



WINDY CITY KNITTING GUILD

april showers!



Get the pattern [here](#) (google will help translate it from Finnish!)

APRIL ISSUE 2022

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UPCOMING:

Tuesday Member Zoom

April 12, 7:00pmCDT

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

ALL ARE WELCOME!

“her energy, creativity, and enthusiasm were so inspiring and fun”
zoom chat quote

"Stephanie Lotven's presentation on Self-Striping Yarns was informative and fun. As with lots of knitting projects, "Swatch, swatch, swatch!" She gave us lots of tricks to figure out the optimum number of stitches to cast on so that the stripes are the same height, such as the soda bottle trick to view colors in yarn. (Wrap the yarn around the bottle to see which is the thinnest color and that is the one you use to figure out the optimum number of stitches. If that is 40, if you are knitting in the round, have it be 40. She likes to double that (80) if knitting flat).

"Another tip: use the dyer's expertise to pick complementary colors! Play with yarn to highlight. Add simple increases and decreases. (Mittens with peaks). Change direction of stripes (baby sweater done in sections but still seamless). Use slip stitches (Slippery cowl). "Play and explore" to see what the yarn is capable of. Do a quick projects using worsted or bulky yarn such as Felezi. Another fun thing is to marl: combine a varigated with a solid -- but be sure not to use a solid that is the same color as one of the colors in the s.striping yarn or it will muddy the marl.* And one other thing: German Short rows are her favorite way to play!"
--- Jenny M.

*Editor's note: interested in learning more about marling? come to our April meeting!
ALSO: Please go to page 4 of this issue for Cathy G's book review of "Knit Happy with Self-Striping Yarn"!

Raffle Winners:

Christine B. was the winner of the Membership Raffle (four knitting books, yarn, & a project bag)
Cathy G. was the winner of Stephanie Lotven's raffle (two skeins yarn & a pattern of her choice)

.....

Our featured guest speaker for April:

Donna M. Palicka from Sister-Arts Studio

Micro Swatching & Marling

Learn how to plan a colorwork project with Micro Swatches!
Donna from Sister-Arts Studio will demonstrate a knitting technique called "Micro Swatching". This technique, created by Cecelia Campochiaro, will help you determine which yarn from your stash can be "Marled" (multi-stranded) or combined in a pleasing sequence for your next colorwork project.

WCKG Members Meeting 4/12/22 7pm CST. All are welcome!

PLUS: a trunk show featuring two collections from Donna and Apple Fiber Studio:

"My Bittersweet Garden Collection"
and "SASI 10,000 Orchids Collection"



Notice to Members:

As a public charitable organization Windy City Knitting Guild gets many requests and the board is working out ways to manage these. Here are a few:

Do you do knitting repairs? Would you like to be on our referral list? Please send your contact information to info@windycityknittingguild.com -- when someone requests a repair, we will refer them to you.

Crochet Hook Donations Requested - can you help?

"I work with Afghan refugees. I run a "free Store" in Rogers Park where the new arrivals come and take away things that would help to make their new lives more comfortable.

One of the things I can't keep in stock are **crochet hooks**.

Would any of your members have hooks they'd be willing to part with?

We have tons of new refugees, and, personally, I think it might relax them to crochet. I do know that I can't keep hooks in the shop. They take them when they see them.

If individuals want to drop off at our "store" they can text me for hours and location at 773 220 1414.

Sincerely,

Barbara Ryan, Rogers Park Refugee Community Connection"

[Immigrants in Rogers Park News Story](#)

Windy City Knitting Guild had **a stack of books** that a former member donated because they were moving out of town. Thanks to Co-President Jenny M. we were able to donate nine books to the Sulzer Regional Library where they will be shelved with a WCKG Donation Bookplate. By the way -- there are eight copies of Stephanie Lotven's book in the CPL!

Have you mastered a technique you'd like to share? WCKG is interested in starting a **MEMBERS SHARE THE TALENT** series. You get to develop your teaching skills and WCKG members get to learn from you. If you have an idea for a project or skill you'd like to teach contact:

Jenny M or Anna R at info@windycityknittingguild.com

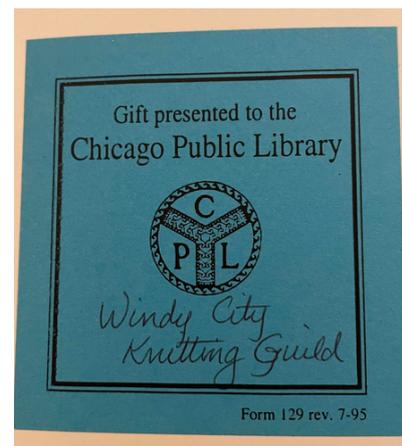
Have you discovered a **TIP OR A SHORTCUT** that you'd like to share?

Send it in to the newsletter: wckgnewsletter@gmail.com

For example, here's a great one from Tina S:

"Are you one of those people who hates the Kitchener stitch? Check out the Finchley graft. There are several videos on YouTube. It is easier to remember, and it seems not to leave the ears that Kitchener often does. Give it a try." (I found [THIS ONE](#) but there seems to be about seven other tutorials!)

Last but not least, don't forget we've launched our **Windy City Knitting Guild Knit-a-Longs** with a toe-up sock pattern "Trusty Toe-Up Socks." We will meet on Mondays at 1:00pm CST with host Tina S and Wednesdays at 7:00pm CST with host Jenny M. You can come on one day or both days. The link will be the same for both days and the KAL will continue through the end of April. Here is the [LINK](#) or use this information --- Meeting ID: 861 8939 1844 Passcode: 639325



[MEMBERSHIP IS ONLY \\$10 IN 2022 - CLICK THIS LINK](#)

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

BOOK REVIEW:

Knit Happy with Self-Striping Yarn

Stephanie Lotven

Page Street Publishing Co. 2020 \$21.99

Stephanie Lotven was the speaker at our March meeting and shared her enthusiasm and know-how about knitting with self-striping yarn. These yarns are dyed to produce distinct stripe repeats, rather than the more random effects of hand dyed or gradient yarns. They often show up as fingering yarn and are frequently used to make socks.

Many of the great styles you saw in her presentation are included in her book. They include the sweater she was wearing with vertical stripes on the neckline and sleeves, other solid-bodied sweaters with striped sleeves, all kinds of cowls, hats and hand wear, shawls, and a cute baby cardigan that is worked from the quantity of yarn that would ordinarily be knit up into a pair of adult socks. Most of the hats and mittens are sized for children through adults—hooray. The sweaters have a wide size range, including some for children. No socks in this book.

Stephanie repeats and reinforces the technical information she presented to the WCKG on swatching and analyzing striped yarns, handling colors, and a full-page listing of suppliers who make striped yarns. Working with stripes takes conscious attention to planning, with unique results.

A lot of the patterns would also work with hand-dyed yarns and solid-colors, too. They may provide a resource for those spectacular skeins in your stash or that will speak to you at a Local Yarn Shop or fiber festival. Patterns are ranked by skill level, most being for the “adventurous beginner” or “intermediate” knitters. The photography is clear and shows off the projects and technique information well. The Tellybean Knits website carries additional individual patterns and sources for this book. My copy was a mail order from Barnes and Noble.

Lots of good, colorful knitting adventure awaits you. There are likely to be some fingerless gloves and a baby sweater in my knitting future, at least firmly in my mind, if not yet on the needles.

Cathy G.



BOOK REVIEW:

Shetland Trader Book 3

Gudrun Johnston

Pom Pom Press, 2021 \$34.95

Gudrun Johnston grew up in Shetland. Her mother, Patricia Johnston, ran a business called The Shetland Trader designing and selling Shetland knitwear in a custom-made, mail-order business in the mid to late 1970's. She employed talented local knitters to produce the designs inspired by historic knitting, but with contemporary verve, into sweaters and accessories. Gudrun grew up to become a talented Shetland knitter, designer and teacher.

This collection is based on some of the original Shetland Trader garments. All are worked in Shetland jumper-weight wools, which between the two interchangeable brands can offer the choice of several hundred colors. The Vair pullover presents many possibilities—knitter's choice. The full-blown version includes balloon sleeves, a fair isle top, and a striped razor shell lace bottom. Elements could be simplified or modified, such as straight sleeves, solid color lace or none at all, and so forth. Maywick is an all over razor shell lace (zig-zag stripes) pullover/blouse so lovely that I think I could wear until it disintegrated. Bunabery has all of its action on the sleeves, with a plain sweater body. A serviceable stranded vest with a U neck is not forgotten. There is a smock in tunic or dress lengths, followed by several knitted dresses. Less elaborate but equally worthwhile projects round up the book, and may be a good place for a knitter to start. Two sizes/shapes of a really nice bottom-up shawl with razor shell lace in stripes and a garter stitch body are a riff on the traditional Shetland hap shawl. Small projects include a hat/tam and a sweet lace scarf.

While this is a book for seasoned knitters, a helpful section presents special techniques. It does not have a whole lot about steeking (adding an allowance of stitches to be cut open later for armholes, etc.). Brave Shetland knitters often don't reinforce steeks because Shetland wools are so naturally sticky. I embrace steeking but don't think I'm ready to ride the steek trapeze without the net of stabilization. A recent development is the option of needle felting the steek stitches to stabilize them, adding strength without bulk. Has anyone in the WCKG used this yet? I would try it out on a sample swatch first, in the wool used in your intended project. See references for needle felting steeks in "Knitting Vacations" by Meg Swansen in the new Spring-Summer issue of Vogue Knitting. Cathy G.



KNITTING NEWS:

PODcast KNITing:

Need something to listen to as you knit? Try these:

Interweave's "[Fiber Nation](#)" -- start with an interview with Linda Cortright of Wild Fibers Magazine (our January 2021 presenter)

Dr. Mia Hobb's "[Why I Knit](#)" -- start with an interview with Milli Abrams about the power of color

If you prefer music, try [Indie Untangled's](#) curated playlists, start with Getting Crafty Wit It -- Chuck E Cheese's "Crochet All Day"

and then a bit of shameless self-promotion, if you're interested in the creative process in general, check out "[The Mime Radio Show](#)" for which I am a co-host! -- editor Karen H.



School House Press 65th Anniversary

Dear Knitters,
Elizabeth Zimmermann's Newsletter #1 was mailed back in 1958, making 2022 our 65th year in business!

We owe that longevity to you the knitters, and to the spirit of the knitting community - with sharing, support, inquisitiveness, and creativity.

<https://www.schoolhousepress.com/>

Supreme Court Justice nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson is a knitter!

According to CNN, Jackson learned to knit in 2010 to channel her nervous energy during her Senate confirmation hearings for her appointment to the US Sentencing Commission, an independent agency that establishes federal sentencing policies and practices.



Click this [YouTube LINK](#): she answers the question at 7:40

micro knitting news



Althea Crome's
STARRY NIGHT
a tiny sweater
1.3" x 1.6"

50,000 stitches

gauge: 76 stitches/inch
500+ hours in the making

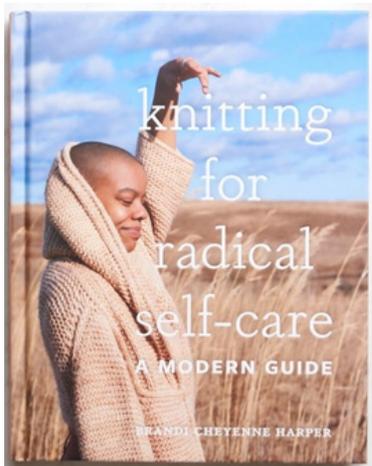
Click this [LINK](#) to see photos and read how she created this tiny artwork.

KNITTING NEWS:

A Multi Year Project State Socks!



She's working on Illinois (going backwards alphabetically) -- follow her progress: Melissa Metzbower, display and links here: [Ravelry](#).



Anna R. recommends:

knitting for radical self-care

In Brandi Cheyenne Harper's debut book she aims to help the reader unearth the immense benefits that knitting has to offer. Alongside beautiful patterns, Brandi offers tips and suggestions for carving out time for creativity. Find it at [Purl Soho](#).



Of course, it didn't take them long to invoke a tired, sexist and ageist knitting stereotype. They claimed on their podcast that current knitting content comes from either 10 large companies or other "unsophisticated competitors" like "grandma, who has a little blog that she's run for the last 20 years." Dudes, do you know how much valuable knitting knowledge grandmas have?



A controversy about the new business that acquired the domain [knitting.com](#) and caused a hoopla by "man splaining" how they'll do better....

Read the full blog post on [Indie Untangled](#) "[Inside the Knitting.com drama](#)"

Designer Ann Budd invites you to join her in

The Longest Day

A Fundraiser to Raise Awareness of Alzheimer's Disease

"The Longest Day is the day with the most light (the summer solstice)... it's also the day that the Alzheimer's Association calls on everyone to fight Alzheimer's disease by partaking in a favorite pastime to raise funds for care, support, and research. For my part, I'll knit from sunrise to sunset on Sunday, June 19, which though not the true summer solstice, is close enough for me."



Visit her [fundraising page](#) to learn how you can help

KNITTING ART

From the sublime to the ridiculous



"Weavers of Life" -- 8" diameter, Dec. 2021

We worked very hard (in vain) to find the artist who created this beautiful bit of embroidery called "Weavers of Life." In the [Reddit Link](#) the artist's moniker is Bold-and-Brash, and they write "This piece is a reminder for us to remember and honour those who weave our clothing, even if we never met them."

After several irate comments along the line of "that's not weaving -- those hands are KNITTING!" the artist supplied this lovely explanation:

“So I am sending this to all that are confused. I only realized this title maybe confusing after it was too late. The title makes more sense with the paper that I wrote along side it. The "weavers" does not refer to the knitting or embroidery. I am using the term in a more poetic and existential sense. I am referring to how fibre practices can be related to life. How the world is in a sense woven out of tiny fibres that make up existence. Think how some say a mother weaves her child in her womb. Unfortunately the embroidery and knitting are not meant to be the subject of this piece. The subject of the piece is the relationship between creators and creation, and the nobility of fibre work in general.”

Knit This!!



© Getty Images

CLOSE-KNIT BAND: Performers returned to the streets of Dublin on Thursday for the St. Patrick's Day Parade after a two-year absence because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our clipping service (aka Cathy G.) sent us this great photo of a nine person sweater from Dublin's St. Patrick's Day Parade! Wow! A CLOSE KNIT BAND indeed!

Food for Thought

We all have a favorite pattern for a sweater, a shawl, a scarf, or a hat that never fails us.

The pattern I return to again and again is a design for living:

I sit in silence and knit something simple for 10 minutes. One stitch at a time, one calmer breath at a time.

Always, the yarn leads me to a place where I understand that, while things around me may not be OK, I can be OK.

This quote is from [Suzan Colón](#) a writer, a reader of the tarot, and a teacher of MedKNITation, a system she developed for meditation with knitting and crochet.

Political / Social Creativity

Dayenu

Some of you may have read in previous issues the story from Knitting Hope of [The Little Red Dress](#) which is housed in the Illinois Holocaust Museum. A parallel knitting survival story concerns Helena Weinstock Weinrauch.: [The Girl in the Blue Sweater](#) Knitting Hope is now sharing a pattern inspired by her story. Knitting Hope shares the story:



The Dayenu Pattern

"Designed by Alix Kramer of @irunthisknit, [Dayenu](#), is named in reverence to a song of gratitude sung in an upbeat melody at the Seder meal each Passover. The rousing chorus is made up of the word Dayenu, sung over and over again. Briefly put, it means "it would have been enough," referring to the many divine interventions that brought the Jewish people from slavery to freedom. Dayenu gives us a moment, as individuals and as a people, to pause and think about our own journeys to freedom, finding gratitude in each step and for each act of loving kindness made for our collective benefit.

"The pattern is a re-creation of Helena Weinrauch's Passover Sweater, inspired by the many acts of loving kindness she received after experiencing the worst of times. At 15 years of age, Helena's parents and sister were taken by the Nazis while she was at work. In order to survive, Helena concealed her Jewish identity. A colleague brought her to a ball where she had to dance with the Nazi tasked with rounding up the local Jews. Later, a former classmate saw her in the street and turned her in. Her former dance partner ensured that Helena was tortured. When she faced a firing squad, he intervened, only to say "a bullet is too good for you," sealing a fate he considered worse than death. Helena endured three different concentration camps and nearly died of starvation on the Death March from Auschwitz to Bergen-Belsen. When the camp was liberated, Helena was presumed dead and her limp body was loaded onto a truck filled with corpses.



Helena Weinstock Weinrauch in her Passover Sweater

"Only loving kindness could revive Helena and inspire her to embrace life and freedom. When a British Major realized Helena's body was still warm, he ensured she received medical care. Next, in Sweden, healthcare professionals nursed Helena back to life and inspired her future career in healthcare. There Helena met Ann Rothman, a knitter who survived in the Lodz Ghetto by knitting for Nazi women. Once free, Ann knit Helena a Passover Sweater that was the height of elegance in the 1940s, something only a free person could wear. They became lifelong friends and Ann knit many more sweaters for Helena through the years. Helena never forgot those she lost and continues to wear her blue sweater every single year, as she celebrates the Festival of Freedom. Ann asked Helena to "wear it to remember them," and we can do the same. That is enough. Dayenu."

This story is from the [Knitting Hope](#) Newsletter which keeps you up to date on Tanya Singer's on-going historical knitting research and projects.

Political / Social Creativity



Yarnbomb, Wells Park, Chicago

PomPom magazine:

A way to support Ukraine

Many of us are looking to support individuals who are affected by the on-going strife between Russia and Ukraine. PomPom magazine sent out this update:

"Trembita is a mitten pattern by [Tetyana Vyazovska](#) that was originally published in Issue 39, but it's now available as a single pattern from Tetyana's [Etsy shop](#)!

To be fully transparent, a designer whose work is published in Pom Pom Quarterly has the option to release their pattern for individual sale after a period of time. However, we were moved by the calls to support Ukrainian designers so we returned the pattern rights to Tetyana early, which is why Trembita is available as a single pattern so soon after its initial publication. You can support Tetyana by purchasing her pattern [here](#).



[Pray for Ukraine Pattern](#)



[SunFlower Prayers](#)

These free patterns aren't specific fundraisers but the designers ask that you donate to charities that help refugees.



[Show Support Headband](#)

The Love Craft Website

is also raising funds directly and through sales of knitting patterns donated by designers -- 100% of the sales will go directly to Choose Love, helping to provide vital aid and services to those still in and fleeing Ukraine. For info go here [Love Craft Link](#)

SHOP NEWS

Sister ARTS Studio

You need a Yarn Bowl!

Shop at Sister Arts!

info@sisterartsstudio.com

(773) 929 - 7274



Fix it or Forget it? Flip a coin!

BILLY and BAA

delightful maker goods



Find a mistake seven rows back? Don't know what to do? Flip a coin and let fate decide! Here's the [LINK](#) to order one from Billy and Baa.



[Adknits.com](#) has a new collection called **Purl Scouts** including [MERIT BADGES](#) that are awesome!

SHOP NEWS

Kelbourne Knits Celebrates A YEAR OF BULKY HATS



April?

"Very nice for Chicago winters!"
Cathy G.

Last year's Year of Hats was a great success so they've returned with another series. You can download a free pattern for each month or opt to purchase one of the reasonably priced kits. Go to this [LINK](#) and click "kits" for details and get more info by reading their blog posts.

Speaking of Hats...



Travel to the Shetland Islands for SWW -- which returns as an in-person event next fall. Cathy G. reports that the all important **hat pattern** will be coming out in May. For details go to [Shetland Wool Week Website](#).

How will you celebrate LYS Day?

Mosaic Yarn Studio
109 W. Prospect Ave.
Mount Prospect, IL

[has some ideas & suggestions!](#)



Mosaic

Yarn Studio, Ltd.

Important Announcement

Something new for our Charity Knitting. We've set up a way to track how many items our guild donates to charity each year. It's easy! Just click this [LINK](#) and fill out the form. The link is also always available on our website's [Charity Knitting](#) page

WCKG Charity Projects Info

WHO: You of course -- and all WCKG members near and far!

WHY: Our guild has always had a goal to provide warm and comfy items for charity. For the past two years we've concentrated our efforts on four projects -- two local, one national, one international. Board members have volunteered to be in charge of collecting so once your projects are done you can arrange a drop off.

WHAT: Do you knit hats and scarves -- maybe donating your handiwork to The Night Ministry here in Chicago or the Seaman's Institute will interest you. Feel like tackling a sweater but your closet is full -- make a kid's sweater for WoolAid -- same chance to try cables or colorwork but smaller and quicker. Are you looking for a basic project -- tackle a blankie for a needy pet in area shelters.

HOW: With your own two hands and your generous heart!

WHERE & WHEN: See below for deadlines and contact info.

Click the pink link to get more info on each organization and as always you can check our [website](#) for updates.

The Night Ministry: knitted items for adults and children, no fiber restrictions. To arrange a drop off please contact: Anna R at amroeser@mac.com. Year round need.

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.

NOTE: Tina S. is also the contact for hats made for The Cancer Wellness Center.

Wool-Aid: knitted items for children, must be 100% wool. Arrange for a drop off by contacting Karen H. at wckgnewsletter@gmail.com. Year round need, usually we mail off projects twice a year. Deadline December 15th for the January mailing.

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 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 2022 is a discounted \$10.00.

[CLICK HERE FOR MEMBERSHIP SIGN UP](#)

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The Last Word



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