



San Diego North Coast Knitters Guild

San Diego, California - www.ncknit.com

Number 173 – November 2011

Next Meeting:

November 1, 2011, 12:30 pm.
San Dieguito United Methodist Church
170 Calle Magdalena
Encinitas, CA 92024

Program- Colleen Davis: Color!



President's Letter

"Thanks for those of you who attended the October meeting. We enjoyed Barry Klein's program. Our monthly "Show and Share" was pre-empted because of the length of the program. There were so many beautiful things that we didn't get to see; please bring them to our next meeting or consider showing them at the Holiday Luncheon Fashion Show in December.

I have just returned from a road-trip through the mid-west and upstate New York. We caught the end of the magnificent fall color. It's time to reflect on all of the things we're thankful for and the special people who have touched our lives in both big and small ways. We have such talented and energetic members--great resources for one another, whether working on a project or just lending a listening ear to each other's needs. We are living at a hectic pace, so it's important that we take time out of our busy schedules each day for ourselves. What better thing to do than to pick up our needles and knit! Have a wonderful Thanksgiving everyone!

Mar Gee Farr
President

Programs remaining in 2011

November 1: In-House program by Colleen Davis on Color Gradation, color mistakes and color magic

December 5: Annual Holiday Luncheon & Fashion Show at Morgan Run Resort, Rancho Santa Fe

November Program

Our own **Colleen Davis** will lecture about the many facets of working with color in our knitted and crocheted garments, including color mistakes and magic with color.



Holiday luncheon and Fashion Show

Our Holiday Luncheon and Fashion Show is December 5th. The reservation form is page 7 of the newsletter and on the website, www.ncknit.com. Nancy Muschek is in charge of reservations. Be sure to mark your luncheon preference so Nancy does not have to call you to find out what you would like to be served. Because of the overwhelming number of attendees at last year's event, we have decided to forgo having vendors this year. We will have our raffle set up in the Trophy Room at Morgan Run and will provide ample time for you to peruse the items and purchase tickets before the luncheon begins. Reserve with Nancy soon!

Diana Rathbun is in charge of the Fashion Show. A sign-up sheet for entering will be available at our next meeting. Garments modeled at the Luncheon must not have been shown in a prior "Show and Share." Contact Diana at drathbun4@san.rr.com.

If you would like to help the day of the luncheon, or if you have something special you would like to donate for the raffle, please contact Mar Gee Farr, MarGeeFarr@cox.net, or 630-624-6634 (cell) or 858-756-0304 (home).

Free Finishing Classes for Our Members

Do you love knitting but hate finishing the items? Do you need to work in all those yarn ends before the moths finish it for you in an unintended way? Finishing days are for you! Bring your almost-finished items and work on them together. The Guild provides the room, tables and chairs, and resource knitters to answer your finishing questions. We will meet at the San Dieguito Methodist Church in classroom 6, on November 8, from 12:00- 3:00 pm.



Minutes from October Meeting



President Mar Gee Farr opened the meeting by introducing our new members to the Guild. Mar Gee welcomed all guests. Mar Gee distributed 2011 proof of membership cards for a 10% discount at JoAnn's Fabrics for Guild members. Mar Gee asked members to read the Newsletter regarding "Knitting for Cancer." She also reported that our July potluck was poorly attended because of the 4th of July holiday. She proposed that we cancel the July meeting for 2012 and have our potluck in the spring. Mar Gee mentioned that we have a spot to fill in our August 2012 program, and any ideas would be welcomed.

Mar Gee announced that Susan Ludwig and Eileen Adler were stepping down from chairing the "Members Teaching Members" program. Anyone interested in volunteering for this program, please see Mar Gee after the meeting. Mar Gee thanked Susan and Eileen for a very successful program.

Many thanks to Laura Brubaker and her helpers for a successful "stash sale." Proceeds were \$2,440.00!

Jo-Ellen Gould asked interested guild members to sign up for the Vina de Lestonnac Retreat in January. At this meeting, Jo-Ellen reported that there has been a good response to the Retreat.

Our Librarian, Nancy Muschek, announced that the Library would be open for our November meeting. Please return any books that you have.

It was announced that members should visit the newsletter website and print the form to reserve a place for the luncheon and your menu choice. Please mail the form and check to Nancy Muschek. The pattern for our table decoration, "Here comes Flopsy," can be found on Ravelry. We were also reminded to sign up for the Fashion Show. More "Afghan Squares" are needed for the afghan drawing, so if you have not made one, please consider doing so.

Colleen Davis will be our next month's guest speaker. Her program will be about color gradation, color mistakes and color magic.

Carolyn Balkwell introduced our October speaker, Barry Klein, of Trendsetter Yarns- a family owned business for the past 24 years. We postponed our sharing part of the program because of lack of time.

Respectfully Submitted
Maureen Rukstalis

Visions Art Museum - 2nd Annual Auction

Mark your calendar for an evening of fun surrounded by beautiful quilts and more at Visions Art Museum's 2nd Annual Auction, on Saturday, November 19, 7-9 p.m. The doors will open at 6:30 for a wine reception and preview. The live bidding begins at 7:00 for items including classes and studio tours by textile artists, and – of course– quilts of all sizes and styles. This year you will also find gorgeous opportunity gift baskets filled with goodies any quilter would love, as well as restaurant gift cards, wine and champagne.

Advance reservations are required for your ticket, \$10, a tax-deductible donation for this Visions fundraiser. All attendees can enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres during the preview, followed by drawings for the opportunity gift baskets, and participation in an exciting live auction. This will be a special evening you can enjoy with your friends and family, so think of some of the non-quilters you know who might join you, have a lovely evening, and be introduced to the beauty of contemporary art quilts and textiles.

Call Visions Art Museum for reservations, 619-546-4872, or contact the auction chairperson: Judy Warren-Tippets, judywt@att.net.

Retreat Updates

Vina de Lestonnac



The January retreat at the Vina de Lestonnac Retreat Center in Temecula will be held from Monday, January 16 through Thursday, January 19, 2012. The total

cost including eight meals, will be \$380.00 for single occupancy and \$290.00 each for double occupancy. To secure a spot please send your nonrefundable deposit of \$76.00 for a single and \$58.00 each for a double to me:

Jo-Ellen Gould
2258 Del Mar Scenic Parkway
Del Mar, CA 92014

*Vina de Lestonnac final payments (\$300.00 for a single and \$228.00 each for a double) will be due on or before the January 3, 2012 meeting. Please make your check payable to SDNCKG

The Vina de Lestonnac web site is www.vinalestonnac.com

La Casa de Maria

Mark your calendar. The next retreat will be at the La Casa De Maria Retreat Center in Santa Barbara and will be held from Monday, May 14, 2012 through Thursday, May 17, 2012. Deposit information will be in the January 2012 newsletter.



The La Casa web site is <http://www.lacasademaria.org>

Jo-Ellen Gould
Retreat Chair
858 947-5167
jmgould@san.rr.com

Yarn Reviews Online

We have at our fingertips information about hundreds of yarns from dozens of companies, categorized by brand, gauge and fiber composition. An example is the following, condensed from a web entry from *Knitter's Review*, www.knittersreview.com.



Yarn Profile: Berroco
Vintage Wool
by Clara Parkes

In Vintage Wool, Berroco made a concerted effort to give knitters a yarn that has all the qualities of good wool but with an easier care label and substantially lower price tag. It still contains

wool—40% in fact—but that fiber has been blended with 50% acrylic and 10% nylon.

Berroco Vintage Wool currently comes in 32 colors that include deeply saturated solids as well as more subtle heathers.



Knitting Up

The label suggests either US 7 or 8 needles. I chose a size 7 to err on the tighter, bouncier side. Knitting was swift and relatively problem-free, although I did create several snags when knitting by touch alone. The yarn willingly let me undo a stitch and drop several rows to retrieve the dropped plies, and the final fabric showed no signs of surgery. Berroco now has a DK weight of this yarn as well as the worsted.

Vintage Wool has a subtle sheen to it that almost suggests silk, but that's most likely the acrylic and/or nylon talking. The 40% wool gives the yarn a gentle fuzz along its surface, and the smooth nylon and acrylic fibers have also been set with a fine crimp pattern to further mimic the look and feel of wool. The yarn flowed smoothly through my hands without much of that telltale "sticky" feeling that can sometimes accompany a pure synthetic yarn. My stitches were mostly even, although the yarn clearly didn't want to forgive the few spots where my tension had strayed.



Blocking / Washing

My swatch survived a cold tumble in the washing machine (on gentle cycle), while another swatch did equally well when hand-washed in warm water. Neither swatch showed any change in row or stitch gauge, but they both revealed a hint of cohesive bloom along the surface. Wool loves water, but the high synthetic percentage in this yarn resulted in my swatches taking quite a long time to dry.

Wearing

Vintage Wool has a pleasant touch that is both soft and substantial. There isn't a hint of itch here, despite the fact that the wool content is not identified as a Merino, which would be finer. It is perfectly suited for babies and children, but the somewhat earthy, saturated colorways also help it work equally well for grown-ups. While the acrylic and nylon fibers have been artificially crimped to better blend with (and mimic) the wool, they still lack one very important feature: scales.

Wool fibers are lined with tiny microscopic scales that help the fibers adhere to one another in yarn and, consequently, in your fabric. With no such surface force to help the fibers adhere to one another, they began to slip and slide under abrasion.



A halo readily developed across the swatch surface. Those fibers became particularly dense in some spots, developing what would eventually become clump-like pills very close to the surface. Because the synthetic fibers tended to have a longer staple length—sometimes nearly the same length as the wool fibers, sometimes several inches longer—those clumps were deeply rooted in the fabric. When I tugged on them, entire stitches started to move. It'd be far safer to snip them off with a sweater shaver.

Conclusion

Vintage Wool is great for what it is—a low-priced machine-washable synthetic blend. Berroco has kept the price-point extremely fair, at \$5.95 per 217-yard hank. To put that in garment terms, you could get two hats out of one skein. Two skeins would be more than enough for one of Elizabeth Zimmermann's February baby sweaters (with leftovers for a hat or two). A basic medium-sized women's pullover would take six skeins, keeping the tab at a mere \$36. The yarn performs equally well in stockinette and colorwork. Its smooth four-ply construction also renders textured stitches, such as cables and gansey styling, with lovely detail.

Bottom line? When you need a yarn that is soft, inexpensive, and that can be tossed in the washing machine without worry—but you also want a yarn that will feel good against your hands while you're knitting—Vintage Wool is a solid contender.

Yarn name

Vintage Wool

Manufacturer

[Berroco](#)

Fiber content

50% acrylic

40% wool

10% nylon

Gauge

4.5 to 5 sts per inch on

US 7-8 (4.5-5mm) needles

Average retail price

\$5.95/hank

Where to buy online

[WEBS](#)

Weight/yardage per skein

217 yards (200m)

Country of origin

Peru

Manufacturer's suggested wash method

Machine wash, inside out, in cold water, gentle cycle. Lay flat to dry.



Other yarn review sources include, but are not limited to,

www.wiseneedle.com

www.yarndex.com

www.knitting.about.com

www.knitchmagazine.com

www.knitpurlgurl.com/2011

Could we ask for anything more?

Board Meeting- November 8

We have scheduled a Guild board meeting for Tuesday, November 8, 2011. It will be held at the San Dieguito United Methodist Church in classroom #6. The room will be open at 10:00 am, and our meeting will start at 10:30 am. As you know, our final "Help/ Finishing" Session is scheduled in the same room from 12- 3:00 pm. Please feel free to bring a sack lunch, stay and stitch awhile.

Library News

We would like to thank **Nancy Muschek** for being our Guild Librarian. Under her watchful eye we have acquired and organized a vast array of wonderful books for all of us to enjoy. Nancy has recently turned over her duties to Gwen Nelson, who will be the Guild Librarian effective immediately.

Stitches in the Snow Retreat



The High Tide Purlers have a retreat in January and would love you to join them. The dates are January 24 – 27, 2012 (Tuesday – Friday). We will be at the UCLA Conference Center

at Lake Arrowhead, www.uclaconference.com. The cost for four days is \$585.00 (includes food). Contact Willa Cather at wecather@cox.net if you want to know the particulars. We watch Knitting Daily, knit, eat, knit, drink, knit...you get the picture. A few of us are working on The Masters Program through TKGGA, if you want to join us.

Afghan Square Thank You

The completed afghan squares have been returned, and we would like to thank everyone who took yarn to make them. A very diverse selection of stitches and patterns were used. We are working on assembling them into two afghans and would like to thank the following members for helping with this project, which will be raffled at our 2011 Holiday Luncheon:

Heather Tweed Afghan:

Ann Dumanis, Marilyn Ralph, Rita Kahn, Jan Davis, Lani Clause, Edith Adler, Gail Eagr, Alice Troy, Donna Liu, Janet White, Agnes Gale, Barbara McCroskey, Karen des Jardins, Laura Brubaker, Mar Gee Farr, Karen Pearson, and Diana Rathbun.

Shades of Green Afghan:

Rita Kahn, Joan Harris, Hilda Santana, Janet White, Julie Schwarz, Sandy Stapel, Freddie Cusak, MaryWoo, Julie Huebner, Josepine Barkhouse, Karen Pearson, Zita Gardner, Cia Bullmer, Laura Brubaker, Mar Gee Farr, Lani Clause, Jean Cormes and Annette Friedlan.

Janet White, Laura Brubaker, Karen Pearson, Barbara Levin and Mar Gee Farr have been joining the squares and finishing the afghans.

Sharing from October Meeting

Our October program was so wonderful that we ran out of time for sharing, and consequently, no photos this month! If you brought an item to share in October, please bring it to the November meeting or possibly consider contacting Diana Rathbun and model it at the Holiday Luncheon in December.

Knitting Sub-Groups Meeting Schedule:

If you would like to attend a sub-group meeting, call the contact listed below first, as sometimes there is a change to the meeting schedule or place.



- **AKG Group**, It's called the AKG Group, Advanced Knitters Group, 9am every Fri., Old California Coffee Shop, Restaurant Row, San Marcos. Contact: Phyllis

Bates 760-828-8286.

- **Knit@Nite Group**, 6pm, 1st Wed. Jewish Community Center. Contact: Linda Erlich, 858-759-9509 but check the schedule on the website to confirm dates.

- **I-15 Group**, 9am to 11am, 2nd and 4th Wed, Panera Bread in Carmel Mountain Ranch. Contact: Mimi Sevimli 858-722-8128.

- **PA Group**, 1:00pm to 3:00pm- every Monday at Panera in Liberty Station. Contact: Jean Moore 858-587-9054. It's called the PA group, which means we knit practically anything and is open to practically anybody.

- **RN Group, which stands for "Rather Normal"** meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month from 10:00am to noon, at the Encinitas Senior Center (1140 Oakcrest Park Drive-across street is Balour). Contact: Gwen Nelson 760-720-5420.

General Information:



San Diego North Coast Knitting Guild

Our President is Mar Gee Farr; her e-mail is margee15@cox.net. For a list of Board Members please refer to the Directory. The Web Site address is: www.ncknit.com. The group is open to all knitters, regardless of skill level.

Dues are \$20 annually and expire for all members on January 31. The printable forms are on the website, and are to be mailed with the check to: Kathy Christensen, Treasurer SD-NCKG, 4625 Los Alamos Way, #D, Oceanside, CA 92057.

Contact Information

Newsletter Contact

Barbara McCroskey
bmccroskey@prodigy.net
Please send information to her by the 15th.

Website Contacts

Linda Erlich – lerlich555@aol.com
Mar Gee Farr – margee15@cox.net
Barbara Levin – Barbara.Levin@me.com

Owners of local yarn shops are encouraged to check their listings and provide updates to our web masters. We would also like to hear about trunk shows and special guest teachers at your shops. We will put them on the website and/or in the newsletter.

Knitting on the Net

● Cropped Angora Cardi

Remember the angora sweater worn by Kate Middleton for her evening bridal party? Here's a copycat pattern from the *Vogue Knitting* website. It's written in bust sizes 34, 38, 42, and 46" and knit on #4 and #6 needles at a gauge of 24 st/4 in.

http://www.vogueknitting.com/free_patterns/cropped_angora_cardigan.aspx (You'll need to register to access the free patterns. And while you're there, take a look at the extensive list of other free patterns.)



● Top Down V-Neck

This Heidi Kirrmaier design is knitted from the top down at a gauge of 16 st=4." It's classic and works for men, women and even teenagers. If you start now, you can finish in time for Christmas. (Check out the 450+ projects on Ravelry for hints and yarn suggestions.)

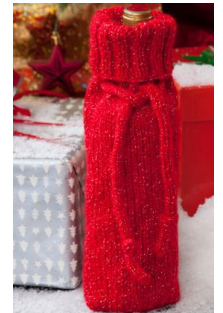
<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/simple-summer-tweed-top-down-v-neck>



● Turtleneck Bottle Cozy

From Red Heart, this simple sweater for a special Christmas bottle uses worsted-weight yarn and is knitted flat and seamed. This could be a kid's project because it begins with a rectangle in stockinette and finishes in ribbing. The gauge is 18 st=4". Be sure to check your gauge. The recommended needle size (#5) seems waaay too small to get this gauge with worsted yarn.

<http://www.redheart.com/files/patterns/pdf/LW2643.pdf>



● Bendy Bodies

Knitted with DK-weight yarn, these little (4½") people have pipe-cleaner skeletons inside the body to allow posing. That means they're not little kids' toys but they do lend themselves to embellishment and a variety of uses.

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/bendy-bodies>
See many more of Frankie Brown's wonderful designs!





Annual Guild Holiday Fashion Show and Luncheon
Monday December 5th 2011
(Reservations MUST be returned by November 28, 2011)

Arrival: Please do not come before 10:30AM! This year we will not have VENDORS selling.

Raffle Tickets: **10:30AM - 11:30AM** The items to be raffled will be on display in the Trophy Room. The tickets for chances on the items will be sold in the dining room.

Lunch Is Served: **11:45AM** - Open seating with 10 guests per table.

Fashion Show and Raffle: Immediately following the luncheon.

Location: **Morgan Run Club and Resort**
 5690 Cancha De Golf
 Rancho Santa Fe, California 92091

Directions: www.morganrun.com Phone: (858)756-2471
 The Club is located approximately 3 miles EAST of I-5 at the Via de la Valle EXIT or S-6)

Menu Choices:

- A) **Chicken Caesar Salad**- Crisp Romaine lettuce with Parmesan cheese, croutons, charbroiled chicken breast, and classic Caesar dressing.
- B) **Salmon Caesar Salad** – Crisp Romaine lettuce with Parmesan cheese, croutons, charbroiled salmon. and classic Caesar dressing.
- C) **Turkey Sandwich**- Sliced turkey, cheese, cranberry, lettuce and tomato on a soft roll; fresh seasonal fruit

On The Table: Water, bread and butter.

Dessert: Chef’s surprise selection.... including chocolate!

Beverages: Coffee, tea, and iced tea will be served at your table. A **CASH** bar will be available for wine, soda, juices and mixed drinks throughout the event.

Cost: **\$25.00 (includes tax and gratuity!)**

---Detach Here-----**RESERVATION FORM**-----Detach Here-----**RESERVATION FORM**-----Detach Here

Send to: **Nancy Muschek** - 7820 Suncup Way #P319, Carlsbad, CA 92009 phone: (760)822-7254

Write your menu choice(s) on your check and make it **payable** to San Diego North Coast Knitting Guild (SDNCKG).

Name of Member: _____ Menu A _____ Menu B _____ Menu C _____

Name of Guest(s): _____ Menu A _____ Menu B _____ Menu C _____
 (If applicable)

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

All Checks Must Be Received No Later Than November 28, 2011. Please help us by RESERVING early!