



# Knitters' Knews

Volume 31, Issue 3

November 2010

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Meetings held at

*West Side Club*

[437 County Hwy. M](#)

## 6 pm Doors Open:

KnitAid

Vendors

Library

Charity donation drop-off  
(Food & beverage available)

## 7 pm Meeting

### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

In order to set up the library on time, the board requests that all members wait until 6 pm to select a seat. Pre-set aisles must be maintained in order to meet fire code: **please**, do not bring or move chairs into any of the aisles! Thank you for your cooperation

## November 18 Meeting: Knitting Rock Star Amy R. Singer



comes to town!

A celebrity in the world of knitting, Amy R. Singer will be our featured speaker in November. She launched and is editor of [knitty.com](http://knitty.com), a popular site for knitting instruction, modern designs, and free patterns. Amy is allergic to wool and all other animal fibers making her career seem like an oxymoron; but modern yarns such as cotton, silk, hemp, bamboo, and others allow her to design and create with flair.

Knitty.com reaches many knitters worldwide and has one million visitors per month. Knitty.com includes a magazine, published four times a year, but it is only one part of this interactive online site that also includes a blog, a store, free downloadable patterns, instruction, as well as book recommendations, yarn sources, FAQs, and much more.

Modern patterns for clothes, bags and kids' stuff juxtapose those for animal ensembles and even edible undies made from red licorice (320 calories).

*Continued on Page 4*

## Monday, October 11, 2010 Meeting Minutes

President Kate Findley opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. About 300 members were in attendance.

Vendors at the meeting were Dragonfly Yarn Shop and Fiddlehead Yarns. Minutes from the September Meeting were approved.

### Announcements:

1. Janet Fishbain asked for knitting "quick tips" for inclusion in our newsletter. As an example, she brought a bowl purchased at a hardware store that works great for holding a ball of yarn.
2. Kate gave instructions on this year's Brown Bag Exchange which will be a baby item.
3. UFO (Unfinished Object) retreat will be January 21-23 at the Chalet Landhaus in New Glarus.
4. Bleating Heart Haven will have a trunk show Nov 14 from 1 to 4 at Prairie Park Apartments on Shroeder Road, Madison.
5. Mary Bertun is available to pick up any donations for the correctional facilities.
6. Bashford Church will be holding a craft sale Dec 4 from 9-4 and is looking for vendors.

Connie introduced our speaker, Jared Flood. Jared shared with us his journey as a photographer from Tacoma, Washington, to a knitwear designer, publisher, and yarn developer, now living in New York City. He learned to knit from his mother at the age of five and didn't pick it up again until eight years ago. His inspirations come from photographs on his "mood board." He especially likes the technical and puzzle-solving aspects of creating knitting designs. In 2005 he started blogging. As with a lot of knitters, he didn't find patterns for what he wanted, so began modifying existing patterns.

Two years later he was contacted by Pam Allen of "Interweave Knits" to submit a design for men's patterns, and he submitted "Cobblestone Sweater." His first pattern book "Made in Brooklyn" was published in 2009 by Classic Elite.

At about that same time he began looking for an American-made woolen-spun yarn. The result was unveiled to us this evening: "Shelter" yarn. The name was inspired by the concept of shelter in the Shaker culture. Jared worked extensively with Harrisville Yarns in Vermont to create his new yarn--a Targhee/Columbia sheep cross from the western US that is dyed in the wool rather than vat dyed. It was formally introduced October 1, 2010, and is available in 17 colors. It can be ordered online at his website "Brave New Knits," for which he did all the photography.

We welcomed nine new members. Show and Tell items were shown by Judy Pruski, Carol Huber, Renee West, Melinda Butcher, Sue Barnes, Gretchen McClain, Robbie Preston, Cindy Webber, Heidi Finley, Liz Avery, Elizabeth Wellenstein, Martha Clough, Kim Caisse, and Val Stanford.

Door Prizes were a yarn ball winder donated by Dragonfly Yarn Shop, cashmere scarf kit donated by Fiddlehead Yarns, and five "Never Not Knitting" patterns by a guild member.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

*-Kathy Digman, Secretary*

## NOVEMBER VENDORS:

**Linda Loeffelhoelz:**  
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*'Tis always the season to be knitting!*

*As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. ~John Fitzgerald Kennedy*

The air is crisper and cooler, the leaves are changing color and covering the lawns, and harvesting continues as our good weather holds. Fall is here, and Thanksgiving is around the corner.

Our **COMMUNITY PROJECTS** for November are for children in need who attend our area public schools. Students in need can always use winter clothing. There are abundant free patterns online for hats, scarves, and mittens. Our guild website has a "Patterns" section with free patterns created by our members. If you don't have time to knit a hat or mittens or a scarf, there are plenty of stores that have winter items on sale. The resale shops are full of winter items, too.

**SEE PAGE 6** for a list of supplies needed by teachers if you are interested in donating a non-knitted item.

Are you looking for additional stash-busting projects with a Thanksgiving theme? These are all free patterns:

How about a pilgrim... or turkey or pumpkin decorations for your table?

- Kate Findley, President

Pilgrim

<http://helbyshatch.blogspot.com/2009/11/howdy-pilgrim.html>

Turkey

<http://bittersweetblog.wordpress.com/2006/11/07/gobble-gobble/>

Pumpkin

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/autumn-pumpkins>

Felted pumpkins

<http://knitty.com/ISSUEfall05/PATTpumpkins.html>

For cleaning up afterwards, there's a Turkey dishcloth.

<http://www.knittingknonsense.com/turkeycloth.html>

For the more ambitious, how about a Chicken Viking Hat?


<http://alohamedia.net/sarah/hats/chicken-viking/>

Need a project to knit during all the Thanksgiving Day football? The Thanksgiving Day Mitts can be a good project to knit while digesting Thanksgiving dinner.

<http://twin-knit.com/2007/11/26/thanksgiving-day-mitts/>




***Thanksgiving was never meant to be shut up in a single day. ~Robert Caspar Lintner***



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### Amy R. Singer – Continued from Page 1

With a degree in Mathematics, Amy uses spreadsheets and charts for all of her record-keeping. In her blog one can find representations of spreadsheets that track her yarn stash and charts that she uses for design and color selection.

At the store, one can purchase ready-made T-shirts and hoodies, along with totes, mugs, and steins sporting such slogans as "Yarn Ho!" or "Listen to the Sheep."

Amy believes that **Knitty.com** is about connections between available yarns, knitters, and the internet. She talks about equipment, offers knitting advice, and gives step by step instructions. She also communicates offline through a column in *Interweave Knits*, and with her books: *KnitGirl 2*, *No Sheep for You*, *Big Girl Knits*, *Knitting Yarns and Spinning Tales*.

Her grandmother taught six-year-old Amy to knit, and her first project was a pink Barbie scarf. She continued to knit for a time, making mittens to woo a college sweetheart, but due to her allergies and career burnout, she exchanged her interest in knitting for one in quilting. She edited a quilting magazine, but soon was drawn back into the knitting world and launched "knitting.com" and a new career ensued. The 25-30 free patterns per issue may have been one of the reasons that her site exploded with sustained interest.

Amy is from Toronto where she lives with her husband and two rabbits. She loves ukuleles, scooters, shiny things, Japanese culture and the Purple Pearl (a downtown hangout.) She doesn't like shoes that hurt, but she's obsessed with technology and gadgets.

- Janet Fishbain



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## Tips & Tricks

### Web sites to improve your knitting

[knittinghelp.com](http://knittinghelp.com)

If you learn best by watching, this site has great tools. Take a look the next time you need a quick refresher on Kitchener stitch. Or learn to make cables without a cable needle!

[The Knitting Fiend/Diet Diary](http://TheKnittingFiend/DietDiary)

TheDietdiary.com  
Diet advice and knitting help... all in one nifty blog! The best part? Great calculators to do the knitting math for you!

[knitmap.com](http://knitmap.com)

A searchable catalog of yarn shops around the world. Need we say more?!

[vogueknitting.com/resources.aspx](http://vogueknitting.com/resources.aspx)

An old standby—and for good reason. Have you seen the ever-expanding Stitionary?

Interested in compiling tips for this monthly column? Contact: [mknewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mknewsletter@gmail.com)



Photo courtesy of Program Supervisor Brooks Feldmann

## Waupun Correctional Institution Inmates Donate to Charity

Pictured above are just a few of the many projects completed by inmates for donation to charity. Madison Knitters' Guild will continue to collect yarn, patterns and supplies at monthly meetings. Mary Bertun and/or a guild member will be at each meeting next to a collection bin for your donations to this worthwhile cause. Through this program, inmates not only learn and practice a valuable skill, but are also provided an opportunity to give back to the community.

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# Community Service Projects



A HUGE thank you to all the donating knitters! Your generosity and time is greatly appreciated. **We collected 216 knitted items to date** and a large assortment of school supplies. We gave the Boys & Girls Club all sorts of hats and scarves, 10 scarf-hat sets, and some new handmade sweaters. We also donated a nice assortment of bags and blankets to American Family Children's Hospital. Thanks to Michelle for collecting the September donations!

## Yarn Donation Reminder:

We will gladly take your unwanted yarn and redistribute for community projects. Members are welcome to take yarn to use for MKG community projects. Additionally, the donated yarn can be purchased for \$1/skein for personal use. The money collected will go to that month's community project.

- Jennifer Retzlaff

## Plan Ahead for December

Food Pantry Drive: Your quality non-perishable food donations, personal hygiene items, dish soaps, paper towels, saran wraps, etc. are much needed!

## November Community Project

Madison Elementary Schools: Little ears and fingers need the comfort of your knitting. This is a great chance to combine fun colors from your stash.

Free kids patterns:

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/helens-basic-mittens>

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/rock-star-beanie>

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/easy-rainbow-hat>

## Madison Schools also need:

Kleenex, Fiskar scissors, pink erasers, glue sticks, boxes of 16 crayons, #2 pencils, Expo Markers, two-pocket folders, liquid hand soap, hand sanitizer, baby wipes, gallon-size zip lock bags, computer headphones, one-subject notebooks.

An advertisement for Woodland Studios. At the top, the logo "WOODLAND STUDIOS" is displayed in a stylized font. Below the logo, there is a photograph of a historic brick building at night with the sign "WOODLAND" above the entrance. Text next to the building says "Give yourself the gift of Historic Stoughton!". To the right, contact information is provided: "195 East Main Street Stoughton, WI 53589 (608) 877-8007". In the foreground, there is a large basket overflowing with various colors of yarn. A red speech bubble next to the basket says "25,000+ Skeins Fine Yarns &amp; Accessories Cozy Atmosphere". At the bottom, there is a photograph of a group of people sitting at tables in a cozy atmosphere, and the website "www.Woodland-Studios.com" is listed.

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## CLASSIFIEDS

### Second Annual Artists' Open House

- Knitted, felted and woven wearables, and household textiles.
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- Metal-work yard art, bronze sculptures, lampwork beads &
- Jewelry, wood-turned bowls, and much more!

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Celebrate in November with the gypsies at the River,

where ideas flow and the creativity is "current."



## “No Sheep For You” - by Amy Singer

I am a self proclaimed Yarn Snob. Especially wool, but I am open to most animal fibers, so when I picked up No Sheep For You, I was resigning myself to hating it. Cotton aggravates my carpal tunnel, bamboo doesn't hold its shape; silk ... well silk was acceptable as it fit into my “luxury” fibers category, so I stopped complaining and opened the book.

Amy Singer gives a wonderful basic reference of the wide range of alternative fibers if you don't want to or can't use wool. She gives a great breakdown of how the fibers are harvested and turned into yarn, as well as a short history of how each fiber came into use. There are also excellent diagrams of each fiber showing cross sections of stalks and the life cycles of moths, all helping to make the process of creating these fibers clear.

The second half of the book is patterns-- classic styles with modern twists that always take the special needs of the fibers into account. There are quite a few lovely designs that jumped out at me, but the one that made me stop in my tracks was the silk thrummed mitten pattern (Midwest-Style Thrummed Mitts.) I have wanted to make thrummed mittens for many years and many patterns have just sat in my queue. While I knew you could spin silk, I had no idea it could be used as thrums. I was smitten, the mittens look so warm and inviting, I almost forgot about trying to make them with wool.

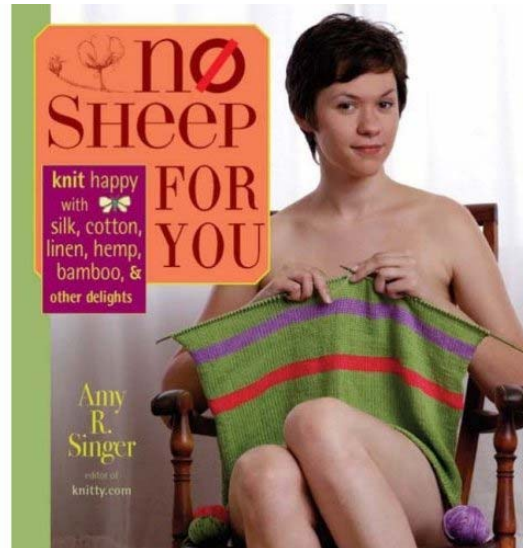
The many other patterns are just as lovely. For each design Amy takes the time to describe why a certain tailoring technique or stitch pattern is used and why the chosen yarns work well. Also included is a comprehensive section on selecting alternative yarn choices for each project if the pattern suggested yarns are unavailable or out of your accessibility.

A fitted jacket with flattering tailoring (Bespoke) is another one of the pieces that I enjoyed. The simple stitch creates an elegant pattern and allows the linen yarn to shine. The much raved about Tomato pattern is such a

versatile piece. I can easily see why so many knitters want to or already have this project on the needles. It is flattering to many body shapes as well as being easily adaptable to personal style and colour preferences.

The wide range of fibers and advice Amy gives for adapting your favorite patterns with fun and interesting ways allows any knitter to be become acquainted with many different yarn types. Many of the patterns within No Sheep For You are very flattering and can be created with a multitude of yarns. Amy Singer is also the author of Big Girl Knits and both books are available from the Guild Library.

- Amanda Haynes





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Yola's Cafe knit night is on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 5 pm - 8 pm. Bring what you are working on, or begin something new. Other knitters will share tips, socialize, eat, drink and be merrily knitting the evening away! Dinner is served 5-8pm with desserts, beverages and snacks available until closing.

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Sun. Closed

Next to Brennan's on Watts Road  
in the Cortland Commons Shopping Center



© "20 to Make Knitted Aliens" by Fiona McDonald

## Come along... to the UFO Knitting Retreat! January 21-23, 2011

Too many UFOs? One UFO that's causing too much grief? Pack them up and bring them along to the knitting retreat in New Glarus! Chipping away at our UFOs together will be a fun way to make some progress on those space invaders. Even one weekend devoted to shooting them down will put a dent in the hull of their massive ship!

Join us for the weekend or one day. Finishing a project will earn you a chance for a gift certificate. Meet new friends and relax in an old world atmosphere.

Registration is free and guests are only \$5.00 at the door. A special buffet lunch will be served on Saturday for \$16.25, which includes tax & gratuity. **Please let Kay Moffat know if you'll attend the Saturday lunch: 608-241-8716 or [kay8590@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kay8590@sbcglobal.net).** Advance payment is requested.

For hotel reservations, call [Chalet Landhaus](http://Chalet Landhaus) 1-800-944-1716

Ask for the Knitters' Guild room rate of \$65 Single or \$85 Double (+10.5% tax)

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## Upcoming Events

**Oct. 25 – Jan. 9:** Rae Atira-Soncea (1953-2009) exhibit, [Overture Center galleries](#), Madison

**Nov. 20:** Madison Bead Society Show & Sale, Westgate Mall, Madison  
[www.madisonbeadsociety.org](http://www.madisonbeadsociety.org)

**Dec. 11:** Sixth Annual Holiday Craftacular, The East Side Club, Madison  
<http://www.craftacular.glitte.rworkshop.com/>

**Dec. 17 – Feb. 6:** [Our Tiny Friends and Foes](#), Overture Center Playhouse Gallery, Madison

**January 14-16:** In the Wool Winter Wool Weekend, Woodridge Lodge, Portage  
[www.inthewool.com](http://www.inthewool.com)

**January 21-21:** VogueKnitting Live! New York City  
[www.vogueknitting.com](http://www.vogueknitting.com)

**April 7-9:** Wisconsin Spin-In, Country Springs Resort, Pewaukee  
[www.wispinin.org](http://www.wispinin.org)

**August 25-28:** Stitches Midwest, Schaumburg, IL  
[www.knittinguniverse.com/stitches](http://www.knittinguniverse.com/stitches)

**Don't see it here?**  
Send your suggestions to:  
[mkgnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mkgnewsletter@gmail.com)

## IN MEMORY

**Rae Atira-Soncea** — artist, cultural activist, educator, coordinator, priestess and inter-faith ambassador — created brooms, cauldrons, tapestries and cabinets in the spirit of coaxing the magic out of the everyday. Rae served as Overture Center's

coordinator of community engagement, education and accessibility, helping to ensure everyone could enjoy access to art, which she considered "like living and breathing." Rae passed away unexpectedly on March 1, 2009, leaving behind a legacy of amazing art, good works and an extensive community of family, friends, admirers, partners, collaborators and artists.



**Opening Reception: Fri, Nov 5, 6 – 8 pm**

**Spinning Our Skills and Weaving New Connections  
Sun, Nov 7, 10 am – 4 pm**

This open forum will bring together Rae's diverse communities and causes. We will share, learn, explore, play and create art with the intent of building new connections, enhancing existing skills, and growing and discovering strange and wonderful interdisciplinary melds. For information email Beth Racette at [eracette@overturecenter.com](mailto:eracette@overturecenter.com).

**Closing Reception: Sat, Jan 8, 3 – 6 pm**

Visit Rae's website: [raeatirasoncea.com](http://raeatirasoncea.com)

### ***Last-minute notice:***

The Guild was contacted by a family of a woman who passed away quite suddenly. She left behind about 1,000 skeins of unused yarn, which has been listed on Craig's list for sale at about 1/3 of what they think it costs retail.

<http://madison.craigslist.org/art/2034512341.html>

## Find us on the Web

- Ravelry: <http://www.ravelry.com/groups/madison-knitters-guild>
- RideShare, Etc.:  
<http://www.rideshareetc.org/rp/Service.asp?ResetAll=ResetAll>  
You'll need to create your own account first. It's FREE! Then enter Lookup code: Knit
- <http://www.madisonknittersguild.com/>

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