

March 2012

Marin Knitters

Program
Schedule:

March – Stitches
West Show &
Tell

April– Tips for
taking craft
pictures

May – Stash and
organizing

President's Message

It is February, that means STITCHES West here in Marin. Lots of members are going; I know we are all looking forward to the MARKET. We will get to hear all about it in March, which is our program that month.

We had a great meeting this February and good attendance. Nazee presented, making "Femo Buttons", we all had fun learning the process with good results. I made buttons for a pink sweater I am making for my baby granddaughter; they came out beautiful and match well. Thank you Nazee for providing all the materials and presenting, you did a great job.

We decided on a group project, baby items for charity. The goal of group project is to bump up your skills a little, like adding Fair Isle, steeks, lace in the project. Have fun with it and learn a new skill.

Happy Knitting, Cathy and Christine

February 11, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Co-president Cathy Puccetti led our February meeting which was attended by sixteen members and one guest. As a special treat, instead of arranging ourselves near the parking lot door, we clustered on the opposite side of our meeting room to get the best light for our work and to enjoy the fabulous view of the water.

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report and Annual Dues: Our treasurer, Dana Dunn, was unable to attend our meeting, but reported via our Yahoo! group that we have \$1,152.55 in our treasury.

Group Project: Cathy led a discussion of a Group Project for 2012. Spurred on by a report from Projects Committee Chair, Christine Bo-Linn, that the Marin Free Clinic and children's hospitals need premie hats and sweaters, suggestions were made to do Fair Isle and/or lace baby hats (and sweaters) for preemies for charity. We also discussed steeking, the thought of which many of us find quite challenging.

In a previous year, Guild members did Elizabeth Zimmermann's "Baby Surprise Jacket," published in 1968 for our

Group Project, and it would be a fun pattern to use for this project, too. Go to http://www.knitting-and.com/wiki/Baby_Surprise_Jacket for a free copy of the pattern.

A motion was made and carried to do baby items for charity for our June meeting. But, members participating in the project, which is purely voluntary, are encouraged to bring items to Show & Tell at earlier meetings.

Recipients of the hats and sweaters will be determined at a later meeting.

February 11, 2012 Meeting Minutes (continued)

NEW BUSINESS

OFFICER ELECTIONS

Cathy Puccetti and Christine Bo-Linn currently serve as co-presidents. Christine also serves as Programs Chair. Cathy noted that we change officers and other responsibilities at our May meeting and that she would not be continuing as co-president.

Recently, we have had co-presidents instead of a president and vice president, which has worked well.

We hope Dana Dunn, our long-time treasurer, will choose to continue to hold that office, and the group asked our current secretary, Jane Cooperman, to continue on as secretary (she agreed after joking about voting "Continental").

That means we need volunteers for president, co-president/programs chair, and programs committee members.

We would be delighted to have current members continue on, and/or have long-time and/or new members volunteer for these positions.

We also hope that Elaine Johnson will continue to be our liaison to the Marin County Fair, Cathy Aviles

will continue to produce our ever-improving newsletter, Arlene Finn will continue to provide name tags for our members, Claire Miller will be responsible for charity and Leona Thoelecke will continue to be our church liaison and responsible for the key to the facility.

More on this at future meetings.

STITCHES WEST AND SAN MATEO QUILT SEWING & QUILT SHOW

We will ask members who attend Stitches West and the San Mateo Sewing and Quilt Show the weekend of February 23-26, 2012, to report back to us at our March meeting.

CHARITY PROJECTS

Prayer Shawl Project for Cancer Research: Nazee Fard created six prayer shawl patterns for a book with the working title "Prayer Shawl Designs from the Heart" to benefit cancer research. Last year, she asked Diane Sack, Marcia Hammett, Christine Bo-Linn, Jane Cooperman, and her mother to create prayer shawls from her original patterns using yarn provided free of charge by several yarn companies. Nazee also made a prayer shawl and added trim to several of the others. The shawls are done and she is working on the pattern text for a publication. She had her team pose with their shawls for her upcoming publication. Nazee discussed auctioning the shawls off to earn additional money for Brain Cancer Research. All of the prayer shawls received praise for their beauty and originality.

Nazee mentioned that there is also a walk for brain cancer research on May 5th in Golden Gate Park. Nazee needs to raise funds for her participation. She will post more information on the Yahoo list soon, but here is the URL for the Brain Tumor Walk in San Francisco:

http://www.braintumorcommunity.org/site/PageServer?pagename=BTW_SF_Homepage

and if you want to donate to the cause, you can use Nazee's participant page:

http://www.braintumorcommunity.org/site/TR/Events/BTW-SF?px=2896456&pg=personal&fr_id=1823

The Doll Project – Stitchin' for Kids: Caroline Archer reported that she needed 24 hats for baby dolls for toddlers (since our January meeting, she has received quite a few, but please keep those hats coming). The pattern for the hats is on our web site (go to Projects, Caroline Archer's Doll Patterns, *Baby Doll Hats*). She also thanked Guild members for doll sweaters and hats turned in prior to this meeting and for several provided at today's meeting. She always needs more doll hats and sweaters as each girl receiving a doll gets five sweaters as part of the 12 outfits that go with each doll. Hat and sweater patterns are also available on our web site. The Doll Project's official website at www.stitchinforkids.org opened in January, but patterns are not yet available there.

More Yarn Donations: Diane Sack brought in more yarn given to her for our charity work.

MEDIA AND SHOP REPORTS

Christine Bo-Linn passed around an article from the New York Times regarding the stunning auction price of a schoolgirl embroidery made in 1807 on linen using silk thread. Its auction estimate was \$120,000, but it went for \$1,700,000.

FEBRUARY GUILD PROGRAM

FIMO BUTTONS

Nazee Fard taught Guild members to make polymer clay buttons, usually called "Fimo Buttons." She also brought along several garments to which she had matched button colors to hard-to-match yarn colors (matching her salmon-colored sweater otherwise would have been impossible). Another Guild member, Leona Thoelecke, wore a sweater trimmed in Fimo buttons she made at a Fimo Buttons program taught by Nazee a few years ago.

Nazee provided gloves for working with the polymer clay, the clay, forms that look like miniature muffin or candy molds, baby power to keep the buttons from sticking to the molds (not necessary for flat surfaces), parchment paper to apply to the cooking pan (a pie pan works well) and a toaster oven to bake and harden the buttons.

Nazee also mentioned the following: To prevent sticking, shake some baby powder into the tins when using molds. Varnish is used for finished buttons. Be careful about toxic fumes: if you cover the container when baking the buttons there is no problem. The fumes are toxic mostly when buttons are burnt (which is easy to do). If you use any utensil, pots, dishes, etc., for baking buttons, do not use them for cooking.

It didn't take long for Guild members to learn how to blend several colors of clay into just the right color, roll out and form buttons, poke holes into them for sewing them onto garments and bake their buttons in Marcia's toaster oven. After baking, Fimo buttons still are somewhat soft, but they will harden when they cool. Materials for Fimo buttons are available at craft stores.

For additional help, Nazee passed around a list of YouTube and Fimo and Sculpey company web sites. This project was so much fun and so useful that we agreed that we should repeat it every few years. It will save us lots of money on purchasing commercial buttons and the buttons we make will amaze our friends.



SHOW AND TELL

Guild members displayed projects in process and discussed knit items they were wearing. One member brought along a group of rosettes that she had made from the free pattern Elaine Johnson brought to our attention at our December 2011 meeting. Several members were interested in making rosettes for hats or other items. The pattern is available in Louisa Harding's new book called *Knitting in the Details: Charming Designs to Knit and Embellish*. Alternatively, Google for "Louisa Harding Rosette Pattern." Another member brought along several Fair Isle baby hats that inspired our Group Project, and another member showed a knit dress that is about three-fourths completed. We asked her to bring it back when done. We took a picture of one table of Guild members as they all showed up in lavender or purple outfits.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Afghan: We still need to discuss making an afghan for the person who contributed yarn to our December meeting who now is in assisted living.

Neckline Secrets: We are looking forward to a demonstration of sewing down stitch by stitch (instead of casting off) crew neck style necklines. And other timely tips.

MEMBER INFORMATION

MARIN KNITTERS GUILD NEWSLETTER:

Reminder: Please email information for the 2011-2012 *Newsletters* to Cathy Aviles at caviles@sonic.net. She will publish information on websites, pod casts or blogs on knitting or other related crafts.

MEMBERSHIP: The only requirement for joining our Guild is an interest in knitting and crocheting. New and experienced crafters are equally welcome.

YAHOO GROUPS LIST: Marin Knitters Guild members who are not receiving Yahoo Group emails, should email marinknittersguild@yahoo.com to get on our distribution list.

Respectfully Submitted by Jane Cooperman,
Secretary

2011 MKG Officers

Co-Presidents –
Cathy Puccetti
Christine Bo-Linn

Secretary –
Jane Cooperman

Treasurer –
Dana Dunn

Programs Chair –
Marcia Hammett

Newsletter –
Cathy Aviles

E-Mail:
marinknittersguild@yahoo.com

We're on the Web!
<http://www.marinknittersguild.org>

Volunteers

Charity – Claire Miller

Marin Fair Liaison –
Elaine Johnson

Website & Yahoo! List –
Nazee Fard

Name Tags – Arlene Finn

Church Liaison – Leona
Thoelecke

About Our Organization...

The Marin Knitters' Guild is the official chapter of **TKGA** (The Knitting Guild Association) in Marin County, California. The guild was established in 1987 to promote interest in the craft and workmanship of knitting. While our name states Marin Knitters' Guild, today our membership hails from the counties of San Francisco, San Mateo, Solano and Sonoma as well as Marin.

Knitters with all levels of experience are welcome to participate. We encourage beginners to

join and learn from the experienced. The Guild draws on the talent and expertise of its membership and the knitting and fiber-arts community at large for programs and workshops.

Visitors are welcome to all Marin Knitters' Guild meetings. We ask that you join us with your paid membership on your second meeting, so that we may continue to support our programs. Dues are \$20 annually, payable at the September meeting, and include a monthly newsletter

containing the previous meeting's minutes.

We have mini-workshops in most meetings offered by experienced guild members or local knitting teachers. In addition, we work for charitable causes, group projects and go on fun field trips. From time to time, we invite National teachers to have workshops for us. These workshops allow for a more intensive study of design or technique.

We meet at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, 10 Bayview Dr, San Rafael, CA 94901