

WINDY CITY KNITTING GUILD

Welcome
to Fall!



IT'S

SEPTEMBER

Pardon the cliché, but fall always will be "back to school" and "PLAID" -- at least to me... So why not find some reds and blacks and a bit of yellow or forest green and try to knit some plaid? If you're on Ravelry and type in "plaid" there are 2,089 patterns to choose from -- scarves and hats and socks, of course, but lots of blankets, some bow ties, cup cozies, skirts, handbags, doggie coats... maybe even a full suit of clothes like our friend posing above!

The techniques are varied, some more complex than others. Maybe I'll just try this [Plaid Potholder](#) or this [Plaid Pillow](#) to see if I can master the plaid! On my knitting bucket list: something in that most famous of plaids --- a pair of socks or a vest in [ARGYLE](#) !!! How about you?

Hope you enjoy this month's newsletter and I look forward to seeing you via zoom!
Karen H.

SEPTEMBER ISSUE 2021

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UPCOMING:

Tuesday September 14

7:00 - 8:30 pmCDT

a zoom link will be
emailed to members prior
to the meeting

GUILD NEWS

Guest Speaker for our next WCKG Zoom Meeting

As reported in last month's newsletter, several intrepid yarnbombers (some experienced and some mere newbies) YARNBOMBED the Humboldt Park Overlook on the Bloomingdale Trail commonly know as the 606. I got to participate and it was great fun! I got to meet Valerie Sherman, The South Loop Yarnbomber, and we have invited her to be our guest speaker for our September meeting: Tuesday, 9/14 via zoom.

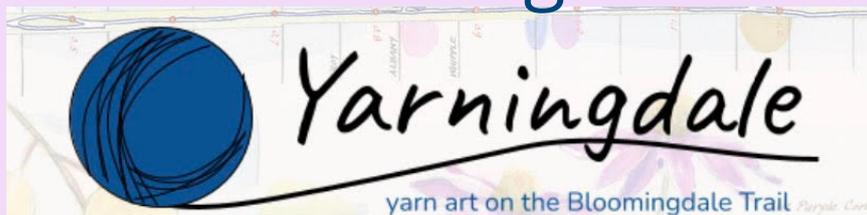
Valerie will share her experience as a yarnbomber, the whys and hows, the ups and downs -- she has some great stories! And she has a most interesting collaborative project in the works with an invitation for you to join in -- perhaps it will inspire you to explore this whimsical way of sharing your love of fiber arts!



Valerie Sherman South Loop Yarnbomber in the news:

Read this [BLOCK CLUB CHICAGO ARTICLE](#) about her project to renovate The Forum a historic venue in Bronzeville. Her art work also was profiled in [The Columbia Chronicle](#) when she created a rainbow-hued Pride Installation in 2020. She was also famously profiled by Heidi Stevens in the [Chicago Tribune](#). She created a [Google Map](#) with all of her projects and was interviewed on [WTTW](#). Here's the original [article](#) I shared about Yarnbombing the 606.

Yarnbombing the 606



KNITTING NEWS

Two of our eagle eyed guild members (Cathy G. and Gwen W.) sent us the link to a photo essay about a truly remarkable knitting project. Margaret Seaman, from Great Yarmouth, Norfolk and her knitted castle... QE II's Sandringham Estate to be specific!



Read the article about her Sandringham House and Gardens Project [HERE](#) and see even more photos [HERE](#).



"Buildings are very important... very important. Buildings, places, and people."

And now's the perfect opportunity to share my most favorite knitting video: [Knitting Together](#) on youtube about the women of The Westend of Newcastle who knit up their own village.



KNITTING NEWS

Have you heard of Felicity Ford? She also goes by Felix and has a wonderful website called [KnitSonik](#). She's both a fiber artist and music/sound artist -- and lately she's been writing about how the two can be combined. Picture one of those player piano rolls or a paper roll for a tiny music box -- can you visualize the pattern of punched holes? Well, imagine transferring that into a pattern for stranded colorwork, beading or lace. It's crazy and BRILLIANT! Here's a delightful [video interview](#) (from the John Arbon Mill Open Weekend) where she talks about her design process -- she's inspiring, enthusiastic and soooooo interesting.



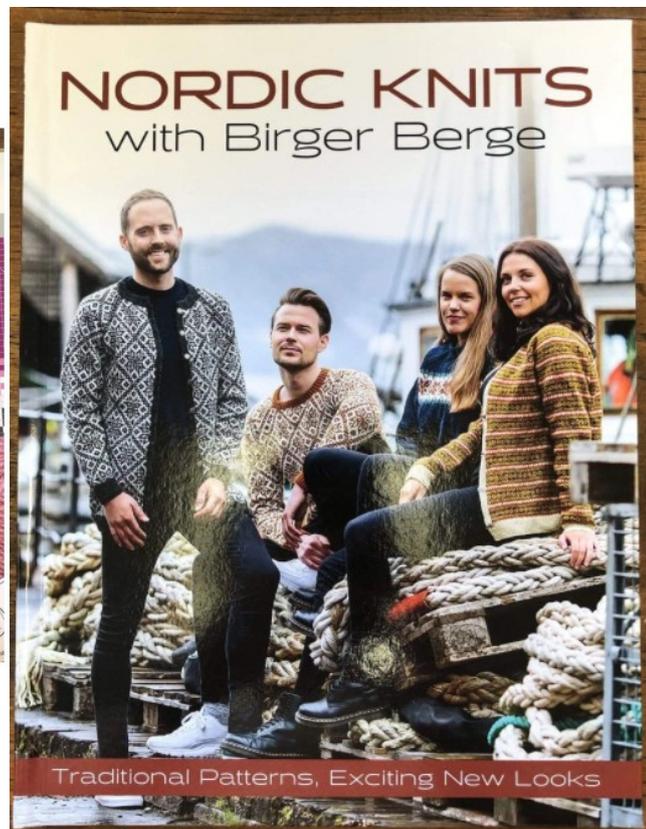
Do you know how to knit with beads? Would you be willing to share your expertise in a future zoom class for our WCKG monthly meeting? Please contact us via: wckgnewsletter@gmail.com



BOOK REVIEW:



Nordic Knits with Birger Berge
Birger Berge
Trafalgar Square, 2020 \$24.95



Norwegian knitter Birger Berge fell in love with knitting and other fiber arts at a young age. He has taken a fresh look at traditional Norwegian knitting and brings gentle updates for garments to make and wear today. Aside from general good looks and a nice variety of projects (more later) these patterns are notable for the sweater construction and that projects are written up to be suitable for women--and men, the underserved sector of knitwear patterns.

Traditional Norwegian sweaters have dropped shoulders and are knitted up as three circularly-knit tubes, one for the body and two for the arms. The armholes are cut open in a controlled way ("steeked") and the sleeves are fitted and sewn into the armholes, with the raw edge covered up with an interior knitted hem at the top of the sleeve. In addition to the fussing and fitting, a dropped shoulder results in a lot of bulk under the arm. Berge's sweater tubes are worked bottom up to the underarm and then are hitched together and knitted to create a raglan-sleeve yoke. Less fuss, bother and bulk, and the patterns are decreased in an attractive way along the line of the raglan by an attentive knitter.

This book assumes that you know how to work two-color stranded knitting, although there is a nice assortment of smaller projects to practice your skills on your way to sweater making. There are a scant two pages of tips and a page on yarn sources, all must reading. The styles involve various weights of yarn, with the handy CYCA numerical weight designations included, and come from various Norwegian mills and a U.S. favorite. The Internet will be your friend as you figure the yarn out, as well as steeking and other knitting skills if they are new to you.

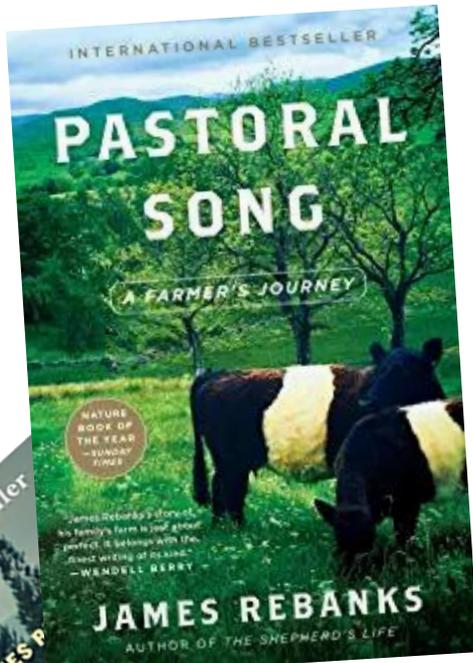
So, there are essentially four sweater patterns with variations for men and women, and show up as pullovers or steeked cardigans. The Flaten group can be worked as a pullover or cardigan in an all-over pattern of stars inside of diamonds. The Feeling Good pullover is mostly a solid color with a yoke of stars in three additional colors. The Spruce pullover has a similar yoke placement, but the body and sleeves are worked in an all-over small scale mini striping pattern. The Akle cardigan is inspired by Norwegian weaving and is worked in bands from five colors of wool—sort of a Norwegian take on a Shetland sweater.

Accessories are well represented with several slippers and socks that could serve as slippers. Bear in mind that stranded knit socks are bulkier and may fit into your boots but not your shoes! Several good-looking scarves, cowls and hats are done in color work or cables. Two-color mittens and fingerless gloves are not neglected. You can also dress up your flower pots, water bottles and drink cans with stranded covers or use dishcloth cotton to knit potholders. Finally, you can work up a stranded tie belt or your choice of an attractive fine-knit long or bow necktie (remember neckties?).

While the sweaters are the most distinctive items, this book offers many worthwhile patterns, for those knitting items for men or for women, at a reasonable price. Locally, Mosaic Yarn Studio carries some Norwegian wool and the Wall of Yarn/The Yarn Guys have had good booths in the past at Stitches Midwest and may carry the book, too. If it doesn't show up at a LYS, order it from the publisher's web site, with a wealth of other Scandinavian translations, or from an independent book store.

Cathy G.

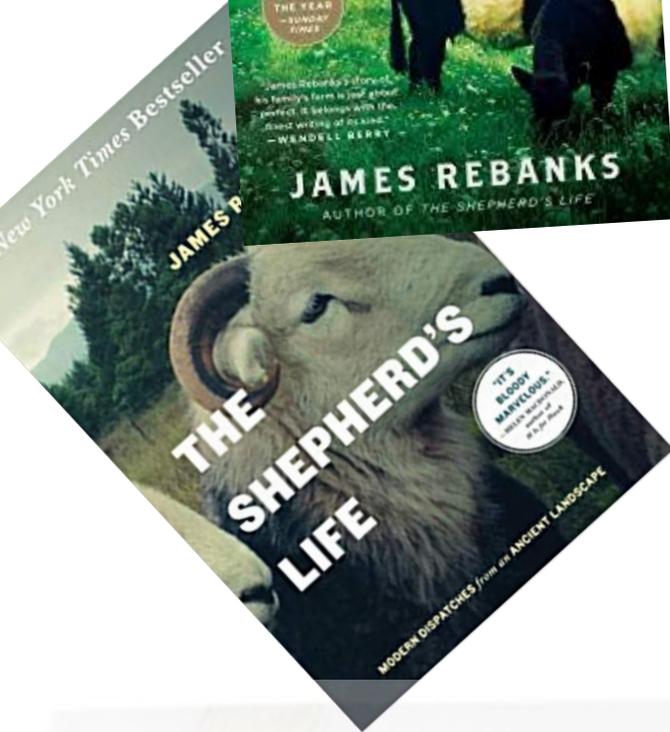
MORE GOOD READING:



James Rebanks' [The Shepherd's Life](#) is a very fine tale of the complexities and joys of traditional sheep farming in England's scenic Lake District. Fiber animal lovers, and others, should not miss this book. Previously reviewed; now available in paperback.

Rebanks' new book, [Pastoral Song](#) (Custom House, 2020, \$28.99; called English Pastoral in the UK edition), expands and continues this story. He grew up with hands-on lessons from his grandfather about pasture-based farming, raising sheep, cattle and pigs. Later he inherited the farm and faced the concurrent challenges of being a good steward to the land and his animals and earning a living. The book raises issues about land use and the sustainability of modern agriculture. It also conveys the pride of watching his daughters sizing up sheep and the delights of a toddler son who seems to have baa-ed before he talked. In both books James Rebanks is candid about some of the big changes within his own life. He is a fine writer, has a real story to tell and raises serious issues with an acknowledgement of their complexity.

Cathy G.



Sweet Dreams and Cozy Times for Knitters



LL Bean has a new set of flannel sheets bedecked with attractive water color designs of sweaters and knit hats. You can also order just the pillow cases, upon which to dream about your projects.

This is also the time of year for securing a terry cloth robe with a shawl collar, on which to attach a medium to wide hand-knit lace edging. LL Bean has a fine candidate in this category, in organic cotton. Any robe should be pre-washed before hand-sewing on the lace, so you can be sure to correctly calculate the proper length of your knitting. Always use a good brand of crochet cotton (such as DMC) to make your lace last.

Cathy G.

BOOK REVIEW:

Magazines in the News by Cathy G:

Interweave Knits, Fall 2021, 8.99

The fall issue is frequently the biggest one for knitting magazines. Interweave Knits celebrates 25 years of publishing with lovely silver-grey pieces for its silver anniversary. This collection includes a gorgeous shawl, a really nice top/vest to layer, mitts with optional applied foil trim, a slip-stitched plaid pullover, fancy cabled socks, and other good things. A second collection includes timeless classics—several textured and cabled pullovers, socks, a plaid wrap and a wardrobe-staple wrap sweater. All styles are for women. In earlier days, Interweave Knits was known for including a pattern or two for men, sigh.

Don't overlook the ads, some with special anniversary deals. Articles cover knitting plaids and some very helpful tips for attending a fiber festival/yarn expo. Several pieces explore yarns for the future, a complex topic, especially for its ecological aspects. I recall that, historically, producing rayon was not a pretty process. And, no mention is made of fiber animals. Making quality clothing that you love, care for, and wear to the end of its well-mended lifespan is a way to short-circuit the wastefulness of fashion cycles. Knitters are well poised to do this.

Have a look at a Local Yarn Shop or big newsstand.

Vogue Knitting, Fall 2021 \$8.99

Vogue Knitting has always been more than just a collection of patterns, with lots of editorial material on what's new in knitting, books, the fashion world and knitwear, interesting knitters, knitting technique and general knitting inspiration. All come through in this issue. Yarn maven Clara Parks points to the overwhelming dominance of synthetic fibers in commercial clothing and the opportunities to add wool ready-to-wear to their wardrobes. Meg Swansen explores some of the creative mental processes she has put to use as a knitter, leading to interesting techniques or design refinements. And there's the Common Thread Cowl, promoting inclusiveness in knitting and the story behind it. A technique primer on intarsia features an achievable and fun practice coaster.

Finally the styles! They start with a group of color-lively wraps, cowls and a pullover. A very nice group of sweaters explore light and shadow in texture-knit pullovers, interesting shoulder details, lace, and texture. You will also find cables and a sleeveless cardigan. There are additional knits—a generous full-turtleneck pullover with oversized cables and ribbing, a unisex complex cabled pullover, a mental-intrigue reversible cabled and marled scarf, textured socks, a mosaic-knit cardigan, a feminine cabled and lace yoke pullover and a more outdoorsy interpretation of a cabled pullover. Check them out.

Patterns are difficulty-rated. A lively group of models reinforce that style and good looks are not confined to the sweater size which uses the least amount of yarn. Look for it at a Local Yarn Shop or big newsstand before the 11/2021 pull date. Vogue Knitting publishes less often than previously and deserves the support of knitters.

REPRINTED FROM...

The Seamans Church Institute Newsletter (informative & inspiring! subscribe: [HERE](#))

101-Year-Old Knitter for Christmas at Sea

In addition to playing cards, listening to music, hosting guests in her home, and going out with her friends, 101-year-old Connie Cirone has been knitting hat and scarf sets for Christmas at Sea for the last four years. She discovered the program through her friend Janet Dalphonse, and Janet's sister Lucy. Lucy's son-in-law, Grant Killian, owned a company that produced outdoor adventure races in Maine and he was instrumental in creating SCI's first and second Mountain Challenges. He introduced the sisters to Seamen's Church.

"My work for SCI was truly a labor of love," says Grant. "It's fascinating to me that the butterfly effect kicked in, and so many people learned about SCI and its mission because of all of our endeavors for the race."



Connie's inspiration for knitting and for living well, in general, is her Italian grandmother. "She never learned to read or write, and she could not speak English, but she could look at any article of clothing and just know how to make it," says Connie. "She could knit and sew anything without a pattern, and made beautiful sweaters for her 12 children from scratch. She was a remarkable woman!"

Connie has a tip for needleworkers who are curious about participating in the program, but concerned that they could lose interest in their project before completing their piece. She always starts with a solid color of yarn for the scarf and then, after completing 1/3, switches to a variegated yarn. She finishes with the original solid. Connie also works on the scarf and the cap simultaneously for variety. The result is a colorful matching set for the seafarer, and she never feels bored while creating it.

The Christmas at Sea Program has a new manual:
page through it and/or download it [HERE](#)

POETRY CORNER



This month's poetry corner is a little more serious than last month's Ogden Nash... it's quite lovely and we hope you enjoy it!

Ode to My Socks by Pablo Neruda

Maru Mori brought me
a pair
of socks
which she knitted herself
with her shepherd's hands,
two socks as soft
as rabbits.
I slipped my feet
into them
as though into
two
cases
knitted
with threads of
twilight
and goatskin.
Violent socks,
my feet were
two fish made
of wool,
two long sharks
sea-blue, shot
through
by one golden thread,
two immense blackbirds,
two cannons:
my feet
were honored
in this way
by
these
heavenly
socks.
They were
so handsome
for the first time
my feet seemed to me
unacceptable
like two decrepit
firemen, firemen
unworthy
of that woven
fire,
of those glowing
socks.

Nevertheless
I resisted
the sharp temptation
to save them somewhere
as schoolboys
keep
fireflies,
as learned men
collect
sacred texts,
I resisted
the mad impulse
to put them
into a golden
cage
and each day give them
birdseed
and pieces of pink melon.
Like explorers
in the jungle who hand
over the very rare
green deer
to the spit
and eat it
with remorse,
I stretched out
my feet
and pulled on
the magnificent
socks
and then my shoes.
The moral
of my ode is this:
beauty is twice
beauty
and what is good is doubly
good
when it is a matter of two socks
made of wool
in winter.

Pablo Neruda 1904 - 1973

poets.org

SHOW AND SHARE



Just two items to show and share with you this month...

Karen H: One more [Everyday Pullover Sweater](#) for WoolAid!



Tina S: a lovely shawl called [Evolution](#) by Rachel Molenaar. Some of us got to see this at our last zoom meeting. Check out the designer's pattern description:

This heart-shaped shawl follows the evolution of a knitter. It begins with garter stitch, representing that garter-stitch scarf so many of us knitters began with. Then a bit of stockinette, as the beginner knitter learns to purl. Once the basic stitches are mastered, textured patterns like the diamond pattern become possible.

Then, a knitterly friend suggests that cables are “not that hard” -- perhaps the novice knitter would like to try? Another friend encourages the knitter to try a bit of simple lace -- just a few yarn-overs and decreases, after all, and the wrong side rows are all-purl.

Each pattern builds on the last; each pattern is made up of knits and purls, manipulated to form apparent complexity. But, one stitch at a time, all knitting is conquerable. The final stitch pattern combines right-side and wrong-side pattern, cables, twisted stitches, lace, and unusual decreases for a gorgeous exuberance that flares all around the edge of the finished shawl.



Shetland Wool Week is celebrating on-line: September 25-October 3

Dear friends,

At long last we are able to share some of our plans with you!

For the past few months, we've been working away behind the scenes to pull together our virtual Shetland Wool Week. None of us expected to have to cancel the physical event for a second year running, but here we are again, and we are taking this as an opportunity to go online and showcase more of Shetland with you: our hardy sheep, the beautiful wool, SWW expert knowledge and skills, and the islands' rich textile heritage.

For nine days from 25 September – 3 October, there will be films, talks, tours and classes – some pre-recorded and others live, as well as music, a market and social events.

There's a new membership program, find out about it [HERE](#).



SHOP NEWS



Miss Purl

Grand Opening: September 3 – 4

It's a labor of love weekend!

"Finishing touches are underway! I am ecstatic to share that Miss Purl will be open for business beginning Labor Day weekend – now named Labor of Love weekend (LOL)....

On Friday, September 3, (4pm-7pm) we will open our doors with fanfare and a ribbon cutting ceremony, courtesy of the 95th Street Beverly Hills Business Association. Saturday, September 4, (12pm-6pm) will be our first full day of business. "

Miss Purl

1824 W. 95th
Chicago, IL 60643
(312)513-6464

do you have a birthday this year?

Here's an idea: **The Birthday Sweater**

from blogger Dana/DWJ at YardsofHappiness.com

Dana writes: "Today is my birthday. So I did what I always do and at the beginning of the month I put aside what I was working on and cast on a birthday sweater for myself. Learning how to knit was a gift I gave myself ten years ago, so I might as well make myself things that are super special since I've got the skills..." Read more and see photos at The Tradition Continues.

SHOP NEWS



Feature Pattern of the Week



Mad
for
Plaid

Wool & Co
is feeling the
PLAID too!

Feature
patterns:
Cheryl Murray's
[Mega Plaid
Mitts](#) and
Stephen West's
[Kex Scarf](#) in
some lovely
Brooklyn Tweed
Shelter.

firefly fiber
arts studio

What Will Your September
Project Be?

Do you need inspiration --
check out their catalog of
free/low cost patterns!
What a great selection -- go
to their website's [Patterns
Page](#) and then, look over
their great selection of all
natural and eco conscious
yarn.



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.

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](#)

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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