



KNITTERS' KNEWS

Vol. 35, Issue 9

May 2015



THE MADISON KNITTERS' GUILD MEETS THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY.

PROMEGA BIOPHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER (BTC), 5445 E. CHERYL PARKWAY, FITCHBURG, WI

MAY 11th MEETING IS MEMBERS ONLY

Please join us for the festive end to the 2014-15 season where the focus is on members! Grab your wallet and plan to arrive right at 5:00 pm to peruse the Library Book Sale as well as the members' Stash Sales for all the yarn, needles, books, and all manner of knitterly things to be had. Which of these great features are you most looking forward to?



- **Members Stash Sale:** Here's your chance to clean out your stash in exchange for cash, as well as the opportunity to find some tempting items from other members. You never know what treasures will be there!
- **Library Book Sale:** Thanks to the generosity of our members, the Library will be selling numerous donated books – each for only \$5 or less! Community Projects will also a large selection of free magazines and patterns for the taking.
- **Business Meeting:** Vote to elect new board members.
- **Brown Bag Exchange Reveal:** It is a lot of fun to participate, but it is also fun to see the circle-themed creations knit up from the mystery yarn.
- **KAL Sweater Parade:** Did you knit along to make a Chimera this year or a Dansez last year? If so, slip on your sweater and join the parade!
- **Treat during break:** This year they are from Cupcakes-A-Go-Go. With all the different varieties available, everyone is sure to find something they like. Some beverages will also be provided.
- **Door Prizes:** Everyone has many, many chances you have to win, and as with the other meetings, you have to be present to win.

– Pat Fisher, Hospitality Chair

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Guild members,

The 2014-15 season has been one of many changes and all those changes resulted in higher costs than in previous years. At the beginning of the fiscal year, we worried about a negative budget and did much recalculating. We have been very careful about spending your money! As I write my final letter as Guild president, all the numbers for the year are not in, but it looks like once again, we will end the year in the black. Your membership year is July 1–June 30 to coincide with the fiscal year. What will dues be for next year? The board has not yet had that discussion. Some people have wondered why we keep so much money in our accounts. The answer is that we want to be able to cover the rent and our contractual commitments to speakers if for some unforeseen reason membership were to drop precipitously. So far that has not been a problem, of course!

MEETING AGENDA:

5:00 pm: Doors Open

Pick up your badge then visit Hospitality, shop the Library Book Sale and the Member Stash Sale, visit Community Projects, and chat with Knit Aid in the Atrium and Cafeteria

6:30 pm: Meeting Starts

Business Meeting which includes the Board Elections, followed by the Brown Bag Exchange Reveal and KAL Parade. Break for Cupcakes, then Door Prize Extravaganza in the Auditorium

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, CONTINUED

To give you a little background, several years ago we outgrew the Monona Community Center and moved to the West Side Club. We were warned by some members that people would not join if they had to drive so far. However, membership grew to 575 and after three years, we had to find a new home. The Bishop O'Connor Center seemed ideal except for the lights and sound system! We didn't choose to leave but it became necessary when they decided to change the whole focus of the facility.

As we complete our first year at Promega, we have over 600 members. It's exciting to be a part of the largest guild in the country, but that does create its own problems. Because your opinions and suggestions are important to us, we've developed a few surveys and really appreciate the time that you spend answering the questions. There were two surveys about our annual Knit-In. One was largely concerned with the 2015 Knit-In and another was more focused on our direction for the future. We are aware of the issues with the entrance and parking fees and with the food. We are also aware that vendors did not sell as much as they need to for the time that they spent and, in some cases, their travel and lodging costs. Now we have a third survey with questions about the Guild in general (see pg. 5).

I think you should know that some board members have recommended hiring people to do certain tasks for the Guild. Other board members feel strongly that volunteers continue to do the fine work they have been doing since the Guild's beginning in 1981. Important considerations include cost of hiring someone, who would supervise such an employee, and what that would do to Guild dues. However, volunteer burn-out is an issue. I am one of the board members consistently opposed to paying anyone for Guild work of any kind. I don't know how we could say that one board member or committee chair works harder than another. I look at what I do as doing my part for an organization that is extremely important to me. However, I have been on the nominating committee more than once and I know how difficult it is to recruit people to run for the board or to chair a committee. Most people decline. If you've read the newsletters or listened to announcements at Guild meetings, you realize that for several months each year we ask people to call a member of the

nominating committee to volunteer for a position. Not one person called me when I chaired that committee during the 2013-14 season. I am not criticizing anyone for this. Only one person knows all that you have going on in your life! On the other hand, only one person knows if you might secretly wish to do a little more for the good of the Guild! Maybe you'll consider saying yes next year!

Did you know that **Knit Connections** came about as a result of a Guild member saying that she would sometimes come to meetings and talk to no one? The goal of Knit Connections is to provide an opportunity for small group gatherings before our regular meetings. A couple of these gatherings have been very well attended—in fact Stacy Parenteau's presentation on Ravelry before the April meeting was so popular that additional chairs were brought in. People kept coming, however, and ultimately were willing to stand during Stacy's excellent talk. Have you attended any of these meetings? What topics might make you want to come?

Interesting Website: A non-knitting friend recently sent me a link to an Etsy store listing. I don't know how much of the link you need but here is what I have: www.etsy.com/listing/114169397/biological. I wouldn't recommend making one of these items as a critter donation for community projects, but if knitting a dissected frog interests you... a collection of six patterns costs just \$14.95 or you can purchase patterns individually. I will NOT be making one of these items and I am not promoting this particular designer. Just sayin'!

Conclusion—finally! So, what will you be knitting this summer? Going on any knitting trips or to camp? Or does golfing take over your life for the next few months as it does for some of my friends?

I thank you all for your patience and words of encouragement during this year. I never anticipated the personal issues I would face when I agreed to take on the responsibilities of this job. If you feel it's been a good year for the Guild, please thank all the board members and committee chairs as I have tried to do throughout the year. We are so lucky to have such a hard working group of leaders!

Comments to president@madisonknittersguild.org

Happy Knitting!

– Connie Burmeister, President

MKG BOARD NOMINATIONS

We are pleased to present the following slate of nominations to the Madison Knitters' Guild Board of Directors: Jane Grogan, Amanda Haynes, Stacy Parenteau, and Barbara Rottman. If elected, these Board members will serve a term from July 2015 through June 2018. They replace three departing Board members (Bonnie Dill, Marijka Engel, and Carrie Hafele). Barbara Rottman was appointed to fill an unexpired Board term that ends in June 2015 and is nominated for another full term. According to the bylaws, the Board is responsible to "carry out the affairs of the organization." Your Guild has 11 elected Board members who serve three-year terms and may:

- hold an office (president, vice-president, secretary or treasurer),
- chair a board committee (programming or Knit-In), or
- chair an at-large committee (communications/website, membership, library, special events, education, hospitality, newsletter, community projects, or vendors).

The Board appoints chairs to head up 5 at-large committees not otherwise filled by elected Board members. Appointed chairs serve on a voluntary basis, and their terms are renewed annually but not limited. They may not hold an office or chair the programming or Knit-In committee. That means there are 16 people who serve on the Board, but only the 11 elected Board members may vote on decisions such as adding or deleting programs and the budget and finances. The Board meets monthly. Further, committee chairs meet as needed to plan and carry out their activities.

Board elections will be held at the May annual meeting. Following the general election, the Board holds an internal election of officers and makes decisions about committee chairmanships for the next year. Board members usually rotate position assignments every year. By giving Board members experience in several areas, MKG has a stronger and more nimble Board. There is a transitional period in June with incoming and outgoing Board members reviewing budget proposals and evaluating plans for the coming year.

Please review the summary from each Board candidate in advance of the May meeting. You may submit floor or self-nominations by filling out the [Board volunteer interest](#) form.

THIS YEAR'S SLATE OF NOMINEES TO THE MKG BOARD OF DIRECTORS:



AMANDA HAYNES: This coming year will be my 8th year as a guild member. I have been knitting consistently for almost 10 years. I had tried to teach myself to knit in the past but was successfully taught by some friends shortly after moving to Madison with my husband. This time it stuck. I love to knit socks, lacework, and love to research the

historical side of knitting. I have enjoyed being part of the guild, including working on the library committee for multiple years. I also wrote book reviews for the newsletter when I first joined. I have met many wonderful people through the guild and would like to become a board member to help contribute even more. I want everyone to enjoy the guild and all it has to offer. I hope I can add to the wonderful level of creativity, service and encouragement that I have found here.

BARBARA ROTTMAN:

Knitting has been by my side and on my mind since childhood. I don't think anyone will ever "see it all" when it comes to knitting, but I am constantly inspired by the creative energy of knitters, especially those in the Madison Knitters' Guild.

Nearly the first thing I did when I moved to Madison in 2008 was to join MKG because it feeds my passion for knitting. I think it is important to invest in the organizations I support and have volunteered in school, community, professional and church groups throughout my life. I was MKG Treasurer for three years and then appointed to fill the unexpired two-year term as Programming Chair. I want to help MKG continue to provide the many member benefits and to be responsive to members' needs.



THIS YEAR'S SLATE OF NOMINEES TO THE MKG BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CONTINUED:



JANE GROGAN: Many of you know me as a weaver, spinner and crochet addict and if only there were more hours in my day I might also be known as a knitter. I joined the Madison Knitters' Guild in 2009 after attending the first Sock Summit because I was inspired to knit more after that experience. I

have enjoyed the benefits of membership and fellowship of MKG and would like to add to those experiences by becoming a Board member.

STACY PARENTEAU: I've been a member of the guild for several years, have been administering the guild's Ravelry group for the past two years, and have volunteered at special events. I'm interested in joining the board of directors because I'd like to take a more

active role in the guild, get to know more fellow knitters, and help promote this amazing guild we're so lucky to be a part of!

My grandma taught me to crochet when I was little; I picked it up occasionally over the years, but really fell in love with it about ten years ago. I was determined to learn to knit so I took lessons in 2011 and haven't put down my needles since! Through the guild and Ravelry, I've made a lot of new friends and am traveling to the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival in May to meet up with some of them.

I'm looking forward to meeting you at Guild events. Happy Knitting!



LIBRARY NOTES:

Join us at the May meeting for our annual **Library Book Sale**. We will be selling hundreds of books donated by our generous members, all for \$5 or under. Come early for the best selection! All proceeds go directly to the Guild and will help to fund the future of the library.

This month we are adding five books sure to inspire and expand your knitting projects. Two recent books on brioche are filled with innovative brioche patterns. In **Knitting Fresh Brioche** by Nancy Marchant presents 75 new stitch patterns for two-color brioche and in *Brioche Chic* by Mercedes Tarasovich-Clark includes garments and accessories in brioche. If you are looking for other knitting techniques, try **Enterlac 2** by Rosemary Drysdale. The book contains many fun and challenging projects that use the enterlac in new ways.

To inspire your design and aesthetic intuition see *Artful Color, Mindful Knits* by Laura Militzer Bryant. Learn great strategies for working with hand-dyed yarns, revealing the color repeats and allowing you to control the patterning. Finally, in **Magpies, Homebodies, and Nomads** by Cirilia Rose, enjoy the photographs by Jared Flood of a collection of knitwear inspired by travel, cultural history and modern life.

A special thank you goes to the family of Roberta Preston for their donation of books, patterns, magazines, and yarn to the Guild in her memory. Robbie was an accomplished knitter and a frequent library volunteer. We are adding five of her books to our library including *French Girl Knits* by Kristeen Griffin-Grimes and *World of Knitted Toys* by Kath Dalmeny.

– Marijka Engel, Library Chair



Mark Your Calendar!

UPCOMING GUILD EVENTS:

May 11: [Guild Meeting](#) – Members Only

June 26: [Stitch 'n Pitch with the Mallards](#)
Celebrate knitting in public with the Guild.

August 8: [Stiches Bus Trip](#) – Save the date!

OTHER LOCAL FIBER EVENTS:

June 13: [World Wide Knit In Public Day!](#)

August 6-9: [Stitches Midwest](#) –
Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center,
Schaumburg, IL

September 9-13: [Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival](#), Jefferson, WI

BUS TRIP TO STITCHES MIDWEST

Save the date: **SATURDAY, AUGUST 8.**



A bus has been reserved for a day trip to Stitches Midwest. Check your wish list of patterns for yarn needs... and plan to hop

on the bus to Schaumburg IL. Details on this trip are being finalized and will be sent out soon. Send your questions to Jane Grogan at janeagro@yahoo.com or call 608-279-2591.

Current Membership

628

THE GREEN BADGE OF KNITTING



May's Guild meeting is for MKG members only, that means you will need to wear your badge (which is green :-). If you took it home with you, please bring it to the May 11th meeting. **Everyone, please leave all badges in the badge box at the end of the meeting** so I can prepare the 2015-16 badges. Thank you!

– Carol Spiegel, Membership Chair (aka Badge Queen)

STITCH 'N PITCH WITH THE MALLARDS

Friday, June 26 7:05 pm Madison Mallards vs Kenosha

Join the gang at the "Duck Pond" for the knit in public night at the Mallards game. We have a section set aside for MKG...come for some surprise events and to show the ball crowd how knitters have fun! Tickets are only \$10 and that includes a Mallards baseball hat!

Order your ticket online at www.mallardsgroups.com, Login in code: madknitting.

Contact me if you have questions at 608-279-2591 or janeagro@yahoo.com.

– Jane Grogan, Special Event Chair



SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS—TAKE THE MEMBERSHIP SURVEY



The MKG Board of Directors works very hard for our members. In order to make sure that our work is focused on what our members really want, we need your feedback! Please share your opinion by clicking here for the [2015 MKG Membership Survey](#). Paper surveys as well as computers and iPads will also be available at the May meeting.

– Cynthia Robey-Duncomb, Newsletter & Advertising Chair

COMMUNITY PROJECTS:

Thank you for donating 91 hand-made items in **April**. Fifty-seven scarves went to *Handmade Especially for You*, supporting women entering domestic abuse shelters. To date, **1,495** knit or crocheted items have been donated this year. Thank You!

To date almost **200 critters** have been completed along with a kaleidoscope of butterflies. We are looking for additional critters for the new initiative supporting parents as they read with their children before they enter kindergarten. In April we offered kits of six larger and easy to knit critters. Please remember to put the finishing touches on your work and bring your critters to the May meeting. Your efforts will allow the Monona Public Library to support their literacy program for children of all ages with fun rewards.

Planning ahead for fall we are offering Ready to Knit kits for children's mittens and hats as well as scarves. Stop by the community tables at the May meeting to pick up a kit or pattern. We will also have a large selection of donated magazines and patterns free for the taking.

In this newsletter you will find the **Cool Beanie** pattern that uses scraps of yarn. Other patterns are available on the website. Included in our list of favorites are Jean Gifford's [No Swatch, No Gauge Mittens for Kids](#) for children's mittens including directions for a variety of yarn weights and her [Bulky Mittens](#). The [Rib-a-Roni](#) hat by Jane Tanner has a unique crown shaping and many sizes, and check out the Cool Beanie pattern on page 7.



WANTED IN MAY:

→ Critters for the Monona Library's Summer Reading Program and the 1,000 Books before Kindergarten Program

WANTED THIS FALL:

→ Mittens and Hats for Grade School Children
→ Scarves, both fashion and warmth, for women entering domestic abuse shelters

Thank You to Local Businesses:

- **The Sow's Ear** for their greatly appreciated donations of yarn, notions and ongoing advice.
- **Copps** for their generous donation of plastic bags.

Thank You Notes from Community Agencies:

Notes of thanks come from the many agencies you have supported with your knit items, donation of food and toiletries and purchases at the December Sale. Here are a few of the comments we received:

"Thank you SO MUCH for your continued support of East Madison Community Center! Your hand-knit items put big smiles on people's faces making holiday wishes come true." – East Madison Community Center

"What a phenomenal job fundraising this year! We will be able to provide 22,806 meals. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of community members struggling with hunger." – Second Harvest Foodbank

"These donations mean so much to us and those we serve. Thank You! Because of your support the homeless men we support are better able to meet their basic needs." – Porchlight

"When you support The River, you not only send people home with a cart of groceries but you also support a community that embodies hope for the future and spreads a message of encouragement to those facing life's challenges. As we enter this time of thanksgiving and celebration, we are eternally thankful for your donations and we celebrate the community you've built and the lives you have impacted." – The River Food Pantry

Refer to the MKG website in June for upcoming 2015-2016 Community Projects Calendar and pattern ideas. Thank you for all you do for others.

– Rae Sprague, Community Projects Chair

"You can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you." Debbie Macomber



MAKING HATS WITH SCRAPS

Guild member Sally Schaefer has shared her Cool Beanie hat design for adaptation for MKG Community Projects. The hats look great and make use of left over yarn in two or three colors. Use her pattern below, or try this concept of alternating two or three colors with another hat pattern, such as the Rib-a-Roni.

COOL BEANIE *designed by Sally Schaefer*

Materials:

Needles: 16" circular and dpns in US 4/3.5 mm for very loose knitters to US 7/4.5 mm for very tight knitters

Yarn: Worsted Weight about 1/4 to 1/3 skein for each color used.

If using single multicolor yarn it is about 1/2 to 3/4 skein total.

Gauge is not critical; finished hats from 18" to 22" will find a cold head to keep warm.

Notes: Simple pattern, stretchy one-size fits variety of ages. Sally always casts on and knits first row with darker color.

TWO COLOR BEANIE:

Cast On: 90 stitches with darker color (Color A); join, being careful stitches are not twisted and place a marker.

Row 1: Using Color A, K2, P1 around

Row 2: Switch to Color B, K2, P1 around

Continue alternating rows 1 and 2 for 5 1/2 to 6 inches

Decrease Rows:

Row 1: k13, k2 together

Row 2: K12, k2 together

Continue decreasing by one stitch in each row, switching to dpns as needed, until 12 stitches remain.

Thread yarn through the remaining stitches and fasten securely.

Weave in all ends.

THREE COLOR BEANIE:

Follow pattern above using three yarns instead of two. Alternate each color in new row, carrying unused colors along at the beginning of a new row.



Programming Chair, Barbara Rottman, shares this thank you note from the April speaker Clare Moran as she compliments the entire audience. Barbara also notes that she will organize visits to the Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection over the summer when there are fewer students on campus.

Hi Barbara,

I just wanted to write and thank you and everyone else from the Knitting Guild for such a great night on Monday. I was so impressed by how kind and knowledgeable everyone was, and how well run the whole operation is. We all had a great time, and we are so honored that you have decided to make a contribution to our collection.

Please let me know if you'd like to move forward with scheduling some group tours in the coming months. We would love to have you.

*All the best,
Clare*

APRIL GUILD MEETING MINUTES:

President Connie Burmeister called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The announcements were:

- The following people have been nominated to serve on the MKG Board: Jane Grogan, Amanda Haynes, Stacy Parenteau and Barbara Rottman. Elections will take place at the May meeting.
- A Knit-In Chair for 2016 is still needed.

Lois Anderson thanked members for the comfort scarves they have been making for courageous women entering domestic abuse shelters. Lois has collected and delivered over 900 scarves in the last five years.

Program: Terry Boyd, Professor Emerita, Dept. of Design studies at UW introduced our speaker, **Claire Moran**, who is the Academic Curator at the Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection in the School of Human Ecology here at UW. Helen Louise Allen pioneered an

anthropological approach to textiles. She collected samples of textiles but went further by documenting the stages of the various processes involved. For example, instead of just collecting batiks, she also documented the many stages of dying and resist work which result in the finished batik. The Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection was moved to newly renovated space in 2011 within the Human Ecology building; it includes a workroom, classroom and storage area. It is a research and teaching collection with displays rotating every 6 to 8 weeks.



Ms. Moran spoke to us on Non-Knitting Techniques which were precursors to knitting. These included: *Nalebinding*, which is done with short lengths of yarn; *Sprang*, made on a loom, lacy, open and stretchy; and *Tabletweaving*, which was made in narrow bands on a loom. In each

case, these techniques developed in various places around the world.

Ms. Moran presented slides of items from the collection. There were socks, a knitted blanket and a shaker rug. She also brought items from the collections so we could get up close and touch them.



The Guild will be scheduling some guided tours during the summer months for MKG members.

In lieu of a speaker fee, the Guild donated \$500 to the Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection.

Show and Tell: Hospitality Chair Pat Fisher, with help from Jordan Pitzner, introduced the following members and their projects:

- Carol Spiegel: Marmee cardigan by Louisa Harding in Jasmine yarn.
- Jannis Goodnow: Tunisian Entrelac Shawl which she designed using 3 colorways of Hardwick Farms hand-spun, hand-dyed Rambouillet wool.
- **Joan Bachhuber** (left): Turtle Blanket in Madeline Tosh yarn from Cascade's *30 Baby Blankets*. She will put the Baby's name in the center with duplicate stitch.
- Taine Hatch-Rymer: Fembot by Nikol Lohr using Bernat Boa, Cascade Fixation, Lion Fun Fur, and Crystal Palace Kid Merino. Taine also showed her Rikke Hat by Sarah Young with yarn from the Lemonade Shop, Speckled DK.
- Kristi Gersbach: Pi Shawl by Elizabeth Zimmerman with Pomfret wool bought at December's sale.
- Sue Olson: University of Minnesota Gopher scarf, hat, and mittens.
- Rebecca Boelhower Santi: Drachenfels shawl by Melanie Berg with rosy green wool.
- Lynn Levin showed various Critters knit by MKG members for donation to the Monona Library's Summer Reading Program and the 1,000 Books before Kindergarten Program.
- Lois Anderson presented *Handmade Especially for You* scarves donated to Community Projects.

Door Prizes Winners: Thank you to our vendors for their generous door prize donations:

- **Ogle Design** donated four skeins of yarn, which were won Larry Edman, Jill Converse, Jan Dehn, and Pat Kaleas.
- **Knit One Purl Two** donated two sets of patterns and yarn, which were won by Kim Ogle and Jessica Maus.
- Kristi Schultz won a book of patterns by Ann Budd, and Cindy Kozel won *Itty Bitty Nursery* by Susan B. Anderson, both donated by the Hospitality Committee. Lauren Collen won magnets donated by Connie Burmeister.

– Bonnie Dill, Secretary *Photos by Carol Spiegel*

2015-16 PROGRAM PREVIEW:

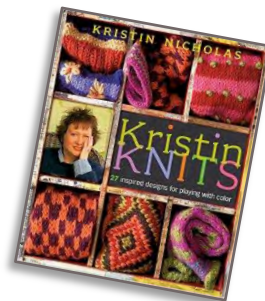
Dear Knitters: We are excited about upcoming MKG programs for 2015-16. We are in continuous planning mode for programs and have most of the program year planned at this writing. Mark your calendars now so that you don't miss any of these speakers. We welcome speaker recommendations. Send your suggestions for speakers to: programming@madisonknittersguild.com.

September 14, 2015: Nancy Bush (photo on right) — Partnering with Wisconsin Sheep & Wool, we will host Nancy Bush, a much-published author, teacher and speaker. Nancy is available to conduct up to 3 days of classes for MKG any time between September 15 and September 19. WS&W plans to offer classes on Estonian Lace, Estonian mittens, and Estonian socks plus Twined Knitting. We are planning classes now. If you have any preferences, please let us know!



October 12: Kristin Nicholas — Kristin is noted for bright bold colorwork. She is the author of 10 books, including *Color by Kristin*, *Kristin Knits*, and *Knitting for Baby*. Kristin will be available to teach classes on Monday, October 12 only. We are very lucky to have Kristin appear in Madison. It takes Kristin approximately 7 hours to fly from her home in Connecticut to Madison, so she is not able to teach any other day. However, this is a Columbus Day, so make your plans now. Classes will soon be posted on the website. Kristin will teach two 3-hour classes with up to 20 students each:

1. Embellishing Knits (embroidery on knits)
2. The Edge of Color. This class is suitable for beginners and includes how to pick up stitches, mitered edgings, and 1-2 other edgings, depending on class speed.



November 9: Open — Due to family emergencies, our planned speaker had to cancel. We are actively seeking an alternate speaker.

December 14: Judy Tollefson of [Judy's Colors](#) (Christmas stockings) — Judy will unveil the “Madison” Christmas stocking at the December meeting. This is a new design created especially for Madison and to represent Madison. Judy will speak about the design process, what inspired her and how she went about creating the stocking. She will offer the pattern and kits at deep discount to guild members. Judy will also teach classes on Sunday and Monday, December 13 and 14, 2015.



January 11: Jennifer Donze (photo on left) — Jennifer is a TKGGA certified Master Hand Knitter. She will describe the process to earn the certification and offer insights into why you might want to undertake this quest.

February 8: Shira Blumenthal — Shira is the Lion Brand Yarn Ambassador and 5th generation in this family-owned business, where her role is to promote knitting and fiber arts. She'll speak on industry trends in the yarn industry. Shira promises this is will be a lively, informational, and fun meeting.

March 14: Pending — The topic for this meeting is intended to be knitting for babies and toddlers. Some of the questions we posed to potential speakers include: “How are babies shaped?”, “What weight yarns work best in smaller garments?”, and “How can one assure good fit?”

Knit-In March 18–20: Candace Eisner Strick (photo on right) — Candace has a new book on skirts that will be released approximately February 2016. She will also be available for classes at the 2016 Knit-In.



April 11: Pending — We expect to finalize arrangements with the probable April speaker in the next few months. Watch the MKG website and newsletter for announcements.

May 9: Annual Members Only Meeting — No speaker.

– Barbara Rottman, Programming Chair

EWE AND JANINE – MAY 2015:

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



FARM: After quite a few mishaps in the past few years from foxes and raccoons taking chickens to unidentified, anonymous predators killing my favorite ewe, I have decided that we need a full-time livestock guardian and I chose a Great Pyrénées puppy named Patou-Bandit. Patou means shepherd in Old French and Bandit because of the mask. Is he adorable? His job on the farm will be to live with the livestock, be their friend, and defend them from predators not by attacking, but by dissuasion. His impressive bulk is supposed to intimidate although at the moment, he only kills with cuteness. Supposedly, he will prevent fights amongst the livestock which will be great when the junior rams are playing Gladiator so I don't have to walk into the barn at 6 AM to see one ram 'finishing off' another and then have to butcher the loser when it is -11°F



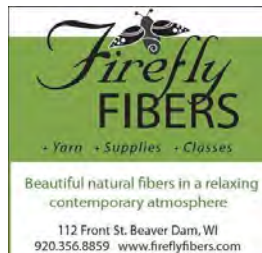
outside in January. Wikilani, the cat watches disdainfully from her perch on the ironing board and thinks dogs are drooly and disgusting and dominates the herding dog, MeiSi, mercilessly.

KNITTING: I like all sorts of animals and this shawl incorporates cats' paw motifs from Orenburg and Estonian knitting. My seafoam shawl was 'given up' last month when I was in New York City (buying more wool, of course) so I am back to making another large triangular shawl; this time, I am knitting the edging in while I knit the middle so that I don't have to be careful to save enough yarn at the end. I really like the way it is shaping up and while the edging at the tip of the shawl was not

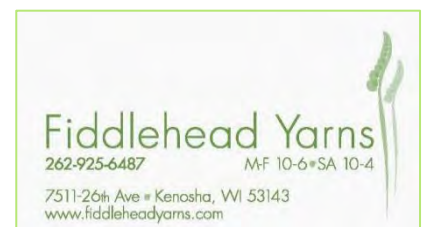
easy to execute mathematically, it worked out well and Karen promised that when I block it that the tips will be more pointy and I like pointy. I'm hoping that everyone will think it is ugly so I won't have to 'relinquish' it! This alpaca yarn was a present from an archaeologist who bought it at a women's textile co-op in Peru. The warmth of the halo and drape of the fiber will be so lovely when it's done and I can wear it year 'round. Happy Knitting!

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