



President's Corner

Happy Holidays!..

Well not quite yet, but the season is certainly beginning. Have you seen some the cute stuffed pumpkin patterns that are available? Or pumpkin coasters? I am thinking about starting a set of pumpkin coasters to put my pumpkin latte on while I am enjoying my pumpkin scone. But seriously there are some really cute and free patterns around that are so well suited for the holidays and gift giving. And by knitter's standards we may already be quite behind on our holiday knitting, especially if we have grand things like sweaters, socks, and shawls in mind. I always start with big ideas, but generally end up knitting the back-up plan of a simple hat or something that is in a larger gauge than originally planned. And do you know what, the recipient has never minded! I thought I would share a couple of cut pumpkin patterns to get you into the season and three of my favorite fast patterns that make great gifts. Enjoy! – Jen Mack

- Pumpkin Coasters: <http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/pumpkin-coaster-2>
- Cute Little Stuffed Pumpkin: <http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/pumpkin-2>



Upcoming Events

- 11/08 - 11/10 : [Knit & Crochet Heritage Museum Symposium \(Attend the welcome reception with Susan Strawn\)](#)
- 11/09 : [Knit DeKoven](#)
- 11/12 : MKG November Meeting
- 11/16 : ['Tis The Season Bucks Weekend](#)
- 11/23 : ['Tis The Season Open House](#)
- 12/10 : MKG December Meeting
- 12/26 : ['Tis The Season After Christmas Sale](#)

- Sport Weight Socks which are really fast to knit: <http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/scar>
- Coronet Hat (This is Seriously Fast to knit, one year I made them for ALL of my friends!): <http://knitty.com/ISSUEwinter03/PATTcoronet.html>
- Fairly Straightforward Cables (you can get 2 hats from 3 balls of yarn and it's super-soft): <http://www.ravelry.com/projects/chdadvocate/fairly-straightforward-cables>



Speaker: Bev Pilarzyk

When Bev Pilarzyk established her knitting business in 2007, she wanted the name to reflect her two loves, knitting and travel. A passionate knitter and a former employee of the travel industry, she often combined her interests by seeking out knitting retreats and knitting heritage in foreign lands. The creativity and inspiration she found on these knitting vacations are what led her to embark on this business venture.

Knitter's Journey, LLC is an independent knitting design business. They specialize in designing and manufacturing their own brand of knit with wire and crochet with wire jewelry kits. Their wire jewelry kits have been featured on Bead.tv and in Creative Knitting magazine. Although knitting with wire is their specialty, knitting with yarn is their first love, Bev also

sells patterns and yarn for their original knitting designs.

Websites:

- [Knitter's Journey](http://www.knittersjourney.com/Home_Page.html) - http://www.knittersjourney.com/Home_Page.html
- [Knitting Vacations](http://www.knittersjourney.com/Knitting_Vacations.html) - http://www.knittersjourney.com/Knitting_Vacations.html
- [Ravelry](http://www.ravelry.com/designers/bev-pilarzyk) - <http://www.ravelry.com/designers/bev-pilarzyk>



- Kate Findley



Stash-Busting For A Cause!

Start cleaning out your stash! The Community Projects and Hospitality Committees are joining forces to contribute to a variety of causes! Please bring donations to the November meeting. New or gently used yarn, books, needles, and other knitting accessories can support multiple efforts, including: 1). Mittens for Midvale: Mittens for students at Midvale Elementary in Madison 2). Taycheedah Prison Project: Prisoners use their free time and new skills to make items to sell for charity projects 3). Second Chance for Second Harvest Sale: This sale will be held at the December meeting, with all proceeds going to Second Harvest Food Banks. Last year, this project raised over

\$1000! Watch the next newsletter for more details.

Opportunities to Learn About Knitting & Crocheting History

If you have not registered to attend the November 8-10 symposium co-hosted by the Wisconsin Historical Society to explore the concept of a Knitting and Crocheting Heritage Museum, there are still opportunities for you to view artifacts and hear a nationally known speaker. The lecture will take place on Thursday evening at 5:45 p.m. at the Wisconsin Historical Society Auditorium, 816 State Street. Susan Strawn, Ph.D., knitter, author of *Knitting America: From Warm Socks to High Art, and Professor, Apparel Design and Merchandising*, Dominican University, River Forest, IL will speak on "The Knitting Image:

Popular Media, Art, and Industry Look at American Knitters". The cost for the lecture is only \$25 and advance registration is not required (cash, check or credit cards accepted).

In addition, the WHS is creating a special Curator's Choice exhibit at that Historical Society location, and staff will be on hand at the November 8th event to explain the items chosen for the exhibit. The exhibit will include historical items such as clothing for women, infants, children and dolls; mittens, wristlets and gloves; socks; decorative items; and purses. The items' origins range from Wisconsin to around the world. Some items are on Loan from the Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection, School of Human Ecology, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The exhibit will be available November 6-24 in the lobby at 816 State Street, and admission is free.

If you are interested in the effort to preserve our heritage of knitted and crocheted objects visit <http://knittingheritagemuseum.wordpress.com/> to learn more about the museum effort.

We hope to see you there!

- Marilyn J. Huset

mhuset@charter.net

Knitter's Treat Textile Exhibit: Ethnic Socks

There are 16 years of textiles on display at the Monticello website

(<http://www.monticellowi.com/textiles1209.html>).

This collection of Rae Erdahl

features Ethnic Socks. Most of the socks in this exhibition are from Turkey although some are from Bulgaria and the Central Asian countries of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Read Rae's explanation of how she became a collector and see the colorful socks. Rae has been a MKG member for years. For other exhibits click on the titles following the current exhibit information. Lots to see.



Community Projects

Count for items donated in October:

- 56 hats
 - 7 pr. mittens
 - 2 pr. fingerless mitts
 - 15 scarves (9 regular 6 Handmade especially for you)
 - 2 critters (monster & drumstick)
 - 3 kid's sweaters
- 85 Total Wow!

A huge thanks you to all the guild members who made projects for Community Knitting in October. As usual, there were all different projects: color work, stitch patterns, variegated and stripes. There were beginner projects and very advanced ones. All will be enjoyed by the children in elementary schools. We saved a few of the biggest hats and the baby sweaters for agencies scheduled for later in the year. The rest were delivered to schools the week of the October meeting.

I bet you noticed the huge amount of yarn we had. It covered three tables. We had to store extra yarn from our June and September meetings because we had temporarily lost our contact with the prison system. Jen Golubiewski located a different prison program through Madison-Area Urban Ministry called Family and Reading Connections, coordinated by Fabu Carter. Family and Reading Connections takes children to visit their Moms in Taycheeda Women's Prison. Reading Connections videotapes Moms reading books to their children and then sends the videotape, the book and a letter from Mom to the children. The bus will also take our yarn for the women to use for their projects. A smaller portion of the yarn will go to the families of parents who are in jail or in prison.

Ms. Carter mentioned that the women at Taycheeda could use some knitting and crochet patterns. I'm pretty sure that everyone in the guild has a stack of patterns they would love to pass on. Take a look at what you have and please choose the simplest ones with a good picture to bring with you to the meeting. We'll have a box for the patterns. Besides Taycheeda, where did the rest of the yarn go? We gave yarn to Elizabeth Long to use in her knitting classes at Shabazz H.S. Yarn also went to Janesville for a Charity Knitting project there. Thanks to Jane Sweetman for the delivery. Members took yarn for charity knitting and also bought \$26 worth of yarn for personal knitting. We saved 1 ½ bags to start with in November. We've had requests from Knitting Mittens for Midvale and RSVP for future excess yarn, and we will make sure that Taycheeda is well supplied. Keep the yarn coming.

November Items

Knitted items donated in November will go to two more Madison elementary schools (kid's hats, mittens and scarves). Get out your pointy sticks and cast on. [With thanks to Brenda Dayne]

Community Knitting is looking for volunteers to join our committee.

No, we're not going to ask you to knit, we need your help with everything else. If you could volunteer 30 minutes before the meeting or during the break, we would love it. We like to organize the yarn that gets donated, get people who donate items to fill out the hang tags, take pictures of knitted items that come in and help people find the yarn they need. We also deliver the projects to the schools/agencies and yarn to other agencies. Want to help with any of this? If you'd like to volunteer with Community Knitting just email to the address at the bottom of this column. Or come and talk to us at the Community Knitting Table. It's the one with the piles of yarn! Many thanks to the are due to the following people for all their help: Knitter's Guild Members who made projects and volunteers Rae Spragg, Betty Ulanski, Carole Ayres, Lynn Levin, Barbara Thacker and Jen Golubiewski.

- **Bonnie Dill, Community Projects Chair** communityprojects@madisonknittersguild.com

These websites are fantastic resources for FREE Knitting Patterns in general:

Ravelry: <http://bit.ly/fV3elc> Bernat: <http://bit.ly/1wq8dM>

Interweave Knits: <http://bit.ly/1i8yhO> More free patterns are available on the Madison Knitters Guild Website.

Monthly Knitting Pattern

Our knitting pattern this month is Jean Gifford's No Swatch No Gauge Mittens. We are using it with her permission. I chose this pattern from the free patterns on Ravelry because it gave so many choices of yarn. Before I put this pattern in the newsletter I wanted to knit some mittens with it to make sure that it worked and wasn't confusing. So far, I have finished 5 mittens. Warning: Knitting mittens is addictive. If you think socks are hard to put down, watch out. It is extremely pleasing to watch leftover tiny balls of yarn disappear into a mitten. I am a really slow knitter and I can do a mitten in 3 nights! The first two pairs were very successful: one pair with heavy worsted wt. variegated yarn and one pair with worsted wt. leftover odds and ends in stripes. I am working on the last pair knit in very fine wt.

wool knit 3 strands together to give it some warmth. The mittens are pretty darn ugly because mixing three different colored thin yarns has resulted in dreadful non-colors. I may just use three of the same color thin yarns when I do the stripes in the last mitten and make it a fraternal twin to the muddy first one. Other than the color problem, this is a good pattern, requiring no expertise. I did find that when picking up stitches for the thumb, I got a better looking thumb-join (without going back and darning around) if I picked up 3–4 extra stitches during the pick up round, and then decreased the extras over the next couple of rounds.

No Swatch, No Gauge Mittens by Jean Gifford Printed with permission. (<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/no-swatch-no-gauge-mittens-for-kids>)

Intended for Charity Knitting “Every pair will fit some child!” Materials needed: Yarn and double point needles to make a dense fabric of 4 to 6 stitches per inch. The mittens pictures used the following needles and yarns: Worsted weight yarn, Size 5 needles Two strands of fingering weight yarn held together, Size 4 needles. 3-ply tapestry yarn, Size 6 needles (with a simple knit and purl pattern stitch) One strand fingering weight, one strand sport weight held together, Size 5 needles. Worsted weight yarn, Size 5 needles Heavy worsted weight yarn, Size 6 needles 3-ply tapestry yarn, Size 6 needles (Mitten #5 required about 60 grams or 140 yards of worsted weight yarn to make a PAIR. Use your leftovers and scraps!)

Abbreviations used: K (knit), P (purl), sl (slip one stitch), inc (increase) PSSO (pass slipped stitch over the adjacent knitted stitch), K2tog (knit 2 together)
Left and Right mittens are knitted exactly the same.

Getting Started:

Cast on 36 stitches loosely. Divide onto 3 needles and join, being careful not to twist the stitches. Mark the beginning of the rounds (I use the “hanging tail” of the cast on yarn to remind me where each round begins)

Cuff:

Work 22 rounds in ribbing. Either K1P1 ribbing or K2P2 ribbing is fine. Use your favorite.



Shape Thumb Gusset:

Round 1: K1, P1, K3, P1, K to end of round. Repeat Round 1 twice (rounds 2 and 3). Round 4: K1, P1, inc one in next stitch, K1, inc one in next stitch, P1, K to end of round. Rounds 5 and 6: K1, P1, K5, P1, K to end of round. Round 7: K1, P1, inc one in next stitch, K3, inc one in next stitch, P1, K to end of round. Rounds 8 and 9: K1, P1, K7, P1, K to end of round. Round 10: K1, P1, inc one in next stitch, K5, inc one in next stitch, P1, K to end of round. Rounds 11 and 12: K1, P1, K9, P1, K to end of round Round 13: K1, P1, inc one in next stitch, K7, inc one in next stitch, P1, K to end of round. Rounds 14 and 15: K1, P1, K11, P1, K to end of round. At this point, you should have a total of 44 stitches Save out stitches for thumb: On next round, K2, place next 11 stitches on a holder. Cast on 3 stitches, K to end of round.

Make the hand:

Work even on 36 stitches for 22 rounds Shape top of hand: Round 1: (Sl 1, K1, PSSO, K4). Repeat this sequence 5 more times for a total of 30 stitches remaining. Rounds 2 and 3: Knit even. Round 4: (Sl 1, K1, PSSO, K3) Repeat this sequence 5 more times for a total of 24 stitches remaining. Round 5: Knit

even Round 6: (Sl 1, K1, PSSO, K2). Repeat this sequence 5 more times for a total of 18 stitches remaining. Round 7 Knit even. Round 8: (Sl 1, K1, PSSO, K1). Repeat this sequence 5 more times for a total of 12 stitches remaining Round 9: (Sl1, K1, PSSO). Repeat this sequence 5 more times for a total of 6 stitches remaining. Break off yarn and thread the yarn through the remaining 6 stitches. Draw yarn up tightly and fasten off.

Making the Thumb:

Attach yarn at top of thumb gusset to work the thumb. The thumb is worked in the round on 16 stitches. Here is where those 16 stitches come from: 11 stitches that you saved onto a holder 1 stitch picked up between the holder and the cast-on stitches at beginning of the hand 3 stitches picked up across the cast-on stitches at beginning of the hand 1 stitch picked up between the cast-on stitches at beginning of the hand and the holder Divide these stitches onto 3 needles. Knit even for 11 rounds. Shape top of thumb: Round 1: (K2tog) 8 times. 8 stitches remain. Round 2: Knit even Round 3: (K2tog) 4 times. 4 stitches remain.

Break off yarn and thread the yarn through the remaining 4 stitches. Draw yarn up tightly and fasten off. Weave in yarn ends. Steam lightly or block as necessary.

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Monona Library Summer Reading Program Update

Lynn Levin will be organizing this for next summer. She provided me with the information and ideas for this update. Thank you Lynn. The critters knit by Guild members were a hit at the library in Monona last summer. They were used as prizes for kids who read books. The summer reading program in Monona goes from pre-K through H.S. Lynn suggests that we focus on pre-K through 5th grade. If we exceed our goal the extra items could be used with the 6th--8th graders. As I took the pictures for the slide show last spring, I was really curious about which critters would be popular with the kids and which ones would be less popular. Lynn provided the answers: Most things were a hit, including angry birds and knitted I-cord necklaces (which the little kids used as belts!) The knitted ice cream cones and rocket ships which I thought were awesome were not so popular – go figure. So I'll take those last 2 off the website list.

It would be great to have more little things for the younger kids since they were getting gift certificates for completing early levels of the program; great for the parents but doesn't mean much to the kids who never have to pay for the ice cream cone or hamburger. We'll need over half the projects for this younger group, which means no buttons or pipe cleaner additions to the basic critter. If you embroider the faces then the critter can be used for the younger kids. Our 2013 our goal will be to make 1,000 items. (Last year we made 400-500.)



To help organize us toward this goal, we'll do the following:

1. Print how many items we have received each month and our total.
*****We already have 3 critters to start.*****

2. Bag up donated yarn into mini-kits with a list of the critters the kit could make. These will be available starting at the January meeting.
3. List the websites for the patterns in the newsletter with additional websites as members bring them to our attention. I think that some of the fun was the novelty of the items, so we'll have to come up with new websites.
4. Starting in January we'll have a pledge drive, sign up sheets.. not sure what to call it but it will be a place where members can write down a personal goal for how many items they think they can make by the May meeting. Don't let the 1,000-item goal scare you; we made almost half that many in just a few months last year.

Here are the websites we used last year:

- Bunny, monster and bird: <http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/bunny-nuggets>
(Tip: 6-stitch I-cords for the ears are much easier!)
- <http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/chubby-chirps>
<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/monster-chunks>
If you're not a Ravelry member – the patterns are available on her blog:
<http://www.rebeccadanger.typepad.com/>
- Pencil toppers: <http://flutterbypatch.blogspot.com/2011/04/pencil-dolls.html>
- Fairies: <http://flutterbypatch.blogspot.com/2009/10/my-knitted-fairy-pattern.html>
- Angry Birds: <http://knitterbees.blogspot.com/2011/10/yellow-bird-plush-toy-pattern.html>
- A coiling snake: <http://marymck.blogspot.com/2009/10/meey-sydney-stash-busting-snake.html>
- Some cute little snakes: <http://justonewip.blogspot.com/2010/02/snakes-adders.html>
<http://www.the-byrds-nest.com/2011/04/24/small-sssssnaake/>
- And a knitted fish to knit in the round: <http://www.lionbrand.com/patterns/80764AD.html>

~ Bonnie Dill, Community Projects Chair

New Selections For The Library!

There will be many new things to watch for this year in the library. Starting at the November meeting, keep your eyes out for more *Interweave Knits* magazine collections 2005-2010, these digital collections give us the space to bring you more books and DVDS! There will also be more seasons of *Knitting Daily TV* on their way; we will be ordering Seasons 4 and 5 this year. The library will also be updating the collection of sock knitting books with Cookie A's *Knit. Sock. Love.* and Cat Bordhi's *Personal Footprints* and Carol Sulcoski's *Sock Yarn Studio*. Need more of a challenge? Try *Entrelac* by Rosemary Drysdale or *Knitting with Two Colors* by Amy Detjen and Meg Swanson. We are also trying to bump up our educational materials with additional materials from Lucy Neatby, Deborah Newton and June Hemmons Hiatt. Please come and check out what's new. It might take a few months to receive all the new materials in but the rewards will be worth the wait. Happy Knitting!



~ Amanda Haynes



Library Help Needed at the November & December Meetings

Library Chair, Cynthia Robey-Duncomb, needs a stand-in (or two) to set up and put away the library for the November and December meetings. Cynthia broke her leg and will not be able to put weight on it until Christmas. She will be at the meetings, but she will not be able to move the bins and totes. If you are able to arrive at the Bishop O'Connor Center between 4:00-4:15 pm or stay 15-20 minutes after the meeting ends, and lift heavy bins and totes, please contact Cynthia at library@madisonknittersguild.org. Thank you for your help!

Save the Date – UFO Retreat 2013

Right now your focus is on a growing list of holiday gifts. Come January will you be like the rest of us? Resolved to actually make a dent in the UFOs (UnFinished Objects!) that have accumulated in bags, baskets and other hiding places throughout your house?

What better way to move an item to the done list than to pack it up and join your friends for a day or the whole weekend at the Chalet Landhaus in New Glarus, January 25-27, 2013. MKG has a special hotel reservation rate for members who choose to stay overnight - \$65 +tax for single; \$85 + tax for double. Reservations can be made at 800-944-1716.

Registration is free for members and guests are only \$5 at the door. Mark your calendars now and watch for more details in the next newsletter.

Passing of Emily Ocker

We received word that Emily Ocker, age 92, passed away this month. Emily's circular cast on is used by many lace knitters. You can find her obituary on <http://hosting-25538.tributes.com/show/Emily-Ardelle-Ocker-94601004>

November Featured Sponsors

'Tis The Season (Vending this month)

Many years ago I watched the movie Miracle on 34th Street and the thought of working in a store at Christmas time to fulfill people's wishes was deeply planted within me. While I worked at another profession for years, each time Christmas and holidays rolled around my mind drifted back to the warm memories of holiday shopping and fulfilling wishes.

My next-door neighbor gave me my serious knitting lessons. She taught me how to knit, purl and cast on using the backward "e" method one afternoon in her bedroom when we were kids. Knowing those three things I was off to the races. How perfect to take this long string of yarn (from the very beginning

I was hooked on wool) and using the backward e cast on started to knit or purl or even both and make something one could wear. Amazing.

Another important part of the beginning of 'Tis The Season was that my father put me on an allowance when I was very young and each Saturday morning I was given my allowance of 5 cents. I could do with it what I wanted and so my lifelong habit of saving began in those early years. This becomes relevant because it is those nickels and dimes saved through the years that provided me with the assurance that somehow I could make my dream come true as long as I stayed fiscally frugal and grew gradually...



Thus, on December 10, 1988, I opened the door to 'Tis The Season and have been working here ever since. It is a combination of a year-round Christmas Store with a Yarn Corner. I have branched out to have items for other holidays and gifts, but it is always Christmas at 'Tis The Season for to me, Christmas is a season of the heart rather than a day on the calendar. For yarn, I buy a lot of wool and wool blends.

I do not have a big store, but I pack it pretty full of both yarn and holiday decor. Because I am smaller than most yarn stores, I do not have as many novelty yarns available because most of my customers ask me for good wools, alpaca, cotton and blends with wool.

My holiday lines are very full in November and December. My Christmas product is already in the store. I carry Horse Whisper, Him Shore's Heartwood Creek, sports ornaments, angels, Americans, claws and paws, snowmen, Santas, and one of my favorites are ornaments and even a nativity that is molded off of a knit model. I will bring some to show you when I vend.

As I am approaching my 25th year in business, I invite you to come to see me at 'Tis The Season during the holiday season and beyond. I have belonged to the Madison Knitters' Guild since the days we met at Union South. So, please walk through my red door at any time to browse, select a gift, purchase yarn or just to say hi.

- Muriel D. Coleman, owner

Visit Us!

Location: 7507 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562

Phone: (608) 836-3749

Upcoming Holiday Calendar:

Nov 16 & 17 - Bucks Weekend (one time \$10 Bucks off a \$50 purchase)

Nov 23 & 24 - Open House 10am-5pm (refreshments and drawing)

Dec 10 - Beginning of 25th year!

Dec 25 - Merry Christmas!

Dec 26-31 - After Christmas Sale

Jenny Blasen Pottery (vending this month)

As the Jenny behind Jenny Blasen Pottery, I work full-time out of my home studio on Madison's near east side. I specialize in functional pieces for everyday use. Although I do not knit, I have many friends and family who do. I started making ceramic yarn bowls at the request of a friend and they are now one of my most popular items. I love using texture in my work and use many found objects, including lace, fabric, stamps, and leaves. Buttons are a great canvas to explore these textures on. Despite their tiny size, much time and detail go into each and every one, making them the perfect finishing touch for your knitting project.



Visit Me!

My work is available locally at Hatch Art House, 1248 Williamson Street. Yarn bowls and buttons are always in stock, plus much more.

Where to find me this Holiday season:

- The Crafty Fair, Goodman Community Center, Sunday, November 18, 10am-4pm
- 8th Annual Holiday Craftacular, Madison Masonic Center, Friday December 14, 4pm-9pm and Saturday, December 15, 10am-4 pm

Email: jblasen@hotmail.com

Website: www.jennyblasenpottery.com
www.facebook.com/JennyBlasenPottery

Wisconsin Craft Market (non-vendor)

We are a locally owned, full line craft store specializing in Yarn, Beads, Scrapbooking, Art Supplies and Frames, Kids Crafts and more.

Our Yarn department is filled to the brim with lovely yarns from Cascade, Berroco, Lopi, Regia, Done Roving, Alpaca Yarn Company, Plymouth, Crystal Palace, Patons, and more. We carry needles from Addi, Knitpicks, Knitter's Pride, Chiao Goo, Clover, Susan Bates and Boye plus a nice selection of pattern books, knitting bags and accessories. Please visit our website to find special offers and store updates.



Visit Us!

Location: 148 Westgate Mall (Corner of Odana & Whitney Way), Madison , WI 53711

Phone: (608) 271-6002

Email: wisconsincraftmarket@tds.net

Store Hours: Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.