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## FVKG'S PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Fellow Knitters,

Welcome back to the Fox Valley Knitting Guild. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board for taking time out of their busy summer schedules to meet with me and go over plans for the coming year. It is our hope that the members will enjoy the programs planned for this year and join us each month.

What a fun summer it has been for knitters. The Midwest Fiber and Arts Festival in July, Stitches Midwest, the Chicago Area Yarn Crawl, Stitch-n-Pitch at the Cougars Game in August and of course, Wool & Company's move to St. Charles. And now we are looking forward to October and the Guild Retreat.

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer.

*Your Fellow Knitter,  
Sandy*

## PROGRAM NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER

"What is the Master Knitter program? What does it take to become a certified Master Knitter? Why are there three levels, and why in the world does it involve one argyle sock? Does my work have to be perfect? What if I've never sewn a seam before? What's all the writing about? Are the reviewers really the knitting police? Why would anyone put themselves through such a crazy process?" These and other burning questions will be addressed at the September Guild meeting by Jen Unger Kroc, a TKGGA certified Master Knitter and co-Chair of the Master Knitter Program. She will show examples of her own work, including the original Fair Isle stocking cap and Aran sweater which were part of her final requirements for completing the program. Recent revisions to the three levels and helpful hints for aspiring Master Knitters will be included

in the presentation, along with time to ask questions and share experiences regarding the process of becoming a certified Master Knitter.

---Gretl Kramer

## JEN'S RECOMMENDED REFERENCE BOOK LIST

- *Vogue Knitting*
- *Montse Stanley's Knitter's Handbook*
- *The Knitter's Handbook*, from Knitter's Magazine/XXR Books (the red and black spiral bound book)
- Nancie M. Wiseman's *The Knitter's Book of Finishing Techniques*
- Janet Szabo's *Aran Sweater Design*
- Maggie Righetti's *Knitting in Plain English*
- Barbara Walker's *Treasuries*

Of course there are countless more excellent references, but I found these are among the books I used the most.

---Jen Unger Kroc

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

We are very excited to announce the November program and a follow-up activity coming in December. Stefania Isaacson of St. Charles will be with us on November 10, 2010, to talk about natural dyeing. Then, on Saturday, December 11, she will lead a 6 hour, hands-on Introduction to Natural Dyeing workshop in the Fine Line Dye Studio. The workshop is limited to 15 people. If you are interested, please let Gretl Kramer know at the September meeting or by email (gkramer@foxvalley.net). With 15 participants, the cost, including materials, will be \$70. If there are fewer than 15, we will adjust the cost per person. If there are enough people to fill two workshops, we can schedule a second one, also in December.

---Gretl Kramer

## **BROWN BAG KNITTED HAT SURPRISE EXCHANGE STARTS IN OCTOBER**

Brown bag knitting at its finest! Get ready for a new knitting adventure. This is your opportunity to have a Guild member knit something for you and for you to do the same! If you wish to participate, select enough yarn to be knit into a hat. Put the yarn into a brown paper bag, and write your name on a slip of paper and put it in the bag. If you like, you can specify you want a hat for a man, or a woman or a child by writing that on a note and putting it in the bag. But if you want, you can leave that decision up to your knitter, the person who takes your bag. DO NOT write anything on the outside of the bag. Turn in your bag at the beginning of the October meeting. After all the bags have been turned in and tallied, you'll pick up someone else's bag to take home that night.

Between the October and the December meetings, knit a hat from the yarn in the bag you take. If you need a hat pattern, there will be some available as well as some books of patterns that you can borrow. Don't worry if you need help. There will be Guild members willing to assist you.

In December, at the Holiday Party, bring the bag with the finished hat in it. During the party, we will gift our bags with the finished hat to the rightful owners! I can't wait to take pictures of all the knitting.

---Gretl Kramer

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Hello Fellow Knitters,

It is membership renewal time! That exciting time of year when we all have to pay \$30 to remain a member in our wonderful Knitting Guild. There are so many benefits to being a member:

- Wonderful and exciting programs each month
- A chance to get inspired by your fellow members
- A chance to inspire your fellow members
- A great social activity
- Discounts at many, many local yarn stores (you will probably get your \$30 back in no time)
- This year we will be having our gallery show at the Fine Line - a chance to show off your knitted masterpiece in an art show setting
- An opportunity to join our annual knitting retreat and other outings
- An exciting member gift when you renew!
- Yarn shopping opportunities with vendors at the monthly meetings
- .... And so much more!

Please bring your \$30 check or cash along with the filled out membership form (attached to the newsletter) to the September Guild Meeting. You will receive your membership card and member gift at the meeting.

If you can't make the meeting - send me your check and membership form in the mail. If you include a self-addressed stamped envelope, I will mail your card back to you. The member gift cannot be mailed, you will have to pick that up the next time you come to a meeting.

If you want a nametag, include an extra \$10, and we will order one for you. They are magnetic, so will not ruin your beautiful knitted items.

At the September meeting, we will also be selling the leftover member gifts from last year. These are Nancy's KnitKnacks knitting gauge, and you can get one for just \$3. Everyone can use more knitting gauges, you need one in every project bag. If you want one, please have \$3 in cash so we can keep this money separate from the member renewal money.

Thanks so much for being such a great group, and I hope to see you this year!

---Judy Jasper, Membership

## **FALL KNITTING RETREAT UPDATE**

The fall knitting retreat is less than 2 months away, and it's time to finalize our last details and make our second payment to Stronghold and give them our head count. If you have already paid the \$50 deposit, below is information about paying the remaining balance at the September meeting. If you have not yet reserved a spot for the retreat, you may do that and pay at the September meeting.

### WHAT IS IT?

Fox Valley Knitters' Guild Fall 2010 Knitting Retreat at the Stronghold Conference Center, Oregon, IL - October 22-24, 2010.

We have 16 double rooms in Heritage Lodge with private baths, two large gathering rooms, one with a fireplace. We will have meals in the Brubaker Center. The retreat opens at 4 pm on Friday afternoon. You can check in any time after 4. Our checkout time is 2 on Sunday afternoon. The meals included are breakfast, lunch and supper on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. Between the time you arrive and the time you leave the activities include knitting, shopping in the local stores, walks, maybe dinner out on Friday night, some kind of program, lots of goodies, and lots of laughs. Stronghold in October is a beautiful place.

### HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The cost for 2 nights, 4 meals, program, goodies, and camaraderie is:

1) \$120 per person in a shared double room - If you have paid the \$50 deposit, **the balance of \$70 is due at the September 2010 meeting.**

2) \$200 in a room alone. If you have paid the \$50 deposit, **the balance of \$150 is due at the September 2010 meeting.**

### WHO IS GOING?

So far, 18 of our members have signed up and paid the \$50 deposit.

There are 5 rooms still available, so we can add **you!** Please reserve your spot and pay at the September meeting. Checks made out to Fox Valley Knitters' Guild.

### DAYTIMERS ALLOWED? YES!

If you cannot stay overnight, you are welcome to come for the day on Saturday. Meals (breakfast 8 a.m., dinner 12:15 p.m. and supper 5:30 p.m.) are available for \$8.00 each. Please sign up for the meals you want and pay at the September meeting so I can give a head count and payment to Stronghold.

### RETREAT ACTIVITY:

There will be a program Saturday after the midday meal about Bohus knitting, its history, the technique and, if you would like to buy a kit while you are there, a little project to knit.

### EXTRAS:

Friday evening seated massages available to help you settle in for a relaxing weekend.

10-minute sessions for \$15 each. Please sign up and pay at the September or October meeting so I can give the massage therapist, Betsy Pool, our head (back!) count.

Ready for some Fall Fun? Let's go!

---Gretl Kramer

## **KNITALONG NEWS**

Last year some of us took on the challenging task of Vivian Hoxbro projects. For those who finished their projects, please bring them to the September meeting for Show and Tell. Some of us also did some summer lace knitting. Bring those projects in too!

It's time to start looking forward to a Fall Knitalong project. I like a challenge, so I'm thinking in terms of Fair Isle, or Bohus Stickning (I took this class at Stitches this year), or intarsia, or .... I'm open to suggestions too. Let me know if you have any exciting ideas for a Knitalong. I work during the day, so evenings work for me.

---Judy Jaspers

## **CHARITY KNITTING**

Recently, I spoke with the Batavia office for the American Cancer Society to determine if there were any knitted items they would need for cancer and breast cancer patients. They stated that the patients were requesting chemo caps, breast prosthesis and knit ski hats for men (like the helmet liners for the Troops). Listed below are two patterns that I located on Ravelry. If you know of any other patterns, please use them.

- › Elann has a chemo turban "Esprit Chemo Turban" which can be made out of any soft yarn.  
[www.elann.com/Commerce.web](http://www.elann.com/Commerce.web)
- › Knitty.com has "Tit Bits" which is a breast prosthesis that can be knitted in soft yarn.  
[www.knitty.com/ISSUEfall05/PATTbits.html](http://www.knitty.com/ISSUEfall05/PATTbits.html)

I will deliver all finished items to the American Cancer Society in Batavia when I receive them.

---Sandy Andrews

### **FVKG MEETING DATES**

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| • September 8 | • January 12 |
| • October 13  | • February 9 |
| • November 10 | • March 9    |
| • December 8  | • 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

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

<b>FVKG Treasurer's Report</b>	<b>Guild Fund</b>	<b>Retreat Fund</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
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JUNE 2010			
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$3,149.12</b>	<b>\$473.72</b>	<b>\$3,622.84</b>
<b>Income:</b>			
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Rent (St. Charles Episcopal Church)	\$(75.00)	\$-	\$(75.00)
Nametags	\$(9.35)		\$(9.35)
<b>Balance June 30, 2010</b>	<b>\$3,064.77</b>	<b>\$473.72</b>	<b>\$3,538.49</b>

JULY 2010			
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$3,064.77</b>	<b>\$473.72</b>	<b>\$3,538.49</b>
<b>Income:</b>			
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Rent (St. Charles Episcopal Church)	\$(75.00)	\$-	\$(75.00)
Membership - keypad calculator	\$(387.78)	\$-	\$(387.78)
Library - DVD's	\$(64.75)	\$-	\$(64.75)
<b>Balance July 31, 2010</b>	<b>\$2,537.24</b>	<b>\$473.72</b>	<b>\$3,010.96</b>

AUGUST 2010			
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$2,537.24</b>	<b>\$473.72</b>	<b>\$3,010.96</b>
<b>Income:</b>			
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Meeting expenses	\$(10.00)		\$(10.00)
Rent (St. Charles Episcopal Church)	\$(75.00)		\$(75.00)
Membership-bookmarks, membership badges	\$(60.00)		\$(60.00)
<b>Balance Aug 18, 2010</b>	<b>\$2,392.24</b>	<b>\$473.72</b>	<b>\$2,865.96</b>

---Diane Evinger, FVKG Treasurer

## **FIBER EVENTS**

September 10-12	Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival Jefferson County Fairgrounds <a href="http://www.wisconsinssheepandwoolfestival.com">www.wisconsinssheepandwoolfestival.com</a>
September 11-12	InterKnit Machine Knitters: Fun with Fair Isle with Carol Scott Eola Community Center Aurora, IL <a href="http://www.interknitmk.org">www.interknitmk.org</a>
September 18	Fiber in the Park Shabbona Park, 415 East 16th Road Earlville, IL 60518 <a href="http://www.fiberinthepark.com">www.fiberinthepark.com</a>
September 25-26	National Alpaca Days True Colors Alpaca Farm Caledonia, IL <a href="http://www.truecolorsalpacas.com">www.truecolorsalpacas.com</a>
October 2	YarnCon Chicago Pulaski Park Fieldhouse, 1419 W. Blackhawk St. Chicago, IL <a href="http://www.yarncon.com">www.yarncon.com</a>
October 2-3	9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Ravenswood ArtWalk (Lorna's Laces included) Chicago, IL <a href="http://www.ravenswoodartwalk.org">www.ravenswoodartwalk.org</a>
October 24-30	SOAR - Spin-Off Autumn Retreat Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan, WI <a href="http://www.soarblog.com">www.soarblog.com</a>
November 20-21	Holiday Open House at the Mill Blackberry Ridge Woolen Mill Mt Horeb, WI <a href="http://www.blackberry-ridge.com">www.blackberry-ridge.com</a>

## **SUMMER KNITTING PROJECT**

I just wanted to take a minute to thank Gretl Kramer for her efforts with our summer knitting focus on Double Knitting. Gretl came up with a phased approach, starting with some very easy projects, leading into some more complex double knitting projects. I know several people besides myself tried this technique, and some people are starting new exciting projects with it.

I have been eager to learn this technique for some time. With Gretl's assistance I have started my first double knitting garment! I am very excited about it.

Gretl is a great example of what our Guild is all about. She is eager to learn new techniques, share her experiences and knowledge with others, mentor them, all with encouragement and grace. I know from personal experience that even when you are a very new knitter she will never make you feel stupid or slow. I feel very lucky to be a part of an organization with people like Gretl in it.

**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?

\_\_\_\_\_

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### MEMBERSHIP/TREASURER CHAIRPERSON USE ONLY

Dues \_\_\_\_\_

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

Cash

\_\_\_\_\_

Membership card given? YES/NO

Member gift given? YES/NO

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