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## FVKG'S PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Fellow Knitters,

Looking out the window today, I noticed all the wonderful colors of Fall. Trees turning red, yellow, orange and brown. Mums in a wide range of colors. The wind is blowing and people are already wearing coats and hats to stay warm. Makes me start to think about all the knitting I want to do for Christmas and the time I have left to get it all done.

This month is our annual Guild Retreat to the Stronghold in Oregon, Illinois. The committee has been working hard all summer to get everything ready for our fun get away. I have been told that there are only a few rooms left to fill so if you are interested in going, please contact Gretl Kramer.

Don't forget about the "Brown Bag Hat Surprise Exchange" that will start this month. If you would like to participate, select a yarn for your hat, put it into a brown paper bag along with a slip of paper with your name. If you would like the hat to be for a man, woman or child, please include this on the slip of paper. Bags will be turned in at the start of the October meeting and you will pick up a bag to take home after the meeting. Then at the Holiday Party in December, you will bring the bag with the finished hat and return it to the owner.

Thank you to Jen Unger Kroc for her presentation about TKGGA and the Master Knitter Program. After hearing about the program, I hope that some of our members will take advantage of it and progress to become Master Knitters.

Well, time for some hot apple cider, a warm blanket and my knitting. Hope to see all of you at the next meeting.

Your Fellow Knitter,

---Sandy Andrews

## SOCKTOBERFEST IN OCTOBER AT THE FOX VALLEY KNITTERS' GUILD

In response to many requests on the members' survey taken last spring, the October meeting of the Fox Valley Knitters' Guild will be all about techniques for socks. And as you knitters know, many "sock techniques" can be transferred to all kinds of other projects, and we hope there will something new for everyone.

The format for the program will be like last year's techniques fair. There will be stations set up for demonstrations, and if you wish, you'll be able to try the techniques. Techniques being demonstrated include different cast-ons, even one for toe-up socks, 1 and 2 socks on 1 and 2 circular needles, Kitchener stitch, colorful socks and more.

If you want to do more than just watch, bring these supplies and try out what you'll see:

- some sport or worsted weight yarns, 1 or more colors
- a set of double pointed needles appropriate for your yarn size
- 2 circular needles of approximately the same size, 32" or longer
- a yarn sewing up needle

If you would like to perfect your Kitchener stitch, do the following homework: cast on 20 stitches on a double pointed needle and knit 4 or 5 rows in stockinette stitch. Leave the knitting on the needle with a long tail, and be sure to bring a sewing up needle.

The vendor for our meeting will be our own Sophie's Toes yarn dyer extraordinaire, Emily Parson. Emily will bring a collection of her fingering weight yarns that are great for socks, of course, but also wonderful for shawls, hats, scarves, gloves, blankets, and even sweaters. Emily will also bring her worsted weight lovely yarns. I can't wait to see what's new in her beautiful line.

---Gretl Kramer

## **REMINDER ABOUT NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER**

The November meeting presentation will be on natural dyeing. Our speaker, Stefania Isaacson, will be here with information on natural dye sources, dyeing techniques and lots of sample to look at. It is sure to be an inspirational evening.

And to take it further and let us give natural dyeing a try, Stefania is offering us a 6 hour hands-on dye workshop on Saturday, December 11 at the Fine Line Dye Studio. The fee for her workshop is \$70 as long as we have about 15 participants. Please email Gretl [gkramer@foxvalley.net](mailto:gkramer@foxvalley.net) or ask at the Guild meeting if you have any questions. We will need a headcount shortly after the October meeting.

---Gretl Kramer

## **BROWN BAG SECRET HAT PROJECT**

Let me try to unravel the confusion:

Have you ever been a Secret Santa? Here's a Knitter's Secret Santa project for you! You can give a gift and receive one, too.

1. Pick some yarn that might make a nice hat, put it in a bag, put your name in the bag and bring it to the **October** meeting. Don't write anything on the outside of the bag, please. You can even staple the bag shut if you like.
2. If you bring a bag, you'll take home someone else's bag.
3. You will decide on a pattern for the hat yarn you bring home and will knit it. Then you'll bring it, finished and still in the bag, to the December meeting.
4. At the December meeting, you will get **your** bag back with a completed hat that will be a surprise gift to you. (You will know the yarn ahead of time, of course, because you picked it out, but the pattern will be a surprise because your Secret Santa Knitter will have picked that out.)
5. Participation is voluntary! Other guilds have done brown bag exchanges like this, but I think this is our first time. Let's see how it goes.

I will bring more brown paper bags to the October meeting, so if you don't have one yet, just bring your yarn wrapped up in something and get a bag from me there at the meeting. Email me if you have any questions: [gkramer@foxvalley.net](mailto:gkramer@foxvalley.net)

Thanks!

---Gretl Kramer

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Hello Fellow Knitters,

It is membership renewal time. So far over 67 members have renewed. It's not too late to renew! The membership form is attached to this newsletter. Please bring your \$30 check & membership form to the next meeting if you haven't renewed yet.

If you want to mail it, print out the attached membership form, fill it out and mail your check to me.

At the end of October, I will be updating the email member list with the new members. Don't miss out on your newsletters and other member benefits.

We still have some knitting gauges for sale. They will be at the check-in desk in October, and can be purchased for \$3. Please try to have exact change in cash if you want one.

---Judy Jasper, Membership

### **FVKG GALLERY SHOW PLANNED FOR 2011**

Date: Late September through the end of October 2011  
Location: Fine Line Creative Arts Center, St.Charles, IL  
Theme: Back to the Land

The gallery show will feature different categories for work with the theme running through out the show.

The categories consist of:

- -Green Peas (small and large articles with green yarns used)
- -These boots were made for walkin' (a collection of socks and footwear)
- -Timeworn Traditions (heirloom patterns or styled garments)
- -All Creatures Great and Small (work made with natural animal fibers)
- -Cloud Watching (work inspired by clouds, sunsets, sunrises, storms, places, nature, etc)

The show will have many props that will support the theme and display the items in a fun, eclectic fashion. We'll also have an opening reception that featuring foods grown locally, working with donated materials and labor from community businesses. The event will not only expose the audience to the work of our Guild, but interest the media and draw intrigue from the green movement. It will be a display of nostalgia, fashion, art and culture in a unique, homogenized symphony.

--- *Natasha Lehrer*

### **HOSPITALITY REPORT**

Thank you to everyone who brought refreshments for our first meeting of the year. We are looking forward to the German themed treats in October. If you would like to add to the fun, please contact me at 617-308-6461 or lof314@yahoo.com.

---*Stephanie Lofland*

### **KNITTING SALE**

Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010, 8:30am-3pm  
Sunday, Oct. 10, 2010, 10am-noon

522 South 14<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Charles, IL  
(630) 858-1730 for information  
Cash and Checks accepted

This sale of yarn/books etc is from the stash of one of our charter members, Lee Olson

**FVKG MEETING DATES**

- October 13
- November 10
- December 8
- January 12
- February 9
- March 9
- April 13
- May 11

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 6:30pm

**FALL KNITTING RETREAT**

For those who have registered it is almost time for our retreat. As you know, it will be the weekend of October 22-24 at the Stronghold Conference Center in Oregon, IL. Gretl will be sending out an email to all the participants and will also have copies available at our Guild meeting next week.

**FVKG TREASURER'S REPORT**

SEPTEMBER 2010	Guild Fund	Retreat Fund	Ending Balance
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$2,392.24</b>	<b>\$473.72</b>	<b>\$2,865.96</b>
<b>Income:</b>			
Library	\$10.00		\$10.00
Membership	\$1,770.00		\$1,770.00
Needle gauges	\$69.00		\$69.00
Nametags	\$50.00		\$50.00
Retreat		\$1,803.00	\$1,803.00
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Hospitality	\$(4.74)		\$(4.74)
Meeting	\$(35.63)		\$(35.63)
Program-Jen Unger Kroc	\$(75.00)		\$(75.00)
Rent (St. Charles Episcopal Church)	\$(75.00)		\$(75.00)
Retreat		\$(1,707.50)	\$(1,707.50)
<b>Balance September 30, 2010</b>	<b>\$4,100.87</b>	<b>\$569.22</b>	<b>\$4,670.09</b>

Our membership year begins Sept. 2010 and ends Aug. 2011. The month of September generates the largest increase in income. Funds in the account will be used for monthly operating expenses and programs.

---Diane Evinger, FVKG Treasurer

## SNUG HUGS, A KNITTING FOR CHARITY OPPORTUNITY

Merlin 200,000 Mile Shops are again sponsoring a drive for knitted or crocheted items for children from newborn to 18 years old. Their celebratory event is scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup> at Bethlehem Lutheran Church located north of the Episcopal Church where the Guild meets on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. (Route 25) in St. Charles. Items may also be dropped off at Merlin shops, or their corporate office or mailed between November 1 and December 8. Below is the registration form.

### 14th Annual Snug Hugs for Kids Crochet & Knit-A-Thon™

#### *What is Snug Hugs for Kids?*

Snug Hugs for Kids™ is a winter clothing drive that benefits the children and their families served by Children's Home + Aid ([www.childrenshomeandaid.org](http://www.childrenshomeandaid.org)).

Founded in 1883, Children's Home + Aid is committed to giving help, hope, and opportunity to children with a variety of emotional, physical, and behavioral needs. Each year they help nearly 40,000 children and families in Illinois with services such as adoption, foster care, education, counseling, and child abuse prevention.

Knitters and Crocheters from across the nation are invited to participate in the Crochet & Knit-A-Thon and use their talents to craft mittens, hats, scarves, afghans, sweaters, blankets, socks, slippers, & booties to fit children that are newborn to 18 years old.

All items will be distributed by Merlin's 20th Annual Snug Hugs for Kids™ ([www.merlins.com](http://www.merlins.com)).

#### Snug Hugs for Kids Crochet & Knit-A-Thon Registration

##### *TO PARTICIPATE:*

*If you would like to participate in the 14th Annual Crochet & Knit-A-Thon, please fill out this form, and mail or fax it back to us. Please copy and share this form with your club, friends, or guild members.*

Thank you for your support.

#### 2010 Committee

*Donna Jajich*  
Merlin 200,000 Mile Shops

*Penny McDowell*  
Merlin 200,000 Mile Shops

Mail completed form to:  
Snug Hugs for Kids/CKAT  
Merlin's Franchising, Inc.  
525 Tyler Rd., Suite S  
St. Charles, IL 60174-3363

Or fax 24 hours a day to  
630 208-8601

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#### PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE/DAY: \_\_\_\_\_ EVENING: \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB/GUILD/ASSN.: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please check (as applicable):

- I would like to receive Snug Hugs for Kids tags for my donated items.  
Please send \_\_\_\_\_ tags to me.
- I will mail my donation to Merlin. Please send me a mailing label.
- I would like to attend the CKAT event on November 20, (9 a.m to 3 p.m.) at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Charles. Please send me information (will be mailed in November 2010).
- I am interested in spending a portion of the day volunteering at the event. (check in, item display, etc.) Please contact me.  
Please note: You will be contacted in November 2010.

## **WE HAVE A WINNER!**

Congratulations to Phyllis Deerinck shown below wearing the item she knitted, embellished, and modeled at the 2010 Stitches Midwest Student Banquet in August. She was selected for the Editor's Choice Award and received a \$100 gift certificate. She is an inspiration to us all!



### **FIBER EVENTS**

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| October 15-16  | Prairie Star Quilt Guild Quilt Show<br>DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL<br><a href="http://www.prairiestar.net">www.prairiestar.net</a>            |
| October 24-30  | SOAR - Spin-Off Autumn Retreat<br>Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan, WI<br><a href="http://www.soarblog.com">www.soarblog.com</a>                                |
| November 20-21 | Holiday Open House at the Mill<br>Blackberry Ridge Woolen Mill<br>Mt Horeb, WI<br><a href="http://www.blackberry-ridge.com">www.blackberry-ridge.com</a> |

## 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
- **Stitches in Time** 300 W. Washington, Oregon, IL  
Phone: (815) 732-4599
- **Wool and Company** 107A West Main Street, St. Charles, IL  
Phone: 630 444-0480 - Web: <http://www.woolandcompany.net/> \*\*

\*These shops are special because they offer discounts to FVKG members.  
\*\*New location and phone number as of September 1, 2010

### FVKG Board

- President: Sandy Andrews
- Vice President/Programs: Gretl Kramer
- Treasurer: Diane Evinger
- Secretary: Kathy Schooley
- Hospitality: Stephanie Lofland
- Membership: Judy Jasper
- Newsletter: Linda McEwan
- Website: vacant
- 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

### 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.

### Newsletter comments, suggestions or article ideas?

Please contact me at [lmcewan@foxvalley.net](mailto: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. 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

**If you mail the form, and want your card mailed back to you, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Otherwise you can pick up your card at the next Guild meeting.**

DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Ravelry id (if you have one) \_\_\_\_\_

Month of Birth (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MEMBER????

YES/NO

If yes, do you want a nametag? \$10 additional fee.

YES/NO

NAME as you want it to appear on the NAMETAG:

\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about our Guild?

\_\_\_\_\_

+++++

### MEMBERSHIP/TREASURER CHAIRPERSON USE ONLY

Dues \_\_\_\_\_

Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

Cash

\_\_\_\_\_

Membership card given? YES/NO

Member gift given? YES/NO

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