



Madison Knitters' Guild Knitters' Knews

Volume 28 Issue 8

April 2008

Susanna Hansson — April 9, 2008



Susanna Hansson is a passionate knitter and teacher who originally learned to knit in the 5th grade in her native Sweden. She teaches regularly at Seattle area shops, regional conferences, and national 'Stitches' conventions. Color, technique, and detail are of particular interest to Susanna.

Like all Swedish knitters, she holds the yarn in her left hand with fingertips close to the needles. In Europe, how you knit is still very much determined by where you grow up; it's only in America that knitters choose whether to hold the yarn in the left or right hand and then continually agonize over which is the faster way to knit.

Her classes and workshops are popular, and she takes great care in presenting materials in ways that makes it easy to understand. Susanna's handouts are well researched and comprehensive so class attendees have something to refer back to at the end of a workshop or class. And while she consistently gets good teaching evaluations, she is always looking to improve on what she presents to give class attendees the best experience possible.

For more information, please visit her website at www.oneofsusannas.com.

April Vendors

Needles 'n Pins
&
The Yarn House

Monthly Meeting Time

7:00 p.m.

Final Meeting of the Year!

* **May 12**
Dessert Buffet &
Fashion Show

From Our President—Mary Jo Harris



Hello Knitters!
I can't believe that we're almost at the end of another Guild year! It just seems like the year started last month! But just because there is only a couple months left to the year doesn't mean that nothing is going on. Just see for yourself....

MEMBERSHIP – We weren't trying, but WE DID IT – we now have over 400 members in the Madison Knitters' Guild. The exact number at printing is 407. Madison continues to be a knitting mecca. Thanks to everyone!

KNITTING SAFARI – Kate Findley says all 35 seats on this year's Safari bus are filled and everyone that made it onto the bus has been contacted. A waiting list has been created so if someone on the bus finds they can't go, the first available name on the waiting list will be contacted. Contact Kate for details.

KNIT-IN 2008 – What a HUGE success! Thank you to everyone that came and a super thank you to Karen Scammell and her committee for all their hard work. Your planning and attention to detail really showed.

KNIT-IN 2009 – Mark your calendars for March 14, 2009, as that is the date for our next Knit In. Thanks to Connie Burmeister, Karen Scammell, and others we have confirmed that our featured speaker at the next Knit-In will be STEPHANIE PEARL-MCPHEE aka THE YARN HARLOT! Watch for more details in coming months.

ANOTHER CHANCE TO SEE STEPHANIE PEARL-MCPHEE – In case you haven't heard, Stephanie Pearl-McPhee is scheduled to be at Border's East, 2173 Zeier Road, at 7:00 PM on April 28, 2008, to speak and sign her books. Rumor has it that the area will fill fast, so come early – and bring your knitting!

continued on page 3...

Meeting Minutes—March 10, 2008

VENDORS: Woodland Studios and Bead Bin

ATTENDANCE: 190

President Mary Jo Harris opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. She introduced the vendors for the evening.

CHARITY CHALLENGE: Gail Snowden reported that the Guild has exceeded the donation goal as of the last meeting. She showed examples of the items donated at this meeting—comfort shawls and baby blankets. There were also scarves and baby sweaters donated. Next month the targeted item is baby booties but as always, it is knitter's choice as well.

Mary Jo introduced new members and visitors.

KNIT IN: Mary Jo announced that attendance was doubled that of last year. Over 300 people came through the doors. She thanked Karen Scammell, Knit In Chair, and other volunteers for planning and executing such a successful Knit In.

MEMBERSHIP: Carol Huber reported that with the people that joined the Guild at the Knit In and at tonight's meeting, the Guild now has very close to 400 members.

ELECTIONS: Mary Jo announced that there will be 3 open Board positions at the end of this Guild year. Elections will be in May. She asked that people interested in running or nominating someone to the Board, let her or another current Board member know so a biography and picture can be in next month's newsletter. The Membership Committee Chairmanship will also be open next year. Ann Varda stated she would like help with the Website with the idea of someone taking over the position during the coming year.

Mary Jo announced that at the Knit In, someone left a package at the Knitter's Treat booth that was purchased at The Black Sheep Yarn Shop booth. The package has been sent back to The Black Sheep shop and can be claimed there.

An announcement was made that the Madison Fair City Spinners is hosting a natural dye workshop April 10-12. They have room for 2 more participants. See Ruth Cadoret for more details.

Mary Jo shared a newspaper article that reported on an art project in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and other cities around the country in which participants knit coverings and decorations for trees. The Ohio project was called

the "knitknot tree" project.

SPEAKER: The speaker for this meeting was Lily Chin. Lily distributed a handout on computer programs for knitters and websites for products and free programs. She pointed out some of the many features of the various design programs. The ability to design a garment, print the pattern and try various color and print variations was demonstrated. She also compared the pros and cons of the various programs.

SHOW AND TELL followed a short break for shopping. Those with items to show this month were:

Judy Pruski	Gail Snowden
Mary Kay Vogel	Kristi Williams
Ruth Cadoret	Jo Turner
Ursula Hartwig	

Respectively submitted by Jane Newman



A very nice article titled, "Wisconsin Woman in History: Elizabeth Zimmermann changed the world of knitting" by Anne Tigan appeared in the March 2008 issue of *Wisconsin Woman*, page 40.



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From Our President *from page 1...*

BOARD NOMINATIONS – Later in this newsletter will be information on the people running for the Board this year. There is still time to throw your hat (knitted, of course) into the ring if you want, so just let me or a current Board member know about your interest.

2008 STITCHES – We want to take a bus to the Midwest Stitches event on August 23, 2008, but, at this point, we don't have anyone to set up the day. If anyone is interested in working on this, please let me know.

MKG BOARD MEETINGS – The next three MKG Board meeting dates are April 15, May 20, and June 17, 2008. The meetings are held at 6:30 PM in the Whole Foods Classroom on University Avenue in Madison. We have the room reserved early for those that want to have supper before the meeting. Some of the topics to be discussed in April will be: Safari, Stitches, May potluck, and next year's plans, plus anything else that may arise.

-Mary Jo Harris
President

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Treasurer's Report for April

Balance as of 030108:

Checking:	\$17,885.66
Savings:	\$3,053.78
Total:	\$20,939.44



Incoming:

Membership, Knit In Registrations and Advertising:
\$2,767.99

Total: **\$2,767.99**

Outgoing:

Library: \$25.00
Newsletter Printing and Retreat Supplies:

	\$336.26
Knit In Supplies:	\$174.50
Retreat:	\$181.99
Speaker Fees:	\$172.40
Misc. Supplies:	\$36.97

Total: **\$927.12**



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Sat 10-3 pm



Stash Panic: An Article in Three Parts

Part III:

How to Avoid Stash Panic

I have occasionally made vows to help alleviate some of my panic. Some have worked better than others. But I also have a few tips that may help others to avoid stash panic. Stashes are such wonderful things; it's a shame if we can't really appreciate them rather than feeling like they are albatrosses around our collective necks. So here they are—a bevy of tips and vows to help us see the wonder of the yarn we love always:

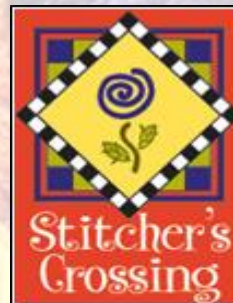
- 1) **No new yarn**—I actually do not recommend this. For me, it's like dieting. Whenever I deny myself anything, it is surely the thing that I then want the most and will overdo it once I give in—which I always do, give in that is. So best to not make this promise to yourself or anyone else.
- 2) **Finish what is on the needles**—this was actually a successful New Year's resolution for me one year. I did not have any other rules or qualifiers attached, like "I can only buy more yarn once I finish something." No, no, no. I was able to finish some very long-standing projects and buy more yarn. But it gets me back to my stash of bags with projects in them and makes me realize that I have some things already started that I really like.
- 3) **Chip away**—you may also call this one "baby steps." My stash wasn't built in a day—and neither will it be diminished in a day or a week or any time soon. But I can pull something out and start something any time I want to.
- 4) **Have a basket for leftovers**—this has been an important one for me as I feel guilty if I have leftover yarn and don't use it. (I was raised by children of the Depression.) So, now I have a basket, and when I finish something, I put what is leftover in it, and if I never want to think about it again, I don't have to!
- 5) **Check stash first**—actually, this is more fun than you'd think. I have found such treasures from previous shopping adventures that I end up feeling like I have something new.
- 6) **Chicken or the egg**—This is more of a "know thyself" tip and is a bit connected to the previous tip of "check stash first" because it refers to what do you fall in love with first? The yarn or the pattern. Doesn't matter. What matters is that if you love a pattern, then check your stash. If you love a yarn, well, hold out if you can, but we all know that eventually if there is a yarn we must have, then, well, let's just hope it's tax refund time.
- 7) **Revel in your yarn!** I recently put my jogging

tramp in the middle of my stash area—I get to jog in place and look at my yarn and think about it and make decisions about what I want to do next. I really do love my yarn.

8) **Get it! Start it!**—don't make yourself put something new away thinking that you have to finish something old first. There's nothing like a new project—I recommend starting one whenever you want to.

9) **Don't panic**—when you start to feel overwhelmed, just knit something.

-Gretchen McClain



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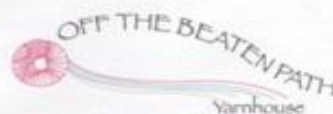
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Brown Bag Exchange Reminder

We hope you haven't forgotten about your brown bag projects. The theme for this year is **Creative Carryalls**. You and your knitted item will be the focus for our May 12 guild meeting's Show and Tell. Our members are looking forward to seeing some of the great talent in our guild!



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MKG Board Nominees— Joan Deneen, Kathy Digman & Kate Findley

I grew up in Mazomanie and graduated from Wisconsin Heights High School in 1969. I attended UW-LaCrosse, MATC-Madison, and graduated from UW Whitewater, earning a BS degree in Special Education. I taught Special Education for 31.5 years at Parker High School in Janesville and retired in June 2006.

For the past 6.5 years I have helped support a unique living situation for some of my former students.

I also work at Chico's on a very part time bases to support my knitting habit (No I haven't taken a paycheck home!)

I have one son, Nicholas, age 29.

I learned to knit as a child but didn't start knitting continuously until my son was born. I don't sit well and I knew I'd have to play trucks, read stories, and do other boy things that I'm also not very good at. Knitting benefited both of us. We were both happy spending time together doing something we each enjoyed. As I grew older knitting became my therapy, a way to meet new friends, travel, and as some of you know, a way to have more close friendships.

I look forward to meeting more of you!

-Joan Deneen



I, like many others, learned the basic knit stitch from my Mom. The needles she had were plastic and bowed in the middle. The long garter stitch "thing" that I learned to knit on somehow was perfectly straight on one side and very free form on the other. That was 50 years ago.

There wasn't a time that I didn't knit. At first, I was knitting a sweater because I needed a particular color to go with an outfit or to make the latest design. As time went on I became more

curious about other techniques, pattern stitches, the history, and designing my own sweaters. In 1982 I joined The Knitting Guild of America, of which I'm still a member, and with 3 other women co-founded the Windy City Knitting Guild and served as its first president. When the Master Knitter program came about, I signed right up. As near as I can tell, I was around the 15th or so person to complete the program.

Fortunately, it was around this time that an explosion of knitting books on techniques and history appeared. After reading Ann Mc Donald's "No idle Hands" the connection to other women and the part knitting played in their daily lives was overpowering. For them knitting was a necessity. I became aware that my joy in knitting was more in the process and the history associated with what I was knitting.

I have been a member of the Madison Knitter's Guild since 1993 and have taught classes for TKGA, the Windy City Knitting guild, the Fox Valley Knitting guild, the Janesville Knitting Guild, and the Madison Knitters' Guild. For several years I was involved in a Kid's Knitting day, MSCR after school knitting, and Learn to Knit day for a local Girl Scout Troup. Currently, I participate in a Prayer Shawl Ministry at our church.

I don't have a favorite type of knitting as it all brings me joy and pleasure in the process. My knitting and I are still a work in process.

-Kathy Digman



Hi! My name is Kate and I've got a stash problem...oh, wait, wrong group!

I'm running for a position as a board member. I've been knitting since 2002 when I moved to the knitting capital – Madison. I used to do a lot of cross

stitch, but somehow all of my materials have been lost underneath the yarn stash. Imagine that.

Through the Guild I meet other knitters; get ideas for projects from what others are knitting; am awed by what people bring to "Show and Tell," and am tempted by the vendors each month.

What qualifications do I have to be a board member? I've got needles and yarn and I know how to use 'em. I am organizing this year's Knitting Safari to Chicago (and have had a swell time canvassing all the yarn shops in Chicago). But most importantly, I'd like to see the MKG continue to be a fun, creative, and worthwhile organization.

-Kate Kindley



LOST & FOUND

At the Knit In, someone left a purchase from The Black Sheep's knitting shop on the vendor table of the Knitter's Treat. It was returned to The Black Sheep. Please contact Jean at the Black Sheep, 608-751-2372. Thank you!



2007-2008 MKG-Charity Knitting Challenge—Baby Booties

*Baby booties, waiting to be filled...
with the love and joy of a precious, little girl,
or a bouncing, baby boy! -Carol Foster*

This month's Charity Challenge item is making pairs of baby booties.

Knitting for charity is a wonderful thing. Working on your own or with other knitters to make items to give to someone who really needs them will give you great satisfaction, but there are a few things you should consider before you start knitting for charity. Even if you don't know the person who is to receive your homemade treasure, knowing that it is out there in the world is a great feeling.

Considerations when preparing items for charity:

- ◆ Use new yarn.
- ◆ Don't smoke around your knitting.
- ◆ Make sure the item is clean when you send it.
- ◆ Knit with a smile on your face to send good wishes to the recipient!

Is there anything better than getting together with a group of yarn-loving people, sharing good times and working on a project that will help other people?

Although we've already met this year's goal, please keep up the good work of making items for those in need in our community!

Two Needle Blocks Baby Booties Knitting Pattern —designed by Barbara Breiter

Size:

Fits babies to about 9 months

Gauge:

14 sts and 18 rows=4" in St st

Materials:

Size 11 (8 mm) straight needles or size needed to obtain gauge

Puffin by Crystal Palace Yarns

1 ball Color #0202 Dotty Blues (second ball needed for matching hat)

100% polyester fleece

50 grams/1.75 ounces

84 yards/77 meters

Instructions:

Beginning at the sole, CO 16 sts.

Rows 1, 3, and 5: p

Row 2: k1, knit into front and back of next st, k4, k into front and back of next st, k2, knit into front and back of next st, k4, knit into front and back of next st, k1 - 20 sts

Row 4: k1, knit into front and back of next st, k6, k into front and back of next st, k2, knit into front and back of next st, k6, knit into front and back of next st, k1 - 24 sts

These rows form the sides of the booties.

K 8 rows.

This section is the top of the bootie and is a Blocks Pattern.

k9, p2, k2, p2, leave remaining sts unworked.

Slip all sts with yarn in front:

Row 1: Sl 1 from left to right needle, turn, p1, k2, p2, k2

Row 2: Sl 1, turn, p1, k2, p2, k2, p1

Row 3: Sl 1, turn, (k2, p2) twice, k1

Row 4: Sl 1, turn, (k2, p2) twice, k2

Row 5: Sl 1, turn, k1, (p2, k2) twice, p2

Row 6: Sl 1, turn, k1, (p2, k2) twice, p2, k1

Row 7: Sl 1, turn, (p2, k2) 3 times, p1

Row 8: Sl 1, turn, (p2, k2) 3 times, p2

Row 9: Sl 1, turn, p1, (k2, p2) 3 times, k2

Row 10: Sl 1, turn, p1, (k2, p2) 3 times, k2, p1, k4 to end of row.

Row 11: p4, k1, (p2, k2) 3 times, p2, k1, p4

Knit in k1, p1 rib for 2 inches for cuff. BO in pat, leaving a long tail for seaming.

Finishing:

Seam back and sole of bootie with tail, reversing side that is seamed for cuff when folded over in half. Weave in ends on WS.



2008 MKG Knit In!



Lily Chin



The Marketplace

Beginning Lace Class



Bead Knitting Class



Lunch with Lily



Finishing Class

Members and guests from the greater Madison area enjoyed our 2008 Knit In. We are deeply appreciative of all the hard work of the many volunteers who helped to make our day a HUGE success—especially Karen Scammell who served as chair and vendor liaison. Our thanks to our guest speaker, Lily Chin, who told us, "Everything around you is fodder for inspiration."

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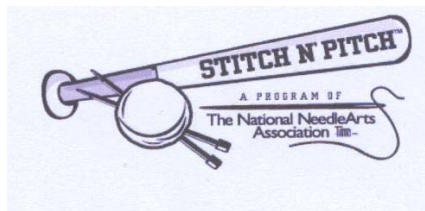
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Join the Milwaukee Brewers for **Stitch N' Pitch Night** at Miller Park as they take on the Colorado Rockies at 7:05 p.m. Purchase a Loge Outfield box seat for just \$22 (a \$4 savings)! The first 1,000 needle artists who RSVP with full payment to attend Stitch N' Pitch Night at Miller Park will receive a free special edition Brewers Stitch N' Pitch cap. You'll also have the option to participate in a special needle arts project for a good cause. Plus, you can socialize with fellow needle artists, visit TNNA instruction tables and have a great time! For details, or to purchase tickets, please contact Caitlin Moyer, Marketing & Promotions Manager of the Milwaukee Brewers, via phone at 414.902.4596 or e-mail at Caitlin.Moyer@brewers.com. Flyers will also be available at our April meeting.



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Newsletter Note

The deadline for submitting articles for our monthly newsletter is the 20th of each month. Articles may be sent to:

Jayne Coster
397 Starling Lane
Madison WI 53704
jaynecoster@ameritech.net



Classifieds

From the **YARN HOUSE**, Elm Grove: May Sale at the Yarn House — May 9-14, including Mother's Day; 1:00-3:00 p.m.

From **KNITTER'S TREAT**, Huge yarn sale in Monticello, WI - 3000 skeins/balls. Come to the VFW Hall on Coates Avenue Thursday, April 10 --- 12 noon to 8 p.m.; Friday, April 11--- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, April 12 ---10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact knitterstreat@wekz.net or 608-235-2835.

From a **LOCAL KNITTER**, Desperately seeking 2 skeins of Reynolds Pomes - welcomme pernelle - yarn in the color 01 - white. Please contact Kathleen Correll at 608-838-3290 THANK YOU!



Spring is in the Air!



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In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.

~Margaret Atwood

2007-2008 Board of Directors & Committee Chairs

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Treasurer	Kathy Trudell
Secretary	Jane Newman
Historian	Elizabeth Prose
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Publicity	Gail Snowden
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Getting to Know Our Members— Susan Aehl



I honestly don't remember when I learned how to knit. I do remember two early projects which still make me laugh!

When my husband and I were dating in college, more than 50 years ago, I decided to make him a pair of argyle socks to go with a sweater I bought for him. I finished one sock and never made the second one. The sweater eventually wore out. The sock sat with my unfinished projects. It still looks like new. One year I hung it as

a Christmas stocking. Every once in a while, when he sees me knitting, he will ask when he is getting his other sock.

The other project was a baby sweater I made for my sister's youngest daughter. It turned out so small that it didn't fit my newborn niece. I hope I have better luck with the sweater I am making for that same niece's baby, expected in August.

I started knitting again in 2001 after I retired from my job as an occupational therapist. My friend, Jane Newman, discovered The Sow's Ear, and then encouraged me to join the Guild.

I probably have close to a dozen projects in various stages of development. I have taught one of my daughters-in-law and two of my granddaughters how to knit.

I have met many really nice women since I joined the Guild. I really enjoy the Guild functions such as the Knitting Retreat and the Knit-In.



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obsessive knitters reward: every completed card entitles bearer to \$20.00 in free merchandise (classes & sale items excluded)



MKG Calendar

March 18	MKG Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Whole Foods, Classroom
April 14	MKG Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Monona Community Center; Speaker: Susanna Hansson; Vendors: Needles 'n Pins & The Yarn House
April 15	MKG Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Whole Foods, Classroom
April 19	Knitting Safari	April 19	Tour of Lorna Laces in Chicago with stops at Arcadia Knitting and The Fold in Marengo
May 12	MKG Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Monona Community Center; Annual Appetizer & Dessert Buffet & Fashion Show
May 20	MKG Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Whole Foods, Classroom
June 17	MKG Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Whole Foods, Classroom



Other Fiber Events

April 13-15 Susanna Hansson in Monticello

Knitters Treat; Phone: 608-938-4607 or email knitterstreat@wekz.net; There are openings in the Japanese short row workshop

Madison Knitters Guild
397 Starling Lane
Madison WI 53704