



# Northcoast Knitting Guild

September - October 2012

Regular meetings are held the second Monday of each month, except December, at 7 p.m. at the Ross C. De John Community Center, 6306 Marsol Rd., Mayfield Heights, behind Golden Gate Plaza, just west of the I-271 Mayfield Road exit.

- KNIT-INS:**
- **Judy Riga's home** (6325 Aldenham Drive, Mayfield Village, 440/449-6875). Held the first Monday of each month, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  - **Susan Yarns** (2166 S. Taylor Road, Cleveland Heights, 216/321-2687); Thursdays, 6 to 9 p.m.
  - **Knitting on the Square** (109 Main Street, Chardon, 440-285-KNIT); every day.
  - **Starry Knits** Sit and Knit every Tuesday at the Willoughby Hills United Methodist Church, 34201 Eddy Road (behind Gale's Garden Center), noon to 3 p.m.

Questions, comments, additions for the newsletter? Notify either of the editors: Ann Daley Smrekar (440-975-0225) or AnnSmrekar@gmail.com OR Louise Fabian Vouk (440-256-1768) or kelovo@roadrunner.com. We gladly accept your input!

## NEW (& RETURNING) MEMBERS

Georgina Koh 440-585-3366  
32709 Knobel Dr, Willowick, 44095  
e-mail: gkoh2001@yahoo.com

Hanna Romaniuk 216-201-0196  
1436 Golden Gate Blvd #6, Mayfield Hts, 44124  
e-mail: hanna\_romaniuk@gmail.com  
Ravelry: hanuszia

Marianna Dostal 216-288-3553  
2069 Wyandotte Ave, Lakewood, 44107  
e-mail: mdostal@peanutsfibers.com  
Ravelry: ankaknits

New email for current member Audrey Knight:  
Audrey@audknits.com

## WHO? WHAT? WHEN? upcoming programs:

**Sept. 11 Author Hunter Hammersen** lives in Cleveland Heights, writes books filled with gorgeous sock and accessory patterns, and is the voice behind the witty *Violently Domestic* blog. Hunter has asked if it would be OK if, instead of a formal talk, she just brings lots of knitted samples from her books (Silk Road Socks, The Knitter's Curiosity Cabinet, and the mini book Rabble Rousers) and talks about being a self-published knitting author. We told her, "Heck, yes!" Please join us for an informal, fun evening with this creative knitter.

**Oct. 16 Guild Competition** (see Competition Rules on page 6).

Please keep member **Diane Zucker** and her family in your prayers. Diane's son Stephen was killed in an industrial accident in late July. Our thoughts and sympathy go out to you and your family, Diane.



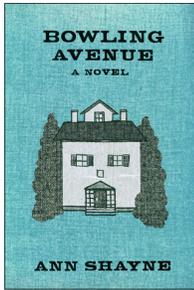
## Editor's Message: Bowling Avenue – a book review

by Ann

I'm a fan of Ann Shayne and Kay Gardiner, better known to many of us as the Mason-Dixon knitters. Ann and Kay met in a Rowan fan chat room and over the course of a few years became not only friends but successful co-bloggers, designers, and authors.



I had read that Ann had published a novel, but it wasn't until I was re-reading their first Mason-Dixon book one Saturday morning that I realized how much I like the way these women write. Logically that must mean that Ann's novel would be well-written, too — correct? So I purchased a copy of Bowling Avenue for my Kindle app and was off and running.



Ann's novel is a study in *Things Are Not What They Seem*. When Delia reluctantly returns home to Nashville to claim and sell her late sister's home, she must face her grief, her distant mother, an unfriendly neighbor, a realtor who wishes to help her sell the house (and get to know her better), an unexpected and colossal flood, the secrets everyone is carrying, and...herself. Knitting features just a little in this novel, as Delia's late sister was a knitter but Delia is not.

I found Ann's writing clever and witty, and the story kept me wondering enough to propel me to the end (no spoilers here). Give Bowling Avenue a read.

## President's Message – What Are Your Non-Knitting Hobbies? by Judy

I recently asked guild members, as a way to get to know each other better, "What types of hobbies are you involved with now or you used to do way back when?" I know for some of us the list is endless! My list sure seems that way and I'm adding new ones all the time!!



Ann Smrekar: I was a multi-hobby kid, lucky to be taught to knit and crochet by my mom and grandma at age 6 or 7. I also did embroidery (it was the 1970s, after all!), so there were many pillowcases around our house adorned with our Workbasket magazine iron-on embroidery designs. My Dad even wore a tee shirt embroidered with his Zodiac sign (it was the 1970s, after all!) - Leo - with a big lion face (what a good sport!). These days my non-knitting hobbies are hiking, gardening, and pursuing good radio and good music. Wish I read more, but at least there are audiobooks so I can "read" while I stitch!

Win Grossman: I made a stained glass window, am currently working on my first rug hooking project (with a few in the wings), and go to the Western Reserve Rug Hooking Guild. I have been a perennial gardener for decades and now a garden vegetable grower, too. I experimented with essential oils and made some blends. I also have done several remodels and redecoratings...

Marianna Dostal: I don't necessarily call them hobbies, always thought that 'hobbies' required a bit more work and study, so instead I did "stuff." Before I really got into knitting, what I did changed with the season. In the summer, I often refinished furniture, and as a poor college graduate in the middle of a recession (2001) that was a fantastic hobby to have. When I purchased my home I started focusing on my garden. I don't think the garden will ever stop. For a summer when I was in college, I started learning stone carving. It was interesting, but I just didn't have the necessary space to continue. Knitting was

Continued on next page... —>

always a fall/winter/spring activity, but as time passed it has become more of a year-round occurrence. Finally, because I am a product of my generation, when I need to kick back and kick butt for a bit, I love picking up a good video game.

Judi Pfancuff: My second-favorite hobby is dog grooming. Well, to be fair, Airedale grooming. And I only groom one dog. It's perfect because I only do it once a month, so it doesn't interfere with my knitting!

Pat Cornacchione: I am passionately caught up in genealogy and more than willing to share with anyone in the guild. I like to spin, although I haven't done it lately. Other needlework includes crochet, counted cross stitch, and I am trying to take up needlepoint. I do bead embroidery and bead stringing.

I love to travel. Next trip is to the Buckwheat Festival in Preston County, West Virginia, at the end of September. I am looking forward to the trip because I found a yarn shop in Morgantown (near my destination, my cousin's house) that also has yarns from local artists.

I am a registered merit badge counselor with the Boy Scouts (Greater Cleveland Council) for genealogy, gardening, and (yepers) textile. I am also registered with the Scouts as a religious awards counselor for Ad Altare Dei and Pius XII, both Catholic awards. I'm affiliated with Boy Scout Troop 620 at Gesu Church in University Heights. I love cats. There must be more . . . Oh and I sew too. I am a voracious reader; my favorites are British and American mysteries.

Betty Kovacs: I'm a fan of the old movie classics at which time I do my knitting and crocheting for three groups. I'm a member of several book discussion groups so I read a lot. I'm a watercolorist and a member of several art groups. As a Red Hat member, I attend their functions. I attend a Hungarian Study Group, keeping our language alive. I'm a member of the Cleveland Button Society; won two awards at my first "show." I'm an Avon rep. I recently joined a poetry workshop. I'm a volunteer at our Community Center, leading a book discussion group and a knit/crochet group.

Mo Doerner: In the past, I've done latch hook, sewing, crewel, embroidery, candlewicking (white-on-white embroidery), bargello, candle making, and counted cross stitch. My list keeps growing as I think about this. I still have counted cross stitch projects to finish, fabric to sew.... I also like to travel, read, and walk/hike.

Judy Gerson: I started in high school with batik, candle making, and needlepoint. Moved on to latch hook, stained glass, and a lot of counted cross stitch (I made each of my children a sampler when they were born). I have a salt & pepper shaker collection.

For knitting, I have been obsessed with knitting felted bags, beaded scarves, Huggable Hedgehogs, and dishcloths. I am certified in Reiki Level 2 and I currently make "melt and pour" soap into which I infuse Reiki healing energy. I enjoy photography and am an active member of the Cleveland Photographic Society. My most recent hobby is growing air plants on found objects — especially from the beaches of Lake Erie and Florida.

**GUILD SITE GETS A FACELIFT** With the support of the guild board and the stellar work of Louise Vouk, our guild website ([www.northcoastknitting.org](http://www.northcoastknitting.org)) has had quite a facelift!

The main page (see a bit of it below) was given a new look, and there are now many easy-to-use, pop-out menu choices (Home, President Judy's Page, For Members Only, Calendar, Service Project Patterns, Events, A Knitter's Fantasy, Gallery, Education, and Knitting Venues) that lead you to news, information, photos of guild projects, information on knit-ins and other knitting events around the area, and so much more!

See what you think as you explore our improved site!



## "YOU HAVE MAIL" —

Do you like to communicate with folks, and answer questions about knitting and about our guild? Consider being **the official person who checks and responds to e-mails** received on our guild website — [info@northcoastknitting.org](mailto:info@northcoastknitting.org).



You need not be a long-standing guild member to do this — just have a desire to help out and respond to curious knitters who want to know more about our guild. Mo Doerner currently does this, but as co-chair of the upcoming A Knitter's Fantasy, she'd like to hand the reins over to another member. She'd be happy to train whoever accepts the position.

Contact Mo at a guild meeting, or drop her an e-mail at [moknits@suddenlink.net](mailto:moknits@suddenlink.net). Thanks for your consideration!

## "Fall" for cool-weather knitting!

**HANDCRAFTED ITEMS FOR SALE AGAIN IN NOVEMBER** Due to the success of last year's event, and a vote in the affirmative, we'll once again have a **Members' Handcrafted Items** sale at our November meeting — which is also our Holiday Party night.

Last year, members sold handspun yarn, machine-embroidered items, quilts, homemade soap, felted soap, greeting cards, small paintings, brass sock needle protectors, crochet hats, accessories, stitch markers, sewn items, and lots more.



We also received survey answers stating interest in selling the following: project bags, jewelry, hooked rugs, lotions, storage/organizer items, beaded jewelry, handmade journals, and bracelets.

Please contact President Judy Gerson as soon as possible to let her know if you will be participating in the sale and what you'll be selling.

What fun it will be to see all the ways we are creative! Make sure to bring a little extra money or your checkbook to the November meeting. If you have any questions about what to bring, contact Judy Gerson.

*Note: sellers who participate agree to give 10% of the money they make to NCKG.*

## YARN DISCOVERY TOUR 2012: September 7-22

The Yarn Discovery Tour is returning for a 5<sup>th</sup> straight year, and YDT organizers are promising to make the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary event a memorable one for Northeast Ohio fiber enthusiasts.

Fourteen yarn shops have committed to participate in this year's "Shop Hop," which will run from September 7-22, 2012. Sponsors are being contacted to provide a variety of quality products for prize winners.

More details on participating sponsors, as well as 2012 rules, will be posted on this website ([yarndiscoverytour.com](http://yarndiscoverytour.com)) as they become finalized in the coming weeks.

First held in 2008, Yarn Discovery Tour is an annual event for fiber enthusiasts to become more familiar with their local yarn shops throughout Northeast Ohio.

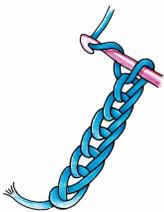
Passports are sold at participating yarn shops and stamped at each shop visited by "tourists," who are then entered in drawings for prize baskets full of yarns and accessories given out at the tour's conclusion.

The 2012 Yarn Discovery Tour participating shops are: The Artful Yarn, Birds of a Feather, Black Locust Farm, Calla Lily Yarn & Gifts, The Designing Woman, Ewes d'Bleu, Fine Points, The Knit Shop, Knitting on the Square (KNOTS), My Sister's Yarn Shop, River Colors Studio, Smith's Knitshop, Soft 'n Sassy Fiber Arts, and Studio Knit. Sorry we don't have room to include all shop address and phone information; if you are interested, drop by one of the participating shops and they will have detailed information, or visit the official website for full address and phone information on each shop.



September 7-22, 2012

## Knit-Out & Crochet 2012



Our annual **Knit-Out & Crochet 2012** will be on **Sunday, October 14, from 1 to 5 p.m.** at the Cleveland Museum of Art. What a lovely venue for this fun, free event!

Guild member **Miriam Rosenblatt** is once again coordinating this event and she'd love your help. Please commit to at least 1-2 hours, but of course feel free to stay the whole time.

Here are the areas where we need volunteers:

Activities: Please let me know the area(s) you would like to volunteer what time periods and for how long.

There will be designated areas in the classroom space.

- Meet and Greet
- Spool Knitting Activity
- Service Knitting: women4womenknitting4peace scarves
- Teaching Knitting
- Teaching Crochet
- Demonstrating spinning

If you're interested, contact Miriam at [mwrosenblatt@yahoo.com](mailto:mwrosenblatt@yahoo.com), or speak with her at the September meeting.



# Competition Rules

(for the October meeting – revised August 2011)

## Submission Rules

1. Submissions must be your own work. You can be helped through the rough patches, but you must do the knitting and the finishing.
2. There is no time limit as to when the piece was finished.
3. Bring your item in a bag, labeled with your name and the appropriate competition category (see below). If you use sewn-in name labels, cover your name.
4. You may enter up to three items.
5. If you are unable to attend but wish to submit items, someone else can bring in your entry.
6. If you want to submit an item for the contest, it has to be turned in by 7:00 PM for it to be included. No exceptions, no late entries will be accepted. (rule 6 adopted August 9, 2011)
7. **IMPORTANT:** Members may only enter an item once in the NCKG competition. A member may enter an item in the NCKG competition which has been entered in/received an award from another competition (such as a county fair).

## Knitting Categories

1. **Beginner** — Those who have knit two years or less.
2. **Design** — Original work or, if you use a commercial pattern as a base, your design must have changes above and beyond color and yarn substitution (significant stitch changes, shape changes, etc.).
3. **Commercial Pattern** — Divided into the following sub-categories (adopted August 9, 2011):

- a. Sweaters
- b. Shawls
- c. Accessories (including, but not limited to: slippers, bags, scarves, gloves, mittens, cowls, purses)
- d. Socks
- e. Babies and Children
- f. Home Knitting (pillows, afghans, placemats, tea cozies, whimsies, etc.)
- g. Miscellaneous (if needed)

## 4. “People’s Choice” (adopted August 9, 2011)

## Category Note

If two (2) or fewer items are submitted in any given category, the items will be placed in an appropriate alternate category.

## Category Awards

In each of the categories, ribbons are awarded for First Place, Second Place, Third Place and Honorable Mention. At the discretion of the Competition Committee, either books or gift certificates will be given as prizes to First Place winners. In addition, at the discretion of the Competition Committee, either books or gift certificates may be given as prizes to Second Place and Third Place winners. (Revised October 12, 2009)

## Guidelines for Balloting

Please take the time to gently inspect items, looking at them from all sides. Judge items on workmanship, suitability of yarn, suitability of color(s), and style.

**It's easy being green!** Over the past six years, many members have opted to go paperless and receive the newsletter by downloading it from our guild website, [www.northcoastknitting.org](http://www.northcoastknitting.org). Ann and Louise thank you so much — so does the NCKG treasury!

Whenever we publish an issue of the newsletter, we alert *all* members who have e-mail that the newsletter is available on our website for download. Even if you prefer to receive a hard copy, two nice features of the online format are that you can immediately “preview” the issue from your own computer, *and* you get to see the newsletter in **color**.

If you are interested in going paperless and/or have any questions about it, contact Ann ([AnnSmrekar@gmail.com](mailto:AnnSmrekar@gmail.com)) or Louise ([kelovo@roadrunner.com](mailto:kelovo@roadrunner.com)). We'll be happy to help you **go green!!**

## SALLY MELVILLE TO TEACH IN APRIL 2013

Mo Doerner will start to take reservations for the April 27-28, 2013, classes with designer, teacher, and author **Sally Melville** beginning at the September 2012 meeting. Classes will be held at Lake Farmpark in Kirtland. The fee for each three-hour class is \$10. Please indicate your lunch choice (ham, tuna, turkey, or veggie, and the type of bread/wrap: wheat or white bread or a regular flour wrap). For now, you may sign up for two classes and if the classes do not fill up, we will open up classes to those members who are signed up for other classes. The Saturday afternoon class can have an unlimited number of participants; however, we have a space limitations in the classroom. The other three classes have a limit of 24 students.



Saturday, April 27, 2013: Knit to Flatter and Fit @ 9:00 am; First Choices, Basic Shapes @ 1:00 pm

Sunday, April 28th, 2013: Borders and Buttonholes @ 9:00 am; Essential Skills @ 1:00 pm

### **KNIT TO FLATTER AND FIT**

A knitter who spends the time and energy to make her own clothes should be rewarded with a result that makes her happy and proud. It should fit, it should flatter, and there should be no mystery as to how this happened. But sadly, and too often, this is not the result. Why? Because the knitter chooses the wrong pattern OR chooses the right pattern but follows the directions without questioning them OR makes the right garment but wears it with the wrong thing.

There are a few simple rules to follow for successful knitting: start with styles that flatter, knit with appropriate decisions for a personalized fit, and then wear it with something that makes it look wonderful! This workshop covers all these decisions and puts the power for successful results into your competent hands. Yay!

SKILL LEVEL: anyone

HOMEWORK: It is essential that this exercise be completed. You will be disappointed if you don't do this! And please read this carefully, including the NOTE at the bottom.

1. Dress in something close fitting. (We need to see your real silhouette. You may wear only lingerie, or you may add a bodysuit, a leotard, or tights. But do wear supportive lingerie.)
2. Standing straight, with arms slightly away from your side and feet together, have someone take a straight-on, full body (head-to-toe) photo of you. (Have the photo fill the screen as much as possible.)
3. Print the photo onto plain paper (enlarging it to 8-10" tall).
4. Trace your outline only with a heavy black pen: we don't need your photo anymore, only your outline. Bring your outline to class.

SUPPLIES TO BRING: a couple of pages in at least two colors of light-weight (20lb or lighter but NOT tracing paper), light-colored paper (that you can trace your outline through); scissors; measuring tape; pencil; eraser. There will be four pages of handouts.

NOTE TO PARTICIPANTS: Common homework and supplies errors are the following: arms too far from sides, feet not together, head not included, paper too heavy or too light (tracing paper does not work), photo brought instead of just silhouette, silhouette not outlined or not outlined heavily enough.

### **FIRST CHOICES, BASIC SHAPES**

No matter how advanced or experienced we are, we run the risk of making a garment that looks awful. Why? We make decisions in the first 20 minutes that have everything to do with the success or failure of a project. What are those decisions? Yarn, color, stitch pattern, silhouette.

(continued on next page)

This workshop gives diagnostic skills to look at these decisions. And it then follows with basic pattern drafting. So even if you never design your own knitting, you'll have the tools to alter what you do knit to produce the best possible result.

NOTE The basic pattern drafting will be the set-in sleeve.

SUPPLIES TO BRING tape measure

### **BORDERS AND BUTTONHOLES**

This workshop explores the best techniques for these finishings that make such a difference in our knitted garments. It covers basic maneuvers, four or more basic edging stitch patterns, and the very best buttonholes. Participants will never again struggle with instructions to "pick up and knit 137 sts along right front" nor with the question of how to make virtually invisible buttonholes.

SKILL LEVEL: beginner, intermediate, and beyond

SUPPLIES TO BRING: yarn (same weight as homework piece, contrast colour is fine), needles appropriate for working an edging onto the homework piece

HOMEWORK: Use non-textured, light-colored yarns. Worsted weight is best. Block swatch well: Cast on 24 stitches: work 3" in stockinette. **DO EXACTLY AS WRITTEN:** do not slip stitches and do not work short rows. (You are shaping a round neck, in case you wonder.) At the beginning of the next RS row, bind off 6 stitches. At the beginning of the next RS row, bind off 3 stitches. At the beginning of the next RS row, bind off 2 stitches. At the beginning of the next 3 RS rows, bind off 1 stitch. Work 8 rows straight. Then bind off all stitches.

### **ESSENTIAL SKILLS**

No matter how advanced and accomplished we are, there are habits or holes in our knitting repertoire. Perhaps we rely upon the same cast-on, the same increase, the same decrease; perhaps we are confounded by selvedge stitches; perhaps we knit without the awareness that we have choices.

This workshop explores and explains the many techniques we should all have in our repertoire. We'll talk about which are best suited to each situation and why, and we'll practice them all with lots of hands-on experience.

SKILL LEVEL: beginner intermediate and beyond. (Very experienced knitters get a lot from this class, and so do newer knitters.)

SUPPLIES TO BRING: yarn, knitting needles, crochet hook

HOMEWORK: none

### **READ THIS! Tidbits You Shouldn't Miss**

1. We need someone to take over the task of reading and responding to **e-mail** sent to our guild website. Please see page 4 for more information.
2. We need a volunteer to handle guild **publicity**. This is not an officially-listed board position but is needed promote the guild and guild events.
3. President Judy Gerson recently sent out a message asking members if they are interested in a **recipe exchange**, and possibly printing one for all to share. See Judy at an upcoming meeting if you'd like to participate and/or be part of collecting recipes.

The 2012-2013 NCKG membership roster will be available this month. If we have your e-mail address, you will receive the 2012-2013 Guild Membership Roster *electronically*.



Hard copies will be mailed separately to those without e-mail.



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- **Susan Yarns** (2166 S. Taylor Cleveland Heights, 216/321-2687); every Thursday, 6 to 9 p.m.
- **Knitting on the Square** (109 Main Street, Chardon, 440-285-KNIT); every Thursday, 6 to 9 p.m.
- **Starry Knits** Sit and Knit every Tuesday at the Willoughby Hills United Methodist Church, 34201 Eddy Road (behind Gale's Garden Center), noon to 3 p.m.

### 2012-2013 upcoming programs:

<b>2012</b>	
September 11	Presentation by Hunter Hammersen, author and designer.
October 9	<b>Annual Member Competition</b>
November 13	<b>Holiday Party, Gift Exchange, and Members' Handcrafted Items Sale</b>
<b>2013</b>	
January 8	<b>Yarn Swap and Sale</b>
February 12	<b>Reversible Cable Scarf</b> - Guild member Maria Marics will present a tutorial on techniques used in her cabled, reversible scarf pattern.
March 12	<b>Open Mic Night.</b> Last year, many of our members shared their favorite knitting technique books and it was extremely educational and fun. What will the subject be this year? Stay tuned!
April 9	TBA - outside speaker
May 14	<b>Election of Officers and member presentation: Member Audrey Knight</b> will talk about her book <i>Reversible Scarves</i> . Published by Cleveland's own Cooperative Press, Audrey's book has sparked attention on one of the best-read knitting blogs in the universe.
June 11	Knit-along kick-off and knitting with technology discussion. What aspects of today's technology do you use to further your passion for knitting? Blogs? Ravelry? Chat boards? Knitting software? Come find out what fellow guild members find fascinating in the ever-growing world of knitting with technology.
July 9	<b>Annual Service Project Competition and Speaker</b> from an organization that receives our handknit- ted charitable contributions.
August 13	<b>Vendor Night</b> Come out and support our local fiber fetish enablers!

### OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

#### 2012-2013

<b>President</b> – Judy Gerson	440-610-0423
<b>VP/Program Chair</b> – Judi Pfancuff	440-914-0495
<b>Secretary</b> – Ann Daley Smrekar	440-975-0225
<b>Treasurer</b> – Ginny Thomas	330-405-6730
<b>Membership Chair</b> – Pat Cornacchione	216-791-7166
<b>Service Chair</b> – Win Grossman	440-209-1555
<b>Sunshine Chair</b> — Betty Ann Kovacs	216-381-4814
<b>Newsletter Editors</b> –	
Ann Daley Smrekar	440-975-0225
Louise Fabian Vouk	440-256-1768
<b>Historian/TKGA Liaison</b> –	
Judi Pfancuff	440-914-0495
<b>Publicity</b> —	xxx-xxx-xxxx
<b>Education</b> — Maureen Doerner	216-561-2578
<b>Website</b> — Louise Fabian Vouk	440-256-1768

### MEMBER INFORMATION

NCKG is a hand-knitting chapter of TKGA (The Knitting Guild Association). Dues are \$20/year. Membership in TKGA is also encouraged.

The Knitting Guild Association®  
1100-H Brandywine Blvd.  
Zanesville, OH 43701-7303  
Ph. No. 740-452-4541  
Web site: [www.tkga.com](http://www.tkga.com).

*NCKG was born in 1989. Our goal is to maintain a balance of education, service, and fun! We welcome new members or guests. Call any of the guild officers for further information.*