

WINDY CITY KNITTING GUILD

NOVEMBER 2019

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UPCOMING WCKG EVENTS

November Meeting

Annual Potluck and Board Elections
Welles Park: 2333 W Sunnyside Ave
Tuesday, November 12, 2019
6:45 – 8:45 pm

November Meeting

Holiday Gift Exchange
Welles Park: 2333 W Sunnyside Ave
Tuesday, December 10, 2019
6:45 – 8:45 pm

UPCOMING FIBER EVENTS

Thumb Fiber Festival

November 8–9, 2019
Lexington, MI

Alpaca Pines Farm: Christmas at the Farm

December 8, 2019
Poplar Grove, IL

Midwest Fiber Frolic

February 14–16, 2020
Milwaukee, WI

Madison Knitters Guild Knit-In

March 20 – 22, 2020
Madison, WI

Ending the Guild

As many of you know the end of the Guild is approaching. We will disband as of December 31, 2019. The website will be taken down, but past newsletters will remain available through Google docs (a link will be provided in the final newsletter).

We have had offers to take over the positions of Treasurer, Webmaster, and Newsletter Editor — *if* we can find a President. It is impossible for a few members to continue to run the Guild with no leadership. There has been no indication of any volunteers who are interested in serving as President or in other leading roles.

According to the by-laws, the dissolution of the Guild requires that once all outstanding bills have been paid the remaining monies should be distributed to charity. Please click the link below to vote for the top 3 charities where you would like the remaining funds donated. We have included groups the Guild currently works with, but feel free to suggest another organization.

<https://www.mysurveygizmo.com/s3/5292954/WCKG-Closing-Survey>

Our December newsletter will contain a list of knitting groups that meet at local yarn shops and libraries. We encourage everyone to attend our November and December meetings to share contact info so that you can keep in touch with your friends from the guild. So many wonderful friendships have been built through the guild over the years and are sure to continue for a long time to come!



Guild News

October Meeting Recap

Our October meeting was our annual charity knitting collection day. We had an entire table full of items that we will donate to various charities! Members contributed everything from blankets sweaters for children, adults, and even animals. Thank you everyone for your donations!

One of our most prolific charity knitters — Rose, who knits so many dog blankets for the Snuggles Project — is running out of yarn. If you have some acrylic yarn that you can donate to Rose so that she can keep working on those snuggles, email wckgnewsletter@gmail.com and we will get you in touch with her.

At our October meeting, we also discussed the future of the guild and decided that we will most likely disband at the end of the year (see page 1). Many people had suggestions for other knit nights at local libraries and yarn shops. In our next newsletter we will include a list of those groups, so that we can continue to keep in touch and/or meet new knitting friends.

Commission Opportunity

The guild received a request from Janet R, who is looking for someone to embroider with yarn a name on a Christmas stocking.

Janet's aunt knit the stocking many years ago, and she would like her granddaughter's name added. This would probably be an easy duplicate stitch project.

If you would be able to help, email wckgnewsletter@gmail.com and we will get you in touch with Janet.

November Potluck

Join us on Tuesday, November 12 for our annual potluck celebration. Please bring something to share with everyone. Attendees at the October meeting already signed up to bring the following items:

Appetizers: Cheese & crackers, veggies

Salads and Side Dishes: Chicken salad, fruit, and other assorted salads and sides yet to be decided

Entrees: Turkey meatloaf, shrimp, and fried chicken

Desserts: Cookies; cake, and a pumpkin treat

We ask that everyone bring their own beverage.



Knitting News



Beth Brown-Reinsel

National and Local Teachers

Silent Auction and Buy It Now Boutique
(free admission)

Vendor Market (free admission)

Cast on Luncheon Party with exclusive
knitting kit!

Opening Night reception with keynote
speaker, live auction and hors d'oeuvres

Door Prizes for registered attendees

Knitting, weaving, spinning classes & more



Carson Demers



Tracy Purtscher



Lars Rains

Knit- In

March 20-22, 2020

Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI



*Early registration opens November 1, 2019 for MKG members
and November 15, 2019 for non-members.*

Pre-registration closes March 1, 2020.

Find out more: www.madisonknittersguild.org/knitin

Knitting News



Shetland Wool Week Annual

Volume 5, 2019

£24.00

Some very fine Shetland titles have come out this fall and its hard to know where to start. Some knitters are able to attend Shetland Wool Week and more of us dream of it. The Annual brings it to us all. The 10th Anniversary issue is packed with beauty, information and inspiration. It starts with good wishes from a tweedy Prince Charles and this year's official hat, *Oliver Henry's Roadside Beanie*. Then dive into a treasury of inspiration. A total of 16 designs includes outstanding sweaters, hats, hand coverings, shawls and a coffee pot cozy. Both a woven and a crochet+knit project are included. Then move to four essays on various knitting experiences, Shetland dye plants and the native sheep of Shetland, plus notes on the authors. Throughout the issue there are evocative landscape photos and specialty advertisements. The pages are slightly larger than in the past, which serve us well.

A knitter could have a field day without touching yarn and needles, but that may be close to impossible. The Bonhoga Cardigan has gorgeous but orderly colorwork in the body and understated textured sleeves. Shetland Meets Bohus Mittens are a riot of color. The Burrafirth Shawl would be an everyday delight to wear. The Shetland Muse Hat reflects the designer's mastery of color, Mary's Shawl is classic lace, and so much more.

My Annual just arrived and I'm looking forward to soaking it all up in detail. Why does the brain knit so much faster than the hands? You can get a copy from the Shetland Wool Week Website (shetlandwoolweek.com) and it comes to about \$30 with shipping. The Woolly Thistle is also importing it.

– Cathy G



Shetland Meets Bohus



Burrafirth



Fair Isle Designs from Shetland Knitters, Volume 2

Shetland Guild of Spinners, Knitters, Weavers and Dyers

The Shetland Times, Ltd. 2019

\$41.95

Hooray — a second volume of all sorts of color work projects from the Shetlands, plus the 30-year history of the Guild whose members have produced them. A very fun section questions the designers on various aspects of how they knit, favorite colors, and other tips and preferences, showing that there is no single way of doing things. Following the introductory knitting information, there is a grand page of Shetland dialect terms for knitting; most of us have had a “spret” experience, alas.

There is a splendid pullover sampler for men, a modern tunic in cozy Aran-weight wool and a classic band-trimmed baby and child's pattern. The sweaters are accompanied by a blizzard of smaller pieces — a substantial tubular scarf, fingerless mitts for using up scrap yarn, hefty bed socks, a negative-positive circular pillow, headbands with pony tail-accommodating steeks, a first class deep hat, nice gloves, and a must-make simple cowl. Technique geeks will embrace the twined-knit mittens with Scandinavian graphics. Another interesting technique for stranded knitting shows up in the child's pullover, “brake en eke.”

I'm noticing a bunch of commercial clothing called “Fair Isle” this season (often in cotton blends!), but this is the real thing for the long-term wardrobe, and not a “look.” Check out the book and various yarns at Schoolhouse Press or the Woolly Thistle and knit up an heirloom, large or small.

– Cathy G



Lucky Purple Clover Tunic



Teeny Dags

Reviews



Meadow

Marie Wallin

Marie Wallin Designs, 2019

36.95

Designer Marie Wallin has come out with a second splendid sweater collection, following her popular Shetland book.

There are six pullovers and one breathtaking cardigan, plus two attractive textured/lace solid color styles, all for women. Shetland wools come in a color range far larger than the biggest box of crayons, so there is much color beauty. The full photos of the sweaters are much lovelier than any thumbnail previews, and are enhanced by the true beauty of the model, Georgia, exploring various meadows in her finery.

The non-yoke sweaters are worked flat and then are sewn together. All are worked in Jamiesons of Shetland (Jameisons) wool, with a size range from 32" to 50".

A special treat in the book is the story of the fundraising effort by knitters and others to bring a MRI medical scanner to Shetland, so that patients will not have to travel to the mainland. Knitters have been buying patterns of Harriet's Hat online, and I just had the pleasure of completing mine in its beautiful blues. One pound will be donated from the sale of each copy of Meadow to the MRI project.

This is not quick knitting, at 7 or 8 sts/inch, but the results should be deeply satisfying and long lasting. The book and this brand of wool are available through Schoolhouse Press. Also try The Woolly Thistle for the book.

– Cathy G



Honeysuckle



Cornflower



Magazines in the News: Interweave Knits Gifts

2019

\$9.99

A fall favorite is the *Interweave Gifts* issue, not part of your subscription. This year the focus is on lots of hats, small knitted bags and related gifts, and a very nice batch of shawls and wraps, which might be done by sometime in 2020...

There is also an important reminder to give the gift of teaching others to knit, especially youngsters. A number of years ago, I taught a grand-nephew knitting basics in the back seat, during a long car drive. A dozen or so years later, when achieving uncle-hood, he was able to knit something welcoming his niece.

What may make this issue a real keeper is the article on how to plan a custom hat pattern, given you preferred yarn, its gauge and the head measurements of the recipient. Two sample patterns are given for 4 ¼ sts/in and 3 ¼ sts/in. While this has potential for last-minute gifts from stash yarn, it can also be the base for a knitter trying out new stitch patterns or design ideas. Also, don't overlook turning a much-admired skein into something for yourself, whether from one's stash or at a fiber event or LYS shopping trip. It would also be a way to work up a gift for a man or for a child, who are pretty much overlooked in this gift collection.

Look for this special issue at a LYS or a large newsstand, before its 12/23 pull date.

– Cathy G



Dancing Diamonds
Gift Bags



Lamplighter's Hat

Show & Share

October 2019, Recorded by Elisabeth M, Photos by Karen H



Rebekah A knitted two adorable sweaters for twin toddlers. She used the *Strange Brew* pattern by Tin Can Knits, which is not so much one pattern but a “recipe” for many possible variations. Rebekah knitted the sweaters top-down with stranded pattern yokes and used Knit Picks Swish DK yarn, in blue and turquoise tones for the boy sweater and purples and pink for the girl sweater.

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/strange-brew>



Samantha L finished a pretty, rectangular *Fleece* shawl, a pattern of chevron lace and garter ridges and designed by Kieran Foley. It is available for free on Knitty. Samantha used five different yarns, all in shades of orange and pinks. Some were fingering-weight Dream in Color Smooshy yarns and others her own hand-dyed yarns.

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/fleece>



Samantha also knitted herself a beautiful sweater, *Izumi*, a design by Natalie Selles published in the magazine *Pom Pom Quarterly*. The sweater features leafy lace designs on the upper back and front and the sleeve cuffs. Since Samantha started with a provisional cast-on, she added additional matching lace panels at the sides of the lower body. She knitted it in worsted-weight, super-wash undyed Wool 2 Dye 4. She plans to dye the sweater and show us the final product at the next meeting.

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/izumi-3>



Carol B showed off an almost finished project, a gorgeous *Gardengate* sweater, a top-down sweater by Jennifer Steingass with a stranded color-work yoke and sleeve cuffs. The main yarn was Brooklyn Tweed Peerie in a petrol color, with contrasting Spincycle yarn in light blue and violet.

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/gardengate>

Carol also finished her *Stashbusting Helix Hat*, a hat with the striping technique demonstrated at the September guild meeting.



Karen H. finished a nice *Sediment Scraps Blanket*, a free pattern by Katie Rose Pryal, that is knitted diagonally with increases and then decreases at the edges and is perfect for using up leftover yarn. Karen used Caron Simply Soft and Red Heart Super Saver Solids with white as the main color, random stripes of blue throughout and a yellow crochet border.

The blanket is for the Welcome Blanket Project, an organization that connects residents with newly arrived immigrants by giving them handmade blankets and sharing stories with them.



Shop News

The Fold
3316 Millstream Road, Marengo
thefoldatmc.net

NOVEMBER SALE

Since Thanksgiving is so late this year, we should all get started on our holiday crafting well before Thanksgiving. If you need supplies, The Fold will hold a long sale, starting on Wednesday, November 6th.

- November 6 - 9: 10% off everything in the shop
- November 13 - 16: 15% off everything in the shop
- November 20 - 23: 20% off everything in the shop
- November 27 - 30: 25% off everything in the shop

The Fold is closed Sundays, Mondays, and Tuesdays and will also be closed on Thanksgiving, November 28th and will reopen on Friday and Saturday, November 29th and 30th.

Knitche
5221 Main Street, Downers Grove
knitche.com

STORE CLOSING

After 15 years in business in Downers Grove, opportunities beckon elsewhere and Knitche is closing up shop. They are no longer accepting returns or gift certificates, but remain open for the time being. We are sad to see yet another yarn shop go.

From Knitche:

We thank you from the bottom of our yarn-loving hearts for your patronage, friendship, creativity, and laughter over the years!

Fine Line Creative Arts Center
37W570 Bolcum Road, St. Charles
fineline.org

ARTISAN GIFT SALE AND YARN SALE

The Fine Line Creative Arts Center annual artisan gift sale opens on December 6th. Now in its 32nd year, each year is bigger and brighter than the year before. With an abundance of locally handcrafted items, this is the perfect place to begin your holiday shopping.

Fine Line is home to a diverse community of highly skilled artists, which is reflected in the full range of items at this sale. Here you will find many one-of-a-kind items you will not see anywhere else, as well as the more traditional items such as handwoven scarves, pottery, jewelry, seasonal decorations. For the artist to be part of this gift sale, their work has to be screened by a group of their peers to ensure the highest standard of craftsmanship.

- Friday, December 6: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Saturday, December 7: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Sunday, December 8: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
- Monday, December 9 –
- Thursday, December 12: 10:00 am – 8:00 pm
- Friday, December 13: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Lorna's Laces
On the move!
lornaslaces.net

Lorna's Laces — a Guild favorite and long-time Chicago yarn business — is moving!

On November 1, Lorna's Laces and Mrs. Crosby will be relocating to Louisville, KY. They will be closed to production and shipping from November 4 – 8 as they settle in to their new studio (a former wool mill).

We wish Lorna's Laces all the best & thank them for many great mill-end sales and special events over their years in Chicago.

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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