

WINDY CITY KNITTING GUILD



March Forth!

You're loud, you're noisy, a blustery old chap!
You whistle, you moan, you tear at my cap!
You blow, you scowl, but March, you are fair
Part lion, part lamb... Now Spring's in the air.

MARCH ISSUE 2021

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Members are always
invited to our
MONTHLY

2nd Tuesday

ZOOM MEETINGS

Upcoming Meeting:

March 9th, at 7:00pm
a zoom meeting link will
be sent to our member list
three days prior

GUILD NEWS

Windy City Knitting Guild members met on-line on Tuesday, February 9th for the regular monthly meeting... but it was anything BUT a REGULAR evening! We all got to travel to New Zealand, Afghanistan, Alaska and the high Himalayan Mountains of India with our guest lecturer Linda Cortright.

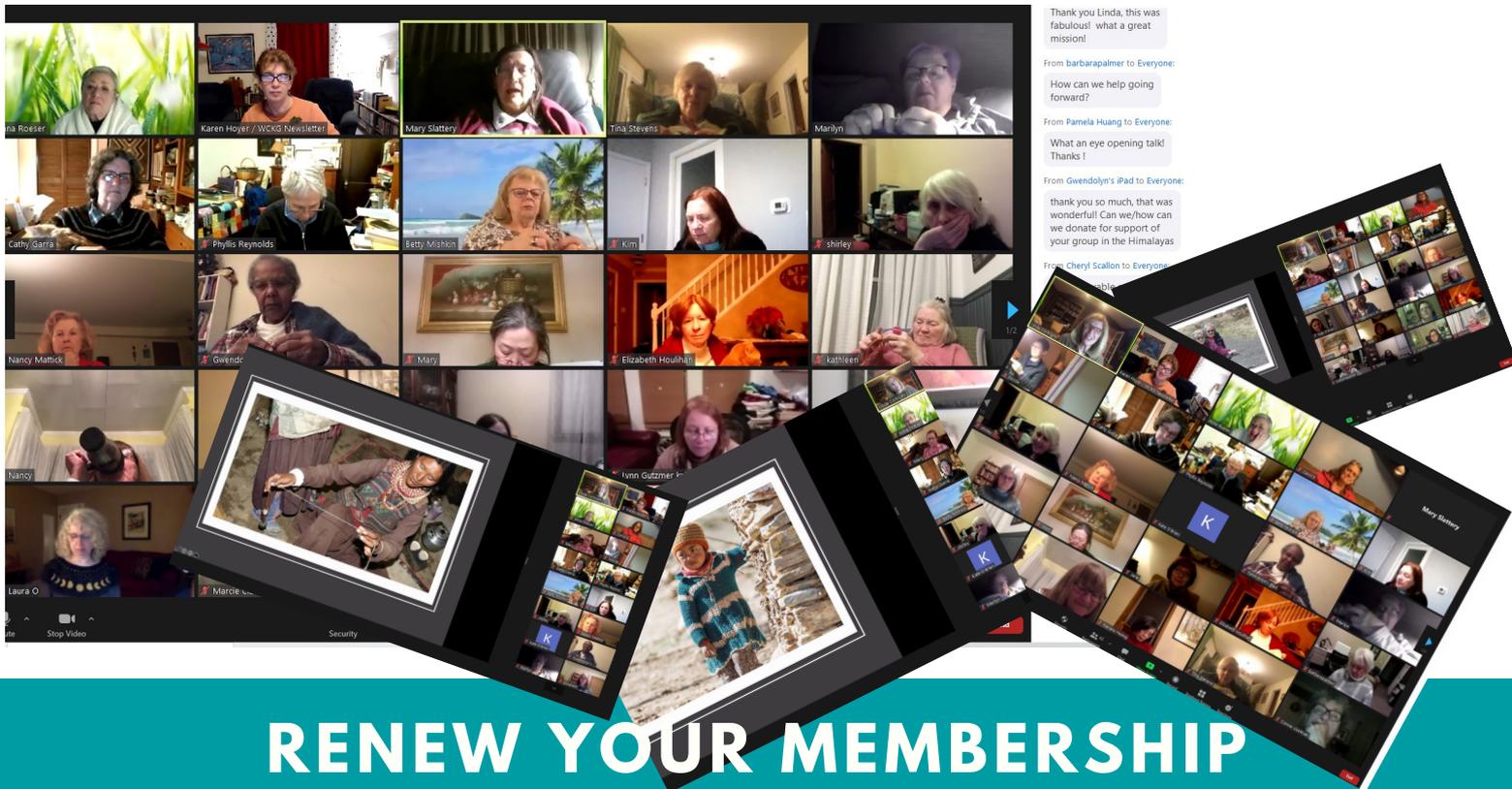
Based on the comments in the chat, everyone enjoyed hearing about her interest in natural fibers which have taken her on adventures all around the world. Her stories about the people she's met and the projects she has initiated were accompanied by really beautiful photographs. Bravo for a great presentation and thank you to our WCKG Board of Directors and our history of paid memberships which funded this talk.

We will enjoy knitting and chatting again at our meeting on March 9th and we hope you can join us. If you've recently taken a class or learned a technique or finished / started a project, we look forward to hearing about it!

PS. The poem "March" on the front page came from the website [Grade Onederful](#) and yes, I know that spring is not REALLY in the air in Chicago until maybe May? but all the same March brings out "the Irish" in all of us with St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Chicago so I hope you enjoy the Wearing of the Green page!

Karen H.

"Linda's lecture was just wonderful and I think, a big pick-me-up for all." - Cathy G.



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

We are reaching out to members new and old to rebuild our numbers. We have a great year ahead and hope you will join us!

Click below to renew your WCKG membership online. There is no charge throughout 2021. Will you please help us spread the news?!?

[FREE MEMBERSHIP IN 2021](#)

BOOK REVIEW:

K-N-I-T H-O-W

Meghan Fernandes and Lydia Gluck

Pom Pom Press, 2018 19.50 pounds; \$27.00 at LYS

I was pulling together a learn-to-knit care package at my Local Yarn Shop for a friend who has moved out of state. When I asked for a good “learn to knit” book, they brought out this one, which has a more hip tone and appearance than the classic beginner’s book. It has lots of pictures and explanations for knitting in today’s times.

It starts knitters off on the right foot with gauge and blocking tips, as well as stitch formation, and it explains all the ways that yarns are wound and packaged and what to do about starting them. After the practice swatches there are a series of ten worthwhile projects, laid out for skill building. They are all worked in quality yarns, ranging in weight from DK to chunky. Starting with fingerless mitts and cowls, it goes to a stocking cap in the round then a cabled scarf, more mitts and mittens, simple lace, several sweaters in 7-9 sizes, and socks. Fixing mistakes, care of knitwear, yarn substitutions and weights, knitting slang (a couple of terms were new to me although I’ve been encountering the phenomenon of “yarn barf” for decades. . .) and thoughts on the knitting community, round things up. Although this comes from a British publication, it is also well-explained in American terms. Just remember that a “jumper” is our pullover.

This is promising for adult learners, female or male. My copy comes from Close Knit in Evanston. Cathy G.



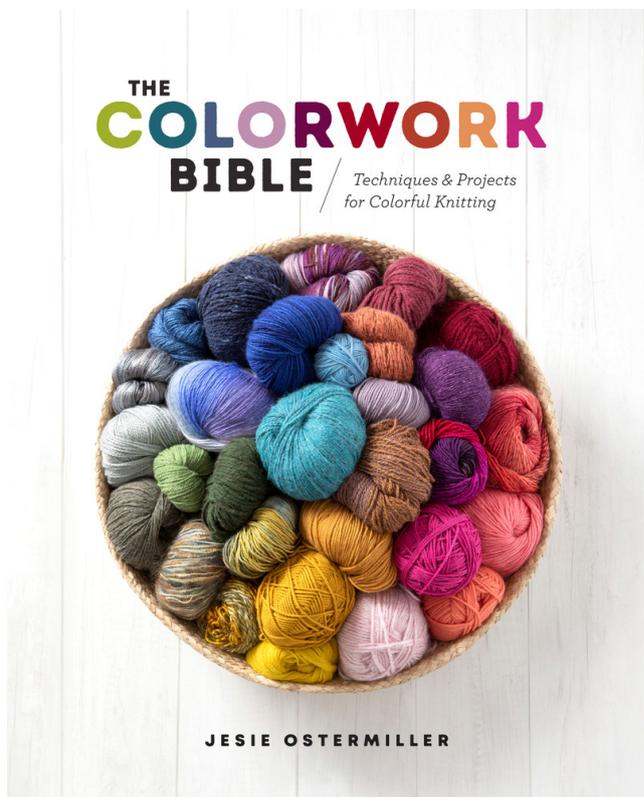
BOOK REVIEW:

The Colorwork Bible

Jessie Ostermiller

Interweave, 2020 \$27.99

Colorwork is an attractive and engaging part of knitting, where various techniques are used to work with two or more strands of differently-colored yarns. This book is a useful and manageable guide to getting started in identifying and working the techniques and in choosing yarns to work a successful project and reduce disappointment.



The book starts with color theory—the color wheel and its allies and color terminology. There are many helpful tips for selecting colors for a project. This leads the way to choosing yarns including the attractive but sometimes tricky-to-use multicolored yarns.

Color knitting techniques are not interchangeable; each has its own use. Techniques in the book include stripes, stranded/Fair Isle, slip stitch and mosaic, intarsia/picture, double knitting, and brioche. Each technique chapter has a great technical discussion and a mini-sampler to try it out. Lots of clear photos and drawings are provided to help you out. At the end of the book are 12 fashion patterns for worthwhile knitting, ranging from accessories to a vest and several sweaters. If the technique is really new to you, it would probably be best to try, say, a hat rather than a sweater for your first project.

Part of taking knitting classes and doing swatches/exercises is to figure out what you enjoy and what you don't enjoy, at least at this stage of your knitting journey. You may come across a pattern in a magazine that you love, but realize you don't care much for working the technique. Or see a project that appears to be complex colorwork, but is actually easier to make than it appears at first glance. Or there may be something that you just love so much that you are willing to pay attention and use that technique to produce it. Or, it might be possible to omit the technical tricky bit in the pattern and still have a nice project.

Stripes are always popular in knitting and this discussion will make yours look polished. Stranded knitting is the workhorse of much traditional knitting from Norway, Shetland, and other regions, and much is being published today, from research on traditions and from modern interpretations. You will learn much on some ways of constructing it and produce an attractive piece. (To go further in this area, hunt up the Schoolhouse Press Book, *Knitting in Two Colors* by Meg Swansen and Amy Detjen, previously reviewed.) Slip stitch and Mosaic are clever color techniques seen less often, that produce a nice effect. They are part of the knitting knowledge brought to us by Barbara G. Walker. Intarsia produces bold graphic results, but is fussier to work. Kaffe Fassett's wonderful designs come to mind, as well as many cute kid's items. Double knitting and Brioche knitting each produce a very unique fabric, through the use of color and/or texture. Recent books and patterns have featured these techniques.

Knitting is always very personal and nowhere more than in color knitting—which techniques you can enjoy and use to produce unique and attractive items. Others may not suit you. There is always something more to learn about our craft. Find some quiet time while we are all stuck indoors to try out these samplers and maybe embark on a new project to put colorwork to good use. Cathy G.

BOOK REVIEW:

By Hand Lookbook No. 14: Hudson Valley

2020 \$25.00



By Hand comes out three times a year, highlighting “making communities” in different regions. This one focuses on the Hudson Valley, north of New York City, and the home of the Dutchess County Sheep and Wool Festival in October in Rhinebeck, NY.

This is about what happens the rest of the year near Rhinebeck, at least in past days. It makes for a pleasant armchair journey to old towns with cozy shops, restaurants and farmers markets. The area is also home to a number of independent clothiers and hand dyers of fine yarns. The book has evocative photographs and a text that leaves the reader wanting to know more. It also has several high quality knitting, sewing and needlework projects. And a recipe for a fancy peach cocktail, that I’m sure would be equally intriguing with a Michigan redhaven peach from one of our local farmers markets next summer. An advantage for today’s armchair travelers is that sometimes shopping can still occur through the company websites, and several are listed for hand dyed yarns and local establishments.

Order directly or from a source such as The Woolly Thistle.

Cathy G.

KNITTING NEWS

Earlier this month we received an email from Barbara at Yarnify about an interesting project:

Knitting Democracy Together

"It's an initiative focused on knitting and voter education (great combo, right?)," she wrote, "developed by my law school classmate, Eve Jacobs-Carnahan, whose retirement from law has allowed her to pursue a passion for art using fiber, found objects, etc. Participants would attend knitting circles, facilitated by Eve, to discuss topics such as campaign finance, the electoral system, and effective responses to disinformation. And if they wish, they could knit (or perhaps crochet) squares that would be assembled into a fiber sculpture of the Illinois State Capitol."

Sounds amazing right? I went to Eve's website [Knit Democracy Together](#) to read more:

"Like the historic sewing circles where abolitionists and suffragists discussed the issues of the day, we'll gather to make building blocks of a sculpture of a state capitol while we talk about democracy. The topics all focus on our electoral system: voting, drawing district lines, financing elections. You'll learn best practices for responding to misinformation about elections too!"

You can sign up for upcoming virtual knitting circles:

March 19 in Bennington, VT
7-8:00pm ET

or

May 19 in Rochester, NY
6-7:00pm ET

No need to travel since they are both zoom meetings...

On the other hand, perhaps this is a project we can all join and create a Chicago, IL knitting

circle and start knitting a version of our state capitol in Springfield! Eve has facilitated several of the knitting circles now and many people are sending in knitted squares as her "State Capitol" sculpture begins to take shape. The goals of the project are educational, not political -- working towards a better informed public.



Background information, project updates, Knitting Circle sign ups, resources, instructions for knitting the squares, photos of the sculpture in progress, info on the artist Eve Jacobs-Carnahan -- all the information you need is here:

[Knit Democracy Together Website](#)

GO GREEN!



Make something **GREEN** for St. Patrick's Day!



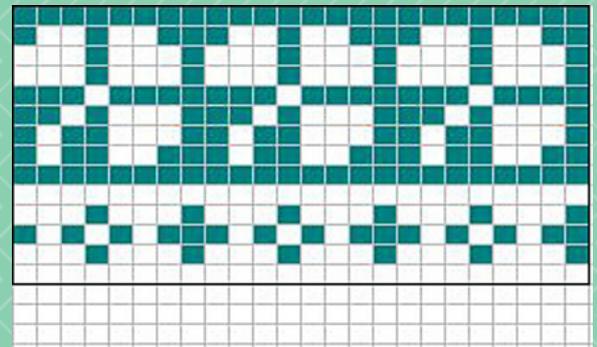
Clover Dress



Kiss Me Hat



Green Beret



Shamrock Chart



Shamrock



Cocktail Coasters



Shamrock Mosaic Square



Porch Pillow



Potted Shamrock



Wine Glass Lanyard!

SHOW AND SHARE



Tina S: First is the [Cruise Shawl](#) from Skeino.com (but without the yos as I thought they were too much) using Hayfield Spirit which is 80% acrylic and 20% wool. The other shawl is from Patons 100% merino. And finally --another Circumnavigated (in need of buttons) made of a WEBS yarn.



WOW!

Another Circumnavigated!



Karen H: I made a Stripecy Kids Sweater for Wool Aid using a free Ravelry Pattern called [Family Knit](#) but using helix striping technique. It's an "in the round yoke from the bottom up" and joining the sleeves and the body to start the yoke was a bit of a challenge. I'm going back to top down construction!

SHOW AND SHARE

Send in your project photos anytime to be featured on these pages!
wckgnewsletter@gmail.com



Laura O. has been busy! The first photo is [Buffy the Cold Weather Slayer](#), a cowl that transforms into a hat -- in Urth Kashmir Mono from Sister-Arts. Next is a hat called [Thermal Dynamics](#) in Malabrigo Rasta. Guess who designed these? Hint - her initials are L.O.

Below are two sweaters -- the first is [Painting Bricks Sweater](#) adapted for fingering using Oink Pigments Targhee Pigtails for the colorwork and the green one is from a pattern called [Just like Jean Luc](#) in Malabrigo Rios (free pattern!)

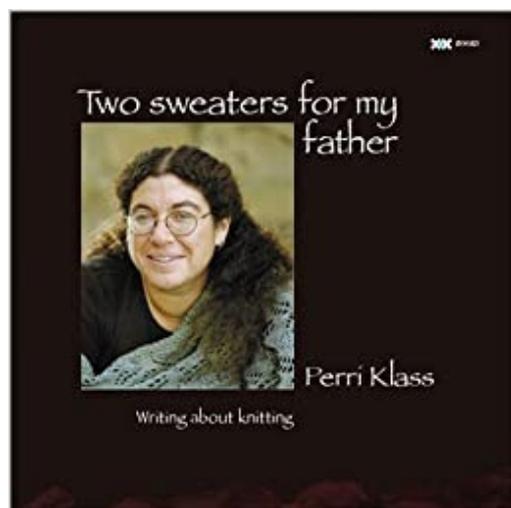


READING ALONG

THE PANDEMIC KNITTING WAY

It's been a good time to enjoy some eclectic reading, with interesting connections to knitting, even when in passing.

Many of us loved Perri Klass's *Two Sweaters for My Father* (previously reviewed in 2004 when it was published) a most tender memoir about knitting for someone she loved. A Local Yarn Shop in Chicago was part of her book tour. Years have passed and now her writing focuses on her medical profession of pediatrics, with several books and a regular column in the New York Times. Her most recent book is *A Good Time to Be Born, How Science and Public Health Gave Children a Future*.



It is an engaging story about the advancement of child health and decrease in mortality. For me, it goes full circle. The father I knitted for practiced pediatrics for over 50 years. He taught pediatric contagion to medical students before I was born and witnessed many of these advances.

Eleanor by David Michaelis is an excellent new biography of Eleanor Roosevelt. One of its points is how children and adults of even elite families used to succumb to contagious diseases. On the knitting side, Eleanor Roosevelt headed up the Knitting Service of the Navy Red Cross during WWI, whose knitters produced nearly 9,000 articles for distribution. Eleanor Roosevelt was often depicted with her needles and yarn throughout her notable adult life.

Read on, knit on.
Cathy G.



SHOP NEWS



knit 1

3856 N. Lincoln Ave. Chicago, IL 60613 • knit1chgo.com • 773-244-1646

One Day Workshops! \$20
Pick a topic and take a one day workshop to learn a new skill.

Two at a time cuff down one day workshop -
Wednesday March 10th 6:30-8pm

Two at a time toe up one day workshop -
Tuesday March 16th 6:30-8pm

More info on this one day workshop -- click [HERE](#) or go to the [Knit 1 Website](#)



WHAT'S THE WORD?

NEWS FROM CHICAGO'S INDIE FIBER FAIR

Wondering about YARN CON, our favorite sign of spring in Chicago? Well, it seems that it'll be virtual again this year with the dates of April 10-11, 2021 posted on their [website](#), though other info has not been updated.

So far, they have reached out to vendors with the following information -- if you are interested the application link is [HERE](#)



“ Each vendor will have their own online booth and be able to post images, videos, and links where shoppers can make purchases. Vendors will also have the option to schedule live online time to chat with customers via Zoom (YarnCon will provide this access). We're excited to offer this virtual opportunity to everyone. If you've always wanted to vend at YarnCon but haven't been able to travel to Chicago, this is your year! And if you've never been part of an online show before, you're not alone! We'll walk you through it.





WCKG Charity Projects Info

We are concentrating our efforts on four of our charity knitting projects. Specific details about the charities are on the WCKG Website including links to all of their websites. Here is the basic info on "The Four Charities" plus who to contact for item drop offs and deadlines. Check our [website](#) for updates.

The Night Ministry: knitted items for adults and children, no fiber restrictions, on-going pick ups throughout the year. To arrange a drop off please contact: Anna R at amroeser0598@att.net

Wool-Aid: knitted items for children, must be 100% wool. Arrange for a drop off for future mailings. Contact: Karen H. at wckgnewsletter@gmail.com

And now, a request: **Do you have wool in your stash?** donations are welcome. "I've been making striped sweaters out of donated bits & bobs, 100% wool only! I'd love your leftovers! Help me make more sweaters for children!"

Seaman's Institute: hats and scarves for men, dark colors, wool and wool blends. To arrange drop off please contact: Tina S. at knitters@sbcglobal.net and please put "Christmas at Sea" in the subject line of your email.

The Snuggles Project: blankets for cats and dogs at Chicago animal shelters, washable yarn preferred. More details about how to drop off items at animal shelters in your area is available on the WCKG website.

ABOUT OUR GUILD

Windy City Knitting Guild is an educational and social club. The purpose of this organization shall be to promote interest and skill in knitting, while encouraging high standards of quality workmanship.

The Windy City Knitting Guild has monthly meetings via ZOOM usually on the second or third Tuesday of the month beginning at 7:00pm. Members receive an email link with info on when and how to join the on-line meeting.

In person meetings are suspended until group gatherings are approved by state and city government and the park district buildings open up to groups.

Please check our [website](#) for any changes in date or time. You can also find updates on [Ravelry](#) and [Facebook](#). We will notify you by email when meetings will resume.

WCKG is a 501(c)(7) organization. We do not discriminate. All knitters, from beginners to designers and teachers, are welcome at our meetings. As a prospective member, we encourage you to attend a few meetings. Check us out and, if you like, join. For questions about or issues with receiving the newsletter, please contact the Newsletter Editor at wckgnewsletter@gmail.com

Annual membership for 2021 is FREE but you must sign up via the website's link:

[CLICK HERE FOR FREE MEMBERSHIP SIGN UP](#)

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The Last Word



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