

WINDY CITY KNITTING GUILD

JULY 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Guild News	2
Knitting News	3
Reviews	4
Show & Share	5
Shop News	7
About Our Guild	8

UPCOMING WCKG EVENTS

July Meeting

Annual Stash Sale!

Welles Park: 2333 W Sunnyside Ave
Tuesday, July 9, 2019
6:45 – 8:45 pm

August Meeting

Ice Cream Social

Welles Park: 2333 W Sunnyside Ave
Tuesday, August 13, 2019
6:45 – 8:45 pm

UPCOMING FIBER EVENTS

Chicago Yarn Crawl

Various Locations
July 27–August 4, 2019

Stitches Midwest

Schaumburg, Illinois
August 2–4, 2019

Michigan Fiber Festival

August 14–18, 2019
Allegan, Michigan

Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival

September 6–8, 2019
Jefferson, Wisconsin

July Stash Sale!

The Stash Sale & Marker's Market invites anyone with unwanted yarn or handmade articles to bag them up and offer them for sale to meeting attendees.

We distributed seller numbers and price tag cards at the June meeting. If you were not able to attend the June meeting but are interested in thinning your stash or selling your handmade projects, just bring your items in clear plastic bags to the July meeting and we will have more price tag cards available.

If you want to get your yarn ready in advance, separate what you want to sell into different bags — you will probably want to sell single skeins individually, but if you have a sweater quantity or other multiple-skein quantity, you can group them together.

For each bag, fill out a note card with a description of each type of yarn. You might want to include the brand, weight, yardage, number of skeins, and fiber content. Separately, we will ask you to note your seller number (which we will assign to you) and a price on a label sticker. Try to aim for “garage sale” prices.

For each sale, we will put the money into an envelope marked with the price tag sticker. All the envelopes will be distributed to the sellers at the end of the meeting.

And if you don't have any extra yarn in your stash, it's probably time to do some shopping, so bring some cash and enjoy the market!



Guild News

June Meeting Recap — DYEING

With apologies for the mixup, last month we reported that Sam L would be teaching a class on felting. In fact, there was a miscommunication and it turned out to be a class on tabletop dyeing with animal fibers.

This lesson applies to animal fibers (aka protein fibers), including wool, alpaca, and silk. Basically, if it came off an animal, as well as the nylon in some sock yarns, you can dye it with acid dyes. Acid dye means simply a mild acid, such as 5% white vinegar or citric acid. For Kool-Aid dyeing, which Sam demonstrated, the citric acid in the mix is all you need. Just remember to add vinegar if you don't see citric acid on the list of ingredients. Mark all your tools so you don't reuse them with food later.

To try this at home, you will need:

- **Animal fiber** in a skein, tied in several places so it won't tangle
- **A container** big enough to hold your fiber and some water, with a lid, and that won't melt at 212F (you might want to test this first!)
- **Dye** — a teaspoon or so per 100g of fiber (superwash takes a bit more). Avoid drink mixes with added sugar (you don't want ants!). If you don't want to use Kool-Aid, try *Jacquard* or *Dharma Trading* brand dyes.
- **Acid** — a “glug” of vinegar if you dye doesn't contain citric acid
- **Mild liquid soap** — this gets water to penetrate the wool better
- **Very hot water** to set the dye

Step 1: Place fiber in the container and squirt a bit of liquid soap. Add vinegar if needed.

Step 2: Fill the container about halfway with cold-ish tap water. Squish your fiber to get it good and soggy.

Step 3: Go to town with the dye! Sprinkle Kool-Aid mix from the packet, spoon on dry powdered dye, or dribble in food coloring. With this method, the dye won't only stay where you put it. The colors will run and blend into one another, so don't try to plan out meticulously placed stripes.

Step 4: Pour in very hot water (enough to cover the yarn completely — Sam used a 1 liter electric kettle). Clamp on the lid to keep heat in.

Step 5: Wait... at least 10 minutes, preferably overnight to let the yarn cool.

Step 6: Wash the yarn with more of the mild liquid soap, under water as cool as you can stand and handling GENTLY, until no more color seems to be coming out. Hang to dry somewhere with good circulation.

Step 7: Knit!



Thank you Sam for an inspiring lesson!



This project used four packets of Kool-Aid (each a different flavor) for one skein of lace weight yarn.



Add very hot water and wait...



Voila!

Commission Crochet Opportunity

The guild received an email from Malcom F, who is looking to have some doilies made in different sizes, shapes and colors. Email wckgnewsletter@gmail.com if you are interested and we will put you in touch with him.

Knitting News

New Ravelry Policy: Do Not Post In Support of Trump or His Administration

Obviously the biggest knitting news this month is Ravelry's announcement its new policy of banning posts, projects, and other content in support of Donald Trump and his administration. Indeed, this news has made headlines well beyond our knitting world.

Below is the text of the policy, followed by links to several articles on this topic.



From Ravelry:

We are banning support of Donald Trump and his administration on Ravelry.

This includes support in the form of forum posts, projects, patterns, profiles, and all other content. Note that your project data will never be deleted. We will never delete your Ravelry project data for any reason and if a project needs to be removed from the site, we will make sure that you have access to your data. If you are permanently banned from Ravelry, you will still be able to access any patterns that you purchased. Also, we will make sure that you receive a copy of your data.

We cannot provide a space that is inclusive of all and also allow support for open white supremacy. Support of the Trump administration is undeniably support for white supremacy.

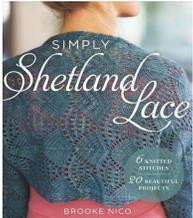
Policy notes:

- You can still participate if you do in fact support the administration, you just can't talk about it here.
- We are not endorsing the Democrats nor banning Republicans.

Reactions:

- "Everyone uses Ravelry": why a popular knitting website's anti-Trump stance is so significant," by Aja Romano, *Vox*, June 27, 2019: <https://www.vox.com/2019/6/27/18744347/ravelry-trump-ban-backlash-community-reaction>
- "Knitting website's war on Trump forces crafting community to confront racism," by Kari Paul, *The Guardian*, June 25, 2019: <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2019/jun/25/knitting-is-political-how-trump-forced-the-craft-community-to-confront-racism>
- "The power of Ravelry's stance against white supremacy reaches beyond the knitting community," by Catherine Shu, *TechCrunch*, June 24, 2019: <https://techcrunch.com/2019/06/23/the-power-of-ravelrys-stance-against-white-supremacy-reaches-beyond-the-knitting-community/>
- "'Knitting Has Always Been Political': Ravelry Bans Pro-Trump Content, and Reactions Flood In," by Sarah Mervosh, *The New York Times*, June 24, 2019: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/24/style/ravelry-knitting-ban-trump.html>
- <https://twitter.com/WoollyWormhead> — WoollyWormhead has been using her Twitter account to collect and repost articles and stories about the intersection of fiber arts and politics. All together it makes for a very interesting read, far beyond the current news.

Reviews



Simply Shetland Lace

Brooke Nico
Lark, 2018
\$19.95

This book explores some of the traditional lace stitches used in Shetland shawls, applying them to garments and wraps for today's wardrobes. It is not about Shetland shawls, although that knitting tradition is described (but curiously, not illustrated). Other authors have covered them in detail.

What lace teacher Brooke Nico has done is to take three pairs of the Shetland motifs and teach them in a knitter-ly way, and apply them to projects of varying difficulty. This makes lace knitting accessible even if it is a new knitting skill. Another important contribution is that lace stitches can look good in a robust gauge with warmer yarns, as well as in fine weights. The projects cover this range. Some are shown in variegated yarns, which are quirky—mixing the variables of color change and openwork. To my eye, they are most successful with limited contrast and short color changes in the variegation. Projects are difficulty rated, with scarves and fingerless mitts there to start one on a knitting path with lace, both flat and circular.

Each of the three pattern sections starts off by comparing two similar lace stitches—Acre and Razor; Old Shale and Feather and Fan; Horseshoe and Leaf. All knitters can learn from her analysis of how the motifs are similar and different in their construction, reinforced with a bit of swatching. They can be tried in simpler or more advanced garments, or two or three. There are shrugs, cardigans, pullovers, vests and tunics, and accessories. The Peerie Blanket would be a splendid baby gift. The Weisdale Cardigan is a wardrobe staple. The Tae Shawl has a lovely bell shape while the Aer Cardigan drapes well. The Brae Yoke Pullover combines both Feather and Fan and Old Shale to great advantage. Dig in and find your favorites for lace to wear.

– Cathy G



Tae Shawl



Lerwick Vest



Brae Yoke Pullover



Untangling the Weave

Siobhan Roberts
New York Times, Science Times
May 21, 2019

Usually when we read about fiber arts and mathematics, it shows how crocheting can be a powerful tool for understanding topology (shapes) or that computer punch cards had their origins in controlling pattern weaving in looms. Now, enter the knitter!

Dr. Elisabetta Matsumoto, an applied mathematician and physicist at the Georgia Institute of Technology, has funding from the prestigious National Science Foundation for a 5-year study investigating the mathematics and mechanics of the technology of knitting.

Early work will be to identify and classify all possible knittable stitches, and it goes on from there. It is an offshoot of math's knot theory, with knitting being a lattice formed from a series of slip knots. It all gets fascinating.

– Cathy G

Read the article here:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/17/science/math-physics-knitting-matsumoto.html>

Show & Share

June 2019, Recorded by Carol B, Photos by Tina S



Rebekah A made a beautiful mosaic and lace scarf called Cascadial with KnitPicks Palette from her stash. All that great knitting was done over 5-6 months whilst they were moving

Pattern: <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/cascadial-wrap>



Elisabeth M visited her mom in Germany and found a sweater she had started years ago and had almost finished. The style wasn't working for her anymore so she took it apart and made the Monterey tee from this yarn converting the pattern to work in the round.

Pattern: <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/monterey-tee>



Elisabeth also made a lovely laceweight linen short sleeve cardigan.

Pattern: <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/flora-cardi>



Marcie finished her beautiful Fox Paws scarf in jewel tone wool. "Insane pattern" is what she called it! There can be no fudging at all in this pattern.

Pattern: <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/fox-paws>

Show & Share

June 2019, Recorded by Carol B, Photos by Tina S



Samantha L made the Boneyard shawl from kool-aid dyed silk/merino singles.

Pattern: <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/boneyard-shawl>



Sam also made the Exploration Station with leftover from other shawls, gifts, found and mill end yarns. It has a beautiful flow and really brought a smile to her face because it is now her favorite piece! The pattern is adaptable to use whichever section you like throughout.

Pattern: <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/exploration-station>



Carol B made her Fleur sweater from leading men fiber arts yarn purchased at Yarn Con. It was a surprise that it was knit flat, so fair isle purling was a new skill she learned in the making of this sweater.

Pattern: <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/fleur-19>

Thanks to everyone for sharing your beautiful and impressive projects with the guild!



Shop News

Knit1
3856 North Lincoln
knit1chgo.com

Knit1 welcomes the amazing knitwear designer Julie Hoover, who will be teaching several classes during Yarn Crawl. All classes cost \$80, and you can sign up on the Knit1 website.

Tubular Cast On and Bind Off
Saturday, July 27: 10 am – 1 pm

One of the most beautiful beginnings or endings to a ribbed edge, Julie will not only teach you how to cast on and bind off like a pro using the tubular method, but also how to adapt it to patterns written using alternative methods.

Fabric Shaping Techniques
Saturday, July 27: 2 pm – 5 pm

This class will focus on common (and some not-so-common) shaping methods using increases, decreases and short rows. Hands-on practice will give you a better appreciation for how fabric can be shaped and how to modify your knitting project accordingly.

Seaming Techniques
Sunday, July 28: 1 pm – 4 pm

Possibly the most intimidating part of any pattern, the focus of this class is to cover best practices Julie uses for blocking projects and seaming garments—two essential topics that will help you raise the bar on your finishing skills.

Hopewell Weaving
227 Illini Drive, Sparland
hopewellweaving.com

Bishop Hill Weaving Retreat: November 2–3, 2019

Immerse yourself in a creative and relaxing environment as you learn to weave at the Colony Schoolhouse in Bishop Hill, Illinois. This workshop is appropriate for beginners or more experienced weavers. The looms will be warped and ready for you to weave samples and patterns. All equipment and yarns are provided.

The cost is \$195 for the two-day workshop only, and there are several packages and pricing options at the Bishop Hill Bed & Breakfast. Visit the Hopewell Weaving website to learn more: <https://www.hopewellweaving.com/bishop-hill-weaving-retreat>

Sister-Arts Studio
721 West Wrightwood Avenue
www.sisterartsstudio.com

Sister-Art Studio invites your child to creative Fiber-Art Camps during the summer! Each camp focuses on a different fiber-art morning and afternoon. Camps are for ages 7 – 14 and occur 9 weeks throughout the summer. Register for as many weeks as you choose! Call Donna to register: (773) 929-7274.

Click here for the camp brochure:
http://www.sisterartsstudio.com/pdfs/Fiber_Art_Camp_2019.pdf

2019 Chicago Yarn Crawl
July 27 – August 4
Participating Shops

Region 1

Firefly Fiber Arts Studio
Knit1
Nina Chicago
Sister-Arts Studio
Yarnify!

Region 2

2 Needle Chicks
CloseKnit
Mia Bella
Three Bags Full

Region 3

Dye Hard Yarns
Idea Studio
Knit Nirvana
Llama Llama Ding Dong
TLD Design Studio (Berwyn)
Yarn Hollow

Region 4

Elgin Knit Works
Knitche
String Theory
TLD Design Studio (Westmont)
Wool & Company
Yarns Untold

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 meets the second Tuesday of each month, 6:45 to 8:45 pm, at:

Welles Park Clubroom
2333 West Sunnyside Avenue, Chicago

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 Membership Chair.

Annual membership costs \$25 for the calendar year. This money helps us send 12 newsletters via email each year and pay for monthly programs. You will receive a 10% discount at participating yarn shops and discounted fees for our weekend workshops and classes.

If you would like to join, make your check out to Windy City Knitting Guild for \$25 and mail it to:

WCKG Treasurer
4821 North Leavitt
Chicago, Illinois 60625

Call (773) 769-2362 if you have questions. Membership fees are non-refundable. You also have the option of paying for membership through our website using PayPal.

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President

TBA

Vice President

Tina S
KnitterS@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer/Membership Chair

Rosemary P
1129rev@gmail.com

Secretary

Mary E
maryqazwsx@gmail.com

Webmaster

Laura O
info@windycityknittingguild.com

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Marcie C Ellie P
Elisabeth M Julie S

Monthly Program Coordinator

TBA

Weekend Workshop Coordinator

TBA

Newsletter Editor

Rebekah A
heyrebekah@yahoo.com

*Email your newsletter submissions
to wckgnewsletter@gmail.com.*