

# Westchester Knitting Guild

## January 2024 Newsletter



### ***WKG Membership Renewal***

**Please make out your checks payable to our full guild name, Westchester Knitting Guild (the bank will no longer accept checks written as WKG for deposit). Mail your checks to:**

Westchester Knitting Guild  
P.O. Box 141  
Chappaqua, NY. 10514

Thank you!  
Jeanne Scofidio  
WKG Treasurer

**You can now pay your annual dues with Paypal.** Go to our website, <https://www.westchesterknittingguild.com/> Click on the membership tab and scroll down until you see Paypal. Click on Paypal then click Send. Follow the instructions to enter your Paypal signin (email or phone) and password. Enter \$35.00 for 2024 dues.

You can always check our website to find the latest information about upcoming speakers as well as about the charities we support and items they would like us to knit.

***Gail Blumenfeld***

### ***Charity Knitting: Myra Cohen***

On **Tuesday January 16** the Guild will have the Yarn Meetup at the Mt. Pleasant Library Parking Lot. I will be there from **10:30 to 11:30** to collect all of your lovely charity knitting projects and to distribute more yarn. Should anyone wish to pay their dues I will collect the checks. I am looking forward to seeing all of you on the 16th.

### ***Charity Knitting: Dorothy Freeman***

For the past few years, we have been sending scarves to the St. George's Soup Kitchen for their clients to celebrate the Holiday. Their clients are always so impressed with the work you do and the lovely yarns but even more they are so impressed with your generosity. So, this year the staff decided to show you their appreciation for all you do. I was delighted when I received this and am happy to share it with you. And I thank you for your continuous thoughtfulness toward others. I wish you all the best for the New Year.



## *Letter from the President*

The height of gift giving season is over, and many of us gave knitted items to friends and relatives. Recently there was an article in the New York Times by Britta Lokting “Facing the Emotional Gamble of That Hand-Knit Gift” (see link below). I am sure many of us can relate to the subject of that article. We never really know how our gifts will be received. Will the recipient really wear that item or will it be relegated to the bottom of a drawer or the back of a closet. Over the years I have knitted many, many items for my granddaughters, especially when they were very young. I know that all the items that I knitted for granddaughter #1 have been carefully preserved. Some of the items I made were so popular that I was asked to make the same item in a larger size, a reorder! My younger granddaughter, now 8 years old, complimented me on my beautiful knitting, and she now wants to learn how to knit. You never really know how people will respond. I recently knitted some little gnomes, with the intention of placing them under the Christmas tree in my stepson’s home. When he saw my 4 gnomes he practically pounced and took them from my hand to put on the table where the family could enjoy them. Sometimes, the most seemingly inconsequential items can be the most appreciated. We knit for many reasons; a sense of creativity, accomplishment, the calming effect, sustainability, and to bring joy to both ourselves and the recipient. One thing we know for sure, and that is that every item you have knitted for the various charities we support are most appreciated and actually worn!

Happy New Year, and happy knitting,

*Evelyne Liebmann*



Here is the link, also sent by member *Ilene Berger*:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/12/23/nyregion/knitting-gifts-holidays.html?smid=nytcare-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare>

Here is a link to an interesting video from *Linda Ewen*:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/12/26/opinion/knitting-healing.html>

*Suzanne Sunday*:

Baltic Braid workshop with Ann Weaver, Zoom meeting on January 22. Details for preparation are repeated on **page 4** of this newsletter.

A few of us are currently doing (or planning to start) Stephen West’s Hiberknitalong 2024, Glittering Snowscape shawl; the following picture shows my progress so far.

It’s a fun and really interesting knit but there are places that are a bit challenging so I’ve started a thread on the Westchester Knitting

Guild group in Ravelry. Come join us and ask questions and post your progress or just come and look at what guild members are doing. Photo on following page.



From book, Knitted Animal Hats, by Fiona Goble.

Here are some photos from *Margie Laurie* of favorite projects:



Foxy Hat

I made 2 for great grandsons.



A sweater for me, for a change. The moths are a joke, but the wool eating moths are small and light brown. not the ones seen here.

## **Upcoming programs from Suzanne Sunday:**

Join us February 26 when Nathan Taylor, The Sockmatician, will present a talk on double knitting.

Join us March 25 when Faina Goberstein will present a class on Perfectly Picked up Stitches

### **Class Details:**

This might sound familiar to you: All parts of a garment are done and blocked. Seams are looking great. All is left is a neckline trim and button bands. No problem! Or is it?

This is the point in our work as a knitter that can “either make or break” the look of a project.

In this class, you will learn the importance of preparing your project for this moment of picking up stitches, classic and alternative methods of picking up stitches for neckline, collars, shawls, cowls, and bands.

You are welcome to share your experiences in class.

**Technique Requirements:** basic knitting skills, have worked on a garment, have knit a few accessories.

### **Homework:**

Hw #1: With worsted yarn make 2 separate swatches in St. st. as follows:

Each swatch:

CO 30 sts.

Row 1: Sl1 wyf, purl to last st, k1.

Row 2: Sl1 wyf, bring yarn to back, knit to end.

Repeat these 2 rows until piece measures 3"/7.5 cm. Do not bind off all sts, leaving sts on the needle.

Block the swatches.

### **Supplies for Class:**

Hw swatches, worsted yarn, dpn or circ needles in size matching yarn, extra

needles of the same size (no matter circular or double-pointed), One needle of size US 1 or 2, crochet hook size F or G, tapestry needle, 6 locking markers, 5 - 6 T-pins, and scissors.

Here's the information for the January workshop. Let me know if I've missed anything!

### **And one more time, preparation for January Zoom workshop:**

#### **Description:**

In this workshop, participants will learn how to work Latvian braids and multiple variations using the technique: braids with long floats, clumps of braids, multiple-color braids, dense layers of braids, and a twisted two-color cast-on. Students will leave the workshop with a host of techniques and inspiration for braiding!

#### **Supplies:**

- US Size 6 24-inch circular needle.
- One stitch marker.
- Worsted-weight yarn in five colors, approximately 100 yards of each. You can mix and match different worsted-weight yarns if you like!
- A copy of the pattern Braid-o-Rama (which I've attached to this email for distribution)

#### **Homework:**

Cast on for your cowl. You'll find the instructions for the twisted two-color cable cast on on page 3 of the pattern. Begin under the Instructions heading, We'll start Braid Section 1 at the beginning of the workshop. Here's a photo tutorial for the cast on: <https://fibrespace.com/2017/08/ask-the-expert-the-cable-cast-on-and-the-two-color-twisted-cable-cast-on/>

## Leadership Team

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### **DISCOUNTS AT OUR MEMBER SHOPS**

The following businesses will give a 10% discount on non-sale items to members of the Westchester Knitting Guild with current membership ID cards. Current membership card must be presented to receive discount. As is currently the case with all retail businesses, please contact before going to find out if appointments are necessary.

Cornwall Yarn Shop  
227 Main Street  
Cornwall, NY 12518  
845-534-0383  
Owner: Gail Parrinell

Cozy Corner Yarn Shop  
116 Washington Street  
Peekskill NY 10566  
914-737-0179  
Owner: Janet Hard

Knitty City  
208 W. 79th St.  
New York, NY 10024  
212-787-5896 (212-purl-two)

Pick Up Every Stitch  
200 E. Main Street  
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549  
914-864-2828  
[pickupeverystitch@gmail.com](mailto:pickupeverystitch@gmail.com)

Yarn and Craft Box  
24 Charles Blvd.  
Pawling, NY 12564  
845-855-1632  
Owner: Marie Stewart

**For our youtube library and links from Raina Laredo, Joan Conca, Carol Feller and Susan Levitt:**

**From Jane Daniels:**

A founding member of the Westchester Knitting Guild, Jane Daniels' love affair with knitting started in 1963 when she was in college. Along the way, she has knit too many sweaters, mittens, and scarves to count, but she did decide to keep track of how many hats she has knit.

Thought the guild would be interested in an article I wrote for PLY magazine. See <https://plymagazine.com/2022/02/the-hat-queen/>

**From Guild Member Melissa Shinsato:**

I teach at the adult schools of Bronxville & Scarsdale and frequently recommend these websites to my knitters.

For general how-tos I recommend Webs or KnitPicks. The 2 sources below are gifted knitters in both their skill & ability to explain and demonstrate.

[10 Rows a Day](#)

[Nimble Needle](#)

[YouTube Nimble Needless](#)

His youtube channel is a wealth of information and detailed demos.

As an aside - I would truly love a youtube channel with good left handed knitting instruction. Turns out a good one is hard to find.

**Techniques: Short Rows**

Short rows create wedges in knitting to create shaping for bust darts, sock heels, ear flaps — basically to build volume within the edges of knitting to change the shape. There are several different methods and the choice to use one over another can vary from personal preference to carefully

matching the best technique for a yarn and project.

Three common methods are **Wrap & Turn, German and Japanese**. There are many online resources for investigating which method may work best for a project. Here are some links to get started on tutorials by different sources— for live links visit our website homepage or go directly to: <https://www.westchesterknittingguild.com/journal/tips-and-techniques-short-rows>.

**Wrap & Turn** (wrapping the working yarn around a stitch)

Pros: Best for knitted lace or looser fabrics

Cons: Can create loose spots since the wraps add extra yarn

Online video tutorial and photo tutorial by Purl

Soho: <https://www.purlsoho.com/create/short-rows-wrap-turn/>

**German** (using a slipped and lifted stitch)

Pros: Simpler than Wrap & Turn; creates smooth fabric

Cons: Make sure to review how to convert from a Wrap & Turn short row if German is not specified (shown in video below)

Online video tutorial by VeryPink

Knits: <https://youtu.be/52qy80Ob-s0>

Another German Short Row video by Mimi Kezer:

[https://youtu.be/i\\_6PjI20zKA](https://youtu.be/i_6PjI20zKA)

**Japanese** (using a stitch marker to lift and slip a stitch)

Pros: Best for smooth yarns that may show unevenness in a short row since this method creates the least amount of looseness in stitches

Cons: More fiddly than other methods

Online video tutorial by Holli Yeah

: <https://youtu.be/F3CIOMsVcLM>

**Patterns that use short rows**

Here are three free short row patterns for trying out different methods:

Bandana Cowl by Purl Soho

Ravelry Link: <https://ravel.me/bandana-cowl>

Pieces of Eight Mitts by Sybil R

Ravelry Link: <https://ravel.me/pieces-of-eight-mitts>

Yarn Crawl Hat 2019 by Buffalo Ása  
Designs

Ravelry

Link: <https://ravel.me/garngonguhufan-2019---yarn-crawl-hat-2019>

### Hand Yoga

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=TJM8zQWdWhI>

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=8sGdLCopN80>

**Provisional Cast on: by Solene Le Roux**

<https://youtu.be/so4ZcrZIKKQ>

**Stretchy Italian Cast On: excellent for brioche:**

<https://youtu.be/U1s77uZUqlg>