



Knitters' Knews

April 11 Meeting

Sally Melville

**Members
Only!**

VENDORS:

Stitchers' Crossing

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Sun Valley Fiber

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Odd Ball Knitting: something we all ponder. It is the challenge of making something out of those small amounts of yarn that we all have in our stash, those previously unusable 2-3 balls of something. Sally Melville from Canada, our April speaker, published a wonderful book, *Style*, that addresses this issue.

Her practical approach and intriguing designs inspire knitters of all abilities, and provide a way that we can make a garment from stash yarn that is not enough to do much with, yet is too much to just toss. The book is more than a set of instructions and pictures of finished garments; it's also a good read, partly because Sally

is the narrator, and because it includes pictures and anecdotes of her family and friends.

At age 9, Sally learned to knit in Brownies but no one taught her about gauge. She reports that she "failed miserably." But THEN... about age 16, she began experimenting with her own designs. She loves the rhythmic nature of knitting, so she knit through high school and university—not considered "cool" at the time. She created a "truly weird sweater that, when fixed, was oddly appealing," and everyone wanted one. She sold replicas of her odd garment and a career was born.

Sally realized how much she did not know, so she enrolled in a one-day knitting and design class. Other students wanted to know about that "odd" sweater she was wearing, and Sally was thrown out for passing notes. She



—Continued next page

SALLY MELVILLE—Continued

went to work on her knitting machine, where her math and writing skills (both studied at the university) taught her what the class should have been.

Soon she began her own knitting design class from which no one would ever be thrown out. This became an on-going group and morphed into a knitters' guild!

Using knitting machines, she made garments to sell in boutiques, wrote knitting manuals, taught classes, designed for the major magazines, and developed more classes to stay one step ahead of the guild members.

When her husband died in 1993, all knitting stopped. Being left with two teenagers, Sally took a job as a study skills advisor at Waterloo, a local university. But her daughter had asked her to knit a sweater for her boyfriend, which she did out of leftovers. It became the centerpiece of her first book: *Style*. (Recently, Sally and her daughter, now also a knitter and designer, published *Mother-Daughter Knits: 30 Designs to Flatter and Fit*.)

Her designs come mostly from her closet—non-knit clothes she's purchased that she wants to re-work as knit garments. Sally reports that ANYTHING can be knit, and she is a huge proponent of "knit what you wear, wear what you knit." Among other techniques, she teaches unique methods for bands and buttonholes which can enhance any garment.

Sally Melville is also an obsessive organizer, shown quite clearly in her writing. Not too long ago, knitting shops were closing and new knitters were

few. Concerned that knitting would die out at century's end, she decided to leave a record behind of what she thought was important. So she embarked on a series of knitting books that began with *The Knit Stitch*, moved on to *The Purl Stitch*, and finally addressed *Color*. She thought that good pattern



Sally Melville's "Einstein Coat" from *The Knitting Experience: Book I, The Knit Stitch* (XRX, Inc.)

Photo: Alexis Xenakis

support might help people become interested in knitting, but she never imagined the growth that coincided with the publication of *The Knit Stitch* nor the popularity of the "Einstein Coat," declared the most knit garment of all time.

Continued on Page 9

MOTHER DAUGHTER KNITS

—Sally Melville & Caddy Melville Ledbetter

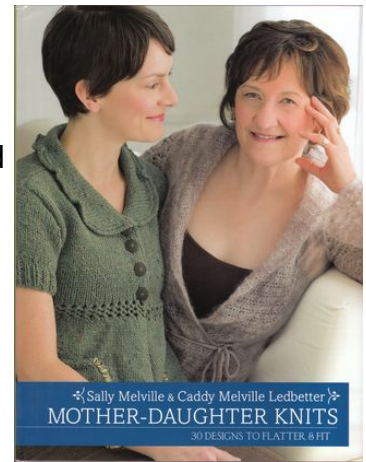
If you are looking for a clear and concise explanation of body figure shape and types, this is a great place to start. Sally Melville and her daughter Caddy Melville Ledbetter dedicate the first section of the book to explaining body types. The selection includes illustrations and information on why the shaping or length of a garment can change the overall look of a piece. I found this section to be very well written and an excellent resource.

There are also many lovely patterns included in this book: “A Gray Cardigan,” a shapely cabled cardigan that would flatter most body styles; also the “Cable-Edged Vest” which can be worn different ways and would look good and appropriate on women of all ages. The “Camelot Coat” is a stunning piece that would wear well as a sweater or a light spring jacket. It might be too long for a petite frame, but shortened it would still have a great shape and lovely knitted details.

There was a sweater that I found both interesting and a bit dangerous. The Scarf-Closing Cardigan involves using a silk scarf to lace up the front of the cardigan, like a shoe, and then you wrap the remainder of the scarf ends around your neck. While visually it is a creative idea; it looks like a possible way to accidentally choke yourself at work.

For the most part the book is split into

two sections. The first a section is on Sally's thoughts for her daughter and then Caddy's take on the mother-daughter relationship. There are also snippets throughout interviewing both Sally and Caddy on their personal knitting styles, triumphs, and working relationships. Within both sections there are patterns created by both women.




While I enjoyed *Mother Daughter Knits*, I had hoped there would be more patterns with similar styles that Sally and Caddy each had a personal take on the design. There was a focus on making accessories, and both women designing a sweater. I wished they had looked more at the differences in how they each approached the same challenge. However, between the two designers there are projects that range both in creativity and difficulty, so you are sure to find something of interest.

For more by Sally Melville, check out the guild library as we have Sally's collection, *The Knit Stitch*, *The Purl Stitch* and *Color*.

—Amanda Haynes

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Monday, March 14, 2011, Meeting Minutes

President Kate Findley opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Announcements:

1. Request for candidates to serve on the Guild's board. New board members will be elected at the May meeting. If you are interested, please see one of the current board members for information.
2. Need a volunteer to organize bus trip to Stitches in August.
3. May 7 is the date for this year's Knitting Safari. Details to follow.
4. If you are planning to go to this Saturday's Knit-In and have not registered, you need to do so by Wed, March 16th for the lunch count. There are still openings for some classes.
5. BlanketsforCritters.com is in need of blankets or yarn for shelter animals awaiting adoption. The blankets should be about 24"x 24" and washable. Donations can be dropped off at The Sow's Ear, Warner Park Recreation Center, or the Dane Co Humane Society.
6. Feb 14, 2011 meeting minutes approved and seconded.

Connie introduced tonight's speaker Candace Eisner-Strick and her new book "Strick-ly Socks". Candace began by describing how her new sock construction, which led to her book, came about. As an avid short row phobic for toes and heels, she developed a method of knitting the toe (heel) flat with a chain edge and then picking up along the chain edge to form the toe (heel). Her chosen cast on method for this process is the provisional Channel Cast On. You can find a demonstration on You Tube. Her "best fit" for socks is 10% smaller than the actual measurement of the foot diameter at the widest point. The socks listed in her book have various options such as gusset or no gusset, 4 heel options, and 16 different original sock patterns to choose from.

Candace is also known for her original "Merging Colors" designs and yarns. She covered how she dyes yarn and how her merging colors yarns came about.

Tonight's guest was Diane Medcalf.

New Members: Marilyn Collins, Marie Pepler, Mary Joan Kaminski, and Debbie Raye.

Show and Tell items presented by Elaine Landay, Kristi Gersbach, Kathy Digman, Dave Helgesoen, Jean Rawson, and Gertrude McClain.

Door prizes provided by Candace Eisner-Stick – skein of yarn: Renee Sanford and Janet Johnson; Susan's Fiber Shop – skein of yarn: Enecia Sabroff and Jane Grogan; Firefly – hat pattern and yarn: Julie Plass-Smith; and a MKG knitting bag: Britta Renstrom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Digman, Secretary



The YWCA Thanks You!

Kristy, from the YWCA writes, "The scarves and other goodies arrived last week. Thank you SO much to you and the other Knitters' Guild members. The scarves were very beautiful and were chosen very quickly by the ladies in the building. Thank you for thinking of the women at the YWCA!"

Your donations of toiletries and supplies will go to good use as these women work to get back on their feet.

—Jennifer Golubiewski, Community Projects Chair



A sampling of scarves
donated by generous
Knitters' Guild members



APRIL Community Projects:

MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOLS

<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

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: lined notebook paper, binders, pens, pencils, highlighters, calculators, earphones for computer work.

These students also desperately need GOOD QUALITY BACKPACKS.



Used books & magazines?

The Knitters' Guild Library welcomes your donations! Please bring them to the April meeting. Any unneeded items will be added to the sale table at the May meeting.

MAY Community Projects: BABIES!

May brings flowers and knitted baby items! May is the Brown Bag Exchange for St Elizabeth House. If you did not participate in the Brown Bag Exchange, any knitted baby items are welcome! Also, Columbus Hospital needs baby booties! See links below for FREE patterns:

<http://debbiespremiepatterns.wordpress.com/2008/11/25/seamless-booties/>



REMINDER:
*Brown Bag Exchange
Projects are due
MAY 10!*



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<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/closeknits-two-tone-booties>

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What The Future Holds

As our Guild year is drawing to a close, your Guild Board is busy planning for next year. As part of that planning, we again have found that we need to address our meeting space. At our March meeting, Mary Jo Harris, our guild registration guru, announced that our Guild is now 555 members strong. In order to accommodate our growing membership, we have had to find another location for our monthly guild meetings.

Beginning this coming September, our monthly meetings will be held at the Bishop O'Connor Center (BOC), located at 702 South High Point Road. This facility has all of the requirements for our Each month, in addition to the auditorium, we will have the use of one classroom. We anticipate that members and visitors will use the classroom to gather before the meeting. The Knit Aid desk and the library will probably be located in this classroom as well. Food will not be available for sale at the BOC, but members may bring in their own – as we did when we met at the Monona Community Center. Drinks are allowed in the auditorium, **BUT MUST BE IN COVERED CONTAINERS** as the floor is sloped. You can imagine what would happen to your neighbors' knitting bags if you spilled a drink on the floor. Each knitter who brings in food or beverages must clean up afterward, otherwise the BOC will rescind their decision to allow us to bring in our own dinner and beverages.

We look forward to our new location in September!

For the past couple of meetings, we have announced that at our May meeting the guild will elect three board members to replace those whose terms are coming to an end. We have nine members on the MKG Board. Board terms are for three years with one-third of the seats being up for election each year. Joan Deneen, Kathy Digman, and Kate Findley are finishing their terms in May.

The Board of Directors meets on a monthly basis throughout the year. Board meeting dates are generally set for an evening during the week following our regular monthly guild meeting. Currently, the board meetings are held in a meeting room at the Sequoya Library Branch on Midvale and Tokay Blvds. beginning at 6 p.m. The location, meeting time and date is subject to change during the year, depending on the availability of the space and the needs of the Board members.

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 after the May election. Office holders usually change every few years as the make-up of the board changes. However, committee chairs may or may not be board members, so these may change more or less frequently as needs of the guild dictate. Offices on the board include: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Committees include: Membership, Historian, Librarian, Community Projects, Retreat, Vendors/Speakers, Knit-Aid and Hospitality. In addition to monthly board meetings, there may be some "homework" required between meetings depending on the office/committee chair held.

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 of 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 their experience of this service to our 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 at info@madisonknittersguild.org or a current board member AND submit a short biographical statement and a photo to Nancy McCulley at newsletter@madisonknittersguild.org. If you're not sure what to write, look at the previous years' newsletters on our website. You won't regret this wonderful opportunity to serve our guild!

- Kate Findley, President

Sally Melville

Continued from Page 2

Being a stay-at-home mom gave Sally ample time for knitting. She has always knit for family including her two children. Now she has two granddaughters who like her knitted garments "just fine." Sally, an avid athlete (skier, runner, biker, rollerblader), is mostly a passionate teacher whose skill in presenting ideas has taken her around the world. In June she will be teaching on a knitting cruise that sails to an old spa in Northern Italy. She loves folks who appreciate a perfect buttonhole and who want to be more intuitive about their craft.

—Janet Fishbain

Madison Knitters' Guild Board and Committees

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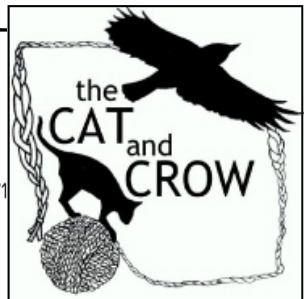
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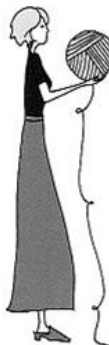
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Fiber Events

April 7-9: Wisconsin Spin-In, Country Springs Resort, Pewaukee www.wispinin.org

April 9-11: Sally Melville Workshops, [Woodland Studios](http://www.woodlandstudios.com), Stoughton

April 16-17: Insubordiknit Workshop/Jacey Boggs, Techny Towers, Chicago, IL
<http://www.insubordiknit.com/workshops>

April 29-May 1: Midwest Masters Weekend, Yarns by Design, Neenah
www.yarnsbydesign.com

May 7-8: Shepherd's Harvest Festival, Lake Elmo, MN
<http://www.shepherdsharvestfestival.org/index.shtml>

May 7-8: Fiber Facets: Art Fair on the Farm—Bleating Heart Haven, New Holstein, WI
www.bleatinghearthaven.com

May 21-22: Door County Shepherds' Market
<http://www.whitefishbayfarm.com/market.htm>

June 21: Milwaukee Brewers Stitch "N Pitch Night, <http://mlb.mlb.com/mil/ticketing/stitchnpitch.jsp>

June 24-26: Midwest Fiber & Folk Art Fair: Grayslake, IL www.fiberandfolk.com

July 27-31: The Knit & Crochet Show, Minneapolis, MN www.knitandcrochetshow.com

July 28-31: Sock Summit, Portland, OR
www.socksummit.com

August 19-21: Michigan Fiber Festival, Allegan, MI <http://www.michiganfiberfestival.info/>

August 25-28: Stitches Midwest, Schaumburg, IL www.knittinguniverse.com/stitches

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In memoriam



IN MEMORIAM

Val Parish was an active member though out the 90's, and as a graphic designer, worked on the Guild's newsletter. She and her family moved from Wisconsin to Washington when her husband took early retirement in 1999. She continued to make contributions to the newsletter even after her move and became active in local knitting groups near White Salmon, WA. Val passed away on March 16 after a very long battle with cancer. During her battle she showed resolve and courage to the end. She leaves behind her husband, two daughters, and a son.

www.madisonknittersguild.org

Madison Knitters' Guild
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