

TO GUILD PRESIDENTS

SWATCHES

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

Dear Guild Presidents, Be sure to share this newsletter with your members. For members without access to the Web site, print out a copy to pass around at your next meeting.

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

WHAT'S IN THIS JANUARY 2010 ISSUE - GET ALL OF THIS GREAT NEWS OUT RIGHT AWAY TO YOUR GUILD!

- Woo-Hoo! Updates: 2010 TKGA Conference
- Have you Nominated Your Favorite Knitting "Star", Yet?
- Have You Signed Up Your Guild to Decorate a Table at the 25th Gala?
- Have You Started Your Eco-Shawl for the Contest?
- Have You Started Your 2010 TKGA Pattern Design Competition Entry?
- N-E-W Correspondence Course
"Swatch to Sweater" with Barbara Scott
- Your Guild Can Wish TKGA "Happy Anniversary" and Get a Special Ad Rate
- Welcome to New TKGA Guilds
- News Tidbits & Events
- Gleaned from Your Guild Newsletters
- Things to Remember

IT'S A NEW YEAR!
Remember to update TKGA with your new officers and contact information so we can keep your online listing current.
▶ E-mail us at TKGA@TKGA.com.
▶ Check the Web to see if your listing is current: <http://www.e-offinger.net/tkga/guildsbystate1.cfm>.
We're sorry we can't just pull the info from your newsletters.

WOO-HOO! UPDATES: 2010 TKGA CONFERENCE

Registration is NOT live yet, BUT here are more preview details.

- ▶ **"On Your Way to the Masters" Day – Wednesday, July 7**
Something new! A day for mingling and advice for would-be Master Knitters and graduates of the Program who want to know what comes next.



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



Come, get your questions answered in person or a group discussion, bring swatches for evaluation, see the notebooks and projects of others, get a peek at a sample evaluation letter, and leave with renewed resolve to get to the finish line!

Providing special insights are Arenda Holladay, the TKGGA Master Hand Knitting Program Advisor, and Molly Ferrante, a current Co-Chair on the TKGGA Master Hand Knitting Committee. *You'll need to register in advance. Lunch tickets will also be available.*

► **Great Knitting Event Prior to Shopping Preview – Thursday, July 8**

Great knitting is always inspiring! In the hour before the Thursday evening Shopping Preview, we'll be kicking off TKGGA's Silver Anniversary AND celebrating some great knitting.

Great Knitting #1 -- Master Knitters are invited to bring their most outstanding creations and participate in a **Master Knitters Style Show!** Master knitters are gifted in pattern design as well as quality knitting. All conference-goers will enjoy the rich display – and maybe see a new pattern they just can't live without. Who knows! A publisher may see something they'd like to follow up on, too! *Master Knitters will have an opportunity to register in advance to participate in the style show (no charge).*



Great Knitting #2 – Be ready to cheer when we make the **announcement of TKGGA Pattern Design Competition Winners!** Over a dozen talented knitters will learn they have placed in the top three designs in their category in the contest sponsored by TKGGA and Yarnmarket.com. Each winner will receive prizes from Yarnmarket, and one design will earn its creator the Grand Prize of \$1,000 in Yarnmarket.com credit! Winning designs will be on display on the shopping floor at the Conference and published by Yarnmarket for others to knit! *To enter the TKGGA Pattern Design Competition, see rules, entry form and pattern submission form at www.TKGA.com.*



► **Top Instructors and Classes – Thursday, Friday and Saturday.** The schedule isn't posted yet – but you'll love the selection of knitting classes you've always wanted to take. *Plan to pre-register to SAVE MONEY! Make sure you're a current member of TKGGA to SAVE MONEY!*

► **Silent Auction – “Hats” Off to You!** From top hats and tiaras, to festive caps and crowns, the focus of the 2010 Silent Auction will be **CELEBRATIVE HATS** in honor of the TKGGA 25th Anniversary, CGOA's and TKGGA's annual conferences, and in recognition of all the hats and chemo caps created by crocheters and knitters for charity every year. This year's auction will benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Crochet and knit designers will be invited to create and donate original celebrative headwear that can range from festive to outrageous! Conference-goers will place bids on these creations on the Show floor on Thursday evening and all day Friday. Bid on your favorite and you may be lucky enough to wear it home!



► **TKGA 25th Anniversary Gala Banquet – Friday, July 9**

Help TKGGA look back at 25 years – **and forward 25 years!** Laugh and cry and cheer! Hear things you never knew! Fete people you've always respected. Applaud recent and past accomplishments. Mark the knitting inventions that have moved your stitching forward. Hear what those in the know think is coming in the next 25 years! This is **THE BIG EVENT** of the Conference. And on top of it all, there's a chance to see your fashion creation in the member fashion show. And you can model your just-for-fun (and win prizes) entry in the Eco-Shawl Contest.



Gala tickets are first-come and space is limited, so be sure to reserve your seat early! Remember to mark on your registration form that you're participating in the Member Fashion Show. AND see elsewhere in this newsletter how to enter the Eco-Shawl Contest!



► Shopping Floor Action – Friday and Saturday

It's the shopping floor where you are able to interact with sellers and linger long over purchase choices. This is the hub of fresh selections, patterns and quality supplies that are key to your creativity and the quality of your finished work. And the shopping floor has a fashion show for you and displays of winning competition entries. *Members get onto the shopping floor FREE.*

SOOOO MUCH FUN! Mark the dates, now! Stash away some conference cash each day! And watch for registration to go live at www.knitandcrochetshow.com.

HAVE YOU NOMINATED YOUR FAVORITE KNITTING “STAR”, YET?

Help us put a STAR IN THE SPOTLIGHT. We owe so much to knitters over the years. Who are your favorites? Be sure to nominate them at <http://www.e-offinger.net/tkga/nomform.cfm> for special recognition as part of the TKGA 25th Gala!



HAVE YOU SIGNED UP YOUR GUILD TO DECORATE A TABLE AT THE 25TH GALA?

Sign up your guild to be one of a limited number to decorate a table at the 25th Anniversary Gala Banquet. First-come! Plus, each of those table decorations will be put to popular vote at the Gala to win a prize! Email: djohnston@offinger.com.

HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR **ECO-SHAWL** FOR THE CONTEST?

Here's something ANYBODY can do! And it's fun! Be part of an eco-knitting competition! Winning “fibers” abound – at your house, in your workplace, in the out-of-doors, and on the shelves of your local yarn shop. Knitting them together into a shawl is what it's all about! (See photo with lovely shredded paper collar, by Stacy Smith of North Coast Knitters Guild, CA.) Knit up your entry in the TKGA Eco-Shawl Challenge – and show off your creation at the TKGA Conference fashion show – and maybe win a prize.

Rules are simple:

1. Knit up a shawl that features ONLY recycled materials of any kind (pop-tops, panty hose, etc.) and/or a “green” yarn (any commercial eco-yarn). You do NOT have to write a pattern.
2. Entry must be wearable as a shawl – and be modeled by you at the fashion show.



3. When you pre-register (that opportunity will come soon), be sure to check the Eco-Shawl box on the registration form so we know you're planning to take part in the fashion show with your garment.
4. Bring with you a legible description of the shawl that can be read while you're modeling:
 - a. Your name and your hometown,
 - b. The title of your shawl,
 - c. What your shawl is made from,
 - d. What inspired you to create it.

That's it! **Have fun with this one!**

HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR 2010 TKGA PATTERN DESIGN COMPETITION ENTRY?

BE A BIG WINNER! Start now on your design entry – something that'll catapult you to a great prize! Enter in one of five categories:

- Women's Fashion Classic
- Women's Fashion Forward
- Children's Fashion
- Baby's Fashion (6-12 month size)
- Accessories (hats, scarves, purses, etc.)

Win the \$1,000 grand prize in Yarnmarket.com credits - or hundreds of dollars in other placements! See your winning designs published and on display at the TKGA Annual Conference! To enter the 2010 TKGA Pattern Design Competition, sponsored by TKGA and Yarnmarket.com, go to links found in the right hand column at www.TKGA.com.



YOUR GUILD CAN WISH TKGA A "HAPPY ANNIVERSARY" AND GET A SPECIAL AD RATE IN CAST ON!

Two issues in 2010 will feature special congratulatory ads:

- ~ May-June 2010 issue
Promoting the 25th Anniversary and Annual Conference!
- ~ August-October 2010 issue (Keepsake)
Special Silver Anniversary issue with Post-Conference coverage

Your guild is welcome to place a congratulations ad in one or both issues at special rates. See the 2010 *Cast On* Media Kit (<http://www.tkga.com/coadvertise.shtm>) for the special ad opportunities. Or ask Jane Miller (jmiller@offinger.com, 740-452-4541, ext. 3202 for assistance in selecting something right for your group.



Here's the course you've been waiting for:

**N-E-W TKGa CORRESPONDENCE COURSE!
"SWATCH TO SWEATER" WITH BARBARA SCOTT**

A New Guided Work-and-Learn Course by Barbara Scott.

Do you have a wonderful idea for a sweater but aren't sure how to bring it to fruition? Perhaps you've seen a sweater in a magazine or book that you would like to adapt to a different yarn weight or size. In this course you can learn to draft that pattern – starting with an evaluated swatch and measurements and working through the process of: accurately measuring gauge, plugging the numbers into a schematic drawing, and incorporating good design elements. Once you begin work on the sweater, you will be asked to submit your knitting at various critical stages for review and guidance. At the end of the course you will have a one-of-a-kind garment designed by and for you! Best of all, you'll have gained the knowledge to create more! Click the shopping page button at www.TKGA.com to sign up today!



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST TKGa GUILDS!

Marble Valley Knitting Guild • Rutland, VT

NEWS TIDBITS AND EVENTS

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

(Contributed by Sylvia W.)

NUMBER 21 OF "50 WAYS TO CUT 500 CALORIES A DAY"

Get out your knitting needles. An afternoon of knitting can burn more than 500 calories (at a rate of about 100 an hour). *From MSN's Health and Fitness page, December 28, 2009.*

(Claire in Creative H'Arts newsletter)

MITTEN MAN IN VIRGINIA

Clayton Stoll is a retired truck driver, who loves to knit. Stoll learned that some children at the Parkview Learning Center in Virginia come to school without gloves. So he decided to knit mittens for them. <http://www.wdio.com/article/stories/S1250280.shtml?cat=10335>.

(Chris in Tidewater Knitting Guild of Virginia newsletter)

PURL HARBOR

Another article about men knitters.

http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/life/stories/2009/09/15/1_GUYSKNIT.ART_ART_09-15-09_D1_MSF1LI.html).

FUR YARN BY PAULA LISHMAN INT'L DESIGN CONTEST TO CLOSE MARCH 31, 2010

In celebration of 30 years, the company contest "What Can You Do with 15 Grams (of Fur Yarn)?" is open to all crafters, professionals and novices alike, with specific judging categories for each. See details at: www.furyarn.com – see the "In The News" section on main page in left sidebar.

(Sharon in Creative H'Arts newsletter)

KNITTERS TURN TO GRAFFITI ARTISTS WITH 'YARNBOMBING'

Hundreds of knitters around the world have begun wrapping their huge woolly creations around public property like trees, street signs and lampposts. They then take photos of their colourful "art" and post them on internet sites for fellow knitters to view and comment on.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/4305406/Knitters-turn-to-graffiti-artists-with-yarnbombing.html>. [Along the same lines, check out this item from the *Fort Vancouver Knitter's Guild newsletter* per Judie: <http://bikehugger.com/2007/09/a-knitted-bicycle.html>.]

LAND'S END FEELGOOD CAMPAIGN TO HELP WARMING FAMILIES.

See details at www.warmingfamilies.com and <http://www.landsend.com/ix/index.html?store=le&action=newSearch&search=feelgood&imageField.x=24&imageField.y=6>.

(Sheri of North Coast Knitters Guild, San Diego, newsletter)

TEXTING AND EMAIL BRIEFS

Here's a smattering of what all those initials mean:

AIR = As I Recall

BTW = By the Way

FWIW = For What It's Worth

FYI = For Your Information

TMI = Too Much Information

HTH = Hope This Helps

IMO = In My Opinion

IMHO = In My Humble Opinion

IRL = In Real Life

LOL = Laugh Out Loud

CRUISE AND KNIT WITH YOUR FAVORITE KNITTING STARS

2010 Panama Canal – Julia Bryant, Melody MacDuffee

2010 Japan and China – Lily Chin

2010 Musk Ox & Glaciers Alaska - Lucy Neatby, Donna Druchunas

2010 Glacier Bay (Alaska) Inside Passage (Canada) – Drew Emborsky, Myra Wood, Nicola Bota

2010 Bermuda – Lily Chin, Joyce Renee Wyatt

2010 Bermuda for Kids – Handwork Studio

2010 Canada & New England – Leslye Solomon, Jill Deal

2010 Baltic – Chris Bylsma, Chrissy Day

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 13-14, 2010. Sixth Annual Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival, Four Points Sheraton North, Mars, PA. Exhibits, classes, demos in knitting, spinning, weaving, crochet, wet felting needle felting, basketry. Noni trunk show and sample sale. See information about free items for registrants! More details at www.pghknitandcrochet.com.

February 26-28, 2010. Annual Knitter's Retreat, Congress Hall in Cape May, NJ. Details: <http://www.yarnrus.net/>

June 12-20, 2010. World Wide KIP (Knitting in Public) Week. Pick your own day! Details at: <http://www.wkipday.com>.

July 9-10, 2010. TKG Annual Conference & 25th Anniversary Celebration! Radisson Hotel Manchester/Center of New Hampshire, Manchester, NH. Check out special activities starting July 7! (<http://www.tkg.com/anniversary.shtm>).

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

GLEANED FROM YOUR GUILD NEWSLETTERS

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

“Inside Out Stranded Sock Knitting” by Sharon in November. **Creative H’Arts Knitting Guild, CA.** November 2009.

“January meeting – general knitting session with discussions of what we would like to see in the future: guild knit-a-longs and new member recruitment”. **The Foothills Knitters, CA.** January 2010.

November workshop with Fayla Reiss on needle felting. Three early December days were set aside as “Finishing Days” – everyone brought items they were frantically trying to “finish” (yarn ends on Fair Isle sweater, etc.), and worked on them together as encouragement to keep on task. January meeting: Tanya Alpert with highlights from her new book *Haiku Knits*. **North Coast Knitters Guild, CA.** November 2009 – January 2010.

December: Barry Klein from Trendsetter Yarns presented how yarn is commercially manufactured. January: “Knitting Backwards” program by Ila Tanchuck **Sand & Sea Knitting Guild, CA.** December 2009 – January 2010.

November: Myra Woods “Lace Knitted Shrug” workshop. January: helped Craft Yarn Council of America teach basic knitting and crochet techniques at the Anaheim Convention Center. **Slipt Stitchers of El Segundo, CA.** November 2009 – January 2010.

This group had an invitation to be featured as extras in a television sitcom pilot “A Fine Mess” – as part of “Mema’s Knitting Club” having a private party at a fine restaurant! 2009 charity donations went to Heifer International. Glad to know “Mike” is doing better! **Knit or Knot – Greater Orlando Knitters and Crocheters, FL.** December 2009.

Members participate in members knit-ins and public knit-ins in their area. November: Chair Cathie Moore’s program was on “Quick Holiday Gifts” including patterns for a candy cane, teddy bear, mittens, ornament, wash cloth, scarves and shawl. January program: Nancy Basch, owner of Center Street Knits. **Woolgatherers Knitting Guild, MI.** October 2009 – January 2010.

Guild is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2010! **Ozark Mountain Knitting Guild, MO.** January 2010.

November program: Linda Morse, author of *Luxury Living* and owner of String Yarns. January: “Broomstick Lace” with Remilter King. **Bergen Knitters Guild, NJ.** November 2009 - January 2010.

January: “Equilateral Triangles” by Lauren Gorman. **Long Island Chapter of TKGA, NY.** December 2009 – January 2010.

Celebrated guild’s 10th anniversary in October (see photo in Nov-Jan *Cast On*). November: “Sock Classes” sponsored by Soft N Sassy. **Grindstone Knitting Guild, OH.** November 2009 – January 2010.

January: Knit In and Potluck. **National Trail Knitters Guild Newsletter, OH.** December 2009 – January 2010.

January: Vendors Evening (at least 6 vendors brought items to the meeting for shopping!). **Northcoast Knitting Guild, OH.** January-February 2010.

December meeting featured a hat contest for knitting for Caps for Kids. **Tidewater Knitting Guild of Virginia, VA.** November 2009.

November Program: "Research on Knitted Pieces in the Museums" Tracy Hill, McLoughlin House & Fort Vancouver (muffatees, sontags, cephalines and more). **Fort Vancouver Knitters Guild, WA.** December 2009 – January 2010.

Annual Winter Potluck and December Program: Diane Foromos, Founder of Caring for Kids sent gifts for each member and a note thanking the guild for their knitted donations. **Knitting Guild of Puget Sound, WA.** December 2009 – January 2010.

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

IN CLOSING - **THINGS TO REMEMBER:**

- Let's Stay in Touch! To make sure you continue receiving *Swatches* news (and that they don't go to your bulk or junk folders), please add TKGA@TKGA.com and TKGA@Offinger.com to your e-mail address book.
- CHECK YOUR GUILD LISTING online at <http://www.e-offinger.net/tkga/guildsbystate1.cfm>. Make sure it is up to date.
- LET TKGGA KNOW OF CHANGES IN YOUR GUILD OFFICERS. Fill out and send in the update form at http://www.tkga.com/resources/Guild_Update_Form_TKGA_Web.pdf. Or simply send a quick e-mail to TKGA@TKGA.com. Remember to include your guild name and city/state.
- KEEP YOUR OFFICER MEMBERSHIPS WITH TKGGA CURRENT. If their memberships are not current, you may not receive all of the regular TKGGA member guild correspondence. Consider offering a membership scholarship from your local guild for one or two of your officers – or for other guild members who may not be able to afford regular dues.
- PROMOTE TKGGA MEMBERSHIP TO ALL OF YOUR GUILD MEMBERS. If you need more member brochures, print them out from the Web site or let us know. We'll send them to you to hand out at your next meeting. Out-dated member brochures with old dues rates should be discarded.

Happy Knitting!
Debby Johnston, TKGGA Guild Relations

TKGA and *Cast On* Staff

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

TKGA Advisory Board

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