

TO GUILD PRESIDENTS

SWATCHES

Newsletter from The Knitting Guild Association – your non-for-profit knitting organization: 1100-H Brandywine Blvd, Zanesville OH 43701-7303. Phone: 740-452-4541 / Fax: 740-452-2552 / TKGA@TKGA.com

Dear Guild Presidents, Be sure to share this newsletter with your local members. Give them the Guild Login codes – and for your local guild members without access to the Web site, print out a copy to pass around at your next meeting.

WHAT'S IN THIS **JUNE 2010** ISSUE – *GET THIS GREAT NEWS TO YOUR GUILD RIGHT AWAY!*

- Pre-registration to Close June 17 for TKGA Conference
- TKGA Member Fashion Show – We Need You!
- Knitted Silent Auction Items Needed
- Fall *Cast On* ... Special Anniversary Issue
- Antique Sock Machine Demo
- Free Pattern Coming Soon for Machine Knitters
- Welcome to New TKGA Guilds
- Is Your Guild Ten Years Old or More?
- News Tidbits & Events
- Gleaned from Your Guild Newsletters
- Things to Remember



One of our newer guilds in Lincoln, AL has a sense of humor – see their startup page at www.knitwittery.org.

GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP IN 2010! Go to <http://www.e-offinger.net/tkga/pdf/GIFTFORM.pdf> for a gift membership form to TKGA. Give one to your guild president or other knitting friends!

TKGA CONFERENCE PRE-REGISTRATION TO CLOSE JUNE 17

Even with 35 sold out classes, there are great sessions left to sign up for. Check them out at <http://www.e-offinger.net/knitandcrochet/classes.cfm>.

The Shopping Floor is growing with **wonderful** things to buy: ...Gorgeous specialty yarns • Vintage and cutting edge accessories • Oodles of BEAUTIFUL beads • Soothing



July 7, 8, 9, 10 activities
9-10 exhibits
Manchester, NH

massage pillows • Norwegian knitting yarns • Silver shawl pins and knitting jewelry • Needle bags and cases • Audiobooks • Silk and banana yarns • Weaving supplies • Designer patterns • ...see more at <http://www.e-offinger.net/knitandcrochet/vendors.cfm>.

Tickets are still available for the Friday Anniversary Gala dinner – **there's still room for more!** Be sure to pre-register to ensure we don't sell out before you get there.



Be sure to come for our **Champagne Toast** to kickoff the TKG 25th Anniversary – Thursday evening (6:00 pm) before the Market Preview Opens! It's FREE with your show badge! See you there!

Our **knitting-related sponsor list** has grown, too:
Creative Knitting – TKG On Your Way to the Masters Day
Prism and Trendsetter Yarns – TKG Champagne Toast
Namaste – TKG Member Fashion Show
Lion Brand – Knit & Crochet Show Goody Bags
Skacel – Knit & Crochet Show Free Shopping Bags



Check out all the conference details at www.KnitandCrochetShow.com and register soon!



HURRY! TKG MEMBER FASHION SHOW WE NEED YOU!

We can use more entries in the TKG Member Fashion Show for the Anniversary Gala dinner on Friday evening. Not a master knitter? We don't mind! Let us see what you've been making, whether you're a new knitter or your needles came over on the Mayflower! Just tell us if you're a new knitter so we can all encourage you! Finish your newest creation and take a minute to download and send in the [Fashion Show Entry Form](#). Although the deadline for the form has passed, we want to include as many entries as possible – we are accepting some late submissions, so get your forms in right away! We are going to love seeing your lovely knits parade past us.

WE NEED MORE KNIT ITEMS IN THE "SILENT AUCTION"



As you know, our charity for this year's Conference Silent Auction is the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Blood cancers have touched nearly every family in America. To help fight these terrible diseases, we're accepting donations of unusual, fun or fancy knitted hats that showgoers can bid on, with all bids going to the L&L charity. If you have an unusual, fun or fancy hat or cap **or other knitted head covering** (use your imagination!) to donate, please let us know right away.

Send in your [Silent Auction Entry Form](#) quickly – you can work on the hat until Conference but we need your form now, if possible. The hat can be original or created from another's design with full credit given! Thanks for caring. Knitters are the best!

IS YOUR GUILD TEN YEARS OLD OR MORE?

If your guild is 10 years old or older and you'll be at the TKG 2010 Conference Anniversary Gala, let us know before June 23 that you'll be there (email Debby at djohnston@offinger.com). We'll have a certificate to present to your guild, to honor ten years or more as an affiliated

TKGA Guild! (Not sure how old your guild is? Check our records of guilds 10 year old or older on the Guild Login page.)

These guilds have just turned “ten” in 2010...

- Truman Town Knitters - MO
- Fibers Unlimited Guild - WI
- Desert Valley Needlers - CA
- Connecticut Valley Knitters #176 - NH
- The Central Pennsylvania Plain & Fancy Knitting Chapter #216 – PA
- The Cultured Purls of McHenry County #184 - IL
(pictured below at a meeting)



- Jersey Knitters #231 - NJ
- Knits of the Yarn Table #201 - ID
- Sheepier Than Therapy - CA
- The Sierra Pine Needlers #229 - CA
- Sojourner's Purls #230 - NJ

FALL **CAST ON ...** SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

For 25 years, *Cast On* magazine has served TKGA membership with patterns, articles and lessons. To commemorate those years, the August-October 2010 issue will feature **25 fabulous new designs by designers who have appeared in past *Cast On* pages!** Because we know you can't wait to see what's coming, we have posters of the garments to be featured. For your peek, stop by the TKGA booth when you're on the Show floor.



ANTIQUe SOCK MACHINE **DEMO** AT TKGA CONFERENCE



Have you ever seen a circular sock machine? It's amazing! We have scheduled a demonstration of one of these great antiques on Saturday for approximately two hours between Noon and 2:00 on the Knit & Crochet Show show floor. Come and see Laurie Brown of the Circular Sock Machine Society of America show you how it was done 100 years ago! With your badge it doesn't cost a thing to watch.

FREE PATTERN COMING SOON FOR MACHINE KNITTERS...

TKGA Master Machine Knitter Marcia Moran has created a machine-knit skirt and top pattern that we will post soon on the “Machine Knitters” page of the Members Only area of the TKGA Web site. Marcia has already provided articles on “Finishing” and “The Knitting Calculator” that you might enjoy. You can learn about the TKGA Master Machine Knitting Program in the same location. Visit the TKGA Message Board forum on Masters of Machine Knitting to ask questions about machine knitting and the Masters Program.



BARBARA SCOTT TEACHES YOU HOW TO MAKE A CUSTOM SWEATER

In the newest TKGA Correspondence Course “Swatch to Sweater”, popular teacher Barbara Scott works with you to learn how to make a custom sweater. You pick the sweater – Barbara gives you the guidance! It’s a great concept, and when you’re done, you have the sweater you were dying to make! Check out the details at <http://www.tkga.com/correspondence.shtm>.

HOW TO GET YOUR NAME IN CAST ON MAGAZINE

Because TKGA is about education, education, education, it is no surprise that in each issue of *Cast On – The Educational Journal for Knitters* we honor those who have successfully completed one of the TKGA Correspondence Courses or the TKGA Master Knitting Program. Want to see your name in print? Sign up today for one of the educational offerings through TKGA – read more at http://www.tkga.com/resources/TKGA_CATALOG_Color020510P2.pdf.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST TKGA GUILDS!

Black Swamp Knitters Guild – Luckey, OH
Chesapeake Bay Purls – Annapolis, MD
Flying Needles Knitting Guild of Southeast Ohio – West Chester, OH
The Knit-Witters Club Guild – Waukesha, WI
Northside Knitting Guild – Atlanta, IN

NEWS TIDBITS AND EVENTS

(While every effort is made to reproduce notices accurately, errors can occur. TKGA takes no responsibility for listing content and errors. Always carefully check out any organizations requesting aid before contributing.)

(Portions of Summary as published in Creative Leisure News)

THE LATEST RESEARCH ON YARN

The Craft Yarn Council of America recently released the results of its biannual tracking study of knit/crochet enthusiasts. More than 5,000 consumers were polled via the Internet.

Reasons for knitting and crocheting – “because it’s enjoyable!” was the number one answer! 76% have taught at least one person to knit or crochet in 2009.

71% of those surveyed said they plan to complete more projects than last year; 75% of those who are 18-24 plan to make more projects. 51% buy yarn at least once a month, with the exception of those 18-24 who buy less frequently.

They made an average of 24 projects in 2009 – most projects by those who are 18-24 years of age were scarves. Most projects by those 45-54 were baby blankets, but the favorites of others

were hats and gloves, afghans and throws or shawls/ponchos and wraps. Those 65 and over made the most charity items (65%), while 31% of those 34 and under made at least one charity project in 2009.

Ages of the respondents:
18% were 18-34 years old
19% were 35-44
29% were 45-54
28% 55 to 64
8% 65+

Only 13% of knitters never pick up a crochet hook. (Fewer crocheters cross over to do a little knitting.)

GOOD NEWS FOR THE FUTURE OF KNITTING

A teacher in South Bend, IN is gearing up for a repeat of a wildly successful 2009 sixth grade knitting period - with the help of the Helping Hands Foundation/Needle Arts Mentoring ProgramSM (HHF/NAMP). When placing an order for supplies for this year, she wrote: "I held a luncheon for those who are obviously becoming 'lifers' [those who've taken to knitting like a duck to water!]. I had knitting bags made for them with fabric that focused on our school mascot. One of the girls just finished her first sock on double point needles yesterday! I just couldn't be more proud of these 12 year olds!" This school's knitting program is just one of hundreds across the country that are supported by HHF/NAMP. These programs help ensure the future of knitting!

To find out how you or your group might become involved in a Needle Arts Mentoring Program through a school, an after school group or a community organization, go to www.needleartsmentoring.org.

(Found in a submission by Claire to the Creative H'Arts June newsletter)

OK, WE'VE SEEN IT ALL WHEN WE'VE SEEN A SHEEP ON A SURF BOARD!

Claire shares that this was "posted By Ed Andrews On April 28, 2010. In Blog, Surf [Finisterre](#) has ... a video of them taking one of their special breed sheep out for a surf. The... company has been rearing the rare **Bowmont** sheep in a farm in Devon for exclusive use in future lines. But growing all that super-soft wool is hard work, so Ernie and the team helped one of the flock relax and get in tune with the rhythm of the ocean. Awesome! To watch the video go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUIC79KBfmA>."



(Found in Woolgatherer's March newsletter)

YARN BOMBING TO THE EXTREME?

The newsletter's editor warns "Watch where you park your car, be vigilant in your own backyard!"

(from the Long Island Chapter newsletter column "Knitasha the Knitting Maven")

YARN "BLOOM"

The "bloom" of a yarn can be described as the ability of the yarn to "poof" up, so to speak, after washing. So after blocking your project you may see that your fabric looks fluffier or your stitches look more filled in and uniform. That is because your yarn has bloomed. Most yarns will bloom to a certain extent although you will find the most bloom in yarns that are loosely plied and loosely knit. Blooming should not affect the size of your project...but knitting a swatch, then washing it, is essential prior to working...so you can accommodate the amount of bloom, if any.

(Per JoAnne Cole of Woolgather's March newsletter)

KNITTING TIPS FROM AN EXPERT

The owner of Crystal Palace yarns has a master's degree in Textiles from the University of California/Berkeley. She has posted some knitting tips on the Crystal Palace website: http://straw.com/cpy/cpy_tips.html.

The topics covered are:

- Why does wool felt?
- What are microfibers?
- Using scrap yarn for sock heel (also known as "afterthought heel")

(from North Coast Knitters, OH newsletter – a few of the "Favorite Tips" responses from a member poll conducted by President Judy Gerson)

FAVORITE TIPS

When using a long tail cast on to make socks from the cuff down, cast on using two needles held together. This loosens the cast on so that the top of the cuff is more elastic. Remove the extra needle when distributing the stitches on the double points. – Kathy Mates

My favorite tip is using a plastic (square type) bread tie to wind your tail yarn around so you don't accidentally start knitting with it. – Linda Cek

For sweaters I do a provisional cast on for the fronts, backs and sleeves, then work the patterns. I do the bottoms later. Huge advantages! I can decide what kind of hem I want later as well as the length and finishing. If I have a limited amount of yarn, I can do the upper sections first then determine the final length based on the amount of yarn I have left. – Miriam Rosenblatt

(from Knitting Guild of Puget Sound newsletter)

IN THIS LIFE ... I'M A WOMAN

In my next life, I'd like to come back as a bear. When you're a bear, you hibernate. You do nothing for six months. I could deal with that. Before you hibernate, you're supposed to eat yourself stupid. I could deal with that.

When you're a girl bear, you birth your children (who are the size of walnuts) while you are sleeping and wake to partially grown, cute, cuddly cubs. I could definitely deal with that.

If you're a mama bear, everyone knows you mean business. You swat anyone who bothers your cubs. If your cubs get out of line, you swat them too. I could deal with that.

If you're a bear, your mate EXPECTS you to wake up growling. He EXPECTS that you will have hairy legs and excess body fat. Yup...I'm gonna be a bear!

CRUISE AND KNIT WITH YOUR FAVORITE KNITTING STARS

2010 Bermuda – Lily Chin, Joyce Renee Wyatt

2010 Bermuda for Kids – My Handwork Studio

2010 Canada & New England – Leslye Solomon, Jill Deal

2010 Baltic – Chris Bylsma, Chrissy Day

2010 Scotland, Ireland & England – Sally Melville, Beth Brown-Reinsel

Dates, class details: http://www.craftcruises.com/featured_cruises.php.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 12-20, 2010. World Wide KIP (Knitting in Public) Week. Pick your own day! Details at: <http://www.wkipday.com>. (Wear your new TKGA slogan T-shirts for KIP! Order them when you pre-register for the TKGA Conference.)

July 9-10, 2010. TKGA Annual Conference & 25th Anniversary Celebration! Radisson Hotel Manchester/Center of New Hampshire, Manchester, NH. Check out special activities starting July 7! (<http://www.tkga.com/anniversary.shtm>). Shopping at Knit & Crochet Show in same location. *Wear your new TKGA slogan T-shirts for Conference – order shirts and TKGA anniversary pins when you pre-register!*



June 27, 2010. Oakland Fiber & Textile Festival, Splash Pad Park (by Grand and Lake Shore Aves), Oakland, CA. Details: 510-595-9595 or www.oaklandfiberfest.com.

September 25, 2010. 3rd Annual Crossville Fiber Festival, Cumberland County Community Complex, Crossville, TN. Details: www.crossvillefiberfestival.com or sheri@yarnpatch.com.

October 9-11, 2010. 14th Annual Craft As Art Festival, Nassau County Museum of Art, Roslyn Harbor, NY. Details: www.craftsatlincoln.org.

November 6-7, 2010. The Fiber Festival of New England. Mallary Complex, Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield, MA. Exhibit applications due March 31. Details at: <http://www.nesheep.org/fiberfest.html>.

GLEANED FROM YOUR GUILD NEWSLETTERS

Guild Meeting Ideas and Other Ideas - Gleaned from Newsletters mailed or e-mailed to TKGA (Guilds listed in State Order):

April: "Double Knitting" by Sandi Benward. Also an Earth Day challenge to use recycled materials for something new. May: Were part of Stitch N' Pitch at River Cats game May 5.

Camellia City Stockinettes, CA. April 2010.

April: Some members taught knitting to children in a River School afterschool program as a part of NAMP (Needle Arts Mentoring Program). **Creative H'Arts Knitting Guild, CA.** April 2010.



Another successful River School Knitting Class!

May Program: Steeks! **The Foothills Knitters, CA.** May 2010.

This guild provides free kits with yarn and patterns for their charity knitting projects. May Meeting: Anna Walden from Twisted Sisters program on "Montage Knitting – the combining of discreet elements to create an artful whole." **San Diego North Coast Knitters, CA.** April 2010.

April: various "Plug and Play Lace Shawl" workshops May: "Measure Yourself for Better Fit" by Kiyoko Tasui. **Sand & Sea Knitting Guild, CA.** April 2010.

May: "Angora Yarn" by Marie Paule Ngo and a special Angora Rabbit guest. **Riverside Knitting Guild, CA.** May/June 2010.

Central Florida Fair awarded knitting prizes to many members of this guild. Congratulations! **Knit or Knot – Greater Orlando Knitters and Crocheters, FL.** March 2010.

April: "Knits for Mothers' Day" by Michele Rodriguez. **Woolgatherers Knitting Guild, MI.** March 2010.

Members worked the Marshfield Fiber Fair in May and are planning a June Guild Retreat. **Ozark Mountain Knitting Guild, MO.** April 2010.

April: Trunk Show and program by Carla Scott of *Vogue Knitting* and *Knit Simple*. May: Lion Brand Studio program with Jack Blumenthal. **Bergen Knitters Guild, NJ.** April 2010.

April: Care and Knit charity knitting program. May: The guild news editor polled members for their "Most Embarrassing Knitting Experience" and got some very interesting responses! (If you ever travel to France on a train with Carol O'Neill while she's knitting, remember to tap her shoulder every so often to keep her awake!) **Long Island Chapter, NY.** April 2010.

May: Carol Barnes lesson on making a lace insert for a v-neck T-shirt. The guild is making an afghan to sell at the Berea Arts Fest in June. On May 24, knitters gathered for the Cleveland Indians' Stitch N' Pitch. **Grindstone Knitting Guild, OH.** May 2010.

May: Perennial Exchange (Yes, flowers! This guild exchanges every year.) and Short Row Instruction. **National Trail Knitters Guild Newsletter, OH.** May 2010.

May: Annual Knitted Toy Competition. **Northcoast Knitting Guild, OH.** May/June 2010.

June special project during summer beat-the-heat potluck lunch sessions: sachet with beads from a \$2 kit. Program: "Solving Yarn Mysteries" by Diane McDowell, including how to uncrimp yarn you've ripped out. **Granbury Knitting Guild, TX (formerly NeedleKlickers).** May 2010.

April: Program by Chrissy Gardner. June Program: Making Needles to give to new knitters from guild table at Clark County Fair (with yarn balls rolled by the guild). **Fort Vancouver Knitters Guild, WA.** April 2010.

Still knitting at every meeting, with lots of items for charity, and passing around magazines and catalogs for others to see and use. **The Knitting Guild of Puget Sound, WA.** April 2010.

FOR MORE LOCAL GUILD NEWS, go online to visit guilds who post their news on their Web sites. Look them up on the guild listing at <http://www.e-offinger.net/tkga/guildsbystate1.cfm>. Please keep TKGA on your newsletter mailing list (Attn: TKGA Guild Relations Coordinator) or e-mailing list (djohnston@offinger.com). TKGA staff loves looking through them to see what you're doing.

IN CLOSING - **THINGS TO REMEMBER:**

- Let's Stay in Touch! To make sure you continue receiving *Swatches* news (and that they don't go to your bulk or junk folders), please add TKGA@TKGA.com and TKGA@Offinger.com to your e-mail address book.

- CHECK YOUR GUILD LISTING online at <http://www.e-offinger.net/tkga/guildsbystate1.cfm>. Make sure it is up to date.
- LET TKGA KNOW OF CHANGES IN YOUR GUILD OFFICERS. Fill out and send in the update form at http://www.tkga.com/resources/Guild_Update_Form_TKGA_Web.pdf. Or simply send a quick e-mail to TKGA@TKGA.com. Remember to include your guild name and city/state.
- KEEP YOUR OFFICER MEMBERSHIPS WITH TKGA CURRENT. If their memberships are not current, you may not receive all of the regular TKGA member guild correspondence. Consider offering a membership scholarship from your local guild for one or two of your officers – or for other guild members who may not be able to afford regular dues.
- PROMOTE TKGA MEMBERSHIP TO ALL OF YOUR GUILD MEMBERS. If you need more member applications, print them out from the Web site or let us know. We'll send them to you to hand out at your next meeting. Out-dated member brochures with old dues rates should be discarded (current rates are \$30 per year for individual).

Happy Knitting!
 Debby Johnston, TKGA Guild Relations Coord.
 djohnston@offinger.com

Remember to update TKGA with your new officers and contact information so we can keep your online listing current.

- ▶ E-mail us at TKGA@TKGA.com.
- ▶ Check the Web to see if your listing is current: <http://www.e-offinger.net/tkga/guildsbystate1.cfm>.

We're sorry we can't just pull the info from your newsletters.

TKGA and Cast On Staff

TKGA Executive Director – Penny Sitler • TKGA Member Services/Programs Coord. – Debby Johnston • *Cast On* Editor-In-Chief – Marrijane Jones • *Cast On* Managing Editor – Jane Miller

TKGA Advisory Board

TKGA consults regularly with a volunteer board of advisors from the industry:
 Laura Bryant, Prism Arts • Margaret Fisher, Designer & Master Knitter • Janet Johnson Stephens, Member at Large & Atlanta Knitting Guild Member • Deborah Knight, Yarnmarket.com • Melissa Leapman, Designer • Marci Richardson, The Elegant Ewe (Retail Shop)