

Marin Knitters Guild Newsletter

June 2012



President Marilyn Klau showing her handknit sock and transparent shoe



“Properly practiced, knitting soothes the troubled spirit, and it doesn't hurt the untroubled spirit either.”

— [Elizabeth Zimmermann](#)

President's message

Hello Ladies,

We had a changing of the guard, and new officers were sworn in at our last meeting. Thanks to all of those who volunteered to keep our Knitters Guild going.

A fun and informative session was presented by Kevin McGinnis on how to take professional-looking photographs for showing items online for sale (eBay), or just for sharing (Ravelry). He went over equipment and how to stage items. Anyone who missed the presentation can check with me for Kevin's hand-outs at our next meeting in June. His mother-in-law also discussed selling via eBay.

Our County's 2012 Fair is coming soon - from June 30 - July 4th. Knitters, be sure to send in your entry forms PRONTO, as the deadline for entering is before 5 p.m. on May 17th.

Some of our knitters have volunteered to demonstrate knitting, so be sure to come by if you are at the fair on the 30th to say hi and to check out all of the knitted entries, too.

See you all at Christine's house for our annual Spring Pot Luck June 2nd at 10:30 - 3. Bring a dish to share. If you haven't yet, please RSVP directly to Christine.

Have a good month - save time for knitting.

Marilyn



May 12 2012 Meeting Minutes

Co-President and Programs Chair Christine Bo-Lin started the meeting. Eighteen Guild members and two guests (one of whom joined the Guild) attended. Christine and Guild members profusely thanked Cathy Pucetti for her service as Co-President.

Much to our sadness, one of our long-time members, Marcia Hammett, will be moving out of the Bay Area to be closer to family and this is Marcia's last Guild meeting. Marcia has served as President and on the Programs Committee, and has presented programs to us, often (with her husband's help) lugging in video equipment for her presentations. We will profoundly miss Marcia, and we wish her much happiness in her move. She has been a wonderful friend to the Guild and individually to many of us.

OFFICER ELECTIONS

This is the annual meeting at which officer responsibilities change. No one had volunteered to take on the presidency, so the Nominations Committee (Christine Bo-Lin, Elaine Johnson and Jane Cooperman) huddled over a lunch in San Rafael to determine who among the members of our small Guild should be asked to fill that post. To the enthusiastic applause of all of the Guild members, Christine announced that Marilyn Klag has accepted, and the members duly voted her into office. Marilyn led the remainder of the meeting.

The Nominations Committee also asked several members to serve

on the Programs Committee. They are: Caroline Archer, Christine Bo-Lin, Elaine Johnson and Tammy Taylor. They will elect their own chair. Secretary Jane Cooperman asked that they keep her and Radhika Sitaraman, who is responsible for our Newsletter, up-to-date on monthly Programs.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND ANNUAL DUES

We did not have a Treasurer's Report this month.

SUMMER POT LUCK

Christine Bo-Lin sent members an Evite to the annual summer pot luck at her house. It will take place on *Saturday, June 2* from 10 to 3. Bring food to share, drop in any time and stay as long as you like. Note: The June Guild meeting will be the following *Saturday, June 9*, at our usual location.

COUNTY FAIRS AND OTHER EVENTS

Marin County Fair: Elaine Johnson, our liaison to the Marin County Fair, brought a sign-up sheet for demonstrating knitting on *Saturday, June 30*. Volunteers will receive one free Fair ticket for each two hours of demonstrations. Contact Elaine if you want to sign-up. The fair's theme this year is agriculture. Entry forms are due by 5 PM on Thursday, May 17. The cost is \$3 per entry form (up from \$2 in past years). Items must be delivered to the fair by 5 PM Saturday, June 9th. In addition to hand knit and crocheted

items, there is a section for machine knit items, too. For additional details, check the Fair booklet or website.



Departing member Marcia Hammett and some of her beautiful work

CHARITY PROJECTS

Group Project and The Doll Project – Stitchin' for Kids: Several items for these projects were displayed at today's meeting during Show & Tell. Keep them coming!

MEDIA, SHOP and TKGA REPORTS

There were no media or shop reports this month.



Crocheted Beauty



Old pattern – as beautiful as ever

MAY GUILD PROGRAM

Photographing Your Work and Selling on eBay



Presenters Kevin McGinnis & Kathleen Catanho

We gathered around a card table set up by presenters Kevin McGinnis and Kathleen Catanho to see a demonstration of how to best photograph your work for selling it on the internet and to learn about selling on eBay from a seller's point of view. Kevin had had two eBay consignment stores in the East Bay and his mother-in-law, Kathleen, currently is a power seller on eBay. Kevin, who is Marcia Hammett's neighbor, currently is a realtor for Frank Howard Allen. He will be happy to answer your photography (and realty) questions if you contact him at kmcginnis@fhallen.com or by his cell at 415-725-1911.

When Kevin started in the eBay business, he didn't know much about photography. He soon realized that making the sale items stand out from competitive items was the key to selling them. He started by selling silver jewelry, and his poor photography was holding him back until his brother gave him useful tips – and he sold a lot after that.

For great photographs, you need a digital camera with a macro lens. Think about how small your picture will be on eBay and keep that in mind when constructing your photos. Consider where you

take the photographs – indoors or outdoors (Kevin recommends a controlled indoor environment). For indoor photographs you need two lights – a key light and a fill light to control the light balance. Use props to show off your items. A tripod will steady your camera.

Kevin gave everyone a stack of handouts to get them started, including information on cameras, tripods, an adjustable backdrop support stand, photo umbrellas, and, finally, a hilarious warning about taking care when photographing reflective items. A few extra copies of most of the handouts will be available at our June meeting.

Kathleen Catanho, who is a retired school teacher with 35 years' experience in the Oakland school district, affirmed the importance of good photography – she said “you have to grab their eyeballs.” She suggested that as an eBay seller, you check what competitive items are moving by searching for the “completed” link. She also discussed selling on ETSY.

Enormous thanks to Kevin and Kathleen giving us a wealth of information. We would have gone on for another hour of questions, except we had to vacate our meeting room.

SHOW & TELL

We had a wonderful Show & Tell including charity items. Check out the photographs, especially one of a red sweater made by knitters in Dubrovnik, Serbia, that pictures the city in amazing detail. The knitters survived the bombing that destroyed most of the town. We used Kevin McGinnis's display to photograph some items for the Doll Project – Stitchin' for Kids.



Dubrovnik Sweater



Stitchin' for Kids display



More Stitchin' for Kids display



2012 Officers

President –

Marilyn Klag

Secretary –

Jane Cooperman

Treasurer –

Dana Dunn

Programs Committee –

Caroline Archer

Christine Bo-Lin

Elaine Johnson

Tammy Taylor

Newsletter –

Radhika Sitamaran

Webmaster –

NazeeFard

E-Mail:

marinknittersguild@yahoo.com

We are on the Web!

www.marinknittersguild.org

MEMBER INFORMATION

MARIN KNITTERS GUILD

NEWSLETTER: *Reminder:* Please email information for the 2012-2013 *Newsletters* to Radhika Sitaraman at radhika_sitaraman@yahoo.com. 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

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 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.

Volunteers

Charity – Claire Miller

Marin Fair Liaison – Elaine Johnson

Website & Yahoo! List – Nazee Fard

Name Tags – Arlene Finn

Church Liaison – Leona Thoelecke

