

WINDY CITY KNITTING GUILD

OCTOBER 2019

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UPCOMING WCKG EVENTS

October Meeting

Charity Knits

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

October Meeting

Annual Potluck and Board Elections

Welles Park: 2333 W Sunnyside Ave
Tuesday, November 12, 2019
6:45 – 8:45 pm

UPCOMING FIBER EVENTS

Fiber Expo

October 12–13, 2019
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Madtown Yarn Shop Hop

October 18–20, 2019
Madison, Wisconsin and area

Vogue Knitting Live!

October 31 – November 3, 2019
Columbus, OH

Thumb Fiber Festival

November 8–9, 2019
Lexington, MI

Charity Knitting

Knitting for groups in need will be the focus of our October meeting. Please bring items you have been working on this year to donate to the groups we are supporting in 2019. We will make sure they get to the appropriate charities.

A few of the groups that we support (but not all) include:

- ♦ Cancer Wellness Center (chemo hats)
- ♦ The Snuggles Project (blankets for shelter dogs and cats)
- ♦ The Seaman's Church Institute (warm garments such as scarves, hats, slippers)
- ♦ Mount Sinai Hospital (washable hats for babies)
- ♦ Wool-Aid (warm woolen items for children in cold climates around the world)

In addition to knitting for these groups, we also received a special request from Sung K at our September meeting. Sung has taught a group from the 11th District CAPS meetings to knit, and now they are working on knitting baby hats for at-risk moms at Mount Sinai Hospital. Sung's group will deliver the hats towards the end of November, so she will need any donations by the November meeting. These hats must be made with easy care yarn, such as cotton/bamboo/acrylic.



Guild News

September Meeting Recap: Helical Knitting

Hopefully attendees at our September meeting are continuing to knit their helical hats! If you missed the meeting, below is information for everyone to give this technique a try.

Designer Jessica Rose gave us permission to knit her hat pattern called *Stashbusting Helix Hats*. The pattern is available as a free download on Ravelry:

www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/stashbusting-helix-hats



In addition to the pattern we used, there are other options for striped knitting. Please note, the technique of helical knitting works when knitting in the round and not knitting flat (back and forth). Please take a look at the video links below and give this technique a try:

- ◆ Grace O'Neil's video is *The Jogless Join — How to Alternate Skeins without a Seam when knitting in the round*. This video uses two colors to demonstrate the technique. www.youtube.com/watch?v=sanXdZT981k
- ◆ Very Pink Knits also offers a video with this technique - *Knitting Help — Helix Knitting (Jogless One-Round Stripes)*. In this video she works with three different colors of yarn and establishes the stripes in an alternative way from the pattern used at the meeting. Regardless of the set-up, stripes without jogs are cool!! www.youtube.com/watch?v=wm4TPNwaOKw
- ◆ Mason Dixon and their year of techniques offered helical stripes as well. This video features the team of Arnall-Culliford Knitwear and helical knitting. Read the blog and watch the video for other garments to incorporate this technique. www.masondixonknitting.com/go-year-techniques-begins/

Open Board Positions

At our September meeting, we also discussed the open board positions for 2020, which we will vote on at our November meeting. Thanks to Marcie C, who volunteered to serve as Treasurer!

The following positions are currently open:

- ◆ President
- ◆ Monthly Program Coordinator
- ◆ Weekend Workshop Coordinator
- ◆ Webmaster
- ◆ Newsletter Editor



If you are interested in serving on the Board next year, please contact wckgnewsletter@gmail.com or info@windycityknittingguild.com.

Knitting News

Invitation to Participate: The Welcome Blanket Project

– Karen H

“The proposed border wall between the United States and Mexico is almost 2000 miles long. Imagine if the massive distance of this wall was re-conceptualized and re-contextualized not to divide, but to include. Instead of wall, a concrete line, to keep people out, what if lines of yarn became 3,500,640 yards of blankets to welcome people in?”

— Opening proposal from welcomeblanket.org

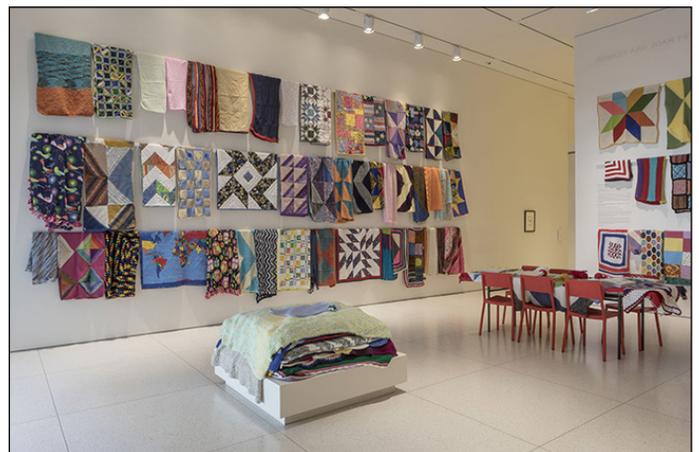
I first heard of The Welcome Blanket Project when my daughter was working on a History Fair project about the renegade artist Judy Chicago who created the controversial “Dinner Party” exhibit in 1979. The Smart Museum of the University of Chicago hosted a dialogue with her and Jayne Zweiman. “Who’s Jayne Zweiman?” we thought. She’s one of the creative minds behind the pink pussy hats that took the world by storm during the 2017 Women’s Marches all over the United States and, indeed, internationally. Her new project “The Welcome Blanket” was on display at the Smart Museum from July – December, 2017. We went to visit, and my daughter—full of newly inspired political activism—was thrilled to actually meet Jayne Zweiman there.

Knitters, crocheters and quilters from all over the country flooded the museum with blankets in all sorts of unique designs, each 40”x40” in dimension, the math working out to approximately 1200 yards per blanket x 3200 blankets = 2000 miles length of the proposed border wall. The project quickly went beyond its proposed goal and it has taken on a life of its own, with three other museum exhibits and more on the horizon. Most importantly, it has fostered a Welcome Blanket On Call where on-going donations can be handled. The organization’s website <http://welcomeblanket.org/> has a wealth of information—the history of the project, how to get involved, upcoming exhibits, details on the organizations that distribute the blankets, and more information on the immigration experience. I encourage you to visit this website—it’s fascinating—especially the “Where Can I See Welcome Blanket?” where photos of each blanket donated are logged, now numbering 3519 and counting.

In closing I want to mention another incredibly moving part of this project: the welcome notes. Regardless of your politics or opinion about our immigration policies, the emphasis of the project is our country’s melting pot of many national origins. Along with each blanket submission, the makers were encourage to add their own origin story and the “Coming to America” stories of their family. These tags, attached to each blanket were incredibly moving to read at the exhibit, but I imagine they also carry a message of understanding and empathy to welcome each recipient.

Currently the Welcome Blanket Project is accepting donations through its “Welcome Blanket On-Call” project. The address for the International Rescue Committee/Welcome Blanket is on the website. The next display will be in Los Feliz, CA and you can get submission information by emailing: hello@welcomeblanket.org.

The welcome blanket on display at the Smart Museum (photo from website)



Knitting News

Fall Project Ideas

– Cathy G

Hats

Kilbourne Woolens worsted weight “Germantown” is spun from North American wool and has lovely colors and excellent stitch definition. It caught my eye during this year’s yarn crawl at Three Bags Full. This year the company’s web site offers a good free hat pattern each month in Germantown, mostly using one skein. They sell nice kits, should you like one, but the patterns can be downloaded for no cost if you poke around to the right place on the website: <https://kelbournewoolens.com/shop/yarn-pattern-knit-crochet-kits>

Ravelry might provide another path. Then, you can go pick out your favorite colors at our LYS and have a good knit.



September Hat



August Hat



July Hat



June Hat



May Hat



February Hat



January Hat

Lace-Trimmed Bathrobes

As we are in the midst of the fall and holiday catalog glut, remember that this is the time of year to secure a shawl collar cotton terry cloth bathrobe, for yourself, or for a special woman on your gift list. The shawl collar provides an excellent display opportunity for a fancy knitted lace edging. Knit it up in crochet cotton (pearl cotton is too soft). Look for size 10, in a high quality brand like DMC. Most come in white or ecru. Check out a large craft store, a crochet-oriented yarn shop or on-line resources. Find your favorite edging pattern and be sure you have the robe in hand to know what completed length you will need. Overcast it by hand with two strands of sewing thread to attach to the collar.

Sources for the robe include LL Bean, the Vermont Country Store, and likely Lands End. They may even be showing up at department stores.

Find these kits at the Kelbourne Woolens website (the March and April kits are sold out).

Reviews

Saltwater Classics

Christine Legrow & Shirley A. Scott

Boulder Books, 2019

\$29.95

Two noted Canadian knitters continue exploring the traditions of mittens, hats and vamps (heavy boot liners) in Newfoundland. While this knitting is colorful and creative, it is always a practical response to the maritime climate of this Atlantic island. The color photographs are abundant and present the knitwear well. The patterns move historic documentation forward to new knitwear designs. Lots of good stories plus practical knitting tips from a hypothetical grandma, "Nan at Your Side," enrich the collections. These sidebars are indicated by a lovely round feather and fan knit table center, for which I wish there was a pattern.

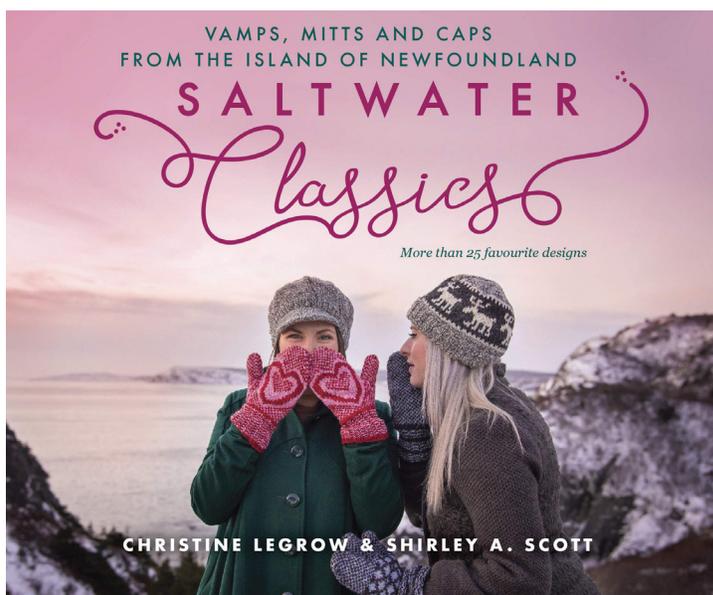
The yarn and color combinations are well worth studying—much is inspired by nature. Most styles are for women or men, with a few outliers for kids. Mittens and gloves in stranded colorwork present a real problem—a knitter would actually have to pick which one to start first, and I'm not there yet! The hat collection

is a good one in textured patterns or stranded colorwork and sometimes includes more than one size. Several hats have potential for putting more zip into my gift and charity knitting. There is a striking boot sock for women, with a honeycomb cabled cuff to roll over the top of a shorter boot. Vamps are heavy duty boot liners or slippers with colorful knitting.

The authors' earlier book, *Saltwater Mittens*, (previously reviewed) proved to be a Canadian best-seller. This book feels more relaxed, since it gets beyond folk documentation, while still capturing the spirit and craft of a place.

Schoolhouse Press brings it to US knitters, plus they carry some colors of the Briggs and Little sport weight Regal, for an authentic yarn which has good quality at a reasonable price.

– Cathy G



This book is so new, there aren't even any photos available yet!

Show & Share

September 2019, Recorded by Rebekah A, Photos by Rebekah A



Knitter:

Marcie C

Pattern:

Butterfly

Yarn:

Superwash Merino

Notes:

The shawl was designed to be square, but Marcie thought a rectangle worked better.



Knitter: Sam L

Pattern: Ivy Leaf Stole (design by Sam)

Yarn: Merino Wool Fingering

Sam also showed off a fun cover for her backpack buckle, but we don't have a photo.



Knitter: Shirley Y

Pattern: Changing Staircases

by Trysten Molina (Dragon Hoard Designs)

www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/changing-staircases

Yarn: Painted Desert Superwash Merino Wool



Knitter: Kathleen O

Pattern: St. Catherines by Kate Davies

www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/st-catherines

Yarn: Milarrochy Tweed

Shop News

Dye Hard Yarns
1107 Westgate Street, Oak Park
dyehardyarns.com

GOFUNDME: NEW LOCATION COMING SOON!

Dye Hard Yarns is creating something new! The boutique will soon be moving to a larger space in the Arts District of Oak Park. The new location will include studio space and equipment for indie dyers, retail space to showcase their yarns, and yarn dyeing classes for the fiber community. There will also be studio space for fiber artists and expanded handcrafted offerings to provide an opportunity for locals to earn a living doing something they love.

Studio members will have display space and full studio access along with other perks. There will be dye parties, dye-a-longs for new pattern releases, and other community focused events. With a collective of dyers and artists, the new location will provide the opportunity to really engage people and help each other grow and learn.

Dye Hard Yarns is currently running a GoFundMe campaign to get the new location started. They have already raised almost \$5,000 towards the \$30,000 goal!

Any donations are deeply and sincerely appreciated:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/dye-hard-yarns-needs-a-new-home?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet

The new address will be 210-A Harrison Street in Oak Park. Visit dyehardyarns.com or the GoFundMe site for more details as this exciting project progresses.



Idea Studio
515 South LaGrange Road, LaGrange
ideastudioknits.com

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR
Friday, October 25, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff will be entertaining everyone with an evening of Haunted Story Telling! Costume contests will be going on throughout the evening, as well as drawings and prizes. We ask that you include something handmade on your costume—show off your handwork, even if it's just a knitted witch nose! Food and beverages in all their spooky forms will be provided. Event Fee is \$25.

The Fold
3316 Millstream Road, Marengo
thefoldatmc.net

ROVING SALE!

The Fold still has quite a bit of colored roving and braids, and these will be on sale into October until they're gone. There are also several bumps of alpaca roving, all natural colors, currently 40% off. And so that knitters and crocheters don't feel left out, all alpaca yarns will also be added to the sale!

Sister Arts Studio
721 West Wrightwood
sisterartsstudio.com

FALL TRUNK SHOWS

Shibui:

September 28 - October 12

Big Bad Wool:

(pictured)

November 9 – November 23

Lopi 38:

November 18 – 28



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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