



San Diego North Coast Knitters Guild

San Diego, California – www.ncknit.com

Number 198 – March 2014

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, March 4, 2014: 12:30-3:00 pm
San Dieguito United Methodist Church
170 Calle Magdalena
Encinitas, CA 92024

Program: Sara Smelt: Felt Like You Never Felted Before! The Evolution of Felt From Ordinary to Extraordinary!

Presidents' Letter



Co-Presidents Sheila and Stacy

This month, the key word for the Guild is “new.” Our new membership year is getting underway with many members *new* to the Guild. We have a *new* guest speaker and teacher on the 2014 program. We will continue meeting in the same venue each month under a *new* agreement.

So far this membership year, 32 new knitting enthusiasts have joined the Guild. We welcome these new members (along with all renewing members). Each of us can, no doubt, learn something from our newly-joined knitters. Is it a new technique, a new tip, a new technique, or even a new appreciation for something we do with expertise and grace? Every new member will have all the opportunities of membership to share in the stimulating environment of the Guild.

By the way, if you are considering becoming a new member or haven't yet renewed your membership, do so by March 5. You will then be

included in the print edition of the Guild's 2014 Directory.

We are delighted that Mary Scott Huff, designer, handknitter and teacher extraordinaire, will present our June program and four workshops. New to our schedule — make sure you pick up a revised bookmark with the updated listing at the next meeting — Mary is an experienced and enthusiastic teacher. She has written several books on color knitting techniques and has two new books coming out in 2014 and 2015. Plan to attend one of the workshops to learn something new from someone new.

The Guild has been meeting at the San Dieguito United Methodist Church in Encinitas since 2005, and we will continue to meet there. We will do so under a new agreement with new terms. We all know that the cost of just about everything generally goes up, and the cost of providing the Guild with a clean, well-lit, air-conditioned room large enough to seat as many as 200 attendees is no exception. The Guild will likely need to make a few small changes in the way we plan our superb programs and fundraisers, but we are confident that membership in the Guild will continue to be an outstanding value for all members.

We are certain, too, that membership can be a stimulating experience, with every member, new and renewing, motivated and inspired to knit.

Happy Knitting,
Sheila Kirschenbaum
Stacy Smith

Renew Your Guild Membership Today
Renew by March 5 and you will be
included in the Guild Directory
→ See pages 3 and 11 for info. ←

Remaining 2014 Meeting Schedule

April

- 1 **Challenge and Fashion Show: Redo, Remake, Renew**

May

- 6 **Judy Graham: Knitter to the Stars**

June

- 3 **Mary Scott Huff: Everything I Need to Know I Learned From Knitting**

- 4 **Workshops** *Four different over two days!*

- 5 **Workshops**
- ① Eeeek Steeks
 - ② Feeling Edgy
 - ③ Mad Hatters
 - ④ Start to Finish

July

- 1 **Annual Summer Potluck and Program: Making the Most of Pinterest and Ravelry**

August (* Meeting on 2nd Tuesday)

- 12 **Susan Lazear: East Meets West**
13 **Workshop: East Meets West**

September

- 2 **Annual Guild Stash Sale**

October (* Meeting on 2nd Tuesday)

- 14 **Robin Page: Pagewood Farm Trunk Show**
14 **Workshop: Embellishing Your Own Yarns** (workshop after meeting)

November

- 4 **Richard Nares, Emilio Nares Foundation: Philanthropy: Hats and Heroes**

December (* Luncheon on 1st Monday)

- 1 **Holiday Luncheon and Fashion Show**

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March and April Programs

On March 4 and 5 felt artist Sara Smelt will share her gorgeous creations and her excitement about felting. Felt is the oldest textile known, the ancestor of knitting and crochet as a way to make fabric, and an incredible fabric — natural, eco-friendly, warm, breathable, soft, malleable and naturally antimicrobial. On Tuesday, March 4, Sara will talk about the evolution of felt from ordinary to extraordinary. On Wednesday

morning, March 5, Sara will teach Guild members attending her workshop, her techniques for making felted flowers. Sara says, "One of my



favorite things is to see the faces of first-time felters as they see the magical transformation of wool roving into felt fabric." Check out her work on Etsy and at The Red Brick Gallery in Ventura.

Register for Sara's felted flower workshop at the March meeting or contact me, Anna, via email. Space is limited.

There is no homework for the Wednesday felting workshop. All you need to bring is a pair of sharp scissors.

Our **April Challenge and Fashion Show: Redo, Remake, Renew**, will feature your knit pieces that have been rescued or renewed in small or major ways. Garments can become anything and anything can become a garment! Small modifications as well as large are welcome.

Take a "before transformation" photo of your piece to share during the fashion show. Send the photo to me, Anna, along with a description of the modifications. Tell us if there was something you no longer liked about the garment. How did you decide to alter it? What materials did you use to alter it?

Even if you don't have a photo, contact me if you have a garment to share. Last minute additions are fine, as are modified garments made for another time or purpose.



Check out our Pinterest page at: SDNorthCoastKnitters Guild for ideas about your projects. For example, adding some vintage lace to a sweater jacket (photo at left) changes it completely!

Anna Walden
Program Chair
awalden@me.com

Minutes of the San Diego North Coast Knitters Guild Meeting February 4, 2014

President Sheila Kirschenbaum opened the meeting. She reminded members that dues are \$25 and should be paid by the end of this month. They can be paid to Membership Chair Zita Gardner today or mailed to her.

Contact Mar Gee Farr if there is a problem getting your newsletter.

We need an editor for the monthly newsletter. If you have the skill and desire to help the Guild, contact Sheila.

On February 11 there will be a help session from noon until 3pm in one of the classrooms at the church. Barbara Levin will be on hand to help with knitting problems, and Anna Walden will have a brainstorming session for the April Fashion Show: "Redo, Remake, Renew" during this time.

The June 3 program speaker, Franklin Habit, has been postponed, and a new program is being planned.

The March 4 program will feature Sara Smelt, Felt Artist. On March 5 from 9am-noon she will give a workshop on felted flowers. Program chair Anna Walden is taking reservations.

Philanthropy chair Arlene Shaposhnick has added a shelter for homeless teens to the Guild's charities. The shelter in Oceanside is requesting 50 hats and scarves for the kids. Kits are available for this project or you can create your own project. We are also knitting for Tête-à-Tête Hats and Operation Gratitude.

Retreat Coordinator June Bartczak is taking reservations for the Casa de Maria get-a-away April 28-May 1 in Santa Barbara. Deposits are \$300/room. Single rooms are \$481.50, doubles \$396 per person and triples 340.50 per person. Rooms in the former convent are refurbished. The train can be taken to Santa Barbara. Deposits should be mailed to the treasurer, Diana Rathbun.

Our library lends books for only one month. Gwen Nelson, our librarian, will accept donations of knitting and crocheting books.

Members teaching members will have its next event Tuesday February 18 from 1-4pm. Claudia Carlson will teach a workshop on the Popper

Topper and Amika wraps at Peggy Redler's home in Carlsbad. On March 13 from 9:30am-12:30pm Eileen Adler will teach a class on knitting Cuddlers. Sign up for these workshops with the teacher. Contact Sue Tavaglione to suggest a new workshop.

Susan Ludwig and Pattye Brewer presented the program, The Coral Reef Project.

Show and Share ended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Yayanos

It's Time to Renew Your Guild Membership

Renew your membership *now* to have your name included in the 2014 Guild Directory. The Directory deadline is March 5.

Our Guild membership year ends on January 31, 2014, and a new membership year begins on February 1. Please download the membership form on our website or print out the membership form on the last page of this Newsletter.

Complete your form and bring it with your check (payable to SDNCKG) or *exact change* in cash to the March meeting. A limited number of printed forms will also be available for those unable to print the form.

Membership dues for 2014 are \$25.

Newsletter Submissions

Have you attended a retreat or workshop? Share your experience with Guild members in the newsletter. See Tina Rounsavell's charming report about her enjoyable trip to Madrona on page 9. Send your submission by the 15th of the month to: SDNCKGnewsletter@gmail.com Short articles relating to knitting in general, and the San Diego North Coast Knitters Guild in particular, are encouraged.

Members Teaching Members

Several MTM workshops are under consideration. Contact MTM chair Sue Tavaglione if you would like to host a workshop or if you have a talent or pattern or new knitting skill to teach.

Sue Tavaglione
Members Teaching Members Chair
sitava@sbcglobal.net or 951 684-3252

Coral Reef Reflections



Thank you all for your interest and enthusiasm for our Guild's "Coral Reef Project." At the March meeting we'll collect your finished "coral" contributions. Please include your name (printed) with each knitted or crochet piece so we can list you as a contributor in our exhibit. Pattye Brewer will keep us informed about where and when our installation will be.

We hope you'll have the opportunity to check out Margaret Wertheim's website and her TED talk. Margaret brings some of the most complicated mathematical models embodied in our universe into the minds (and hands) of the masses. Guild members can do the same! Click [here](#) for Margaret's TED talk on "The Beautiful Math of Coral." Click [here](#) to see a crochet coral reef co-created by Margaret. Be sure to click on other contributors to the crochet coral reef to see some remarkable pieces and photos!!

Susan Ludwig and Pattye Brewer

Philanthropy 2014



Jeanette Oliver and Arlene Shaposhnick staffing the Philanthropy table at the February meeting.

I want to thank all of you who have so graciously taken the time to knit for our charities; I truly appreciate it — as do the recipients. Because of your generosity we were able to donate 50 items consisting of hats and scarves to the Oz North Coast Homeless program. Oz works with homeless teens in San Diego and is still in need of hats and scarves.

We are also collecting hats and scarves for Operation Gratitude to be sent in care packages to our men and women in the military all over the world. Operation Gratitude asks that we work with large needles so more items can be knit quickly as the quantity needed is huge. Please remember to use subdued colors. I will have yarn and instructions at the meeting.

Tête-à-Tête supplies cancer patients all over San Diego with hats and is in need of as many as we can donate. Be creative and knit whatever you love to knit — use any pattern and any yarn. We are knitting for sizes infants through adults. Requests have also been made for slippers, and some of you sent in small shawls which are wonderful for chemo patients.



Please bring all donations to Guild meetings. Each month I will have new yarn and patterns. If you want to knit for Guild charities and can't deliver your finished items at

Guild meetings please contact me.

Thank you for supporting Guild philanthropy.
Arlene Shaposhnick
Philanthropy Chair
Arlene@shaposhnick.com

Newsletter News

Co-Presidents Stacy and Sheila are filling in as interim editors of the Newsletter for a short while. If you'd like to dust off your journalism skills and help out, let us know.

All members are invited to submit an article to the Newsletter, ask a question, or share a compliment. Use our *new* Newsletter email address: SDNCKGnewsletter@gmail.com

Next Help Session on May 13, 2014

Whether you're looking for assistance with a knitting problem, need a little design guidance, or just want to get together with like-minded yarn lovers, come to the Help Session. There will be a member volunteering as sage and mentor at each meeting, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Help Sessions will continue throughout the year. Come to one or all of the following sessions:

Tuesday, May 13, noon to 3:00 pm;
Sage Advisor Eileen Adler

Tuesday, August 12, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm;
immediately before the Guild meeting;
Sage Advisor Zita Gardner

Tuesday, November 11, noon to 3:00 pm;
Sage Advisor Sandy Smith

All Help Sessions take place in classroom 10 at the San Dieguito United Methodist Church.

La Casa de Maria Spring Retreat

This is a pleasant and relaxing retreat to Montecito, near Santa Barbara. The grounds are beautiful, and invite strolls in the gardens, meditating on the labyrinth or just quiet observation to balance all your knitting time. We are scheduled for four days and three nights from April 28 through May 1, 2014. All are welcome.



La Casa de Maria is located within walking distance of Montecito, where there are lots of interesting shops. Besides knitting and visiting with friends, there is plenty of good food and opportunities for hiking, swimming and even a massage. This year massages cost \$65 for one hour and \$95 for 1½ hours. They can be scheduled once we are there; once scheduled, the appointment is subject to a cancellation fee. Additionally, all the rooms at La Casa have been updated and redecorated.



You may drive or take the Amtrak train. Please let me, June, know if you are traveling by train and I will send specifics to you separately. Visit the La Casa [website](#) for more information.

The total cost is \$481.50 for a single room, \$396.00 for a double room and \$340.50 for a triple. This includes 12 delicious meals served cafeteria style. To hold your spot, mail your nonrefundable deposit of \$300 for a single room, \$150 for a double, or \$100 for a triple to the retreat coordinator, June Bartczak. Make your check payable to SDNCKG.

Join us at the Spring Retreat!
June Bartczak, Retreat Coordinator
157 Via Monte d'Oro, Redondo Beach, CA 90277

San Diego County Fair Update



Guild members demonstrating at the 2013 Fair

All Guild members are invited to participate in the Guild's San Diego County Fair activities. The Fair runs June 7 to July 6 this year. There are at least two ways to join in this fun annual San Diego tradition.

The Guild will be demonstrating on June 11, 12, and 13 from opening hour until 4:00 pm. We will need eight people each day to knit and greet Fair attendees. Sign-up sheets will be available at the April 1 Guild meeting.

All Guild members are encouraged to enter knitted items in the Fair. Last year there were very few Guild members who entered the Fair, despite the fact that we have so many talented people in our Guild and should show a strong representation. Of those who did enter last year, several received awards. We'd like to repeat that success again this year but with many more people participating.

Presently the Fair website doesn't have much 2014 information but take a look at this [Fair web page](#) and sign up to receive an e-mail when complete Fair information is available. Start thinking now about what you are going to enter this year!

Drop-off dates for Home & Hobby entries are May 20 and 21. (This information is subject to change.) Entered items must be picked up on July 7, the day after the Fair closes. If you are not available on that day, someone else may collect your entries.

Get your thoughts together and knit something wonderful for the Fair. Also, plan on signing up to demonstrate and represent the Guild at the Fair.

Mary Brown
San Diego County Fair Coordinator

San Diego North Coast Knitters Guild General Information

Co-Presidents: [Sheila Kirschenbaum](#) and [Stacy Smith](#) Sheila and Stacy welcome your comments and questions. Click on our names to send us an e-mail.

Membership in the Guild is open to all knitters, regardless of skill level. Membership expires for all members on January 31. Dues are \$25 annually. A printable membership form is available on the Guild website (ncknit.com) and in this newsletter.

Newsletter Submissions

Send all submissions by the 15th of the month to: SDNCKGnewsletter@gmail.com Short articles relating to knitting in general, and the San Diego North Coast Knitters Guild in particular, are encouraged. Notices and announcements of a commercial nature may be placed as paid advertisements. Send an email to the interim [editor](#) for rates and more information.

Guild Sub-Groups

- ✿ **AKG Group:** It is called the AKG, Advanced Knitters Group. Meets every Friday at 9:00 am at Old California Coffee Shop, Restaurant Row, San Marcos. Contact: Phyl Bates, 760-828-8286.
- ✿ **Knit@Nite Group:** Meets the first Wednesday at 6:00 pm at the Jewish Community Center in UTC. Contact Linda Erlich: 858-759-9509, and check the schedule on the Guild's website.
- ✿ **I-15 Group:** Meets every second and fourth Wednesday at 9:00 am at Panera in Carmel Mountain Ranch. Contact: Mimi Sevimli, 858-722-8128.
- ✿ **PA Group:** PA Group knits "Practically Anything." Meets every Monday from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at Panera in Solana Beach. Contact: Jean Moore, 858-597-9054.
- ✿ **RN Group:** RN stands for "Rather Normal." Meets the fourth Tuesday from 10:00 am to noon at the Encinitas Senior Center (1140 Oakcrest Park Drive, cross street is Balour). Contact: Gwen Nelson, 760-720-5420.

February Show and Share



Elizabeth Primrose-Smith showed a linen pullover with side-to-side construction. The pattern is “Jujuba,” a free pattern from Berroco.



Elizabeth also shared a “Vested Hoodie,” made for her grandson. The pattern is from *Warm Knits-Cool Gifts* by Sally Melville. Yarns are Lion Brand Wool Ease Chunky and Cleckheaton Country Natural, in charcoal and rust.



Susan Schock shared Kristen TenDyke’s “Trust Pullover” from *Finish-Free Knits*. The yarn is Wool of the Andes in colorway Baltic Heather. No seams!

Patt Miller combined a beaded stockinette fabric from *Silky Little Knits* with the ruffle from a *Unicorn* pattern called “Babykid Shawl.” Mohair blend yarn comes from the stash sale.



Marie Skillman shared two “Jagged Stripe Scarves.” The pattern is from *Vogue Knitting, Crochet on the Go* and the yarn is from the stash sale. Marie is donating the scarves to Philanthropy.



Patt also shared “Ribbed Cable Wrap” by Mary Maxim, knitted in *Fyberspates Scrumptious*, a blend of 45% silk and 55% merino.

Kathy Glendinning showed "Heartfelt Rings," designed by Tiny Owl Knits.



Mary Brown shared Linen Breeze, a tunic by Welhelmine Peers, from *Knitter's Magazine*. The yarn is M&K linen in fuchsia, purple and lavender.



Vivian Forseth shared a "Shawl Collar Cable Shawl" designed by Athena Vanderstay. The yarn is Debbie Bliss wool.

Vivian also shared a Bohus hat from a kit by Kimmett Croft. The yarn is Fairy Haire, a merino-angora mix, and the pattern is



"Red Palm Cap" by Kerstin Olsson from *Poems of Color*.

Willa Cather shared "New Magician's Scarf," designed by Gina Wilde and knitted in two Alchemy yarns, Silken Straw and Sanctuary, in Saigon Sunset colorway. The scarf is felted after knitting.



Vivian also shared "Every Which Way Shawl" by designer Iris Schreier. The kit was purchased from Royalyarns.com.



Willa also shared "L'Enveloppe," designed by Sally Melville. The yarn is Brooklyn Tweed Shelter, 100% wool in Cast Iron colorway.

Madrona Fiber Arts Winter Retreat

For the fourth year, I packed a raincoat and some warm handknits and traveled to the Hotel Murano in Tacoma, Washington, for the Madrona Fiber Arts Winter Retreat. It takes place annually during Presidents' Day weekend. My daughter Marie came along.



Marie and Tina Rounsavell beading and stitching in Anita Luvera Mayer's vest workshop.

Because classes and teachers change every year, there's always something new to explore. This year Madrona celebrated its 15th year by bringing back many of the original teachers.

In addition to knitting classes, Madrona offers workshops in a variety of fiber arts, including spinning and weaving. I took two full-day classes with Anita Luvera Mayer, a weaver and fiber artist. I had heard her speak at Madrona several years ago and grabbed the chance to learn more about her amazing garments.



Marie knitting in the bar at the Hotel Murano.

Madrona always has great evening programs. This year Stephanie Pearl-McPhee hosted the Third Annual Teacher Talent Show for Charity. We are all sworn to secrecy about the event, but I can report that it was, once again, memorable.

Friday evening Galina Khmeleva spoke about her

native Russia and the delicate lace shawls knitted in Orenburg. Then the Teachers Gallery showcased the work of Madrona's teachers. I



Ilisha Helfman displays her work at the Madrona Teachers Gallery.

had a chance to chat with several teachers who have been to San Diego North Coast Knitters Guild — Sally Melville, Susanna Hansson and Ilisha Helfman.

Of course we went to the marketplace (several times) and supplied ourselves with yarn and other goodies. But we mainly brought home inspiration and new creative energy. That's why we'll brave the hectic registration

process in November and be back in rainy Tacoma next year.

The next Madrona Fiber Arts Winter Retreat is scheduled for February 12-15, 2015. Learn more at the [Madrona website](#).

Tina Rounsavell

Why Bother Knitting a Scarf?

By Katherine Martinko

Published in Treehugger (January 9, 2014), reprinted here with the permission of the author.



I've started knitting again after a year-long break. I bought some beautiful hand-dyed, locally spun yarn in a brilliant mottled fuchsia, and then I got to work, knitting furiously for two days straight until I

realized that my new infinity scarf was disproportionately huge. I had to undo everything and start over, my enthusiasm somewhat dampened.

When I took my knitting to a friend's house, someone asked an interesting question: "Why would you bother knitting a scarf? It's so much work and you can buy a great scarf for cheap anywhere." It's a good question. If it's easy to buy a decent scarf for \$10 at H&M, why would I spend \$50 on handspun yarn and another week of knitting in order to get a finished product? It's hardly economical.

But there's more to it than that. The act of knitting is a strange combination of relaxation and activism, of protest and tradition. My urge to pick it up again started last month after reading *Overdressed: The Shockingly High Cost of Cheap Fashion* by Elizabeth Cline. (You can read [my review here](#).) The author pushes for a "slow clothes" movement, the fashion equivalent of "slow food," in which consumers start paying attention to the background of their clothes and what has gone into their production. Knitting is my small contribution to the slow clothes movement for the following reasons:

I'm creating a product of high quality. Because I've invested money and time into this scarf, it is far more valuable than anything I could buy for \$10. I will care for it and it will last for many years, keeping its shape and color long after cheaper scarves have fallen apart. Clothing is devalued in North America to the point where it's practically disposable. It would be far better for the Earth if we stopped buying cheap items that don't last and invested in fewer, higher quality items that do last.

Knitting is a way to reclaim independence. We live in a world where we depend on certain individuals and companies to perform highly specialized tasks for us. There's something satisfying about taking on some of the responsibility for clothing production and sending a message to the industry that I don't need them to make my scarves.

Knitting can help a local industry. It wasn't cheap to buy two skeins of that locally produced yarn, but at least I'm making a statement with my consumer dollars to a nearby farmer, endorsing his or her decision to make a living raising sheep. According to Cline, if every American redirected 1 percent of their disposable income to domestically-made products, it would create 200,000 jobs. Cheap imported clothes become a lot more expensive when you calculate the loss of domestic jobs.

Finally, it feels really good to make something by hand. There's something very peaceful about performing a simple, repetitive act with my fingers that results in useful yet beautiful things.

* * *

Tips and Tricks and **Knitting on the Net** are on hiatus. Instead, enjoy a few Editors' Choices...



<http://freevintageknitting.com/pattern-categories>

Everything you want to know about Vintage knitting patterns, from patterns to size charts.

<http://www.craftcookie.com>

Free stitch library including basic stitches, eyelets, knit and purl combinations and more. There is also a section for most popular and latest stitches.



<http://knitty.com/ISSUEsummer07/PATTheHip.html>

"Hip in Hemp," is a wonderful free pattern for a skirt sized for children and adults.

Send in your favorite free pattern available on the internet and it could be *here* in future newsletters.



San Diego North Coast Knitters Guild 2014 Membership Form

The Guild 2014 membership year is February 1, 2014 to January 31, 2015.

Membership dues for RENEWING members are \$25, no matter when paid. Membership dues for NEW members are \$25 when joining by August 31. Dues for NEW members joining September through December are \$35, and that amount covers membership for the remaining months of 2014 and all of 2015.

Bring completed form and a \$25.00 check payable to SDNCKG to a Guild meeting or mail to:

SD North Coast Knitters Guild
c/o Zita Gardner, Membership Chair
9902 Helix Mont Circle
La Mesa, CA 91941

Name: _____
(As you would like it to appear in the Directory and on your nametag.)

I am a: _____ RENEWING Member **Complete form ONLY ONLY ONLY IF
your information has CHANGED in the past year.**
_____ NEW Member (Fill in your information below.)

Street Address: _____

City, State & Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

***E-Mail:** _____

If you do not have access to e-mail, please ask a friend or relative to receive your e-Newsletter. We will send the link to them to print for you. Enter that e-mail address here.

Ravelry ID: _____

Paid memberships received after March 4 will not be included in the 2014 Directory.

Membership information may NOT be sold or used for any purpose other than official Guild communication and individual communication of a personal nature between Guild members.