

Westchester Knitting Guild Newsletter ©

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



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Sara Solomon
Monday, May 20
7:00 p.m.

A Structural Approach to Knitwear Design with Sarah Solomon

There are probably as many approaches to designing knitwear as there are designers and each person's process has its own focus. Without having set out with any particular goals in mind I have found I am usually focused on creating knits that are both pleasing and practical, to knit and to wear. The process of creating these usually begins with a sense of what the garment or accessory will *feel* like and where it will be worn, with the more concrete idea of what it will actually look like coming later. The design then continues as a series of goals or challenges that I work to solve and make integral to the aesthetics of the piece. My focus is almost always on end-use, structure, longevity and practicality, beginning with careful choice of yarn and then working with (or against) the innate properties of a given yarn or stitch pattern to make a successful knitted item. Most recently I've been experimenting with alternative hat constructions that guarantee better results when working with drapier and less stable fibers than wool, such as cashmere, yak, alpaca, and cashgora. I've also worked on button bands, neckline finishes, edge treatments and shaping sequences in garments to achieve specific structural goals. I'll be sharing my process and projects with you to illustrate how I merge ideas from engineering and industrial design with the world of fiber arts and fashion. (continued on page 5)

From the President

Letter from the President



Our guest speaker this past Monday, started me thinking about overcoming our knitting fears. Many times when I read through a pattern my first reaction is “I can’t do that”. My second thought is, “yes I can”! Many of us underestimate our own abilities. So, when I think no I can’t, I tell myself just take it one step at a time, and the “no I can’t” turns into “yes I can”. There are so many sources for help that did not exist when I started to knit in earnest. The go to source in those earlier years was the yarn shop where I bought my yarn. They were happy to help, for free I might add. Today I can go to YouTube which has never failed me. I can ask other knitters for help. Here at the WKG we have a help desk, where collaboration resolves our knitting issues.

There are many motivating factors governing our choice of patterns. There are times when, I too, want a simple, “no brainer” project. Other times a challenge is a good thing and the satisfaction derived from the challenge and the completion of the item borders on the divine.

Our KAL’s also serve to help us overcome our knitting fears, here is an opportunity to sit around a table with other knitters and learn a new technique. Aside from the camaraderie, it is comforting to know that one of our fellow knitters is sharing her knowledge with us. The internet is also a wealth of information. There are many websites that give advice, answer questions and generally enhance the feeling that we are a close knit group of people. Just the other day I was having a conversation with a guild member and was commenting that Patti Lyons, who has come to the guild several times, is a wonderful instructor, her way of explaining how to’s is extraordinary. Her last advice column for MDK is at the pinnacle of clarity. All I could think, as I was reading her answers to questions sent in by subscribers is-- why wasn’t she my math teacher? Life in school would have been so much better for me, yes my weakest subject was math no doubt about that.

The moral of this story is take the plunge! You can start doing this at our very next meeting May 20th when our very own Dorothy Freeman will be teaching us cast on techniques for toe up socks. See you at the KAL table!

As always, Happy Knitting

J. Evelyne Liebmann





KAL

At our next meeting we will be offering a class on toe up socks. Knitting socks is my favorite and knitting toe up is even better. It has many advantages, such as a better fitting toe, never running out of yarn, and the ability to try them on as you go along, just to name a few. So I welcome you to join and see what it is all about and/or learn a few more tricks.

You are responsible to bring needles and yarn. I find it best to use two circular needles, same needle size but cable lengths can differ, or the Magic Loop. Most knitters recommend a 40" circular needle for Magic Loop if this is your first experience with toe up. The yarn you bring depends on your needle size and your pattern, if you bring one. Casting on using double pointed needles can be challenging and at this point I'd rather have fun and be relaxed. If you really, really like knitting with dp needles you can switch after casting on and knitting a few rounds.

The book I used to learn this technique is Wendy Johnson's Socks from the Toe Up: essential techniques and patterns. I found her explanations easy to understand and follow, but as always this is a personal decision and I'm definitely not telling you to buy the book.

So please come and join in the fun; I think you will find it fascinating.

Dorothy Freeman

Color Work Workshop



We opened registration during our March meeting for our color work workshop, Vinterjfell hat, with Cindy Haub to be held on Sunday, June 23, 1:30-4:30 at the Mt. Pleasant library. Cindy, who has won many awards for her work, will be teaching us how to do color work using Continental and throwing techniques, one in each hand and for each of the colors for each row. She will be addressing tension issues, so if you've tried this technique before and ended up knitting much tighter, or much looser than you've ever knit before, she can help you fix that! This is not a class for beginner knitters (although it is appropriate for advanced beginners and up) and you must be comfortable knitting in the round and reading charts. You'll need to come to the class with your yarns, having already purchased and printed the pattern on Ravelry with the cuff of the hat completed, as we will jump into the Color work as soon as the class begins. Since this is a fairly intensive class, if you haven't finished the cuff, the class will NOT wait for you to catch up! We have a limit of 15 participants in the workshop, so sign up at the meeting and leave a check or, if you can't attend, send in a check. After our **May 6th** meeting we will open up registration to non-guild member (if there are still open spots) so register and pay as soon as possible.

Suzanne S and Suzanne K

News of Interest

Program date change:

Melissa Leapman will still be doing the modular shawl workshop Sunday October 13, but her talk will be November 4.

Suzanne Sunday

(Sara Solomon continued from page 1)

Biography

Sarah Solomon is a knitwear designer, writer and teacher based in New York City. Her patterns and articles have appeared in *Interweave Knits*, *Knitscene*, *knit.wear*, *Wool Studio*, and *Vogue Knitting* and with collections by Manos del Uruguay, Woolfolk and mYak. Her interests include everything from traditional techniques to colorwork to fine finishing, with a particular emphasis on garment construction. She is also an avid sewer and spinner and loves handwork in many forms. In her design work, Sarah creates garments and accessories from exceptional yarns that are knittable, wearable and designed to last. Find her patterns on Ravelry and follow her work at www.intothewool.wordpress.com or on Instagram as @intothewool.

Off the Needles

Every month we are continually delighted by guild member's finished projects. Below are examples of this month's collection. Thank you for sharing your efforts!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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

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>

Please remember to support your local yarn shops and receive your 10% discount

Yarn Shop

Cornwall, NY, 845-534-0383

<http://www.cornwallyarnshop.com>

Cozy Corner Yarn Shop

Peekskill NY 10566, 914-737-0179

Knitty City

New York, NY, 212-787-5896

<http://www.knittycity.com/blog/home>

Lion Brand Yarn Studio

New York, NY, 212-243-9070

<http://www.lionbrandyarnstudio.com/>

String

New York, NY, 212-288-yarn (9276)

<http://stringyarns.com/>

String Theory

Scarsdale NY, 914-723-5478

<http://www.scarsdalestringtheory.com/>

Yarn and Craft Box

Pawling, NY, 845-855-1632

<http://www.yarnandcraftbox.com/>

**Jo-Ann Fabric and
Craft Stores**

<http://www.joann.com>





Knitting News

Calendar

- May 20 – Sarah Solomon
- June 24- Cindy Haub
colorwork
- July 22– Annual Picnic

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

- 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 or wood 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>

