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FVKG Presidents' Letter, April 2010

Hello Guild Knitters,

Spring has arrived, and so have the spring lambs. If you take a drive through the countryside, you may see some of these little ones, gamboling around their mothers and siblings. Think wool! More lambs being born all over the world, or at least in the northern hemisphere this time of year, means more fleece which means more yarn for knitters and fleece for spinners. How wonderful for us!



Spring is the time for the FVKG to begin wrapping things up and start preparing for the coming Guild year. This spring, in addition to a slate of new board members to be presented at the April meeting for your approval, this newsletter includes amended Fox Valley Knitters' Guild By-Laws for you to take a look at during the next month. These amendments were begun more than a year ago, thanks to the hard work of Phyllis Deerinck, Barb Harris, Dee Radke and others, and the work was continued and completed by your present Board members. Thanks so much to all who worked on this project, and please forgive us if we have forgotten to include your name. At the May meeting we will vote on approval of the By-Laws as amended. The current By-Laws are posted on the Guild website, *fvkg.com* in the Members section.

Our Guild's parent organization, The Knitting Guild of America, has posted its current newsletter filled with all sorts of information including an article on machine knitting, information about the upcoming TKGa Conference and some knitting tips and tricks. The newsletter is available at: <http://www.tkga.com/resources/Mar2010Newsletter.pdf>
Take a look!

We are looking forward to seeing you at the April meeting. In addition to our regular wonderful time, there is a different kind of door prize surprise in store for us. Thanks to Judy Jasper for passing along the contact information for these prizes.

See you soon,
Gretl and Dorothy

FOX VALLEY KNITTERS' GUILD MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Fox Valley Knitters' Guild is to promote and foster an interest in knitting, to provide the opportunity for study and sharing to broaden one's skills, and to encourage high standards of design and technique in various forms of knitting.

APRIL 14TH GUILD MEETING PROGRAM AND VENDOR

Both our vendor and our speakers this month will be from Knitche in Downers Grove. The program entitled "What not to knit" will explain how to apply the basic rules of dressing to appear taller and thinner when choosing knitting patterns and yarns. So hold off beginning that project you're just itching to start until we learn how to interpret pictures and schematics!

---Linda Jones

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please remember to check in at the desk when you come to the Guild meetings. This is very important for us to determine what size space is needed for our Guild. For example, it seems clear that our Guild is growing from our meetings, but the sign-in sheet is showing only an average of 3 more attendees per meeting this year than the previous 2 years. I don't think that is the case, but we need to have accurate data from the sign-in sheets. Thanks!

MEMBERSHIP

We had 5 new members join up in March:

Carolyn Szarmach
Cathy Steinbach
Ellen Freyer
Pati Yartinus
Janet Michelin

Welcome to our Guild! There are now a total of 108 members.

---Judy Jasper, Membership

HOSPITALITY

We're still in need of ladies to bring fruit or vegetables, appetizers or dessert to our April meeting. You can call me on my cell (630-710-4652) or just bring it the night of the meeting. Thanks to those who brought food last month.

---Barb Harris, Hospitality Chair

ADDITION TO THE STASH BUSTING PATTERN SUGGESTION LIST

- Sock Yarn Blanket pattern at <http://www.shellykang.com/all-about-the-blankie>

MIDWEST FIBER & FOLK ART FAIR

This year the Midwest Fiber & Folk Art Fair is July 16-18 at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Grayslake. As part of the fair, there will be a DIY fashion show and a competition for those who design their own garments presented by the Windy City Knitting Guild. For more information check the fair's website at <http://www.fiberandfolk.com/>

---Sandy Andrew

KNITALONG NEWS

- Our Central Park Hoodie knitalong has generated about a dozen sweaters with more still being completed. They're all beautiful! Our ladies have still been meeting and are working on a variety of projects. We're thinking that our next group project will be mittens starting in the middle of April. We're looking ahead to Christmas presents and a small project that can be taken anywhere as the summer months approach. It can be any mitten pattern that you have, found on Ravelry, etc. I know I've always wanted to learn how to make them and we have some experienced knitters in our group that have. You can always come and join us to visit and knit on your own project. It's a fun group! We meet at Borders on Randall Rd. every Weds. morning, 9:30 - 11:30. Hope to see you there.

---Barb Harris

- The Vivian Hoxbro Knitalong continues to meet on the first and third Thursday of each month at the Arcadium Coffee Shop in St. Charles at 6:30 pm. Come and join us.

---Judy Jaspers

A SUCCESSFUL TRIP

Our first regularly scheduled bus trip was a success!

It may have been a dreary rainy day for the rest of Chicagoland, but the wondrous colors of yarn was pure sunshine for our guild! We had folders of patterns for all-many patterns using Lorna's Laces yarns since that was our first stop. We went to the second floor of a warehouse/commercial building and met Beth, her husband and dog named Purl for our private visit. We learned how she bought the business from Lorna Miser, learned the dyeing process and recipes, and moved it all from California to Chicago. We got to watch her dye an incredibly beautiful yarn and she answered our questions. Then, we got to attack the tables that she had covered with mill ends--at about 45% off the regular prices! It took us a while to check out!! Here is a link to a tour and photos done by Jimmy Bean's Wool!

<http://jimmybeanswool.blogspot.com/2009/12/oh-lornas-laces.html>

Then, our bus driver braved the weather and the St. Patrick's Day Parade traffic to take us to Loopy Yarns--a busy, bustling, big yarn store--with several classes and other shoppers and a basement with lots of sale yarns. We all got a canvas bag with a Franklin Habit drawing on it and a 10% discount (which helps offset Chicago tax). Most of us found some yarn or patterns that we hadn't seen before!

Alot of the restaurants were filled with revelers wearing green, but there were several spots to choose from.

We got home right on time, the bus was comfortable and a few members asked if we could do this again next month!!

---Christy Becker

LOOPY YARNS

Also, good news knitters. . . Loopy Yarns at 47 W Polk, Chicago has been added to our special list of yarn stores, they'll give us 10% off as Guild members!

TREASURER'S REPORT

<i>FVKG Treasurer's Report</i>	Guild Fund	Retreat Fund	Ending Balance
Balance Feb 28, 2010	\$ 3,599.63	\$ 303.72	\$ 3,903.35
Income:			
Membership	\$ 60.00		
Nametags	\$ 10.00		
Offsite event - bus trip	\$ 75.00		
Retreat 2010		\$ 50.00	
March Income	\$ 145.00	\$ 50.00	
Expenses:			
Hospitality -	\$ (12.94)		
Nametags	\$ (24.85)		
Offsite event - bus trip	\$ (146.60)		
Program	\$ (75.00)		
Rent - St. Charles Episcopal Church	\$ (50.00)		
March Expenses	\$ (309.39)	\$ 0.00	
Balance Mar 31, 2010	\$ 3,435.24	\$ 353.72	\$ 3,788.96

The February ending balance /March beginning balance was reconciled to the bank statement. March transactions include income and expenses and will be reconciled to the March bank statement when it is received.

---Diane Evinger, FVKG Treasurer

MAY MEETING

The May meeting is a hearty appetizer and dessert potluck and a gigantic (hopefully) garage sale of member's yarn, patterns, books, etc. Start exploring your stash and discover what you could part with--for money to buy more yarn of course! You will need to put your yarn into zip lock bags with the price for each bag.

SPRING CLEANING?

Besides cleaning out your yarn stash for selling at our May meeting, consider this! Our meeting site, St. Charles Episcopal Church, is holding their annual rummage sale on Saturday, April 17. You could help yourself by spring cleaning a closet or two, help the folks who need or like to shop garage sales, and help your community as the proceeds go to outreach in the tri-cities community. Bring a bag or two of things you no longer want or need to donate at our April meeting. You can pick up a receipt for your tax records.

---Christy Becker

Fox Valley Knitter's Guild By-Laws Proposed Changes - Spring 2010
(Current By-Laws at fvkg.com in the "Members" section)
Please bring to May meeting for discussion and vote to approve.

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

- A. The name of this organization shall be the Fox Valley Knitters' Guild
- B. The purpose of this **organization** shall be to promote and foster an interest in knitting, to provide the opportunity for study and sharing to broaden **members'** skills, and to encourage high standards of design and technique in various forms of knitting.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership shall be open to any person interested in the purposes of the organization.
- B. Fellow knitters are welcome to visit **one** guild meeting before joining the guild.

ARTICLE III: DUES

- A. **After consulting with committee chairs, the Board of Directors will recommend the amount of dues at the annual meeting in April. The amount will be based on the next year's budget, which shall also be presented at that time. The Board's recommendation for budget and dues will be subject to the approval of a two-thirds vote of a quorum of the current membership at that meeting. (See Article IV. C. for quorum definition.)**
- B. **The proposed budget and recommended dues shall be published in the April newsletter for the consideration of the members.**
- C. **The dues will cover Guild expenses such as programs, events, and other Guild related expenses.**

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

- A. Meetings shall be on the second Wednesday of the month, September through May. Each meeting shall consist of a business segment, a planned program of interest to knitters, and an opportunity to gain inspiration and expertise through a Show and Share.
- B. **The Board of Directors shall have the authority to amend this schedule when necessary.**
- C. **Thirty Percent (30%) of the Guild members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of voting on official business, such as budget and dues and amendment of the by-laws.**
- D. **There shall be an annual business meeting in April. At this meeting the membership shall elect next year's officers, approve next year's budget and the amount of next year's dues, and any suggested revision of the by-laws.**

ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS shall consist of the Offices of President or Co-Presidents, one or more Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer plus standing committee chairs of Membership, Newsletter Editor, Hospitality, Gallery Show, and Web Site Editor. Duties of Board members shall be as follows:

- A. **PRESIDENT**
 - 1. Sets the agenda of meetings.
 - 2. Officiates at Board of Directors meetings and presides at Guild meetings.
 - 3. Determines when and where the Board shall meet.**
 - 4. Submits a "Letter from the President" for each newsletter.

5. Appoints a Nominating Committee **in January.**
6. Appoints chairs of special committees with the approval of the Board.
7. **Appoints a committee of at least three members in good standing for the revision of the By-Laws when revision is deemed necessary.**

B. VICE-PRESIDENT

1. Assumes the duties of the President in President's absence.
2. Plans the Guild programs for the year.
3. Keeps records of programs and program suggestions.
4. **Arranges contracts and payments for speakers with the Treasurer.**
5. Arranges and sets up any special equipment, such as video equipment or projectors **and sound system.**

C. SECRETARY

1. **Takes minutes for the business portion of regular monthly meetings.**
2. Takes minutes at Board of Directors' meetings.
3. **Publishes minutes of monthly meetings in the newsletter—**
4. Conducts Board correspondence.
5. **Supervises publicity for meetings, special speakers and events**

D. TREASURER

1. Keeps Guild bank account.
2. Keeps accounting record for Guild
3. Submits financial reports to the Newsletter **in September, December, and March.**
4. **After consulting with the Board and Committee members, prepares a proposed budget for the annual meeting in April and publishes this budget in the March newsletter.**
5. **Writes checks for approved payments supported by invoices or receipts.**
6. Provides records for annual internal audit.

E. STANDING COMMITTEES

1. MEMBERSHIP

- a. Maintains membership records.
- b. Distributes membership applications and receives completed applications along with payment of annual dues. Turns dues monies over to the Treasurer.
- c. Submits membership information to Newsletter Editor .
- d. Forwards membership updates to Newsletter Editor and Web Editor.
- e. Provides annual membership card for each member.
- f. Emails special announcements when necessary.

2. NEWSLETTER EDITOR

- a. Prepares and **emails or mails** the newsletter to all members from September through June.
- b. Collects information submitted by Board of Directors and Committee chairs for publication.
- c. **Emails or mails special announcements.**

3. HOSPITALITY

- a. Prepares room for each meeting.

- b. Provides nametags and arranges to welcome **and introduce** guests at each meeting.
 - c. Recruits volunteers to provide refreshments for each meeting.
 - d. Provides meeting attendance information to Membership Chair.
 - e. Submits Hospitality article to newsletter.
4. **GALLERY SHOW**
- a. Schedules the dates **and venue for the Gallery show with the director of the exhibition space and informs the membership of the date and place.**
 - b. Assists the Guild with generating a theme for the show.
 - c. Corresponds with other area guilds to invite them to participate **when appropriate.**
 - d. Encourages Guild members to plan special work for the show.
 - e. Collects all items for display.
 - f. Organizes a committee to hang and to dismantle the display.
 - g. Organizes the artists' reception.
 - h. Works with the Secretary to publicize the event.
 - i. **Organizes other displays of members' work at area libraries or other venues.**
5. **WEB SITE EDITOR**
- a. **Manages, updates, and modifies the Guild website as necessary in consultation with Board.**
 - b. **Submits invoices for web page hosting costs to Treasurer for payment.**

ARTICLE VI: ELECTIONS

- A. **The President shall organize a nominating committee composed of at least three members in good standing. This committee shall present a slate of board members at the March meeting. The membership will vote on the proposed slate at the annual meeting in April.**
- B. **Nominations from the floor will be permitted at the April meeting providing consent of nominee has been obtained.**
- C. **Board members will be elected by a simple majority of a quorum present at the April meeting.**
- D. **The Board members will begin their official duties in June.**
- E. **Board members' terms shall run for a year.**

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENT OF THE BY-LAWS

- A. **These By-Laws may be amended, repealed, or altered by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum of the current membership at a meeting.**
- B. **The President may appoint a committee of at least three members in good standing when such amendment is necessary. This committee will arrange to publish its recommendations one month prior to vote.**

Rev. Feb 2010

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/>
- **Loopy Yarns.** 47 West Polk St. Chicago
Phone: (312) 583-9276 - Web: <http://www.loopyyarns.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.

2010 FVKG MEETING DATES

- April 14, 2010
- May 12, 2010

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

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