



Knitters' Knews

May 9 Madison Knitters' Guild Meeting

WEST SIDE CLUB

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MADISON, WISCONSIN

DINNER AVAILABLE 5 PM

DOORS OPEN 6 PM

MEETING AT 7 PM

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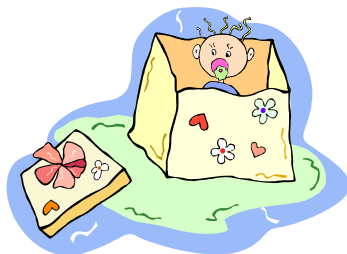
PLEASE RETURN ALL

LIBRARY ITEMS!

End-of-Year Party

The usual supper menu will be available for purchase at the West Side Club. After our meeting, dessert, coffee and punch will be served for your enjoyment. Other beverages will be available for purchase at the bar.

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



Participants should bring completed items in a bag. SIGN IN when you arrive so there is a list of what order the items will be shown. You will be called to the front to present your completed item to the recipient, who will open the bag as you describe what you made.

Show and Tell

Bring or wear your knitted items and come ready to walk the runway! Please SIGN IN when you arrive so we can introduce you when it's your turn.

Library Sale

The Guild library will sell used items at ridiculously low prices. And the proceeds will go toward new library purchases for next year.

Sell Your Stash!

You may also bring items to sell: yarn, needles, accessories, books, patterns, finished items, UFO's... find a new home for some of your stash! SIGN IN when you arrive so Kate can announce your name as a seller.

Tables will be set up in the small room near the restrooms, and you are responsible for attending to your own items. Price each item and include your name and on the slip. A photo will help buyers find you. Please bring enough change—the bartenders will NOT be able to assist with making change.

Remember to take home what you don't sell!

Community Project

Knit baby items for St. Elizabeth House. Columbus Hospital also needs baby booties. Free patterns:

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

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/preemie-baby-booties>

Candidates for Board of Directors

Jennifer Gordon



Jennifer Gordon

Hi, I'm Jennifer Mack. I have been a knitter for almost 10 years now but have only been a member of the Madison Knitters' Guild for one year, having moved to the Madison area fairly recently. After learning how to knit in a small town, coming to the Guild has been an eye-opening experience. There is more fiber at any given monthly meeting than there was in the entire town where we used to live! And being surrounded by such talented knitters and speakers each month is amazing. In the time that I have been a Guild member I have seen many improvements in my knitting and it is great to have a place to share my love of knitting with (so many!) people who are likewise obsessed.

Mae Knowles



I honestly can't remember when I first learned how to knit. (I did get kicked out of high school sociology class because I was knitting.) I just know I haven't quit learning. The topic of knitting is so deep and broad, there seems no end. I believe the Madison Knitter's Guild is an incredible value. For a very nominal membership fee, we can afford to bring in top-notch speakers. But even more incredible is the richness of the Guild membership. Members are extremely generous with their knitting—contributing to so many charitable causes—and with the knowledge of their craft. I'm look forward to being a board member because I'd like to get to know so many of you better, and because I'd like to contribute to keeping this amazing organization a great resource for knitters in our community.

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Jaala Spiro

Jaala Spiro


Jaala Spiro is the Editor in Chief of *Knitcircus Magazine* and has been knitting since her small children forced her to find portable and enjoyable projects in 2004. She's served on the Wingra School Board for the past three years, so has some experience working with a group of people who passionately care about something and want it to work well. She's organized the first (of many) Knitcircus Spring Retreat and has written articles for the MKG newsletter, *Ms. magazine* and *Mad Lovin' Mama* literary magazine as well. www.knitcircus.com



Mary Jo Harris

Mary Jo Harris

My name is Mary Jo Harris. I have been a member of the Guild for seven years and a knitter for decades. I am currently the Guild Membership Chairman and have previously been Guild President and Guild Secretary. In the past I have assisted with planning and preparing Knit-Out and Knit-In, assisted with securing advertisers, taught Knit-In classes, and participated in Guild events. As a knitter I've always been interested in doing "new" things whether it be using a new yarn, technique or pattern. Recently, I started designing knitting patterns, which allows me to do even more "new" things. Outside the knitting world, I work part-time as a Customer Service Representative for Musicnotes.com and I cane chairs. I am interested in being on the Guild board as I feel the Madison Knitters' Guild is a fantastic organization filled with people that have taught and inspired me over the years. Being a board member will allow me to "pay back" what I have gotten out of my Guild membership. As a board member I hope to continue the great things the Guild is doing and be responsive to Guild members' needs.



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Official Guild activities wind down after the May meeting, but there is a summer option this year. A room has been reserved at the Sequoya Branch Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd., for June 13, July 11, and August 8. There will be informal gatherings for support and sharing from 6:30-8:45 pm. Mark your calendar!

The reserved space at the Sequoya Branch will hold approximately 50, so you are encouraged to RSVP if you plan to come knit. Email your "reservation" to mkgsummerknitting@madisonknittersguild.org A confirmation will be sent to you.

Don't let your projects slow down. Come for some summer knitting and meet old friends and make some new ones.

Hope to see you sometime over the summer! Happy Knitting,
Jane Grogan

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Sneak Peek at Next Year's Guild Programs

Several people have asked that I give you an idea of speakers for next year so here is the line-up with just a very little bit of information about each one.

September 12: Lizbeth Uptis, author of Latvian Mittens. She will also be teaching at the

Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival.

October 10: Susan B. Anderson, author of several books, including Spud and Chloe at the Farm. She spoke so highly of our guild that her publicist actually called me and asked when Susan could come back.

Susan is a member of the guild.

November 14: Sivia Harding, lace guru. Sivia taught at Midwest Masters last spring. Hopefully, she

will bring patterns to sell at the meeting!

December 12: Paul and Carol Wagner from Valders, WI. Carol organizes the fiber instructors for the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival and teaches there as well. Their presentation will cover Wisconsin's sheep and wool industry.

January 9: Anne Alessi, owner (with husband Don) of the Steel Wool Studio in Waunakee. They travel to art fairs where they sell items such as hand-painted fabric and yarn, metal garden art, and hand-painted sweaters. Anne is a new member of guild this year.

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Bleating Heart Haven

Art Fair on the Farm
The 2nd Annual Artists' Open House

Featured Items

Browse for handmade soaps, basketry, wrought iron, maple syrup, bent willow furniture, silk bath, handwoven rag rugs, art yarn, and more.

Also sample "local foods" prepared by an Appleton chef and purchase local lamb meat.

Fiber Facets

May 7 & 8, 2011

Saturday: 9AM – 3PM
Sunday: 10AM – 2PM



Meet the artists and the new spring babies! View demonstrations on carding, spinning, weaving—even blacksmithing.








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from previous page...

February 13: Clara Parkes, author of *The Knitter's Book of Wool* and *The Knitter's Book of Yarn* as well as the online "Knitter's Review".

March 12: Ann Budd, author of *The Knitter's Handy Book of Patterns* and *The Knitter's Handy Book of Sweater Patterns*. Ann will be teaching at our Knit-In as well.

March 10 (Knit-In): Kate Gilbert of online "Twist Collective" fame will be the keynote speaker. Kate is from Canada and will be here with her right-hand person, Marnie MacLean from Portland, Oregon.

April 9: Margaret Radcliffe. Her columns in the magazine *Knit 'n Style* are always very informative as is her book *The Essential Guide to Color Knitting Techniques*.

- Connie Burmeister

'Tis The Season

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Not Only Grannies Knit!

World Wide Knit in Public Day History

World Wide Knit in Public Day was started in 2005 by Danielle Landes. It began as a way for knitters to come together and enjoy each other's company. Knitting is such a solitary act that it's easy to knit alone somewhere and sink into your work without thinking about all the other knitters out there. Neighbors could spend all their lives never knowing that the other knits.



This a specific day to get out of your house and go to a local event (with your knitting in tow) just for you and people like you. Who knows you might even bump into your neighbor! Consider this a spark, to ignite a fire; getting all of the closeted knitters out into fresh air.

WWKiP Day is unique, in that it's the largest knitter-run event in the world. Each local event is put together by a volunteer or a group of volunteers. They each organize an event because they want to, not because they have to. They bring their own fresh ideas into planning where the event should be held, and what people would like to do. If it weren't for these volunteer hosts, WWKiP Day would still just be an idea.

WWKiP Day is really about showing the general public that knitting can be a community activity in a very distinct way. In some places there are many different knitting groups that never interact with each other, on WWKiP Day they come together in one place, making them hard to miss.

WWKip 2011 Madison WI

The Madison Knitters' Guild will team up with the Madison Children's Museum to celebrate WWKiP on Saturday, June 11, 2011, 10:00AM to 12:30PM. Knitters of all ages are invited to join in the fun! On that date, the museum is hosting an outdoor free event called Juniorpalooza from 10:00AM to 12:30PM. There will be performances at the stage outside the museum, and the Log Cabin will be open during those hours as well as the museum rooftop, so there are even more possibilities for spaces to use for knitting. Please bring along your own comfortable lawn chair for this event. In case of rain, we'll be divided into several groups in different areas of the museum. Admission costs are: \$6.95 for adults and children and \$5.95 for seniors. Hope to see you there!

— Jayne Coster



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Good News About Knitting

"This article was sent to me by a teacher who was advertising her knitting class....thought you'd enjoy." —Carol Anderson

Crafting has both mental and physical health benefits. Two crafts that have health benefits are knitting and crocheting. Research has shown that the repetitive actions needed in these crafts relaxes the mind and body. During crafting, brainwave patterns change to produce a higher Alpha-waves. This calming effect is similar to the effects of yoga, meditation and Tai Chi. This calm state combined with the intense focus required of reading patterns, diverts the brain's attention from chronic pain, thereby producing a calm state.

Knitting and crocheting also enhance one's ability to concentrate and retain information because it engages both hemispheres of the brain simultaneously. People who suffer from attention deficiency are said to be right brained, therefore knitting's simultaneous engagement of

both hemispheres of the brain improves their learning abilities.

Knitting helps people to cope with pain and stress, such as post-traumatic stress, stress associated with grief, work and chronic illness. When people learn new skills, the brain focuses on the task at hand thereby diverting one's attention from the pain and stress that one is experiencing. It also serves as a perfect pastime for those recovering from illnesses such as cancer.

Knitting and crocheting helps to keep the fingers limber for patients suffering from arthritis and also wards off Alzheimer's disease. Research, at the Harvard Medical School, has shown that knitting has therapeutic benefits. The research results indicate that when an individual is knitting, the heart rate and blood pressure drops. This is beneficial to those with anxiety, hypertension, heart disease and depression.

—Joan Deneen

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Saturday 9-2



Kristin Johnson theknittingroomwi.com Beth Mannebach

Have You Tried Sock Knitting Yet?

Have you been looking for a way to knit a custom fitted sock? Then ***Personal Footprints*** is definitely the book to check out. Cat Bordhi walks you through the process of making your own Discovery Sock and charting what you learn about your own foot and your knitting style to make a perfectly fitted sock. The first half of the book takes you step by step to making your own template for a custom fit sock. This also includes a Discovery Sock or a physical model of your own perfect sock. With Cat's ability to give knitting strong architectural elements while keeping the process easy to understand, this book is easy to read and understand the new techniques Cat presents.

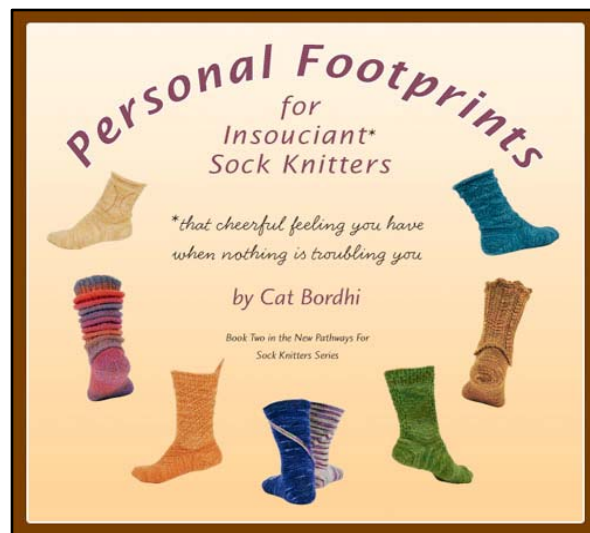
The second half of the book contains over 20 sock patterns ranging from simple textural designs to intricate lace and color work. Cat offers alternatives to the traditional toe and heel sock as well as encouraging you to try out ideas that you have. Cat believes there are no rules to knitting and you can only give it your best try.

There were a couple of Cat's sock designs that instantly jumped out at me. One is the Coriolis Plume sock which has an incorporated coriolis band. Cat based this sock on the coriolis force. A coriolis is a radial trajectory that an object follows while in motion; similar to the flight path of an airplane as seen on a flat map. The band spirals up and around the leg of your sock, adding an interesting twist to an otherwise simple pattern.

The Purlicue design is also beautifully done. This sock may look simplified, but I think it showcases Cat's Personal Footprint the best of all her patterns. Since this design doesn't overwhelm you with design while still looking nice, you can see exactly how the sock fits together.

My own personal sock knitting is as opposite as you can get from Cat Bordhi; I knit on

double pointed needles and cuff down almost exclusively. However, I enjoy reading her books as she is extremely clear and concise. She has included beautiful pictures, excellent drawings, and creative patterns. Her inclusion of science and math into knitting without it becoming overwhelming is refreshing and provides interesting



results. This book is almost enough for me to put down my DPNs and give these a shot.

For more Cat Bordhi fun and function, please check out ***New Pathways for Sock Knitters*** and ***Socks Soar on Two Circular Needles*** from the Madison Knitter's Guild Library.

—Amanda Haynes



April 11 Meeting Minutes

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

Announcements:

1. Guild meetings next year will be held at the Bishop O'Connor Center. We will be able to bring in our own food and drink. Our membership is close to 575, so the venue change was in order.
2. Reminder that Brown Bag exchange project is due at next month's meeting.
3. Mary Bertun confirmed that other forms of needlework and craft supplies are allowed at two correctional facilities, and donations are welcome.
4. Three board members' terms are up in May. Nominees can submit their name, profile, and picture to the newsletter editor by April 20.
5. A volunteer needed for the Stitches bus trip in August.
6. Tonight's vendors are Stitches' Crossing, Sutter's Gold'n Fleece, and Sun Valley Fiber
7. May meeting will have a dessert bar available at the break.
8. Knit Circus is sponsoring its first Spring Knitting Retreat on April 16th. Some classes are still available.
9. Bleating Heart is holding its 2nd annual Art Fair on the Farm May 7 & 8. There will be 15 vendors, demonstrations, and items for sale.
10. March meeting minutes approved and seconded.

Connie introduced Sally Melville to a members-only audience. Sally's books include *Sally Melville Style*, *The Knit Stitch*, *The Purl Stitch*, *Color*, *Mother-Daughter Knits*, and *Warm Knits, Cool Gifts*. Sally began her program "Thank Goodness for Knitting" by asking the question "What do we love about knitting?" She listed seven answers to that question.

1. Knitting connects us to a wonderful community
2. Knitting connects us to wonderful traditions
3. Knitting helps develop focus, simple math skills, hand eye coordination and spatial relations.
4. Knitting relieves tedium and makes us patient
5. Knitting calms & sustains us during difficult times
6. Knitting produces great stuff
7. Knitting puts our heads in a good place

In discussing community, Sally referenced Jane Jacobs' book *Death and Life of Great American Cities* which talks about the importance of communities for mutual support, problem solving, and regeneration.

She went into more detail about the last 4 points:

#4--A study on "How happy are you with your life?" showed the lowest point for the week was Sunday, 10:30 am. The result indicated that people had a whole day ahead of them with nothing to do = boredom. A slide detailed the relationship between challenge (anxiety) and skills (boredom).

#5--Her example of a test group that watched a traumatic video showed that those who talked to each other during the viewing were most affected. That action, like rosary beads, like knitting, helps during a difficult time.

#6--Sally pointed out that what we produce is not the first thing mentioned when discussing our knitting; process is more important than product. When we see a pattern, our

- cont. next page

April 11 minutes—continued

response is usually “I want to knit that” and not “I want to wear that.” Her motto is “knit what you wear; wear what you knit.” Be guided by what’s in your closet, the items that you like wearing. When Sally began to knit, it was cheaper to knit a sweater than to buy one. Today, with globalization that process has been reversed. Her feeling is that globalization will end with the end of cheap labor in other countries and higher transportation costs.

#7-- Sally went on to discuss the left brain and right brain processes, suggesting a book by Jill Bolte Taylor, PhD: *My Stroke of Insight*. The book is written by a neuroanatomist who suffered a stroke and, for a time, functioned only with her right brain.

Sally added an eighth point – practice setting goals and working to completion. She ended her program showing examples from *Warm Knits*, *Cool Gifts* and *The Knit Stitch*, and the Einstein Coat, declared the “most-knit garment of all time.”

New Members: Winnie Severson, Dorit Bergen, Lynn Davis, Pat Jones, Jean Medcalf, and Birke Knipping,

Show and Tell: Anne Eudaly, Shirley Buss, Judy Pruski, MJ Wiseman, Cindy Ellenbecker, Barbara Armstrong, Jane Sweetman, Trudi Delain, and Muriel LaRose.

Door Prizes: Skein of Sun Valley Yarn – Nancy Mc Culley, Mary Schatz, Loretta Zinkel
Yarn Caddy by Sun Valley – Mary Pekovich
Stitchers' Crossing – skein of yarnMae Knowls
Sutter's Gold n Fleece goody bag—Barb Hogan
Meeting adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Digman



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Fiber Events

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.bleatingheartaven.com

May 12 –19: Sister-Arts Knit-Along featuring Madelinetosh merino and the Teal Leaves Cardigan, Chicago, IL

www.sisterartsstudio.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

September 9-11: Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival, Jefferson, WI

www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com

October 8-16: The Road to Rhinebeck, hosted by Amy Detjen & Heather Ordover

<http://www.holidayvacations.net/tours/craftlit.php?craftlit>

MKG Knitting Safari 2011!



Come with us on Saturday, May 7th, as we head northeast for some knitting fun! We will leave the Dutch Mill Park 'n Ride lot at 7 a.m. Our first stop is at **Firefly Fibers** in Beaver Dam (<http://www.fireflyfibers.com/>)

then we head on to New Holstein to spend a few hours at the **Bleating Heart Haven's Fiber Art Fair on the Farm**

<http://www.bleatinghearthaven.com/id11.html>

We will then stop on North Main Street in Fond du Lac. Located near one another on Main Street are **The Knitting Room**

(<http://www.theknittingroomwi.com/>), **Woolgatherers**

(<http://www.woolgatherers.com/>), and **Willett Sew** quilt shop. We will return to Madison around 5 p.m.

Lunch will be on an on-your-own basis. At the Art Fair on the Farm, there will be vendors offering food options, such as lamb dishes from Green Gecko deli and vegetarian side dishes offered by Meaghan's VegPod Foods. Other vendors will have artisan breads, sheep and goat cheeses, and Kettle Korn. On North Main Street near the fiber shops, there is a coffee shop in the Ramada Hotel, a Cousin's Subs and other options. You may also bring your lunch; there will be two empty coolers available on the bus. In the morning, there will be baked goods, assorted fruit and bottled water available on the bus. Coffee will not be provided this year as demand for coffee has consistently lessened over the past four years.

The cost of the Safari is \$35 for guild members and \$40 for non-members. A detailed itinerary, along with a map of North Main Street in Fond du Lac will be given to all participants on the bus.

You will receive email verification that your registration form has been received. If you have any questions regarding the Safari, please contact Kate Findley at kmfindley@wisc.edu.

KNITTING SAFARI 2011 APPLICATION

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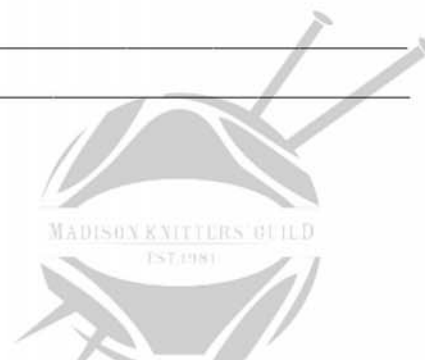
Best time to contact you, if necessary: _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

I am a member of the Madison Knitters' Guild

I am not a member of the Madison Knitters' Guild

Please mail this application form, along with your check made payable to the Madison Knitters' Guild, to: Knitting Safari, Madison Knitters' Guild, P.O. Box 14443, Madison, WI 53708



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