

Welcome to



Northcoast
Knitting Guild

Hello new guild member!

You may not be aware of all that our guild does, so we have put together a little “getting to know NCKG” booklet to help you out. Always feel free to email or call a fellow guild member for more information or if you have any questions.

Did you know that 2011 is our 22nd year in existence?!!

Meetings

Each meeting begins at 7pm. During the meeting, all members are invited to knit to their heart’s content! Much will be discussed: old business, new business, committee information, upcoming events, etc. After the business meeting, we have a program. Please refer to the yearly guild program handout.

You are free to stay until 10pm as we have the room rented until that time.

Education

The Guild brings nationally recognized teachers to Cleveland for free classes on specific topics for our members (i.e. we have had Lily Chin, Gwen Bortner, Beth Brown-Reinsel, Fiona Ellis, Lucy Neatby, Anne Hanson).

50/50 Raffle

Every meeting we offer a 50/50 raffle to members. You are welcome to buy three tickets for a dollar if you so desire.

Show and Share

At every meeting, time is set aside for members to show what they have done. This is strictly on a volunteer basis. Whether you are beginner or expert, everyone will appreciate all the work and time you put into your

item. We ask that there be a limit of two items per person. Our Webmaster will take a photo of your work and post it to the website with a description. You can direct friends and family to the website to see your works of art!

Newsletter

Once every two months, you will receive an NCKG newsletter. It is full of valuable information, we like to say! However, we like to have guild members' input too, so if you ever have anything you'd like to add, please send information to Ann Smrekar or Louise Vouk, our newsletter editors. Examples: your own review of any fiber-related books/magazines that you have read, dates of some events that you may want to share with other members, a neat tip/technique you learned somewhere, etc. The newsletter is a group effort and we would like members to contribute as much as possible!

The newsletter is also online for your convenience. If you prefer it online, just let newsletter editors Louise or Ann know and they will put your name on the list of online users. You will receive a password to access each issue. It is in .pdf format so you need to have Adobe Reader to read it. A link to help you download this free program is available on the newsletter page.

In the September/October issue, you will receive the upcoming year's listing of programs for each meeting and also a NCKG membership list.

Website

<http://www.northcoastknitting.org> is our website. Check it out and see what we have! On the Gallery page, there are photos of members' masterpieces to look at. Perhaps some of your items will soon be there too!

Monthly Happenings

JANUARY

Swap Night

January's meeting is "swap night" where members bring in yarns, patterns, and knitting notions that they want to sell. If you have yarn to sell, please label your yarn bag with yarn content, how many yards, and price. Make sure you have your name of each item you wish to sell. Everything is laid out on tables for your perusal. If you buy yarn, please pay the person whose name is on the bag. If you sell your yarn, remember to give 10% of each sale to the guild.

APRIL

A Knitter's Fantasy

In April each year, area guilds take turns hosting an all-day seminar called A Knitter's Fantasy. Now being held at Chaney High School in Austintown, Ohio, this seminar is a fun-filled day. For a nominal price, you can attend two classes, experience a fashion show (or be in it if you want!), have lunch, meet other knitters, and buy anything related to fiber at the yarn market. There are usually around 300+ attendees and over 30 yarn vendors. We like to encourage NCKG members to volunteer in any way they can when it is our turn to host. It is a large-scale event which cannot be done without the help of members.

MAY

Knitting Retreat weekend at River's Edge.

You may sign up to stay the entire weekend or come for an all-day experience on Saturday. The newsletter will announce dates and prices as we approach the month of May.

Elections and Membership Drive

Our annual election of officers and membership renewal. Membership is \$15 per year.

Service Projects

During May's business meeting, we would like all members to be working on a service project. There are many choices (see pp. 9 - 12 for ideas).

JUNE

Worldwide Knit in Public Day

World Wide Knit in Public Day was started in 2005 by Danielle Landes. It began as a way for knitters to come together and enjoy each other's company. Go to a local event with your knitting in tow; who knows? You might bump into your neighbor!

Woolfest

Lake Farmpark sponsors a great fiber festival in June at Lake Farmpark in Kirtland, Ohio. Come check out the vendors and the animals, or take a class or two (or three . . .) take part in the competition by submitting something you have knit which is made out of a natural fiber. Take in a sheep shearing or come and spread the word about our craft and knit at NCKG's booth.

Stitch 'n' Pitch

with the Cleveland Indians and Lake County Captains*

This is a fun time to watch live baseball and knit at the same time – two great American past-times! A section at each ballpark is reserved for us fiber artists so you may see knitting, crocheting, cross-stitching, etc.

(*This program takes place at all the ballparks across the nation during the summer months.)

JULY

Toy & Other Service Projects Competition

During the July meeting, we have a toy competition. There are two competition categories: 1) purchase a toy and knit/crochet its clothing; or 2) knit/crochet an entire toy (you can make any doll, animal, or shape you want). In the past, we have sent toys to various police stations. When children are brought to the station, they are given a toy to calm them and let them know that they have a “friend.” Imagine what a comfort it is for a youngster in crisis to have his/her very own lovey. You don’t have to enter the competition, but we would like members to bring in a toy anyway.

AUGUST

Annual Guild Picnic

Our annual guild picnic takes place at the end of July or early August at guild member Christina Thoburn’s house beginning at 11:00 in Russell Township (just outside Chagrin Falls). Arrive anytime after 11 a.m. for beverages and baked goods; a potluck lunch begins at 1 p.m., and we’ll knit, eat, swim, and have fun until about 5 p.m. Bring a dish to share (entrée, salad, or dessert), your knitting, and your swimsuit and towel (Christina has an in-ground pool). Beverages, plates, and silverware will be provided. Please bring a chair of your own.

Vendor’s Night

August’s program is devoted to perusing the wares of our local yarn shops, who bring their most exciting product lines to us! Several local vendors are invited to set up a table to tempt us. Enjoy seeing the newest fibers and goodies in the most convenient setting imaginable.

SEPTEMBER

Knit-Out & Crochet

Each September the Cleveland area Knit-Out & Crochet takes place. Come to knit, teach someone else how, talk to other knitters, spinners, or crocheters, or peruse the knitting and crocheting section in the bookstore. Locations in the past have been at area bookstores.

OCTOBER

Annual Guild Competition

Come bring your masterpieces to be judged by fellow guild members. You may even win a blue ribbon!

We have several categories: Beginner — Those who have knit two years or less. 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.). Commercial Pattern — Divided into the following sub-categories: Sweaters, Shawls and Scarves, Accessories, Babies and Children, Home Knitting (pillows, afghans, placemats, tea cozies, whimsies, etc.)

NOVEMBER

Holiday party

In November, we have a holiday party since we do not meet in December. If you want to take part in our gift exchange, bring in a new item gift-wrapped that has the value of \$10.00 or under. We also ask you to bring a side dish as we will be eating. Drinks are usually provided.

Service Projects

During the year, we encourage members to do service projects –simple things like chemo hats, preemie hats, baby blankets, helmet liners, wash-cloths, etc.—to help out area causes. In July, our meeting revolves around service projects so we ask members who attend in July to work only on service projects. It's interesting to see who's doing what for whom! Here is a listing of what we do:

1. Busy Hands at the South Euclid Community Center. Every Wed. from 12:30 to 2:30.

They work on baby blankets for Huron Road Hospital, lap blankets for several nursing homes, shawls for the Welsh Home, pet pads for the animal shelter, and scarves for the military.

NCKG member to contact: Betty Kovacs

2. The Mother Bear Project is dedicated to providing comfort and hope to children affected by HIV/AIDS in emerging nations, by giving them a gift of love in the form of a hand-knit or crocheted bear. All bears are made from the same knit or crochet pattern which can be ordered through Mother Bear Project for \$5.00 online or via US Mail.

Send a \$5.00 check written to Mother Bear Project and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Completed bears can also be mailed to the same address: include \$3.00 for shipping overseas.

Mother Bear Project
P.O. Box 62188
Minneapolis, MN 55426

NCKG member to contact: Judy Gerson

3. Operation Helmetliner – part of an organization called Citizen SAM –

“Citizen Support for America’s Military.” Volunteers make wool helmetliners for soldiers in cold climates, neck coolers for soldiers in warm climates, neck gaiters, and scarves.

Citizen SAM

P O Box 10565

Peoria, IL 61612

info@citizensam.org or call 309-693-9533.

NCKG member to contact: Ann Daley Smrekar

4. Christmas at Sea and the Christmas on the River programs through the Seamen's Church Institute of New York. Guild member Mo Doerner chose this charity to honor her husband’s paternal grandfather who was killed in WWII when his ship was torpedoed by a German ship, leaving his grandmother to raise two small boys in London.

<http://www.seamenschurch.org/484.asp> and look under "How You Can Help."

Christmas as Sea - The Christmas at Sea (CAS) program of the Seamen’s Church Institute brings hospitality and love to deep-sea and river mariners by distributing gifts containing handmade scarves, caps, vests, helmets or socks, as well as other useful items. These gifts are knitted or crocheted by more than 4,000 volunteers from every state. Each year, more than 17,000 gifts are distributed. We would love to have your help.

Christmas on the River - an outreach program of Ministry on the River. Gift boxes are delivered to towboat crews who typically work 28-30 days at a time, regardless of holidays. This program lets those who can’t be home Christmas day know that they are not forgotten.

NCKG member to contact: Mo Doerner

5. Little Heroes – blankets for Huron Hospital babies, hats for kids.
NCKG member to contact: Fusun Tuzcu

6. Knit for Kids - this project collects hand-made sweaters and distributes them to needy children throughout the world. (<http://www.knitsforkids.org>).
NCKG member to contact: Kathy Mates or Sue Crowe

7. Warm Woolies is a non-profit organization whose volunteers knit warm clothing for poverty-stricken children who would otherwise suffer from cold. Our mission is to provide the very neediest children with wool sweaters, vests, hats, mittens, and socks.
(<http://www.warmwoolies.org/>).
NCKG member to contact: Ginny Thomas

8. Women4Women-Knitting4Peace is a not-for-profit, for-impact network of women dedicated to crafting peace one simple stitch at a time by prayerfully creating Peace Shawls for women in areas of conflict around the world. (<http://www.women4women-knitting4peace.com/>).
NCKG member to contact: Carrie Cence

9. Needle Arts Mentoring is a project of Helping Hands Foundation, Inc. It was established to support anyone who would like to bring together volunteers and youth to explore knitting, crochet, cross stitch or embroidery. The foundation provides groups with basic materials and educational materials, including training for the mentors. The one-on-one relationships between mentors and students foster curiosity, creativity, and a feeling of achievement through the teaching of needle arts for

both! <http://www.needleartsmentoring.org/>.

NCKG member to contact: Judi Pfancuff

10. The USO (United Service Organization) is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to support the troops by providing morale, welfare and recreation-type services to our men and women in uniform. Contact the USO to see what you can do! There are many uses for knitted items: baby booties for baby sea bags which are given to new military parents locally, knitted scarves for troops overseas (these need to be in specified colors). Call 1-800-876-7469 to find out the current needs of the troops.

NCKG member to contact: Nancy Kewish

MEMBER INFORMATION

NCKG is a hand-knitting chapter of TKGA (The Knitting Guild Association). Dues are \$15/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.

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.