	Sheep in the City Getaway - Milwaukee, WI February 25, 26, & 27th 2011 http://web.mac.com/jmassie1/Sheep_in_the_City/Welcome.html
Feb. 25-27, 2011	Arnchild's Knitting Studio's Knitting Retreat - Ames, Iowa http://arnchild.com/Camps.htm
March 19, 2011	Madison Knitters Guild Knit In , http://www.madisonknittersguild.org/
April 7-9, 2011	Wisconsin Spin-In 2011 - Country Springs Resort, Pewaukee, WI http://www.wispinin.org/
April 9, 2011	Stephenson County Fiber Art Fair - Jane Addams Community Center, Cedarville, IL http://www.suzybeggin.com/FAF.htm
June 24-26, 2011	The Midwest Fiber & Folk Art Fair at the Lake County Fairgrounds http://www.fiberandfolk.com/
July 27-31, 2011	The Knit & Crochet Show (sponsored by The Crochet Guild of America and The Knitting Guild Association), Minneapolis, Minnesota http://www.knitandcrochetshow.com/
July 28-31, 2011	Sock Summit the Second in Portland, Oregon http://www.socksummit.com
August 25-28 2011	Stitches Midwest Schaumburg, IL http://www.knittinguniverse.com/stitches/



*Happy
Holidays!*

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.fineineca.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/>
- **Loopy Yarns.** 47 West Polk St. Chicago
Phone: (312) 583-9276 - Web: <http://www.loopyyarns.com>
- **Needle Things** 426 South Third Street, Geneva
Phone: (630) 232-9915
- **Never Enough Knitting** 119-121 North Main, Wheaton
Phone: (630) 221-1007
- **Stitches in Time** 300 W. Washington, Oregon, IL
Phone: (815) 732-4599
- **Wool and Company** 107A West Main Street, St. Charles, IL
Phone: 630 444-0480 - Web: <http://www.woolandcompany.net/>

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

FVKG Board

- President: Sandy Andrews
- Vice President/Programs: Gretl Kramer
- Treasurer: Diane Evinger
- Secretary: Kathy Schooley
- Hospitality: Stephanie Lofland
- Membership: Judy Jasper
- Newsletter: Linda McEwan
- Website: Lorraine Tompkins
- 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

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.

Newsletter comments, suggestions or article ideas?

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