

WINDY CITY KNITTING GUILD

SEPTEMBER 2019

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UPCOMING WCKG EVENTS

September Meeting

Helical Knitting

Welles Park: 2333 W Sunnyside Ave
Tuesday, September 10, 2019
6:45 – 8:45 pm

October Meeting

Charity Knits

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

UPCOMING FIBER EVENTS

Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival

September 6–8, 2019
Jefferson, Wisconsin

Fiber Expo

October 12–13, 2019
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Madtown Yarn Shop Hop

October 18–20, 2019
Madison, Wisconsin and area

Thumb Fiber Festival

November 8–9, 2019
Lexington, MI

Helical Knitting

At our September meeting we will explore a technique for knitting stripes in the round which does not include carrying yarn up the side of your work. **Helical knitting** is a fun way to incorporate yarns from your stash. This technique is another way to avoid the “jog” which occurs in circular knitting when changing colors. So, gather some knitting supplies, do a little homework, and bring a friend to the September meeting to try helical stripe knitting!

As you are looking through your stash, select a main color yarn (for knitting the brim of a hat) and bring contrasting yarns of your choice. You should bring a minimum of 3 yarns (main color and 2 additional colors). The yarn can be variegated or solid. You can also bring extra yarn to share with other attendees.

Supplies Needed

- ◆ knitting needles (circular or double points) in US 6 and US 8
- ◆ yarn from stash in **worsted** weight

Homework

- ◆ Cast-on 88 stitches and join to knit in the round
- ◆ Knit a 1 x 1 rib, or 2 x 2 rib for desired length (1.5 to 3 inches in length)
- ◆ Switch to larger needles and knit 1 row



Guild News

August Meeting Recap

Our August was the annual ice cream social. We also gave away a LOT of yarn for charity knitting projects thanks to a generous donor whose mother passed away before she could knit through it all. While most of the yarn was novelty and specialty yarn not exactly suited to traditional charity projects, members were able to think of uses for about half of the yarn. Visit the guild's Ravelry group to see what some people have already made. Tina S took the rest to donate to the Winnetka Rummage Sale, which is held each Spring with proceeds going to various local charities. Thank you so much to Traci D for this donation! We will have a thank you card for Traci at the next meeting for members to sign.



2020 Board Positions

Several of our board members have decided not to continue on the board in 2020. We are announcing this now so that you can begin thinking about the future of our guild and how you can contribute. Without board members, the guild will not be able to continue in its present form. The following positions will be open at our November elections:

Webmaster. Laura O will be stepping down as webmaster. Laura created our fantastic new website this year, which is much more user-friendly than the previous website and should be fairly simple to maintain. There will be plenty of documentation on the new site and how to maintain it, and Laura would be happy to meet with the new webmaster to do a hand-off.

Newsletter Editor. After three years I (Rebekah) will step down as newsletter editor. Of course, I would be happy to meet with the new editor to explain the whole process. I create the newsletter using Adobe InDesign, but you can use any program you have access to and are comfortable with and should feel free to make it your own. Previous editors have used Microsoft Publisher, Word, and other programs.

Treasurer. Rosemary P will also step down from her role as treasurer. She would meet with the new treasurer to hand over all the key information and explain her duties.

Additionally, the following key positions have been vacant in 2019. We have somehow managed to make this work, but it cannot continue!

President. Serve as leader at all guild meetings and Board meetings; responsible for the overall management of the guild.

Monthly Program Coordinator. Plan the programs for the monthly meetings.

Weekend Workshop Coordinator. Coordinate weekend workshop programs.



Knitting News

Interweave Bankruptcy

F+W Media, the parent company of Interweave, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in March. Their disastrous attempt to build an ecommerce business was cited by current company management as a major mistake.

Penguin Random House acquired F+W's books division, with more than 2,000 non-fiction books in the backlist. The company publishes approximately 120 new books a year and imprints include North Light Books and Interweave.

Over 50 magazine titles were also put up for auction. The craft magazine arm of F+W was acquired by Macanta Investments, a private-investment partnership for Terence O'Toole and his family. Mr. O'Toole is the managing partner of the investment firm that had a majority interest in F+W. The company Peak Media Properties was then set up to oversee the magazines.

Following that acquisition, Peak Media Properties sold the titles *Spin Off*, *PieceWork*, and *Handwoven* to Long Thread Media LLC, a new company set up by Linda Ligon, John Bolton, and Anne Merrow. Linda Ligon was the original founder of Interweave, while John Bolton co-founded Quilting Arts and Anne Merrow was the Editorial Director of Interweave's Yarn and Fiber Group.

Spin Off, *PieceWork*, and *Handwoven* will continue publication and remain at the core of the new Long Thread Media, which will also develop video, multimedia, events, print, digital, and other products related to those crafts.

Meanwhile, the name Interweave will remain with its new owner, Peak Media Properties, and will continue to be associated with publications such as *Interweave Knits* and *Interweave Crochet*.

Hopefully all of these magazines will thrive under their new ownership.

Patternfish Website Shuts Down

After 11 years in business, the website Patternfish closed down in June. With a library of over 23,000 patterns, Patternfish offered a curated library of knitting and crochet patterns. This is a sad loss for the knitting community, but hopefully many of their patterns can be made available on other platforms in the future.

Kollage Needles Closes its Doors

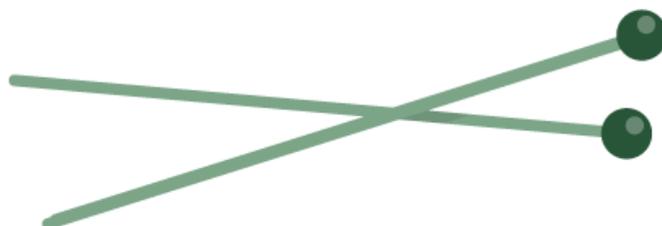
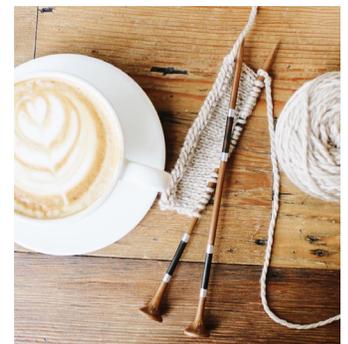
In another loss, Kollage Needles—maker of the ergonomic Square™ needles—has ceased manufacturing and has closed operations, despite a recent rebranding. Their announcement states that the company was unable to overcome the debt that was taken on to acquire the business three years ago.

Kollage needles and hooks will be available from retailers while supplies last. If you were a fan of the Square™ needles or any of their other products, you may still be able to find some at local yarn shops or through online vendors.

A New Needle-Maker

And now for some good news! As one needle-maker closes down, another appears.

Furls Crochet hooks has now expanded into knitting needles. The company is well known for its fine crochet hooks and the knitting needles (10" straights starting at \$33 for a teak pair) look gorgeous. Find them at <https://furlscrochet.com/collections/all-products/products/knitting-needles>.



Reviews



Socks From Around Norway

Nina Granlund Saether

Trafalgar Square, 2019

\$26.95

Here is a collection of more than 40 socks and stockings, based on examples of knitting from Norwegian folk art, originally published in Norwegian. The author has researched styles and motifs and adjusted them for today's knitting gauges and footwear interests. There is a focus on wearability over reproducing old knitwear. She has tried to include inspirations from all Norwegian provinces. While it would be handy to have a map of those regions, the book's original Norwegian audience would not need it.

Before the wealth of patterns, there are important sections of technical information, both general and for six heel construction methods. The end of the book has a helpful table on yarn sources and substitutions. Good stories are provided about the original stockings or other source of textile inspiration. Real Norwegian stockings were seldom survivors—worn, mended and finally recycled at a shredding mill to stuff bed comforters. While the focus is on women's wear, several children's, babies' and men's socks are included. The patterns are recommended for intermediate to experienced knitters, and they should probably not be your first foray into sock knitting.

There are both single color and stranded styles. Most are worked in fingering weight wool, to fit into regular shoes, but a few are heavier. You will find lots of good looks, including some remarkable long lace stockings. There is more to Norwegian knitting than what has come from Selbu. If you like socks or things Norwegian, you will enjoy this book.

– Cathy G



New Nordic Men's Collection

Arne & Carlos

Rowan, 2019

\$14.95

The creative duo of Arne & Carlos from Norway have produced a strong book of menswear for Rowan, in some of its favorite yarns. The twelve designs, all with men's names, have a Nordic theme, where the tradition has been explored with motifs and textures tweaked in some fresh but still wearable ways. The shapes are conventional. The seven pullovers and one cardigan often have the traditional pointed-star "rose" which may have textural enhancement, new placement on the garment, or even be dripping. A handsome yoke sweater is worked circularly, while the other sweaters are knit in pieces and sewn together. Knitters can have extremely strong preferences on construction, so be aware of this. Most color work is stranded while other garments are knitted in intarsia, so again, take your knitting preferences into account. Four great accessories round up the collection—a hat, cowl, scarf, and a fabulous pair of black and white mittens with color-stripped cuffs.

The styles are photographed on a pensive model in an old mill in Manchester and several views are presented, with more on the web. The sweaters are written in six sizes. Preference has been given to a stylish layout, rather than having usable charts; a trip to an enlarging photocopier may be in order. Color swatches are provided for the three yarns used in the collection—Alpaca Soft DK, Kidsilk Haze, and Felted Tweed—all of which come in lots of colors. The back of the book repeats the patterns—in German!

While Arne & Carlos are best known to knitters for their fun Christmas balls, whimsical toys, and decorations, they have had solid careers in clothing design. This is coming home for knitters. Don't miss their fabulous zebra sweater in the current Fall issue of Vogue Knitting, too. Men's patterns are in short supply for knitters, so this will be a welcome book, especially for someone who would appreciate a slightly edgier look. Find it at a Local Yarn Shop which carries Rowan.

– Cathy G



Show & Share

August 2019, Recorded by Kim R, Photos by Kim R

Attendees at the August meeting were delighted to see finished objects from five makers.



Tina S recently finished two pretty shawls. The first one, *Stripe Study Shawl*, designed by Veera Välimäki incorporates short rows and color work in an asymmetric triangle. Knit with Knit Picks Palette, this will be a great piece for anyone's wardrobe.

Pattern: www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/strip-study-shawl



MisWis by Rosemary (Romi) Hill is a triangle shaped shawl with lace, garter stitch and color work. Tina selected Skaska Designs (50% merino and 50% silk) yarn in pretty blue-greens.

Pattern: www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/miswis



Rebekah A recently finished two garments. *Boardwalk* by Heidi Kirrmaier is a great pattern to consider adding to your queue. This vest is knit bottom-up and has a unique front design detail. Rebekah knit her garment with Malabrigo Silky Merino (silk and merino wool) in a soft buttery color.

Pattern: www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/boardwalk-7



Knit in the round from bottom up, the *Passover Hat* by Yarn Snobs is a great looking hat. Rebekah selected Uneek Worsted by Urth which is hand dyed and available in several color ways. If you enjoy the look of this pattern, the designer also has a *Passover Cowl*. Both of these patterns are available at Ravelry and are free downloads.

Passover Hat Pattern: www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/passover-hat

Passover Cowl Pattern: www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/passover-cowl

Show & Share

August 2019, Recorded by Kim R, Photos by Kim R



Off the needles for Hannah J is *Coastal Tides*. This shawl was designed by Theresa Gaffey using five colors and the pattern incorporates short rows. Yarn selection for this project was a light fingering by Holst Garn Coast Uld Bomuld in ivory, honeydew, old gold, dark apple and grasshopper.

Pattern: www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/coastal-tides



Using Malabrigo yarn from her stash and the *Baktus Scarf* pattern, Samantha L added to her collection of garments for Chicago winters. This triangle shaped scarf is knit sideways and is knit in garter stitch.

Pattern: www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/baktus-scarf



The *Vermont Shawl* by Hanna Breetz is a half circle shaped shawl full of lace and Samantha added a special touch by incorporating beads. This shawl was knit with lace weight by Why Not Fibers. Of note, Samantha knit this shawl in 12 days!

Pattern: www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/vermont-shawl



Want to test the waters and try knitting lace? Michelle Hunter's *Building With Lace* is a great project for you. Carol B knit her rectangular wrap using Malabrigo Mechita (merino wool). The pattern also includes instructions for adding beads which Carol did and they look great! This is an elegant piece and will likely be a favorite of Carol's.

Pattern: www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/building-with-lace

Shop News

Knit 1
3856 North Lincoln
knit1chgo.com
FALL SWEATER CLUB

Intimidated by sweater knitting? Need help figuring out gauge? Have trouble deciphering pattern instructions? We've all been there! In Sweater Club Allyson will help you build the confidence you need to tackle any sweater pattern!

Pick any sweater pattern of your choice, whether it's been sitting in a pile for months or you're starting from scratch! Allyson will help you choose the best yarn for your pattern, read your gauge swatch, select the perfect size for your body and fit needs, and get you knitting!

Fall Sweater Club starts Sunday October 6 and has 20 available classes through Sunday December 22. Sign up for either 4 classes for \$80 or 8 classes for \$140. Additional classes can be purchased in packages of 4 and 8 classes at any time or individually for \$20.

All the details for signing up and class dates can be found at <http://www.knit1chgo.com/fall-sweater-club>.

Nina Chicago
1256 West Chicago
ninachicago.com

BLUE SKY FIBERS TRUNK SHOW



Blue Sky Fibers Alpaca Silk has been a staple at Nina for quite some time and now they are hosting a trunk show featuring this great yarn. The show consists of five pieces, Windom Silk Wrap (pictured), Esko Wrap, Zelda Wrap, Cabled Mitts and Baby Dress. The show began in August and continues until September 15. Stop in if you can to feel this

gorgeous combination of alpaca and silk knit up!

Yarns Untold
6476 College Road, Lisle
yarns-untold.com
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Yarns Untold is celebrating ONE YEAR with a week-long celebration!

Door prizes every day!

Saturday, September 7 – Saturday, September, 14

No purchase necessary, must register in store and do not need to be present to win.

Leading Men Trunk Show

Saturday, September 7: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

YU Club members get priority access from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Friday, September 6th. Member discount does **not** apply

Yarn and Needle/Hook Tasting

Sunday, September 8 – Friday, September 13

Come and try different yarns and needles/hooks from several vendors. You will have a chance to leave comments about the yarns and needles/hooks.

Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, September 14: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Join Yarns Untold in celebration of their one year anniversary. Share stories and see old friends. Punch and cookies will be provided.



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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2019 BOARD MEMBERS

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TBA

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TBA

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