

Westchester Knitting Guild

Newsletter[©]

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



Leadership Team 2019

- J. Evelyne Liebmann, President
evelyne.liebmann@gmail.com
- Linda Higham, Interim Vice Pres. & Member Communication
linhig@aol.com
- Suzanne Sunday Programs Coordinator
ssunday@optonline.net
- Suzanne Kavic Education Coordinator
WKGeducation@gmail.com
- Linda Cramer, Recording Secretary and Charities
lcsc@optonline.net
- Dorothy Freeman, Charities
dorfree@verizon.net
- Jeanne Scofidio, Treasurer
ajsknits@bestweb.net
- Myra Cohen Meeting Coordinator
myco81@aol.com
- Raina Laredo, Webmaster
rlaredo@optonline.net

July 22nd Annual Indoor Picnic

Join the fun, please bring an appetizer/main course, or dessert suitable for 12.

September's Guest Speaker

Come to the September meeting and meet Paula Kucera from White Barn Farm Sheep and Wool.

Paula is thrilled to be visiting WKG in September.

“For the past 10 years I have been raising fine wool sheep and making yarn for the very active fiber community in the Hudson Valley. My goal has always been to promote local and operate as sustainably as possible. This year I have begun to use only plant dyes in the production of my yarns. Many of the plants I raise myself. I am very proud of this.

“In addition to raising sheep, I also have a full yarn shop in the barn.

Continued from page 1

We give classes, have knit groups, and inspire each other. Community and fiber go well together, we know that. “At White Barn there is always something going on here. I look forward to sharing my fiber farm stories with you.’

New Knit Along in September

Top down sweaters are having their moment in the sun. There are a multitude of new patterns available to knitters. With that thought in mind we are starting a new KAL in September. Learning this basic technique will be a good introduction for our November meeting with Beth Hahn when she will demonstrate how to make a YOKE sweater.

Our next KAL will be to make a YOKE top down sweater based on Beth Hahn’s demonstration.

There are plenty of top down patterns on Ravelry, for this knit along we are suggesting Tin Can Knits Flax Light. It is a free pattern and is written in a range of sizes from 0-6 months all the way up to 4XL. For this KAL we recommend making a toddler size making it a quicker project.

Letter from the President
Random thoughts on knitting

I am sure I am not the only knitter that has experienced knit overload. Sometimes I feel like a 5 year old, not knowing where to look next, too much stimulation. There is an endless stream of blogs, yarn store websites, indie dyer websites, ideas and inspiration galore. Every time I tell myself “no more yarn purchases”, as my stash will keep me knitting for the next century, something inspiring pops up on my laptop screen that just begs to find a new home (mine). And so, as I was reading a daily newsletter about a new indie dyer and what makes her yarn and colors unique, I simply had to order a few skeins. Not only is the yarn delicious, but the pattern for a shawl by the dyer was really appealing too.

In my head I have a queue of projects just waiting to be started and finished. Some knitters have more than one project in the works at a time, I find that I need to work sequentially, otherwise nothing will be finished. I also never leave home without a project to work on, it has become a sort of security blanket. How big is your stash? One project at a time or more? Share your thoughts with your fellow knitters. Share your finished projects on our Instagram page, send your photos to Suzanne Kavic to post on our Instagram page.

July means our annual indoor picnic, please join the fun, good food, good conversation and plenty of knitting! We will also have a yarn swap, if you have stash you no longer love, by all means put it in a zip lock bag with your name and the price you would like for the yarn. Please be sure that the yarn is intact with the ball band.

Please bring an appetizer/main course or dessert to share. Drinks and utensils will be supplied.

As always,
Happy Knitting

J. Evelyne Liebmann

Toe Up Sock KAL Update

A few participants of the KAL asked if I had a pattern for the Baby Socks. When I first began knitting baby socks I did not find a toe up version so I created my own. I also experimented with sizes and came up with two sizes: DK yarn with #4 needles and sock yarn with # 1 or 2 needles. One thing to bear in mind is the tighter the stitch the warmer the sock and the longer it will last. Plus, if you use ribbing on the instep and/or the entire leg the sock won't be baggy and uncomfortable.

The Cast On and Bind Off referred to in this pattern are my favorites. Knit designers usually recommend 2 circular needles or the Magic Loop in their toe up cast ons, either one is good. One could use dp needles but it is very fiddly and more difficult; once you have the total number of stitches required for your sock, go ahead and switch to dp's if you desire.

After you have obtained the total number of stitches, the pattern reads: Continue in pattern of your choice until 2" shy of total foot length. When I use DK yarn that length is usually 3.5" and with sock yarn it is 3". If you know the child you are knitting these socks for, just subtract 2" from her/his foot length. When I say "pattern of your choice," this could be a sock knit basically in stockinette with a 1" rib at the top of the leg or the ribbing on the instep and/or leg or even a fancy, lacy stitch pattern. Your choice!

If you have not used Judy's Magic Cast-On or Jeny's Surprisingly Stretchy Bind Off, you can find them on YouTube (there are lots to choose from) or the two books referenced below.

Continued from page

I really enjoyed this KAL and sharing my favorite sock pattern. Don't forget: I usually am at the Guild's Help Desk – don't hesitate to come see me and ask questions or share your experiences. Thank you for your interest and participation.

Dorothy Freeman

References:

Bestor, Leslie Ann. Cast On Bind Off: 54 Step-by-Step Methods
Storey Pub., 2012.

Johnson, Wendy D. Socks from the Toe Up: Essential Techniques and Patterns from Wendy Knits. Potter Craft, 2009.

Picnic !

Bring an appetizer/main course, or dessert
to serve

12. Drinks and utensils will be provided.

Find us on Instagram, send photos of your completed projects to Suzanne Kavic and she will post on the WKG Instagram page.

Toe Up Baby Socks

(Dorothy Freeman's Version)

Yarn: DK or sock yarn

Needles: size appropriate for your yarn and circular, either 32" or 40"

Cast on (using Judy's Magic Cast-On) 8 stitches on each needle for a total of 16 stitches.

Knit one round.

Increase rounds:

Round 1:

 Needle 1: K1, M1, knit to last st on needle 1, M1, K1

 Needle 2: K1, M1, knit to the last st on needle 2, M1, K1

Round 2: knit even

Repeat these two round until you have 40 sts total. Continue in pattern of your choice until 2" shy of total foot length.

Gusset:

Round 1:

 Needle 1: knit across (or work in pattern of your choice)

 Needle 2: K1, M1, knit to last stitch, M1, K1.

Round 2:

 Work all sts on both needles.

Repeat these two rounds until you have 32 sts on needle 2.

Turn Heel:

Work on needle 2 only; rest sts on needle 1.

Row 1: K19, SSK, K1, turn

Row 2: SI1, P7, P2tog, P1, turn

Row 3: SI1, K8, SSK, K1, turn

Row 4: SI1, P9, P2tog, P1, turn

Continue in this manner until you have 20 sts on needle 2.

You now have a total of 40 sts total and you again work in the round on both needles.

Toe up sock continued from page 5

Work the leg in the pattern of your choice until it is 1" shy of the desired length

OR knit in K2, P2 until the desired length.

Bind Off: I recommend Jeny's Surprisingly Stretchy bind off.

PATTERN READING ESSENTIALS

Patterns can be confusing: Here's a few tips for sorting them out!

Most patterns will start with a description of the item and picture. Specifics, including recommended yarn, ease (if a garment), notions, and skill level are then detailed. Instructions for which needles and pattern stitch to use to make your gauge swatch should follow. If the pattern is for a sweater, there should be a statement about the sample size and ease shown in the picture. The schematic, a very detailed diagram of measurements, is often at the end of the pattern. If your pattern has charts, they may also be at the end of the pattern.

For patterns with sizes, a range will be given. These are written in the instructions with the smallest size listed first, outside of brackets, and larger sizes written sequentially inside of brackets. Once you've chosen your size, it's very helpful to highlight the corresponding numbers so you don't accidentally use those for different size.

Continued from page 6

The pattern will then go on to give line by line instructions for your project. To save space, abbreviations will be used, so look for a table or page detailing them. This can be at the beginning or end of the pattern, depending on designer preference. A designer may give instructions for how to actually perform the stitch in this area of the pattern as well.

Asterisks or brackets are used to indicate when repetitions of stitches will be used. Always read this carefully as it will also tell you how many times to repeat the stitch or series of stitches. If you're told to "work straight" or "work even", you will continue your pattern stitch without increases or decreases.

Always read through your pattern BEFORE you pick up your needles. Think of it as a preview to help get your thoughts in order. Ravelry is also a great resource for learning about good and bad experiences other knitters have had with that pattern.

Happy Knitting!!

Suzanne K

Shawl Building Workshop October 13th

Shawl Builder Workshop with Melissa Leapman—
October 13 at the Armonk Library

Imagine hundreds, even thousands, of beautiful shawl designs within your reach! In this class, see how interchangeable shawl wedges mix and match to create nearly endless design possibilities. Learn three different starting tabs, three different side borders, choose to do a center design and learn how to use your creativity to design truly one-of-a-kind masterpiece shawls. If you've ever thought about designing your own patterns, this workshop will start you on that path!

Since we do not have a meeting in October, we will be taking sign-ups and checks at the July and September meetings and will open up the workshop to non-guild members after the September meeting. Suzanne Sunday took this workshop on Melissa's 2018 Nautical Knitting Cruise and loved it so if you have any questions, find her at the July meeting.

Suzanne K



Calendar

- July 22 - PICNIC
- September 23 – Paula Kucera

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

- 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.

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

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

Visit us on Instagram

