

The Madison Knitters' Guild meets the second Monday of each month September through May.

Doors open at 5:00 pm • Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. • Bishop O'Connor Center, 702 South High Point Rd, Madison, WI

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## The January 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting features Nancy Marchant: self-proclaimed Queen of Brioche

Brioche knitting creates a cushy reversible ribbed fabric. This comes about by working one stitch and slipping the next. In brioche knitting, instead of carrying the working yarn in front or in back of the slipped stitch, you bring the yarn over the stitch, giving the stitch a little shawl over its shoulders. In the following row, this shawled stitch will be either barked (brioche knit) or burped (brioche purled).



I became fascinated with brioche knitting when I first moved to the Netherlands in the 70s simply because it was so unknown to me. As I started researching it, I found that it is a common stitch around Europe and Northern Africa but that no country laid cultural claim to it. I found brioche knitted garments in lots of European museums but most were made on a machine. The stitch also carries a variety of names such as Prime Rib, Shawl Stitch, Oriental Rib, English Rib, Fisherman's Rib, Shaker Stitch, Patent Stitch and finally the Brioche Stitch. And it can be produced four different ways: 1) sl1yo, brk1; 2) sl1yo, brp1; 3) k1, k1b; and 4) p1, p1b with the same end result.

The diversity of the brioche stitch does not end with its many names or various modes of production but extends into a world

of new knitted textures and patterns. Crossing stitches, working cables, syncopating the stitches and creating different increases and decreases are knitting techniques that when applied to brioche knitting becomes very exciting and fun to play with.

– Nancy Marchant



Nancy Marchant was born in Indiana but now lives and works as a graphic designer in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. She has written articles for Vogue Knitting, Interweave Knits, as well as a number of Dutch knitting magazines, and is the author of **Knitting Brioche the Essential Guide to the Brioche Stitch**, the first and only knitting book devoted exclusively to the brioche stitch (see review on page 3). The featured speaker at the January 13, 2014 Guild meeting, Nancy will describe how she came to know and love the brioche stitch. Nancy maintains a web site on the subject at [www.briocestitch.com](http://www.briocestitch.com) and teaches **Explorations in Brioche Knitting** on [craftsy.com](http://craftsy.com).

– Barbara Rottman, Programming Chair

## Message from the President:

If you've had it with columns on New Year's resolutions, take heart, this isn't one. Resolutions are for things that require effort, like eating better, exercising more and being on time. Knitting is something fun, relaxing, and sometimes productive. Knitting is something you do for yourself. According to magical knit designer [Cat Bordhi](#), "Knitting is a very, very good place to relax and to find out what matters and what doesn't, and act accordingly." Explained that way, knitting is noble – no resolutions needed! I've often explained to friends and family that I love knitting for many reasons, a couple of which are:

1. Two stitches alone open an endless world of possibilities.
2. It's totally mobile.
3. When I make a mistake I can just rip it out and double the enjoyment from my yarn investment.

If anything, I need to relax, take some expert advice and embrace a few errors. Steven Berg, whose Minneapolis shop I recently visited, says, "There are no mistakes, only variations." Cat said, "You don't have to be perfect – and if you keep trying to be perfect when it doesn't matter, you should worry about yourself a little." So no resolutions, I'll just follow the wisdom of others.

Our knitting also is more than self-fulfilling. Many benefit from our skills and generosity – and our love of yarn. As I suggested in a recent posting on my Facebook page – MKG is a force! Want to dazzle your family and friends? Share some of the guild's major accomplishments over the last two months including:

- More than 235 hats donated to homeless shelters, schools and hospitals
- More than 50 scarves – many to *Handmade Especially for You*
- More than 35 critters for the Monona Library summer reading program
- Almost 250 pairs of socks purchased to benefit the homeless served by Porchlight
- Almost \$2100 in yarn sales and donations to Second Harvest Foodbank – providing more than 6,000 meals. Doubling last year's donation!

Huge thanks to Rae Sprague and her uber-organized Community Projects committee. They, and everyone who contributed to these efforts, are awesome!

Something else to share with family and friends are the amazing opportunities available through our annual [Knit-In](#), coming up March 14–16. If they're fellow members of the guild – they'll also get first dibs at some amazing class offerings. If they're also lovers of fiber, make sure to invite them to Marketplace. Knit-In Chair Mary Jo Harris and her committee members have created a not-to-miss event!

MKG's organizational year actually begins next July. The Nominations Committee will soon meet to consider candidates for the next board. I can't tell you how proud I am to be part of this amazing organization. I hope that you will consider contacting Nominations Chair [Connie Burmeister](#) to express your interest in serving on a committee or as a board member. Or if you're contacted and asked to serve, please know that it is an honor to be part of this remarkable force. Happy New Year everyone!

– Mae Knowles, President

## Library Notes:

Beautiful, colorful and smart designs are featured in our new books this month. To celebrate Nancy Marchant's presentation in January, we are adding her book **Knitting Brioche: The Essential Guide to the Brioche Stitch** to our collection. Also learn to make smart, one piece, draping sweaters in **knit, Swirl!** by Sandra McIver with a foreword by Cat Bordhi. Based on member suggestions we are adding the recently published, **Tudor Roses** by Alice Starmore, a book that raises knitting books to an art form.

Volunteering for the library is fun and easy! We are looking for volunteers to help during meetings. Please stop by the library table for more information.

The library is always available on-line! <http://madisonknittersguild.org/library>

– Marijka Engel, Library Chair



## Knit-In Registration Open January 16 — Details Available Soon!

The 2014 Knit-In is March 15–16 at the Bishop O'Connor Center. Morning, afternoon and all-day classes are available both days. The Marketplace, featuring 26 vendors, will be open from 8:30am–5:00 pm on Saturday and from 8:30 am–2:00 pm on Sunday. New this year is a Silent Auction of store samples donated by The Sow's Ear to benefit Second Harvest. Bidding will run from 8:30 am–2:00 pm both days. Please watch your email or the MKG website for the complete listing of classes, vendors and details on the silent auction, and the registration form: [www.madisonknittersguild.org/knitin](http://www.madisonknittersguild.org/knitin)

## Review of *Knitting Brioche the Essential Guide to the Brioche Stitch*:

In *Knitting Brioche the Essential Guide to the Brioche Stitch*, Nancy Marchant perfectly illustrates the enduring pleasure of knitting. We knitters know we'll never fully master all the innovations made possible with yarn and a pair of needles, but how many really understood the tantalizing potential of the Brioche stitch? In 1968, Barbara G. Walker described the Brioche stitch in *A Treasury of Knitting Patterns* in two paragraphs with two lines of pattern instructions. She barely described the stitch and the minimal instructions did not provide enough guidance to become proficient at it.

When Nancy Marchant moved to the Netherlands in 1976, she learned *patensteek* from Dutch knitters. English speakers knew the stitch as Prime Rib, Shawl Stitch, Oriental Rib, English Rib, Shaker Stitch, Patent Stitch, Fishermen's Rib or Brioche Stitch. Nancy's short articles in *Vogue Knitting* (Winter 1992-93) and *Interweave Knits* (Spring 2005) introduced American knitters to Brioche knitting, but only the intrepid few were able to fully grasp the complexities of the stitch.

Nancy's book, ***Knitting Brioche the Essential Guide to the Brioche Stitch***, is a comprehensive guide to the technique and variations of this intriguing knit stitch, and has all the information you'll need to knit Brioche with superb results. Brioche is well known and popular in the Netherlands, where knitters are as familiar with it as North American knitters are with the moss stitch. For most of us, learning to knit Brioche is almost like learning to knit all over again.

*Knitting Brioche* introduces new knitting terminology with attendant abbreviations plus charting symbols with information on how to use charts for Brioche knitting. These unique abbreviations and symbols will require study and practice. The book opens with a discussion of the language of Brioche then transitions to the "how to", which is supplemented with lots of detailed photographs. Nancy demonstrates the

simple Brioche stitch in one color, then how to work with more than one color. The techniques for casting on, binding off, increasing, decreasing, and making cables are different if you are working in one color or more than one color, and these are described in detail in the technique chapters. All along the way, Nancy includes tips and tricks to help you learn, and save you time and heartache.

Flip next to the stitch dictionary; you'll be astounded to learn of the many textures and color variations you can achieve in Brioche. The stitches are shown from the right and the wrong side, illustrating how different two sides of a stitch can be. The photography is



crisp and precise; a necessary aid to self-study.

Whether or not you choose to design in Brioche, the

pattern gallery is arranged to clarify how design elements can be used in Brioche. Nancy shows you how point, line, form, texture, and color can be used to inspire stunning projects. There are 25 projects including cardigans, pullovers, hats, scarves and even lacy openwork that will inspire you to persist in learning this remarkable stitch.

Understanding that knitters hold their yarn and needles in many ways, Nancy provides different sets of instructions for right handed knitters and left handed knitters. Each technique is presented in multiple formats for all types of learners, too. Nancy writes precise, clear instructions to describe all the maneuvers you'll make to create the stitches. The stitch instructions are charted and written line by line.



**Book Review, continued...** If you learn best by watching someone else, you can follow the clear photographs that show how the stitches are formed. Be patient and don't 'throw in the needles'. I spent an afternoon engrossed in learning this nifty stitch, feeling elated that I'd been able to learn on my own. I work on my swatch regularly, since I don't want to lose my hard-won skill. I knit on a strip of plain white wool that I hope will eventually turn into a scarf as Brioche becomes an automatic skill just like other stitches I've learned.

If you're "between projects" and looking for something to rejuvenate your interest in knitting, give Brioche knitting a try. This book will guide you through each step of learning. Start by learning the

basic stitch. Turn that into a cushiony and luxurious scarf or a stunning cap, and keep going. The possibilities seem unlimited. Don't overlook the cautionary note from Nancy to use 100% non-super wash wool for knitting Brioche. The natural scales in the wool shaft help the stitches interlock and prevent stretching; smooth or slippery yarns may stretch out of shape. You'll also need up to twice the quantity of yarn for Brioche stitch because each row is knit twice in Brioche knitting, eating up a lot of yarn. However, that's what gives Brioche the lofty, cushiony and deep ribbed texture that makes this knitting so special.

– Barbara Rottman

## Neighborhood Knit Classes Available:

We hope you will find a class you enjoy as well as the opportunity to get to know Guild members and instructors in these more intimate settings. **Registration is open now for these free classes:**

**Principles of Color:** Learn to use self-stripping, hand dyed, single color, tweed, and tonal yarns to introduce color in your knitting. Wednesday, January 22, 11:00 am–12:30 pm, Stitcher's Crossing Instructor: Pat Fisher, Maximum class size = 10

**Knit a Sock:** Basic sock knitting covering the cuff, leg, heel flap, heel turn, gusset, foot, toe shaping and Kitchener stitch. Wednesdays, February 22 & 27 (class meets twice) 6:00–7:30 pm Stitcher's Crossing, Instructor: Terry Rutlin, Maximum class size = 10

**More to come!** The following classes will be scheduled for the Spring 2014: **Faces on Your Critters** (March), **Teach a Child to Knit** (March), **Hats** (April) and **Picking Up Stitches** (May). Watch the Guild website and the upcoming Knitters' Knews for more details.

## Knit Together — Volunteer to bring more knitters into the world

**Where:** Madison Children's Museum

**What:** Drop in sessions for kids to learn how to knit.

**When:** 2:00-3:30 pm Sundays, February 2 through March 9, 2014

- Yarn, needles and patterns are provided.
- 6-8 volunteers preferred each week, you need not commit to all.
- Tutorial assistance with teaching strategies is available if desired.

Sign up by filling out the volunteer interest form on the MKG website <<http://madisonknittersguild.org/volunteer>> and selecting "Children's Museum" from the drop down menu, or stop by the Community Projects table during a Guild meeting. If you have questions, please contact Bonnie Dill at [bonnie64MKG@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie64MKG@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Guild Events:

**January 13:** Guild Meeting, program by Nancy Marchant. Vendors: The Woolgathers, Hidden Valley Farm & Woolen Mill

**January 22:** Principles of Color class, 11:00 am–12:30 pm at Stitcher's Crossing (Pre-registration required)

**January 24-26 :** UFO Retreat, Chalet Landhaus, New Glarus

**February 10:** Guild Meeting, program by Patty Lyons. Vendors: The Cat and Crow, Jenny Blasen Pottery

**February 22 & 27:** Basic Socks class, 6:00 –7:30 pm at Stitcher's Crossing (Pre-registration needed)

## Other Knitting Events:

**January 14 and 15:** Nancy Marchant Brioche Classes held by Susan's Fiber Shop, Columbus, WI



## Meet the Vendors for January:

**Hidden Valley Farm & Woolen Mill** It started with one sheep...

Paul and Carol Wagner acquired one sheep, a ram, and soon realized that he needed company. Twenty eight years later, the flock has grown to approximately 160 ewes, quite a few rams and 30 yearling ewes (future Moms). In the spring the ewes produce over 300 lambs. The Wagner's raise registered Coopworth sheep which is



a breed developed in New Zealand as a dual purpose breed (quality wool and also meat).

The sheep are sheared in March and then the fun begins. The wool is washed, dyed and finally carded into roving. Each colorway is given a name which helps spinners reorder a color that they enjoy. The lambs are sheared in October and that wool is spun into yarn in many weights (i.e., worsted, sport, single) and dyed a variety of colors.

Carol travels to approximately 10 festivals throughout the Midwest to sell the roving and yarn from fiber produced on their farm. The Wagner's are promoters of the sheep industry. Paul served on the board of the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Coop. Carol was the president of the Coopworth Sheep Society of North America, and is currently the coordinator for the classes at the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival. She also teaches dyeing, drum carding and spinning technique classes.

Hidden Valley Woolen Mill offers custom carding services for the public. They wash the fiber and card it into either roving or batting. Some dyeing services are offered. They are one of the only mills left where quilt batts are carded. Old wool batts are washed and recarded. The store on the Hidden Valley Farm offers fabric, roving, yarn, books, and gift items. Come and visit.....we look forward to meeting you.

**Website:** <http://www.hiddenvalleyfarmwoolenmill.com> **Visit:** 14804 Newton Rd., Valders, WI 54245

**Phone:** 920-758-2803 **Store Hours:** Tue–Fri: 9:00 am–5:00 pm; Sat: 9:00 am–12:00 pm



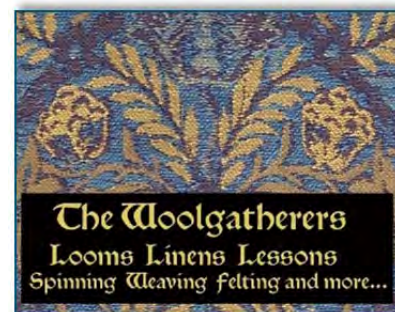
**The Woolgatherer's**, a family run business, carries a complete assortment of knitting needles, crochet hooks, tatting shuttles and other needlework supplies. Owners Hans & Sara von Tresckow carry a variety of knitting yarns, DMC crochet cotton and linen embroidery floss, and imported linen evenweave for stitching projects. Imported linen towels, damask napkins and other finished textiles, suitable for gifts, round out our product line.

We specialize in small to mid-sized looms for the smaller home or apartment. Our Dutch Master table looms fold down into a fishing tackle bag. We are importers of ÖXABÄCK small footprint LILLA countermarche looms from



Sweden. We also carry Glimakra looms and equipment, including the sweet little JULIA. Table and Rigid Heddle looms from ASHFORD fill out our loom assortment. A full line of spinning and weaving equipment, and spinning fiber is available to make fiber pursuits more pleasurable. We carry spinning wheels from ASHFORD and LOUET as well as a fine selection of hand spindles. Our book selection includes out of print titles – collected wherever we find them.

Our expertise, built on years of experience, helps us help you find exactly the tools you need. Hans is a woodworker who uses his engineering skills to adapt and repair looms and spinning wheels. Sara is the weaver and spinner with nearly 30 years of experience. Together we produce a line of portable weaving looms and weaving accessories as well as quality handwoven items. Handwoven fabrics include one of a kind damask pieces as well as distinctive household textiles with a European flair.



**Website:** [www.woolgatherers.com](http://www.woolgatherers.com) **Phone:** 920-907-0510 **Visit:** 25A N. Main St., Fond du Lac, WI 54935

**Store Hours:** Tues–Sat from 10:00 am–5:00 pm. Call ahead if traveling from a distance; we'll open for you.



## A Pre-Knit-In event—A Night with Franklin Habit:

Kick off the 2014 MKG knit-in with this members-only ticketed event at the **Bishop O'Connor Center** on **Friday, March 14, 2014**, from **6PM - 8PM**.

Event attendees will be able to talk to Franklin, have him sign his book, and hear his presentation on **Practical Magic: The Other Side of Weldon's Practical Needlework**. During the event, water and various appetizers will be available. There will also be a cash bar offering soda, beer and wine.

Advanced registration is required for this event as it is limited to 100 MKG members. The cost for this event will be \$20.00 per person. Online registration will open online after 7:00 pm, Tuesday, January 14, 2014. Registrations sent by mail will be opened after 7:00 pm on the 14th.

Those wishing to register by mail can use the 'Night with Franklin Habit' registration form included on page 11 of this newsletter. Registration will close once we reach the event limit. Be aware that registering for this event does **NOT** register you for the Knit-In.

Please contact Mary Jo Harris at 608-243-9057 or [harrismjo7@sbcglobal.net](mailto:harrismjo7@sbcglobal.net) if you have questions.



## December Guild Meeting Minutes:

President Mae Knowles welcomed and introduced our guests and new members as well as our vendors Hearthside Fibers and The Sow's Ear. Attendees also had the opportunity to shop at the Community Projects Committee's sale to benefit Second Harvest.

### Announcements:

- MKG's new home beginning September 2014 will be Promega's Bio-Pharmaceutical Technology Center (BTC) in Fitchburg.
- Registration is underway for the UFO Retreat to be held January 24–26.
- KAL participants were urged to subscribe to the Forum on the website. The three groups will meet independently January through March 2014.
- Information was provided on current Neighborhood Knits classes. Class details and registration is available through the website.
- Upcoming partner classes with MKG speakers Nancy Marchant and Patty Lyons were announced. Details are available on the website.
- Knit-In Dates are March 14–16. Classes and the marketplace will be held on Saturday and Sunday, with "an evening with Franklin Habit" event to be held on Friday.
- Volunteers are needed for:
  - Library re-shelving and circulation
  - Photographers—15 min. shifts during meetings
  - Knit-In day of helpers
  - Vendor/Sponsor communications

### Program:

Amy Detjen's presentation "I Don't Knit Sleeves and You Can't Make Me" was first and foremost hilarious, but also made a great point—if you love to knit, just knit, and enjoy the process—don't worry about the end product. Amy delighted us with many of her own beautiful, but unfinished, projects.

Amy said knitting has brought her into a wonderful circle of women, keeps her busy and provides her with income and the opportunity to travel. She also told us about her wonderful experiences filming classes for Craftsy and shared information on her upcoming trips bringing knitters to Ireland.



### Show 'N Tell:

Jennie Kaderabek (shown left) shared her red cardigan, Lori Wiltinger modeled a caplet, Tina Kaspar shared two beautiful shawls and Kirsti Johanson modeled a shawl that she designed. See more photos on the MKG website.

—Joan Werla, Secretary



## Sneak Peek at the February Meeting:

Our speaker for February is Patty Lyons (<http://pattylyons.com/>), a knitting teacher and designer who teaches nationally at guilds & shows around the country such as Vogue Knitting LIVE, Knit and Crochet Show, and STITCHES. Her classes can also be found online at Craftsy & Knitting Daily (Interweave Press). Patty's designs and knitting articles can be found in *Vogue Knitting*, *Creative Knitting*, *Knit 1,2,3* and *Knit 'N Style* magazine.

After running a yarn store in NYC, Patty joined Lion Brand Yarn in 2008 to create the Lion Brand Yarn Studio, where she served as the Studio Director and head of the education department for five years.



## Susan's Fiber Shop hosting The Brioche Stitch classes with Nancy Marchant

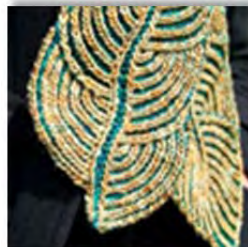
Tuesday, January 14 and Wednesday, January 15 at the Columbus Super 8 Hotel (stay overnight for a discount rate of \$57.15+ tax). Nancy Marchant's classes build on one another. For pricing and details, call 920-623-4237 or visit <http://www.susansfibershop.com/>.

### Learn Basic Brioche

Learn to “bark” (brioche knit) and “burp” (brioche purl) this luscious stitch into a world of unending stitch possibilities from Nancy Marchant, the “queen of brioche”. She will cover the brioche method of making increases and decreases and explore stitch variations by making a sampler in class. Knowledge needed: Basic knitting skills including increasing and decreasing.

### Beyond Basic Brioche

Learn to work plain brioche and brioche-stitch variations with two or more colors. You will make designer increases and decreases and create new patterning by moving the stitch around. You will leave the class inspired and ready to design your own brioche knitted projects. Knowledge needed: Students need to know how to work basic one-color brioche stitch.



### Manipulating Brioche Stitches

Play with the design possibilities of the brioche stitch by experimenting with syncopated brioche and creating brioche “pods”. Then move into brioche crossed stitches, adding a double knit motif and cables. You will leave with a sample of entirely new brioche stitch techniques. Knowledge needed: Students need to know how to work two-color brioche stitch.

### Discovering Brioche Lace

Interested in a new lace technique? Brioche Lace is new, yet to be explored. Learn to apply brioche knitting to normally knitted lace stitch patterns to create reversible lace with different colors on each side. Lots of samples will be on display and discussed. Knowledge needed: Students need to be familiar with knitting lace and reading lace charts as well as two-color brioche knitting.



## December Sale for the Second Harvest Foodbank Was a Huge Success!

Thank you to everyone who shopped at our December benefit sale. This year was very successful. Your contributions made it possible to donate \$2077.83 dollars to Second Harvest. This will provide 6231 meals to individuals and families in need. MKG has donated 11,631 meals since 2011.

Thank you to the many individuals who helped with the sale preparations, set up and clean up. And a big thank you to everyone who donated yarn, books, patterns and notions. The large selection gave everyone something to consider and resulted in an impressive sale. The staff of Second Harvest conveyed their appreciation to the Madison Knitter's Guild for continued support of their efforts to provide food to the many individual and families in need.





## Community Projects — Wanted: Lap Blankets and Tactile Balls in January, as well as Scarves, Mittens and Hats for Children and Adults in February

Thank you for all your donations in **December**. Donations of knit items as well as food and toiletries were delivered to River Food Pantry and East Madison Community Center. At the December Guild meeting members donated 89 hats (for all ages including 8 preemie and 7 chemo hats), 19 scarves, 2 sweaters, 10 cowls, 9 pairs of mittens, 19 pairs of socks, 1 belt, 2 hat/scarf or cowl sets, 1 scarf/hood combination, 5 baby blankets, 1 lap blanket, 8 tactile balls, 25 critters, 2 potholders, 1 doll, and more purchased socks.

In **January** our support will be directed towards Agrace Hospice Care. Lap blankets are needed, 36" x 36" or similar dimensions and also tactile balls. For individuals with significant memory loss



having a knit ball to manipulate or hold can be calming. You can knit or crochet hand-sized balls using up washable scraps of yarn with one of the many patterns available on Ravelry. The pattern for the Accidental Toy by Frankie Brown was featured in the December newsletter and is another good option. Balls and lap blankets made of washable yarn and stuffing material are preferred.

Ready to Knit kits available in January will include an owl kit as well as other critters. Stop by the community table at the guild meeting to pick up a kit or learn more about upcoming patterns. A sample of the pattern featured below will be on display and questions can be answered. Watch for the return of critter kits in 2014.

**February** we will return to providing mittens, hats and scarves to children and adults through the Bayview Foundation that supports families in the Bayview community. Learn more about their activities at <http://bayviewfoundation.org/>

In **March** we have three agencies to support. A pattern to knit very small preemie-sized gowns is included in this newsletter for McKayla's Grace. This organization was formed to support families with a baby in the NICU and those who experience the death of an infant at hospitals in Wisconsin by providing NICU care packages and angel memory boxes that offer both practical and emotional support. Their highest need is matching or coordinated sets of 2 each: gowns, hats, booties, and small blankets (2' x 2'). They can also use small blankets in pairs. In addition to the gown pattern below, here are additional patterns you can consider using:

- Tiny Preemie Hats: <http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/tiny-preemie-hats>
- Booties: <http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/seamless-preemie-booties>
- Angel wraps (instead of a gown): <http://lisasstars2012.wordpress.com/patterns-2/angel-wrap>
- Crocheted gown: <http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/crochet-sleeper-sack>

In addition, children's items for ages five and under and baby items are needed for the YWCA, Third Street Program located in downtown Madison that provides affordable apartments, a safe neighborhood for families, and support services to single mothers with one or two children. And our third program is the Women's and Childbirth Services Department, Columbus Community Hospital. Baby blankets are needed for families supported in their educational programs.

Please refer to the MKG website for the 2013–2014 Community Projects Calendar and pattern ideas. Feel free to drop off critters for the Monona Library Summer Reading Program and scarves for Handmade Especially for You at any guild meeting. Thank you for all you do.

– Rae Sprague, Community Projects Chair



## Sleeper Sack (Burial Gown for Premies)

© Debbie Cowherd (debbie@pobox.com)

Printed with permission. [Click here for the full pattern.](#)

This is a sleeper sack design for burial/bereavement garments for [The Premie Project](#). The pattern was adapted from [Premie Kimono](#) by Lois Walters.

**Sizes:** Less than 1 lb baby [1-3 lb baby, 3-5 lb baby]

Donations welcome in any of the sizes.

**Yarns Used:** TLC Baby [Bernat Softee Baby, Baby Bee Sweet Delight Yarn]

**Needles:** US 3 (3.25 mm) [4 (3.5 mm), 4 (3.5 mm)] straight or circular (plus double pointed needles in same size used for the body if you wish to knit the arms in the round)

**Gauge:** Gauge is not critical; babies come in all sizes.

**Finished Measurements:** Chest: 6-1/2" [8", 10"] measured at underarms with button band buttoned. Length: 12" [13", 17"] from top of neck to hem (NICU nurses have requested this length. When in doubt make it longer rather than shorter, premies are often proportionately longer and thinner than full-term babies).

**Notions:** Ribbon for ties. Buttons if desired.

**Note:** This garment is designed so that it can be used with the opening in the front or back. The person dressing the baby can choose what's most appropriate.

### DIRECTIONS:

Cast on 27 [27, 34] stitches.

**Neck:** Row 1: K1, P1 ribbing across

Row 2: K2, YO, K2tog, continue K1 P1 ribbing across to last 4 stitches, K2tog, YO, K2.

On third row place markers: placing markers after 6 stitches, 4 stitches, 7 stitches and 4 stitches (with 6 stitches remaining after the last marker).

On all remaining body rows knit first 4 and last 4 stitches to make garter stitch back edge.

**Body:** Knit body in stockinette stitch (knit right-side rows, purl wrong-side rows). Increase knit rows one stitch before and after each marker, until middle section measures approximately 2-1/4" [2-1/2", 3"] measured from the cast-on edge.



On next knit row, make an eyelet at beginning of row (K2, YO, K2tog), knit to first marker CO 2 stitches, remove marker, place all stitches until next marker on a stitch holder (sleeve), remove marker, knit across front to next marker and remove it, CO 2 stitches, place all stitches until next marker on holder (sleeve) and continue to last 4 stitches, make another eyelet (if desired, see notes\* below regarding closure options).

Continue body in stockinette stitch until desired length, as above, making eyelets at approximately even intervals until within 3 or 4 inches of desired length. Make drawstring row by K1, YO, K2tog across row. Purl next row. Bind off next row.

Pick up sleeve stitches on DPNs and knit 10 [15, 20] rows in stockinette, then 3 rows in K1,P1 ribbing and bind off. (Alternatively, knit back and forth and then sew up sleeve seam.) Repeat with second sleeve.

\*Closure options: If you plan to use ribbons or crocheted chains for ties in back, make an eyelet on both edges of the placket to run ribbon through. If you plan to use buttons, make an eyelet on one side of the placket. I ultimately decided to use a ribbon closure for the neck edge and buttons down the back. The bottom is closed with ribbon.

### Treasurer's Report:

<b>Month:</b>	<b>November 2013</b>	<b>Membership:</b>	<b>478</b>
<b>Income:</b>	<b>\$1,615.13</b>	<b>Checking:</b>	<b>\$36,969.31</b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>	<b>\$2,834.46</b>	<b>Savings:</b>	<b>\$3,068.36</b>

### Membership December Update:

We are now

**493**

members strong!

## Ewe and Janine — January 2014

*I'm Janine Kam, a shepherdess in New Glarus, Wisconsin. I love sheep, knitting, spinning, sewing, dyeing, and all things textiles, especially wool.*

**Farm:** The sheep still like to spend the cool nights at the doorway of the barn and often I will see that they have snow on their coats. They love bathing in the moonlight which is healthy for them. After eating in the pasture all year, they finally remembered that the hay is now in the barn but they are still free to browse and play outside during the day. The lambs like to run around outside doing that jump-for-joy that lambs do. In the afternoons, they will lounge at the doorway in the sun for extra vitamin D. Often the chickens, baby goats, or baby lambs nap on the backs of the sheep nestled in their warm coats. The rambunctious baby goats and baby lambs love to jump and play on the sheep who don't really mind. The does will occasionally use this opportunity to teach their precious kids that goats are better than sheep and too good to play with them but they can jump off of them.

**Knitting:** I like to keep a contemporaneous list of projects to knit. There is no pressure to execute them unless it is a commission or gift, but I like to have my stash organized with a vague project in mind. There are the impromptu projects when I have to make a quick hostess/birthday/baby present which supersedes everything else but otherwise this list is a general guideline. On my 2014 knitting list: circular shawl, socks for the men, a fichu (which is a year late for Beth from Aviv's cashmere), baby socks for my friends' daughters, three commissioned hats due in October 2014, a vest and sweater for my husband, a turtleneck dress, lace curtains for the windows, a lace dress, and anything else I can think of during the year. Sometimes I will be inspired by things I see in museums or by watching people and will make gifts for no one in particular just to have on hand for a birthday or hostess. Some items include necklace and



earring sets pictured here. They are very quick to knit and crochet and make an impressive last-minute present. Although it is not

wool, it utilizes knitting skills and sensibility. It's also great practice to make something and not be able to take it out because the wire might weaken and break, which takes thinking in advance. For this ripper, it's a welcome challenge!

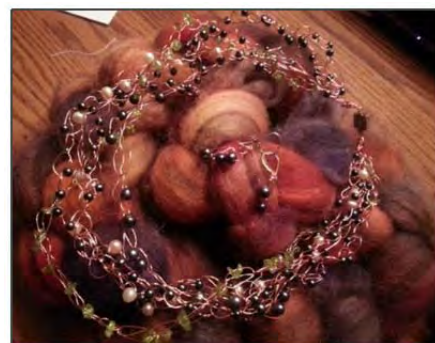
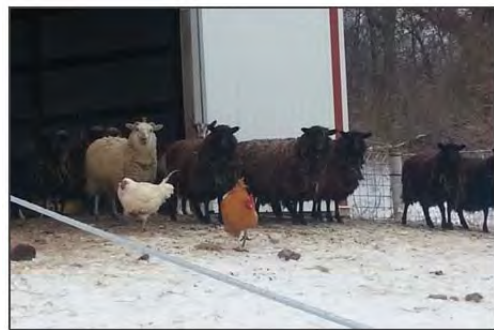
### **Pattern:** **Knitted Earrings & Crocheted Necklace**

**Materials:** 30 gauge wire (I used fine silver on the set below and 28 gauge copper wire on the set below left), findings, pearls, stones, or beads, #3 metal knitting needles, #H crochet hook. I found the 28-gauge to be not as malleable as the 30 gauge and more difficult to manipulate.

**Earrings:** Thread desired number of beads or pearls on wire. With #3 metal needles, loosely cast on 5 stitches. Work in stockinette stitch or garter stitch for 5 rows incorporating beads or pearls at random and loosely cast off. Cut off leaving a tail of about 2". Weave this tail around the rim of the shape. Attach the other tail from the beginning to a jump ring and attach to ear wires or a necklace or bracelet or whatever you like. Don't be limited to any particular shape. Increase or decrease to make your own shapes. The fun part is shaping it after it is knitted into a lovely three-dimensional shape!

### **Necklace:**

Thread the beads or pearls on the wire. With a crochet hook, chain stitch incorporating the beads or pearls wherever I like until desired length. Attach the ends to necklace findings I have on hand. The necklace on left is three strands that I twisted together and the necklace on the right is five strands twisted together. Happy Knitting!





Pre-Knit-In Event:

A NIGHT WITH FRANKLIN HABIT

Friday, March 14, 2014, from 6:00–8:00 pm

Bishop O'Connor Center, 702 S. High Point Road, Madison, WI

Attendees will have the opportunity to talk to Franklin, have him sign his book, and hear his presentation:

*Practical Magic: The Other Side of Weldon's Practical Needlework.*

Water and various appetizers are included, and a cash bar offering soda, beer and wine will be available.



A NIGHT WITH FRANKLIN HABIT  
REGISTRATION FORM

Registration may be made by completing this form and mailing it to the address below OR sign up online at [www.madisonknittersguild.org](http://www.madisonknittersguild.org).

Registration opens after 7:00 pm on Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer yes or no:

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a current Madison Knitters' Guild Member.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am enclosing a check for \$20.00 to attend A Night With Franklin Habit on Fri, March 14, 2014

Only one registration per form. Make checks out to Madison Knitters' Guild.

Return form(s) and check(s) to:

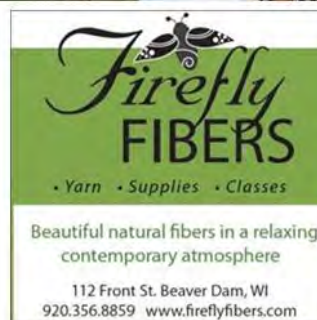
Mary Jo Harris  
1529 Longview St  
Madison, WI 53704

NOTE: Completing this form does NOT register you for the 2014 Knit-In.

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**'Tis The Season**



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