

Westchester Knitting Guild Newsletter[©]

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



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2017

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DONNA DRUCHUNAS

...finding my roots through knitting

September 25, 7:00 p.m.



Donna Druchunas, who is obsessed with her family history and the history of knitting, will talk to us about finding her roots through knitting. She is the author of many knitting books including: *How to Knit Socks that Fit* and *Lithuanian Knitting: Continuing Traditions*. Donna has taught knitting workshops in the United States, Canada, and Europe; she has five knitting classes on Craftsy and she runs *Our Knitting Roots Book Club* through which members explore different countries and regions of the world and their fiber art traditions.

She began her career as a technical writer for large corporations and carried her skill over to the knitting world, writing patterns and developing books for fellow knitters. Born in New York City, Donna currently lives in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont with her husband and three cats. She conducts knitting retreats in Vermont each summer and leads knitting tours of Lithuania.

Donna will bring copies of her books and knitting kits for sale. She will accept cash, checks, or credit cards.

From the President

Welcome to the Fall season, it is time to think about fall and winter projects. Our upcoming KAL on Sequence Knitting will show us new ways of approaching our knitting. Hopefully, everyone had a pleasant and relaxing August with plenty of down time to work on new projects and hopefully finish some UFO's as well.

I would like to give special thanks to Raina for her time and effort to improve our website, which is our public "face", where both members and potential members can find information about what is happening at the WKG.

Lastly, we must not forget the devastation of the hurricanes that hit Texas and Florida. Anyone who has lived through this type of event here in the northeast knows how difficult life can become in the aftermath.

As always, happy knitting,

J. Evelyne Liebmann

SEQUENCE KNITTING KAL

Our fall KAL will explore Cecilia Campochiaro's book, *Sequence Knitting*. Cecilia's unique approach to knitting uses simple methods for creating complex fabrics. Bring some fingering or sport weight yarn in two or more contrasting colors and needles appropriate to the yarn. We will experiment with one-row, serpentine and spiral patterns.



Next month, those who are interested can start on the Colormill Shawl, a simple one-row pattern ideal for blending two solid or variegated yarns. It is also a great project for using gradient kits.

CHARITY KNITTING

‘tis the Season!

No – I haven’t lost all track of time. To me the “season” is when we can begin sending out warm, hand-knitted items to those in need. Most recipients do not have storage space during the warmer months and cannot accept donations. So my and Linda’s garages look like the basement of a department store. But now that we see glimpses of fall we can pack up all that we’ve accumulated during the spring and summer.

We will be shipping a full compliment of winter wear, which means all age groups and genders, consisting of hats, scarves, mittens, socks, sweaters, blankets and even some knit toys. The recipients will be *Hawkwing, Kids Closet, Jensen Hospice Care Center, Metro World Child, and Westchester Medical Center*, to name just a few.

Now we are hoping to refill our garages. Unfortunately, there are always people in need, families and orphans located locally as well as nationally and internationally. You may have noticed that I didn’t include *afghans for Afghans*; they lost their contact in Afghanistan and continue to work to find another. So far no news. But Rochelle who runs *Hawkwing* was excited to hear that we are ready to send a shipment – that will be to the Lakota Native Americans in South Dakota. Locally, we give to *Kids Closet* and send lap blankets to *Jensen Care Center*.

All fibers are acceptable to us, but some recipients require wool, not acrylic. So if you could please label your items, as most of you do, that will be a big help. To see just who we send to, go to the WKG website, and then scroll to the bottom and click on “Charity Programs”. And please remember that Olive McNeil has requested 5” X 7” afghan squares for the Sisters of Marian Woods Retirement Home.

We hope to see you at our next meeting,

Dorothy Freeman and Linda Cramer

If you register for Vogue Knitting 2018, use the following codes to receive a discount:

G10–10% off Individual Classes and Lectures

G15–15% off Times Square Day Tripper and Broadway Baby packages

G20–20% off 5th Avenue Getaway and Big Apple Weekender packages

HALFOFFG–Half off Marketplace Tickets.

A Rewarding Teaching Experience . . .

I'm sure you have all heard about the Taconic Correctional Facility Knitting Program in which Myra Cohen, Evelyne Liebmann, Linda Higham and I are involved. We are scheduled to meet every Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., except the month of August, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the Wednesday between Christmas and New Year's. Rest assured we all have other lives; meaning we do take vacations, sometimes get sick or have a conflict with another commitment. I find myself making sure I don't miss going to the Taconic because it is so gratifying – which doesn't mean I have a perfect-attendance record.

At this time we have only four volunteers and the program has been such a success that we feel we could be more successful with at least another volunteer. We have three classes going at a time and one volunteer, Myra, who runs the "store." The store contains all the yarn that has been donated or purchased plus knitting patterns; maintaining inventory is a big job which is in the most capable hands.

But along with these responsibilities, we have help from facilitators – inmates who have been selected from the program to provide assistance with teaching, documenting and distributing needles; taking attendance and acting as liaison with the prison administration.

We all feel this is a very rewarding experience not limited to the joy of sharing a skill we all love, but working with a very appreciative population. They work very hard to earn the privilege to join the program and then feel great satisfaction in being able to knit and give to others. Giving to others involves making knitted gifts as well as helping others with their knitting. It has given them new a positive sense of self and improved their outlooks on life.

We are hoping that some of you will be interested in joining us. Please feel free to talk to us at a Guild meeting or contact us via email. Our email addresses are on the masthead of the Guild newsletter. We hope to talk to you soon,

Dorothy Freeman

UPCOMING FIBER ART EVENTS

Through October 1, **Wall to Wall: Carpets by Artists**, Katonah Museum, Katonah, NY,
<http://www.katonahmuseum.org/exhibitions/>

October 20, **Indie Untangled**, Kingston, NY, <http://indieuntangled.com/indie-untangled-rhinebeck-trunk-show/>

Oct. 21-22, **New York State Sheep & Wool Festival**, Rhinebeck, NY,
<http://www.sheepandwool.com/>

Nov. 4 – 5, **The Fiber Festival of New England**, West Springfield, MA,
<http://www.easternstatesexposition.com/p/fiberfestival>

HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF

A first grade teacher on Long Island wrote to the Guild to say that her school has adopted a school in Galveston, TX, to offer help, especially for children displaced after hurricane Harvey. They are collecting supplies and were asked if they could send small teddy bears to all the children who were affected in that school (~600 kids). She is reaching out to see if we could help. There are lots of free teddy bear patterns on Ravelry. If you would like to knit a bear or decorate an existing one, please contact Dana Ponte at daponte816@gmail.com.



Show & Tell, July Picnic

www.westchesterknittingguild.com



Knitting News
Joan Ratner

Calendar

- Sept. 25 – Donna Druchanas, Lithuanian Knitting
- Nov. 6 – Knitting Small Projects
- Nov. 28 -Trisha Malcolm, *Vogue Knitting*
- Dec. 18 – Holiday Party

MEETING SCHEDULE

- 6:00 Knit Along
7:00 Announcements &
Show and Tell
7:15 Program

Meetings are generally held on
the fourth 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. Annual dues are \$35 and treasurer Jeanne Scofidio will accept payment at the next meeting.
- Please bring finished items for charity to the monthly meetings.
- Please bring donations of yarn and plastic or bamboo 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.

www.westchesterknittingguild.com



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like us on Facebook and join our Ravelry
group

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