



# Knitters' Knews

Vol. 34, Issue 8

April 2014

The Madison Knitters' Guild meets the second Monday of each month September through May.

Doors open at 5:00 pm • Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. • Bishop O'Connor Center, 702 South High Point Rd, Madison, WI



## The April 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting Features Josh Scott, founder and COO of ...



MKG Programming Chair Barbara

Rottman talked with Josh Scott; here's what she learned:

### BR: Tell us about your background?

JS: I was born and raised in Detroit, MI, and was an undergrad at the University of Michigan (go Big Ten!). After college I worked for a consulting firm in Chicago for a couple of years before moving to San Francisco with

some colleagues to start my first Internet company. I eventually found my way into grad school at Berkeley and then to working at eBay, where I met John Levisay, with whom I later co-founded Craftsy. A few years after each leaving eBay, John and I reconnected in Denver where we now live.

### BR: How did you get involved in online teaching?

JS: I love learning... in fact, I have always wanted to be a teacher, but it is too hard (I know this first hand as I am married to one). While I've always focused on career opportunities that put me in a position to constantly learn, I wished I could find the time in my schedule to take classes on topics in which I am passionate. Unfortunately, I could never make committing to scheduled class times work. That was really the fundamental inspiration for Craftsy... I felt like we could create a great way to replicate the magic of a class experience online while enabling people to enjoy learning on their own schedule.

### BR: What prompted you to found a business that focuses on the craft sector?

JS: My grandmother was a deeply passionate knitter. Everyone in my wife's family quilts. I've always been blown away by the passion shared by crafters and makers... and the insatiable desire for learning that is inherent in this passion. While at first we were not exactly sure what types of classes would make the most sense for us to offer, we had a hunch that the craft sector was the perfect fit. We feel very lucky that we've had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people as a result.

### BR: What makes Craftsy different from YouTube?

JS: We are deeply focused on education and on creating a great environment specifically for online learning. This has prompted us to create a class-taking experience which enables students to ask questions of their instructors and fellow classmates, take notes, share their projects, and much more. In addition to our focus on the learning platform, we are also very focused on 'curation'. We believe deeply that not everyone has what it takes to be a great teacher. It is our job to find the very best, and then work in partnership with them to bring their capabilities to life online through high quality, consistent, professional production.

## April Meeting:

5:00-6:30 pm: Doors Open

Sign up at the Hospitality table, check out the Library, visit vendors, peruse Community Projects and seek out Knit Aid

5:45-6:15 pm: Volunteer Fair Gather in the Dining Room.

6:30 pm: Meeting Starts Business Meeting, Guest Speaker, Break, Show N' Tell, Door Prizes in Auditorium

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**BR: How do you recruit teachers? What do you provide them when producing videos, (e.g., help with writing instructions, picking sample projects, hair, make-up, etc.)?**

**JS:** We start by asking the members of the community what they want to learn next and then we work hard to find the best instructor, wherever he or she might be in the world, to teach that class. We do this by talking to lots and lots of people and asking for recommendations and by attending lots of live classes and conferences. We aim to do everything we can to help support a great teacher in doing what she does best without the need to worry about anything else. We think the odds that someone is a great knitter, a great teacher and a great producer of video content are very low... so we take care of the entire content production experience – from helping the instructor design the course, to preparing them to be on camera, to hair and make-up, to the glass of wine they need at the end of a long day, to filming and post-production editing work, we strive to do it all.

**BR: Have you tried knitting?**

**JS:** Yep, and I am not good. I've taken most of our classes and have the wonderful opportunity to interact with some amazing teachers every day, but mostly I am left appreciating the great talents of others.

**BR: What was the most unexpected thing you learned in launching Craftsy and producing online classes?**

**JS:** That people really do want to take them! I am overwhelmed every day by how enthusiastically Craftsy has been embraced.

**BR: In what other areas does Craftsy offer classes?**

**JS:** Quilting, Sewing, Cake Decorating, Crochet, Jewelry Making, Photography, Painting, Drawing, Cooking,

Gardening, Woodworking, Spinning, Weaving, ... and more coming soon!

**BR: What has been your most popular class to date? Why do you think knitters responded to it so well?**

**JS:** In knitting, we find that classes on fitting tend to be really popular.

**BR: Of all the places you've travelled to, which had the greatest impact on your world perspective, and why?**

**JS:** Humorously, while I have had the good fortune to travel to a lot of places, it was the many short trips across Detroit river to Canada that most shaped my world perspective. Visiting Canada instilled in me the importance of culture and how our surroundings shape us, even in the simplest ways. As a small child, I was always struck that words like "about" could sound so different coming out the mouths of people who live less than 10 minutes from where I grew up as a result of their different citizenship.

**BR: What do you foresee for Craftsy in the future? What will be the major influences?**

**JS:** Hopefully we have the opportunity to continue to work with amazing instructors to create great classes for passionate lifelong learners. The biggest influence for us will always be members of the Craftsy community – students, instructors, and designers – they will guide us in how they would like to see Craftsy continue to evolve.

**BR: Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself?**

**JS:** I have a four year old daughter named Noe, named after the Noe Valley neighborhood in San Francisco.

– Barbara Rottman, Programming Chair

## Library Notes:

In April we are adding three newly purchased books to our library. **Fair Isle Style: 20 Fresh Designs for a Classic Technique** by Mary Jane Mucklestone, showcases designs that bring a modern design aesthetic to knitted pieces. In **Knitting in Circles: 100 Circular Patterns for Sweaters, Bags, Hats, Afghans, and More** by Nicky Epstein, Nicky explores a broad assortment of round designs that can be incorporated into your knitting projects. Finally, many of us remember Susan B. Anderson's presentation of her adorable reversible toys, now you can check-out her book **Topsy-Turvy Inside-Out Knit Toys: Magical Two-in-One Reversible Projects**.

We are also adding two book donations this month, **Vogue® Knitting Very Easy Sweaters: 50 Simple, Stylish Designs**, donated by Susan Ecroyd and **Solefull Socks-Knitting from the Ground Up** by Betty Salpekar, donated by Barbara McCall. Both books are filled with easy, fun patterns and are great additions to our library collection. Thank you Susan and Barbara!

Be sure to grab your wallet and stop by our sale tables at the May meeting. The library will be selling a variety of pamphlets, magazines and books at great prices. The raised funds go towards purchasing new library items.

– Marijka Engel, Library Chair



## Message from the President – This and That:

**First – Congratulations:** Mary Jo Harris and her committee orchestrated a fantastic Knit-In. Franklin Habit's presentation on Friday night was a great way to kick off two days of jam packed classes and shopping. Franklin introduced us to Weldon, who seemed to have fantastical ideas about what women could do with their free time. His magazines included titles such as "Weldon's Practical Knitter," "Weldon's Practical Macramé and Bead Work Curtains," "Weldon's Practical Hungarian Embroidery" and even something with bent metalwork. The finished products inspired by these magazines ranged from the delightful to the outrageous. Who would have guessed that Martha Stewart actually had a predecessor? All Knit-In weekend, I saw lots of smiles from knitters who were learning new skills in classes and discovering must-buys in the market. Needless to say most stashes grew that weekend!



Franklin couldn't resist knitting up the child's reins from *Weldon's Practical Knitter* (circa 1880)

On Mondays in the office, if someone appears to be in pain, it's not unusual to find out that they had just completed a big bike ride, ran a marathon, or competed in a sports tournament. It was a bit embarrassing to admit that my back pain emanated from sitting six hours, knitting intensely, to complete a mini jacket pattern! Actually, it's not complete yet. I'm doing something wrong with the garter stitch Kitchener technique that Franklin taught us. Good thing I belong to a Guild where someone will have the answer!

**Second – An Invitation:** Events like Knit-In don't just happen. Vendors at every meeting don't just happen. A free lending library doesn't just happen. Neighborhood Knits doesn't just happen. They all represent planning and activity. It's work — but it's extremely pleasant work with delightful members, with varied backgrounds, interests and knitting skills. At the April meeting we're hosting a Volunteer Fair from 5:45-6:15 pm in the Dining Room. Board members and Committee Chairs invite you to visit their tables to learn how you can get involved. They've broken down the work that will just take an hour or two, and those that will take a bigger commitment. There's something for everyone. And we promise treats too!

**Third – A Challenge:** The Monona Library is counting on us for the prizes for their summer reading program. This project began several years ago when the mother of one of the librarians began knitting fishes. Due to family illness and the interest in the program, she couldn't keep up. Her daughter reached out to us for help. The Guild member creativity and generosity is amazing. There's been a steady stream of dolls, hedgehogs, snakes, cats, owls, mice and other fanciful creatures coming into the Community Projects table each month. Members brought a basketful to Knit-In. The Community Projects committee makes ready to go kits, complete with yarn and patterns, for the toys. Most take between one to three hours to knit. At April's meeting, please pick up a kit, or dive into your stash and grab a pattern from our [website](#). We want to wow those young Monona readers. What's more rewarding than inspiring children to develop a life-long skill and earning a smile to boot! Knit on!

– Mae Knowles, President

## Sneak Peek at the May Meeting:

At the annual May meeting the focus is on members! From the Member Stash Sale, the Library Sale, and dessert buffet at the break, to the door prize extravaganza which signals the end of this season's monthly meetings – the May members-only meeting is a fitting wrap to a great year.



The Member Stash Sale is an opportunity for any current Guild member to sell yarn, finished knits, patterns and other knitting-related items. Please contact Elaine Landay, the MKG Hospitality Chair, at [eclanday@yahoo.com](mailto:eclanday@yahoo.com) to register for table space.



Dansez  
Knit Along

The Library Committee will also hold their Annual May Sale where MKG members have the opportunity to purchase retired books and magazines, as well as many items generously donated by the members, all at incredibly low prices! Proceeds go for new library acquisitions.

It's also the last time for members to show off. We'll finally see the two-color creations from this year's Brown Bag Exchange as well as the Dansez sweaters produced in the Madison Knitters' Guild first ever Knit Along! **See you May 12!**

## Meet the Vendors for April:

### Kaleidoscope Fibers

Karen Anderson and husband Chris own Kaleidoscope Fibers. Karen has been knitting for 30 years, ever since her aunt tried to teach her when she was young. Her



Kaleidoscope Fibers at 2014's Knit-In

# Kaleidoscope FIBERS

instruction didn't take the first time, but when Karen got to college a roommate got her restarted, and she went back to her aunt for tips. Karen's knitting repertoire has expanded exponentially since owning the shop, having knitted most of the models. Karen also makes shawl/scarf pins using copper and/or sterling silver wire and lamp work glass beads, which you might find on sale at the shop from time to time, and is a Master Gardener who is hybridizing her own daylilies.

The Andersons also raise Icelandic sheep. They started with two pregnant ewes and now have two rams and six ewes. Karen hasn't had a chance to do much with their fleece yet, but has noticed that it feels much softer than the commercial Lopi yarns she has used! If you are looking for some raw fleeces to play with, let Karen know! Check out their website for upcoming classes, a list of the yarns they carry – including four local fibers, accessories, and special events such as the April 18-27 Spring Shop Hop.

**Visit Us:** 131 W. Main Street, Cambridge, WI 53523      **Phone:** 920-342-0496

**Store Hours:** Wednesday 10 am – 7:30 pm, Thursday through Saturday 10 am – 4 pm

**Website:** <http://www.kaleidoscopefibers.com/>

**Email:** [kafibers@gmail.com](mailto:kafibers@gmail.com)

### Ogle Design

Kim Ogle has been knitting and crocheting pretty much her whole life. She has been designing knit and crochet patterns to sell for the past 12 years or so, ever since some of her patterns were published by Fiesta yarns. Kim loves the



process and enjoys seeing a new creation come to life on the needles, such as the

Kalie Shawlette shown left. With the help of friends and family she has come up with many new patterns, accessories and supplies for knit, crochet and spinning. As for dyeing yarn and fiber, Kim is always trying new things. She recently came up with a new 'Coloration' yarn that knits from light to dark or vice versa depending on how you start.

Kim will bring skeins in both the Bluefaced Leicester (BFL) worsted weight and a new Superwash fingering weight – which is a product of the USA – to vend the April 14 meeting. Kim is looking forward to seeing everyone there!



## Ogle Design Fiber Arts



**Website:** [ogledesign.etsy.com](http://ogledesign.etsy.com)

**Phone:** 414-481-9286

**Email:** [ogledesign@yahoo.com](mailto:ogledesign@yahoo.com)

## March Guild Meeting Minutes:

Our president, Mae Knowles, welcomed our guests and vendors Bleating Heart Haven and Firefly Fibers. Prior to the meeting, many of us met for Knit Connections in the cafeteria from 5:45 to 6:15 pm. This month's topic was *What are you knitting?* Judging from the lively conversation, everyone was enthusiastic to share tips and pattern information. Mae sent out a special thanks to everyone who volunteered to teach knitting at the Madison Children's Museum, Emerson Elementary School, the Westside Senior Center and Oak Park Place. They truly helped both young and old experience the joy of knitting.

### Announcements:

- The unveiling of items created for our Two-Color Brown Bag Exchange is coming up at our May 12 meeting. This meeting will also feature a parade of sweaters created by our KAL groups.
- Save the dates for our next knitting Safari, an overnight trip to Minneapolis on June 6 and 7, and the MKG Stitch 'n Pitch event at the Madison Mallards is Wednesday, June 18.
- Registration is open for several Neighborhood Knits Classes. Check the MKG website for information and to register.
- Volunteers are still needed for library circulation and re-shelving and Knit-In helpers. Additionally, volunteers are needed for the Emerson school knitting club and the Westside Senior Center Knits and Bits group.
- MKG will hold an open house event on August 11 at our new home, Promega BioPharmaceutical Technology Center (BTC) at 5445 East Cheryl Parkway, Fitchburg.



### Program:

**Gwen Steege** described her role as an editor at Story Publishing. Story has published many popular knitting books, but with the prevalence of technology, patterns and instructions are now widely available on line. They began

thinking about compiling a guide to help knitters decide what to try. That gave birth to *The Knitter's Life List*. Through interviews with famous knitters and research of knitting traditions, Gwen collected information on fiber, color, structure, community and techniques to create this book. She also shared her experience of moving from editor to writer.

### Show 'N Tell:

It was a lively night for Show and Tell, with 11 people sharing their creations. Sylvie Schuresko modeled her custom fit sweater, Barbara Rottman shared two Nancy Marchant scarfs, Jane Sweetman displayed her self-designed afghan, Judith Pruski modeled her Stephen West sweater, and Alvin Menninga showed off his Entrelac scarf. Mary Kaiser displayed her sweater, Ellie Durst modeled her shawl cowl, **Mary Behling wowed us with her red satchel** and Jordan Pitzner shared her Hitchhiker shawl. Linda Kilgore displayed a child's sweater and Rebecca Boelhower Santi modeled her shawl. See more photos on the [MKG website](#).



– Joan Werla, Secretary Photos by Carol Spiegel

### Knitters' Knews Submissions Wanted:

Besides providing information on the Madison Knitters' Guild meetings, other MKG events, current news and class opportunities, **we'd love to hear your stories and share photos of past Guild events**. Please tell us how long you've been a member, your favorite Guild memory or two, what the Guild has meant to you as a knitter, or any other MKG related news. Also, the May newsletter will include a memorial for the members who have passed away this past year, but we need your help to ensure our list is complete. Please send us the names of those you've lost; photos are also welcome.

– Cynthia Robey-Duncomb, Knitters' Knews Chair

**The Knit-In was a Success!** The 2014 Knit-In is now over and in the books. An event like the Knit-In requires the efforts of a lot of people – Committee members, day-of volunteers, [teachers](#), [door prize donors](#), etc. – to be successful. I would like to personally thank everyone on the list and ask that you do the same when you see them:

|                   |                 |                      |                       |                |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Marcia Alderman   | Janet Fishbain  | Kathlynn Kirk        | Marina Olivencia      | Carol Spiegel  |
| Karen Anderson    | Ann Foster      | Mae Knowles          | Sandy Otterson        | Rae Sprague    |
| Liz Avery         | Pam Gallagher   | Heather Landin       | Stacy Parenteau       | Cheryl Stegert |
| Carmen Ballman    | Bonnie Germain  | Rose Landin          | Emily Parson          | Ruth Sybers    |
| Jenny Blasen      | Mary Germain    | Judy Lary            | Terri Patwell         | Alissa Tambone |
| Anne Bosch        | Sandy Gordon    | Lynn Levin           | Mary Paulson          | Holly Tang     |
| Gael Boyd         | Jane Grogan     | Jamie McCanless      | Emily Pettis          | Paul Tatge     |
| Laurie Boyer      | Lynae Gregorian | Nancy McCulley       | Robbie Preston        | Carissa Troia  |
| Connie Burmeister | Franklin Habit  | Barb McFadden        | Elizabeth Prose       | Betty Ulanski  |
| Muriel Coleman    | Carrie Hafele   | Joan McGowan Michael | Carol Rhoades         | Carol Wagner   |
| Melissa Cota      | Debby Haines    | Sara McGregor        | Missy Ridley          | Teresa Werhane |
| Margaret Cottam   | Carol Huber     | Christina McKee      | Cynthia Robey-Duncomb | Joan Werla     |
| Patty Dehnert     | Victoria Jicha  | Ingrid McMasters     | Ginny Ross            | Liz Wood       |
| Kathy Digman      | Kirsti Johanson | Peter McMasters      | Barbara Rottman       | Joan Zieger    |
| Bonnie Dill       | Sue Johnson     | Al Menninga          | Karen Scammell        | Delaine Zuhlke |
| Kathy Doran       | Wendy Johnson   | Leanne Menninga      | Ann Scott             |                |
| Susan Ecroyd      | Kim Kaarto      | Jude Morse           | Kerri Shank           |                |
| Larry Edman       | Vanessa Kessler | Jane Newman          | Diane Shuck           |                |
| Cindy Ellenbecker | Marilyn King    | Amanda Notman        | Cathy Silver          |                |

The only problem with creating a list like this is that inevitably someone gets unintentionally omitted. Please accept my apologies for any omissions, and if it is you, know that I appreciate your help with the success of the Knit-In.

– Mary Jo Harris, Knit-In Chair

## Mittens Mystery Unraveled at Knit-in

An exquisitely knitted and framed pair of mittens will find their way home to Lizbeth Upitis, author of *Latvian Mittens*, after being spotted by instructor Sara McGregor in the Guild's silent auction at the recent Knit-in. Member Marilyn Huset displayed the mittens at the September 2012 Guild meeting and in the newsletter, explaining that they belonged to the late Joan Deneen. At Joan's funeral someone had asked her mother, Rosemary, for the mittens but Mrs. Deneen did not know the person's name. After no one stepped forward, Mrs. Deneen agreed that the mittens should go to a good cause and was happy to have them in the silent auction to benefit the Second Harvest Foodbank. McGregor remembered that the mittens had been knitted by Upitis for the *Latvian Mittens* book. Upitis was a great friend and travelling companion of Joan's and had the mittens framed for her as a gift. McGregor will take the mittens to Meg Swansen's Knit Camp this summer to reunite them with Upitis and they will finally make their way back home. Many connections are made at Guild events, but surely this is one of the most – dare we say it? – divine.

– Contributed by Marilyn Huset



# Mark Your Calendar!

## Upcoming Guild Events:

**April 14: Guild Meeting**, program by Josh Scott of Crafty. Vendors: Ogle Design, Kaleidoscope Fibers

**May 12: Annual Guild Meeting** featuring the Brown Bag Exchange reveal, followed by the door prize extravaganza and dessert bar buffet. In lieu of vendors, check out the MKG Library May Sale and the Members' Stash Sales

**June 7-8: Knitting Safari**, explore shops in and around Minneapolis.

**June 18: MKG Stitch 'n Pitch with the Mallards**, 7:00 pm, Mallards Stadium, Warner Park, Madison

**August 11: Bonus Meeting** at MKG's new home: Promega's Biopharmaceutical Technology Center (BTC) at 5445 East Cheryl Parkway, Madison

## Other Local Fiber Events:

**March 17 through April 30:** Ferrall Artist-in-Residence: Lisa Anne Auerbach, Wright Museum of Art, Beloit WI

**May 31:** Driftless Fibre Arts Faire, Shake Rag Alley, Mineral Point, WI

**July 3-7:** Meg Swansen's Knitting Camp (#1), Marshfield, WI

## Membership Update:

We are now

529

Members strong!

## Neighborhood Knit Classes:

We hope you will find a class that interest you and enjoy the opportunity to get to know fellow Guild members and instructors in more intimate settings.

**Registration is open for these free classes:**

**April 13:** [Getting Picked Up!](#) 1:00–2:30 pm, Warner Park Community Recreation Center, Madison. Teacher: Carrie Hafele (Class is full.)

**April 15:** [Judy's Magic Cast On](#), 6:00–7:30 pm, Bishop O'Connor Center, Madison. Teacher: Connie Burmeister

**April 19:** [Möbius Cast On](#), 1:00–2:30 pm, The Cat and Crow, Mt. Horeb. Teacher: Mo Brown (Class is full.)

**April 22:** [Magic Cast On \(aka Emily Ocker's Circular Cast-on\)](#), 1:00–3:00 pm, Wisconsin Craft Market, Madison. Teacher: Jane Grogan

**April 29:** [Basic Cables](#), 6:00–7:30 pm, Pinney Branch Library, Madison. Teacher: Sandy Gordon (Class is full.)

**May 3:** [Double Knitting Inside Out](#), 9:30–11:00 am, Pinney Branch Library, Madison. Teacher: Mary Jo Harris

**May 31:** [Portuguese-style Knitting](#), 9:30–11:00 am, Sequoya Branch Library, Madison. Teacher: Mary Jo Harris

Check out the [Events](#) tab of the Guild website for more details and to register for a class.

## Treasurer's Report:

Month Reported: February 2014

Membership: 514

Income: \$5,294.90

Disbursements: \$1,513.12

Checking: \$45,709.51

Savings: \$3,068.73

## Community Projects:

Thank you for all your donations in **March**. A total of 133 knit items were received. Many went to the *Columbus Community Hospital, McKayla's Grace, and the Madison Downtown YWCA's Third Street Program*. The remainder will find a home with the other agencies you have supported this year. Here is what you created: 42 hats (baby, kids and adults), 3 pairs of mittens, 4 pairs of booties, 10 scarves, 1 scarf/hat set, 5 cowls, 4 headbands, 6 sweaters, 25 preemie items (sacs, dress, booties, hats, blankets), 2 balls, 21 critters, 5 baby blankets and 5 fleece blankets. How impressive!



**Scarf Ready to Knit Kits**

lengthwise, or use the Knit Collage Scarf pattern by MKG member Susan B. Anderson shown in the [March newsletter](#). Many Ready to Knit Kits for a variety of projects are available at the Community Tables at Guild meetings. Returning are Mini Pookie kits, and new kits are available for Baby Mice, Easy Butterfly and the Knitted Kitty. Please return your finished products in April or May.

In **May** we will wrap up the year with Critters for the **Monona Library Summer Reading Program**. Please help us support this literacy project by providing homemade creations to be used as rewards as the youngest children listen to stories and the older children use their reading skills to learn and enjoy the magic that books can provide. Come see the creative creatures already returned to the Community Tables: hedgehogs, snakes, bears, mice, owls, bunnies, cats, chirps and our latest addition the Mini Pookie. The pattern for the Pookies is provided below. Thank you to designer Barbara Prime for her pattern. The instructions are for a polar bear, an arctic fox or a sheep. Using your imagination and some variation with the ears, Barbara notes you can create additional animals. Sixty-five Ready to Knit Critter kits were picked up at the March Guild meeting. Stop by the Community tables at April's meeting to select one to tuck in your bag to knit. Thank you for sharing your time with others.



**Mini Pookie Sheep**

– Rae Sprague, Community Projects Chair

## Donations wanted!

**April:** Scarves (warm or fashion) for women, 5-6" wide by x 56-60" long preferred

**May:** Critters for Monona Public Library

## Tips and Tricks from your fellow MKG Members

Some of the most wonderful moments for knitters is learning a tip or a trick from a fellow knitter. We'd like to develop a standing column for sharing those great ideas. To kick off this feature, we welcome **Jordan Pitzner**. She solved the problem of yarn balls falling apart and possible tangles with her own ingenious yarn bra or yarn tender. She uses a nylon doubled around the ball. It caught my eye because it was so much better than the purchased type with ragged edges that can snag the yarn. Jordan's yarn tender has the added value – especially if you're knitting on the go – of protecting the yarn and keeping it clean. **Got a tip to share?** Send your tip or trick along with any photos to [newsletter@madisonknittersguild.com](mailto:newsletter@madisonknittersguild.com).







**Mini Pookie** © Barbara Prime Printed with permission.  
[Click here for full pattern, including the Artic Fox and Sheep options.](#)

**Materials for one toy:**

5 g (about 15 m) of sport weight yarn in color A, 7g (about 20 m) of sport weight yarn in color B, pair of 3 mm (US size 2.5) knitting needles, pair of 6 mm safety eyes, stuffing, black yarn to embroider the face, tapestry needle, 15 cm of cord for hanging (optional).

**Gauge:** 7.5 sts and 10 rows per 2.5 cm (1") in stockinette

**Size:** 6 cm (2¼") tall

**POLAR BEAR**

Begin at bottom.

CO 9 sts with yarn A.

**Row 1:** Knit.

**Row 2:** k1, [m1, k1] x 8. (17 sts)

**Row 3:** Knit.

**Row 4:** k1, [m1, k2] x 8. (25 sts)

**Row 5:** Knit.

**Row 6:** k1, [m1, k3] x 8. (33 sts)

**Row 7-13:** Beginning with a P row, work 7 rows in st st.

**Row 14:** k16, k2tog, k15. (32 sts)

**Row 15-16:** [k1, p1] to end.

**Row 17:** Knit.

Switch to yarn B on next row.

**Row 18:** ssk, k30. (31 sts)

**Row 19:** Purl.

**Row 20:** k15, increase 2 into next stitch (knit, purl, knit into stitch), turn. P3, turn. K1, m1, k1, m1, k1, turn. P5, turn. K5, turn. P5, turn. K1, s2kp, k1, turn. P3, turn. S2kp, k15. (makes a shaped bobble for the muzzle)

**Row 21:** p15, s1, p15.

**Row 22:** k15, s1, k15.

**Row 23:** p15, s1, p15.

**Row 24-25:** Work 2 rows in st st.

**Row 26:** [k1, k2tog] x 10, k1. (21 sts)

**Row 27:** Purl.

**Row 28:** [k2tog] x 10, k1. (11 sts)

Cut yarn, thread end through remaining stitches, and pull tight to gather. Put a tiny piece of stuffing inside the bobble, then carefully sew down the sides, knotting the yarn securely on the WS when you're done. This makes the muzzle. Embroider a nose and mouth with black yarn. Attach the safety eyes. Gather together the cast on stitches, then sew the back seam towards the head, leaving an opening. Stuff the toy, finish sewing the back seam, and weave in the yarn ends. Make a pair of ears.

**Polar Bear Ear (make 2)**

CO 13 sts with yarn B.

**Row 1:** K 1 row.

**Row 2:** [k1, ssk] x 2, k1, [k2tog, k1] x 2. (9 sts)

**Row 3:** K 1 row.

**Row 4:** [ssk] x 2, k1, [k2tog] x 2. (5 sts)

Cut yarn, thread end through remaining sts, pull tight to gather. Sew the ears to the head: the CO edge is the top edge of the ear. Curving the edge sewn to the head will give the ears a more realistic shape.

**Notes:** You could easily knit these in the round, if you prefer. Divide the stitches as evenly as possible over your double pointed needles. Before working the final row of decreases, attach the safety eyes, weave in ends and stuff the toy.

**Easy Butterfly** Printed with kind permission from Kim Gainey.

Using needles smaller than recommended size for your yarn to ensure a firm fabric, CO 20 sts.

**Row 1-5:** Knit

**Row 6:** K2tog, K2tog, Knit until last 4 stitches, then K2tog, K2tog

**Row 7-9:** Knit

**Row 10:** Kfb, kfb, knit until last 2 stitches, Kfb, Kfb

**Row 11:** K

**Row 12:** Kfb, knit until last 2 stitches, Kfb, Kfb

**Row 13-16:** Knit

Bind off.

Weave in ends. Cut off about 18 inches of yarn for the body. Determine where the half is and make a slipknot. Pinch the rectangle in the middle and place the slipknot in the middle of the butterfly body. Tie into a knot and wrap this yarn around it several times to create the body, ending with two strings at the top of the butterfly. Make loops with the two strings of yarn and sew into the back of the butterfly body. Run needle through the back of the body to the bottom of the butterfly and let strings dangle a few inches for the legs. Shape the butterfly body.



## Wanted: Donations of Yarn and Knitting Supplies

Please feel free to donation clean yarn, needles, notions or patterns throughout the year. Donations support many MKG initiatives including children's knitting



programs; ministry outreach to individual who are incarcerated; December Sale to benefit Second Harvest Foodbank; making Ready to Knit Kits; art classes and free yarn for members to knit community projects or to purchase for personal use. Drop off your donation at the Community Tables during any meeting. Email your questions to [communityprojects@madisonknittersguild.org](mailto:communityprojects@madisonknittersguild.org)



### Knitting in the News: Knitting star was fastest in world

March 16, 2014, Wakefield Express, UK [Click here to read the full article.](#)

Gwen Matthewman held two world records: the fastest hand knitter at 111 stitches a minute; and the most prolific hand knitter after churning out 915 garments from 11,000 ounces of wool in a year. The mum-of-four's super-human talent saw her first appear on TV in 1968, when the Japanese requested her presence in Tokyo so she could be studied by their professors of knitting. Son Roger said: "When she appeared on their live TV, they examined her body for electric motors because they couldn't believe her speed, which was just basically a blur."



Mrs Matthewman, who took up knitting at a young age, went on to appear on TV shows around the world, including the David Letterman Show in the US, Blue Peter, Record Breakers with Roy Castle, David Frost and Game for a Laugh, when she had to knit pink leg warmers and a trunk warmer for an elephant. She really rocketed into stardom when she knitted a sweater for astronaut Neil Armstrong just before the lunar landings.

## Other Knit-In News:

### Knit-In Silent Auction Raised \$350 for Local Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who bid on the donated knit sweaters in the auction. As a result of your generosity, the Guild was able to donate \$350 to [Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin](#) to support their efforts in providing meals to community members in need. And a special thank you to The Sow's Ear of Verona, WI, for donating their shop samples.



### Critter Collection at the Knit-In

**Congratulations to Kristen Williams** who won a free 2014-15 MKG membership in the critter drawing. A total of **119 critters** were donated with each critter earning one chance in the drawing.

**Souvenir Knit-In Bags Available:** Did you love MKG logo bag you received at the Knit-In, or maybe you missed it but are looking for a great project bag? These versatile bags will be for sale in the lobby during the April MKG Meeting. They are a bargain at \$3.00 each or two for \$5.00.



## Ewe and Janine – April 2014

*I'm Janine Kam, a shepherdess in New Glarus, Wisconsin. I love sheep, knitting, spinning, sewing, dyeing, and all things textiles, especially wool.*

**Farm:** It has been much warmer on the farm and the sheep frolic outdoors. Every day they go deeper and deeper into the pastures looking for the beginnings of new pasture grasses. One of their favorites is the pasture with garlic greens. There really isn't much yet but looking for it is an activity for



them. With some of the snow melted, I've been taking hay to them farther out into the pasture. The coats of the dual-coated Shetlands is starting to rise so I'll roo them and shear the single-coateds this month. Even the coats on the cashmere goats are rising so that is a sure sign of spring. Hopefully I'll be able to fit all the fleeces into the car to take them to the mill to have them processed into roving.

**Knitting:** This week I'm in NYC for the William Morris textile exhibit at the Metropolitan

Museum of Art. I'm also looking at wool yardage to sew at Mood, B&J, Paron, and accessories at Steinlauf and the Zipper store. I'm there for inspiration, too, but mostly for the fabric. Even with a flock of sheep, I need wool yardage because I don't have time to knit everything so I have to sew some. Part of the adventure involves the Mood warehouses where you take the Mood Bus driven by the Tony.



There are tens of thousands of bolts of fabrics and I was mostly looking at the wools. I wanted to rescue all of them especially the bolt of white Ralph Lauren cashmere coating. Think of the dyeing possibilities!

As a stitcher, I appreciate good garment construction, technique and design. I learned to sew when I was 8 years old and by the time I was 13, I made almost everything I wore. When I moved to NYC, my choices were only limited by my budget and being a costumer for Broadway and Off-Broadway shows, I had even more access to places. In spite of all these choices and knowledge of advanced techniques, I always come back to knitting. As a knitter, we have even more options than any textile store. Not only can we create fabric but we can control texture, color, print, drape, grist, gauge, and best of all, we can create a seamless, three-dimensional fabric shape. This is the magic of knitting. No unsightly darts, seams, or seam finishes required.

**Pattern:** This month, I don't have a pattern per se but information about translating sewn garments to knitting using either a sewing pattern or a garment you already have as a pattern. I'm working on a top in the maze mosaic knitting pattern from Barbara G. Walker. I sew a lot of these tops and thought that I would replicate it in knitting. Using a sewing pattern that I've used many times that I know it fits and with the same degree of ease as my knitting (aka 50% stretch), I'm knitting it following the lines of the pattern but without the seams or darts. When it increases or decreases, I do so in knitting while keeping the stitch pattern intact. Where my shoulders slope, I use short rows; at the shoulder seams, I've made an invisible cast-on for seamless shoulders and it keeps the stitch pattern intact. In this case, I'm making A-line, cut-out shoulder, sleeveless top. The key to knitting a garment from a sewing pattern is ensuring that the amount of ease is the same. Whether you are changing the needle size to affects drape and gauge, the yarn, type of wool (Shetland wool is more crisp) or stitch pattern, ease will determine fit. In this case, I was working with a pattern that required 50% stretch in width and 25% stretch in length. Stockinette stitch produced 70% stretch in width and 50% stretch in length. Knitting it in fair-isle, it had 25% stretch in width and 25% stretch in length. When I tried a mosaic stitch I was able to replicate the proper ease needed in both directions. Experiment with your own knitting, yarns, and various stitches! Another possibility is changing the ease allowance on the sewing pattern if you must knit a certain stitch pattern. With sewing you are restricted to working with the fabric you've cut, but with knitting you can always de-knit it without damage if doesn't work out and then re-knit it for a better fit or something totally different. You get a lot more fun for your money. Happy Knitting!



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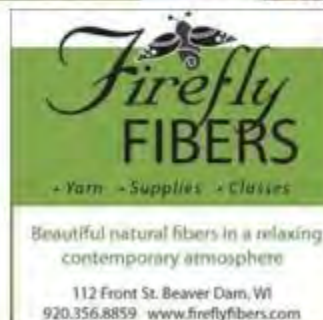
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