

October
2020



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October Letter from the President

Hello, Everyone!

It's Festing time, again! How can I fest, you ask? Come to **Socktoberfest** with the Knitting Guild on October 20th! Of course, we will be meeting on Zoom, but it'll be great to see all of you with your beers and brats in hand. Thanks to the recommendation of one of our former guild members who attended our 10th Anniversary celebration last month, we will have a special sock presentation at our October meeting. See the article from Beth elsewhere in the newsletter to find out more.

"Bingo" card reminder: keep filling in those rectangles on the "Bingo" card which I sent out to all members last month. It just so happens that when I picked up yarn from Liz, a member of the charity committee who brought donated yarn to Riverside Park to distribute, I got two colors mentioned on the "bingo" card! I've already made two washcloths with it, one yellow and one teal. Remember, if you can't print a "Bingo" card for yourself, let me know (email below) and I'll be happy to send you one. Prizes winners will be drawn in May.

Here's a heads up for our November meeting: we will be sharing all those holiday presents which you have knit up and any other decorative types of holiday knitting which you might have made. Not started? Check out some of the free patterns referred to elsewhere in the newsletter.

Look for the Zoom login information a day or two before our next meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 6:30 PM.

See you then!
Kathy Schnitzius

Mission Statement

"The Three Rivers Knitting Guild brings knitters together.

We provide learning opportunities from presenters, from each other, and through yarn and fiber adventures

We offer charity knitting opportunities

We cultivate and encourage our community of knitters."

Hello TRKG Members! It is time to update/confirm your contact information for 2020/21. Kindly email Maria Runde (Membership Committee) with your current name, mailing address, and preferred phone number so that she can update our records.

Maria's email is: maria3333@charter.net

Thank you!

Charity Committee Report



The Charity Committee would like to thank the eight participants in the Heartfelt Drawing who, in total, contributed 93 items!! NINETY-THREE!! The four prize winners were: Kathy Schnitzius (above left), Del Tuschl (below), Joan Koosman (above right), and Mary Seger.

Now that the prize drawing is over, PLEASE do not stop your charity knitting. Our first charity “EMPHASIS” will be on knit items to help keep the Western students and their kids warm from head to toe this winter! With “cooler” weather ahead, we would like to submit hats, scarves, and/or mittens to Mary Seger before the end of November. You may drop finish items off at Unwound—please check with them FIRST for open hours/days—or get a hold of one of the three Charity Committee members—Cathy Ells, Susann Skinner or Liz Weber and we will figure a pick-up/rendezvous. Mary also said that another critical need is warm socks in men’s sizes, like hunting socks—so, if you know of a good source for heavy wool socks at a good price, please let Mary know.

Our first project emphasis will be on hats, BUT you are welcome to knit any other charity item that suits your fancy.

We have about 20 KISS blankets ready and waiting for the go ahead from Family and Children’s Center, but I know that once FCC is back accepting donations, the KISS blankets will be much appreciated. A cotton washcloth or pet blankets are perfect ways to try out a Stitch of the Month.





Two Final Bind-offs

Although two of our knitting icons have completed their “final bind-offs”, their unique designs and lessons will live on for infinity. Cat Bordhi, recognized for her “Sweet Tomato Heel” and her “moebius cast-on”, passed away September 19, 2020. As stated in The New York Times, “Cat found joyful rebellion for knitting socks, cowls and other clothing. Her books encouraged others to question the orthodoxy of that age-old practice.” She lived with boundless enthusiasm and appreciation for life, nature and what was possible with a strand of fiber.

Just two weeks later, Annie Modesitt passed away. Annie was a proponent of going your own way with knitting. As a self-taught knitter at the age of 25, she empowered new knitters to find their own way of doing things and to understand how knitting works so that their interest could be ignited into a passion.

I was blessed to have participated in classes with both Cat and Annie. Blue Heron Knittery in Decorah, IA, offered a class in lace knitting with Annie Modesitt about 6 or 7 years ago. Annie had recently moved to St. Paul then from NYC. She brought creativity and eccentricity with her. In 2015, Blue Heron Knittery offered a weekend of knitting with Cat Bordhi. I was in her class on moebius cast-on and feel honored to have experienced her enthusiasm firsthand. We remember these two unique designers - Cat and Annie - both entrepreneurs within our global knitting community who forever changed traditional ways of knitting. Their “final bind-offs” are complete but shall never be forgotten.

. . . Submitted by Cathy Ells

Remembering Cat Bordhi

Most knitters will recognize Cat by her name - but others will know her by her techniques such as the “Sweet Tomato Heel” or the “Moebius Cast On”.

As we approach “Socktober,” we appreciate all the knowledge of sock knitting that Cat shared with us. Cat published several books as a means to instill her creativity and tricks of sock knitting into our knitting toolbox. I refer to “Socks Soar on Two Circular Needles”, “New Pathways for Sock Knitters”, “Personal Footprints for Insouciant Sock Knitters”.



Cat had a plethora of ways to whisk you away into the magical world of sock knitting and I encourage you to take her invitation and explore!

But beyond sock knitting, Cat is famous for her exploration within the realm of “moebius cast on”. My introduction to moebius cast on began September 11, 2015 when Blue Heron Knittery sponsored a weekend of “The Magical & Blissful World of Moebius Knitting” with Cat Bordhi. Amongst class attendees were TRKG members - Kathy Schnitzius, Beth Schmeling, Rachel Sternisha, and myself.

The class description captured my attention. . “Once you’ve learned Cat’s Moebius Cast-on (MCO) and the tricks of knitting along the ‘Moebius Highway’, the thrill ride begins! For utterly carefree knitting you may make a scarf, or if you’re feeling adventurous, decide how and where you’d like to open up this single-surfaced, single-edged stream of knitted grace. Your opening can give birth to a basket or a bag. Moebius knitting is unlike any other kind of knitting because of its innocence, grace, simplicity, peace, beauty and willingness to head in a sophisticated and complex direction.” And thus began the thrill of the ride!

Cat learned to knit from her grandmother. And from there the spark was ignited. As Cat said, “like our oldest fiber ancestors, we light up at the miracle of fiber transforming in our hands.” As a public school teacher, Cat passed her knitting skills down to her middle school students. She said “they could better focus on their lessons when busy with their hands with the methodical and meditative process of knitting.”

The ‘Moebius Cast On’ came to Cat in a dream and in the morning - casting on infinity was begun. In her Moebius class, she put forth extra effort to ensure that each of us understood and had a successful experience with moebius knitting. As Jan Hamby of Fair Winds Farm in PA stated “ the Moebius has no beginning, no end, no top, no bottom, no inside, no outside - an infinite thread and the very essence of who Cat was”!

In February, Cat hosted a knitting retreat at Friday Harbor where she lived. She called it “Let the River Carry You” - referring to her cable knit cowl. She encouraged students to let their creative instincts flow. The basis of that pattern is to imagine yourself as a river. “A river doesn’t ask for permission, it goes up and down; it goes underneath!” And thus, Cat’s final gift to the knitting community is “Rio Calina Cowl” (Ravelry). . The winding cable design in Cat’s words “ teaches you to let go”!

May we all honor Cat’s memory - take her suggestion- and imagine ourselves as a river - flowing gently, gracefully, beyond traditional limitations!”

. . Submitted by Cathy Ells

September Meeting Recap

Our 10th Anniversary gathering! President Kathy Schnitzius called the Zoom meeting to order and greeted the 35 members and guests who were present. She reviewed recent Board decisions: that the theme for this coming year will be “Knitting Connections,” that we are extending membership at no cost to members of record as of May 31, 2020, and that sponsorships will be renewed at no cost. No new membership cards will be issued, but last year’s cards may be used when shopping with our sponsors. Kathy introduced some new Board members, and those assuming new roles on the Board: Beth Ault-Brinker and Maria Runde are responsible for Membership, and Marygrace Horner and Dianne Bone are now the editors and publishers of our newsletter. We thank them for stepping up!

Cathy introduced our special visitors, knitters who were previous Guild Board members who no longer live in the area, or not currently Guild members: Gretel Stock, Adriane Melby, Abigail Goben, Tina Hanly, Laura Black-Law, Jane Dickenson, and Dain Frisby-Dart.

In celebration of our 10th Anniversary as a Guild, Cathy Ells led us on a look back at the Guild’s origins and activities through the years with a presentation titled “A Tale of Three Rivers Knitting Guild.” This beautiful presentation was written and produced by Cathy Ells and Beth Schmeling. The original meeting of the TRKG was on September 15, 2010 – exactly 10 years from the date of this evening’s meeting.

Coming in the next few months: unfortunately, our long-anticipated October program with Susan B. Anderson has been cancelled, as Susan is not interested in teaching or presenting via Zoom, which is our only option at this time. Instead, our October theme will be “Socktoberfest.” The November meeting will be a holiday Show and Tell, so that we can show off our handknit gifts before shipping them to their lucky recipients.

The prize drawing for the Heartfelt Charity KAL was held and these four lucky knitters were winners of the gift bags: Kathy Schnitzius, Del Tuschl, Joan Kosman and Mary Seger. Two door prizes of sponsor gift cards were awarded by a random drawing from all attendees; the winners were Kay Adams-Fleig and Karen Acker.

Several lovely items completed during the time of Pandemic were shared in our Show and Tell.

Submitted by Mary Seger, Secretary

Stitch of the Month

This month we suggest Cat Bordhi's Rio Calina Cowl as our stitch of the month. Cat made this free pattern available as her gift to the knitting world. As you knit, imagine yourself as a river!

[Rio Calina Cowl on Ravelry](#)



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Free Holiday Patterns

Have you ever wanted to make some of those cute *tiny mittens*, *hats*, *sweaters* or *Christmas stockings* to use as ornaments or gift decorations? Now might be the right time, since we'll have the opportunity to share our holiday creations and gifts at the Guild's November meeting. These patterns, though free, are still copyrighted. So I'm offering you the pattern names and their designers here to search for on Ravelry.

1. *Holiday Cheer Mini Hat* by Nancy Ekvall of Blue Sky Fibers
2. *Smitten* by Emily Ivey-4.5" long
3. *Mini Mittens* by Amanda Berry-3.5" long
4. *Mini Sock Yarn Sweaters* by Janet McMahon
5. *Little Cotton Rabbits Mini Christmas Stocking* by Julie Williams
-and some baubles and a star-
6. *Christmas Bauble-Along* by Graeme Knowles-Miller
7. More Baubles' charts abound when searching for "Julekuler"
8. *Twinkle Star* by Kathryn Ashley-Wright—yes, she is the owner of Ewetopia in Viroqua!

Have fun searching for little ornaments to knit for any season (or reason). I hope to see some of your creations at our November meeting.

By Kathy Schnitzius

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Holidays
Are
Coming
... and so is
our
November
Meeting



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In Memorium

Annie was a Midwest Maker from St Paul MN and usually had a booth at Vogue Knitting when they were in the Twin Cities

Remembering Annie Modesitt



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NOV 27 - DEC 6: RED STAG FIBRE TRUNK SHOW

NOV 28: SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

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 [three-rivers-knitting-guild](https://www.reddit.com/r/three-rivers-knitting-guild)

A Little Bit About Our Guest Lecturer

Kristi Peterson enjoys many crafts. She learned to crochet in college but 14 years ago she learned to knit. The third time was the charm! That's how many times her mother tried to teach her before it "took". Now it's her primary hobby! While she knits a variety of items, her favorite things to knit are socks.

Inspired by the breakout sessions she attended at Zombie Knitpocalypse in Rochester, MN, Kristi challenged herself to also teach during the retreat. This is the presentation we will enjoy as the fruits of her labor.



October Program: SOCKTOBERFEST!

While it is disappointing not to be able to have Susan B Anderson visit our guild after such a long wait, we have been able to come up with an enjoyable alternative!

This month we will celebrate "SOCKTOBERFEST." We are fortunate to have Kristi Peterson give us a presentation on sock knitting via Zoom. Her talk is, "A Tour of Toes." Kristi describes her lecture:

"Are you stuck in a rut on your sock toes? Wondering if there are other toe patterns out there to try? I will share samples of different toes and discuss the pros and cons of sock toe constructions. Examples will be for toe-up socks (with apologies to my cuff down friends)"

Are you a sock knitter? Do you usually knit toe up? Then you may learn something new. Are you someone who wants to "dip your toe" into sock knitting? Then perhaps this talk will give you the nudge you need. I personally knit socks top down but I am excited to learn another way to start socks. There should be something for everyone!

Kristi will lecture using her PowerPoint presentation. There will be a hand-out sent to the membership in the week prior to our October 20 Zoom meeting. Watch your inbox!

A Call Out to Sock Knitters

As part of our 'SOCKTOBERFEST' program, we would like to feature the socks knit by our guild members. Please send an email to Kathy Schnitzius at schnitz96@aol.com with the information about your sock (Toe up? Cuff down? Heel style? Pattern?) and attach a picture. We would like a good representation of socks to show at the meeting.



LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER

It has been a tradition in recent years to invite members to share their Christmas/Holiday knitting at the festive time of year! We will be inviting our members to show and tell these items at our November 17 Zoom meeting. In the past, waiting until December meant many items had already been sent off to the recipients. Do you need some inspiration for your holiday knits? See the free patterns Kathy S has found to get you started!

Submitted by Beth Schmeling



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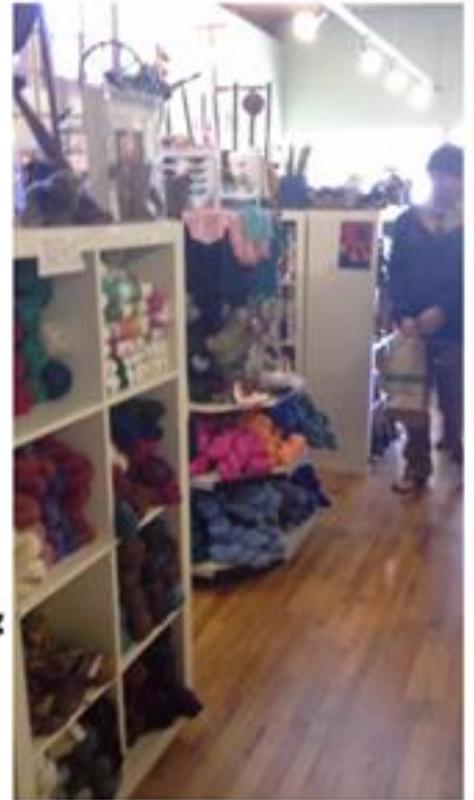
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These organizations support Three Rivers Knitting Guild through their sponsorships. They also offer discounts to members with a membership card for the current year. Please make it a point to thank them for supporting us when you visit them.

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