



September-October 2019 Newsletter

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

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!

Letter from the Editor

Submitted by **Bess Antol**

We're off to a good start, with lots of great articles coming in about your adventures in knitting and yarn-hunting. As you visit the yarn discovery tour shops, your nearest and dearest LYS, or a far-flung destination - please take a picture or two and send them to me with a short write-up! Even if you think everyone knows about your favorite local store - there's probably someone in the guild who hasn't been there yet.



Or, while you're knitting, you could write a short article hands-free! Surprised? Did you know, you can use your smart phone to dictate a note for yourself? On iPhone, if you enable "Hey, Siri" you can do a lot of things hands-free, including asking Siri to take a note for you by saying "Hey, Siri... take a note" and then she will answer "what do you want the note to say?", then you proceed to speak your article or other ideas. You will have to say the punctuation, in order for it to make sense to you later. If you watch the screen, the program parses your speech on the fly, so I watched Siri decide back and forth between "knitting article" and "interesting article" for a few tries while I continued to speak. Siri eventually decided I did, in fact, want to talk about knitting in my note. I assume that Android, Google, and other smart phones have similar dictation features ([here's an article about some of the options](#)). Once you have created a note, you can copy it by pressing on the paragraph until a selection tool bar pops up and selecting-all and copying. Then you can paste it into your email with a similar pressing until you see a tool bar. Give it an editing eye, and make sure that your Siri or other program didn't make some errors in understanding your speech. Then email me your results! Bam! Newsletter contribution accomplished!

You could also use this neat techie trick to take notes on your on-the-fly pattern modifications that you can later paste into your Ravelry project entry.

The "hey Siri" trick is also great for setting reminders: Try this: "Hey, Siri... Set a reminder for December 18th... Northcoast Knitting Guild newsletter article due."

Yours in stitchery,
Bess

Upcoming Meeting Programs

September 10, 2019: 30th Year Anniversary Party

NCKG is turning 30! Come celebrate this event. We are planning to have a fun game, a historical recap, cake, door prizes and a special Show and Share.

What to bring: your memories, a drink to go with cake, a pen/pencil and up to three items to Show and Share with one item being one of your oldest knits.



October 8, 2019: Annual Competition and Fashion Show: The Best of the Best and All the Rest

For those wishing to compete for ribbons/prizes please see below for the Competition Rules.

All are invited to vote in the competition and to bring a favorite creation to model in a quick runway.

COMPETITION RULES

Submission Rules:

1. All entries must be knitted and finished by the entrant.
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. Each member may enter a maximum of three (3) items in the Competition. No more than one (1) of those items may be entered in the same category. The Service Projects category is not subject to the maximum number of entries entered in the Competition and the maximum number of entries in a category.
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 on the day of the competition for it to be included. No exceptions, no late entries will be accepted.
7. Only NCKG members may vote.

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. New Guild Member – Those who have been a NCKG member for 2 years or less.
3. Design —The item must be the entrant's original knitted design and may be the entrant's published or non-published pattern. Modifications to existing patterns are not allowed.
4. Commercial Pattern — Divided into the following sub-categories:
 - a. Sweaters & Vests
 - b. Shawls
 - c. Accessories (including, but not limited to: hats, bags, scarves, gloves, mittens, cowls, purses)
 - d. Socks & Slippers
 - e. Babies and Children
 - f. Toys - Knitted toy or purchased toy with hand knitted clothing and/or accessories.
 - g. Service Projects - All service projects entered into this category must be donated.
 - h. Other – Knitted home décor, and anything else that does not fit any other category.
5. "PEOPLE'S CHOICE"

Category Note If two (2) or fewer items are submitted in any given category, the items will be placed in an appropriate alternate category as deemed by the Competition organizer(s).

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 a prize will be given to First Place winners. In addition, at the discretion of the Competition Committee a prize may be given to Second Place and Third Place winners.

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.

What to bring: your favorite project, the name of the pattern and yarn used as well as any competition items.



November 12, 2019: Holiday Potluck and Optional Gift Exchange

Spread the cheer! The guild will provide dessert, plates, cups, etc. please bring a main or side. You may also participate in a gift exchange. Bring something knitting related with a value of \$10 or less. Holiday and gift items are encouraged for our Show and Share.

What to bring: a side or main dish, a gift if you want to exchange, and up to 3 Show and Share items especially a holiday or gift item.

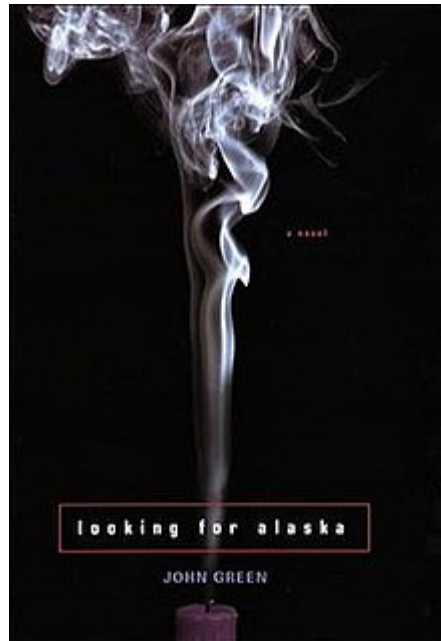
For more information on upcoming programs, see our [Programs page!](#)

NCKG Book Club September 2019 Meeting



September 29th at 2pm.
Panera Bread,
4301 Richmond Road,
Warrensville Heights.

We will be reading and discussing *Looking for Alaska* by John Green.
All are welcome, bring your knitting and join the discussion.



Save the dates and knit down your stash, the Yarn Discovery Tour is coming!
September 3–22, 2019

SHOP LOCAL DURING THIS ANNUAL KICK-OFF TO FALL KNITTING

Celebrating 12 years, the Yarn Discovery Tour (YDT) provides fiber enthusiasts the opportunity to visit 19 amazing yarn shops throughout northeast Ohio. Passports will be available for purchase August 20th from any participating yarn shop.

How It Works

Purchase an \$8 passport and receive a free souvenir tote bag. Passports available for purchase beginning Tuesday, August 20 and throughout the Yarn Discovery Tour while supplies last. New-look souvenir bag this year!

Purchase a minimum of \$10 from any participating shop and receive that shop's free YDT pattern and entry into that shop's Prize Basket drawing (\$100+ value). When you make your purchase, you'll receive a passport stamp from that shop as well as

their pin for your souvenir tote bag. Visit a few shops or visit them all! Collect passport stamps and be entered into YDT Prize Baskets as well. Visit all the shops and receive a fun, little notions pouch to match your 2019 souvenir YDT tote bag!

For complete YDT details, a list of participating shops and a Google map, visit the YDT website at www.yarndiscoverytour.com

If you have any questions, you can contact any participating shop or YDT co-chairs, Cathy Hougan (The Artful Yarn) or Cindy Michael (Harps & Thistles Yarn Emporium).

Fiber Funny Bones

A Knitter Walks Into a Bar

(a very true story)

Miriam Rosenblatt

Several years ago a group of 5 women reached out to me. They wanted to start a group that knits for charity and wanted me to get them started. They were beginners who did not know how to knit. I asked them to take a few knitting lessons telling them where those resources were located. They were all working professionals so I made sure they knew where to go for lessons that would meet their needs. The plan was to get together once they had the basics and I would get them started on the charity knitting. We agreed to meet at a bar in Cleveland Height a few months later. Meanwhile, I found some public domain hat patterns that they could use and sent them to their liaison.

That evening I arrived at the bar and found the group with their drinks. They had their knitting needles, the yarns, and the patterns were neatly compiled into booklets.

However, nobody took any lessons. I found myself having to teach each of the five women how to knit. Different needles, different learning styles but the same wine. I spent the rest of the time teaching each person how to knit. Everyone was a quick study, but I was going around teaching each person given their learning style. Fortunately, everyone had a great sense of humor as I wisecracked my way through teaching.

And there it was.....

Five drinkers with a knitting problem!

NCKG Knitting Socials

Mo Doerner's knit-in on September 17th and October 15th are cancelled. We'll resume in November on the 19th.

The NCKG's annual Roc Day will be held at Mo Doerner's house, 15850 Arbor Trail, Newbury 44065 on Saturday, January 11th from 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM. It is a pot luck lunch and Mo will provide tea, coffee and a cold beverage. Mo has 2 cats and a dog. Please RSVP to Mo at 216-561-2578 or moknits@suddenlink.net. Roc Day/St. Distaff's Day marked the time when women would return to work after the December holidays, resuming their household duties including spinning. The name of this day isn't after an actual Saint but rather after the distaff : a tool used to wrap fiber around to keep it out of the way while spinning. This handy tool became the symbol of the importance of spinning during Medieval times when women of all classes even upper class took part.

Fiber Field Reports

Book Review

To Knit or Not to Knit

Helpful and Humorous Hints for the passionate Knitter by Elvira Woodruff

Submitted by [Mo Doerner](#)

While at the Gates Mills Library for a Knit in Color SIG, I perused the knitting books and found this one which I had never seen before. Mrs. Wicks, the protagonist, includes some of her own patterns as well as a tea cosy by Frankie Brown. It was a quick and entertaining read with only 147 pages.

The book is written in the style of a "Dear Abby" column with questions and humorous but serious answers. The questions are one that knitters commonly ask and the responses are spot on. The author is obviously a knowledgeable

knitter and has sage wisdom about knitting and life. The author quotes various well-known people and then rewrites the quote with a few of her own choice words. I read a bit of it each night before I went to sleep at first and then devoured the book.

Both the CLEVNET and Cuyahoga County Public Library systems have the book. I think you will enjoy the book as much as I did.



Yarn Shop Review

Aurora Yarns of Alaska

Submitted by [Rita Rzepka](#)



I recently visited one of the most exciting yarn shops I ever had the pleasure of visiting. During an Alaskan cruise the ship stopped in Skagway, a small town, 1057 inhabitants in the winter, and up to 2000 in the summer months. The shop, "Aurora Yarns of Alaska", at 5th St. and Broadway, was mostly hand-dyed yarns. Alaska has no sheep, cotton, etc. so all yarn is imported raw and hand-dyed in Alaska. The 2 saleswomen in the shop were so nice and accommodating, explaining everything to me and chatting up a storm. I wanted to buy everything in the shop, but my luggage would not permit it, (also my husband had to be considered). So I limited myself to one beautiful skein of variegated, greens, blues, burgundies and purples, Merino superwash, 8 ounce, 550 yards. The yarns are not cheap, but in this case I was on vacation and I deserved it. They also had a large basket of great, free patterns and said to choose as many as I wanted. It is always exciting to me to visit a new yarn shop, this one especially because of the wonderful yarns and because of the 2 wonderful women that manned the shop. I wish I could go back there to shop but I probably will not be in Alaska again so I will just have to dream about it.



Book Review

60 Quick Knits book series

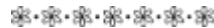
[Ravelry Link for several entries in the series](#)

Submitted by [Sue Crowe](#)

I purchased “60 More Quick Knits” at River Colors probably 15 years ago during a weekend retreat. I leafed through it briefly and knew I had to have it. Since then I’ve bought all the books in the series – 14 in all. They are published by the Cascade yarn company and all the patterns feature their yarns. (But of course my stash has other yarns that can adapt). They are my go-to source for gifts and stash knitting. They feature hats, mittens, scarfs and shawls. Four are devoted to baby gift giving; 2 include sweaters, booties, hats and mittens and 2 feature baby blankets. One of the editions features luxury knits and has sweaters and larger projects made out of the Ventura line of yarns. The original one features worsted weight yarns, the “More” edition were patterns using sport weight yarns. There is a knitted cowl edition, a cotton yarn edition, a little kid edition and a toy edition. The patterns are well written and have all levels of skills. The newest edition has patterns for beginners, but the projects are versatile and interesting enough for seasoned knitters too. I made some slippers recently from it as service items. They are pictured here, as are 2 fingerless gloves and a nordic style colorwork scarf. I actually ordered the sport weight Cascade 220 specially for that project, something I rarely do. I also include a photo of the cover pattern from the toy edition. I do not regret buying any of them. They make good suggestions for a gift item from your children at Christmastime costing 18-20 dollars apiece.

Some of Sue's finished pieces from the book:





Yarn Shop Review

Must Love Yarn

Submitted by [Mo Doerner](#)



Recently I took a trip with Geoff to northern Vermont and the New York Finger Lakes. To my delight, I found two lovely yarn stores. Must Love Yarn is located at 2438 Shelburne Rd Suite #2, Shelburne, VT 05482 which is a suburb of Burlington. It's a bright, airy shop with lots of samples arranged in an enticing manner. Andrea was working at the store that day and she was helpful and friendly. She kept Geoff entertained talking about traveling while I browsed around the shop. She was also ready to assist me whenever I was interested in an item and let me try the Hiyahiya Flyers are a set of 3 needles with are 8" long, have 3" sharp tips and a 2" cable and worked much better for me than the Addi FlexiFlips. I have to finish a pair of socks before I start a new pair of socks, but then again, they'd be perfect for an upcoming travel project. I also purchased some Vermont made wool, a Wonderland Yarns Diminishing Cowl kit, some cute Katrinkles bamboo buttons, and a stemless wine glass with the

“Must Love Yarn” logo and on the back there are 3 lines. The lowest one says “Didn’t Get Gauge”, the middle line says “Tinked Back” and the top line says “Frogged It.” A picture of my haul and the inside of the shop are below. It has a great website at: <https://mustloveyarn.com> and currently 139 podcast episodes.



FiberArts in the Glen



My next stop was a visit to FiberArts in the Glen in a cute and friendly town which is at the south end of Seneca Lake. The store is located on the main street through town, 315 North Franklin Street, Watkins Glen, NY 14891. Its website is: <https://www.fiberartsintheglen.com> I was lucky enough to be there for a Thursday night knit-in. This shop has an interesting story. I had been to it a few years ago when it was owned by one woman. When she decided to close the store, a group of 19 local women banded together to purchase the store and keep it going so they would continue to have access to fiber, friends, and a welcoming place to sit and knit. I was curious about how it all worked

and some of the owners were there. Although different amounts of money were invested, everyone is on the Board and has an equal vote. Most, if not all, contribute in some manner, such as working retail at the shop or teaching classes. The owners said that operating it worked smoothly and without disagreement. That's quite an accomplishment!



After an afternoon of wine tastings, I spent a nice evening there knitting, chatting, and of course some buying. The shop has a nice variety of products and samples. Most of what I purchased were made locally products. I especially like my new project bag and the seams inside were finished. I find that too often, muslin project bags have unfinished seams. The Glen Mountain Market Bakery & Deli was close by and we had breakfast there before doing the Watkins Glen State Park waterfalls hike the next day. The park is in the center of town and it was a scenic hike. We also stopped at the bakery later in the day for sandwiches which we ate when we stopped for lunch on the drive home.

I highly recommend both shops if you are in the area.

Upcoming Educational Programs

Knitting Service Projects SIG (Special Interest Group)

The Service Project SIG will be on Monday, September 30, 2019 at JOANN Fabrics and Crafts, 1533 Golden Gate Plaza, Mayfield Heights, OH 44124 in the Creator's Studio which is the room at the back of the store on the right side. We have the room from 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

Contact Mo at moknits@suddenlink.net or 216-561-2578 if you have any questions. Everyone is invited to join this SIG and bring any type of knitting.

Questions or comments about this issue? Email the Editor!



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