



# Windy City Knitting Guild Newsletter

*A Newsletter by and for WCKG Members September 20, 2005*

## President's Letter

Well, I did it. I just finished a sweater. Never mind that it is a summer tank top and we're heading into the back-to-school-wool-wearing-tweed-season. Never mind that I purchased this yarn several years ago on a trip, knit it up, and left it languishing unfinished in a tote bag. I'm just excited that I frogged it and re-knit it into a style that I will actually wear. I'm also excited by the fact that it feels like new yarn—the fun feeling of yarn shopping without the guilt. I love this idea of recycling yarn and am tempted to ravel all my UFOs. Maybe I can actually stay on my yarn diet and not make any more new purchases for a while. More likely, my yarn diet will go the way of my regular diet....

And I'm probably not the only one—after seeing everyone at Stitches, it seemed like there was a whole lot of yarn bingeing going on. A big thank you to all the members who volunteered at Stitches Midwest for the WCKG package holding booth. We provided a valuable service for the many shoppers and gained a lot of visibility—many new members! A special thanks to Judy Chan for organizing this event and coordinating all the materials needed, including our brand new banner.

Congratulations are in order for Sharon McGee who won the Student design competition during the Saturday night stitches event. Her shawl and top made of wrapping paper ribbon caught the eye and attention of Rick Mondragon and many others. Way to go!

Happy Knitting!

Laura Kochevar

Tuesday evening, September 20, 2005 from 6:45 p.m.—8:45 p.m. at the Sulzer Regional Library, 4455 North Lincoln Avenue, Chicago, 60625

## On Our Agenda: September Program:

Charity Program

Hosted by Nina Savar and Paula Shaffer

September's guild meeting takes a relaxed pace and focuses on our charity contributions. If you knitted for a charity, please bring your items to the meeting. We'll spend more of the meeting on "show and share", sharing stories of our generosity and showing off our contributions before we pack them up and send them off. We'll provide hang-tags so you can record the fiber content of your knitted item and optionally personalize your contribution with your name. Please come even if you haven't knit for charity so you can enjoy our friendship and yummy treats. For more information about our charities and some sample patterns, visit our website: <http://www.windycityknittingguild.com/charity.htm>

## **Upcoming Programs:**

October 2005 - Machine Knitting - Bonne Marie Burns and Corrine Niessner

November 2005 - Holiday Party

December 2005 - Brown Bag Exchange: Return completed bags and totes

## **Show and Share Recorders 2005**

September - Lou Spedale

October—Linda Schmidt

November—No one

December—We need a volunteer

## **Refreshment Volunteers 2005**

September: Peggy Rauhut and Dorothy Zuckert

October: Bonnie Marie Burns, Corinne Niessner

November: Frances Temchin, Kate Agasie

December: Maureen Moran and Paula Shaffer

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Fayette Nichols who recently passed Level 1 in the Master Knitting program. Her name can be found in the latest issue of Cast On on page 57.



**September 20, 2005 Vol. 6 No. 9**

**Officers, 2005**

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The Windy City Knitting Guild meets the third Tuesday of each month, 6:45 to 8:45 P.M., at the Sulzer Regional Public Library, 4455 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, IL. The library is 1/2 block north of Montrose Ave. (4400 north), and is on the east side of the street. There is ample street parking in front of and behind the library.

Annual membership, which runs the calendar year, is \$20. This money helps us produce 12 newsletters each calendar year. With paid dues you will be mailed a newsletter before each meeting, and you will get discounted fees for our weekend workshops and classes. If you want to join, make your check out to Windy City Knitting Guild for \$20.00, and mail it to Membership Chairman, Rosemary Pieri, 4821 N. Leavitt, Chicago, 60625. Call 773-769-2362, if you have questions.

WCKG does not discriminate. All knitters, beginners to designers & teachers, are welcome at our meetings. As a prospective member, we encourage you to attend a few meetings: check us out, and then, if you like, join.

Newsletter submissions may be sent by Postal Service to The Windy City Knitting Guild Newsletter, c/o Cassie Day, 5461 S. Ridgewood Ct., Chicago, IL 60615. Please email submissions to cassied@ameritech.net

www.windycityknittingguild.com

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**WCKG Treasury report #7**

July 1—July 31, 2005

Beginning balance	\$4,984.90
Deposits for Month	\$2,275.00
Interest	<u>1.09</u>
	\$7,260.99

**Expenses**

Credit Card Expenses	\$12.50
Newsletter June and July	\$562.05
Latvin Workshop	\$110.19
Judy Chan Workshop	\$358.50
Fee for July Meeting	\$70.00
Returned check	\$75.00
Stitches Booth	\$100.00
Bag-totes, canvas	\$788.51
Myna Stalman Workshop	\$153.20
Illinois Dept. of Revenue	\$35.28
Donation, Univ. of Chicago	<u>\$50.00</u>
	\$2,315.23

Service Charge returned ck	<u>\$4.50</u>
	\$2,319.73

Ending Balance \$2,941.26

Judy Chan workshop	
Amount collected	\$525.00
Expenses	<u>\$358.50</u>
Profit	\$166.50

Balance in Bank Book 8/16/2005 \$5,341.38

Respectfully submitted August 16, 2005

Dorothy Zuckert, Treasurer

**Newsletter Deadline**

Submit your newsletter material for the next newsletter by September 20, 2005. Send material to Cassied@ameritech.net

## Community Calendar Knitting Events for 2005

### **Tuesdays (except Guild meeting nights) 7-9 p.m.**

Knit-Ins at Border's Cafe . WCKG members Borders book store, Lincoln Village Shopping Center, 6103 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, IL 60659, 773-267-4822. We meet in the Café

**2nd Tuesday of the Month:** 7 P.M., West Loop Knitters at West Gate Coffee house, Corner of Sangamon and Madison. 7-9 pm. Elizabeth@alumni.tufts.edu or 312-942-0648

**Mondays 6:30 p.m.** Southside S'nB Meeting at Third World Café (53rd & Kimbark). (link: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssnb/>)

**September 9-11** Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival  
Www: wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com

**September 30-Oct 2** WCKG Myrna Stahman Workshop

**October 3-5** Maureen Mason Jamieson class at Knitters Treat, Monticello, WI Contact: Ruth Knight Sybers, knitterstreat@wekz.net

**October 9**—Art to Wear Show, Crystal Lake Holiday Inn. Contact: Mary Telferholden at [Www.telfeur.com](http://www.telfeur.com)

**October 22**—Peg Rahut Cast On and Bind Off techniques (see below)

**November 6-13** SOAR (Spin-Off's Autumn Retreat)  
Location: Park City, Utah

**November 10-13** Fine Art of Fiber, contact Judy Chan (jachan60@aol.com)

### **Fine Art of Fiber –November 10-13th**

The Fine Art of Fiber is a great opportunity for those of you who have started doing your own designing. For those interested in selling their handcrafted items at this event, forms are due on or before September 20<sup>th</sup>. Please see the website for forms, or feel free to contact Laura Kochevar for further information at [parrita@aol.com](mailto:parrita@aol.com)

Do you have a knit piece that you are proud of and would like to see on display? Consider entering it in the exhibit at the Fine Art of Fiber. Entry forms are available on our website. Entries are due September 15<sup>th</sup> and need to include a photo of the entry.

Raffle tickets are available for the Fine Art of Fiber—prizes this year are two “Knitter’s Gift Baskets”, with items donated from area yarn shops. Tickets are \$1 apiece or 6 tickets for \$5. Please try to sell all the tickets before the Fine Art of Fiber so our guild will collect all the monies from the sale of raffle tickets. Contact Dorothy Zuckert at 773-878-4340 for more information.

### **Myrna Stahman Workshop (September 30 - October 2, 2005).**

There is still time to sign up to participate in the Myrna Stahman workshop to be held at the Evanston Ecology Center! This is a lace knitting workshop, which is appropriate for beginning - advanced lace knitters. We have lots of room in the Friday night lecture on Faroese shawls. We can accept three more students for the Saturday morning class on Seaman Scarves (a great introduction to lace knitting for beginners). The Saturday afternoon workshop on Faroese shawls is full. We can accept two more students for Sunday's all day workshop on Variations on Feather and Fan lace. The Sunday workshop is based on Myrna's new book, Variations, which will be released this fall. The registration form is on the Windy City Knitting Guild website: [www.windycityknittingguild.com](http://www.windycityknittingguild.com).

**Peggy Rauhut Workshop on Cast Ons and Bind Offs (October 22, 2005).** There is still time to sign up to participate in Peggy Rauhut's one-day workshop to be held at the Portage Park Arts Center! We have five spaces available for this class. It is appropriate for beginning to intermediate knitters. Come and learn some new ways to start and finish your pieces! The registration form is on the Windy City Knitting Guild website: [www.windycityknittingguild.com](http://www.windycityknittingguild.com).

**Future Workshops.** We have made plans for our weekend workshops for 2006. We will have Jean Moss (March 31 - April 2, 2006); Lucy Neatby (June 2 - 4, 2006); and Nicky Epstein (September 8 - 10, 2005). We are also planning to present several one-day workshops with local instructors. We would like to do a polymer clay class and a wet felting class during the winter 2006 months. The dates will be determined soon. Watch for those to be announced in a future newsletter. If you have questions or suggestions about future workshops, contact Jackie Zydeck (e:mail - [jzlpbc@aol.com](mailto:jzlpbc@aol.com) or phone: (773) 588-3156).

### **Beginning Knit Class**

Sharon McGee will be teaching a beginners knitting class on September 1st, 8th & 15th from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm at the Garfield Ridge Library at 6348 S Archer Ave (phone #312-747-6094)

### **The Coolest Tattoo**

Submitted by Laura Kochevar

Next time you see member Cherrl Harmon, ask to see her shoulder. She is sporting the coolest tattoo around—a ball of yarn with two crossed needles.

### **How to Incorporate Knitting into a Wedding**

Submitted by Jackie Zydeck. (keeping her maiden name)

I was married to Ted Phillips on July 23, 2005! We had a lovely wedding in Chicago in the Hyde Park neighborhood. I wanted to incorporate knitting into my wedding and I found two opportunities. First, I borrowed a beautiful Alpaca lace shawl that Cassie Day knit to wear for some of the photographs. We had a 90 degree day for the wedding, so I did not wear the shawl outside. But the reception hall was air-conditioned and we were able to take a series of photographs of me wearing the shawl there. I will send Cassie a photo to include in a future newsletter (I don't have the proofs back from the photographer yet). The second way that I incorporated knitting into the wedding, was to knit gifts for Ted's parents. I knit two pairs of Estonian mittens using the patterns in Nancy Bush's book, Folk Knitting in Estonia. I decided to do this because the tradition in Estonia was for the bride to knit mittens for all of the people who were important in the wedding preparations. Traditionally, the bride's mother-in-law received the most beautiful hand knit items because the bride would be living with her in-laws after the wedding. Even though Ted and I will not be moving in with Ted's parents, I thought that was a lovely tradition. I also purchased a shawl and a pair of mittens that had been knit in Estonia from Nancy Bush to give as gifts to my mother and father. I distributed these gifts at the rehearsal dinner and talked about Estonian knitting. Everyone enjoyed hearing about it and seeing the mittens with the braids and the shawl with nupp stitches. I understand that Laura Kochevar was actually knitting during the wedding reception - so that was a third way to incorporate knitting into the festivities (I had not planned).

### **On The Avenue New York Fashion Flash**

By Maureen Moran

With this column, correspondent Maureen Moran is back, by popular demand, with her knit-related fashion reports. This month On the Avenue comes to you, not from our own Mag Mile but from Fifth Avenue in hot and muggy New York City. Of course, despite the calendar, the windows are filled with fall fashions and what caught my eye on Rockefeller Plaza were several knitted belts fashioned of metallic and silky yarns used in combination. About two inches in width, the ends of these fashion accessories were knit in lowly garter stitch, alternating a few rows of metallic shine and a few rows of silky, speckled yarn in either a silver/black or copper/brown color scheme. The part of the belt circling the waist was worked in stockinette. An easy do-it-yourself project to give your wardrobe an instant Big Apple update. Find the yarn you were saving for one of those big needle fashion scarves and make it a belt instead.

### **Quilt Connection 2005 quilt show**

Where: Irving Park International Ministry Church, 3824 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago

When: Sept 30, 12:00-5:00 and Oct 1, 10:00-5:00

Admission: \$3.00

Refreshments, Spinning Demo, Door Prizes, Silent Auction, Quilt Raffle, Items for sale, Antique Quilt Bed Turning.

Questions? Contact Chris at 773-761-7497 or [cdeering@rcn.com](mailto:cdeering@rcn.com)

### **Afghans for Afghans**

[www.afghansforAfghans.org](http://www.afghansforAfghans.org) is a humanitarian and educational people-to-people project that sends hand-knit and crocheted blankets and garments to the people of Afghanistan. This is done in partnership with the San Francisco Office of the American Friends Service Committee and other service agencies.

### **Knitter's Graph Paper**

At the August meeting, Peg Rauhut spoke about "Design a Sweater". For those not at the meeting—order information is: "Design A Sweater" available from Fiber Fantasy Knitting Products, Ltd. Located at 4848 Butler Rd., Glyndon, Maryland 21071 Ph: 1-800-242-5648 or 1-410-517-1020

## **Confessions of a Hat Check Girl**

By Nina Savar

Now the word is out, I know I won't get the chance again. WCKG had a bag-check booth at Stitches Market. Shoppers contributed \$1 to check each bag. Those were the facts. But reality was different.

We had fun, talked about knitting, oodled over each others' purchases. I was one of the parade of volunteers who worked the WCKG booth at Stitches. Initially dreading the vendor scene, I was surprised at how much fun the experience became. I wasn't "selling" anything; instead I was providing a service that I, myself, would use. And every shopper who came by to use the service was grateful and happy to contribute. But that was only the beginning.

The vantage point from our booth gave me an overview of the entire market. Map in hand, I could plot exactly where to shop after my shift. As shoppers came to check their bags, they would stop and chat about what they saw, inquire about my knitting, or talk about their classes. WCKG members I rarely see at meetings stopped by to say hi and say how much they enjoy our guild, the newsletter, and the weekend programs we coordinate. Everyone was happy to contribute money to a worthy cause - a knitting guild.

We had inquiries from Chicagoland knitters who knit alone - now future guild members who will knit with friends. And we gave instructions to those who were lost. Best of all we showed a friendly face, a happy spot in the market.

I look forward to booth-sitting at Stitches next year. We will set up a ball-winding service - a great suggestion from a shopper. We can provide information to shoppers about local guilds, including ours. And we will provide a haven of relaxed happiness amidst great enjoyment. I hope there's an opening left for me!

## **Adventures of a Scientist Knitter**

By Elisabeth Montegna

*To: Apple Hollow Fiber Arts*

*Subject: Help!*

I was at your store this spring and purchased some Regia sock yarn. At that time, you gave me a free pattern for a pair of socks. I am right now at a conference and I forgot to bring the pattern with me! I've looked at your website and I can't find it. Can you send me the link?

I have a confession to make. I only go to seminars to knit. As a graduate student in cell biology at the University of Chicago, I'm expected to go to research seminars weekly. Usually, it's just a waste of time because I fall asleep. So, I started to bring a pair of socks to work on. It was like nirvana—not only was I not falling asleep, but somehow, I was miraculously able to pay better attention and even take notes. I believe this must be a divine message to continue.

Very rarely do people let you sit next to them with yarn and needles unnoticed. At seminars, my classmates (who are mostly used to my eccentricities) look at the knitting in amazement, wonder how you make the heel of a sock ("It's magic," I tell them), and will watch me knit instead of paying attention to the speaker. Faculty will look at me a bit strangely, some clearly look like they want to protest but aren't really sure how to go about it, while others will spend half the seminar telling me about their long-dead favorite aunt who knitted dishcloths by the dozen. I always wonder what the speakers think when they see me there, apparently engrossed in what they are saying while my needles click and I take notes. And, at one lab meeting, my advisor came in and said to me, "You know, they have machines that can do that now," in a half-amused, half-puzzled sort of way.

Right now, I'm at a scientific conference at Cold Spring Harbor Labs in New York—the conference I referred to in my email at the beginning of this article (that's a real email, by the way). I brought my knitting bag which contained one shawl that I have 1/6 of the way done, luxurious kid mohair that I got at Stitches (what an experience!) for a shawl that I have begun since the start of the conference (had to have something to do while I waited for the sock pattern, and besides, I couldn't resist the allure of that yarn any longer). Oh, and the yarn I used to make an iPod mini cozy on the plane and in the first evening session of talks. I still have almost three days worth of talks left—just imagine how much knitting I can get done in that time!

Surprisingly, nobody has commented on my knitting since I got here. Granted, I'm not overly conspicuous about it, but, in looking around, I am the only one with fuzzy coral-colored yarn wound around bamboo sticks. Perhaps people don't want to be rude. Or perhaps it's because I'm here with about 300 scientists and that's about the equivalent of saying I'm here with about 300 highly eccentric and awkward people who just ignore other people's eccentricities. Who knows? They had better be impressed when I finish my sock, that's all I've got to say.

## Meg Swanson's Knitting Camp, Marshfield, Wisconsin

Submitted by Cathy Garra

### *It's About Time. . .*

A friend had been telling me since the days it started out as Elizabeth Zimmerman's Knitting Camp that I should go to Wisconsin, to learn a lot and have fun. Life intervened, with work, volunteer commitments, family demands, and never enough vacation time. My interest was renewed when I made a new friend a few years ago, someone I spotted carrying a Knitting Camp tote at a non-knitting event. "It's you, Cathy. Go."

Gwen Weaver, also stressed out from life's commitments, vowed to come along. The plan was simple: just drive to Wisconsin, be well cared for, and become over-stimulated by knitting. So, we put our applications in at the Post Office the first thing on the appointed day and later got the good news. We're going to Camp! Could we just leave weeks early—like running away to join the circus? Show up on the Schoolhouse Press (Meg Swanson's knitting business) doorstep and offer to count yarn for Meg until camp begins? We had to calm our fantasies and wait until after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

### *Cathy and Gwen Go To Camp. . .*

Our first-timers session was the first ever at a new Camp venue—a brand new hotel in Marshfield, aiming to please. The sign on the hotel schedule board was innocent enough, "Schoolhouse Press." But this did not exactly look like a bunch of school librarians at a professional meeting. For one thing, the lumps in our tote bags were a different shape. It was knitters, more than 60 of us from coast to coast. Gwen and I arrived a bit late for the start of dinner on Thursday, due to the need to make an emergency yarn stop in Madison for doing homework on the road and two visits to Culvers Frozen Custard stands. Not only were we swept into the buffet line of other friendly campers, but into the welcoming care of Camp staff—Christie the organizer, Eleanor, Amy and Joyce.

After dinner, we proceeded to the huge classroom for orientation, receiving our Camp duffle bag and pattern notebook. There was also the Schoolhouse Press shopping area from which we could buy missing knitting needles or make orders for next-day delivery, thanks to Eleanor and her crew. Best of all was seeing the live knitted items from many of the books and pamphlets. We could admire, peek inside to see their construction and try them on. At orientation we were told to remember that we are now at Camp, to enjoy ourselves, and that we could do as much or as little as we wanted of the activities.

The organized format had morning classes with Meg Swanson demonstrating a huge variety of topics and techniques, with space for questions. A well-perfected video system projected her hands and the knitting onto big TV monitors throughout the classroom, so it was easy to see and understand. We could knit along on practice pieces. After lunch for the group we came back for show-and-tell, with lots of shared questions and more help from Meg and her assistant instructors Amy and Joyce until mid-afternoon. This became a more important focus as the days progressed. After free time (for more knitting) and dinner on our own with impromptu groups of campers, there was an optional evening session with technical help available from Joyce and Amy until late. Knitters took over the couch, chairs and coffee table in the conference area lobby, turning it into a giant living room with snacks and projects, and eased out onto the patio for talking and knitting. It was a great to practice what we learned in class, work on our skill building mini projects or get help and clarification from two well-versed and talented knitters. Gwen found that Amy is also a tight knitter and learned a lot from that. Joyce helped me accommodate some botched short rows in my practice piece.

Although Marshfield is the home of a major medical facility, nothing went wrong that the mid-day Camp Masseur could not handle. She said that knitters tended to tense up in a characteristic way and she certainly knew how to work out those kinks. Various goodie bags and boxes arrived during the session from the chamber of commerce, being in the land of cheese and just north of cranberry country, and we got a coupon for one free breakfast at the Kitchen Table, Meg's sister's restaurant on a downtown side street. We decided to go the first morning and sat next to the big table full of local guys having coffee. Breakfast was fabulous, so we were back early every morning the restaurant was open. Each day at Camp there were door prizes from knitting and publishing companies, with lots of good stuff. Local fiber vendors arrived Saturday afternoon and some campers had wares to sell. We all kept adding to the Schoolhouse Press order book as we gained more exposure to the yarns, patterns and books.

### *So, What Did We Learn?*

Campers ranged in skill from newer knitters just getting beyond scarves, to shop owners, with most of us somewhere in between. We all learned and were a friendly and lively bunch. Some were repeating this first session, because it's hard to absorb everything at once. We had been offered the option of doing a mini sweater project in advance. Gwen did her first steeked (a garment knit in tubes and cut open in designated stabilized zones) Norwegian-style sweater and I did an Elizabeth Zimmerman Percentage System (EPS) spiral yolk sweater. EPS is based on one's personal knitting gauge, a couple of body measurements, and some classic knitting ratios. Once we arrived at Camp, we had a choice of overview directions for other

small projects to try out techniques new to us. I started an entrelac hat worked from wheels of unspun Icelandic yarn, in order to try working with that wool, doing entrelac for the first time and to learn knitting backwards. Gwen opted to start a mini Baby Surprise jacket, a tour de force of knitting mystery, worked in garter stitch. Other campers worked on 2-color hats or mittens and more. It was wonderful being in a place where it was never “rude” to knit while the speaker is presenting.

One of the best things about Camp was Meg’s attitude and approach to stretching our knitting horizons. “There is no wrong in knitting.” “Wait a day before ripping out and see if there’s another way to doing it.” “What do you want to achieve and how to you get there?” As one of the masters of the knitting world, Meg followed through with an amazing array of techniques and tips, some of which I had encountered earlier, some of which I could absorb, and some of which I want to go back to in the future. Meg has complete enthusiasm for her craft and was always curious about how to do things better. She was also free to admit what she didn’t know, “I’ve never knit with ribbon—does anyone else know the answer to this question?” She glowed like a proud grandma to see Schoolhouse Press projects or patterns made up especially if they were interpreted in new ways. Meg promoted doing what works for you in knitting, avoiding “right way” knitting bullies, always observing your work in progress by reading your knitting as well as your pattern, thinking ahead, and fixing any problems in ways that enable you to move forward without waste or regret.

The technical content of this first Camp session was mind expanding. It does represent a certain school of knitting founded by Elizabeth Zimmerman, Meg Swanson’s mother—wool, circular seamless knitting, “thinking knitter’s” classic patterns, etc. Yet it is very encouraging and very liberating, no matter what your degree of experience or area of knitting enthusiasm. I was observed to gasp with excitement at realizing new potential in using steeks in color knitting, such as in creating a V neck or bulk-reducing approaches, with less darning of ends. The “purl when you can” approach to ribbing was a whole new horizon for me in borderless color knitting. Many knitters cut open their first-ever steeks, and survived. Gwen was relieved when a full-sized EPS sweater she had been working on was pronounced “just right” by Meg. Every knitter left with new tips for better fit and for understanding the dynamics of one’s own personal knitting gauge and how your work in progress can become the ultimate swatch for plotting subsequent portions of a sweater. We learned: cool formulas for increasing evenly in a round and placing buttonholes with precision; shaping with sneaked in short rows; five approaches to decreasing in raglan sleeves; tips on picking up stitches; lace shawl shapes; hems; color trapping and two-color knitting techniques. There was much more, including the potentially subversive concept that I-cord (narrow knitted binding) can be considered the duct tape of knitting.

### *Thoughts on the Trip Home*

Leaving Camp Monday afternoon was not easy. We had our heads full and were all more confident as knitters. Yet the great intensity of such a concentrated experience as Knitting Camp would have made it hard to continue at that pace for much longer. Gwen and I eased our transition with a mid-afternoon lunch stop at Ella’s Deli on the east side of Madison, home of big sandwiches, serious ice cream and rides on the vintage carousel.

On the highway I was re-planning several projects in my knitting backlog to incorporate some of the things I learned. I could start a “Box-the-Compass” variation of the EPS pullover out of some fancy wool in my stash. My husband’s striped vest-to-be would be a great sampler for applying some of Meg’s techniques. Gwen talked about doing the Baby Surprise jacket for a forthcoming gift and the adult surprise jacket for her. Of course, we also had some new books and projects in our Camp duffle bags.

How to explain Knitting Camp to others? Response from the knowledgeable is “wow!” From others, “there’s that much to learn about knitting?” Gwen took to explaining it as “Meg’s mother was sort of the Julia Child of knitting.” That interpretation seems to help a lot with the outside world.

We both realized the depth and quality we have in the Windy City Knitting Guild at our meetings, workshops and field trips. At Knitting Camp, though, we both had the dual luxuries of having more time and less responsibility in order to absorb and practice knitting. The drawback of classes near home or the “shop-till-you-drop” competing element to classes at Stitches is not having the focus and lack of competing distractions that Camp provided.

Potential future campers can find out more about Knitting Camp at the Schoolhouse Press web site, at [www.schoolhousepress.com](http://www.schoolhousepress.com). You can ask to be put on the mailing list for Knitting Camp information. All knitters must take the first-timers session before the others. You don’t have to be a “good knitter” to come, but I would suggest that it will be a better experience if you’ve attempted projects beyond scarves and ponchos, preferably a sweater. The pace of Camp is pretty fast and you need a certain sense of adventure to accommodate that. In all, you will certainly get to be a much better knitter by attending.

## September 2005 Charity Program, hosted by Nina Savar and Paula Shaffer

Reminder: September 20th our guild program will highlight the charity knitting so many of us do regularly. This year we have selected six charities and/or causes to knit for. September Show and Share will focus on our contributions. We'll provide hang tags so you can record the fiber content of your gift and sign your name, if you wish. We will collect all donated items and deliver them to their respective destinations. If you wish to mail your contributions, please mail them to:

Nina Savar, 910 W. Van Buren #116, Chicago, IL 60607

Visit our website for more information and patterns. <http://www.windycityknittingguild.com/charity.htm>

This year, our charities are:

**The Santa Train** - knitted hats, scarves, and mittens for families in Appalachia

<http://www.kingsportchamber.org/portal/santatrain.htm>

**Graceful Stitches** - baby items such as blankets, hats and booties; American Doll sweaters, hats and scarves; funds support cancer research

<http://www.gracefulstitches.org>

**Hugs for Homeless Animals - Snuggle Project** - security blankets for shelter animals kept in stainless steel cages or on concrete floors - acrylic or cotton yarn; sturdy stitches.

14" x 14" for cats and small animals

24" x 24" for cats and small to medium dogs

36" x 36" for medium to large dogs

<http://www.h4ha.org/>

**Guideposts Knit for Kids** sweater program - knitted sweaters for children in need all over the world including Russia, Burundi, Guatemala, Mexico, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Turkey, and Kosovo

<http://www.dailyguideposts.com/sweater/>

<http://www.bygpub.com/books/tg2rw/sweater.htm>

**Preemie garments for Evanston Hospital and University of Illinois Hospital at Chicago (UIC)** - preemie hats, preemie blankets (lightweight and no larger than 12"X12")

**Adopt-A-Native-Elder Program** – knitted items (stocking caps for adults and children, neck scarves, and lap blankets) of wool or synthetic yarns. This supports traditional Dine (Navajo) Elders live on the Land in the ways of The People, as they have for thousands of years. <http://www.anelder.org/adopting.htm>

### Book Review

By Cathy Garra

The Knitter's Handbook, Rick Mondragon and Elaine Rowley, eds.

XXR Books, 2005 \$19.95

This is a compendium of the "how to" sections from the back of Knitters magazine and books in one sturdy, knitting bag-friendly volume. Topics are arranged alphabetically, so decreases and increases are not next to each other, but show up in "D" and "I." However, you will find 12 decrease and 9 increase methods to study, as well as the elusive formula for making them come out even across the row. How about 6 approaches to buttonholes and helpful tips on installing a zipper in knit wear? Then there are lots of cast-ons, crochet basics, grafts and seams, plus shaping, color, circular knitting, the basics of chart reading. Of course there are also "standard" chest size measurements, starting at a child's size 2, some knitting tips and the interpretation of the mysterious international fabric care symbols.

There is a lot here to help you knit on, as a reference book to look up a term or approach. If you need to look up something mysterious from a pattern, like how to edge your sweater in backward single crochet (aka the Crab Stitch) or what a tubular bind off might be, chances are it's in here. The book is less helpful or often silent on the pros and cons or detailed applications for, say, the 8 approaches shown for binding off. This is its biggest disappointment for me. Fortunately, there are pages specifically for notes for you to add these insights from other sources.

The illustrations are very clear, with sketches and photos, although this is *not* a learn how to knit from the beginning book or a detailed treatise on finishing. If you've knit at least 2 items, or many more, have a look at it to see if this book is destined for your reference shelf.

### **Show and Share for August meeting:**

Submitted by Rosemary Pieri

As is usual, we had a variety of projects. We started with a beaded sampler purse in Blue and Green with yarn by Debbie Bliss and designs by MYS done by Karen Reed.

Beads theme is picked up by Caitlin Cortes who did a lovely lavender shell for herself with beaded trim on the neckline done in Sirdar Denim Chunky.

Nancy Gardner came with not one but two toddler initial cable sweaters with button shoulders. Pattern from Debbie Bliss and yarn by Jaeger Merino Aran.

Cathy Garra completed Pi Are Squared shawl from Elizabeth Zimmerman. The lovely yarn was picked up at last years swap. Cherry Tree Hill Mohair in pinks and blues.

Gwen Weaver shows she swatches. A baby sweater in red and grey is in reality the sample for an adult sweater from Elizabeth Zimmerman called EZ baby surprise.

Worna Haywood showed a lovely scarf from the Nancy Weisman book using Lorna's Laces sockweight yarn. Also, felted slippers and hat in Lamb's Pride.

Sharon McGee showed her vest which she won a prize for at Stitches. She used curly gift wrap ribbon in silver / gold and black to create a reversible vest.

Nicole Galvan showed off her Lucy bag in orange Naturespun worsted. and the poncho in Koigu in medley of greens.

Peggy Rauhut brought the sleeve which she worked on in her class with Jean Frost. She demonstrated how quilting techniques were used to attach the lining.

Laura Kochevar brought a darling little girl's white sweater with intarsia flower and ruffled edge. She will be giving it away and wanted to show it off before it goes.

Tina Stevens completed ( yes completed) a lovely Estonian shawl yarn and pattern from Nancy' s company. Done in less than 4 months.

Finally, Mike McClory only came with four finished projects. Oven mitt felted using Tahki Yarn, pair of socks ( not just one) Cabled socks done in Plymouth Encore Chunky. Bath ensemble of washcloth, bath mitt, and soap pouch done in Hemp- All-hemp6. The project that shows that Mike needs to develop an understanding of building a stash was a scarf. He completed a purple scarf done in Malabrigo from Uruguay which he had purchased at Stitches the previous weekend. Mike needs to understand the proper ageing of stash. The yarn needs to sit around your home for months, for some years.( in my house decades).

### **Be a White Sox designated knitter -- join us for White Sox Stitch & Pitch night!**

Submitted by Judy Chan

On Tuesday, September 20, 2005, the White Sox are offering specially priced tickets to all knitters and their family and friends. Bring your projects and meet other crafty Chicagoans while cheering on the Chicago White Sox against the Cleveland Indians. Tickets for seats in the special Stitch & Pitch section are being offered at half price, just \$12! To order tickets, download and print the ticket order form (.pdf) and mail or fax it in with payment. The form is available at: <http://www.stitchnbitch.org/sox.pdf> Tickets may also be purchased online (a \$4 per ticket service fee will apply to all online orders). To order online, go to <http://www.whitesox.com>, click on "Schedule" and then on "T" in the September 20 box. On the order page, type SNP in the promotion code box. All orders must be received by Tuesday, September 6 with full payment. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and seats are limited - order yours today! Don't miss out on your chance to combine two great American pastimes: baseball and knitting. Go Sox!

*Address Correction Requested*

First Class Mail

Windy City Knitting Guild  
Rosemary Pieri  
4821 N. Leavitt  
Chicago, IL 60625

## SHOPing NEWS

### Art to Wear Show

Looking for something with a style, panache and originality? Want to kick off your holiday shopping and contribute to a great cause? McHenry County artists Mary Telfer Holden and Patricia Lynn Eagle have partnered to produce their first Art to Wear show and sale, to be held on Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Holiday Inn - Acorn Room, 800 S. Route 31, Crystal Lake, IL. Each artist will donate a portion of their proceeds to Pets in Need, a local no kill shelter. You'll be supporting local area artists and the homeless pets at Pets In Need while obtaining some very beautiful and unique gifts for those on your shopping list (or perhaps for yourself). Among the many items available for purchase will be original, wearable art, including sterling silver jewelry, beaded jewelry, hand painted silk scarves, fiber scarves, hats, blankets, original note cards, hand made soaps, and more. **We want to promote "Art to Wear" artists in our community, and our only criteria are originality, quality and a sense of adventure". Interested artists may contact [holden.mary@att.net](mailto:holden.mary@att.net) or 815-715-1527.**

### Montoya Fiber Studio

As of September, Montoya Fiber Studio will be open until 7:30 pm on Thursdays. First Thursdays of the month will be open knitting nights—bring your projects and knit with friends. Starting in October, the store will be open on Sundays, from 12:00 to 4:00.

### Knitter's Niche

(3206 N. Southport, 773/472-9276) is collecting handmade items to donate to Avon's Walk for a Cure auction. Items can be whatever people want to make, in whatever color they want to use. Most common is pink scarves, but this is not a requirement. The items are used in their big fundraising auction. Our plan is to display the items in the window during the month of October and then turn them over to the Avon people. The first 20 donors will receive a little Avon Walk for a Cure teddy bear as a thank you gift. Everyone else receives our gratitude for your generosity. Thank you, Lauren Sanchez

### Midwest Discount Yarns

5723 W Irving Park Rd. 773-481-7944. Owner: Lynette. Midwest has been in business for over 30 years. Open Mon-Sat from 9:30—4:30. New fall yarns on cones have arrived. The rayon, wool-metallic blends make great textures. Ask for the 20% discount on cone yarns. Cash or checks only, no credit cards.