



Madison Knitters' Guild Knitters' Knews

Volume 28 Issue 2

October 2007

Two Old Bags—Katie Nagorney & Ann Swanson



What do the “Lucy Bag,” the “Bucket Bag” and the “Felted Triangle Bag” have in common? One thing might be that most of us have probably knit at least one of them. Another thing is that they are all three designs by Two Old Bags—our featured speakers for our October 8 MKG meeting.

With a design team name like Two Old Bags, a person has got to think that they have a sense of humor. They used to call themselves Wool You Order. But they sure can come up with some great bag designs—old or otherwise. They will be joining us from Minnesota for an evening of talking about their latest efforts in lace—“A Gathering of Lace.” If their lace patterns are half as accessible as their felted bags, we are in for some great advice and some great designs.

October Vendors

The Black Sheep
&
Stitcher's Crossing

Upcoming Programs

- * **November 12**
Amy Detjen
- * **December 10**
Candace Eisner Strick
- * **January 14**
Holiday Potluck

From Our President—Mary Jo Harris



Hello Knitters!
We are off to a great start with our Charity Knitting Challenge. Look for Gail Snowden's article later

in the newsletter. Keep up the good work! Let's see if we can pass our goal of 500 knitted items. So far we've received 88 items. Go MKG! Here are some updates and reminders in no particular order:

Brown Bag Exchange - Remember to bring your yarn in an unmarked bag to our next meeting if you want to participate in this year's Brown Bag Exchange.

Potluck results - Based on your comments, the Board decided to keep the January and May potlucks, but will revise who needs to bring food dishes to each. We'll keep you posted about the changes.

2008 Knitting Safari - Kate Findley has agreed to chair the

Safari Committee this year. **THANK YOU KATE!** What are your thoughts regarding this year's Safari on April 19, 2008? Where would you like to go? What would you like to see? What would you like to do? Let us know by telling Kate, a Board Member, or writing your suggestions on the form at the next meeting.

Future Knitting Safaris - Would you be interested in having an overnight Safari? This would allow us to go to places farther away. Give us your thoughts on the form at the next meeting or tell Kate Findley or a Board Member.

Totebags - Remember that MKG totebags are for sale (\$10) at the front table during the meetings. They make great holiday gifts!

Website thoughts - We have an area on our website for member blogs and websites. Contact the webmaster, Ann Varda, if you want yours included. Also let her know what you'd like to see on the website

or what you'd like to have changed.

December speaker - Don't forget to sign up for the classes at Off the Beaten Path on December 9 and 10. This is a great way to meet Candace Eisner Strick in a smaller setting. Her December 9 class is entitled “Chill Out Hybrid,” and the class on December 10 is call “Love is a Many Mitered Thing.” Call Karen (see ad page 5) at Off the Beaten Path to reserve your spot.

Visitor policy - Just a reminder that visitors are allowed to attend only ONE meeting before they make their decision about joining.

General comments - Your input is welcomed on any MKG-related subject. Always feel free to give a Board Member your ideas, thoughts, comments, suggestions, likes, dislikes, etc. We will then discuss them at the next board meeting.

-Mary Jo Harris
President

Meeting Minutes—September 10, 2007

Attendance: 175

Vendors: The Knitting Room and Prairie Junction

The first meeting of the 2007/2008 year was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Mary Jo Harris. A brief welcoming statement was made to everyone in attendance. New members in the audience were introduced. Mary Jo then asked committee chairpersons to describe their various upcoming activities.

KNIT OUT: Judy Pruski announced that the Knit Out would be September 15. It will be held at the King St. corner of the Square where it has taken place in the past. The time is from 7:00 A.M. to approximately 1:00 P.M. Bring a chair and your knitting. The event will be cancelled in case of rain, and there will be no rain date. A sign-up form was at the table in the entry although everyone is welcome.

KNIT ALONG CHARITY CHALLENGE: Gail Snowden and Pat Bernhardt explained that the goal of the challenge is 500 knitted items to be donated to various charities this year. Each month a different item will be featured and a basic pattern for that item will be printed in the newsletter. The focus in October will be hats — especially children's hats. As inspiration, Gail showed a variety of hats from different pattern sources. Although a specific article is featured each month, Guild members can knit whatever they choose for the Challenge at any time. Pat Bernhardt stated that she can find homes for most donations. She said she could always use all types of knitted items and asked the members to remember to bring items for the food pantry. Toiletries such as toothbrushes are also needed.

KNIT AID: Robbie Preston is the chairperson. See her if you want to help with this activity. The Knit Aid desk is available to offer assistance or opinions regarding knitting questions.

LIBRARY: Barbara Armstrong described the procedures for checking books in and out of the library. She thanked Karen Scammell for her efforts in organizing the library materials.

BROWN BAG EXCHANGE: Mary Jo described the process of exchanging the brown bags of yarn for those that wish to participate. The exchange will occur at the October meeting. The theme for this year's Brown Bag Exchange is "Creative CarryAlls."

A volunteer with WHA-TV asked for volunteers for the Quilt Expo to be held over the weekend. Volunteers receive free parking and entrance fees in exchange for their assistance.

Mary Jo announced that someone had a knitting machine for sale. See her for details.

The **SPEAKER** at the meeting was Galina Khmeleva who is one of the most respected and knowledgeable lace knitting instructors in the country. Galina described lace knitting as "just a bunch of holes." Her talk included some history of the geographical area where Orenburg lace originated and the origin of the fiber used in the shawls. She also provided an insight into the lives of the Russian women involved in the cottage industry of knitting Orenburg lace shawls and how their lives changed after the fall of the Soviet Union. Her lively presentation left us with an appreciation for how beautiful a specific arrangement of "holes" can be and amazement at the high level of craftspersonship displayed in the shawls she brought with her.

BREAK: Approximately 15 minutes for shopping at the night's vendors and checking out the library offerings.

SHOW AND TELL and the drawing for **DOOR PRIZES** followed the break.

The meeting ended at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Newman



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2007 Knit Out



Four women on a knitting retreat from Chicago (Oak Park) stop by to watch our members knit on the square.

I say we knit out every Saturday on the square. Who's with me? I bet those who came and knitted and spun would be game. Despite a little chill (the fingerless gloves came in very handy), we had a blast.

There were among six to eight of us who braved the early fall chill for the MKG KIP (knitting in public) event. We learned each other's names; we knit; we had a spinner among us; we drank coffee; we perused the booths at the Farmer's Market. People wafted in, curious about what



Muriel LaRose brought her spinning wheel to show onlookers her technique.

we were doing. Some were new knitters; some were nostalgic and said, "I used to knit" with a hint of regret in their eyes. Some were among the "currently obsessed" like ourselves and gladly took a pamphlet, excited to hear that we get together to knit regularly. Some were even very young. The three-year-old twins who stopped long enough to help us knit a few rows were awfully cute and fun and curious—such good qualities for children to have.

We were visited by a few Midwestern celebrities from the Chicago area, Oak Park specifically. Hopefully, Susan Strawn, author of *Knitting America* (not to be confused with *Knitting in America*), can be featured at a future guild meeting. She told us about her book and made us wish we could get it right then and there. It is in the final stages of publishing, so we can perhaps get it right off the press. Susan is a fiber historian with a Ph. D. in textiles and their histories. In the book, she has featured Elizabeth Zimmerman and Meg Swansen. She also has other Wisconsin highlights including the Dining Room in Monroe and our Wisconsin Historical Society. Her fellow knitters/travelers were designers, shoppers, and knitters—i.e., kindred spirits.

I'm not sure what was more fun: chatting with other guild members and getting to know people beyond their "face in the crowd" status—or, chatting with strangers who were curious and interested knitters. Either way, it was quite fun and reminds me of why I love knitting—it draws all kinds of people together. Ironic, isn't it?

-Gretchen McClain

MKG Newsletter Committee Member

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Stop by and see us at the October meeting and get your 20% member's discount.

Updated Treasurer's Report

July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

INCOME

Membership Dues	\$6,950.00
Advertising	\$2,200.00
Other	\$500.00
Interest	\$17.00
Total	\$9,667.00

EXPENDITURES

Rent	\$520.00
Insurance	\$250.00
Newsletter printing	\$3,500.00
Postage	\$1,400.00
Website	\$120.00
Office Supplies	\$250.00
Speakers	\$2,000.00
Misc Printing	\$300.00
Holiday Party	\$150.00
May Meeting	\$40.00
Retreat	\$100.00
Banking and Business	\$25.00
Library	\$500.00
TOTAL	\$9,155.00



"In the rhythm of the needles,
there is music for the soul."

--- from an old sampler

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Because You Asked...

This month we are starting a question and answer column in the monthly newsletter in order to address issues that continue to be discussed at board meetings. Please contact Mary Jo

Harris with your questions.

QUESTION: We seem to have outgrown the Monona Community Center. Why don't we hold our meetings at a larger facility?

ANSWER: Last year the MKG Board looked into other places to hold our meetings and decided to stay at the Monona Community Center this year. This decision was based on several things:

- No other place we looked at would allow us the storage area we have at the Monona Community Center. We need storage space for the MKG Library. Moving the library in and out from an off-site location would be VERY involved, cumbersome, time consuming, and costly.
- Other community centers don't have space on their calendars for a monthly meeting of our size.
- Other locations we looked into that met our space needs were either very expensive or required that we purchase food in conjunction with our meeting.
- The Monona Community Center is fairly easy to get to from most surrounding cities in the Madison area and offers a decent amount of parking in a safe location.

We know that where we hold our meetings is very important and that the options available to us can change from year to year. As a result, we're willing to look into this again for next year if members want us to do that.

Let us know if you'd be interested in being on a committee to research places for next year by contacting a board member.

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Madison Knitters' Guild Library Wish List

For those interested in making donations to our library, we are looking for the following items. Our thanks to all who have made generous donations!



Title

- A Third Treasury & A Fourth Treasury
- Cables Untangled
- Knitting Gems 1,2,3,4,
- Double Knitting Delight or
- Finesse Your Knitting (DVDs)
- Interweave Knits magazines prior to Winter 2002
- Knitting in the Old Way
- Knitting in Plain English
- Knitting Lace DVD /other DVDs not in library
- Latvian Mittens
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Author

- Barbara Walker
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2007-2008 MKG-CKC — Child's Hat

If it's October, it's Hats—Tall hats, small hats, skinny hats, thick hats, simple hats, fancy hats, multi-colored hats, one color hats...Do you remember the Madison Knitter's Guild Charity Knitting Challenge? Our goal is to donate 500 hand knit items to local charities over the 2007-08 year. So far, we've received 88 items. Through Pat Bernhardt's already established contacts, we hope to provide new hats, mittens and scarves to children who do not have those items, despite the cold Madison winters.

For the Month of October, the MKG Charity Knitting Challenge Knit Along is HATS. Bring your completed hats to the October MKG meeting on October 8. What kind of hats? Any kind of hats. We suggest making a child's hat; there are too many children in Madison who do not have warm hats for the winter months. You could also make a chemo hat for those who, due to chemotherapy treatment, have lost their hair and need an attractive cover for their heads. Or, you could knit a newborn baby or premie hat. Elizabeth Zimmerman and Meg Swansen suggest knitting a hat as a swatch for a new project!! In this way, you produce a usable object!

REMINDER: To motivate and help MKG knitters, the MKG Board has designated a charity item of the month. However, you are always donate whatever item you wish, (including non-perishable food such as macaroni and cheese, peanut butter and spaghetti sauce). If you don't have time to knit, purchase a hat to donate!

One easy hat pattern is below.



Pattern for Child's Cap

Instructions, worsted weight yarn

Worsted weight yarn is yarn with a label gauge of 4 to 4 1/2 stitches per inch, usually knitted on size 7 or 8 needles. It's the "standard" size most commonly available in crafts stores.

Body of cap:

Cast on 72 stitches and join into a circle, being careful not to twist.

Work one inch of K1P1 rib, then increase 8 stitches evenly spaced around, as described above. (80 sts.)

Work in stockinette until total length is about 4 1/2 or 5 inches. Add contrast stripes if you like, as described above.

Crown shaping:

Decrease round: *k 8, k2tog* around.

K 3 rounds.

Decrease round: *k 7, k2tog* around.

K 2 rounds.(64 sts)

Continue decreases as above, and finish off cap as described.

(See page 9 for additional pattern ideas!)

Copyright statement: This is an original design by Judy Gibson [date]. Permission is granted to print and use this pattern for charitable purposes, provided this notice is included. No commercial use or publication of this design--in hard copy or electronic form--are permitted. Contact: jgibson@ets.com.

7th Annual Brown Bag Exchange



At September's meeting, Mary Jo Harris announced this year's Brown Bag Exchange Theme: **Creative CarryAlls**. If you would like to participate, pick out some yarn from your stash and bring it along to the October Guild meeting. If the yarn has lost its label, make a note of the weight and fiber content. Put the annotated skein(s) in a paper bag. Do not write your name on the bag. A table will be set up at the meeting where you can turn in your bag which will be assigned a number. That number and your name will be put on a list. During the meeting break, come back to the table and pick up a bag, making sure your name and the bag number you take is put down on another list. You will have until the May 2008 meeting to turn what you get into something wonderful for another guild member. We hope you enjoy participating in this project!

10 Principles of Knitting

1. It's all about the awesome yarn choices. Simple stitches and patterns create gorgeous pieces.
2. Strive to relax and have fun. Do not strive for perfection.
3. Be clever and daring. Take a risk!
4. Every mistake can be fixed.
5. Swatch, swatch, swatch.
6. Set goals, not deadlines.
7. Never stop learning.
8. Share the legacy, teach someone to knit.
9. Put your signature on each gift.
10. Knit with love.

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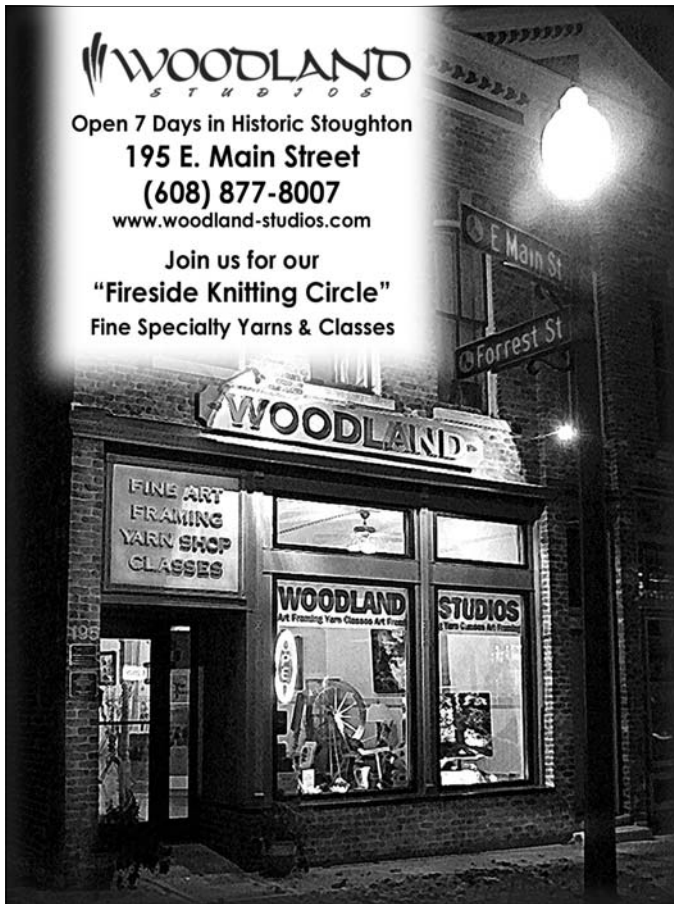
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Knitting is very conducive to thought. It is nice to knit a while, put down the needles, write a while, then take up the sock again.

~Dorothy Day



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Additional Charity Hat Patterns

Dozens of hat patterns can also be found on-line at www.knittingpatterncentral.com, or on the Madison Knitters Guild website at www.madisonknittersguild.org (click on "patterns"). Baby hat patterns are at www.stitchesfromtheheart.org. For trendy and fun hat patterns, try www.knitty.com and look at their "archives" and search for hats. Try the short row hat called "Tychus" or the Fair Isle chullo called "Vinter Lue." Amy Anderson's pattern book titled, "A Lid for Every Pot" features several brim choices and sizes for hats. Our MKG library has books featuring hats: look for "The Knit Hat Book" by Nicky Epstein, the wonderful "Hats On!" by Charlene Schurch, "Cats and Hats" by Vogue Knitting, and "Knit Hats!" by Gwen Steege. Your favorite yarn shop can also provide assistance.



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October's poplars are
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 - Nova Bair

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Classifieds

From the **YARN HOUSE**, Elm Grove: Please join us for Crochet on Sundays! Time: 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Cost: \$10

IRIS FINE YARNS, Appleton, announces a special event. Meet Takako Ueki of HABU Textiles, New York, NY on November 9 & 10 and enjoy a gallery display of 60 HABU garments. HABU class Saturday, November 10, 9-11 (fee) Call 920-954-9001 or email info@irisfineyarns.com

The **KNITTING ROOM**, Fond du Lac, is celebrating its 5th anniversary! We are offering a special day of classes on October 20 including: the Chevron Scarf (Jennifer Krueger); Flawless Finishing: Set in Sleeves (Beth Walker-O'Brien); My First Design (Beth Walker-O'Brien); Knitting on the Web (Roberta Childs); and Toe Up Socks (Keith Roberts). We will also be celebrating with a sale. Join us! Please contact The Knitting Room for more details at 920-906-4800.

The **SOW'S EAR**, Verona, will be celebrating their 7th Anniversary and our Grand Re-Opening in our expanded space. Meet the new owners, enjoy their new space, and touch the new yarns. Friday, October 5, they will be open until 11pm with appetizers and beverages provided. Sale runs from 10/5-10/7. Location is 125 S. Main St., Verona. Their motto is, "Needles and caffeine- feed your addictions!"







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Getting to Know Our Members — Elizabeth Prose



I remember spending the summers with my grandparents at their cabin at Holly Lake in the White Mountains of Arizona. My grandmother was a knitter, and I desperately wanted her to teach me how to knit. I would sit and watch her hypnotic needles create sweaters, hats, and mittens. However, she said my hands were too small to learn to knit; I was four. She taught me to crochet. It was not until many years later, when she was 93 and I was 28 that she would introduce me to what would become my passion. A month before she passed away in 1998, she taught me to cast-on, knit, purl, and bind off. I made a swatch, and I did not knit again until November of 2002.

On that November day in 2002, I was walking around my neighborhood asking myself, “What do I really want to do?” I happened to go in to Coyote Yarns on Old University Ave. and looked at all of the tempting yarns. I pointed to a fabulous red and charcoal grey felted bag and said, “I want to make this!” Linda, the owner, helped me choose some heather green, brown and gold Cascade 220, needles, and a Two Old Bags felted tote pattern. I had no idea what to do with these supplies or even how to read a pattern. I had never even knit a scarf much less knit a felted tote. I went home and started reading and practicing, and I checked out every book on knitting in the Madison Public Library. I gave that tote to my mother for Christmas that year, and everyone else in the family received hand knit hats.

A few months later, while scanning the yarn selection at the Wisconsin Craft Market, an older woman came up to me and said, “You should join the Madison Knitters’ Guild.” I thought, what is this knitters’ guild? In the fall of 2003, I attended my first meeting. I did not know any other knitters, and I didn’t even bring a project to work on during the meeting. I just sat there amazed at the creativity surrounding me. I joined the guild that night. In the

months to come, I was inspired by speakers like Cheryl Oberle, Meg Swansen, and Nancy Bush, but even more inspiring was the awesome Show and Tell.

This November, it will be five years since I became a Knitter. I want to thank guild member Martha Nussbaum for knitting the felted bag that sent me on this knitting journey, and I want to thank the woman who told me about the Madison Knitters’ Guild. I now work part-time at Stitcher’s Crossing and teach knitting and crochet classes. I am also serving my second year on the guild board as Historian. I continue to be amazed, empowered, and inspired by the wealth of knitting represented in our community. It truly is something very special.



Elizabeth teaching a student to knit.

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MKG Calendar

October 8	MKG Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Monona Community Center; Speakers: Kate Nagorney and Ann Swanson, Two Old Bags; Vendors: The Black Sheep & Stitcher's Crossing
November 12	MKG Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Monona Community Center; Speaker: Amy Detjen Vendors: Susan's Fiber Shop & 'Tis the Season
December 10	MKG Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Monona Community Center; Speaker: Candace Eisner Strick; Vendors: Knitter's Treat & Joslyn's Fiber Farm
January 14	MKG Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Monona Community Center; Annual Holiday Potluck; Vendors: Dragonfly Yarn Shop & The Sow's Ear
February 1-3	Knitters' Retreat		Chalet Landhaus, New Glarus, Details to follow...
February 11	MKG Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Monona Community Center; Speaker: Carol Rhoades; Vendors: Sutter's Gold 'n Fleece & Argyle
		Fiber Mill	
March 8	Knit In 2007	9:00 a.m.	Speaker: Lily Chin
March 10	MKG Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Monona Community Center; Speaker: Lily Chin; Vendors: Bead Bin & Woodland Studios
April 14	MKG Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Monona Community Center; Speaker: Susanna Hansson; Vendors: Needles 'n Pins & The Yarn House
May 12	MKG Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Monona Community Center; Annual Appetizer & Dessert Buffet & Fashion Show



Other Fiber Events

October 20	Special Classes to Celebrate 5th Anniversary	The Knitting Room, Fond du Lac, Phone: 920-906-4800
November 9-10	Classes with Takako Ueki of HABU Textiles	Iris Fine Yarns, Appleton, Phone: 920-954-9001 or email info@irisfineyarns.com
December 9-10	Classes with Candice Eisner Strick	Off the Beaten Path, Monona, Phone: 221-0219 or visit: knitmeone.com
March 9-13	Liliy Chin workshops	Email knitterstreat@wekz.net and ask to be put on work shop email list.
April 13-15	Susanna Hansson	Email knitterstreat@wekz.net and ask to be put on work shop e-mail list

Madison Knitters Guild

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