

Northcoast Knitting Guild Newsletter

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March-April 2019 Newsletter

The current password for members-only content on our website is
knithappy

Regular meetings are held the second TUESDAY of each month (except December) at 7:00 PM at the [Ross C. De John Community Center](#), 6306 Marsol Rd. in Mayfield Heights (behind Golden Gate Plaza, just west of the I-271 Mayfield Road Exit).



Looking for somewhere to sit and knit?
Find a [list of member-sponsored knit-ins](#) on our website!

Upcoming Meeting Programs

March 12 Guild Meeting: Organization for the Fiber Artist

April 9 Guild Meeting: NCKG Annual Vendor Night

For more information on upcoming programs, see our [Programs page!](#)

President's Message

Submitted by **Bess DeTardo Antol**



The joy of starting vs. the joy of finishing

This weekend, I went to the Wild and Woolly Fiber Arts event put on by the Cleveland Metroparks with my Mom, my sister, and my nephew. I was on the lookout for a particular style of yarn, but ended up bringing home some carded fiber to perhaps spin my own even though I haven't spun in ages. I haven't decided yet if this was a silly idea, as I have a plentiful stash of yarn and spinning fibers at home, so I'm not sure I really needed a new pre-project-project to make the yarn for what should be a simple hat.

I had been on a kick of finishing old knitting projects last year, and it felt good to get some projects out of Work-in-Progress (WIP) bags. I'm pleased to report that I finished as many old WIPs as I created new unfinished WIPs that will linger into this year. That gives me a great deal of satisfaction, and I hope it is a trend I can continue, as my knitting karma is still not in balance with a variety of more-than-a-year old WIP projects that I either need to decide to frog or finish.

But this time of year I tend to feel an insatiable desire to knit new things, which is entirely out of proportion to the amount of time I will likely give to knitting over other things in my life. This time of year is when I buy patterns, cast-on many things with great hopes, and join Mystery-Knit-Alongs (MKALs) which I may not even attempt to start until after the rest of the group has long-since completed the pattern. As an aside - I don't know if other people follow MKALs without knitting them, or is that just me? I will avidly watch the MKAL progress, purchasing the pattern, picking out skeins, reading all the forum posts, drooling over the "spoiler" pictures, imagining I will cast on that very night, but possibly not even winding the ball of yarn... I guess I get a vicarious knitting thrill over

watching MKALs.

It's also that lovely time of year where everyone in my family really appreciates things I have knit for them in the past. This month, my husband and kid are having daily playful arguments about whose hand-knitted hat is whose. So whatever I knit for them now will likely give me a frequent warm feeling, as I know they will wear it for the rest of the winter. That creates a lot of motivation for me to start new hats, scarves, or other winter-wear for them.

The old WIPs will keep until later. As the weather gets warmer, I can decide if I'm really ever going to finish that cotton short-sleeve cardigan. If this will be the year I finish that costume-y piece to wear to the gaming convention. Or why it ever seemed like a good idea to start that many-colored blanket given my lousy track-record with blankets. And maybe I will also get organized, and figure out if there are other WIPs lurking in my craft closet that haven't even been noted in Ravelry.

Until the Ohio spring warms up, I am going to dwell in the sunny land of the newly cast on projects. I'll leave WIP clean-up for later.

Email the President!

Upcoming Fiber Festivals & Knitting Events



April 13–14 | **Fiber Expo**
Ann Arbor, MI
<http://www.fiberexpo.com/>

Great Lakes Fiber Show

The Great Lakes Fiber Show returns to the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Wooster, Ohio on Memorial Day Weekend for its 24th annual festival. There will be over 100 of your favorite vendors, great workshops, and a range of free activities for two days of fun — Saturday and Sunday, May 25th & 26th. This is a local and fun fiber festival. The lineup of workshops are varied and interesting including, knitting, spinning, crochet, needle felting, weaving, and rug hooking. There is a Knitted Garment Competition which will be held for the 3rd year and it would be terrific to have entries from our guild. Come, have fun, and support our local fiber show!!

Here are the links:

Home page for the show: <https://greatlakesfibershow.com/>

Knitted Garment Competition Instructions: <https://greatlakesfibershow.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Knitted-Garment-Rules-and-Entry-Form-2019.pdf>



June 1-2 | **Mid-Ohio Fiber Faire**
Worthington, OH
<http://www.midohiofiberfair.com/>

The logo for Stitches Midwest features a sheaf of golden wheat on the left. To the right, the word "STITCHES" is written in large, bold, white capital letters on a yellow rectangular background. Below it, the word "MIDWEST" is written in white capital letters on a yellow banner that curves upwards.

August 1-4 | **Stitches Midwest**
Schaumburg, IL
<https://www.knittinguniverse.com/stitches/>



September 21-22 | **Wool Gathering**

Yellow Springs, OH

<https://youngsdairy.com/wool-gathering/>

2019 Heritage Hobby Bus: Rhinebeck

October 18–20, 2019

\$550 per person/double occupancy

See attached flyer [here](#) for more information

8th Autumn Fiber Festival

October 19 - 20, 2019

at the Ashland County Fairgrounds

(Mozelle Hall, 2042 Claremont Avenue, Ashland, Ohio)

Visit their website for more information: <http://www.autumnfiberfestival.com/>

Past Events

Cleveland Metroparks Wild & Wooly

There were 18 vendors at this event which is put on by the Cleveland Metroparks. Many vendors were small business owners who sell on-line so it was a great chance to see their products in person. There were lovely bags, hand dyed yarns, notions, spun. People knitted, crocheted, spun, and chatted at the tables. This year there was a food truck too. Raffle prizes were donated by the vendors and I was delighted to win Cornbread & Honey's beautiful skein of fingering yarn in the new colorway "Pretty Little Snow Bird" – see the photo. I am looking for the perfect shawlette pattern for this yarn.

Submitted by **Mo Doerner**



I love fiber events! It is so much fun to get together with others who love to work with fiber: to shop, to take classes or just to hang out and knit together. This weekend at the Wild & Woolly Fiber Show, I got to do two out of three. (no classes)

Wild & Woolly is sponsored by the Cleveland MetroParks and is held on a Saturday in February at the Cuyahoga County Fair Grounds. Stacey Allen, who also offers fiber lovers trips such as Maryland Sheep and Wool, Rhinebeck and Ann Arbor, put together an excellent group of local and other vendors. There were seventeen and you could find yarn, roving, accessories, finished products and on and on.

My stash being what it is, I limited myself to just two skeins of sock yarn and ended up buying from one old and one new, to me, vendor. I had gotten a skein of the Oculus Sock yarn from Iced Melon last year and had knit up the socks. The yarn has some cashmere in the base and is beautifully soft, and the simple lace pattern looked good with the stripey yarn. I enjoyed showing the dyer what the yarn looked like in the final projects. And I got another skein and now have to start looking for the right pattern for it.

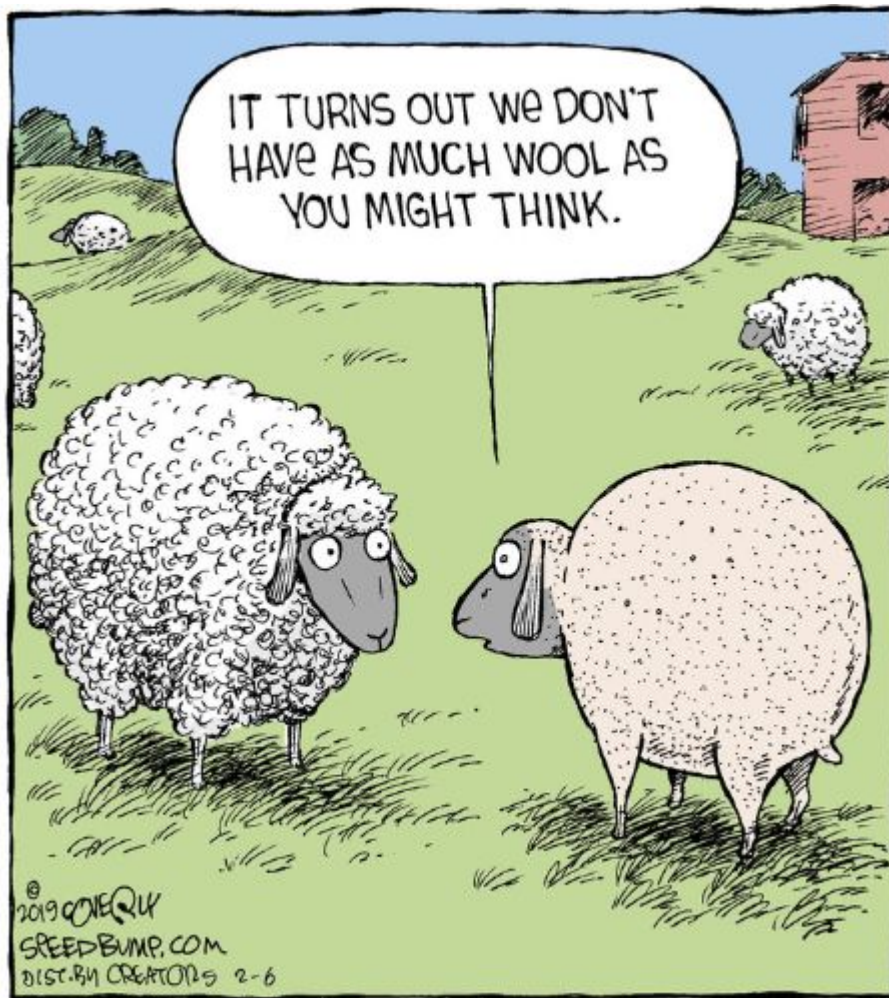
My other skein was from AJHC Yarn from Michigan. I had first seen her work on

the Ann Arbor trip, but hadn't purchased because I had already gotten a lot of sock yarn. This time I found a skein of her Yak Sock, again very soft, and dyed in a luscious dark ruby red tonal. It will look really good as a strong textured pattern and I have several possibilities in mind.

I was afraid to look at more booths and risk being overcome by wool fumes. That has happened in the past at events and I end up with bags and bags of wonderful, lovely wool, but this time I had no place to put it and had to restrain myself. Instead I sat at one of the tables and knit and chatted with other fiber lovers. Seeing what others bought and discussing how they planned to use it is almost as good as buying more yourself. One woman next to me had gotten a lot of different balls of roving to spin. She had apparently gotten what appealed and was now mixing and matching for future projects. I'd love to see the red, black and gray cowl she had bundled together when she's finished.

We stayed for most of the day. (It ran from 11-4) I saw lots of Guild members who were in and out as well as other fiber friends I've met at other events or on trips. The crowds had cleared by the time we left and I saw a couple of interesting scarves. I've gotten one pattern from Knitty.com and I think that it will be made with a skein from the Ann Arbor trip. Cornbread & Honey had an interesting gradient that I may just have to get later on for a cowl. The vendors seemed to do well and I heard many say they would be back next time. If you haven't gone, maybe you could consider it for next year. It is a pleasant way to brighten up the winter blahs. And a good time was had by all.

Submitted by **Ginny Thomas**



NCKG Book Club

The next NCKG Book Club will be on Sunday March 31st at 2pm.

We will be meeting at Panera Bread, 4301 Richmond Road, Warrensville Heights, Ohio 44122.

In 2019 the NCKG Book club will be choosing books from PBS's The Great American Read. <https://www.pbs.org/the-great-american-read/home/>. Selections will be made at the book club meeting for the following meeting.

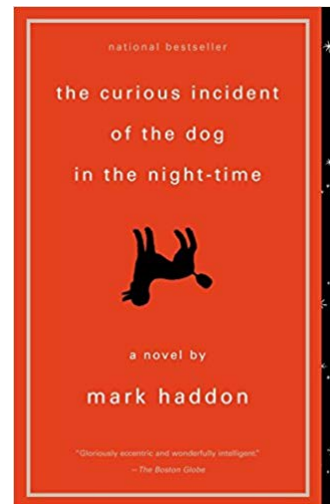
For the next meeting, we will be reading:

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* by Mark Haddon.**

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow.

Although gifted with a superbly logical brain, for fifteen-year-old Christopher everyday interactions and admonishments have little meaning. He lives on patterns, rules, and a diagram kept in his pocket. Then one day, a neighbor's dog, Wellington, is killed and his carefully constructive universe is threatened.

Christopher sets out to solve the murder in the style of his favorite (logical) detective, Sherlock Holmes. What follows makes for a novel that is funny, poignant and fascinating in its portrayal of a person whose curse and blessing are a mind that perceives the world entirely literally.



(from Goodreads.com)

The February issue of TKGA's monthly newsletter has a link to the below interesting article about Sara Jensen, a college professor at Carthage College in Kenosha Wisconsin, who uses knitting to teach mathematics.

You can find the K2TOG newsletters on the guild's website in the "For Members Only" tab. Check them out!

https://theconversation.com/why-i-teach-math-through-knitting-95896?fbclid=IwAR0I6RGPfod1Rs4Ib64pOxRqhUVxMvl4J4kwjZWPftX4_teWpokkBJ9-aik

JOANN's Yarn

Submitted by **Mo Doerner**

JOANN's contacted the NCKG in January and asked if the guild would like donated yarn. When we said yes, they asked if we had a truck! On January 14th **Ginny Thomas, Julie Golub, Miriam Rosenblatt, Terrilee Petrey,** and I went to JOANN's warehouse in Hudson and packed our cars with yarn, yarn looms, and needles. We estimated we had 2,000 skeins among us. We are distributing the yarn to groups and people and I'm (Mo) happy to say that our Service Chair, **Debbie Hajzak**, took everything that I had not given away. The photos are only partial shots of the yarn. We did a great job of helping

JOANN's clear out for the new inventory coming in. Please take some when Debbie brings it to the guild meeting and make some service projects.



This is the Knitting Circle at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Cleveland Hts. They were the recipient of some of the yarn from JoAnn Fabrics. The group does prayer shawls, baby clothes and blankets, toys, hats and scarves and hats and scarves for the seaman's ministry.

Submitted by **Terilee Petrey**

Knit Nite at Bertram Woods Library

Just to let you all know that Knit Nite continues at the Bertram Woods branch of the Shaker Hts. Public Library system. It is very very informal, knitters, crocheters, snackers, talkers, and everyone is welcome.

We gather from 7 to 9:45 on the third Wednesday of the month. Our next get together is March 20th.

I provide snacks, coffee, and help. I can also teach "how to knit". If I can't help someone there can.

Submitted by **Fern Braverman**

Yarn Shop Review

Submitted by **Chris Jordan**

KnitCircus.com

I newly discovered a 3+ year old yarn and web shop in Madison Wisconsin. They seem to have

only hand-dyed yarns, and a huge amount of variety in those yarns. There are

7 different fingering/sock yarns, all slightly different, superwash or not, merino, merino blends, some with nylon, and DK, worsted and bulky yarns also. The styles of dyeing are gradient, speckled, semi-solid, and "impressionist" and "abstract." Many colorways are available. Custom dyeing is also available.

Amazingly, skeins are available in 50, 100, 150 grams, so your gradient piece, for example, can be made of one big skein rather than 2 or 3 smaller ones.

Also, their striped sock skeins have terrific colors and match perfectly! If you like to browse online yarn shops, look at KnitCircus.



Grindstone Knitters in Berea

Submitted by **Kathy Mates**

I thought the Northcoast members might be interested in what the neighboring knitting guild was doing. Grindstone Knitters in Berea is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. We will mark the occasion in May with a weekend retreat at Idle Wyld in Lakeside which is near Marblehead. Our program theme for this year is "stash busting". The February program will be how to make mitered squares. In March we will learn to make an ombre hat. We also began a knit along using Crown Wools scarf pattern by Casapinka. It is on Ravelry

and is another good use for stash yarn.

Guests and visitors are always welcome at our guild meetings. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at the Mahler Museum in Berea. The museum is located at 118 East Bridge St. in Berea. Visit our website at <https://grindstoneknitters.wordpress.com/>.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

The March Felted Clogs/Slippers SIG meeting will be Monday, March 18, 2019 at the Orange Library, 31975 Chagrin Boulevard, Pepper Pike 44124, in Meeting Room #3, the Patricia Morgan Kulp Study/Conference Room. We have the room from 5:30 pm to 8:45 pm. We'll start around 6:00 pm but come when you can. Contact Mo Doerner if you have any questions.

Note - this is a change in the meeting room as our usual room was unavailable

Yarn Shop Review

Submitted by **Mo Doerner**

<https://www.avril-kyoto.com/>

A few years ago, my husband, Geoff traveled to Japan for work and on the day he was flying home, he had a bit of time to shop. He took a roundabout way to find the yarn store he was looking for - Avril in Tokyo. He didn't know what he bought due to the language barrier and came home with what turned out to be 2 skeins of Cashmere. I had my friend from Hong Kong help me decipher the label and she was able to translate it for me. I turned out to be 2 skeins of cashmere!! I'm still deciding what to do with it. The shop's description is below.

"Our shop is located an old shopping street, a short 10 minute walk from Kichijoji Station which in turn is a 30 minute ride from Tokyo Station on the JR Chuo Line. Kichijoji is a charming town with a large number of shops which sell buttons, beads, patchwork fabrics and craft materials. It provides a cozy atmosphere in which to browse through all kinds of yarn which are on display, from floor to ceiling. We have workshops for knitting, weaving, and felting. Please feel free to join us !"



Book Review

Knitting Outside the Box by Bristol Ivy

Reviewed by Miriam Rosenblatt

This is one book that will not disappoint people who love knitting architecture. If you are familiar with PomPom Magazine, the book follows a similar format. If you are not familiar with PomPom magazine, go check it out. It is a quarterly publication from the UK, filled with very creative projects and many of our local yarn shops have the issues.

Knitting Outside of the Box is wonderful on its own as a coffee table book with its exquisite photography and very imaginative projects.



I love knitting architecture and the author does an excellent job of exploring knitting sculpture. She writes about the interesting shapes of creating fabrics, plus supplies a knitting dictionary to empower a user to do further explorations.

This is not a book for beginners. A beginner might either feel intimidated or frustrated by the design level. I would suggest an adventurous beginner might want to start with Elizabeth Zimmerman, and then consider using this book. Many of these patterns require unique yarns, a subject that I am writing about separately. However, if you are a product knitter, you can choose a pattern and create something wonderful. If you are a process knitter, you may use the book as a springboard to create your own unique creations.

I fell in love with one of the garments: The O’Keeffe sweater. I will be writing about the knitting process I had to use for that one separately.

This is a book worth adding to your collection and well worth the price.

I Hate When This Happens!

The Discontinued Yarn I Wanted to Use For a Project

Submitted by **Miriam Rosenblatt**

What happens when the right yarn is no longer available for a project you want to make? I recently experienced this challenge for a pullover where the recommended and unique yarn was discontinued when the book was released.

Have you ever substituted a recommended yarn and were disappointed with the results? You may have used some of your stash yarn or decided to use a less expensive yarn. Or you did not swatch the substitute yarn carefully nor adjusted the pattern size.

Being a spinner has taught me much about the characteristics about fiber, types of wools and how they work for different projects. Being a garment sewer, helps me understand how a garment should fit. Being a process knitter has taught me to take the time to test drive different yarns and treat swatching as a learning experience. Also, this project means an investment in the final cost of the yarn and time. This is one sweater that I want to wear, enjoy and not let it sit in my closet.

The new book “Knitting Outside of the Box”, by Bristol Ivy (reviewed separately) arrived in my mailbox before I went overseas. I had already fallen in love with the O’Keeffe sweater, a top down pullover with a lovey lace godet. This pattern called for a fingering yarn called Samite, a blend of Shetland, Gotland wool and ahimsa silk from a small British company called Blacker Yarns. I checked the yarn online and decided to use that recommended yarn. The yarn was a fingering weight with both a “bloom” and tweedy appearance that I liked. I did some further research about the yarn quality and decided on the color that I wanted.

Our local yarn shop was having a trunk show about the items made from the

book along with some yarn selections. I was hoping the shop would carry the recommended yarn. Since the trunk show was only a week away, I waited to visit the yarn shop and see the project samples. The sweater sample confirmed my desire to use Samite; unfortunately, it was not one of the curated yarns. The yarns that the shop owner chose were a thicker weight than the original pattern. The yarns also lacked that “bloom” the sweater sample had. The choices were lovely; but they were not what I wanted. The owner contacted the yarn company to order the yarn, but we discovered that the yarn was discontinued a year ago.

A book can take over a year produce and it is a long process. Moreover, some of the projects are matched to very unique yarns. Unfortunately, one of the unintended consequences and risks of using an unusual yarn is that it may no longer be available once a book is released.

I did some research to determine an alternative yarn to use for this project. Here are a couple of resources that I typically use to research yarns. First, there is an excellent website called <https://yarnsub.com/> . You can list the yarn of interest and the website will provide a listing of yarn candidates, a percent match and the substitute yarn characteristics. Per the website, the substitutes had 80% matches or lower but it did provide me with some yarn ideas. I did not care for most of the yarns that were on the list, but there was one that was a reasonable candidate. A second place is to check Ravelry and see the other projects. Ravelry did not work for this example; there were a dozen projects all were made with the original yarn.

I reached out to both the pattern designer and the Blacker Yarn Company regarding good substitutions. Both Bristol Ivy and the Blacker Yarn’s customer service responded with some ideas. Most of their suggestions were wool-linen blends. They would work but I can’t wear wool-linen blends.

While I was overseas in a yarn shop, I noticed the Quince and Co.’s yarns. I knew these yarns, having used them for past projects. I decided to purchase a skein of Tern, their wool-silk fingering yarn to swatch. I had my doubts about Tern, since it would not have the bloom or the tweed in the original yarn.

I swatched the yarn using several needles sizes and this yarn yielded a number of surprises. I liked how Tern worked with the different needles sizes and the way it draped with the recommended needle size. The yarn would be ideal for this pullover! I found the right yarn for the project!

Now I will have to wash and block the swatches and carefully check them against the pattern sizes to determine the correct size and fit.

I never expected to choose this yarn since I had hoped for a closer replacement. Clearly, experience is the best teacher and investing the time to swatch yielded some nice surprises, including changing my mind about the color choice. I ordered a color card of the Tern yarn since I know I will be using this yarn for future projects.

Other people may be interested in making this project as more people purchase this wonderful book! I will be publishing my notes as I progress through this project so hopefully, other knitters can benefit from my knowledge.



O'Keeffe Sweater from *Knitting Outside of the Box*

New Local Yarn Shop Around the Table Yarns in Shaker Heights, OH

Around the Table Yarns
20085 Chagrin Blvd
Shaker Heights, OH 44122-4945
216-230-9224
<http://aroundthetableyarns.com/>

Shop hours:
Mondays 10-6
Tuesdays 10-8
Wednesdays 10-6
Thursdays 10-8
Fridays 12-5
Saturdays 10-6
Sundays 12-5

From shop owners Beth and Pam:

The Scheepjes yarns we carry are all produced in the Netherlands and are not readily available here. They feature great colors and very reasonable prices. They include Catona, Bloom and Cahlista all 100% cottons in an extensive range of colors. Also in cotton/acrylic blends we have the Scheepjes Sofffun, River washed and Stone washed yarns, plus Alpaca Rhythm and Mohair Rhythm, both lace weights.

Social Knitting and crochet isn't just for Monday's anymore!

Around the Table Yarns at 20085 Chagrin Blvd in Shaker Heights is open for business! From the new Market Hall you can walk or drive to the older Shaker Plaza where Walgreens, New Balance and Shaker Wines are; just go through the Walgreens drive-thru and turn right. They are the second store front and their front door faces Juma Gallery. There's parking and of course a great big social table.

They are open seven days a week and offer drop-in clinics, skills classes and much more, including beautiful local made project bags, a great variety of knitting & crochet books and magazines.

The yarn is yummy of course! There's a good balance of affordable and "hard to resist" yarns. I picked up some *Malabrigo Mechita* for the Easy One and a beautiful skein of *Knitted Wit* sock yarn – Goddess named in celebration of all things Beyoncé. Check out their Sock Club on Saturdays.

Submitted by **Liz Robinson**

A new yarns store opened in February. It's located for a temporary period at 20075 Chagrin Blvd. in Shaker Heights which is right next to its permanent location. They are open Sunday through Saturday, though times vary. Best to check the website for the hours of operation. The owners, Pam Berkson and Beth Billings are not new to the yarn business. Beth worked at River Colors on the west side of town before they decided to join forces and open a store to answer need for a yarn stop on the eastside of town.

Many of the yarns are from companies we are familiar with like Berroco and Malabrigo yarns and Universal yarns. They also carry yarn from Scheepjes in several weights and fiber content plus many others. Prices vary but most are reasonable.

The owners want to create a store that can be a meeting place, somewhere to come and knit or crochet and possibly mingle with others who share your interest for a brief time. At this time new things are arriving daily, including shawl pins, stitch markers and instruction books.

Submitted by **Elizabeth Wilson**



Beth Billings and Pam Bergson with store mascot Jenny at the table at Around the Table Yarns.

Submitted by **Susan Gall**



Project bags by a local fiber artist-and a well-curated book selection.
Submitted by **Susan Gall**



Quaere Fibre self-striping yarn.

Submitted by **Susan Gall**

Upcoming Meeting Programs

March 12, 2019 | Organization for the Fiber Artist

Jo Ellen Salkin, a professional organizer with Organizing 4U, will be giving us tips and tricks to organize our stash, knitted items, home and life. She will also highlight some time management tricks to help members maximize their knitting time. Jo Ellen is a weaver and fellow fiber artist and understands the passions we have for our craft and our stash.

April 9, 2019 | NCKG Annual Vendor Night

Come and shop with some specially selected vendors that are sure to entice every fiber enthusiast. This annual event is a highlight of the guild calendar. Members and guests get to shop without the lines or hassles of the fiber festivals. This year's vendors include NCKG member yarn shops, local indie dyers, bag makers and much more. We encourage members to bring their friends to shop and sign-up for 2018-2019 guild membership.

Vendors:

- o The Artful Yarn
- o Susan Yarns
- o Alpaca, Kid and Ewe
- o Bewitched Pigments Fiber Arts
- o Hummingbird Fibers
- o Knit Spot/Bare Naked Wools
- o Nelly's Designs
- o Studio-How-To
- o Tina's Twisted Fibers

Time: Vendor night 6pm – 8pm, guild meeting will start at 8pm

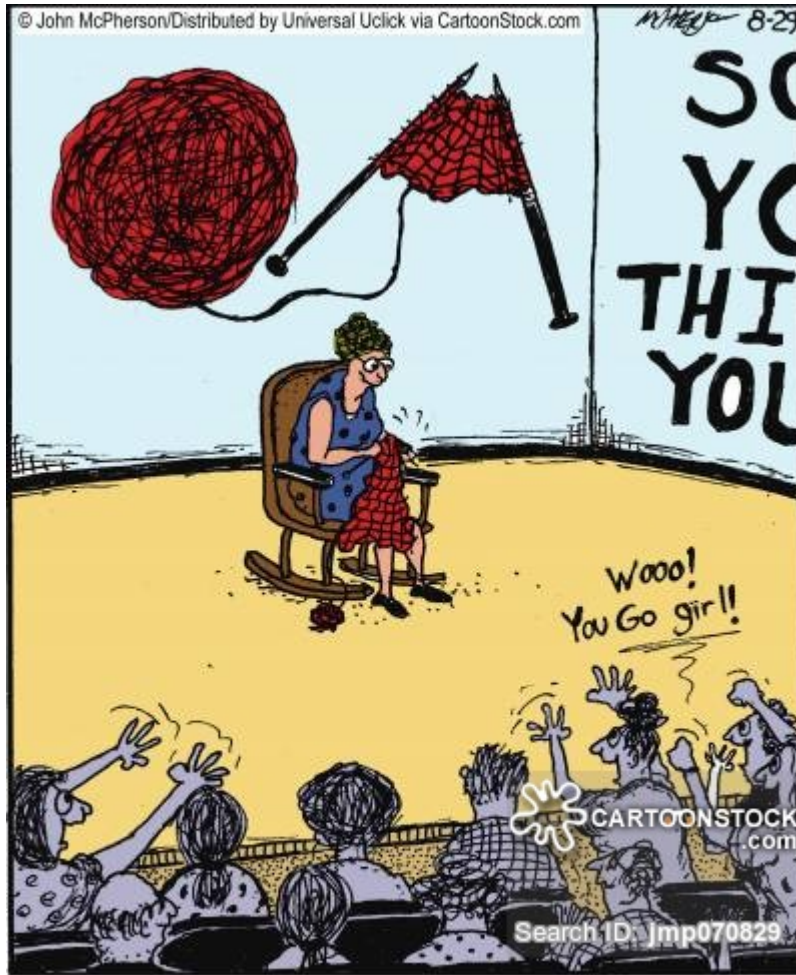
What to Bring: Your wallet and your fiber friends.

May 14, 2019 | Style your Shawls

Knitted shawls have been the rage for years. We have seen shawls come in all shapes, sizes, and color combinations. Yet, many of us keep them stored in our closets because we are not sure how to style them to be the vital part of our wardrobe that they deserve to be.

Guild member, Judi Pfancuff will show us some basic styling tips and lead us through a special show and share where members can show us their favorite shawls and how they style them. The meeting will end with an opportunity to try on shawls from various members and get some pattern inspiration for your next project.

What to Bring: Up to three of your favorite shawls, labels will be provided for you to mark your shawls with your name, the pattern name and yarn name.



Hoping to build on the success of "So You Think You Can Dance?" Fox debuts "So You Think You Can Knit?"

The NCKG Standing Rules were updated at the February guild meeting.

Please review the standing rules which have been posted on the Members Only page of our website:

[By Laws & Standing Rules](#)

You will need the password **knithappy** to access this page.



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