

Westchester Knitting Guild Newsletter[©]

This newsletter is for the exclusive use of members of the WKG.



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SHIRA BLUMENTHAL LION BRAND YARNS FEBRUARY 27



Our guest speaker this month will be Shira Blumenthal of Lion Brand Yarns. Shira represents the fifth generation of the Blumenthal family which has owned and operated Lion Brand, a well-known American yarn company, since 1878.

She serves as a Brand Ambassador for the company. Her videos on the *Lion Brand YouTube Channel* present yarn information as well as talks about crafting. In her new web series, *Tea With Shira* on the Lion Brand website, she introduces other members of the Blumenthal family and staff at the Lion Brand Studio.

Shira has been featured in *Vogue Knitting*, and she is the *Curvy Girl* model for Lion Brand Yarn.



From the President

As is so often the case, January lived up to its reputation for unpredictable weather, forcing us to cancel our charity knitting night. Hopefully this has not dampened your enthusiasm and you are working on your charity projects. We are planning to reschedule this annual event for later in the season.

Calling all volunteers! If you have the time and inclination, the Irvington Library is looking for someone to teach a beginners class, and they would also like to start a knitters get together at the library. (See the article on page 5.)

The Harrison library is also looking for someone to teach knitting. The library is at 2 Bruce Ave, Harrison, NY, (914) 835-0324. The Rye YMCA at 21 Locust Ave, Rye, NY is also looking for someone to teach 7-12 year olds how to knit. The contact person is Tanya Stack, (914) 967-6363

We have scheduled a Patti Lyons workshop for Sunday, May 7th. Details can be found below, as well as at our next meeting. Suzanne Sunday has graciously offered to coordinate this event.

Our current sock KAL can be followed on *Ravelry*; you can see in “real time” the progress our KAL group is making. The site also offers a way for you to ask questions of KAL facilitator Suzanne Sunday, if you have reached an impasse with this project. In keeping with this approach to using our *Ravelry* group as a means of communication, we encourage all guild members to post a photo of their latest projects, including pattern name and yarn used. This is a great way to augment our show and tell time. We are offering help to anyone who is unsure of how to access the WKG page on *Ravelry*. You can find answers at the HELP DESK.

J. Evelyne Liebmann

Patty Lyon's Workshop at the Guild!

Have you ever looked at your decreases and wondered why your SSK and K2tog don't look exactly the same? Have you looked at the bump that is left after you have cast off and wished that you could fix it? Well, you are in luck, because you can get an answer to those and many other vexing knitting questions that knitters on all levels think about. Join us on Sunday, May 7th, in the afternoon at the Chappaqua Library for Patty's Knitting Bag of Tricks. The workshop is \$50 for guild members (a real bargain) and \$65 for non-guild members. We will have an “interest” list at the February meeting and a signup list at the March meeting. We are anticipating that the class will fill fairly quickly, so be sure to bring a check with you to give to Myra at the March meeting. We will open registration to non-members after the March meeting, so you can invite friends and family members to join you. Patty is a fantastic teacher and has fantastic tips for beginners to expert knitters alike.

Suzanne Sunday

TACONIC KNITTING PROGRAM

We keep telling you about the knitting program in the Taconic Correctional Facility – we might even say bragging. We thought you would like to see some of the items they have learned to make. In one picture you can see the premie blankets they make. After they complete this project they are given a certificate of accomplishment.

In the same picture you can see a child's hat which one of our students both designed and crocheted. The other picture represents a child's outfit, again designed and knitted by one of our students.

We have seen very impressive items made by our students and their pride and pleasure in having done so really brings pride and joy to us.



*Evelyne Liebmann, Myra Cohen,
Linda Higham and
Dorothy Freeman*

LOOKING FOR KAL LEADERS

Do you love to teach? Is there something that you've knit that involves a new or interesting technique or method of construction that you are really excited about sharing with other guild members? Well, we are looking for people to lead future KALs at the guild. We are hoping to have about two KALs each year and, while the Pomatomus Sock KAL will probably be going on until May, we would like to start a new KAL in either June or July. We are hoping that members may be able to produce early holiday gifts.

Perhaps you have made a few pairs of thrummed mittens or a different type of hat, or something else that would be accessible to knitters of a number of levels, and would be interested in leading a KAL. You'd need to be at the library between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m., immediately before our guild meeting, write up a description of the KAL for the newsletter and facilitate a *Ravelry* thread of the KAL (don't worry, we'll help you with that if you don't know how to do it). So, if you are interested, speak with me at the meeting or email me at: ssunday@optonline.net.

Suzanne Sunday

Charity Knitting – Was Cancelled ☹️

January weather is indeed iffy! Due to inclement weather, we had to cancel our Charity Knitting Night in January. But this doesn't mean we lost our opportunity to collect those items you were hopefully working on. So please bring any charity items you have completed to the February, or any other, meeting. So many of you have expressed pleasure in getting together to knit and chat so we are working on another date where we will be able to do this. We will keep you posted and provide advanced notice. Again, thanks for all you do in helping others.

Dorothy Freeman and Linda Cramer



LEARN THE INS AND OUTS OF RAVELRY: *Why you should be on Ravelry and why you should be doing a lot more than just getting patterns!*

While a majority of guild members *do* use *Ravelry*, few members use *Ravelry* fully. Well, we are hoping to change that. From 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., before our Guild meetings, someone at the information table will be demonstrating how to join *Ravelry*, how to find and join groups (including the Westchester Knitting Guild group), how to create project and stash pages, how to post to group threads and much more. The Pomatomus Sock KAL, which is ongoing, has been using a thread on the Guild group page as a way for members to get help between meetings and to post pictures of their socks and we are hoping to continue threads for upcoming KALs.

Suzanne Sunday

PUSSY HATS RULE!



In a surprising triumph for the hand knitting community, "Pussy Hats" dominated the visual landscape of the Women's March on January 21st. If you made one, keep it on!

POMATOMUS KAL

While quite a number of guild members are busily working on their socks, if you haven't started yet, it isn't too late to join us. This is an amazing pattern which looks very difficult but is definitely "doable" by almost anyone in the guild, especially with some hints. If you are interested in joining us, come at 6:00 p.m. to the meeting and bring the following: 1 skein (about 400 yards) of fingering weight yarn, a print out of the free Pomatomus pattern (see the link below), markers and 2.25 mm needles (if you aren't a gauge knitter, you may need to go up or down in size). You can bring either four or five, 6" double pointed needles, two short circulars or one long circular (magic loop)—whichever you think will work the best for you. I use four double points but have used all of the others, so I can help you. Here's the pattern link:

<http://www.knitty.com/ISSUEwinter05/PATtpomatomus.html>

Suzanne Sunday



IRVINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY SEEKS KNITTERS!!

The Irvington Public Library would like to invite a knitter's group to use their library for meetups. The group would have to be welcoming to new members and be supportive to knitters who come for help with their knitting projects. The library is open until 9:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and, while they don't have more than one meeting room, the group could probably arrange to use that meeting room once a month.

They would also like to offer a series of "learn to knit or crochet" classes for beginners. The library does not charge for any program it offers but they would be willing to pay the instructor. The library would not provide yarn or needles.

If you live in or near Irvington and would like to organize a knitters' group and/or teach a class, please contact:

Pamela Bernstein
 Head of Reference/Head of Adult Programming
 Irvington Public Library
 914.591.7840

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

It's time to renew your membership for the 2017 year for our knitting guild. We have found it necessary to raise the dues to \$35 for the year.

Please make your dues check payable to the Westchester Knitting Guild or WKG in the amount of \$35.00. You may give the check (or cash) directly to me at the next meeting or you may mail it to me at:

Westchester Knitting Guild
Attn: Jeanne Scofidio
P. O. Box 141
Chappaqua, NY 10514

Please include your current address, telephone number and current email id. I will give you (or mail to you) a 2017 WKG membership card and add you to our membership list. I look forward to your continued participation in our guild activities. We have exciting programs lined up for 2017!

Thank you,
Jeanne Scofidio
Treasurer

UPCOMING KNITTING EVENTS

March 30 – April 2, **Long Island Yarn Crawl**, Roslyn, Mattituck, Oyster Bay, Port Jefferson, Huntington, NY <https://longislandyarncrawl.com/>

March 31-April 2, **Black Sheep Yarns Annual Retreat**, Kent, CT
<https://www.blacksheepyrnsct.com/spring-needle-arts-retreat/>

April 4 – August 6, **Judith Lieber, Crafting a New York Story**, Museum of Art & Design, New York, NY <http://madmuseum.org/exhibition/judith-leiber>

Through April 16, 2017, **Scraps: Fashion, Textiles and Creative Reuse**, Cooper Hewitt Museum, New York, NY, <http://www.cooperhewitt.org/channel/scraps/>

April 22, **The Chancellor's Sheep & Wool Showcase 2017**, Germantown, NY
<http://www.friendsofclermont.org/sheep-wool>

May 6-7, **Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival**, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD <http://sheepandwool.org/info-faqs/visiting-the-festival/>

June 10, **World Wide Knit in Public Day**, <https://www.wkipday.com/>



Knitting News
Joan Ratner

Calendar

- February 27 –Shira Blumenthal, Lion Brand Yarn
- March 27 - Kristen Kapur & Gale Zucker, *Drop-Dead Easy Knits*
- April 24 - Sara Solomon, *The Handknitter's Double-Knit Buttonband*

MEETING SCHEDULE

6:00 Knit Along, Ravelry Help
7:00 Announcements & Show and Tell
7:15 Program

Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month at the
Chappaqua Library
195 South Greeley Ave.
Chappaqua, NY 10514-3398
914-238-4779
www.chappaqualibrary.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Membership renewal begins in January 2017. Annual dues are \$35 and Jeanne will accept payment at the next meeting.
- Please bring finished items for charity to the monthly meetings.
- Please bring donations of yarn and plastic knitting needles for the prison knitting program at Taconic to monthly meetings.
- Guests are welcome. There will be a \$10 fee for guests.

MEETING ETIQUETTE REMINDER

We are fortunate to have high quality presenters during our monthly meetings. Even if you are not interested in the presentation or mini-workshop, please be respectful of others and remember:

- No talking during presentation
- Wait until Q&A period to ask questions
- Wait for the presentation to end before trying on, or looking at samples

Thank you for your cooperation.

westchesterknittingguild.com

Don't forget to check our website and like us on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/WestchesterKnittingGuild>

