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FVKG Presidents' Letter

Hi FVKG Knitters!

Can you believe it's May? That means we have come almost full circle in our FVKG year, almost back to the new beginning that starts in June. We think this has been a great year because of:

- * Wonderful programs organized by our VPs, Christy Becker and Linda Jones.
- * Amazing growth in the number of members of the guild, now more than 100
- * The opportunity to see inspirational projects made by our members
- * Fun and fellowship with our sister knitters at FVKG meetings and other times

Thanks to each and every one of you, it has been another good year for the Fox Valley Knitters' Guild. Thanks for joining us to knit and make new friends.

And the knitting will continue during the summer. We continue to have use of the church meeting space all summer on our regular meeting night, the 2nd Wednesday of June, July and August. The "meetings" will be informal with no scheduled program, refreshments, nor guild business. You are welcome to bring your own drinks or snacks. There will be a summer study project for anyone who wants to take part - more about that later in the newsletter. But even if you do not want to work on the summer project, please come to the gatherings anyway.

Speaking of summer --you may have received a mailing for Midwest Stitches scheduled for August 19-22 in Schaumburg. There are lots of classes, the opening ceremony, the style show, and all of those booths in the Market area. It's a fun event to plan for more knitting, learn some new skill and of course acquire more of that great fiber to knit with!! We will look for you there.

And we hope to see you at the May gathering for our potluck and members' sale. Happy knitting!

*Your Presidents,
Dorothy and Gretl*



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.

GUILD MEETING MAY 12TH

We are looking forward to feasting on all the wonderful food our members will be bringing to the May potluck. Remember you can bring either an appetizer or a dessert to the meeting. Thank you to all who brought food and beverages to our last meeting. They were delicious.

---Barb Harris, Hospitality Chair

KNITTERLY SPRING CLEANING

This is the time to cull your stash, clean your yarn closet, sort your needles and dust your bookshelves. Is there some wonderful stuff that is just sitting around waiting to get into somebody's hands and truth to be told, your hands are simply not anxious to embrace it right now--possibly, maybe never. You bought it with good intentions and it gave you opportunities to imagine wonderful projects. But, the enchantment has ended and it is taking up space that could be filled with other yarn! Onward to the May Yarn (and other knitting stuff) Grand Opportunity Sale!

All we ask is that you bring your yarn nicely packaged (zip lock plastic bags are encouraged), well-labeled with your name and your price, and change for shopping and purchasing. If you mark items at \$.50 you will need quarters to make change.

You will put your well-marked items on the sale tables. At the end of the night, we will introduce the sellers so the money can exchange hands.

Pricing is always tricky. We knitters will be looking for bargains, but that encompasses a wide range of prices. Sometimes, it is useful to put the retail price on your label along with your sale price. Often, pricing depends on whether you will mind taking it back home if it doesn't sell. Of course, you can always try to negotiate a better price. Some magazines are collectible. Some might not sell for very low prices...

And, besides cleaning our closets, our member vendors will be bringing their wares, too!! We look forward to great stuff from Lesley Edmondson (Wool and Company), Emily Parson (Yes, she will have her Magic Balls!), Mary and Elizabeth Stough, Esther's Place (Natasha Lehrer), etc.

---Christy Becker and Linda Jones, Vice-President/Programs

PROPOSED BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS

*** UH OH! I AM SO SORRY! If you picked up a copy of the PROPOSED BY-LAWS at the April meeting, it was the wrong version. THE RIGHT VERSION APPEARED IN THE APRIL NEWSLETTER. My fault totally. If you want me to email you a copy of the right proposal before the May meeting, please email me at gkramer@foxvalley.net and let me know. Again, I am SO sorry! ***

At the May Guild meeting our big item of business is to discuss and then vote on accepting the FVKG amended by-laws. I hope you will have a chance to look at the current by-laws (online at www.fvkg.com under the tab for Members) and at the proposed by-laws as they appeared in the April newsletter. I will bring some copies of each to the May meeting in case you do not have a chance to look at them before then. There are a few changes I want to be sure to tell you about in this article.

First, the old Articles I and II are combined in the proposed by-laws as "Article I: Name and Purpose."

Second, the old "Article V: Dues" stated a dollar amount of the dues, but the proposed article does not. A new section has been added to the proposed "Article III: Dues" that describes the process for changing the dues amount. If we accept this amendment, the by-laws do not need to be changed if there is a need to increase or decrease the memberships dues.

Third, the proposed “Article IV: Meetings” defines a quorum for the Guild and sets April as the annual business meeting. A quorum is not defined in the current by-laws, nor is a business meeting called for.

Fourth, the proposed “Article V: Board of Directors” renames these positions. They are currently called Officers, not Board of Directors. Also the proposed “Article V: Board of Directors” adds the Web Editor to the Board. Within this proposed Article V there are also a few additions and changes to the Board position responsibilities.

Fifth for consideration are a few proposed changes to “Article VI: Elections.” There is a proposed process for the creation of the nominating committee. The proposal states that the committee will bring the slate to the membership in March instead of April, for an April vote. The amended article also states that the slate will be elected by a simple majority of a quorum present at the April meeting. This is not included in the current by-laws.

The sixth change that is being proposed to the by-laws is the addition of “Article VII: Amendment of the By-Laws.” (This is MISTAKENLY numbered ARTICLE VIII in the April newsletter, AGAIN MY FAULT. SORRY!) The current by-laws have no provision for making changes to the Guild by-laws.

Your current Board requests that at the May Guild meeting you consider and vote to accept the proposed FVKG By-Laws as amended. Thanks so much for making your way through this long newsletter article.

---Gretl Kramer

SUMMER 2010 KNITTING STUDY SUBJECT: DOUBLE KNITTING

When you were younger, did you ever make double knitted potholders with your mom or grandmother or a favorite aunt? Some knitters have memories of doing this. Can you remember how to do it? This summer we will take a trip into the world of Double Knitting.

During June, July, and August, we'll continue to meet on Guild nights at the St. Charles Episcopal Church for very informal gatherings. You can come and work on whatever you like, or you can try double knitting. Anyone who has experience with double knitting is welcome to contribute your knowledge, tips and tricks for the rest of us.

The term “double knitting” is used for a couple of knitting things. One is to describe a weight of yarn, sometimes abbreviated DK. DK weight yarn is a little thinner than worsted weight and a little thicker than sport weight. In patterns you may see it assigned a standardized yarn weight number of “3.” But the phrase “double knitting” is also used to describe a knitting technique for knitting two layers of fabric at the same time. That is the “double knitting” that we will play with this summer.

You can dive as deeply as you want or just stay in the shallow end of the double knitting pool. We'll start with some simple double knitting and move on to more complex applications. There will be examples to look at and analyze, books and articles to look at, and samples to knit. Everyone is encouraged to contribute resources, projects and ideas. This promises to be a fun and mind-bending summer study topic.

Here are 2 little patterns you can start with. If they seem confusing we can tackle them together at the June meeting. And then we can try to move on to more complicated double knitting. Then maybe the bravest among us will want to try knitting one sock inside another, at the same time. This magical project makes use of double knitting techniques.

Double Knitting Patterns for Summer 2010

PATTERN #1

Try this on your own and bring it to our June gathering with questions, suggestions, and to share what you do.

Little Double Knitted Purl Pouch

Materials: Small amount of DK or worsted weight yarn and appropriate sized needles, any kind.

Abbreviations:

R1 Row 1
k knit
sl slip as if to purl
wyib with yarn in back

Instructions:

Cast on 24 stitches
R1: * K1, sl 1 wyib. Repeat to end. (End with sl 1)
Repeat R1 for about 3-4 inches.
Bring on needles to next meeting to bind off.

Tips for Pattern #1:

*Knit with yarn in back of work.
*Slip purlwise with yarn in back (do not bring yarn to front of work at all)
*Start new row with K1 after moving yarn to back around right end of knitting, keeping it under right hand needle.
*The stitches will snug up in pairs, so be sure you don't accidentally knit or slip 2 together.

PATTERN #2

Little Double Knitted Knit Pouch

Materials: Small amount of DK or worsted weight yarn and appropriate sized needle, any kind.

Instructions:

Cast on 24 stitches
R1: * K1, sl 1 wyif. Repeat to end. (End with sl 1 wyif)
Repeat R1 for about 3-4 inches.
Bring on needles to next meeting to bind off.

Tips for Pattern #2:

*Knit with yarn in back of work.
*Slip purlwise with yarn in front (bring yarn to front of work before slipping purlwise, then move yarn to back before knitting next stitch)
*Start new row with K1 after moving yarn to back around right end of knitting, keeping yarn under right hand needle.
*The stitches will snug up in pairs, so be sure you don't accidentally knit or slip 2 together.

New patterns to come at June meeting!

- Gretl Kramer

MEMBERSHIP

We had 2 new members join up in April:

- Lorna Marquis
- Nancy McFarland

Welcome to our Guild! There are now a total of 110 members.

---Judy Jasper, Membership

KNITALONG NEWS

- We are still meeting at Borders each Weds. morning at 9:30 and haven't decided yet whether we are meeting during the summer. The new mitten projects are coming along nicely.
Hope to see you there whether you're doing mittens or just working on your own projects.
---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

SPOTLIGHT ON RECIPES

Below is the recipe from Carolyn Swenson for her Apricot Bars.

We also had requests for the Artichoke Spinach dip recipe that Jan Krueger brought. She says the mix comes in a jar from the Original Juan Company. You can buy it online from <http://www.originaljuan.com/>. The recipe says to use 1/4 of the jar for each batch. She gets 5 or 6 batches from 1 jar.

---Barb Harris, Hospitality Chair

APRICOT BARS

FILLING:

2 (6oz.) pkg. dried apricots,
finely chopped (2 1/2 cups) I used California apricots as they are more tart
1 1/2 to 2 cups of water (enough to cover the chopped apricots)
3/4 cup sugar

BASE:

1 3/4 cups flour
1 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
3/4 cup butter or margarine
1 cup coconut
3/4 cup chopped walnuts

In medium saucepan, combine apricots and water. Cook over medium heat 10 to 15 minutes or until apricots are very soft, stirring occasionally. Stir in 3/4 cup sugar.

Heat oven to 400 F. Grease bottom only of 13 x 9 baking pan. In large bowl, combine flour, 1 cup sugar, salt, and baking soda. Using a pastry blender or fork, cut in butter/margarine until mixture is crumbly. Add coconut and walnuts. Press 3 cups of crumb mixture in bottom of greased pan. Bake at 400 F for 10 minutes. Remove from oven. Spread apricot filling evenly over crust. Sprinkle with remaining crumb mixture. Bake at 400 F for an additional 15 to 20 minutes until golden brown. Cool. Cut into bars.

Enjoy,
Carolyn Swenson

SUMMER IS FOR SOCKS

Book Review: Three Sock Books for Warm Weather Knitting

During the past few weeks I have been looking at three new sock books. I say “new” because they are new to me although two were published in 2009 and just one this year. All three have intriguing and even some strange patterns in them, and many of them have called me to knit them.

The first book is called *Knitted Comfort for the Sole: 22 Innovative Designs for Socks, Slippers and More*, by Lena Maikon who learned to knit from her grandmother when she was a child in Russia. Her designs are fanciful and created out of yarns ranging from fine to bulky weight, smooth to fluffy, knitted and crocheted, with buttons, beads, leather laces, fringe, and crocheted flowers and even eyes and ears. There are knee socks, leggings, short little socklets, and slippers along with some that look almost like “normal” socks. I like the “Apple of Your Eye Socks” the best.

They are knit with a mohair/acrylic blend, and one sock is yellow with apple green bobbles, heel and toe while its partner is green with yellow bobbles, heel and toe. There is a lot of fun knitting in this book.

Book two is by Linda Kopp and is titled *The Joy of Sox: 30+ Must-Knit Designs*, published in 2009 by Lark Books. This is a hilarious book, ala *The Joy of Sex*, and filled with wonderful patterns and clever photographs. In addition to the great patterns, there are little articles including one written by designer Kathryn Alexander called "My Love Affair with Socks," and one by humorist Laurie Perry, of the website *crazyauntpurl.com*, called "My First Time" about the first time she ever knit socks. The socks have been given names like "Blue Crush," "Puppy Love," "Quickie Socks," "Sole Mates," "A Roll in the Hay," and "Main Squeeze." There are beautiful lace socks, colorwork socks, cable socks, pedicure/spa socks, thigh highs, and Fair Isle socks. My favorite pair is the very beautiful honeycomb lace, beaded and ruffled sock called "Sweet Nothings." In the sample they are knit with a cashmere/microfiber blend white yarn, and they are beyond lovely. They are not on my needles yet, but they will be before the sock year is over.

The last book in my pile is published by Martingale & Company and is called *Sock Club: Join the Knitting Adventure*. It is by Charlene Schurch and Beth Parrot who have written other sock books both alone and together. This new book, published in 2010, is a compilation of sock patterns that were originally written for sock club and knit-alongs, both face-to-face and on the Internet, by designers from all over the world. Schurch and Parrott have pulled together these patterns to celebrate knitting in community, much as we do in our Guild. So if you choose to knit any of these patterns, you will be joining a group of knitters who have worked on these socks together within the past few years. There is a discussion in the book about six methods for making different sizes of the same sock, important because, of course, one size does not fit all. Interestingly, the sock patterns in the book are arranged by sizing method. For example, there are three socks that are sized by changing the number of background stitches around the single centered motif, so these patterns are grouped together. There are four patterns sized by changing the number of stitches between the pattern elements all the way around the sock. And there are five patterns that change the size by changing either the needle size or the weight of the yarn and therefore can keep the pattern instructions identical for all sizes.

The first pattern I have knit from this book is called Gluttony. It was one of the patterns from the Seven Deadly Sins Sock Club! You can guess what the other six sock patterns were called. (One of them, Greed, is also in this book.) The Gluttony sock is a very textured pattern knit with hand dyed yarns that are used in a way that gradually changes the sock color from top to toe. When I finished the first sock, I thought it would be difficult to get myself to start the second one, but that was not the case. The second sock flew off my needles much faster than any other second sock ever has. I did think there was an error in the pattern, and I contacted the designer to ask her. She answered my questions but not really to my satisfaction, so I just continued as I thought the pattern should go, and all was fine. I do love these socks, and I look forward to making other socks from the book, *Sock Club*.

Socks are perfect summer knitting projects. They are small and light and travel very well. They do not make the knitter too warm as does a large sweater growing into your lap. Socks can be quick projects, just right to work on between all our summer activities. So check out these sock books and see if any of the patterns inspire your summer knitting.

---Gretl Kramer

2010 FVKG SUMMER INFORMAL MEETING DATES

- June 9, 2010
- July 14, 2010
- August 11, 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

TREASURER'S REPORT

FVKG Treasurer's Report	Guild Fund	2010 Fall Retreat Fund	Ending Balance
Balance Mar 31, 2010	\$ 3,435.24	\$ 353.72	\$ 3,788.96
Income:			
Membership	\$ 30.00		
Offsite event - bus trip	\$ 10.00		
Retreat 2010		\$ 120.00	
April Income	\$ 40.00	\$ 120.00	
Expenses:			
Office-by-laws,survey copies	\$ (15.00)		
Program	\$ (75.00)		
Rent (St. Charles Episcopal Church), table setup	\$ (70.00)		
April Expenses	\$ (160.00)		
Balance Apr 30, 2010	\$ 3,315.24	\$ 473.72	\$ 3,788.96

Estimated expenses for the months May - August:

Rent	\$300
Hospitality May meeting	50
Newsletter	35

Total estimated expenses May-August \$385

---Diane Evinger, FVKG Treasurer

OPEN HOUSE AT ESTHER'S PLACE ON SATURDAY, MAY 8TH

Esther's Place is having an open house/farm day on Saturday May 8th from 10 - 4pm. Visit the lambs, sample local foods, tour the farm, needle felt a veggie pin and enjoy the fresh country air. Esther's Place is located in Big Rock, IL (201 W. Galena St.)
For more information check their website at <http://www.esthersplacefibers.com/> call (630) 556-9665 or email Natasha at natasha@esthersplacefibers.ccsend.com

FIBER EVENTS

- Midwest Fiber & Folk Art Fair. July 16-18, 2010. Lake County Fairgrounds, Grayslake, IL. <http://www.fiberandfolk.com>
- Stitches Midwest. August 19-22, 2010. Schaumburg Convention Center, Schaumburg, IL. <http://www.knittinguniverse.com>
- Michigan Fiber Festival. August 20-22, 2010. Allegan County Fairgrounds, Allegan, MI. <http://michiganfiberfestival.info>
- Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival. September 10-12, 2010. Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Jefferson, WI. <http://www.wisconsinssheepandwoolfestival.com>
- Fiber in the Park. September 18, 2010. Shabbona Park, 4165 E. 16th Road Earlville, IL 60518. <http://fiberinthepark.com/>
- Prairie Star Quilters Guild's Prairie Treasures Quilt Show. October 15-16, 2010. DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, IL. <http://www.prairiestar.net/quiltshow.html>
- SOAR (Spin-Off Autumn Retreat). October 28-30, 2010. Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan, WI. <http://www.interweavesoar.com>

DONNA'S JEWELRY BOX

A new business, Donna's Jewelry Box, recently opened a few doors east of the Arcada Theater in St. Charles. The owner has started to sell buttons in her shop and thought Guild members might be interested in what she has.

---Mary Louise Watkins

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) 232-9915**
- **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.

**new phone number

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