**Information to be aware of:**

**Our next meeting is on Thursday, March 3rd:** Heather Lodinsky will provide information on how to knit cables in a non-traditional way.

**Social and help time:** in order to provide our guest speakers with your undivided attention we will be offering social time from 6:30-7:00 with our meetings starting promptly at 7:00.

**Save the dates**

**April 7th** is our annual **yarn festival** doors open at 6 - don’t forget to bring a friend! We are asking everyone to please 'share' the information posted on the Knitting Guild’s Facebook page to help increase the number of people attending.

**May 5th** is our annual **yarn auction** for members only. The auction helps offset many Guild activities. If you have donations please bring them to a Guild meeting **by April 7th** or contact Adrienne and she will make arrangements to pick them up.

**May 14th-15th** - Ann Budd will be here for our spring seminar (see information on page 5)

**June 2nd** - President’s Tea Party and fashion show. Please plan on sharing the one item you knit this Guild season you are most proud of.

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**The Presidents Letter**

Dear Knitting Friends,

Hold onto your row counters and grip those loose stitches tightly because the next few months of the Knitting Guild programming are going to knock your socks right off their blockers! Have I gotten your attention? I hope so because the next few months are going to be pretty fantastic. In March, Heather Lodinsky will show us how to knit cables in a non-traditional way. Heather will also talk about using hand spun and hand dyed yarns, many of which will be available at Yarn Fest.

Our YarnFest will be April 7th this year! This event is open to the public and begins a little earlier also (6:00pm). Please bring friends, co-workers and family out to shop for the fibery person on your list, especially yourself. We need help distributing fliers before the event, but also would like helpers throughout the night to provide knitting and spinning assistance and demonstrations. Other volunteers will be needed too. Please contact Gina ASAP to sign up for a shift.

Our annual Yarn Auction and our Spring Seminar with Ann Budd are happening in May! More info on these events will come in the next newsletter. I hope that you are all as excited as I am! Stay warm, Friends!

Your Knitting Friend,

Suzanne
Yarn Fest is coming - get ready to enhance your stash!

By Gina Passantino

Are you ready for the Guild’s Annual YARN FEST? This year’s vendor showcase takes place Thursday, April 7, 2016. Doors open at 6pm.

Our annual festival has grown over the years to the point where vendors now reach out to the Guild to be part of this exciting event. Over 20 vendors from across Western New York and Pennsylvania will showcase an array of yarn, fiber, knitted items, and knitting tools. Some vendors will have kits, patterns and items for spinning and weaving too, plus many unique gift items. Many vendors from previous years will make a return trip along with new vendors like MarigoldJen and Hobbledehoy Yarn and Fiber. Each year the Guild plans new surprises and this year, in addition to the Knit Buffalo Yarn Truck, we’ll have the 716 Food Truck on hand from 4-9pm for your dining pleasure! The food truck is an adjunct to the popular 716 Restaurant at the Harbor Center and will have a variety of items available including vegetarian options, with prices ranging from $3.00 to $10.00. The popular raffles will grow this year with the addition of raffles from the Guild’s library and two memberships to the Guild for the 2016-17 season. Bring your pattern questions as our knitting doctors will be in the house to help you solve your knitting dilemmas, and join others as they sit and knit in our knitter and spinner’s corner.

With the closing of several local yarn shops Yarn Fest is more important than ever to keep you connected to your craft. Our vendors carry the most unique hand spun and hand dyed yarns. You won’t find the quality and variety anywhere else. Yarn Fest is for everyone: knitters of all experience levels and non-knitters alike who will delight in the knitted socks, bags, pottery, and other items for sale. Vendors will accept cash, check and credit cards. Grab a friend and be sure to get to Yarn Fest on April 7th. This year’s event will not disappoint! If you love fiber and high quality fiber products, this is the show for you. Mark your calendars and come ready to shop, shop, shop!!!!
You asked for her and she's back. By popular demand Heather Lodinsky will present our March program showing us how to knit cables in a non-traditional way. Heather will also talk about using hand spun and hand dyed yarns, many of which will be available at Yarn Fest April 7th.

We need your help for Yarn Fest. In addition to attending and bringing a friend too, we need members to help with the distribution of flyers, knitting experts to answer project related questions and dilemmas and knitters and spinners to sit in our Knitters and Spinners Corner demonstrating their skills. Other volunteers will be needed too. Please contact Gina ASAP to sign up for a shift.

Donations for Yarn Auction

The donations have started to arrive so as you think of what you want to do for the new year, keep the Knitting Guild auction in mind. It’s your donations that help make the auction the success it is. So to coin an old phrase - keep those yarn donations coming!
Knitting article

From: yarn.com

We all dream about being able to sit down and knit, crochet, spin, or weave all day, but our bodies are not especially excited about that idea, especially if we’re not being careful to take care of them as we craft. It’s important to avoid injury when crafting so you don’t miss out on extended periods of time doing your favorite activity.

Some things to keep in mind when crafting:

**Lighting and Seating**
You want to make sure your area is well lit. Having to strain your eyes takes the fun out of your favorite activity and can lead to things like headaches. When you choose where you’re going to sit, it’s best to choose a comfortable spot that has plenty of support where you can sit up straight. I’m guilty if sitting on the couch turned sideways without much care for which way I’m sitting, and I know that leads to pain.

**Take Breaks and Stretch.**
As much as we love a long session of crafting, breaks are incredibly important. Every half hour or so, get up and take a walk around the house. Go get a glass of water, play with your pet, or go through a stack of mail. Do some stretches. Stretch your hands and wrists, and your shoulders and back. Do some shoulder rolls and get everything a little loosened before you sit back down to go back at it.

**Be Mindful**
When we’re working on something really complicated, a lot of us hunch up so our shoulders they’re touching our ears. Try to be mindful of where your body is as you craft. A simple readjustment in your body position can also give you a break from a difficult task you’re trying to get done, and it’s long enough to come back at it with new eyes. Maybe a lightbulb will go off!

Most importantly, listen to what your body is telling you. If you’re hand is going numb, or your back is starting to feel funny, it’s time for a break and reevaluation.
Ann Budd is coming to Buffalo May 14th-15th

The Spring Seminar on May 14-15 will feature superstar Ann Budd, who has been editor of Interweave, and the author of numerous books and patterns. Ann will be teaching an all-day Saturday class on Top Down Sweaters, a Sunday morning class on using the Kitchener Stitch in a variety of ways, and a Sunday afternoon class on Socks at Any Gauge. The classes on Saturday and on Sunday afternoon are sold out, but there are still a few spots open on Sunday morning. If you are interested in attending, send an email to sgerstman@gmail.com. All classes are at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center on North Forest Road in Getzville.

Thank you from Hope Gardens

Date: February 18th, 2016

Dear: Knitting Guild of Greater Buffalo

On behalf of the Matt Urban Center at Hope Gardens, I would like to extend our appreciation for your donation of handmade knitted items, hygiene supplies, as well as books for our library.

The LT. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of WNY is a 501(c)3 non-for-profit organization making your donation tax deductible, and pursuant to the IRS Charitable Contributions Substantiation Requirements, this letter shall serve as your official receipt. The LT. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of WNY did not provide any goods or services to you in consideration for your contribution. Please retain this document for your tax records.

The Hope Garden’s mission is to help end homelessness in our community by specifically focusing on one of the most vulnerable homeless populations – single women (without children). Women living on the street face unimaginable trauma. That is why at Hope Gardens our programming is designed around trauma-informed care, which recognizes that trauma must be addressed along with other forms of treatment. Our unique program could not be sustained without generous donors like yourself.

Thank you once again for your charitable donation.

Sincerely,

Meghan Gilbert
Trauma Informed Services Supervisor, Hope Gardens
Knit Companion: A knitter's best friend (part one)

By Deb Welch

Have you ever looked at an intricate pattern and wondered how in the world you are ever going to keep your place or keep the stitch 'keys' readily available? Well, Knit Companion is your answer! What is KC? It is an application on your Apple product (iPad, iPhone...) making it super convenient to carry 100s of patterns. No more magnets or stickies. With Knit Companion, you can keep track of your place in chart or text version:

Text and Keys:
- On the right side of page is a white circle with a blue line to the left of it, which allows you to track your location via a row marker aka ruler to keep your place. Or you can set up one touch row markers (discussed in next newsletter.)
- On the bottom right you will see row counters so you can track the number of rows you have completed.
- Often times a pattern will indicate you need to repeat certain pieces multiple times, again the counter is there to track that for you

- In the bottom middle of the page you will see the information window. In this case a key which is essential to all of the intricate stitches in this pattern.
- In the top right corner are four icons:
  1. Sheep icon- click on this and you will see a 2 minute recorded demonstration explaining what you can do on this page
  2. Question mark- this is a 60 page manual that will tell you so much about this application. It includes an index to quickly find information you need help with.
  3. Round circle- is your project preferences. It allows you to change the colors of the ruler, image background color, chart colors
  4. Arrows- allow you to enlarge your pattern and remove the icons (to see the information at the top of the page).

Currently Knit Companion is only available as an application on Apple products but is expected to be made available for Android products later this year

In the next newsletter, we will look at what Knit Companion can do with charts.
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