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**And the Winners Are ...!
The Knitting Guild Association and Yarnmarket.com
Announce Winners of the 2011 TKGA Design Competition**

Quality knitting is always a winner, especially when it is paired with original design. The Knitting Guild Association (TKGA) has long sought to encourage quality and originality not only through TKGA-sponsored education and *Cast On* magazine, but also through special knitting contests. For 2011, six talented TKGA members are being recognized for their entries in the 2011 TKGA Design Competition.

Yarnmarket.com joined TKGA as the industry sponsor for the contest. Yarnmarket.com sponsored all prizes in the form of gift certificates to Yarnmarket.com, and the yarn distributor will publish all winning designs. Each entry has been knit in a yarn currently available from Yarnmarket.com. Judges included Jan Gratz from Yarnmarket, Inc., Penny Sitler from TKGA, and designer Nicky Epstein.

"As always, it is difficult to choose from the many quality entries," said Sitler. "It is exciting to see the talent among members of TKGA and to be able to reward them!"

First, second and third place winners were chosen from two entry categories: Masters and Members. Masters contestants have completed at least two levels of the TKGA Master Hand Knitting Program and were required to provide a written pattern. Masters winners are: First Place (\$500 certificate) Stephanie Hatfield, with "Vineyard" (kimono-style jacket); Second Place (\$350 certificate) Nancy Vandivert, with "Lilac Festival Bag" (felted and flowered); Third Place (\$200 certificate) Arenda Holladay, with "Bye, Bye Bunting" (hooded, Fair Isle).

Winners in the Members category (who were not required to prepare a written pattern) are: First Place (\$300 certificate) Susan Abed, with "Cabled Vest"; Second Place (\$200 certificate) Emily Armstrong, with "Aran Sampler Afghan"; and Third Place (\$100 certificate) Britt Raubenheimer, with "Searose Beach Pullover".

Judges considered compliance with rules, design appeal, use of stitches, color, selection of materials, and quality of written pattern (for Masters entries). They also judged quality of workmanship, finishing, appearance of entries.

All winning garments were displayed at the Summer Knit & Crochet Show/TKGA Conference at the end of July in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"It was a pleasure to present awards personally to those winners who were present at the Conference. We are now working on getting all of these wonderful patterns ready for visitors of Yarnmarket.com to enjoy," said Deborah Knight of Yarnmarket.com.

For additional details about The Knitting Guild Association, its programs and design contests, contact TKGA@TKGA.com. Contest photos are posted at www.TKGA.com.

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MASTERS CATEGORY:



First Place
"Vineyard" by Stephanie Hatfield



Second Place
"Lilac Festival Bag" by Nancy Vandivert



Third Place
"Bye, Bye Bunting" by Arenda Holladay

MEMBER CATEGORY:



First Place
“Cabled Vest” by Susan Abed



Second Place
“Aran Sampler Afghan” by Emily Armstrong



Third Place
“Searose Beach Pullover” by Britt Raubenheimer