



WINDY CITY KNITTING GUILD

APRIL ISSUE 2021

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Upcoming Meetings

via Zoom:

April 13th, 7pmCDT
(second Tuesday)

May 4th, 7pmCDT
(first Tuesday for a
special event!)

a zoom meeting link will
be sent to our members
prior to the meeting

A Hint of Spring



It will be a while before the trees start budding here in the Windy City so....
why not create a few of these lovely blossoms:
[Knitted Dogwood Blossoms](#) or [Dogwood Flower](#). *

*Hint: Anything in BRIGHT PINK is a LINK!
Welcome! And please enjoy some news and reviews and articles from WCKG!

GUILD NEWS

April 13th WCKG Presents Fiber Artist Eve Jacobs-Carnahan

How does your relationship with your craft evolve over the years? How do you creatively express your views on life's problems via your art? How do you connect with others who share your passion about fiber arts and then use that connection to foster education and positive changes? Join us for a lively presentation and discussion!

Artist Eve Jacobs-Carnahan will join the guild meeting to talk about how she made the leap from knitting sweaters to knitting sculpture. She'll share insights from her creative journey and talk about the significance of knitting in artwork. She'll show photos of her marvelous sculptures of plants and birds that explore themes in nature and society.

Eve's current collaborative art project, Knit Democracy Together, draws on her background as an election lawyer. She engages people in knitting circle discussions as they build a knitted sculpture of a state capitol building.

And here's a preview of things to come: WCKG members will have a unique opportunity in May to connect with this amazing artist. WCKG will co-sponsor a Knit Democracy Together Knitting Circle as a special event for WCKG's May 4th meeting. Like the historic sewing circles where abolitionists and suffragists discussed the issues of the day, the discussion will be



Eve Jacobs-Carnahan with her Heron Sculpture

lively and our hands will be busy. While we are knitting squares that will become a part of the state capitol sculpture, we will deepen our knowledge of voting: methods of voting, counting votes, and the effects of district design. We will learn how to respond to misinformation and we'll get an introduction to knitting's historical connection to social movements. The goal is to transcend partisan politics and pursue on-going education about our rights and responsibilities as citizens.

Eve's artwork has won regional and national awards and appears in [Astounding Knits! 101 Spectacular Knitted Creations and Daring Feats](#) by Lela Nargi.

Eve has a B.A. in history from Swarthmore College and a law degree from the University of Chicago. She lives in Vermont. You can find her artwork at evejacobs-carnahan.com.



Knotweed Not Safe sculpture by Eve Jacobs-Carnahan

WCKG Monthly Members Meeting on April 13, 2021 beginning at 7:00pm CDT. All members will receive an email with a zoom link. May 4th Knit Democracy Together Knitting Circle - the (free) registration link will be sent on April 14.

GUILD NEWS

FILLING LEADERSHIP ROLES

At our March meeting, Anna R. reminded everyone that we need to begin now to think about filling WCKG Board leadership roles. The idea of Co-Presidents was suggested by many and Ann has supplied the following thoughts about the job.

"I've been honored to serve. The position requires a lot in diplomacy, patience and good humor along with the ability to get along with every one. Two people sharing the responsibilities is a great idea!"

"It's important to make sure everyone feels welcome."

"Generally, the President presides over the monthly meetings of the Guild:

- introducing new members
- introducing new topics for discussion
- opening the floor for discussion, show & share, new projects or charity requests

In addition, I've been responsible for contacting guest speakers, LYSs, charity groups - handling correspondence and coordinating the donations, setting up events and handling the research for the events."

This past year both member meetings and board meetings have had to switch virtual meetings on zoom and Anna commented: "Coordinating and conducting the Board meetings during the pandemic has been difficult this past year. It's important to get all the members of the Board involved with the monthly activities. Without in-person meetings, corresponding and coordinating by email with Board members regarding finances, websites, and upcoming events becomes challenging but do-able."

"My first goal was to increase our membership and to promote a more open exchange among the members. It's important to make sure everyone feels welcome. When issuing membership cards to new members, I wrote personal notes to each new member welcoming them to the Guild and mailed them their cards - a duty I took pleasure in."

"My second goal was to increase participation towards our charitable donations. I feel that the Guild can and should provide more in charity work. We are not just a knitting group - I feel it should be more."

PLEASE CONSIDER TAKING ON A LEADERSHIP ROLE -- CONTACT ANNA OR ANY BOARD MEMBER

JOIN THE WCKG BOARD!

We are reaching out to members new and old to find innovative leaders and creative people with ideas. With your help our guild can continue to grow as a gathering place for knitters and crocheters who want to learn and grow as crafters. Our guild can be a reliable source for hand made charity donations. We can continue our outreach via zoom events while maintaining a strong presence in our home town of Chicago.

FREE MEMBERSHIP IN 2021

GUILD NEWS

"AN EMPHASIS ON CHARITY..."

Our current WCKG Board President, Anna R. stated her two main goals have been to **increase membership** and place an emphasis on our charity work. Despite (or perhaps because of) the pandemic lockdown, our guild has grown from 77 members in 2020 to a current 272. This was partly due to the board's decision to offer free membership in 2021 but also due to a concentrated effort to reach out to former members with our newsletter and zoom meeting invites. We streamlined our **charity outreach** to emphasize four organizations (detailed on the second to last page) and collected a sizable amount of hand knitted donations. A letter of appreciation from The Night Ministry is reprinted below.

 THE NIGHT MINISTRY

Ms. Anna Roesser
Windy City Knitting Guild
4619A N. Winchester Ave.
Chicago, IL 60640

January 27, 2021

Dear Ms. Roesser,

On behalf of everyone at The Night Ministry, and especially the people we serve, I would like to thank you and Windy City Knitting Guild for your generous in-kind gift of hygiene items, clothing, scarves, hats, and gloves. Your generosity empowers The Night Ministry to provide essential services and compassion to thousands of our neighbors in need.

The Night Ministry has been providing housing, health care, and human connection since 1976. We are excited to share the below program highlights from FY20 (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020):

- The Outreach and Health Ministry Program made 34,693 outreach contacts, provided 2,689 health assessments, and prevented 378 visits to the Emergency Room.
- Street Medicine distributed 8,746 sack lunches and 4,905 hygiene kits.
- 746 constituents, including asthma and diabetes, received care from the Outreach and Health Ministry Team that otherwise would have been untreated.
- 469 young people and 38 infants/toddlers were sheltered through The Night Ministry's five youth housing programs.
- 74% of discharged residents from the Interim Housing Program transitioned to more safe and stable housing.
- 62% of discharged residents from the STEPS Transitional Living Program transitioned to long-term housing.
- 73% of guests staying at The Crib Overnight Emergency Shelter were connected to supportive services.

We want to keep you informed about how your generosity is making a difference. You can expect The Night Ministry's print newsletter on a quarterly basis. Please visit our website at www.thenightministry.org to learn more about our programs, and follow The Night Ministry on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thenightministry to receive updates on special events, success stories, and much more.

I am aware that you have many options for your charitable dollars, so thank you for choosing The Night Ministry. Your gift truly will make a difference.

Sincerely,


Paul W. Hamann
President & CEO

*Thank you for thinking of us,
and best wishes!*

1735 North Ashland Avenue, Suite 2000, Chicago, Illinois 60622 • www.thenightministry.org • Tel: 773-784-9000 Fax: 773-784-5865

free **patterns** -- tell your crocheting friends there is now a crocheted version of their iconic scarf, "Resilience," together with a matching hat. Another opportunity for those of us who maintain fabric stashes is sewing simple drawstring ditty bags. These are used to assemble each individual gift of knitwear, toiletries, puzzle books, treats and the like. There is a pattern for just how to construct them in the free patterns section, above. WCKG collects our contributions year round for the Christmas at Sea program, which serves ships out of Port Newark, NJ, and also vessels on the Mississippi-Ohio River.

Charity knitting is an extremely important aspect of our guild. Please continue your knitted and crocheted donations - we collect items all year long!

Now here's a further report from Cathy G: "One of our WCKG charity knitting recipients is the **Christmas at Sea** program of the Seamen's Church Institute, ongoing from the 1890's. Their excellent "The Knit Before Christmas" newsletter reports that knitwear contributions were up by 20% in 2020. Folks stayed home during Covid times to knit, crochet, and donate more than **22,000 pieces**, including those from the Windy City Knitting Guild. This has provided more gifts to mariners working far away from home during December. Thanks! More information is available at their website which includes a section of



Jill W made plain ditty bags and Karen H decorated them with tattoo designs

BOOK REVIEW:

Daughter of a Shepherd
Volume I: Beginnings
Rachel Atkinson
Daughter of a Shepherd Ltd., 2018 \$28.95

This is a collection of ten fine patterns in knit and crochet, for women and men, all worked in the wool blended from a heritage black-sheep breed, the Hebridean. The styles are very wearable with interesting details. You will find a crocheted scarf (with or without beads) and shawl, a knit wrap, several styles of mitts, hats, a scarf, and sweaters, both a cardigan and pullovers, for a 32"-56" bust/chest. The hats and mitts are also multi-sized. The patterns are by Rachel Atkinson and a variety of other noted knitters, along with several essays. The photographs of the styles can be a bit difficult, since it is hard to photograph black, but the portraits of the sheep and landscape are outstanding.

Best of all is the story behind this British wool, the author and the flock. The Hebridean sheep live on a large estate which includes many acres of an important conservation area. This rare breed was selected for its hardy capacity to graze and control woody vegetation encroaching into the naturally-open conservation area. So it is a working flock and the breed is becoming less rare. The owners needed help in caring for and rounding up the sheep. They hired the author's father, who had long been a sheep dog enthusiast and kept a small flock of his own for dog training. The author grew up around the family flock (don't miss the pictures on the title page and page 19) and became an enthusiastic knitter and yarn person, off in London and other parts of the world. On vacation, she reflected on the low prices paid for commercial wool and the uniqueness of the fleeces of the Hebridean flock and--wouldn't it be special to have yarn made from this wonderful local resource? This became Daughter of a Shepherd yarn.

I look forward to the next volume as her adventures and creativity continues. Look for both the book and the yarn at [The Woolly Thistle](#) or from the [Daughter of a Shepherd](#) web site.

Cathy G.



BOOK REVIEW:

Strands of Joy

Anna Johanna

Laine Publishing, 2021 \$49.95

Finnish designer Anna Johanna has a lovely collection of stranded colorwork knitwear in a beautifully bound, substantial book. Most of the 20 designs are sweaters for women, but there is also a hat, a dress a yoked pullover for kids (18"-34" chest sizes) and a good cardigan and yoked pullover for men. Sweaters are worked top-down with a minimum of seaming. Many have yokes, but others are raglans or drop-shouldered.

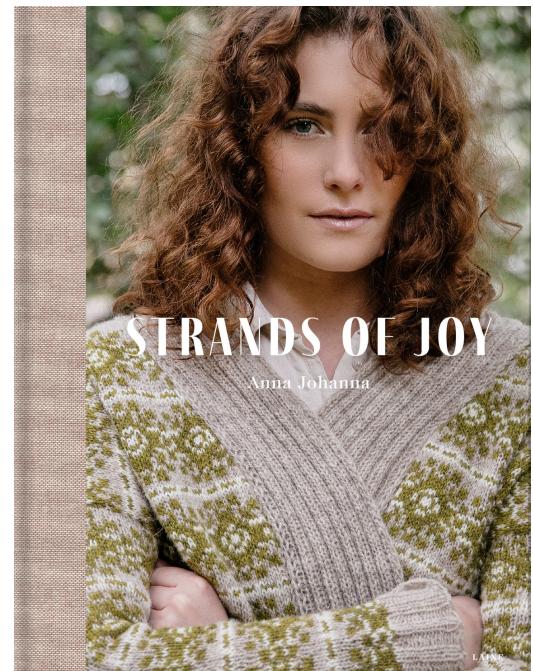


Much of the patterning involves natural motifs—leaves, flowers, feathers, a forest, or soft scroll work. No angular geometrics or parading reindeer here. The motifs are generally used as one or more bands or a yoke, rather than all-over. Sweaters are written for 12 sizes, ranging from a mid-30 through mid-60 inch bust. Various wools and brands are used in fingering through worsted weights, but do pay attention to the gauge as well as the description of the yarns. This is a book for those with a knowledge of sweater making and knitting stranded color patterns. Directions for each garment are quite complete and helpful, for a knitter with sweater experience, but it is not a "how to" book. A good array of garment measurements for each style can be used to assure a refined fit.

Her overall effect is timeless, attractive and very satisfying, with garments destined to be part of a working wardrobe for many happy years. I am charmed by the bear-in-the-forest literalism of Woodland. It is a pleasure to have the kid's classic Taimi and the robust Foliage leaf-themed sweater for men at my disposal. And where to start with all of the elegant floral motifs?

This is the first book from a designer worth paying attention to. Imported books, and their shipping to the U.S., can be costly, but try to get a look at this one. One source is [The Woolly Thistle](#) or go to [Laine Publishing](#).

Cathy G.



KNITTING NEWS

"Black Women Knitting Their Way into History"

Seen in the Sunday Chicago Tribune March 21st but the article originally appeared [here](#) in the New York Times.

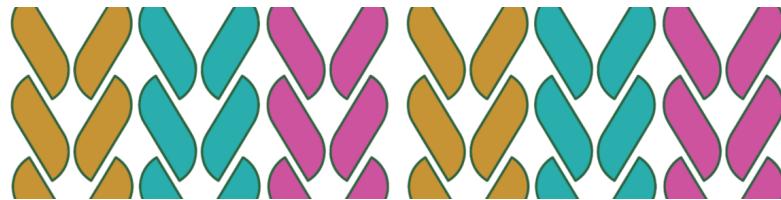
After I read the article, I searched out the women mentioned in this article, seeking to know more what's being done to confront the lack of representation in the fiber arts, and learning about ways to support BIPOC crafters, designers and dyers. First I searched out the source of these wonderful photos:



I discovered that in July, 2020, Darci Kern, a maker in St. Louis, started recreating portraits of women knitting using the hashtag "Knitting While Black" and posting on a regular basis on Instagram. "I searched Google Arts and Culture catalog, and got over 1400 results with the keyword *knitting*," she wrote, but found that "exactly TWO photos were of Black women... that's 0.001%." But re-imagining paintings of white women knitting is not the whole project. She's as meticulous as Cindy Sherman in her recreations but her real impact is in the roughly 350 word posts that she connects to each photo recreation. Using the date of the portrait or the location or the artist's origins as a jumping off point, she writes about little known BIPOC history -- some of it triumphant, much of it tragic. Find her on Instagram: "darcidoesit"

Also mentioned in the NY Times article was Cecilia Nelson-Hurt and I found this recording of the [Edinburgh Yarn Festival's 2019 Diversity & Inclusion Panel](#). (They reference a 2019 blog post and [this article](#) will help catch you up on the background of that controversy.) More exploring lead me to this article by Jeanette Sloan: "[Black People Do Knit](#)" outlining Lorna Hamilton Brown's experience of commenting on an audience's lack of diversity and getting the response "black people don't knit...they crochet." Which reminded me of art historian Linda Nochlin's experience: a comment from a gallery owner "[Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?](#)" prompted her to write a pivotal essay. **After a moment to absorb the comment, these women take action.** Finally let me direct you to the excellent website [BIPOC in Fiber](#) which includes a comprehensive directory of designers, authors, yarn retailers, and more, all of whom have detailed bios and links to their sites -- time exploring the site is well spent! Karen H.

KNITTING NEWS



When MDK asked "do you have a friend who wants to learn to knit?" I thought of my friend Pam. My name was chosen and we got an advance copy of the book. We've launched a plan give the book a "test run." I put together a project bag with the book, two balls of yarn, and two sets of needles, and I'm planning on leaving it on her front porch like a May basket. We'll have to figure out how to do it via zoom but **stay tuned to this space** to find out how

our project progresses! The book has very clear illustrations and instructions. And it goes beyond the "CO, BO, knit, purl, make a scarf" of most beginner books. It pushes you on to the basics of lace, cable, colorwork, and intarsia as well as shaping, pattern reading and yarn choices. Have you ever taught someone to knit? **What advice can you give me?**

Email me your tips! Karen H. - wckgnewsletter@gmail.com

“A copy of
Skill Set: Beginning Knitting
is on its way!”



"The UnRavelling" in the New Yorker



If you have a subscription, you've probably already seen it, if not click [here](#) for Carrie Battan's article about knitting and politics. This arresting photo of red vs. blue (or maybe speak no evil / see no evil?) accompanies a story detailing the beginnings of Ravelry, how its structure differs from other social media platforms, how both politics & the site re-design has caused friction, outright anger and the desertion of some long-time Ravelers. Battan starts with the idealistic thought

of knitting as "**the rarest form of pleasure: a practical magic that embodies many good things while introducing nothing bad**" and then tries to unravel what went wrong.

SHOW AND SHARE

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

Anna R shared this lovely sweater with a lacy yoke. It's called [Azami](#) and is knit with "Winter Blossom" fingering weight yarn from Knit One Crochet Two.



Kim R knit this adorable [Baby Tea Leaves](#)

by designer Melissa LaBarre using Cascade Yarns 220 Superwash Sport, in Charcoal.

This is for size 0 to 6 months.



Pam H. showed us this cowl she was knitting during the last zoom and here is the finished product -- such wonderful texture!



From Nancy J:

This [Caora Sweater](#), pattern by littletheorem on Ravelry, was created using Nutiden preyarn from Honerocheir in Sweden. The yarn is dyed in the heritage Swedish breed fleece(s) using environmentally friendly dyes in an outside fire-heated vat. It is similar to Icelandic unspun but is softer with as much lanolin remaining as possible, a joy with which to knit.

SHOP NEWS

Knit Stars sent me a "One Minute Vacation"



KnitStars.com truly does have an amazing array of SUPER STARS on their teaching roster, but this morning's "gift" was truly inspiring. I opened up my email newsletter and got a lovely visit with Cristel Seyfarth from Fanø, Denmark -- [**"Looking Toward the Sea."**](#) Enjoy this video and the other videos on their site -- it looks like a wonderful program and past seasons are available for purchase.

PS. WOULD LOVE TO HEAR REVIEWS FROM ANY OF OUR WCKG MEMBERS WHO'VE JOINED KNIT STARS!

*All are welcome, not just stuffed animals

Love this from [**Yarnify**](#).

"All are welcome, not just stuffed animals!"

Sweet





Jackpot at the Lucky Knitter Casino.

Charity Projects Info

Keep up the good work!

A child's sweater can be a quick and satisfying project and knitting small projects like hats, socks, or mittens can continue throughout the summer!

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

"KNITTING IS THE
SAVING OF LIFE." -
VIRGINIA WOOLF

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