



Knitters' Knews



Volume 30 Issue 8

April 2010



Hand Knitting Design in Japan With Gayle Roehm

Japanese hand knitting designers show a flair for beautiful stitch work and unique variations on traditional techniques. Join us on April 12 for a slide show presentation by Gayle Roehm introducing MKG members to the world of Japanese hand knitting. Few of these

designs could be called “Asian,” but they’re all interesting and sometimes far out. There’s no homework, no instruction, no technique to learn. All you have to do is sit back and be inspired by these intriguing ideas – some of which you surely haven’t seen before. You’ll be inspired, amazed and occasionally appalled!

In many years as a management consultant, Gayle Roehm knitted her way across five continents, always alert for yarn and for other knitters. During several years in Asia, she discovered Japanese knitting patterns. Later, she prepared the Japanese language section of Margaret Heathman’s book *Knitting Languages*, and wrote an article in *Knitter’s Magazine* about understanding Japanese knitting patterns. Since then, Gayle has published over a dozen designs in various magazines and books. She is most interested in unusual construction methods. She calls Bethesda, Maryland her home where she knits, spins, dyes and sews and most recently has started thinking that “a couple of llamas would be great to control the underbrush in my back yard.”

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING ON APRIL 12
WILL BE A MEMBERS ONLY EVENT.**

From Our President—Kate Findley

Now is the Time

How much do you know about the “inner workings” of your Guild? I have to admit, before I became a board member two years ago, I had no idea about the amount of work it takes to keep our Guild functioning as one of the best guilds in the country. I would show up to the monthly meetings, enhance my stash at the vendor’s tables, listen to the speaker, and visit with fellow members. It was wonderful to attend the Knit Out, the Knit In, and the Safari, but I really had no idea what kind of planning it took to put on the monthly meetings or the special events.

Your Guild would like to remain an active, vibrant guild. However, your Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons cannot do this alone. We need your help and we need it now.

We have three Board positions opening up as Connie Burmeister, Kay Moffat, and Kathy Trudell’s three-year terms are expiring in May. As of the printing of this newsletter, we have no members putting forward their names for our Board elections at the May meeting (see page 7).

We have openings for Committee Chairs for the newsletter as Jayne Coster is moving onto to new volunteer opportunities, for community projects

as Jane Newman is stepping down after years of service to the guild, and a co-chair for the library as Karen Scammell also is stepping down after years of service to the guild. We sincerely thank Connie, Kay, Kathy, Jayne, Jane, and Karen for all the hard work and efforts they’ve expended on behalf of the Guild.

We know that, just like the members of your Board and the Committee Chairpersons, many of our guild members are volunteers in their communities; that many of you have full time jobs; many of you have families to care for; many of you have a full plate of responsibilities. But we also know that the Guild is important to you. Our Guild cannot continue to function without your help.

If you have ever thought of being a board member or about volunteering for the Guild, or even if you’ve never thought of it before, now is the time.

I urge you to consider what you can do for your Guild. If you have any questions or concerns about volunteering, about what responsibilities different positions would require, or if you need more information to help you assess how you can best assist your Guild, please contact me at info@madisonknittersguild.org.

April Vendors

Brenda Brauner
Needles ‘n Pins

Meeting Time

7:00 pm

Location

West Side Club
437 Cty Tpke M
Madison, WI

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Meet Our Vendors



Brenda Brauner & KIP (Knitting in Progress/Knitting in Public) Bags

—Jaala Spiro

MKG caught up with Brenda as she was sitting—what else—knitting with a group at her LYS! A recent member of the Guild, Brenda's been making and selling her KIP bags for about 3.5 years. What began as a strategy to cover school program expenses is now a successful Etsy store, with four different sizes of project bags and customizable options. The inspiration came from a funny place—raccoons. While camping, Brenda discovered the need for a secure bag to protect knitting even if dragged through a puddle, so she created a tie-top, washable project bag.

The business began on Ebay, providing small bags for sock knitters, then outgrew the medium and moved to Etsy, where demand for her holders took off. The sock bags with interior pockets were joined by, "Mediums for larger projects, then the larger size around Christmas time when really large projects need to be held!"

Now, in response to discussions on Ravelry, Brenda provides options to "pimp out your bag" with wristwraps, cord locks, dividers, etc. The new divided bags work best for knitters working two projects, like two socks, at a time, she notes.

What's next for KIP Bags? Brenda's got a twinkle in her eye to try screenprinting on bags and partnering with LYS's to include kits for new sock knitters in the bags themselves.

Brenda says she's "met quite a few guild members at Stitches, and they always seemed like a fun group with great ideas."

Find Brenda's store at: <http://ruddawg.etsy.com>



Needles 'n Pins Yarn Shoppe

—Gretchen McClain

If you have a little time during your spring break, you might want to take a drive to Needles 'n Pins. First go to Janesville and turn left onto Highway 14—take it west until you get around the outskirts of town to Highway A. Take another left and drive through some very pretty

Wisconsin farmland. You will pass through a few unincorporated villages, but before too long—perhaps ten or fifteen miles later—you will come to Richmond, Wisconsin. As you come to the end of that small town, you will see a sign for a yarn shop—yes, that's it!

Nestled behind a lovely rustic farmhouse and a big, red barn is a wonderful and yarn filled shop. It is a state-of-art shop with such wonderful variety that you will stay for hours. There's a table in the back nook for knitters or for perhaps a class if you are lucky enough to get on the roster when a rock star knitter comes to town for the Janesville Knitters' Guild Knit-In. There is usually enough Koigu even when others seem to be waiting endlessly for their order. If you get hungry after all that knitting, browsing, and shopping, The Duck Inn just across the way serves up a good meal. You may also score a kitten if you are lucky—it's where I got my feisty, little Manny who is now not so little but still feisty. And if you are pressed for the time it would take to get there, well, lucky us because Doreen is coming to our next meeting as a vendor.



9th Annual Brown Bag Exchange

Hope you haven't forgotten about this! This year's theme is **Home Sweet Home, Yarn Sweet Yarn**. This year was your chance to have a guild member make something for your home décor. If you are participating in this event, please bring your completed item(s) to our May 10 guild meeting. We'll see just how creative our members really are!



Cover The Bridge

—Janette Hermanson

The 2010 Artist-in-Residence at the Cambridge Centre for the Arts would like to cover the Main Street bridge over the Grand River in Cambridge, Ontario, Canada. She is looking for knitters who would like to knit a block or more for the project. After the blanket is taken down from the bridge, the blocks will be washed and made into scarves and blankets for charities in the Cambridge area.

If anyone is interested in making blocks for this project, it would be greatly appreciated. I will collect the blocks by the beginning of June to take with me when I travel to Canada in July.

You can use any type of yarn, pattern, color and knitting technique you wish. The sizes requested are:

1. Pieces 21"x27" (or as close as possible to this)
2. Pieces as long as you like that are 8", 10" or 22" wide.

Please attach a piece of paper to your knitting with your name, address, phone number, and email.

If you have any question, you can see me at the next guild meeting.

Monday, March 8, 2010, Meeting Minutes

—Janette Hermanson

President **Kate Findley** opened the meeting a 7:00 pm to an audience of about 280.

Announcements:

1. A circular needle was found after the February meeting. Owner can see Kate to retrieve it.
2. Knit-in is this weekend. You can still register tonight or at the door on Saturday. There will be a new caterer, Blue Plate Catering, doing the lunch this year. Ride share if possible, see website in the newsletter for information. Also there is parking in the back of the building.
3. Yarn safari is April 17. The bus will be going to the Knitch in Delafield, Main Street in Hartford, and Ruhama's in Milwaukee. Lunch will be at the Mine Shaft in Hartford.
4. Sock Hop - Knitting in Public 2010, LaCrosse Public Library on April 7, 2010, Noon to 8:00 pm. This event is sponsored by the Friends of LaCrosse Public Library. Carol Anderson of Cottage Creations Knits will be the guest speaker at 7:00 pm. Turn a Heel class taught by Kathryn Ashley of Ewetopia will be from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Bring DPN and sock yarn. There will also be a spinning demonstration and a yarn swap. Bring new yarn from your stash. They will be taking yarn starting at 5:00 pm, and swap starts at 6:00 pm. There is also raffles.
5. A to Z Farms is looking volunteers knitters for their lambing open house weekends. A warm building will be provide to work in. For information call the farm. Open house weekends are March 14, 21, and 28.
6. Speaker for the April meeting will be Gayle Roehm. She will be teaching at the Sow's Ear.
7. There was a request for someone to repair an antique wool sweater.
8. DeForest Public Library is having Hazel Cater teach tatting on March 25 beginning at 6:00 pm.
9. Help is needed for the registration table and the door prize table at the Knit In. See Kate if you can help.
10. It was announced that we are not allowed to bring food or beverages from other places into the West Side Club.


February minutes were approved.

Connie introduced Melissa Leapman, the speaker for the evening. She showed us the knit items that will be in her new books. The first book, *Color Knitting The Easy Way*, will be out the end of April. The second book, *Mastering Color Knitting*, will be out later this fall.

There were 10 new members and 9 guests introduce.

Six people had some wonderful show and tell items.

Seven door prizes were given out. Amy Anderson gave five copies of her new pattern. Sun Valley farm and the Sow's Ear each gave a door prize of yarn.



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Wanted: Knitting Companion

My name is Anita Brown-Huber, and I am Member Services Assistant at SAIL (Supporting Active Independent Lives). I am on the search for a volunteer who knits to pay social visits to one of our members. She is looking for someone who would want to sit and knit with her a couple of days a week. Do you know of anyone who would be interested in doing this? If not, could we submit a request in your newsletter? I really appreciate any help you could give me. Please call me at 608-230-4321, MWF 9-1. I look forward to hearing from you!



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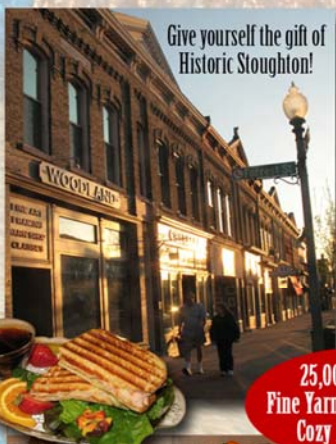

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MKG's Library Return Policy

Our new library policy has gone into effective as of September 1, 2009. All library materials are to be properly checked out by members and are to be returned or renewed at the next monthly meeting.

Each month's newsletter will include a reminder to those members who have overdue items from the library. Any member who has overdue items from the library shall not check out more items from the guild library until all overdue items are returned to the guild library.

If materials are not returned after this overdue reminder has appeared in the newsletter, a penalty of \$5.00 per item will be assessed for each month the item remains overdue.

If any item is overdue for more than four months, the library may bill the borrower for the replacement cost of the item. The member is responsible for the overdue fines or the replacement cost, whichever is higher. Any exceptions or special arrangements may be made at the librarian's discretion.

Any unpaid library fees will be added to membership renewal fees and must be paid before a borrower's guild membership can be renewed.

MKG Library Return Reminder

The following members have overdue items from our guild's library. Please plan to return your items at the April 12 meeting. Thank you!

Joanne Allen
Barbara Armstrong
Cathy Baker
Gael Boyd
Martha Deming
Jan Ingham
Vickie McNeal
Martha Reinke
Julie St John



Classified Ad

Mother's Day Weekend: Fiber Facets - Farm Day in New Holstein. Fiber artists, products, and demonstrations. Eight artists with Wisconsin roving, yarn, knitwear, felted, woven items, silk scarves, and bent willow chairs. Both Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Visit www.bleatinghearthaven.com for more details.

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Request for MKG Board Nominations

Nine of your fellow guild members serve on the MKG Board. Board terms are for three years with one-third of the seats being up for election each year.

The Board member terms of Connie Burmeister, Kay Moffat, and Kathy Trudell are ending in May. We thank them for all of their hard work and effort they've made to ensure that MKG remains a vibrant, active and well-respected Guild.

Elections for the three available Board seats will be held at our May monthly meeting. The Board of Directors meets on a monthly basis throughout the year. Currently, the Board meets the third Monday of each month at the Sequoia Branch of the Madison Public Library located on the corner of Tokay and Midvale Boulevards in Madison.

Most board members hold either an office and/or chair a committee. Officers and committee chairs are determined by the board members at the first board meeting following the May election. Offices on the board include the following positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Our by-laws do not require that a committee chair must be a board member, so any guild member can hold the position of a committee chair. Committees include the following: Website, Membership, Historian, Publicity, Librarian, Community Projects, Advertising, Newsletter, Knit-In, Knit-Aid, and Hospitality.

While the MKG Board is a working board, members also find time to develop new friendships. Board members tend to have a lot of creative ideas, are dependable, and are committed to making our guild a good experience for all of our members.

If you have any questions about being a board member, please feel free to talk to any current board member about her experience of this service to the guild. If you would like to be a board member, or if you know someone who is interested in being a board member, please contact Kate Findley or any current board member. You won't regret this wonderful opportunity to serve our guild!

Please note that if you would like to run for a board position, you should plan to provide a short biographical sketch and photo of yourself. Thank you!



Stitch, Spindle & Skein Event

Wrap your fingers in fibers and your mind in exciting techniques on Saturday, May 15, 9:00 am — 4:15 pm at Folklore Village in Dodgeville, WI. The day features workshops and a lunch presentation of the stunning ethnic costume collection held by Michael Kuharski and Nancy Yugo. Bring your own sack lunch. Cost is \$40/person. Classes include: Bosnian Crochet with Kim Caisse; Nålbinding with Peter Gorman; Spinning with Alicia Rheal; and Wool Jewelry with Kriss Marion. You must register in advance. Choose two workshops. (All four workshops offered during both sessions.) Class size is limited so register early! Session I 9:00 am — 12:00 pm; Lunch (brown bag) Presentation 12:15 pm — 1:00 pm; & Session II 1:15 pm — 4:15 pm. Visit www.folklorevillage.org or call (608) 924-4000 or email: staff@folklorevillage.org.



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Thank You From Department of Corrections!

Guild member generosity has helped me deliver van loads of yarn and knitting supplies to inmate craft centers across the state. It feels like Christmas all the time! Joy spreads where inmates have received your beautiful donations.

I've had a lot of help, from the tireless efforts of Guild member **Jane Newman** through the Department of Corrections staff who have made sure the donations reached the right locations. The work of inmate knitters and crochet artists goes to women's resource centers, child advocacy groups, retirement communities, restorative justice centers, schools, food pantry organizations, rape crisis centers, and many other agencies.

Below is a partial list of the institutions receiving your donations and what was made for those in need during 2009.

Waupun Correctional Institution: Over 1,200 crocheted items including hats, mittens, afghans, baby blankets, stockings and ornaments were donated to local shelters and food pantries.

Stanley Correctional Institution: The Stanley Correctional Outreach Program delivered hats, mittens, scarves to area business for annual clothing drives, as well as blankets and other items to area organizations.

Redgranite Correctional Institution: Inmate-crocheted hats, mittens and scarves were donated to area organizations and schools to benefit children in need.

Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution: Inmate-crocheted blankets and shawls were donated to an area nursing facility.

Fox Lake Correctional Institution: About 300 pounds of inmate-knitted mittens, scarves and hats were donated and distributed to children in need.

Southern Oaks Girls School: Made 22 afghans, 33 lap blankets, 12 baby blankets, 10 hats and 3 scarves, all donated to charities. In December they created tree ornaments with yarn and gave these to local agencies.

Your donated stash gives wings to the spirit of giving – year round.

Please call if you have questions or would like me to pick up your donations.

See you at future Guild meetings,

Mary Bertun
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[Visit <http://www.madisonknittersguild.org/pdf/DeptOfCorrections.pdf> to read a thank you letter from the Department of Corrections.]



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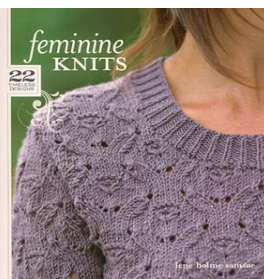
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Book Review

—Amanda Haynes

Feminine Knits captures you from the moment you open the book's cover; filled with patterns ranging from frothy lace to intricate stranded color work. Lene Holme

Samsøe offers up 22 beautiful jackets, sweaters, vests, and even a skirt. The pieces are classical in structure and styled with thought about the way a woman's body is shaped, accentuating curves, lean lines and interesting patterning. These shapes are reminiscent of textiles from romantic images, literature, and historical figures.

This book is for intermediate knitters with a good grasp of knitting terms and skills. Lene follows a more traditional knitting assumption that the reader knows the basics of knitting. There is a glossary and knitting key with good illustrations and directions, however unlike other knitting books available today, there is no "knitting basics" overview. This book gives multiple photographs of each garment including close ups of detail elements. However, I do think that some of the projects could have benefited from a few more back shots and construction details.

One of my favorite designs is the Jacquard Jacket, a stunning hip length stranded jacket. It drapes beautifully with a stylized jacquard pattern. It also includes simple touches of embroidery, which give the jacket a less formal look. I loved the strong visual appeal of the overall repeating pattern.

The Rib Knit Vest is also a great pattern that would flatter most women; I would also consider it one of the simpler patterns in the book, as it is a straightforward ribbed vest with an inset of lace across the bodice. The Lace Circle Sweater is a light airy bed jacket that would be just as sophisticated with a little black dress as it is romantic with a simple top and jeans. While many of the pieces have a lace design or element to them, there are also many that have clean, contemporary lines to them and they incorporate unique construction or designs to keep them interesting to knit. The spectrum of designs in this book is one of the best parts; Lene is able to apply her aesthetic to many different styles of garments, because of this Feminine Knits patterns lend themselves to many situations, both formal and casual.

These designs draw me in as if I was reading Victorian literature, yet none of the pieces feel stodgy or dated. Lene has a good eye for choosing design elements to make these each piece a standout. These projects are plentiful in details and need more time and effort to complete, but the workmanship will show through, making these pieces timeless.

For more books like this, check out Knit So Fine or French Girl Knits from the Guild Library.



Community Projects

—Jane Newman

Donations for winter items (hats, mittens, scarves, etc.) are no longer accepted. The organizations that have gratefully received our knitted items throughout the winter do not have room to store seasonal clothing.

The lowly dish cloth made quite a splash last month. 75 cloths in a multitude of colors were donated along with many bottles of dish soap. There should be a lot of clean dishes in the Madison area. Jayne Coster has to be the winner of the “Most Prolific Dishcloth Knitter” award. She must have knit at least 30 of the donated dishcloths. She says, “They are the perfect project for knitting on the bus ride to work.”

Since the weather is turning warmer, there is no specific knitted item targeted for April. Besides, everyone is probably busy knitting up the yarn that they purchased at the Knit In! However, disposable diapers are always needed by many organizations. Since diapers are so expensive, check out store coupons to save a few cents or partner up with a friend to share the expense. Chemo and premie hats also know no season. Remember to knit these items out of very soft, washable yarn.

Coming Events

Knitter's Treat Sale in Monticello: Come browse hundreds of patterns. Lots of sale yarn and books. My whole store will be out for all to see. Jewelry, Portuguese knitting pins, all of Lucy Neatby's DVDs, Lucy Neatby dolls, beads, and EZ/Meg Swansen DVD's and cassettes. Come to 209 N. Main Street in Monticello, WI [608-235-2835] Thursday, April 8: 1-8 pm; Friday, April 9: 1-8 pm; Saturday, April 10: 1-8 pm; Sunday, April 11: 1-4 pm

Sauk County Art Association — Shop & Swap — Clearance

Sale: The public is invited to the first Shop & Swap— A Rummage Sale for the Creative Soul sponsored by the Sauk County Art Association (SCAA) on Saturday, April 10, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. SCAA members will sell or swap treasures from their studios, old art work, surplus art supplies, frames, mats, tools, hardware, studio equipment, beads, fabric, brushes, paints, art books, extraordinary collections, and art/craft related items. Over 20 studios will be participating in this event. This is a must attend event for any creative soul looking for unique and interesting “stuff” to create and make masterpieces. The Shop & Swap will be held at 319 Water Street in the Baraboo Arts Building, Baraboo, Wisconsin. Any artisan wishing to participate in the SCAA Shop & Swap can visit <http://www.saukcountyartassociation.org/> for more details or contact Char terBeest Kudla at baraboobags@centurytel.net.

Knit in Public Event in La Crosse: Friends of the La Crosse Public Library are hosting a Knit in Public Event on Wednesday, April 7, Noon to 8:00 pm at the La Crosse Public Library, 800 Main Street in La Crosse. Special guest speaker will be Carol Anderson of Cottage Creation Knits at 7:00 pm. Turn a Heel Class with Kathryn Ashley from Ewetopia in Viroqua will begin at 2:00 pm. (Bring DPNS and sock yarn!) There will be a spinning demonstration and stash swap at 5:00 pm. A raffle will be held too! For more information, please call 608-789-7118 or email a.goben@lacrosse.lib.wi.us

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2010 MKG Knit In



Briar Rose Fibers



Mason Dixon Duo — Ann Shayne & Kay Gardiner



Amy Detjen



Ruth Sybers



“We are a little nervous...” stated the projector screen as I took my seat in the auditorium at the Knit In. It was a small hint at the humor ahead of me. The Mason Dixon Knitters, Ann and Kay were entertaining and funny including jokes, stories and personal insights as well as lots of knitting. They told of how they “met” online and became friends over the trials of knitting the same sweater pattern. There were examples of patterns from both of their books. Ann and Kay also shared knowledge gleaned while knitting, even showing a few “failures”, beautiful projects that for one reason or another did not make it into either book. They also shared with us a new video/documentary they had created as an encore to their country music video venture. Both can be found at www.masondixonknitting.com. Ann and Kay are very funny women, very personable and approachable, inviting us up to see the projects they had brought along and answering everyone’s questions. It was wonderful to attend and find such energetic and engaging women.

—Amanda Haynes

Photo credit to Heidi Finley & Elizabeth Wellenstein



MKG Calendar

Apr 12	MKG Mtg	7:00 pm	West Side Club with Guest Speaker Gayle Roehm Meet at Dutch Mill Park & Ride. See March 2010 newsletter for details, page 11. Or click here: http://www.madisonknittersguild.org/knittersknews/2010_march.pdf
Apr 17	Annual Knitting Safari	8:00 am	
Apr 19	MKG Bd Mtg	6:00 pm	Sequoia Branch of Madison Public Library West Side Club with Annual Fashion Show and Brown Exchange Results Sequoia Branch of Madison Public Library
May 10	MKG Mtg	7:00 pm	
May 17	MKG Bd Mtg	6:00 pm	



Other Fiber Events

Knitting Group at Esquire Club: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays; 9:30 am— 3:00 pm

Knitting Group at DeForest Library: 2nd and 4th Thursdays; 6:00 pm — 8:00pm

Knitting Group at Lakeview Library, Madison: Wednesdays, 6:30 pm— 8:00 pm

Open Knitting Night at LaBella Vita, Mineral Point: Thursdays, 7:00 pm — 9:00 pm

Knitting at Yola's Café: 494 Commerce Drive, Madison: Second Wednesday of each month, 5:00 pm — 8:00 pm

Open Knitting Group at Woodland Studios: Wednesday nights are open knitting. This group is raising money for Heifer International throughout 2010 by asking for a \$1 donation each time you come to the knitting group.

Open Knitting at The Cat and the Crow, Mt Horeb: 3rd Wednesday night of each month.

Stitch, Spindle, & Skein Event, Folklore Village, Dodgeville: Saturday, May 15. Visit: http://www.folklorevillage.org/t2/calendar#Special_Events for more details.

Door County Shepherds' Market: May 22-23. Visit: <http://www.whitefishbayfarm.com/market.htm> for more details.

Madison Knitters' Guild
P.O. Box 14443
Madison WI 53708