



Meeting Information

**October 19, 2004 7-9 pm
University Lutheran Church
1020 S, Harrison Road
East Lansing, Mich.**

October Program

Didn't make it to Stitches? Well a small part of Stitches East is coming to Lansing Michigan. The contents of the Black Water Abby booth is due to arrive at Threadbear Fiber Arts Studio next week. They will be bringing the sweater collection for the October program. This will be a real treat with an opportunity for a close look at the Black Water Abby Trunk Show collection.

See article on page 3 for more about Black Water Abby yarn.

Future Programs

November - scarves, shawls, and ponchos - basic construction, patterns, resources, yarn choices, stitch patterns, fringe (looking for contributors and show-and-tell/fashion show participants)

December - potluck and charity hat contest.

Mid-Michigan Knitters Guild Officers

- President** -Faina L 381-9068
- VP/Programs** - Tracy A 648-1967
- Treasurer** – Wendy S 694-4825
- Newsletter** – Irene A 887-9101
- Publicity** – Colleen S – 381-0555
- Service Projects-** Wendy S -694-4825
- Hospitality** -- Jessica M 381-8309
- Library** – Susan O – 333-0322

Letter from the President

Do you love to go to a bookstore and browse through books and newsstand? I do. Some five or six year ago when you come to a newsstand in Barnes and Noble or Schuler's you could see some knitting magazines. *Cast On*, *Interweave Knits*, *Knitter's*. I do not remember *Knit'N'Style* and *Family Circle Easy Knitting* on a newsstand back then, but I know these magazines existed. Also, there were occasional knitting patterns and articles in *Spin Off* and *Piecework*. Now newsstands are blooming with knitting magazines. They are not so numerous as quilting magazines, but definitely the number grew significantly.

So, I decided to compile a little list of knitting magazines that are available for us on a newsstand and on-line. The list got to be quite long, I sure missed some and I did not try to write a review. I realized, I just plain do not have that much time to review all the magazines available. And it is great!

So what do we have? First our long time favorites that do not require any review because of long standing reputation (not in any particular order): *Knitter's*; *Interweave Knits*; *Cast On*; *Knit'N'Style*; *Family Circle Easy Knitting*; *Vogue Knitting* became *International*. One of the first newcomers: *International Network of Knitters* has great technique articles. The magazine that appeared at first as *Knitting Digest* became *Creative Knitting* and is doing real well. European publisher Burda treats us regularly with *Rebecca* and *Sandra*, so we can see what they are doing overseas. There is *Machine Knitting News* for technologically advanced. *Knitting Now. A Newsletter for Serious Knitter*.

We have a constellation of on-line knitting magazines: *Knitty*; *Knitting Universe* (affiliated with the *Knitter's*); *KnitNet*; *Knitter's Review*. And for sock connoisseurs – *Socks! Digest* and *Heel and Toes Gazette*.

Continued on page 2.....

Letter from the President Continued.....

Quite impressive list, isn't it? It is not all. For those of us, who believe that crocheting is just another form of knitting (Well, you pick up a stitch, make yarn over, and bind off a stitch and yarn over together. And you use a hook instead of a needle and call it fancy name in French. That is it. Call it hook knitting.) there are number of magazines too: *Crochet World; Annie's favorite Crochet; Hooked on Crochet; Crochet Fantasy; Quick and Easy Crochet;* and just simple *Crochet!*

And there is an on-line newsletter – *Crochet'N'More.*

Not bad, considering that crochet was for long years on a fringe of fiber arts.

The greatest news is, that we have now publications for any taste, for young (body and soul), for young (soul only); for sophisticated, for those who love country style; traditional styles, novelty, you name it. Can you name more titles to this list, that I missed? Please, do so!

Happy knitting! **Faina**

Back by Popular Demand Scarf Exchange

Thanks to feedback on last year's sock exchange, we are going to do another exchange this year - but this year we will exchange scarves! Easier to fit, a wider range of yarn choices, and you only have to make one!

This is a great chance to make/receive a beautiful hand knit gift that will surely be appreciated. We'll have information available at the September meeting, with some preferences allowed (as last year), but remember that part of the fun is the surprise. Partners will be assigned secretly, and the scarves will be exchanged at a future meeting.

The exchange date is still to be determined but probably a Christmas in April or May. Contact Tracy if you can't attend the meeting and want to participate.

Charity Knitting

Second Saturday of the Month.

Another new tradition that started several years ago. In an effort to keep us on track with charity knitting, Wendy organized an informal get-together at Starbucks. This is very informal, all you have to do is show up, and sometimes the knitting is optional.

**Charity Knitting at Starbucks, Corner of Okemos and Jolly Rd
Saturday, October 9, November 13, December 11.
11:00 am till 2:00 pm or whenever you get tired.**

Snack Volunteers

To try and keep the meetings on schedule we would like to have the treats available at the start of the meeting. Thank you very much for your generosity.

October 21

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Charlotte W | 332-7711 ext. 313 |
| 2. Susan O | 333-0322 |
| 3. Kris B | 327-0375 |
| 4. Julie H | 485-0309 |
| 5. Sharon P | 694-9036 |

November 18

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| Ann K | 332-4668 |
| Martha P | 332-0132 |
| Tamsyn M | 351-5457 |
| Joan R | 347-0617 |
| Judith H | 332-4621 |

Who Is/Are Black Water Abbey Yarns?

This information was copied from the Black Water Abbey Web site. . <http://www.abbeyyarns.com>

In the fall of 1997, I took a little vacation to Ireland with my mother. By a very lucky accident, and her research prior to the trip, we happened onto a small mill in the village of Graignuemanagh, in County Kilkenny. While the mill focused largely on woolen finished goods, they also produced a beautiful, aran weight knitting yarn.

I don't think Philip, who owns the mill, could really imagine the popularity of knitting in the United States, but after several months of faxes and phone calls, he agreed to produce a 2-ply worsted weight yarn for me. I named the business Black Water Abbey Yarns - in honor on the 14th century church that still stands in the middle of the village.

Starting the business also gave me the excuse to quit my job - after eighteen years of working for Hallmark Cards. I learned so much from my years with them - business principles I now apply to my passion of knitting.

We are a very small company. The mill employs only 6 to 8 people, and from here in Denver, I run the business from my home. My mother and aunt make my colorcards - they both have more patience than I ever will - and I have many friends who help knit sample garments, develop logos and websites, and in general offer lots of moral support.

Our goal - and often our challenge, is to remain focused on Irish produced yarn, and product that supports it. We are constantly looking for new patterns and buttons for the perfect project. We test knit every pattern we sell, to insure that they are appropriate for the yarn.

We also have chosen to sell the yarn directly to knitters, instead of wholesaling to yarn shops. The primary reason it that the mill is small with limited production capacity. In addition to selling through our website, we also participate in a number of shows and events throughout the year

Newsletter

If you have not paid your dues this is the last newsletter you will receive. Checks can be sent to Wendy S at the guild PO box address.

I am trying to get the newsletter out using e-mail. This will get the newsletter to you sooner, and save me some time by not having to copy, fold, staple and stamp 75 copies of the newsletter. Of course if you want a paper copy I will continue to send it via the US Post Office. Please let me know if you would like the e-mail version. I will start with the November newsletter.

Note from the Editor

Sorry for the short newsletter. I could bore you with you with the details, but here's the short version. Remodeling the house, no kitchen for the last 5 weeks, dust everywhere, can't get into my yarn room, have to pack for vacation and can't find anything!!! Then I still have to work and I have a major project to get started so others can keep it on track while I'm gone for 1½ weeks. We are going on a 200-mile bike ride (the peddle type) through Maryland and Pennsylvania. I will be taking my knitting. Sharon P wrote on her Web Blog her trials with vacation knitting, maybe I will write about mine and we can compare notes.

See you in November, Irene



P.O. Box 26074
Lansing, Mich. 48909

Address Label Here

Knitting Bags Available

We still have a few of the black nylon knitting bags with the Guild logo available for purchase. The bags are \$14.00 each. There is also a supply of small plastic gadget bags available for \$5.00. They will be available at the monthly Guild meeting.

Canvas bags with an embroidered Guild Logo are also available. There are 2 colorways -- navy/red and black /red. The cost is \$20.00.

Membership Dues and Membership Lists

The annual Guild membership dues are \$20.00 per year. (New members after January 1st are \$15.00.) For those members who live out of the area but want to keep in touch and stay on the mailing list the dues will be \$10.00 annually.

Please contact one of the officers for more information or send your dues directly to MMKG, PO. Box 26074, Lansing Mich. 48909