



June 2020 Newsletter

Sorry friends, May got away from me, but better late than never.

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

Monthly in-person meetings are suspended until further notice due to COVID-19 pandemic and resultant closure of Mayfield Heights Community Center. We will notify members when we can resume regular meetings.



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



There's so much going on right now. And when I first solicited responses for this newsletter, the main focus of the news of the world was the COVID-19 pandemic. In the past week, America has begun to confront social inequality in a new way.

For the next issue, I would still like to hear more about what you are knitting and how you are keeping busy under stay-at-home orders. And I also challenge you to find and try a pattern from a designer who is a person of color - tell me about the pattern and your project. Or if you've already got a favorite designer of color - tell me about a project you've previously done. This website includes a directory where you can search for hand-knitting designers and other fiber artists of color: <https://bipocinfiber.com/>

Pictures of finished or work-in-progress are always especially appreciated as they make the newsletter more fun to look through.

I don't know where any of this will lead us, and I definitely don't have all the right words. But I will say this:

May knitting bring us together,

May knitting help us listen to voices that don't get heard enough,

May knitting bring us comfort,

May knitting help us comfort those in need.

Stay healthy knitting friends, stay safe, listen, and knit on.

Questions or comments about this issue? Email the Editor!

What have you been crafting lately?

Since we haven't been able to get together, I asked members to share what they've been crafting lately. Here are some responses.

Nancy Curtiss

"What have I been working on? Since I've still been going to work each day my knitting time has been in the evenings and all weekend long. So I've been knitting Yell, by Marie Wallin. This was in preparation for a steeking class that I was to teach at Great Lakes over Memorial Day weekend. I've also been doing some spinning (practicing long draw), and have started my fleece breed study with fiber processing in my garage!"



Susan Gall

"Our son lives in Colorado-he asked for a handknit coozie for his birthday this month. I wanted to commemorate this very unique year, so I worked with the chart from the [Virus Mittens](#) (free patterns on Ravelry by JennyPenny) and knit up a couple; 57 stitches, I chose two 19-stitch sections of the chart and knit them three times around.

I am editorsusan on Ravelry and [I have a project page for this.](#)

I think JennyPenny's chart is really lovely."



~~*~*~*~*~*

Jinny Johnson

"I've been knitting A TON . . . about a shawl a week lately. Had attended Hill Country Weavers' retreat in Austin just before the quarantine, so I've got LOTS of yarn and ideas."

~~*~*~*~*~*

Miriam Rosenblatt

"What is on my needles?"

- Charity Knitting: Hats and squares for Warm Up America (Always!)
- Lovage by Amy Christophers: a cardigan using Berroco Sesame
- With this Cleveland weather, I may be even wearing it this season.
- Crochet afghan in neutral colors for our living room
- So faded tunic by Andrea Mowry in grays with colorful speckles
- Breathing Space by Veera Valimaki (check out her cool patterns!)

New Projects

Polarize: a graphic shawl. Should I make it in silver gray and midnight or silver gray and black in Kelbourne Perennial yarn

Breath and Hope (I am swatching using Miss Babs yarn and a rainbow variegated pastel yarn)

Shadow top (crochet) Anastasia Cruz. This uses crochet fingering and a tiny steel hook. This is going to be a bit ambitious.

Spotting Clouds (crochet) by [Christina Hadderingh](#) Sheepjes Whirl. Choosing a color was the hard part

with this one....

UFOs—Don't ask. My knitting, my rules!"



Mo Doerner

"It doesn't seem as though I've been knitting more, but when I look at what I've finished since March and my current projects, I am, but not as much as I thought I would. I've been getting up early in the morning and knitting which is a luxury to me and then on to other things during the day.

I knit during virtual meetings which have been with friends, yarn stores, a presentation by Saber Healthcare with Warm Up America (Nancy Istenes spoke), and a class. Loops, a yarn store in Tulsa, OK, did a Facebook presentation on "Love your Stash" and I was the lucky winner of the grand prize of 3 skeins of Hedgehog yarn, Stephen West's Rosy Bloom shawl patter, a Quince & Co. bag, and a bar of wool soap. Here's a photo."



Entertainment while crafting

As crafters, sometimes our hands are busy with something repetitive while our minds, ears and/or eyes are free to enjoy other entertainment. And sometimes we just need to get our crafting organized! With large-group knitting socials off the table, I asked our members what's been keeping them entertained. Here are some responses.

Jinny Johnson

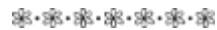
"I've been a streaming fool. Recent favorites include Hollywood (Netflix), Baptiste (PBS), Little Fires Everywhere (Hulu), Normal People (Hulu), Dead to Me (Netflix) and Defending Jacob (Apple)."



Susan Gall

"When We Were Vikings by Andrew David MacDonald...at first I thought "This is weird!" Book's narrator is a young woman with fetal alcohol syndrome -- and she's really into Vikings. By the end, I can say I LOVED this book. It's about facing fears with courage -- and I think we need a little bit of that right now.

I am also enjoying audiobook mysteries by Martin Walker. They're set in the rural France and are charming mysteries, with lots of food culture."



Mo Doerner

"I have been sorting and clearing out old papers/taxes, cookbooks/recipes, knitting books/patterns, craft supplies and anything else that strikes my mood. Part of this is the result of remodeling my knitting & sewing room and part of it is just finally getting off my duff to do it. It makes me feel good to not see as much junk around."

Save the Dates:

The Patty Lyons classes were rescheduled and Lake Farmpark confirmed we have the use of the classroom on April 17 & 18, 2021. Everything else is the same and I'll send out a reminder for registration in January. The classes, supplies, and homework information is on the guild's website under the "For Members Only Tab."

COVID-19 Impacts on Fiber Arts

Mo reported in:

There's a Northeast Ohio tie in [this New York Times article](#) about people who are knitting their way through the pandemic. In mid-April, the Times notes, the pandemic "forced a major knitting industry event, the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, to go online." Shannon Okey, 45, a textile maker and the owner of a small press, [Cooperative Press](#), in Lakewood, "needed something special to help her make back some

of the lost income from the canceled fair. She settled on reissuing a book that spoke to this very idea." That book is "Doomsday Knits," first published in 2012 and a cult favorite in the knitting crowd. In recent years, according to the article, "copies of the out-of-print paperback started going for \$60 at independent bookstores and listing for upward of \$200 online." Okey tells the paper she received a number of inquiries as to whether it would be available again. "We re-released it, and in no time it goes from zero to 'Oh my God,' " Okey says. "Did everyone get their stimulus checks or are we all whistling past the graveyard?"

County Fairs Update

Many of our members enjoy competing in or viewing the crafting exhibits and fiber animals on display at local county fairs. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some county fairs have already been cancelled for 2020, and others plan to continue unless advised otherwise by the state. Please check websites carefully before planning to compete or attend.

- [Cuyahoga County Fair cancelled for 2020](#) (normally in August)
- [Geauga County Fair](#) - Still scheduled for September 3-7 - [check website for updates](#)
- [Lake County Fair](#) - Still scheduled for July 28-Aug 2 - [check website for updates](#)
- [Medina County Fair](#) - Still scheduled for August 3-9 - however their website notes an emergency June board meeting presumably about COVID-19 response - [check website for updates](#)

Fiber Field Reports:

Navigating the Coronavirus pandemic

Miriam W. Rosenblatt

5/14/2020

Does Every Day Seem Like a Sunday?

Hi Everyone!

I hope everyone is staying safe during the pandemic. Those of us who are in the possession of an obscene yarn stash are still having the last laugh!

My husband and I began to self-quarantine as soon as we got back from a short trip to Boston last March. I have an autistic adult younger sister who lives independently in the Boston area, and it was very clear that her living situation was not sustainable. She arrived to stay with us for the duration of the pandemic.

Speaking for myself, I am grateful for what we have under the circumstances and am trying to take a long view of making the best of these circumstances.

I have been surprisingly busy during this time! There is the daily management of running our home and caring for family needs. I have been able to manage my time well enough, balancing our family needs, meals and personal time. My husband and I stay in touch online with our family in Israel, our synagogue members and are taking a couple of online classes.

I did block off time during April to make masks. I made some fabric masks for University Hospitals having seen the appeal on their website. I was then connected to a group that was making surgical sleeves and masks out of Halyard fabric for critical care physicians support staff. Halyard is a polypropylene material used to sterilize surgical instruments. A visionary group at the University of Florida had the pattern on the website. An anesthesiologist in our community spearheaded this initiative. The plan was to make these items for use and reuse until they could procure the materials they needed. It helped to navigate this pandemic to know that I was doing something that mattered. It was lovely to receive texts from hospital staff who found them really useful.

I spent surprisingly little time knitting or even watching TV during this time.

Since then, I have been a socially distant party animal. We had to cancel our travel plans to Paris and Israel but with the magic of Zoom, I have been connecting with different groups both locally and overseas. It is both strange and wonderful to re-connect with people I have met over the years of travel. I have also been zooming with two of the local yarn shops. Oh yes, and I have made those shameless purchases to support our local yarn shops. Really, how can I say no to that siren skein of rainbow yarn beckoning to me?

I hope everyone is staying safe, and using the right kind of common sense to navigate this unpredictable period in our lives. Be well and I hope that many of you will have some interesting stories to share.



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