



Knitters Knews

Volume 31, Issue 1

September 2010

September 13 Meeting

Nancy Shroyer, Nancy's Knit Knacks



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Meetings held at West Side Club

437 County Hwy. M

MAP

Doors open at 6:00 pm
Meeting begins at 7:00 pm

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The Knitting Gene! Those who have it constantly think about knitting. Nancy Shroyer is such a person and we are delighted to welcome her to our September Guild meeting. Her family claims that she is an “obsessive savant” concerning fiber arts. She will share her story with us, revealing how she, with her husband, came to be so successful in her business, Knit Knacks, located in North Carolina with a strong web presence: www.nancysknitknacks.com.

Her presentation will be a short talk, a little demonstration, and “show and tell” of her products. Questions will be welcome.

Nancy describes herself: “I am always knitting or spinning or dyeing. If not with my hands, then in my head. There is a space in my brain that is totally consumed with

fiber so that no matter what else I am doing, that part is still ticking. It doesn't stop even when I sleep. Sometimes I go to sleep with a problem and wake up with the answer.”

Nancy learned to knit early in life and often did commission work. She made sweaters for people, finished sweaters for others, and whipped up samples for Bernat Yarn company. One can extrapolate that she did an enormous amount of knitting early in life. Her ability to solve problems (one time taking a too-big sweater and remaking it on the sewing machine) led to her designing tools for knitters, items that would make certain aspects of the knitting (or spinning or weaving) process much easier or faster. You'll see samples of these tools at the meeting.

Continued pg. 2...

A Message from President Kate Findley

Ever have to write an essay about how you spent your summer vacation? My essay would mention sitting in front of a fan in 90-degree weather, trying not to inadvertently feel what I'm knitting. It's been a summer of small projects, preferably lace projects – small, light, and perspiration-resistant. Although you wouldn't know it from the temperatures, the summer is winding down, Labor Day is around the corner, and our guild year is beginning.

We have quite the lineup of speakers this year: Nancy Shroyer, Jared Flood, Amy Singer, the folks from Green Mountain Spinnery, Diane Zangl, Meg Swanson, Candace Eisner-Strick, and Sally Melville.

Please note that our October and April meetings will be “MEMBERS ONLY.”

By the time you read this newsletter, 40+ knitters have taken a trip to Stitches Midwest. We're busy planning the Knit Out, Retreat, Knit In, and the Safari. September 25 is our Knit Out at the Farmer's Market around the Capitol Building.

Have ideas for the Guild? We can always use volunteers! Please consider volunteering your time this year. Contact any board member for more information. Looking forward to a great year! Now if it would only cool off so some of us could start knitting sweaters!

September Meeting Continued:

(continued from Page 1)

Nancy fell in love with the flow of color early on and that resulted in a book: *How to Select color Palettes for Knitting and other Fiber Arts*. She says that her #1 specialty is teaching; learning how to select colors is only one aspect of that. She's also an expert at Fair Isle knitting, a technique reflected in her beautiful hat patterns offered on line. Her tutorial on Fair Isle is *From Swatch to Blocking-an Adventure in Fair Isle Knitting*.

She's inspired by many things, but the fiber room in her home is where she can get "lost" in a project, having to be reminded that another world exists outside the room. Her idea of heaven is visiting a Stitches Market with her mother and daughter, both knitters.

County & State Fairs

Did you submit knitted or crocheted items to the county fair or state fair? The Guild is looking for coordinators for the counties in which members reside—especially members living outside Dane County.

The coordinators will gather submission requirements from their home county fair or the state fair and publish them in one of our spring newsletters.

Please contact us at:
info@madisonknittersguild.org.

We're also interested in hearing from members who received prizes or ribbons at the fair for their item(s) this past summer. Please contact us at:

newsletter@madisonknittersguild.org

September Charity Project: Madison Boys and Girls Club

It's great to be back knitting as a steamy summer of gardening between massive rainfalls and combating mosquitoes comes to an end. I love the heat, but I'm ready for Mother Nature to freeze those little vampires! I'm excited to be heading up the Community Projects for MKG this year. Madison has so many organizations in need.

We're taking a 2-pronged approach: every month we will highlight a specific organization for knitted goods and pantry supplies. While the economy limps along and school budgets decline, we've decided to reach out to as many schools as possible to help give our young people the supplies they need. As you shop the sales be sure to throw a few extra bargains in your cart!

Thanks in advance for your time and generosity supporting these projects. You do make a difference.

Last year MKG donated over 1,000 knitted items! What a wonderful achievement, I know we can match that this year. If anyone would like to take a turn to deliver donated items one month please let me know:

retzlafftile@gmail.com

Knitted items: scarves, hats, mittens (even fashion fun fingerless gloves, etc. for older girls)

Supplies needed: backpacks, calculators, folders, ring binders, pens, pencils, paper, rulers, art supplies for the BGC center

Age group: 7-18

Jennifer Retzlaff

Free patterns:

Jared Flood's Turn a Square: <http://brooklyntweed.net/turnsquare.htm>

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/easy-rainbow-hat>

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/breton-mitts>

http://www.vogueknitting.com/free_patterns/patons_beret_and_scarf.aspx

If you do not have Internet access or a Ravelry account, request a printed copy: newsletter@madisonknittersguild.org

October Charity Project: American Family Children's Hospital – Child Life Services

Knitted items needed: bags about the size of a one-gallon Ziploc bag with non-string closures, finger puppets. Chemo hats are NOT needed at this time. This is a perfect time to experiment with felting! Think: small laptop bag.

Guidelines : The bags are used in the hospital as 'care kit' for supplies, and then they go home with the kids. It's a comfort tool the hospital uses to help patients know where their meds and supplies are as they are recovering from procedures. PLEASE, NO drawstrings, long straps or cords. Tops must button, Velcro or zip due to safety regulations.

Free patterns:

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/harry-potter-book-bag-loom-knit> (Omit the I-cord strap.)

<http://cache.lionbrand.com/printablePatterns/70520AD.pdf>

Supplies needed: new and gently used DVD's (family-appropriate up to PG-13,) new and gently used PlayStation 2 games, art activity kits (all-in-one kits for beading, frame-making, etc. at Hobby Lobby and Michaels,) light-up rattles.

Supplies **NOT** needed: stuffed animals and board games.

Age group: newborn to 18

Free patterns:

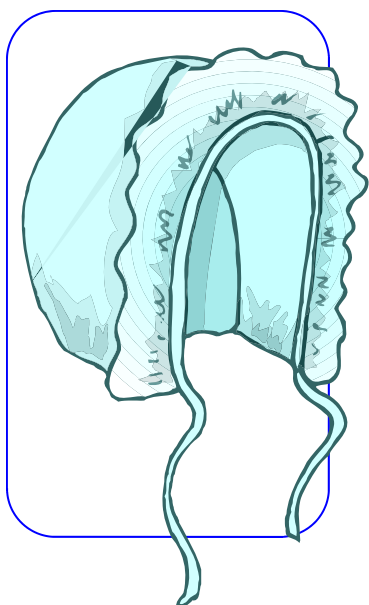
www.lionbrand.com (must sign in, loads of beginner patterns)

www.ravelry.com (must sign in)

www.rebecca-online.de (no sign in)

www.vogueknitting.com (no sign in)

10th Annual Brown Bag Exchange: Babies, Babies, Babies!



The Guild is expecting...and the due date is May!

That's right, this year's Brown Bag Exchange is all about "Babies, Babies, Babies." This is your chance to have a guild member make something for a baby. Don't have any babies to gift with a knitted item? Then at our May meeting, you can donate the knitted item that you receive!

If you would like to participate in the exchange, pick out some yarn from your stash and bring it to the October 11 Guild meeting. If the yarn has lost its label, please make a note of the weight and fiber content. Put the skein(s) in a paper bag. DO NOT write your name on the bag.

A table will be set up at the October meeting where you can turn in your bag. After all the bags have been turned in and marked, you will then pick someone else's bag. You'll have over six months to turn the yarn you pick into something special for a baby. Bring back the bag with your completed baby project to the May 2011 meeting where you will present the item you knitted to the owner of the yarn.

Knitting in the Rockies

by Janet Fishbain

In June, I was privileged to attend "Knitting in the Rockies," a seminar led by Cheryl Oberle. What a joy it was to meet knitters from Colorado, Arizona, and Missouri who all contributed ideas, inspiration, and stories. After a lovely breakfast buffet each morning, we knit on the porch of the Boulderado, a grand old hotel only two blocks from the pedestrian mall that offered lots of entertainment and spectacular shops of all ilk. We knit, learned new techniques and reviewed older ones, participated in show and tell, asked many questions, and launched several projects.

Afternoons we were free to explore Boulder, watch the street musicians, dancers, magicians and other groups entertaining the summer crowd. Of course, we visited two knit shops in the area, one right next door to the hotel. Evenings we explored local restaurants, tapas bars and an in-house pub, after which we gathered again for some serious (or not so serious) knitting.

Cheryl is a very talented designer. Her patterns are extremely well written and easy to follow, even those for complicated garments and shawls. She has written several books, the most recent of which is *Knitted Jackets/20 Designs from Classic to Contemporary*. We were allowed to examine the jackets "in real life," and imagine them in different colors--shades of Cheryl's yarn. Her yarn is not only gorgeous, but a joy to work with. I'm eagerly waiting my second box of yarn which has yet to be dyed.

September Meeting Vendors:

La Bella Vita

<http://www.lbvgallery.com/>

and

The Knitting Room



The Knitting Room
 28 N. Main Street
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2010-2011 Meeting Calendar

- **October 11:** Jared Flood—MEMBERS ONLY
 Vendors: Fiddlehead Yarns
 Dragonfly Yarn Shop
- **November 8:** Amy Singer
 Vendors: Linda Loeffelholz
 'Tis the Season
- **December 13:** Green Mountain Spinnery
 Vendors: Green Mountain Spinnery
 Five Oaks Farm
- **January 10:** Diane Zangl
 Vendors: The Cat and Crow
 Bleating Heart Haven
- **February 14:** Meg Swanson
 Vendors: Woolgatherers LTD
 The Sow's Ear
- **March 14:** Candace Eisner-Strick
 Vendors: Susan's Fiber Shop
 Firefly Fibers, LLC
- **April 11:** Sally Melville—MEMBERS ONLY
 Vendors: Stitchers' Crossing
 Sutter's Gold'n Fleece

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Coming next month:

- Stitches Midwest Recap
- Member Tips & Tricks
- Knitting book reviews

**October 11
 Meeting:
 Jared Flood
 Members Only**

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MINUTES — MAY 10, 2010, MADISON KNITTERS' GUILD SPRING PARTY

Kate opened the meeting at 7PM.

Two hundred twenty five members were in attendance for the party.

Kate asked that each member complete the library survey. She announced that the trip to Stitches is scheduled for August 21st and the deadline for reservations is May 25th. The price of \$37 includes the bus and entrance ticket.

Kate thanked Sue Aehl for completing the board term position, membership and hospitality table duties and planning all the potlucks and the party this evening.

Lisa Newman is opening a yarn shop in Beaver Dam, how exciting for her and for us.

There are several knitting cruises taking place and information can be found on Craft Cruises.

Refer to the article in the last newsletter if you are interested in "hand made especially for you" articles for battered women.

Susan, a nurse from UW Hospital told us about her trips to Guatemala, thanked the members for all their contributions of yarn and baby hats that she will take with her on the upcoming trip. It is very costly to take these items and a donation bag was passed towards this cost.

Three new board members, Marie Duquette, Barbara Rottman and Nancy McCulley were unanimously elected to the Knitters' Guild Board.

Brown Bag Exchange. The theme this year was "Home Sweet Home-Yarn Sweet Yarn" and wonderful creative items were exchanged between Cynthia, Peg, Kathleen, Barbara, Kate, McKenzie, Marsha, Loretta, Heidi, Nancy, Lisa, Anne and Val.

During the break members were treated to wonderful desserts, coffee and lemonade. Members also checked out the yarn sale by members.

Show and Tell - Members quite often save their very unique knitted items to show at the May meeting and tonight was no exception. Unique creations were shown by Renee, Mary, Heidi, Jane, Mary Jo, Barb, Andrea, Christine, Kate and Theresa.

Fifty door prizes were given out to the members.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Kay Moffat

2010-2011 Madison Knitters' Guild Membership Form

Wisconsin Resident

- September-May \$20.00
- February-May \$10.00
- New Member Renewing Member

Non-Residents

- Anytime \$15.00
- New Member Renewing Member

Your membership fee includes a subscription to the *Knitters' News*.

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- Please do not include my membership information in the member roster.

Mail this form and your check made payable to the Madison Knitters' Guild to:

Mary Jo Harris
 1529 Longview St.
 Madison, WI 53704

COMMITTEE PREFERENCES

Want to get more involved in your guild? Please indicate which of the following committee(s) you are interested in serving on during 2010-2011.

- Advertising
- Publicity
- Community Projects
- Facilities
- Hospitality
- Membership
- Knit-In Committee
- Library
- Newsletter
- Special Events (Knit Out, Safari, Stitches)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sept. 10-12 Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival
Jefferson County Fairgrounds
www.wisconsinssheepandwoolfestival.com

Oct. 24-30 SOAR—*Spin-Off* Autumn Retreat
Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan, WI
www.soarblog.com

Nov. 20-21 Holiday Open House at the Mill
Blackberry Ridge Woolen Mill
Mt. Horeb, WI

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