

Knit n' Knibble



SPOTLIGHT ON FIBER WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT ALPACA???

When it comes to fiber, knitters have a wide variety to choose from, including various types of wool, cotton, acrylic, and bamboo to name just a few. Alpaca is another fiber available to knitters and one that certainly should not be overlooked due to its durability and drape, softness, and hypoallergenic properties. Since ancient times alpacas have called the South American Andes Mountains their home. Starting in 1984, alpacas found a new breeding spot when importers brought the cute and furry animals to the United States and Canada. Alpaca farming is a growing business in the U.S. with Ohio, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, and California having the largest number of alpaca farms, according to the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association.

Alpacas belong to the camelid family which also includes camels and llamas. There are two types of alpaca: the Suri and the Huacaya which make up about 80% of the U.S. market. Since they are grazing animals and eat pasture grasses and hay, feeding alpacas is relatively inexpensive.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Fellow Knitters,

This year is winding down, but do not fret...two of the best meetings of the year are just around the corner---the auction and ice cream social. Please note the changed Auction date (May 9th) and remember this is a member's only event. Anderson's will once again provide the ice cream sundaes. Please join me in wearing a haute couture hat to our final soiree of the year.

My final author suggestion is Michael Connelly. His two most famous characters are detective Harry Bosch and criminal defense attorney Mickey Haller. All his novels are gritty with usually a big twist at the end. Enjoy!

As this wonderful year ends, I want to express my thanks to all the board members for their help and support. Serving as President has been very rewarding and I have met so many more of the members. As your exiting President I have a SUMMER CHALLENGE to all members. Make something other than socks from sock yarn. The patterns and colors of sock yarn call out to be creatively used. If that isn't your thing---how about knitting something utilizing the linen stitch. This stitch provides a very sturdy woven cloth effect. The September Show and Tell will feature all these summer projects.

Have a wonderful and safe summer and Happy Fibers to you---till we meet again.

~Arch
Guild President

For knitters, alpaca fiber and yarn is an excellent choice for many reasons, including the 22 natural colors the fiber represents, its strength, and durability. Deb King with Annadele Alpaca Farm and Store in Union City, PA says knitters should consider using this fiber since “it is as soft as cashmere yet resists soiling, staining and pilling.” It is also considered hypoallergenic and able to be worn by all skin types. “Alpaca has fewer natural oils that must be removed chemically which makes it less itchy,” says King. Susan Phillips from The Critter Ranch runs a local alpaca farm in Lawton, NY. Phillips says “camelid fiber contains no lanolin like sheep’s wool and mohair.” It is the lanolin that causes many of the allergic reactions. In addition to the fiber’s natural beauty and softness, Phillips says “alpaca fiber is lighter than sheep’s wool next to the skin yet remains much more durable and is actually warmer.”

The next time you think about enhancing your stash, and what knitter doesn’t dream about this, remember alpaca. The cost may be somewhat higher than other fibers but the money spent will be well worth it. You will end up with a garment having beautiful drape, softness and warmth – something most needed for a cold Buffalo winter.

~Gina Passantino



The Gathering at the Kreek

Fiber and Craft Event

Saturday, June 15th

Kindred Kreek Alpaca Farm, Akron, NY

Visit www.kindredkreekalpacas.com for more information!

Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY

Visit www.eglf.org to register

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following is the slate of officers for the 2013/2014 guild year. Please feel free to write in a name if you wish.

_____ Jenna Meyer, President

_____ Maureen Regan, Vice President

_____ Pat Maciejewski, Treasurer

_____ Kelly Springer, Secretary

Please bring your ballot to the May meeting or mail it by May 15th to:

Knitting Guild of Greater Buffalo
P.O. Box 535
Amherst, NY 14226

_____ Gina Passantino, Program **and**

Andrea (GG) Gomez, Program

_____ Other – write in name and position

Knitiquette, Or 10 Ways To Not Knot Your Fellow Knitters

Knitters are an enthusiastic, social lot. This is proven by the extraordinary number of knitting circles, groups, blogs, and guilds. As Martha Stewart would say, "it's a very good thing!"

What might not be so good, however, is when we get into our enthusiastic, social settings, we tend to forget some of the things that make our gatherings go smoothly. I offer several for your consideration here, as an avid observer rather than ever having been an instructor or a presenter. I don't mean to channel Andy Rooney, but...

Seminars and programs: Be kind. Please remember there are others in the room who are intent on listening to the instructor. Have you cringed along with me as the poor presenter speaks louder and louder to overcome the din of the happy knitters who are in another zone?

If you have signed up for a seminar, please be on time with your homework and knitting tools in tow. It is not fair for others to have to wait while you catch up, and is distracting to the instructor, who has two hours of lessons carefully planned.

Show and tell (but not too much): If you show it, please know it. That is, be prepared to share what yarn you used to make it, the name of the pattern, and where it can be located. If you made it, someone else is bound to want to make it, too!

Please use the microphone. Even if you don't think you need it, with 120 or more knitters in the room, believe me, you need it!

And finally, notice that your fellow knitters are waiting patiently in line to showcase their creations. Limit your offerings to just a few and keep your narrative short and to the point.

If someone is counting please don't ask what she is making or anything about the state of the world. There's even a project bag out now that says "Shhhh! I'm counting." Clever! I wonder if we can get a group discount...?

Those nametags? They're great. Your face might be so familiar, but your name...uh...This is especially helpful to the Membership Committee as they sit at the door checking us all in every month.

Our Guild has grown so much over the past several years; it's not the cozy group of 60 it used to be. If we all can remain aware of that, our knitting universe will be the best of all possible worlds!

Respectfully (really!),
Peg Lynch

Program Notes

Thursday, May 9th - Please note date change. This is our annual auction and one of the most popular events of the Guild season. Doors open at 6:00 and the auction starts promptly at 7pm. Bid once and Bid High ! Bring your checkbook or lots of cash as we don't take credit cards.

Thursday June 6th - Join the Guild for an ice-cream social and the election of next year's Board members. We will also do a show-and-tell fashion show this evening of any ONE item you knit this Guild season.

AUCTION

This year's auction is shaping up to be one of the best we have had. The contributions from our members has been wonderful and will result in an awesome amount of items to bid on. Whether you are a new knitter looking to start a stash, or a seasoned knitter looking to fill in or increase you stash, I urge you to attend as there will definitely be an item that will catch your eye. The auction will start at approximately 7:00 PM and the doors will open at 6:00 PM so you will have plenty of time to determine what you want to bid on. Bring your checkbook or lots of cash as we don't take credit cards. The auction will take place MAY 9th, please note the date change!

SHAWLS! SHAWLS! SHAWLS!

The March meeting was “All About Shawls” as Guild member and owner of the Embraceable Ewe, Erin Kosich presented an informative lecture on knitting shawls. Erin’s presentation included lots of helpful tips and tricks for knitting shawls including the types of yarns and needles to use, and how to select patterns for wearability and drape. “Shawls are a great project for beginners and advanced knitters and also a great way to use up a single skein of yarn,” Erin commented. At the end of the discussion Erin presented Guild members with several different shawl patterns and encouraged the Guild to get knitting using her suggestions and tips. The Guild would like to thank Erin for a lively and very useful presentation and also for her willingness to teach and present classes.

-Gina Passantino



The ladies show of their FOs from the Stash Busting Seminar after Erin's awesome shawl presentation!

HARUNI: A SUMMER KNIT-A-LONG (KAL)

It’s no secret that I LOVE being a member of the guild. So I do feel a little down during those summer months when I can’t see all my guild buddies. In order to combat that, we’ve come up with a really fun idea for the summer months where we don’t have meetings.

The lovely designer, [Emily Ross](#), has given the Guild permission to print out her gorgeous [Haruni](#) pattern and make it available to our members for a Summer Knit-A-Long (KAL). This pattern is absolutely beautiful and timeless. It’s a perfect pattern for those of you who love lace and the pattern is so well written. Those of you who want to try something new will have so much support from your fellow knitters. No excuses!

I would encourage you to buy Emily’s [other patterns](#) as a thank you for her generosity in sharing this lovely pattern with us.

The pattern will be available at the meetings and will have a cast-on at the ice cream social, our last meeting of the year. Also look for the KAL thread on our [Ravelry Group page](#).

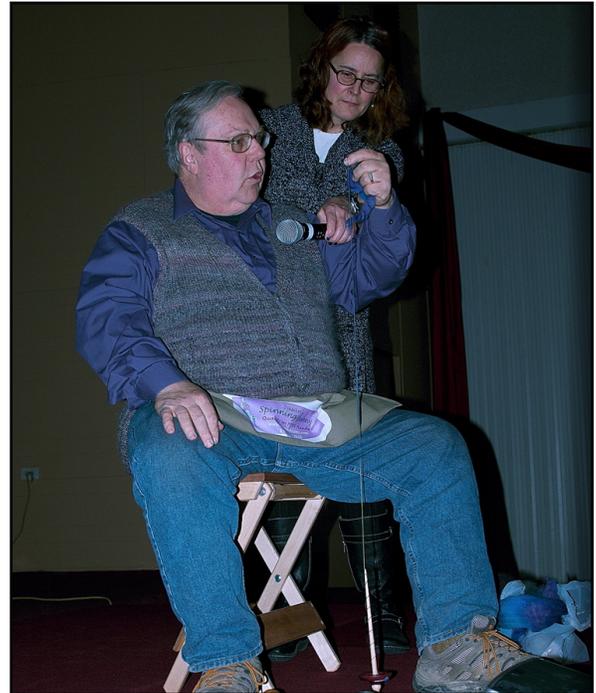


THE SPINNING BUNNY HOPS INTO BUFFALO



Left: Sue gives us a dyeing demonstration that is both informative and colorful.

Right: Jim gives us a spinning demonstration.



In April, the Guild welcomed Susan and Jim Sarabasha from The Spinning Bunny for an informative talk on dying yarn and spinning using a drop spindle.

Before raffling it off, Susan dyed a sample skein of yarn using colors chosen by a Guild member. Susan uses dyes from ProChemical and Dye but suggests novices try Kool-Aid and “most of all, just have fun experimenting with all the color combos and possibilities.” See box below for a listing of the dyes used by Susan.

Jim demonstrated how to spin using several Drop Spindles that he hand-carved. For a beginner spinner Jim suggests using a Top Whorl, 1.2-1.5 ounce. Many Guild members had fun spinning along with Jim on their own drop spindles and wheels. Which is better to spin on? Jim explains it is really a matter of personal taste. “Spindles are more portable but your progress is slower. Many silk or cotton spinners use a small spindle. Larger projects are easier to complete on a wheel where we can spin very fine to thick.”

Susan and Jim really enjoyed their time with the Guild and said again how much they wish they lived closer so they could be a regular part of our meetings. The Guild certainly thanks the Sarabsashas' for traveling from Ithaca and wished too, that they lived closer!

-Gina Passantino

The Spinning Bunny creates beautiful yarns using: Prochemical & Dye, Fall River, MA, 1-800-228-9393	Secondaries: Orange = poppy red #340 Green = leaf #728 Purple = purple #819	Tertiaries: yellow orange = Spiced pumpkin #230 Red Orange = Cinese Red #307 red violet = boysenberry #811 blue purple = lilac #845 blue green = teal #495 yellow green = grasshopper
Primaries: Red = turkey red #306 Blue = bright blue #440 Yellow = yellow #135		



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Emily Ross, designer

Innovative and logical lace knitting designs,
including the popular "Haruni" shawl pattern.

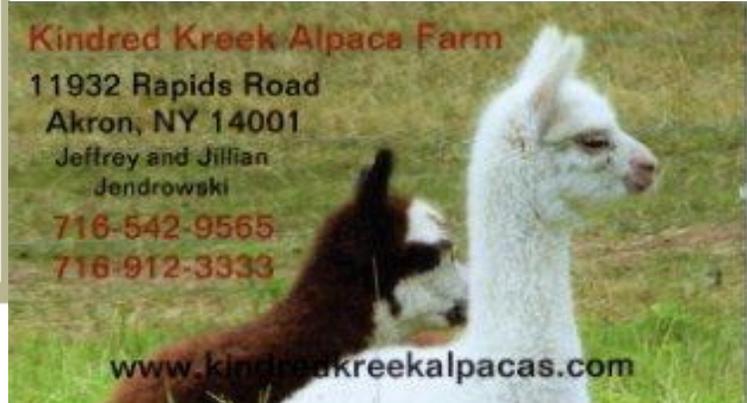
  

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email: jendrowski@kindredkreekalpacas.com




WE WANT YOU!

It's time to give back! Any time or talent that you can dedicate to your local knitting guild is greatly needed. Help build a bigger and better guild next year! Charity knitting, Welcoming committee, Snack table, or serve on the board...the options are endless! E-mail us at buffaloknittingguild@gmail.com to see how you can help.