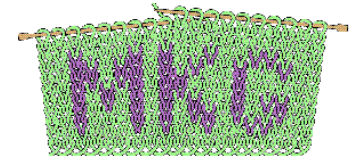


Purl's of Wisdom

a newsletter of the Memphis Knitting Guild



Letter From Our President

What a wonderful time for knitting! Thanks to those who participated in the demo at the Delta Fair. We'll want to hear how it went during our September meeting. And the Mid-South Fair is coming up, where we will have a demo again. These are great opportunities to showcase our craft, and provide mini lessons.

Of course, the Sally Melville weekend is close at hand. If you haven't already signed up, there are some openings available. In addition to the wonderful opportunity to learn from an expert, we have some fabulous door prizes from Plymouth

Yarn, TKGA, Clover, and local businesses, just to name a few. We'll have a dinner Saturday evening, Oct. 9, open to all, at Neely's, www.neelysbbq.com. We'll have Sally's books for sale and signing, including her new book "Warm Knits, Cool Gifts," which will be released Oct. 5th. And Hank of Yarn will be offering a kit to create an item from Sally's new book, featuring a one-of-a-kind yarn, hand-painted only for the kits, as well as a special surprise! They are priced at \$20. If you want a kit, you need to email Gail Ray gf.ray@hotmail.com as there is a limited supply.

ber program with her topic on Toe Up Socks, using Judy's Magic Cast On. Bring size 8 needles and worsted weight yarn. Even if you don't knit socks, the cast on is handy to know for other purposes. As always, you can work on your projects instead.

We'll follow the same format as we did at the August meeting. We will have the business meeting, then go directly to the program (we'll try for 7 PM). We may not have much, or any, time for Show and Tell. However, we have designated the October meeting as a "non-program" meeting, so we'll have lots of time for socializing, and expanded Show and Tell.

See you all Tuesday evening, September 28!

Kathy

Thanks so much to Jenni R. for her program on reading charts last month. It was excellent, and may have converted some from using only the written form of instructions! Amy W. will preside over the Septem-

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If I knit fast enough,
does it count as aerobic
exercise?

~Author Unknown

MKG Officers

- President - Kathy Berkshire
- Vice President - Gail Ray
- Secretary - Lisa Loftis
- Treasurer - Jessica Walls
- Newsletter Editor - Ann Culpepper
- Charity Coordinator - Rita Watts
- Librarian - Terrie Larson

V^P Report

Amy W. will be doing our program this month on toe up. Don't forget your practice yarn and needles.

The Sally Melville workshop is three weeks away. We are sure looking for a great weekend with Sally. If you are attending and did not get my email that was sent out this week, please let me know so I can get you another release. I will be passing out a list for donations of goodies for breaks on Saturday and Sunday after-

noon and mornings. It is not too late to sign up. If you have any questions, just give me a call or email.

Delta Fair is over and we had some Blue Ribbons. Congratulations to all who entered something! We, the MKG, will be at the Mid-South Fair, Saturday, so come see us, or come join us!

Gail



Ten Principles of Knitting

1. It's all about the awesome yarn choices. Simple stitches & patterns create gorgeous pieces.
2. Strive to relax and have fun. Do not strive for perfection.
3. Be clever & daring. Take a risk!
4. Every mistake can be fixed.
5. Swatch, swatch, swatch.
6. Set goals, not deadlines.
7. Never stop learning.
8. Share the legacy, teach someone to knit.
9. Put your signature on each gift.
10. Knit with love.

--- **Finely, A Knitting Party**

Charity Endeavors

The Elders in South Dakota will be warmer from the blankets we have have sent. They were donated to us from a special group of ladies in a Hernado Church.

Blankets were also given to the Transplant Center. They still need blankets, of any size, to give to people who lose their loved ones while waiting for a transplant.

We still need squares 6x6 or 12x12 to go in our group blanket for House of Grace.

If you would like to contribute to the Red Scarf Project, the scarves can be any unisex color 5 to 8 in. wide and 60 in. long.

If you have anything you wish to donate, bring it, someone needs it.

Also, Ann is compiling the crazy blanket from everyone's unwanted knitted or crocheted items, scraps, tests, samples, etc. It really is looking crazy — but interesting. Kinda' tells a story about us . . . in a good way!

Thank you in advance,

Rita



Member Spotlight

Each month, we want to spotlight a few of our members by including a little bio and a photo of each. (Some of the answers may surprise you!) This is just a small way for us to get to know each other a little better. Of course, if you would prefer not to participate in the spotlight section, that's ok.

Carrie Ellen Feldhaus-Setbacken

How long have you been knitting? **36 years**

What do you love about knitting? **Relaxing, making something from a ball of yarn.**

Any other hobbies or passions? **Counted cross stitch, reading, science fiction fantasy, cooking.**

You may be surprised to know this about me . . . **My son is 4 years older than I am and I'm a grandmother.**



Rita Watts

How long have you been knitting? **2 years**

What do you love about knitting? **It's relaxing and I love the people I meet.**

Any other hobbies or passions? **Reading**

You may be surprised to know this about me . . . **I taught in Memphis City Schools for 33 years.**



Sharon Stone

How long have you been knitting? **4 years**

What do you love about knitting? **The process and the finished project, giving or wearing something handmade.**

Any other hobbies or passions? **Inductive Bible study.**

You may be surprised to know this about me . . .



August Meeting Highlights



Thank you Jenni! You were so prepared, and the charts were big enough to see. Great touch!



Was a little bit chilly at the August meeting!! Thanks to Kathryn, we survived.



2010 Summary Memphis Knitting Guild Library

We have 3 new donations added to our library thanks to Sarah Holt: Wendy Knits by Wendy Johnson, The Urban Knitter by Lily Chin and The Tapestry Collection by Rowan. Please take a look at these fine additions to our collection.

Do you have any suggestions on content you would like added to the Guild library? Please forward your requests to: mkgpresident@gmail.com.

Terrie

Memphis Knitting Guild Library Holdings

Videos (VHS):

Knitted Trims – For Woven, Pieced, Felted, Crocheted, and Knitted Projects *by Ginger Lutens*

Knitting Workshop *by Elizabeth Zimmerman:*

· Part 1 – Beginnings, A Hat

· Part 2 – Two Sweaters

· Part 3 – Master Classes

Hand Knitted Lace *by Nancie Wiseman*

Knitty Gritty TV Shows (with printed materials):

· Video 1 – Episodes 101-211

· Video 2 – Episodes 212-213

DVDs:

Learn to Knit by Knit This

Free Form Knitting *by Colleen Davis*

Knitty Gritty TV Shows:

Episodes 101-106,107-112,113,201-206,207-211,212-213

Books:

At Knit's End *by Stephanie Pearl-McPhee*

Big Needle Knit Afghans *by Jeanne Stauffer*

Domino Knitting *by Vivian Hoxbro*

Hand Knits for the Home *by Caroline Birkett*

Heirloom Knits *by Judith McLeod-Odell*

It Itches *by Franklin Habit*- a hilarious collection of cartoons, knitting related

Knitting Circles Around Socks *by Antje Gillingham*

Knitting the New Classics *by Kristin Nickolas*

Knit Together *by Debbie Macomber*- a novel

Knit Two *by Kate Jacobs*

Knitting Beyond the Edge *by Nicky Epstein*

Knitting Without Tears *by Elizabeth Zimmerman*

Knitwear Design Workshop: The Comprehensive Guide to Handknits *by Shirley Paden*

Mother Daughter Knits 30 Designs to Flatter & Fit *by Sally Melville*

Never Knit Your Man a Sweater Unless You've got the Ring *by Judith Durant*

Nursery Rhyme Knits *by Teresa Boyer*

Quick Knits *by Vogue Knitting*

Sally Melville Styles A Unique and Elegant Approach to Your Yarn Collection *by Sally Melville*

The Friday Night Knitting Club *by Kate Jacobs* (this is the Guild's 2nd copy)

The Knitting Experience: Book 1 The Knit Stitch *by Sally Melville*

The Knitting Experience: Book 2 The Purl Stitch *by Sally Melville*

The Knitting Experience: Book 3 Color *by Sally Melville*

The Tapestry Collection *by Rowan*

Things I Learned from Knitting Whether I Wanted to or Not *by Stephanie Pearl-McPhee*

The Urban Knitter *by Lillie Chin*

Wendy Knits, *by Wendy Johnson*

Booklets & Handouts (free to members):

Caps and Scarf Patterns Handout (for Love Knitting)

Tricks of the Trade *by Carol Anderson*

Duplicate Stitch Handouts

2005 Newsletters

Magazines:

Cast On

Workbasket select issues from 1964 to 1970

Samples Notebook



Free Patterns—Socks!!

Free patterns on Ravelry



Better-Than-Booties Baby Socks by Ann Budd



Elf Feets by SJ



Serpentes by Hanna-Kaisa Hämäläinen



Chun Jiao



Knitted Bunny Booties by Cleckheaton



Legwarmers by Annie Hauber



Mystery Monkey Socks by Socks for Mum



Basket Case Socks by Wendy D. Johnson



Sock Buddies by Anna Tillman

Knitting in the Movies

Icebound (Blanche Dubois, 1924)

Idle Hands

The Incredible Melting Man (1977)

Irma la Douce (Jack Lemmon, Shirley MacLaine) Shirley MacLaine is pregnant at the end and seen knitting.

It's a Great Feeling 1949 (Doris Day, Dennis Morgan, Jack Carson). Joan Crawford (as herself) knits a turquoise sock while sitting in a dress salon during a fitting.

It's A Date 1940, Deanna Durbin, Walter Pigeon. Grandma knits with chunky white yarn.

The Jane Austine Book Club One person knits frequently in the movie and later teaches another member of the book club to knit.

Johnny and The Sprites - This pre-school geared show has the head "sprite" knitting in one episode and looking for a missing knitting needle in a second episode.

He is quoted as "Knit one Purl two"

Johnny Belinda - (1948) - Belinda is knitting a hat for the baby using short row technique and shows it to Robert, the doctor.

Jolson Sings Again - (Larry Parks) - Jolson's wife is seen knitting in a few scenes.

Kimberly (1999, S. Astin knits a baby blanket, but it looks crocheted!)

La Vie en Rose - (Marion Cotillard) - Biopic of the French singer, Edith Piaf. A few scenes of her knitting and talking about knitting!

Ladies in Lavender (Dame Judi Dench, Maggie Smith) Ms. Dench is seen knitting on dpns.

Lady and the Tramp (Lady's owner is knitting a baby bootie and Lady grabs the yarn and runs away -- Bad dog!)

Lady Killers (Tom Hanks) the widow landlady knits

The Last Homerun (HBO movie, man knitting)

Lemon Drop Kid (1951, Bob Hope)

Les Diaboliques (1955)

Let's Make Love

Lost in Translation - Scarlet Johanson's character tries on a scarf in progress near the beginning of the movie (and boy would I love that pattern!).

The Letter (Bette Davis) Ms. Davis works an intricate lace pattern

Like Water for Chocolate

Little Annie Rooney

Little Women (1995) (Winona Ryder, Claire Danes, Kirsten Dunst, Susan Sarandon)

Beth (Claire Danes) knits while the girls play.



(. . .To be continued next month)

Nuttin' But Knittin' (reprinted from www.craftstylish.com)



You would think that stuffing a plush toy would be the easiest part. But there's a knack to doing it so that your cute little creature doesn't come out looking lumpy and weird-shaped.

1. The first trick is to **stuff it while you're sewing it together**. Place the wrong sides of your finished knitted pieces together and use a mattress stitch to sew up your letter. (YouTube.com has several excellent videos demonstrating the mattress stitch.) As a leg or arm or head is formed, before it gets too far along, gently place some stuffing in that cavity. Notice that I said "gently."

2. The second trick is to **stuff your plush toy gently**. If you cram a piece of stuffing in and pack it down, it'll form a hard wad. The next piece you cram in will form another hard wad, and before you know it, your poor little plushie will be all lumpy and bumpy. So, gently place a fluffy, un-wadded piece of stuffing into the

cavity. Press it into place with care, then add another fluffy piece and press it into place with care. This way, the fluffy pieces will mesh together and retain their soft, cuddly texture.

3. **Don't overstuff** your plush toy. Add enough stuffing to give it shape, but no more. Your goal is to create a plush toy that looks really nice and feels good. If you overstuff, the knitted fabric will stretch too far. You'll see the stuffing through the stitches, your seams will show, and your plushie will look bloated.

4. **Take time to look at what you're doing**. Think of your plush toy as a soft sculpture, and you're the artist. As you gently press the stuffing into a cavity, look at its shape. Is there enough stuffing in the far corner? Is this arm/leg shaped the same as the other matching arm/leg? Every so often during the finishing process, hold the plush toy away from you, stand back, and evaluate how it looks. Are the knitted rows still neat and fairly straight? If you overstuff in spots, it will stretch the knitted material and the rows will look crooked. There should only be gentle, natural swells where the pattern has called for shaping.

5. **Use your fingers to shape corners while sewing it together**. Your finished corners should be ever so slightly rounded, not squared-off with a point. Stitch right up to a corner and pull your stitches tight. As you start down the next horizontal/vertical, make about three or four loose stitches. Then, on the wrong side of the piece, insert one finger into where the corner will be and pull your yarn tight. This helps to form that corner shape.

6. **Weave your yarn ends into the seams as you go**. A lot of loose ends can get tangled up in the stuffing and prevent it from meshing together properly. And by now, you know what that could mean – lumps in your plush toy! You won't be able to weave the last few ends into the seams, but just trim those to about two inches and tuck them neatly along the sides as you stuff and sew.

7. **Make your final corner match the rest**. When you get to the final few stitches at the very end, gently press those corner edges into themselves as you stitch. This will help to shape it into a slightly rounded corner to match the rest. Make your final stitch directly into the corner and bring your needle out another place on the body of the plush toy. Pull gently on the yarn to help your final corner be more of an "insy" than an "outsy." Clip the yarn close to the body; the end will disappear inside.

8. **Give your plush toy a massage**. When you're finished, gently massage the plush toy into just the right shape. If it's a little bit lumpy, massage those lumps until they loosen up and redistribute a bit. If a limb is sagging, tug it into place. Smooth the knitted rows into place. Don't be afraid to work with your finished plushies to make them look their very best.

Our Creations

Below are some of the gorgeous creations and pattern info that were shown in our last meeting.



Donnita's Baby Boy Sweater. Pattern was in Debbie Bliss Magazine (summer). The yarn used was Blue Jean Denim.

Christy's "Cookie A: Twister Flower" and yarn was YarnTini "Maraschino." Also, "Random Watermelon Self-Striping Yarn."



Catara's Baby Sweater. The pattern is from Berroco and the yarn used was Berroca Pima Cotton.

Sarah's "Dad's Sweater." Pattern was from Ravelry (top-down raglan sweater generator). Her yarn was a recycled sweater.



Amy's "Window Pane Blanker" (which she made up!) Her yarn used was Marble Chunky for the colors and Caron Simply Soft for the Black.

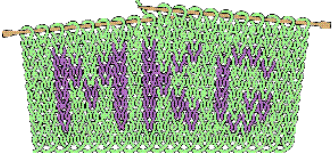


Eloise's "Pink Chocolate." Her pattern is from the HOY Sock Club, and her yarn was Scarlett Fleece, Tubular X2.



Terrie's 10-stitch blanket by Frankie Brown. Noro Silk Garden yarn.

Purpose



We're on the Web!

www.memphisknittingguild.org

The Memphis Knitting Guild's goal is to provide knitters of all skill levels a forum for sharing their mutual interest in knitting and learning new skills.

The Memphis Knitting Guild is a Member of TKGA.

Please join us for our regular meetings the 4th Tuesday at the Poplar-White Station Library, 5094 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38117. Meetings begin with a meet and greet at 6:00 pm.

September Program

Amy W. is going to preside over the program on Toe Up Socks, using Judy's Magic Cast on. Everyone will need to bring size 8 needles and worsted weight yarn.

Future Meetings

September 28

November 23

October 26

December 28



Knitting Tip

Get some card stock and make up some "business cards" with your name and phone number, and put one in each of your project bags. That way if, God forbid, you lose a bag, you'll have a chance to get it back!

- Julie



Honey, can we stop by the yarn shop on the way to the airport? Your best man wants a scarf like yours.