



fvkg.com

elvislives

PRESIDENTS' GREETING

Another summer has flown by! That means back to school, a change in routine and for many of us getting started (or resuming) a wool knitting project. As the air gets a little cooler, the knitting is sure to heat up!

The board has some exciting plans for you this year. One of the things we look forward to this year is helping each other expand our knitting know-how with inspiring programs and useful information about this passion we all share while we get to know each other even better. Read on to catch the excitement planned for you this year at Guild.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you in September.

--- Dorothy Gaines and Gretl Kramer

SOMETHING NEW FOR SHOW AND TELL

Sharing your projects at our meetings is an inspiration and resource for all of us. To make Show and Tell even more fun and useful this year we ask that you to bring the following information for each item you will be sharing.

Pattern name

Where you found the pattern

What yarn you used

Where you bought/found the pattern

Needle size/gauge

Your wisdom, comments, challenges

There will be a form available at registration to complete with this info. Please give it to the registration desk or to Gretl or Dorothy. Items will be randomly selected for highlighting in our monthly newsletters, and those who participate will be entered into a drawing for a 'knitterly' prize.

PROGRAM NOTES

We are excited to welcome our guest speaker Chris Bylsma to our Sept. 9th meeting. Chris is a nationally known knitwear designer, perhaps best known for her Crayon Box sweater. She will be teaching at Stitches Midwest and will present "What I learned in my first 50 years of knitting" at our Guild meeting. Chris will have her knitwear designs available for sale during the meeting.

Coming Attractions: (mark your calendars)

- **October 14:** our Guild meeting will feature Elizabeth Prose. She will be doing a hands on workshop on a variety of cast ons and bind offs. Those who wish to participate will be asked to bring a short list of supplies which will be listed in next month's newsletter. On the same day and location Elizabeth will offer a special afternoon workshop on the Magic Loop. This will be held from 2 - 4 pm and will teach us how to knit a small circumference in the round using one long circular needle. We will also learn how to knit two tubes at one time on one circular needle. This technique works for any small tube you want to knit in the round, socks, hats or sleeves. You should have some experience knitting in the round. The cost of the afternoon workshop is \$30 and reservations/ payments need to be made by October 7. To register, please send me an e-mail (lincraft@lycos.com) and pay our treasurer Diane Evinger.
- **November 11:** Techniques Fair
- **December 9:** Christmas party with a gift exchange, collection for the Food Pantry and holiday surprises.
- **January 13:** Presentation on Color

Stay tuned, other great programs to come!

---Linda Jones and Christy Becker

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Our hospitality committee is looking forward to greeting you and making you feel welcome at our meetings. Our committee members are Claudia Frost, Kathy Schooley and Mary & Kate Stough. We cover greeting, refreshments, set up & take down and charitable knitting. We'll also have info sheets for show & tell that you can fill out at the greeting table.

The refreshments for the Sept. meeting will be provided by the board members. For the succeeding meeting we'll be asking our members to help supply the refreshments. We'll have sign up sheets for the Oct., Nov. & Jan. meetings. The December meeting will be our guild potluck.

We'll be looking for assistance with set up & take down too. If you arrive early, perhaps you could set up a chair or two. We'll also be asking you to help put the chairs from your table away at the end of the meeting.

Even though we don't have a formal Charity Chairperson we'll still be collecting the 7 x 9" rectangles for the Lazarus House afghan and collecting the hats, gloves, scarves, etc. for the Snug Hugs program.

Thanks in advance for your help in making our guild a warm & friendly place to gather to share our needlework passion.

---Barb Harris, Hospitality Chair

Fox Valley Knitters' Guild Fall 2009 Knitting Retreat at the [Stronghold Conference Center in Oregon, IL on October 23-25, 2009.](#)

Fall is in the air, and the knitting retreat will be soon upon us. The September Guild meeting is time for getting final headcounts and collecting the balance of the room and board costs for the retreat.

RETREAT OVERNIGHTERS:

- ✓ If you have already paid the \$50 deposit, please bring the balance of \$70 to the September meeting (balance due for single room: \$150)
(If you are unable to come to the September meeting, please send a check right away for the balance to Gretl Kramer, 580 Covered Bridge Dr., Elgin, IL 60124.)
- ✓ If you have not yet paid the \$50 deposit, please bring the entire amount of \$120 (\$200 for single room) to the September meeting or mail it right away to Gretl at the address above.

NOTE: There are still a couple of rooms available, so please let me know by the September Guild meeting if you would like to be added to the list and be prepared to pay the retreat cost of \$120 for the 2 nights in a double and 4 meals (\$200 for a single).

RETREAT DAYTIMERS:

If you cannot come for the entire weekend, you may join us for the Saturday events. Gretl needs headcounts and meal money by the September Board meeting:

- ✓ Lunch only \$8.00
- ✓ Breakfast and lunch \$16.00
- ✓ Lunch and dinner \$16.00
- ✓ All 3 meals \$24.00

Quick review:

Arrive Friday late afternoon/evening (no supper served - bring food/snacks or eat in town)

Surprises.

Saturday: Three meals, presentation by Terri Carlson from Red Brick Road Farm in Dixon about her Icelandic Sheep and Icelandic fleeces. She is a spinner, felter and knitter, and will bring fleeces, pelts, roving and yarn to sell. Surprises.

Sunday: Breakfast and more surprises. Check out at midday. Eat in town, visit the local yarn store.

Bring knitting, show and tell items, knitting problems for your friends to help solve, snacks, books, magazines, etc. Remember that we cannot have any pets, alcohol, candles or smoking on the retreat grounds.

Call Gretl right away - 847 468-9709 - if you have any questions or would like to be added to the participant list.

---Gretl Kramer

CHARITY REMINDER

If you knitted any charity projects over the summer, please bring them to the Sept. 9th meeting. I will be turning in the red scarves for Women Heart shortly after the Sept. 9th meeting. Also, I will be turning in any scarves that have been knitted for AID for their South Street Project during the month of September. Items for Snug Hugs (in November) can also be turned in at this time. As always, thanks for your charitable knitting efforts!

---Ruth Anderson

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Hello everyone! I am the new membership representative on the board. I am very excited to be a part of this wonderful Guild.

September is renewal time. Guild dues are \$30 this year.

Everyone knows that these are tough financial times. Your Guild membership is a great investment. Here are some of the things you get with your membership:

- Fabulous programs each month
- Discounts at many many local yarn stores (You may get your \$30 back quickly!)
- This year we have a great member gift for all renewing and new members
- Wonderful friends and socialization
- Constant inspiration and learning opportunities

The membership form is attached to the newsletter. Please print it off and bring it with a check or cash for \$30 to the September meeting. Please make checks payable to FVKG. You will get your new membership card and gift at the September meeting.

What is this fabulous gift, you ask? It is a needle gauge from Nancy's KnitKnacks. It has been customized with our Guild name on it. This is the industry's most complete and accurate needle gauge. Thanks to Natasha Leherer for coordinating this effort.

Please note that we will be changing the password to the FVKG website in October. The new password will no longer be printed in the newsletter. It will be on the back of the new membership card.

Hope to see everyone in September!
Judy Jasper

MISSING

After our May potluck meeting, our member Jo Fritter was assisting another member carry items to her car. When Jo returned to pick up her knitting bag that included a white knitted hat, her knitting bag could not be found. If you noticed the bag and all its contents without its owner and removed it so that it would not be an orphaned knitting bag, please contact Jo Fritter at 630-629-5698. She is very eager to have her knitting bag return home.

--- Diane Evinger

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

A new feature in our newsletter is going to be 'Member Spotlight'. This will be for new members, existing members, and this month we are spotlighting a Board member, our own Gretl Kramer. I will be recruiting people to fill out a questionnaire each month. For the detailed questions, there are many questions to choose from, and you only need to answer 1-3 of them.

FVKG: Your name please.

GK: Gretl Kramer

FVKG: Where do you live?

GK: Elgin, just off Randall Road near Bowes Road, about 10 miles from my Local Yarn store.

FVKG: How long have you been a member of the Guild?

GK: 6-8 years ? I am not sure. Time flies

FVKG: How long have you been knitting?

GK: I have been knitting since I was in grade school. My mother taught my sister and me, and we used to make knitted gifts, especially garter stitch slippers, for relatives. I have had a few stretches of years when I did not knit, but once I picked it up again about 15 years ago, it stuck for good.

FVKG: Review a Knitting book you have read or used recently. Why did you like/dislike it? If you knitted any patterns from it, what were your experiences with the instructions?

GK: *Mother-Daughter Knits* by Sally Melville and Caddy Ledbetter. I love this book for many reasons. It is like a conversation between Sally and her daughter, Caddy, back and forth discussion of their knitting, their design ideas and, clearly, their love and support for each other. Sally Melville's books have always had excellent instructions, very clear, well illustrated, and easy to follow. This book is no different. I am working on the Camelot coat made from Cascade Ecological Wool that I found in my stash. It seems to be flying through my fingers and has a very interesting construction, as is typical Sally! The pictures are great and the designs are very nice. There is something in here for everyone.

FVKG: Knitting Tip/Advice - Please share some words of wisdom with the rest of us!

GK: One of the things I think is very important for all knitters to hear and take to heart, especially new knitters, is that there are many, many ways to accomplish the same thing in knitting. It breaks my heart when I hear stories about people who have been told they are doing something incorrectly, that someone taught them wrong, or that they must re-learn what they have taught themselves. So not true!! There are so many ways to cast on, bind off, wrap yarn, increase, decrease, block, even hold needles. It is true that there may be a particular cast on that is best for a certain project, but that does not mean it is the only way. There may be a preferred type of decrease for a certain look. But most of the time I believe in Knitter's Choice!

FVKG: Why did you decide to take up knitting? What do you like the most/least about it? What are your challenges?

GK: As I wrote above, there have been long periods of time in my life when I set knitting aside for other handcrafts. Those have included sewing, quilting, cross-stitch, crochet, and calligraphy. When I look back, I see that there are 2 things that bring me back to knitting each time I stray.

One is that I return to knitting when my life becomes very stressful, difficult, or sad. Knitting is truly what gets me through hard times. When I don't knit, those troubles sit right in my stomach, I feel bad physically, and my emotions keep me from being able to figure out what to do. When I knit, somehow I am able to keep my troubles in my head, and I can think clearly about what to do. So I knit.

The other reason I pick up the needles again after a break is because of friends who knit. They inspire me, my fingers start itching to stitch, and I am right back in the game. I love knitting with friends, sharing ideas, and encouraging each other. Friends increase the great pleasure that knitting brings.

WINNING COLORS

Congratulations to FVKG member Emily Parsons for winning the painted category at the Sock Summit's Dye for Glory yarn competition. Emily's winning entry is her Sophie's Toes in a colorway called Just a Small Gathering of Friends that she created specifically for the competition. In Emily's description of her color, she states she started with a dark green to represent the forests of the Pacific Northwest and the multi colors to reflect the excitement and diversity of all the knitters going to the Sock Summit. The contest had twelve categories with over 14,000 people voting online for their favorites. You can see Emily's entry and all the other winners at <http://www.ravelry.com/socksummit/glory>

FVKG TREASURER'S REPORT

June 1, 2009 - Aug 25, 2009	Guild Fund	Retreat Fund	Ending Balance
Balance June 1, 2009	\$1,850.95	\$50.00	\$1,900.95
INCOME:			
Membership	\$870.00		
Yarn sale - May meeting	\$6.00		
Retreat pre-registration	\$-	\$100.00	
EXPENSES:			
Hospitality (May potluck)	\$(24.20)		
Gallery show	\$(70.47)		
Rent - St. Charles Episcopal Church - June, July, Aug	\$(150.00)		
Website	\$(104.86)		
Postage	\$(23.32)		
Office Supplies	\$(21.49)		
Membership Memento '2009-'2010	\$(568.10)		
Balance Aug 25, 2009	\$1,764.51	\$150.00	\$1,914.51

---Diane Evinger, FVKG Treasurer

TIP OF THE MONTH: EMERGENCY MEASURES

Although as a member of the Fox Valley Knitters' Guild, you may never be without a ruler again, here are ideas for emergency measuring.

- **Quarter** = 1" diameter, 3" circumference. Start and end your roll with Washington's profile facing the same direction.
- **Dollar Bill** = 2.5" x 6"
- FVKG Membership Card and **Credit Cards** = 2" x 3.5" On the back of a credit card, it is 1.5" between the magnetic strip and the opposite edge.
- **Arm span** = roughly the same as your height from fingers to fingers
- How far is it if you hold yarn in your fingers and stretch out to your opposite shoulder? Mine is 39"--a bit more than the three feet that I use that span to measure.
- A "hand" -- the measuring unit for horses -- is 4", the approximate width of many a palm. Parts of mine are 4". You just have to remember where that is for you! But, it is a good approximation.

---Christy Becker

2009 FVKG MEETING DATES

- September 9
- October 14
- November 11
- December 9

We meet the second Wednesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall of the St. Charles Episcopal Church at 994 North Fifth Ave. in St. Charles and start at 6:30p

OTHER KNITTING EVENTS

- Stitches Midwest September 10-13 in Schaumburg (<http://www.knittinguniverse.com>
- Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival September 11-13 in Jefferson, Wisconsin (<http://www.wisconsinssheepandwoolfestival.com/>)
- FVKG Retreat October 23-25 at the Stronghold Conference Center in Oregon, IL

NEWSFLASH

Starting in September, our meetings will feature a vendor of the month. On September 9, Emily Parson will be featured with her hand-dyed yarns, including her sock summit Dye for Glory award winning color way. She will also have her merino superwash sock yarn, her new merino/cashmere blend sock yarn, and some worsted weight—new in September, so the guild would be the first to see it.

This is your chance to meet our famous Guild member and purchase her incredible yarn!

A SOCK SUMMIT REPORT

Sock Summit 2009 was held in Portland, Oregon on August 6-9. Organized by writer Stephanie Pearl-McPhee (the Yarn Harlot) and Tina Newton of Blue Moon Fiber Arts, it was a wonderful celebration of sock knitting in all its forms.

Lesley and Neil Edmondson, Gretl Kramer and I traveled to the Summit by car (check the Wool and Company website for Neil's podcasts about our road trip) and Carla Hibbard arrived by plane. When we got to the Portland Convention Center we knew this was going to be different from other conferences. Hanging from the light posts on the street were Sock Summit banners proclaiming "Taking Sock Knitting Where No One Has Gone Before!" The atmosphere was filled with excitement and expectation. Socks were everywhere and of course we wanted to know what yarn, what pattern, etc. Tina and Stephanie were amazing: they did presentations and still seemed to be everywhere making sure all was running smoothly.

There were many classes, and lectures offered as well as a marketplace full of sock yarn and accessories. Carla and Gretl attended the Sock Hop so be sure to ask them about their experiences as well. Two of the Summit events were especially fun for me. Over 900 hundred knitters gathered to break the world record for "The Most Number of People Knitting Simultaneously" by knitting together for 15 minutes. The previous record was 200+people so hopefully the Guinness World Record people will agree we broke the record! The second event was the last event of the conference. This was the Luminary Panel that included Barbara Walker and Meg Swansen among many others. They answered questions from the panel leader and then the audience asked them questions. It was wonderful to hear them all, but I was especially impressed with Barbara Walker. She knows so much about knitting and yet comes across as this really humble person. The event ended with cake to honor what would have been Elizabeth Zimmermann's 99th birthday. A very special way to wrap-up the conference.

Let's hope there will be a Second Sock Summit.

---Linda McEwan

Crochet Inspiration by Sasha Kagan

Knitter and colorwork expert Sasha Kagan has published a different book, going in a new direction, crochet. This book is a couple years old, but I had never seen it before. It is a large, beautifully illustrated technique book that starts with the simplest of single crochet and proceeds to complicated motifs that can be used for embellishments, accessories clothing and home projects. The book is divided into 4 sections, Fabric, Motifs, Grannies, and Flowers. As always, her color sense is inspiring. If you think you might like to try crochet or would like to improve your crochet skills, you just might want to give this book a look!

Sasha Kagan, *Crochet Inspiration*. Sixth and Spring Books, 2007.

Knitting in Tuscany by Nicky Epstein

The subtitle of this book is “Fabulous Design, Luscious Yarns, Shopping Secrets, Food & Wine, Travel and Notes.” It is a knitting pattern book, a travel guide and a cookbook, all in one. The photographs are beautiful, as you would imagine. I would like to try making the Eggplant Caponata one of these days.

In this book, Nicky Epstein takes the reader to Florence, Siena, Chianti and a number of other small Tuscan towns. She offers a sightseeing tour including yarn crawls in the towns and a trip to a yarn mill in Florence and a cashmere farm in Chianti, and discusses the wool and knitting traditions in the area. Her book includes many patterns for garments and decorative items, all influenced by the history, architecture and landscape of Tuscany. There are a couple of garments I would probably never make, but I love the Carrara Marble Cardigan and the Siena Rooftop Sweater. They may be on my list as future projects. And her knitted flowers are magnificent.

Take a look at this book for knitting and travel inspiration. Tickets to Italy, anyone?

Nicky Epstein, *Knitting in Tuscany*, Nicky Epstein Books, 2009.

Reversible Knits: Creative Techniques for Knitting Both Sides Right by Iris Schreier

Iris Schreier has written a number of knitting books including one of my favorites, *Modular Knits*, which shows how to make accessories, shawls, and home decor out of knitted geometric shapes. This is a great how-to book that takes you from the basic to the complicated, and it is very useful. So when I discovered that Ms. Schreier had written a book on reversible knitting, I was eager to get it.

You know when that back side of a wonderful scarf flips over and you are no longer showing off the beautiful public side? This book is about making your knitting look like both sides are the right side. The author moves from stitches that look the same on both sides like garter stitch, ribbing and the like, to knitting with different but “right-side” looking stitches on both sides. She shows how to make decreases look the same on both sides. She shows us reversible slip stitch, two colors, lace, cables, and modular knitting. And what I was really looking for, she includes a section on 2-color double knitting, wonderful! Each section starts with the techniques and then has projects for practicing the techniques. Projects include scarves, hats, a belt, shawls and wraps. Explanations are clear, and everything is illustrated with photos. The photos of the projects are lovely. But I was stunned when I first saw the swatch photos used to illustrate the techniques. They show stitches clearly, but they are unattractive colors, at least to me, and are unblocked, so they look a little wonky in an otherwise perfect book!

This book really addresses the right-side, wrong-side dilemma very well, so when you pick it up, don't be put off by the swatches. Look beyond them to the many treasures you will find throughout the book.

Iris Schreier, *Reversible Knits*, Lark Books, 2009.

---Gretl Kramer

Special Yarn Shops

- **Esther's Place** 201 W. Galena St. (Route 30), Big Rock
Phone: (630) 556-WOOL (9665) - Web: <http://www.esthersplacefibers.com/>
- **Fine Line** 6N158 Crane Road, St. Charles Phone: (630) 584-9443 - Web: <http://www.finelineca.org/>
- **Fishbed Knitting Emporium, Inc.** 320 N. River Street, East Dundee
Phone: (847) 844-YARN (9276)
- **The Fold** 3316 Millstream Road, Marengo
Phone: (815) 568-5320
- **Gene Ann's Shop**
117 East Station St., Barrington
Phone: (847) 842-9321 - Web: <http://www.geneannsyarns.com/TheShop.htm>
- **Gifted Purl** 120 West Main St., West Dundee
Phone: (847) 783-4650 - Web: <http://www.giftedpurl.com>
- **Knitche** 5150-B Main Street, Downers Grove, IL 60515
Phone: (630) 852-5648 - Web: <http://knitche.com/>
- ***Needle Things** 426 South Third Street, Geneva
Phone: (630) 232-0015
- **Never Enough Knitting** 119-121 North Main, Wheaton
Phone: (630) 221-1007
- **Sheep's Clothing** 257 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso, IN
Phone: (219) 462-1700
- **Stitches in Time** 300 W. Washington, Oregon, IL
Phone: (815) 732-4599
- **Wool and Company** 23 South Third St., Geneva
Phone: (630) 232.2305 - Web: <http://www.woolandcompany.net/>

*These shops are special because they offer discounts to FVKG members.
+Please note the new address for Needle Things

FVKG Board

President: Dorothy Gaines & Gretl Kramer
Vice President/Programs: Christy Becker & Linda Jones
Treasurer: Diane Evinger
Secretary: Sandy Andrews
Hospitality: Barb Harris
Membership: Judy Jasper
Newsletter: Linda McEwan
Website: Christie Stotko
Gallery Show: Natasha Lehrer

The Agenda for Each Guild Meeting

- 6pm—set up
- 6:30pm—gather to knit
- 7pm—Meeting begins:
Introductions of new members/guests
Announcements/reports
Show and Tell and Door Prizes
- 7:30pm—Break
- 7:45pm -Program
- 9pm—Lights out

Newsletter comments, suggestions or article ideas?

Please contact me at lmcewan@foxvalley.net or at (847) 697-1513. Thanks! ---Linda McEwan

FOX VALLEY KNITTERS' GUILD

Membership Form

(Please print)

Annual membership dues of \$30 are due by September 30 of the current year. Membership dues for new members joining the guild after Jan 1 are \$15. Cash or check and the membership form will be accepted at the guild meeting, or you may mail your membership form and check to: Judy Jasper, 247 Ewell Ct, Bartlett, IL 60103

DATE ____/____/____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

+++++

MEMBERSHIP/TREASURER CHAIRPERSON USE ONLY

Dues _____ **Check No.** _____ **Cash** _____

+++++