

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

Melissa Leapman November 4th, 2019

On November 4 Melissa Leapman will present a hands-on lecture. Imagine hundreds, even thousands, of beautiful shawl designs within your reach! In this special guild presentation, see how interchangeable shawl wedges mix and match to create nearly endless design possibilities. Learn about starting tabs, different side borders, and how to use your creativity to design truly one-of-a-kind masterpiece shawls. Below are a few of the possibilities!

Come with the following supplies: DK or worsted weight scrap yarn for mini sampler shawl; appropriate size knitting needles; crochet hook, size G or H; stitch markers; scissors; sticky notes. There's no homework.

Melissa Leapman

Mix and Match Wedges



New Charity Projects!

We've learned of two more programs requesting knitted items. One is an organization we've been donating to for many years and that is the Westchester Medical Center. Each year they give their tiniest patients in the NICU a loving, appropriate present for the holidays. This year they are asking knitters to knit snowman hats for each of the 60 babies. I've attached a pattern you can use or use your favorite preemie pattern while adhering to the color scheme in the attached picture. They need preemie, newborn and 0-3 month sized hats – mostly preemie. During this holiday season which focuses on family celebrations, the parents feel very alone. This lets them know they are not forgotten.



Snowman Hat

Size: preemie, Yarn: DK acrylic in blue, black, white and orange

Needles: #3 dp

CO 60 sts

Rnds: 1 – 8 K1, P1 with blue yarn

Rnds: 9 – 20 stockinet with white

Rnds: 21 -24 stockinet with black

Rnds: 25 – 28 stockinet with blue

Rnds: 29 – 30 stockinet in black

Work decrease rounds in black:

Rnd 31: *K2tog, K8, repeat from * to end of round

Rnd 32: *K2tog, K7, repeat from * to end of round

Rnd 33: *K2tog, K6, repeat from * to end of round

Rnd 34: *K2tog, K5, repeat from * to end of round

Rnd 35: *K2tog, K4, repeat from * to end of round

Rnd 36: *K2tog, K4, repeat from * to end of round

Rnd 37: *K2tog, K3, repeat from * to end of round

Rnd 38: *K2tog, K2, repeat from * to end of round

Rnd 39: *K2tog, K1, repeat from * to end of round

Cut ~10" of yarn to sew the top together.

These can be made very quickly and are fun as well. The families will be most appreciative.

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Another new recipient is Phelps Hospital. They have initiated a knitting project called "Comfort Shawls" for patients needing the comfort and warmth that a hand-made shawl provides. They are supplying the guidelines and ask you to provide the yarn, your talent, time and kindness.

Comfort Shawl

Shawl: 30" X 60"

Yarn: two 6 oz skeins of soft, textured acrylic

Needles: #13

Pattern of your choice.

St. Bartholomew Church in NYC operates a soup kitchen for those in need. They would love to give each client a nice, warm scarf at Christmas to let them know people care. We learned about this project about a month ago and are fortunate to be able to offer very nice yarn to those of you interested in joining us. You can use any fiber, if you choose to use your own yarn, and all scarves are for adults, no children. Their goal is 80 scarves, which is a pretty big challenge, but we know from past experience that together we can do it.

We hope to see you at the next meeting so you can get some yarn and have time to finish the scarf by December.

Thank you very much,
Dorothy Freeman and Linda Cramer

January Charity Knitting

For our January charity knitting meeting, we will be knitting preemie and newborn hats for The Star Legacy Foundation. This group supports families whose babies are still born either full term or prematurely; clearly every new parent's worst nightmare. Through Star Legacy's work they have found that for most families the best way to emotionally recover is to grieve and acknowledge their child's birth. Part of this approach involves giving those who are interested, 2 hats (sweaters and/or blankets) both of which had been on their baby's head. One of the hats is buried/cremated with the baby and the other is then given to the family to keep. Because these hats will never be laundered, feel free to use any yarn you would like, just make 2 identical hats, using any newborn or preemie pattern you would like. Below is an example of a pattern that can be used. Bring your completed hats, and yarn/ needles to knit more hats to the January meeting. Please safety pin your matching hats together. A friend of mine who, unfortunately had a stillborn grandchild will send all of the hats we knit to Star Legacy so that they can be distributed to families in the hospital. I hope you will knit hats to help these families face the hardest days of their lives.

Suzanne Sunday



Ideas for striped

Hats: { MC = Main
Color CC =
Contrasting Color }

Wide Stripe

Pattern:

Do Ribbing in MC
Then in stockinette
stitch:

4 rows: MC

4 rows: CC

4 rows: MC

4 rows: CC (break
off CC)

2 rows: MC

Continuing with
MC, begin decrease
rows and complete
the hat.

Skinny Stripe

Pattern:

Do Ribbing in MC
Then in stockinette
stitch:

2 rows: MC

2 rows: CC

2 rows: MC

2 rows: CC

2 rows: MC

2 rows: CC

2 rows: MC

2 rows: CC (break off
CC)

2 rows: MC

Continuing with MC,
begin decrease rows
and complete the
hat

2 Stripe Pattern

Do Ribbing in MC

Then in
stockinette
stitch:

4 rows: MC

2 rows: CC

4 rows: MC

2 rows: CC (break
off CC)

6 rows MC

Continuing in
MC, begin
decrease rows
and complete
the hat.



Letter from the President

Random thoughts on knitting

Knitting is a great activity that allows me to think about what I am knitting as well as the components of the project. Lately, I have made several items using single ply yarn. I have found that this type of yarn has a way of allowing for the intensity of the colors to really stand out. They seem somehow to really pop; bright colors are brighter and soft shades seem softer. Focusing on the yarn as I knit, I am always amazed at how singles help to transform a project. It is a wonderful yarn for shawls and scarves, definitely not a good option for socks.

That brings me to another change in “yarndom”, the proliferation of superwash wools, often merino. While I understand the industry’s desire to promote this yarn which makes it easier for knitters, and especially non-knitters, to care for their socks and other items made from this wool. It comes at a cost. It is the intrinsic nature of wool to felt when washed in hot water, and/or tossed into the dryer. The cost is in the processing of the wool to become superwash. Part of what makes superwash machine washable is the taming or removability of the wool’s scales using acids which are toxic. Often, to control the scales superwash is coated with a polymer, which is also an environmental issue. The irony here is that many independent dyers are using superwash wool, dyeing it with non-toxic natural dyes. An oxymoron, yes, in my opinion. I know that going forward I will try to avoid buying superwash wool.

It is fall and that means Rhinebeck Sheep and Wool festival. Of course, that means that almost every attendee was wearing their latest and greatest knitwear. I noticed that top down sweaters continue to be popular, as well as multi-color work in general. One interesting cowl that I saw many times over was the Shift cowl by Andrea Mowry. I also saw the same colorwork stitch pattern from that cowl on other knitted garments. An annual trip to Rhinebeck is always fun, however, this year what was not fun was accessing the parking lot. The backup on every road leading to the parking lots was over an hour!

Because of scheduling issues with the library, we will not meet during the month of October, but we will meet twice in November. See Suzanne’s article, on page 1, about our guest speaker Melissa Leapman. This promises to be an exciting evening learning a new knitting concept!

As always,
Happy knitting,

Evelyne Liebmann



Calendar

November 4th Melissa Leapman
November 25th TBD
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 (unless otherwise noted) at:

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 No 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.

Visit us on Online

Find us on Instagram at [westchesterknittingguild](https://www.instagram.com/westchesterknittingguild)
Send photos of your completed projects to post on our page to:
Suzanne Kavic WKGeducation@gmail.com

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