

Westchester Knitting Guild Newsletter ©

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



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SEPTEMBER 23rd

Come meet Paula Kucera of White Barn Farm Sheep and Wool

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 this month.

"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.

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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.

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.

Please cast on and complete the neck ribbing before joining the KAL.

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

For many of us summer is a time to slow down and relax, perhaps increasing our knitting output. This summer I undertook a project that would keep me interested and occupied. Among all the other things I knitted this summer was the “Find your Fade”

shawl in hand dyed Hedgehog singles. I chose it for its overall size and how and when I planned to wear it.

What I discovered as I was knitting, was the joy I experienced as the colors of each skein changed. The little bursts of color were astounding, and put a smile on my face as I worked.

This was the most pleasurable project I have worked on in a long time.

Hand dyed yarns have been trending for a while now, but these skeins were exceptional. Walk into any yarn store, you will find many hand dyed yarns for sale. Often they are not terribly distinguishable from the next dyers hand dyes. What I realized is that you really must take a careful look at each skein to see the subtleties of the individual colors, not all hand dyes are created equally. The more websites and blogs I read, the more pronounced the hand dyed movement is, and yet I wonder is there anything more they can do to create truly unique colors and variations of colors. I don't have the answer to that and time will tell if there is more to be discovered.

Along with the hand dyed trend, the trend for shawls and top down sweaters continues unabated. More and more patterns are being generated for knitters to choose from. There are times when I feel I am on information overload, and can't focus on what I want to knit next as there are so many great patterns out there. This I can tell you; that from a need perspective I have more than enough shawls, in fact I have run out of spaces to store them. I also know that I won't stop making them! Perhaps it is time to donate some of them to a worthy charity.

Which brings me to another subject which is detailed elsewhere in this newsletter and that is other charities to knit for.

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This time the need is for scarves. Another charity is looking for red hats for newborn babies (not preemies). We need those by December 15th.

Lastly, knitted garments for mothers whose babies were still born. Suzanne Sunday discusses this need elsewhere in this newsletter.

As always, Happy Knitting
Evelyne Liebmann



Suzanne Sunday has brought to the WKG Board a need for knitted clothing items for the parents of still born babies. We tend to forget that not every baby is born healthy or in this case alive. Having two sets of clothing helps the parents, in these circumstances, to grieve. Both sets of clothing will be put on the baby before burial. One set goes home with the parents the other remains on the baby. Suzanne will explain more fully at our next meeting how to proceed if you are interested in making items for the parents of the stillborn.

Charity Knitting News

My how time flies! As the fall season begins to make itself known, we begin to think of our annual Holiday Charity Recipients. As we have done for years, we will be collecting hats for the St. Mary's Christmas Dinner held in Katonah for the homeless of Westchester. They welcome families as well as individuals so any and all hats are welcome. There are no fiber restrictions, although we like to indicate if a hat is wool so they treat it with all due respect. And all sizes from babies to grandparents are needed. You have been very generous in the past and we hope you will find it in your heart to donate again this year.

We have recently learned of a similar project for the Christmas season. St. Bartholomew's in Manhattan runs a soup kitchen – I, Dorothy, know the man who runs the kitchen. Over the years he thought it would be so nice to give each recipient a nice warm scarf at this time of year -- but they don't have a budget to support such an idea. When we were talking about the Guild's charity knitting projects he humbly ask if it might be possible to collect scarves for the people he serves at Christmas. They serve only adults, both men and women, and usually feed about 80 people. It sounds like a wonderful project – quick and easy without using a great deal of yarn. So we hope you agree with us and will feel inspired to join us in this effort.

We are also collecting the 32" square blankets for Jansen's Palliative Care, toddler-size sweaters for Kids Klosets, and almost any- or everything for Hawkwing and much, much more. Check out the list of charity knitting organizations we contribute to at our website, westchesterknittingguild.com. Let us thank you in advance. We receive such praise for the items you donate; they are so impressed with the quality and beauty of all we send.

Dorothy Freeman and Linda Cramer



Kids' ♥ KLOset
A PROGRAM OF (914) CARES

(914)cares
HELPING NEIGHBORS IN NEED



Dear Ms. Freeman & Westchester Knitting Guild,
Thank you so much for your donation of handmade
children's sweaters!

(914) Cares and Kids' Kloset are supported entirely by
the generosity of our community. Every gift makes a
difference to our neighbors in need - and these items,
handmade with love are especially thoughtful!
Sending our sincere thanks and gratitude,
(914) Cares & Kids' Kloset

Yarn Crawl with WKG in NYC

The Annual NYC Yarn Crawl is September 27-29th and features 12 amazing stores in Manhattan and Brooklyn. There will be special discounts, raffles, and trunk shows! It's a wonderful opportunity to venture into the city and visit new stores. See their website for all the details: <https://yarncrawl NYC.com/>

Suzanne K. will meet WKG members that want to crawl together at Grand Central Station Saturday at 10am on the main concourse. We'll pick a LYS and take the subway to our first destination. From there, keep crawling on your own or stay with the group. We're free spirits so no set itinerary is planned. (We will not go to the Brooklyn stores as a group but feel free to do that individually-- there is a separate Brooklyn Yarn Crawl in April.)

To join WKG for the NYC Yarn Crawl, please email Suzanne at wkgeducation@gmail.com

She won't know to wait for you if you don't RSVP! 😊

Rescheduling of Melissa Leapman's Workshop

Due to a scheduling conflict, Melissa Leapman's Shawl Builder workshop will not be held October 13 but will be rescheduled during the spring at a date to be announced. Please be sure to complete the survey at the next meeting to help us choose a day and time for the workshop that will be best.



Calendar

September 23 Paula Kucera
November 4th Melissa Leapman
November 25th Beth Hahn
December 16th Holiday Party

MEETING SCHEDULE

5:45 KAL
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 any donations of yarn, plastic or wood needles for the Taconic Women's knitting program to our 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>

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