

Westchester Knitting Guild Newsletter[©]

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



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7th Floor Yarn & Pick Up Every Stitch Monday, Feb. 25 7:00 p.m.

Our local dyers, *7th Floor Yarn*, will talk to us about dyeing in small spaces and *Pick Up Every Stitch*, our LYS, will be showing us their hand dyed yarns, along with a few other brands of beautiful hand dyes.



7th Floor Yarn is a mother-daughter indie dyeing and novelty knitting team. They create the novelties and do all the dyeing from their 7th floor apartment. It is their mission to put out good quality products while spending quality time together!

Join us for an introduction to two very special local knitting-related businesses and an evening devoted to beautiful hand-dyed yarns.

From the President

As I sat in the pedicure chair happily knitting away on a pair of socks, my thoughts turned to why people knit. It is common knowledge that knitting is relaxing, reducing stress, but that is not the only reason. For many it is a creative outlet, even minor changes to a pattern makes it your own. Choice of colors and textures add to the individuality of a piece. I find great satisfaction when I can use a pattern as a template and make changes to suit me. If I really love a pattern, I have been known to make that item more than once.

Knitting can be a shared experience, last month we sat at tables making knitted squares for a charity blanket (or two). The repetitive motion of garter stitch allows us to engage in conversation. Simple but ingenious stitch configurations such as Cecilia Campochiaro's Sequence Knitting accomplishes this as well; it can free your mind to think about other things.

Lastly, for many knitters it is about the process of knitting; for others it is about the result, a sense of accomplishment. Process or result, sometimes it is both at once. Which is it for you?

As always, Happy Knitting

J. Evelyn Liebmann



Newsletter Coordinator

The WKG is fortunate to have a varied and talented group of members. We welcome your suggestions for programs and workshops and encourage your participation in making the guild even better. We are once again looking for a volunteer to take over the newsletter. The newsletter is the face of the guild as it is available on line for anyone to read, as well as a line of communication for the membership.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS

We have an exciting lineup of programs and workshops coming up within the next six months. Next month our local dyers, 7th Floor Yarns, will talk to us about dyeing in small spaces and Pick Up Every Stitch, our LYS will be selling their hand dyed yarns, along with a few other brands of beautiful hand dyes. Demain Sevits will be coming in March discussing and selling Blue Heron's gorgeous yarns in rayon, cotton and other fibers. Kay Gardiner will talk with us about how Mason-Dixon Knitting got its start and how it has been evolving and Pick Up Every Stitch will bring many of the Mason-Dixon books for us. In May, we will learn about different hat construction techniques from Sarah Solomon and, in June, we'll be learning about stranded colorwork from award winning Cindy Haub. She will also be offering a workshop on the Vinterfjell hat (pictured above). She assures us that, if you can knit in the round on a circular needle, she can teach you how to make this hat knitting Continental, with one hand and English with the other hand. We're excited because she will be working with us on differing tension issues that may arise, and considering that the only time we've ever tried this, the Continental knitting was SO tight that the baby hat became a stuffed animal hat!



When we reconvene in September, Melissa Leapman will talk about her new book, *Knitting Modular*, and then she'll return in October with her brand new Shawl Builder workshop.

So we hope you'll join us for a wonderful and educational lineup!

Suzanne Sunday, Program Chair &

Suzanne Kavic, Education Chair



SWEATERS: Top Down vs Bottom Up (Seamless)

Seeing all of the beautiful sweaters that the cold weather brings out of storage makes me create a gigantic list of what I MUST knit next, so this month we'll discuss two basic ways of constructing your next favorite sweater.

Top Down starts with the neckline and lets you dive right into all those interesting details like colorwork and shaping that attracted you to the project in the first place. Once you get to the sleeve divide, it's usually meditative knitting in the round until the body is done. Many of us especially appreciate the ease in which we can try on the sweater as we make it, allowing for complete control over the fit. This construction is seamless; a plus for those that dislike finishing techniques like the mattress stitch. However, the downside can be less structural support due to lack of seams. This type of project also becomes less portable as it grows since everything is attached.

Bottom Up sweaters cast on at the hem, so there can be miles of stockinette before getting to "the good stuff" of upper torso details. You literally knit three tubes (body and two sleeves) so it's a very portable project. The sleeves are joined to the body once you get the length of the body that you desire. Unfortunately, this can be a little trickier to estimate as it's more challenging to try this on as it's being knit. This type of sweater can be seamless or have seaming in the shoulders.

I encourage you to try both types of sweater construction. Although you may have a preference, both can teach you new techniques and help you develop your knitting ninja skills!

Suzanne Kavic



Charity News

We've been really busy and, due to your generous use of time and talent, we've sent out numerous boxes of sweaters, hats, mittens, socks and even blankets. We're sure they will be greatly appreciated.

At this point we'd like to encourage you to make mittens and socks for children. For those not too familiar with knitting socks, or have never tried, making them for children is a great way to enhance your skills. We can use wool so they are also much warmer. These items are small so they can be finished quite quickly – and it feels so great and productive.

We still need hats and scarves and baby sweaters – also quick projects.

As we always say, unfortunately we always need any or every thing so all your donations will be greatly appreciated. Keep up the good work,

*Dorothy Freeman and
Linda Cramer*



HALF SQUARE TRIANGLE BLOCKS

Please continue to knit and bring in your Half Square Triangle Blocks for the charity project we began last month. In case you missed it, the pattern was in the January newsletter.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

It's time to renew your membership for the 2019 year for our knitting guild. We're very fortunate to be able to maintain our dues at \$35.00 for the year! We have some exciting programs lined up for 2019.

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 address. I will give you (or mail to you) a 2019 WKG membership card and add you to our membership list. I look forward to your continued participation in our guild activities!

Thank you, Jeanne

UPCOMING KNITTING EVENTS

May 4 - 5, **Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival**, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD <http://sheepandwool.org/2018-maryland-sheep-wool-festival-2/>

Through May 5, **The Secret Life of Textiles: The Milton Sondag Archive**, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
<https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2017/secret-life-of-textiles>

Through May 12, **Frida Kahlo: Appearances Can Be Deceiving**, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY, https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/exhibitions/frida_kahlo

Through June 16, **New Directions in Fiber Art**, Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ
<https://www.montclairartmuseum.org/content/new-directions-fiber-art>

July 11 - 22, **Meg Swansen's Knitting Camp**, Marshfield, WI,
<https://www.schoolhousepress.com/camps>

www.westchesterknittingguild.com



Knitting News
Joan Ratner

Calendar

- February 25 – 7th Floor Yarn & Pick Up Every Stitch
- March 25 – Blue Heron Yarns
- May 6- Kay Gardiner of Mason-Dixon Knitting
- May 20 – Sarah Solomon

MEETING SCHEDULE

5:45 Knit Along
6:45 Announcements & Show and Tell
7:00 Program

Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month at the
Pleasantville Library
350 Bedford Road
Pleasantville, NY 10570
914-741-0276

www.mountpleasantlibrary.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- It's time to renew your membership for 2019 Annual dues are \$35. 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

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

