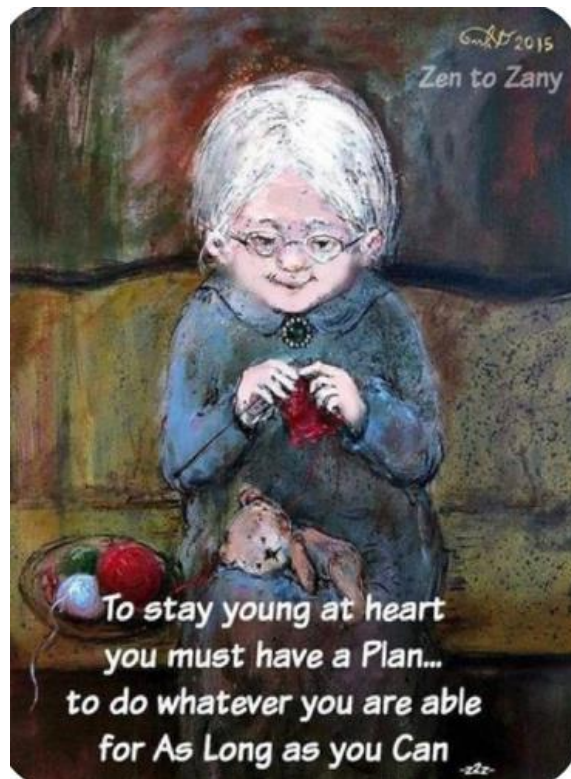


# **HUNTERDON COUNTY KNITTING AND CROCHETING GUILD NEWSLETTER**

**FEBRUARY  
2023**



## **OUR MEETINGS**

Our Guild meetings this month will be on Fridays, February 17 and 24, 2023 from 10am until 2pm. The meetings will be held at the Raritan Police Station in Flemington.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Our membership stands at 52 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.

## **FEBRUARY 2023 PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Hi everyone!

I hope you are all excited about OUR new year and all the wonderful projects you hope to accomplish in the next 11 months. I have started to dig into all the bags filled with the projects I bought during last year's wool walk. This year I have included some crochet patterns and hopefully will participate in some classes to improve my skills. I learned a lot last year and hope to continue improving this year.

We are members of the N.J. Fibershed and I know I will try to visit all the farms that are going to be on this year's Barn Walk. You are all welcome to join me in this year's adventure. We can carpool!

February is the library display of our projects and I hope you will have a chance to visit the main library and admire the fine work our members created. March is Makers Day at all the library branches, including the Flemington building where they would like us to teach crocheting, I do have 2 volunteers so far for that site. Please reach out to me and let me know where and when you can volunteer and share our Guild skills.

Linda Z

## **FEBRUARY 2023 PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

Welcome February. The cold temperatures have arrived, and it is a wonderful time to dig out all those cozy hats, scarves, mittens and cowls you have made for you and your family to snuggle in. While you have warmth surrounding you, give some thought to those who do not have cozy items to snuggle in or a warm place to stay. Please take some time and some of the abundance of donated yarn you have, to knit or crochet something cozy to give away. I will gladly distribute your items to the food pantry in Flemington, to the Seamen Church in New York City, the Raritan Township Police Department, or the Linus Project.

At our last meeting Rosemary gave an informative hands-on lesson on steeking. Thank you, Rosemary!

Meredith has shared some ideas for lessons that might be of interest to our knitters. One of her ideas was a lesson on helix knitting. Helix knitting is **“a technique that creates single-row stripes when knitting in the round, using at least two different colors of yarn”**. It is a technique that eliminates the jog in the row of stripes when you begin a new round. If anyone uses this technique, please join me in teaching our knitting members how to use it at

our Friday, February 24 meeting. While learning this technique, it would be a great idea to knit a watchcap for the Seamen's Church.

If you'd like to participate in the project, please bring the following materials:

- 16" circular size 6 or 7 needle
- At least 2 colors of worsted weight yarn, wool or acrylic ---no novelty yarns. You may use as many colors as you like, but 4 is probably the maximum to start out. Look through your left-over balls or some you may have picked up at the yarn tables here at the Guild.
- Stitch markers
- Pattern will be provided by me.

Since this technique is for knitters, crocheters may enjoy teaching a favorite stitch or technique too...please let me know. You can teach your lesson at the same meeting. If you are interested in a pattern for a crocheted cap for the Seamen's Church, please let me know at our February 17 meeting. I can supply you with a pattern for February 24. Hope you stay warm and healthy and find time to relax with your project. Looking forward to seeing you on February 17 and learning about helix knitting on February 24. If you would like a sneak peek at helix knitting, Very Pink Knits has a good explanation and demonstration entitled Knitting Help – Helix Knitting (Jogless One-Round Stripes). I have tried to copy the web address on YouTube but not sure it will work. If not, search helix knitting, and this YouTube should come up.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wm4TPNwaOKw>

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!

**NEW: The Peyton Heart Project...**Your Life Matters: The Peyton Heart Project was inspired by a 13-year-old boy named Peyton James who died by suicide in 2014. <http://www.thepeytonheartproject.org> The Mission of The Peyton Heart Project is to help raise global awareness about suicide, bullying, and to help end the stigma surrounding mental health issues. 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](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](mailto:dgullion48@gmail.com) She will gladly include them in our next Guild newsletter.

***HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!***



**Please visit our website at [www.hunterdonknitcrochet.com](http://www.hunterdonknitcrochet.com) and our Facebook page!**