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Note from the Board - Many Changes in Plans

With all of the changes and uncertainty in our planning this spring, our newsletters will focus mainly on patterns, yarns, tools, and other things that might keep you company in these weeks of isolation.

There are important changes to our spring schedule:

- **March meeting** was canceled.
- **April meeting** will be canceled.
- **Spring education event** with Roxanne Richardson is canceled.
- **Open knitting groups** are not listed this month, due to isolation guidelines.
- **Sponsors** may be closed or have very limited hours. Check with them individually before visiting them.
- **Virtual Show & Tell.** Submit photos of things you've been working on and we'll share them in the April newsletter.



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."*

This Month's Meeting

There is no meeting in March or April.

President's Letter



Hello, everyone—

Yes, you read that announcement about the cancellation of our upcoming guild meeting correctly. I was notified by the UU Fellowship Board President that the large room where we hold our meetings will be closed in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Our fellowship will not be holding services there, either. Many churches have cancelled their services or are holding them remotely, as perhaps is yours, too. So, as a result of losing our meeting venue so close to our meeting date, the guild's Executive Committee voted to cancel the March 17 meeting.

I am disappointed that we will not get to learn about planned pooling from our scheduled guest speaker, Laura Haave, as I'm sure you are, too. Beth Schmeling, our Programs and Activities chair, worked so hard to schedule her, too. Thank you, Beth, for all your hard work in bringing us such wonderful presenters.

At this point, lots of schedules are up in the air, so we do not know what will develop by next month, but we will keep you informed as our new normal settles in and we know more.

The spring workshop with Roxanne Richardson is canceled. We hope to reschedule it again in the next program year.

Okay, now it's time for some nitty gritty—we will have some vacancies on our Board after this spring and will need some volunteers to offer their leadership and/or creative skills to keep our Guild a place to come to learn and share with each other. It'll be lucky for those folks who will follow us because much is already set up for next year.

The positions which will need to be filled are:

- 1. President**
- 2. Secretary**
- 3. Programs and Activities chairpersons—it's good to have at least 2**
- 4. Charity Chair(s)—it's more fun with 2 or more**
- 5. Social Media Chair—includes managing website and Facebook group**

These are 2-year terms beginning after the summer planning retreat.

If you value our Guild and what it has offered you, I urge you to give some thought to how you can be of service to us. Our Guild is about all of us.

Direct questions about these vacancies to Kathy at schnitz96@aol.com

*****Kathy will no longer be President and Beth will no longer be Programs and Activities chair, so if you value the Three Rivers Knitting Guild and want it to continue operating, members with dutiful hearts will need to step into these positions.*****

With a wish for your continued good health,

Kathy

Remember When? - “Inspiring Speakers, and Workshops of Wonderment!”

Monthly meetings of our TRKG provided us with opportunities to focus on over 90 topics of interest to knitters of all skill levels from beginner to intermediate and advanced experienced! But our program and activity committees reached above and beyond the monthly meeting format and planned KALs (Knit-a-Longs) and in-depth workshops with area designers in the industry.

Who remembers the “Mystery Norwegian Mitten” KAL? Each week, a new clue with another part of the directions would be revealed. Not only was there the element of excitement while waiting for the next clue - but it was also a challenging project with so many learning opportunities - as well as a beautiful finished project!

Did you participate in the Purl Soho “Stitch Block Cowl”? This was another challenging learning experience and occasionally this cowl was temporarily renamed “*#%@“ but once again we kept our needles clicking and it became a lasting memory of a beautiful finished project!

We had a “Challenge Adventure” to knit something larger than a washcloth but smaller than a tablecloth using two colors or two textures. The members attending the May, 2016 meeting voted on the creative use of color or texture.

The “Bramble Beret” by Amanda Muscha was a KAL that introduced us to some lovely cable stitches that twisted up the body of the hat tapering off like vines. Larger panels of moss stitch wove in and out of the vines making another stunning finished project!

Throughout the decade, our program/activity committees worked diligently to plan some truly outstanding workshops.

Arnhild Hillesland, a Norwegian designer from Ames, IA, guided us through the introductory steps of Norwegian knitting. Many headbands and hats with Norwegian motifs were the result of this workshop.

Marie Mayhew, author of “Whimsical Woolies” led the fun workshop on “intentional “ felting.

Carol Anderson, author of Cottage Creations Patterns, was with us on more than one occasion. She shared her story about “what’s in your knitting bag”, led class on applied I-cord, and introduced her updated “Wonderful Wallaby”.

Marcia Minear, an advanced knitter from Ames, IA, guided us through a weekend of “Two Color Knitting - One Strand at a Time” with techniques in shadow knitting, mosaic knitting, and mitered squares.

Mary Lou Egan, co-author of “Drop Dead Easy Knits”, brought us up to speed on short rows -wrap & turn, Japanese and German.

Amy Detjen, co-author of “Knitting With Two Colors”, took us on a virtual tour of the Shetland Islands while introducing us to Fair Isle Knitting at its finest. Amy also shared a workshop on Brioche Knitting with her “Chromatic Cowl” design.

Cori Eichelberger, co-author of “Minnesota 52”, introduced us to Latvian braid and broken stockinette stitch as she led the workshop on her pattern “Choose Your Own Path Hat”.

As a Guild, we’ve had so many learning opportunities. But also, as a Guild, we’ve had so many opportunities to reach out to others in our community, to experience shop-hop adventures with our sponsors, and to build new friendships at our UFO retreats. And it will be those opportunities that I will share in next month’s newsletter. My notes say “RT-S-O-C-U -F”. . Watch for the “translation” in the April, 2020 edition of TRKG Newsletter!

BE SURE to watch for information about our 10 Year Anniversary celebration!

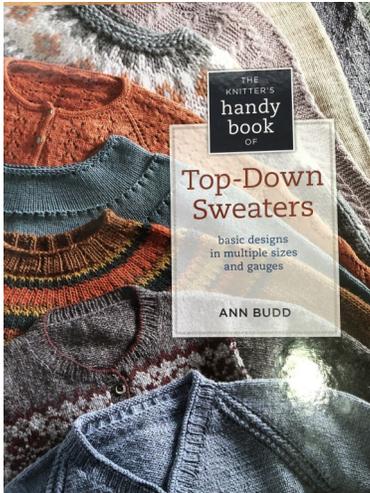
Submitted by Cathy Ellis.



Shaun the Sheep
(our first logo)

Book Review - The Knitter's Handy Book of Top-Down Sweaters

The Knitter's Handy Book of Top-Down Sweaters. Basic Designs in Multiple Sizes and Gauges. By Ann Budd. Published 2012 by Interweave Press.



Have you ever been disappointed in the fit of a finished sweater? If only there was a way to check the fit earlier in the process. The solution is knitting from the top down.

A human neck, torso and arms come together in a complex way. A sweater has to cover and insulate while allowing freedom of movement. Ann Budd presents four fundamental design approaches to this tricky engineering problem in fifteen chest sizes and five gauges. For each of the fundamental designs there are three beautiful adaptations that will inspire the reader.

The seamless yoke sweater and the raglan require very minimal sewing. They differ in the placement of increases. With the raglan, increases are worked in four distinct lines, which are often treated as a design element. For the seamless yoke sweater the increases are evenly distributed. Both are worked in the round to the armholes. At that point the stitches that will become the sleeves are placed on holders while the body is worked. After the sleeves are worked there is only a small underarm seam. Both sweaters lend themselves to a casual look as these constructions come with some excess fabric around the underarm.

The set-in sleeve and saddle-shoulder sweaters both require more finishing but also have a more tailored look, as they fit the shoulder and upper arm closely. Most commercially-made clothing has set-in sleeves with a seam along the top of the shoulder. The saddle-shoulder starts with a strap that begins at the neck and continues over the shoulder to form the top edge of the sleeve.

While the book provides five chest sizes each for children, women, and men, this range is still limited. For example the women's chest sizes range from 36 to 44 in two inch increments. Many women fall outside this range. The adaptations, while beautiful, are all showcased on young, fit women.

I used this book to knit the seamless yoke sweater for myself (Fibonacci Rings featured on page 50) about five years ago. I have probably gotten more compliments on this simple sweater than anything else I've knitted. All in all I think this is a solid investment for your knitting library.

Submitted by Marygrace Horner

Go-To Pattern: Christian's Hat

My first introduction to Christian's Hat, by Agnes Kutas-Keresztes was for a Martin Luther King Day of Service event at St. Norbert College. This event inspired me to create the Knit-a-Thon project at Viterbo University. At St. Norbert, a group of us spent the morning knitting hats to be donated to a warming shelter. That first year, I was only able to complete one, but after learning I could use circular needles instead of double-pointed needles, I made this hat all the time. I even made some modifications to turn it into my favorite red, sparkly, slouchy hat using Vanna's Sequins Yarn.

What I like about this pattern is that it's simple, but not boring. As a new knitter, this was a great pattern to challenge me a little. There are three recommended yarns – Cascade 220, HWS Markoma Pittsburg, and Barka Mosa Masa, all worsted wool and wool/acrylic blends - but I've used a variety of natural and acrylic fibers with great results.

Christian's Hat can be found on Ravelry as a free download and there's even a matching scarf pattern!

Submitted by Kristen Nyholm



Stitch of the Month - Straw Mat

Straw Mat (Multiple of 6 stitches)

I have a soft spot for basketweave stitches, and this stitch on freeknitstitches.com caught my eye. The green swatch shown here is from the website. I'm not exactly happy with how my swatch washcloth turned out, but perhaps it's the yarn?? I'd like to try this again in a wool yarn and even full it a bit. The reverse side of the swatch also has an interesting texture, which makes this a good choice for projects with two public sides.

Row 1: *Knit 2 together, yarn over, purl 2, yarn over, slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over. Repeat from *

Row 2, 4, and 6: *Purl one, knit four, purl one. Repeat from *

Row 3 and 5: *Knit one, purl four, knit one. Repeat from *

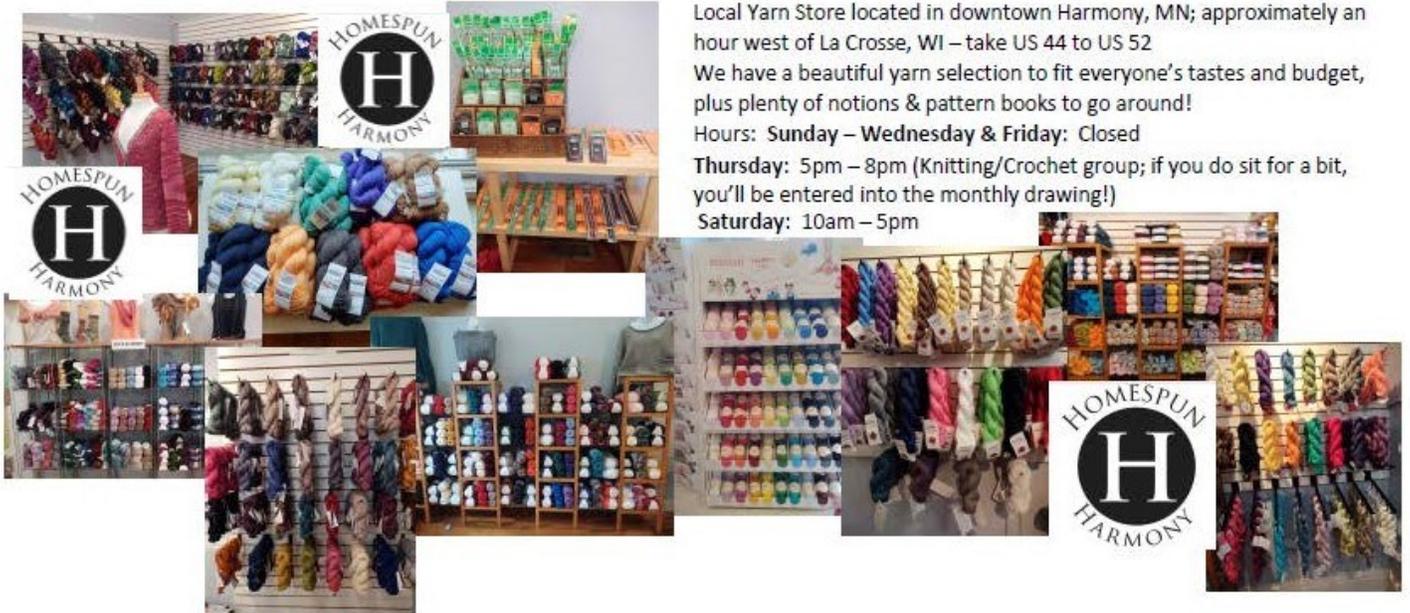
Row 7: *Purl one, yarn over, slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over, knit 2 together, yarn over, purl one. Repeat from *

Row 8, 10, and 12: *Knit two, purl two, knit two. Repeat from *

Row 9, and 11: *Purl two, knit two, purl two. Repeat from *



Please check with sponsors before trying to visit their shops.
Most are temporarily closed or have restricted hours.



Local Yarn Store located in downtown Harmony, MN; approximately an hour west of La Crosse, WI – take US 44 to US 52

We have a beautiful yarn selection to fit everyone's tastes and budget, plus plenty of notions & pattern books to go around!

Hours: Sunday – Wednesday & Friday: Closed

Thursday: 5pm – 8pm (Knitting/Crochet group; if you do sit for a bit, you'll be entered into the monthly drawing!)

Saturday: 10am – 5pm

 **Mark Your Calendar**
July 10, 11 & 12
The Driftless Loop Yarn Shop Hop
Join the 8 Driftless Yarn Shops for our
3rd Annual Yarn Adventure!
*Fantastic Prizes!
Lots of Surprises!*
Visit driftlessloop.com for current info & more to come!

Driftless Loop

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Get 1
More!** 

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Decorah, Iowa

6-8 Monday Drop In & Knit

11-5 Tuesday-Friday

10-4 Saturday

We are on Water Street (the main street) of Decorah, Iowa. Travelling west on Water Street, look for the building on your right. There are only two buildings in town with a green turret, and the other is on the opposite side of the road, so it's quite easy to spot.



New at Yarnology!!

52 Weeks of Socks!

52 Weeks of Socks is a beautiful new book from Laine.

The book contains 52 knitting patterns for socks and slippers from 46 designers. The patterns feature a range of different techniques and textures, such as lace, cables, tuck stitches, colorwork, duplicate stitching and felting.

All patterns come in 2 sizes. The book is suitable for both beginners and advanced sock knitters alike, as the difficulty level of patterns varies greatly.

yarnology

www.yarnologymn.com

Winona, Minnesota

Tuesday 10am-6pm

Wednesday 10am-6pm

Thursday 12am-8pm

Friday 10am-6pm

Saturday 10am-5pm

Sunday 1pm-4pm

65 E 3rd Street



Introducing:

Men's Knitting Night!

Is there a knitter in your life that doesn't quite feel like one of the ladies? Send them on over to our Men's Knitting Night!

Join us after hours for a laid back night of knitting for the dudes (of all kinds!). We provide the snacks, the inspiration, and the moral, support. You just have to show up with a love for yarn and/or an eagerness to learn!

Wednesday, March 25th: 6:00 - 7:30 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 3 - JUNE 5
THROUGH THE CLOUDS CROCHET-ALONG
A GORGEOUS SHAWL WITH SO MUCH COLOR POTENTIAL.
BEGINNING CROCHETER FRIENDLY! COME SEE OUR
SAMPLE AND GET HOOKED!

SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH
LOCAL YARN STORE DAY!

HOURS

WED 10AM-6PM
THU 10AM-6PM
FRI 10AM-6PM
SAT 10AM-6PM
SUN 12PM-6PM

Open 'til 8pm First Fridays)



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UNWOUNDSHOP.COM

Guild Members enjoy 10% off their purchase when they present their membership card at checkout.
Excludes consignment items. Cannot be combined with other offers.



EWETOPIA



102 S. Main St, Viroqua, WI 54665
608.637.3443
<http://www.ewetopiafibershop.com>

Events

Join us for Open Knitting
(or crochet, or spinning, or
beading, or anything!)
Mondays 4-7, Tuesdays 1-3 and
Fridays 10-12

Cathedral Mittens - Feb 15 and 22
from 9:30-11:30

Learn to Knit - Feb 15 and 22 from
1-3pm

Brioche Cowl - Feb 29 from 10 - 1

Check out our website for class info

Keep in touch - Join on to our newsletter!

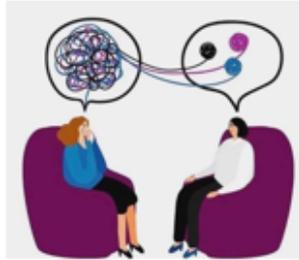
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January 10 & 24

February 7 & 21

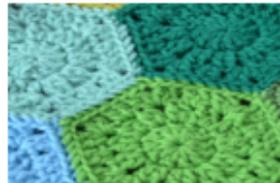
March 6 & 20

Tuesday Mornings

10am-12p Every week

Starting January 7th

Coffee provided



Wednesday Afternoons 1-3p

Crochet help & support

"Kids That Knit" 3:30-5p

3rd Grade and up



KnitCircus

YARNS

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Three Rivers Knitting Guild

www.knitcircus.com

The Cottage... a place to sew, craft, cook, and relax

The Cottage is a beautifully renovated home overlooking the Mississippi River. In operation as A Place to Sew since 2004, The Cottage is ideally setup for a variety of retreats. The spacious rooms and 10 beds also work well as a place to stay with family or friends while spending time in the Driftless Area.



A Place to Sew
Overlooking the Mississippi River

The Cottage, De Soto, Wisconsin, 608-244-4556

Virtual Show and Tell in April Newsletter

Show and Tell - And an Invitation

There were two people who had Show and Tell projects to share at the February meeting.

Linn Kotnour shared "Randy's Stocking Hat," which is available on Ravelry. She made one hat with Hikoo yarn and the other with a Cascade yarn.

Joan Koosman brought a sweater called "Atta Girl" from irockknits. Joan had made the sweater in an Aran weight yarn.

An Invitation for You - Virtual Show and Tell

Since we will not be able to meet in April (and perhaps beyond), I would like to dedicate at least a couple of pages of the April newsletter to our #SaferAtHome knitting projects.

Please send photos of things you have finished to Barbara Bruneau at bjbruneau12@gmail.com. Please include the pattern name and the yarn you used. I'd like to have those photos by April 13 (Monday) as I hope to publish the April newsletter on April 15.



February Meeting Report

Our President Kathy called the meeting to order and greeted our new members. The La Crosse County Library system is looking for a teacher of beginning knitting at the Holmen or Campbell branches. They will pay \$15 per hour. Guild members are working with them to come up with options, such as a “make and take,” or “help for struggling knitters.” Please contact Kathy S if you are interested in getting involved.

Big news from our Charity committee – we are starting the “Heartfelt Charity KALI!” Please see details in the February newsletter. Get those needles clicking with KISS strips, hats, mittens, washcloths, or Humane Society donations. Be noticed and admired while you knit on a KISS strip at a TRKG meeting! All donations are most welcome and eligible for the prize drawing at the May meeting.

Guild elections are coming up in May, and there are several Board positions that will be open starting with the Fall Guild year: President, Programs/Activities, Charity, Secretary, Newsletter, Social Media. Please consider volunteering to run for a Board position and help our Guild soar into our next decade!

Our program for the evening was a continuation of Elizabeth Zimmerman’s techniques, including a very useful and simple “sewn bind off,” which works wonderfully with garter stitch. We also learned the “blipliss” attached i-cord technique.

We were treated to several recently completed wearables in our Show and Tell. Congratulations to Linn K, who won the door prize.

Submitted by Mary Seger, Secretary



April and Beyond

April Tenth Anniversary Celebration:

Time will tell whether or not we will be able to meet for guild in April. In the meantime, save the date for Tuesday, April 21, when we will have a special celebration of the tenth anniversary of our knitting guild. Many special guests have been invited, and a retrospective program and surprises have been planned. If you know someone who has been a guild member in the past, or know someone who is interested in our guild for the future, please make a special effort to invite them along to our April meeting! We hope to have a great turnout for this celebration! More than that, we hope that COVID-19 has subsided enough to allow a return to normal routines.

Tenth Anniversary Spring Workshop

Because of uncertainty about when it will again be safe for us to gather in groups, we have put plans on hold for our Spring Workshop with Roxanne Richardson. We plan to work with our presenter to find a time for her to join us. The topics we plan to include are:

- The College of Antique and Vintage Sweater Patterns
- Casting On and Binding Off
- Twisted Stitch Knitting

Save the Date - October 17, 2020 - Susan B. Anderson

Plans are still under way for this very special event. Watch for more details to come.

Discounted Membership Opportunities

Beginning March 1, new members can join the Guild for the remainder of this 2019-20 year for only \$12.50, half of the usual membership fee.

In April and May, both new and continuing members can take advantage of a discounted rate of \$20 for the upcoming 2020-21 year. After that, the cost will be \$25 per year.



Three Rivers Knitting Guild

213 29th St S, La Crosse, WI 54601

Find Us Online!

Looking to connect between meetings?
Want to find info on guild programs? Need help fast? You'll see information from guild members and our sponsors at these sites:

- Our website:
www.threeriversknitting.org
- Our Facebook group (members only)
www.facebook.com/groups/threeriversknittingguild
- Ravelry
www.ravelry.com/groups/three-rivers-knitting-guild

Questions? Contact Terri Wolfgram

TRKG Board Members

Kathy Schnitzius, president
schnitz96@aol.com
Beth Ault-Brinker, vice-president
reckless_sailor@mac.com
Mary Seger, secretary
me.seger@outlook.com
Linn Kotnour, treasurer
kotnours@yahoo.com/
Beth Schmeling, programs
pbschmel@yahoo.com
Emily Sykora, programs
emlysy@yahoo.com
Cathy Ells, charity
cathyjoells@gmail.com
Susann Skinner, charity
yahsureyoubetcha@hotmail.com
Barbara Bruneau, sponsorship and newsletter
bjbruneau12@gmail.com
Terri Wolfgram, social media
thewolfgrams@gmail.com

Three Rivers Knitting Guild Sponsors

These organizations have support the work of the Three Rivers Knitting Guild through their sponsorships. In addition, they offer discounts to Guild members upon presentation of a membership card for the current year. Please make a point of thanking them for their sponsorship when you visit their shops and businesses.

Each sponsor is entitled to submit an advertisement for our monthly newsletter, highlighting their activities and events for the coming month. If we do not receive an ad from a sponsor, we will insert a general ad thanking them for supporting our work.

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Facebook: Ewetopia
www.ewetopiafibershop.com
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608-841-1421

Unwound Artisan Yarn Shop

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Facebook: Unwound: Artisan Yarn Shop
www.unwoundshop.com
608-519-3722

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Facebook: Yarn Cakes
www.yarncakes.net
608-612-0191

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