

HUNTERDON COUNTY KNITTING AND CROCHETING GUILD NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2023



OUR MEETINGS

Our Guild meetings this month will be on Fridays, April 21 and 28, 2023 from 10am until 2pm. The meetings will be held at the Raritan Police Station in Flemington.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership stands at #43 members. Dues are \$15 per year and can be paid during an in-person meeting, sent by check to Shirley Covert at her PO Box, or through our PayPal account.

APRIL 2023 PRESIDENT'S LETTER

WOW! We impressed adults as well as kids at the main library "flower show" and the crocheting lessons were very much appreciated at the Flemington Library as well. We are AWESOME! We educate, inform, and improve our neighborhood.

Many of our members went to see the new spaces available to us for our 4th Friday meetings. We are all excited about what is being offered and how we might embellish our Guild. I will be seeing the Staff at the library to find out if we will fit into their schedule and will inform you with the result of my findings.

SAVE THE DATES:

"Wool Walk" April 26th - 30th

"Barn Crawl" May 13th & 14th, 20th & 21st

- Sign-up sheets will be available for carpooling at our next meeting.

For your information: Two events that are not ours but local...

Hunterdon and Warren County "blanketeers" (Linus Project) are looking for help on April 22nd at the Bloomsbury Firehouse to create blankets for traumatized Children. This is an organization we gift to all year round. Woodsedge Farm in Stockton will be hosting their annual Alpaca and Llama shearing Fest on April 1st from 10am until 3pm. It's a great family day.

Happy Thoughts and sheep dreams, see you soon.

Linda Z.

APRIL 2023 PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

As March draws to a close, the hope is for warmer, less windy spring weather. As many of you continue to knit for charity, I wanted to clarify some confusion regarding knitting or crocheting for the Seamen's Institute. Quoting from their web page:

Yarn and Colors

Feel free to work with the fiber that makes you happy and you have available. You may use wool, washable wool, wool blends, or acrylics- again knit with your preference! All are acceptable, except for fun fur. If you are knitting with wool or something special like cashmere, we suggest that you attach a tag or

note so that the recipient knows not to put it in the dryer. All SCI patterns provide a recommended yarn weight and gauge.

When choosing colors, remember that most mariners are male, and their work environments can get dirty. We find that seafarers and mariners love bright colors as well as earth tones or a more traditional color palette. Contrary to popular belief, bright colors do not pose a security threat. In fact, required safety gear is usually fluorescent! Work in a colorway that you find pleasing, and we will deliver your gift to a mariner who treasures it. Our only color recommendation is to avoid pastels, as light delicate colors tend to show too much dirt and grime. Stripes or the use of ombre, variegated, tweed, or flecked yarns is another way to make your knit pop.

Please note: we cannot accept hats and scarves with pom-poms, tassels, or fringe as these embellishments present a safety hazard in maritime workplaces. And there you have it!

During our 2nd meeting on Friday, April 29, I will introduce interested members to the twisted knitting pattern stitch. It creates a thick fabric suitable for a coaster, placemat, table runner, rug, bag or whatever you creative ladies determine. If you are interested in learning this stitch, you will need a pair of size 9 or 10.5 needles and worsted weight yarn and scissors. Cast on any desired number of stitches (maybe 10 or 12), just enough to practice the stitch. Purl the first row. This stitch is easy to learn and will be one more tool in your box of design choices.

Hope to see you at our meetings on Friday, April 21 and Friday, April 28.

Enjoy your spring celebrations.

Doris

CHARITY KNITTING SUGGESTIONS

The Guild supports these charities and suggested yarn, needles or hooks are provided at these sites along with patterns.

Brady Beanies: <https://bradybeanie.org/> Our mission is "to keep heads warm and share the warmth with those in need". Anita Brady, a Guild member, has established this charity in memory of her husband Mike. She is collecting and distributing knitted and crocheted adult hats. You pick the pattern, the yarn, and the needles. All adult hats are welcome.

Knitted Knockers: <https://www.knittedknockers.org/> Knitted Knockers are soft, comfortable knitted (crocheted) prosthetics for breast cancer survivors. This organization connects volunteer knitters and crocheters with breast cancer survivors to offer free "Knitted Knockers" to any woman who wants them. These knockers can only be distributed if made from approved yarns and approved patterns. Be sure to check their website.

Update: For the time being we are encouraging people to make up what they have and provide them locally rather than sending them to us or consider adopting a clinic near you. We have over 700 clinics still wishing to be adopted. You can check for clinics near you at: <https://www.knittedknockers.org/adopt-a-medical-clinic/> We can always send you unstuffed knockers to supplement your supply. Just request the "Supplemental Knockers" under the 'Contact Us' link at the top right-hand corner of our website.

If you still want to send to us, please knit or crochet up what you have making pairs of neutral and dark colored D and DDs as we have an abundance of all other sizes. Before purchasing more yarn check back periodically to see when we can use more. Please know we really appreciate you and are not saying don't make more knockers! Due to covid and the challenges of distributing them we just find that we have more than enough for now. We appreciate all of you and the difference you are making in so many lives! It is truly stunning what together we are accomplishing!

Peyton Heart Project: <http://www.thepeytonheartproject.org> The Mission of The Peyton Heart Project is to raise global awareness to help end suicide, bullying, and to help end the stigma surrounding mental health issues. The Peyton Heart Project was inspired by a 13-year-old boy named Peyton James who died by suicide in 2014. Hearts can be knitted, crocheted, made by simply wrapping yarn around cardboard hearts, or made with fabric. Each heart will have a special tag attached with an inspirational saying. There are patterns to

make the hearts, tags etc. within the Peyton Heart Project link noted above. Ginny Wodock will be collecting hearts for distribution and can be contacted for more information.

Project Linus: <https://www.projectlinus.org> Project Linus is a non-profit organization providing new handmade blankets to children in need. Become a volunteer “blanketeer” and donate a handmade blanket or Afghan to benefit children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. Handmade blankets provide a sense of security, warmth, and comfort to the children. These gifts of new handmade blankets and Afghans, lovingly created by volunteers like you are greatly needed and appreciated. Doris Gullion will collect and deliver your donations for Project Linus at our monthly meetings. You are welcome to contact Hunterdon & Warren Counties Chapter Project Linus Coordinator: Diane P. at (908) 391-0578 for more information.

Seamen’s Church Institute: <https://seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea>
The historic name of this volunteer program, *Christmas at Sea*, only partially describes the work of the people who make holidays a little warmer for mariners. While gift distribution happens during winter months, collection and creation of items happens year-round. While many gifts go to international mariners working "at sea," thousands of gifts also go to mariners working on inland waterways here in the United States. Knit and crochet patterns are available for hats, scarves, socks, slippers, a vest, and a ditty bag.

Warm Up America: The following link will connect with a brochure describing the Warm Up America organization mission and project specifications for baby blankets, lap blankets and friendship shawls.
https://www.craftyarnCouncil.com/files/WUA_brochure.pdf

Knitters Unite (on behalf of the Flemington Food Pantry): Knitter’s Unite is looking for donations of hats, scarves, socks, and mittens in support of our local area food pantry.
<http://www.hclibrary.us/pdfs/programs/knittersunite.pdf>

There are numerous other charities looking for knitters and crocheters to help them meet their mission statement goals. If you have a favorite not mentioned here, please email Doris at dgullion48@gmail.com She will gladly include them in our next Guild newsletter.

HAPPY EASTER...AND GOOD PESACH!!



Please visit our website at www.hunterdonknitcrochet.com and our Facebook page!