



Call of the Wool

VOL. 32, No. 2

June 2019



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THANKS
to everyone who
contributed to this
issue!

Editor’s Row – Summer Knitting...?

I considered leaving this space blank, but decided it wouldn’t make much of a compelling read.

The truth is, many of us slow down with making in the summer. Sometimes overnight, the temperature and humidity soar, and the prospect of running miles of wool through sticky, humid

fingers loses a lot of appeal.

Like many knitters, I turn to cotton and smoother, lighter weight yarns when the temperature soars.

To the back of the WIP closet goes the chunky wool scarf and the fuzzy throw that will warm a guest when the outside temperatures turn chill.

In their place, a cotton

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REMINDER — DUES PAYMENTS

The DKG fiscal year starts July 1. Pay dues for 2019-2020 until the end of October. The member Directory will be done in November. Contact Sue Pfeiffer, Membership Chair with questions.

Membership dues are \$15 for electronic and \$25 for a mailed newsletter. Make checks payable to Dayton Knitting Guild.

NEWS & NOTES FROM AROUND THE KNITTING WORLD

“In Mindful Knitting, It’s the Journey, Not the Scarf,” 21 May 2019, *Wall Street Journal*. ‘Medknightation’ aims to get the overstressed to turn off their phones and achieve flow by stitching; ‘just try to find your rhythm’ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/help-for-stressed-out-workers-mindful-knitting-11558449116>

“Summer Knitting 2019,” 20 June 2019, blog post, *Wool and Grace*. A wonderful selection of ideas and patterns for lower key summer knitting. <https://woolandgraceblog.com/2019/06/20/summer-knitting-2019/>

“QUEEN OF SHEARS ,” 28 May 2019, article, *The Irish Sun*. Ireland’s only female competitive sheep shearing champion will represent her country at world finals in France this summer. <https://www.thesun.ie/fabulous/4144396/joanne-devaney-sheep-shearing-world-finals/>

200 Volunteers Crocheted 1.5 Million Loops To Make This Stunning Mural Of Susan B. Anthony, 29 May 2017, *Women You Should Know* (WYSK). <https://womenshouldknow.net/200-volunteers-crocheted-1-5-million-loops-to-make-this-stunning-mural-of-susan-b-anthony/>

“When a rescue group asked for help caring for baby birds, thousands responded with hand-knitted nests,” 3 May 2019, article, *CNN*. <https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/03/us/carolina-waterfowl-rescue-bird-nest-trnd/index.html>

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MAKING CROCHET SNOW-FLAKES

by Vicki Vangness

Editor: Vicki is working on a project to make a large number of hand-crocheted snowflakes for her Christmas tree. Her method of stiffening the finished “flakes” was interesting, and I asked her for more information.

From Vicki:

“You were wondering how I stiffened my crocheted snowflakes and how I made them sparkly. I use Plaid “Stiffy” fabric stiffener, which I water down just a little, put them on a Teflon sheet after coating them well, and then sprinkle a little De-coArt Glamour Dust Iridescent Glitter Paint on them, & rub it in on both sides.

They then dry on the Teflon sheet. The stiffener and glitter dust wash off the sheet easily.

If you can still find the products, that should be all you need to do. It has worked well for me.”



Editor: Both products are readily available on Amazon, but local craft stores, especially those catering to scrapbookers,, probably also carry them.



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Community Service Projects collected at scheduled meetings.

Warm Up the Community

Co-chairs: Barbara Evenson and Judy Banks
Members knit caps, ear warmers, mittens, and scarves to be distributed through various organizations to keep heads, ears, hands, and hearts warm during the winter months.

Dayton VA

Chair: Marti Coblentz
Knitted and crocheted lap robes are delivered to the Dayton Veterans Administration Hospital. Materials must be washable, of any design, colorful and measure about 36" x 42". Ties may be added for wheelchair use. Comfort items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, pens, pencils, combs, and DVDs are also collected.

Preemie Hats

Chair: Nancy Newman
Members knit these for the Miami Valley Hospital Neo-natal Center. The hospital uses at least fifty hats per month.

PROGRAM NOTES FOR 2018-2019

By Monica MacFarland

Has another year really gone by for the members of the Dayton Knitting Guild?

I have had nothing but positive feedback about the programs for the monthly morning and evening meetings. At several of the meetings we had hand-on programs. I was very pleased that some of our guild members were willing to share their skills with the membership by agreeing to be presenters.

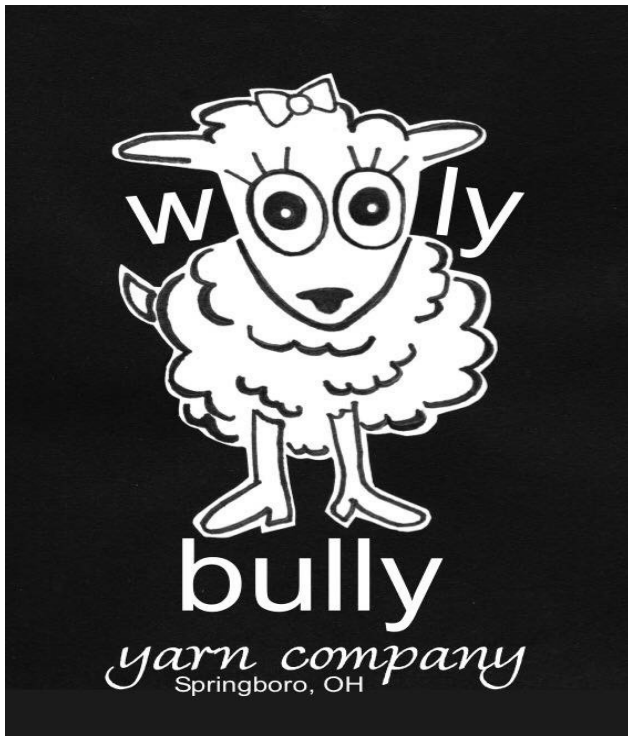
We learned to knit various edge treatments including applied lace, i-cord, rolled hemmed, and picot edges. Shelley Stevens taught us all to knit Brioche. Heather Janney gave a program on double knitting. Sandy Kulik showed us how to knit a sock on two circs and even handed out her own pattern. During the past few months I have noticed people using these techniques for their projects.

In October I presented a program on **Elizabeth's Percentage System (EPS)** and subsequently offered a two-week workshop on using the system to make a Yoke sweater for an 18-inch doll. I was impressed with how many people actually finished the little garment! It made a lovely Christmas gift. As a result of the workshop several people have made original Yoke pullovers with Fair Isle designs for themselves.

In April Lynn McCown gave some historical perspective with her presentation on **Cultures that Steek**. It was very interesting to hear how steeking a project developed and how the Scandinavians had a different method than the Shetlanders. She had many samples so that we could actually see what she was talking about.

In May the topic for the meeting presentation was **Tools of the Trade**. It was amazing to see all of the tools we use for yarn control, pattern management, embellishment, finishing, blocking and repair. I

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couldn't have done it without all of the members who trusted me with their precious tools and without my husband, Andy, who was willing to schlepp all those items back and forth for us.

The yearly retreat at Bergamo featured Margaret Radcliff. She kept us on our toes teaching us how to bring out the best in variegated yarns, deal with difficult fibers, and pick up and complete borders. She also taught a clever yet simple approach to designing on the needles as you knit, working in triangular modules.

During the year we also had opportunities to share food and fellowship. The St Patrick's day party at Lynn's was a lot of fun and featured a bag piper who is also a knitter. Instead of a December meeting the Christmas Party gave us the opportunity to enjoy our friends and our craft, and eat delicious food. The year-end carry-in is always a big hit. Members had the opportunity to sell or give away some unwanted items and a highlight this year was the tour of St. Mary's Church.

Enjoy your summer and see you in September!

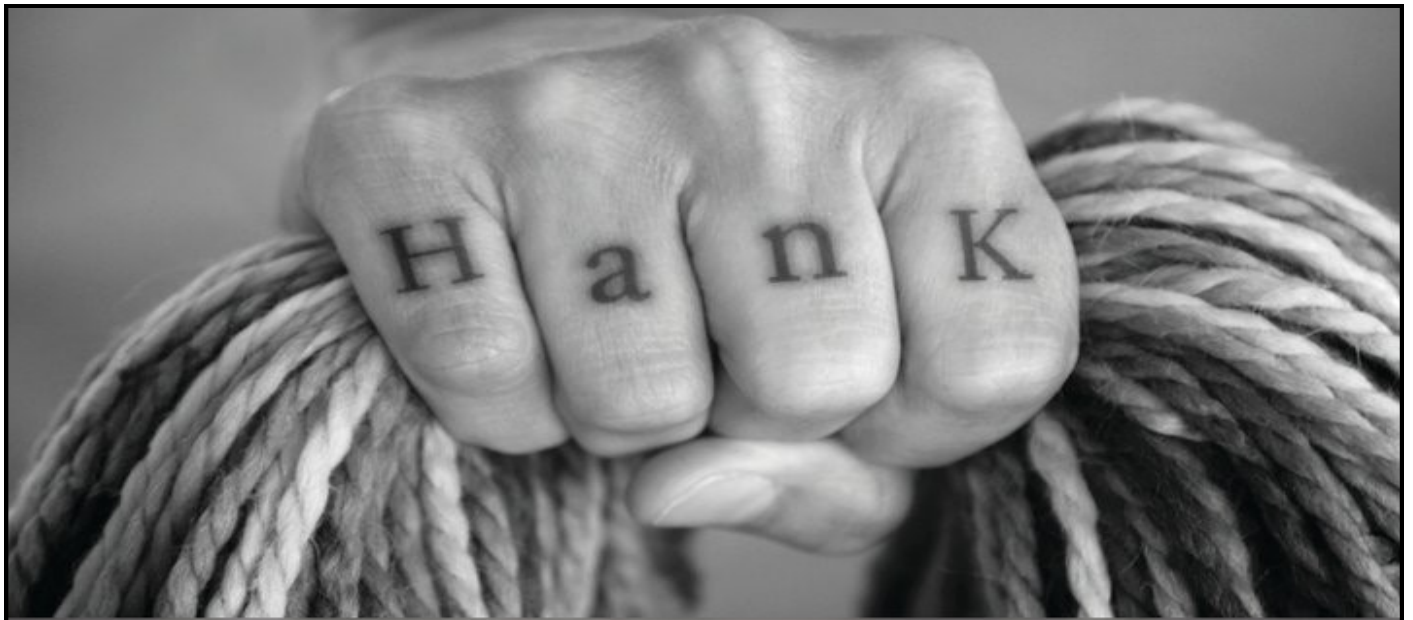
SHETLAND DREAM TRIP

By the (Very Lucky) Kim Kulasa

EDITOR: See a few of Kim's trip photos on newsletter p. 10.

I first heard about the Shetland knitting trip with Amy Detjen and Janine Bajus (aka the Feral Knitter) through a local yarn shop. I had purchased Janine's book *The Joy of Color* shortly after it became available, and had attended the wonderful DKG retreat that featured Amy Detjen. I also have the book Amy and Meg Swansen wrote *Knitting with Two Colors* that I reference frequently. Amy's technical expertise is stellar, and she is also a natural wit. She kept us entertained the entire weekend! The idea of a two-week trip with these two wonderful teachers in a beautiful unspoiled part of the world – that incidentally invented Fair Isle knitting – was too good to pass up...

I knew I wanted in on this trip, but alas, apparently a lot of other people did too. I missed the cutoff for the current year so aimed to sign up for the next year. I checked both of their web sites periodically, and finally saw the trip announced. But again, although there are two scheduled trips per year, both had already been totally booked. So, I put myself on the waiting list. Jean at Celtic Journeys warned me that the waiting list was long, and not to get my hopes up. A month or two later, I got a call that there was an opening. Was I interested? You bet I was! I sent my deposit in for the trip that afternoon. I later heard there were 2 more openings, so mentioned the trip to Lynn McCown – she jumped right on it. Lynn passed the word on to Yvonne Mishler – and a few months later she heard there was another opening, so she was on board too!



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Amy led a group to the Shetlands for several years before Janine became part of the program. They have been leading trips together to the Shetlands for six years now and have refined the itinerary so that the participants get the benefit of the best of their combined experience.

There were 21 of us on the trip. We flew in separately to Edinburgh, Scotland from all over the United States, then flew the next morning to the Shetland Islands all together. We were met there by our friendly local driver John, who was with us for the entire trip. Once we collected our luggage, we rode in a very nice Mercedes bus to the **Sumburgh Lighthouse**, considered the oldest in Shetland. From there, we went on to **Jarlshof**, an archaeological site containing remains from 2500 BC up to the 17th century. The weather was sunny and perfect. We even saw some puffins and seals while visiting the lighthouse. We checked into the hotel, had a wonderful dinner, and then class with Janine and Amy. Each of the trip participants hotel rooms looked out on Lerwick Bay. We woke and ended the day looking out at the lovely scenery. There were convenient scenic walking trails right outside the hotel if we wanted an early

WHAT'S ON OUR NEEDLES — SHELLEY STEVENS & MELANIE THOMAS

EDITOR: This is the second of an occasional series where we ask members to share what's on their needles and hooks, because your editor is also a crocheter. If you would like to be featured in an upcoming issue, please send your information to me at andrewsjf@yahoo.com.

SHELLEY STEVENS —

- ROLLING WATERS (Knitting), a swing knit scarf using Malabrigo Aroyo and Urth Uneek yarns
- ANTIQUE ROSE SCARF (Weaving), using 8/2 tencel for the warp and 3/2 tencel for the weft
- PLARN MAT (Crochet) using Kroger, Walmart and Dollar Store plastic bags.

MELANIE THOMAS —

- SQUARES for an aran patterned afghan. Aran weight wool bought at Gretna Green in Scotland.
- IZZY KIMONO in Carins cotton blend from Queensland Collection.
- IVY STREET vest in variegated pink, gray, and white Cotton Candy Sweets fingering from Delicious Yarns. The label is written as a nutrition label, and as a former dietician I was a sucker for the yarn.
- TURQUOISE TWEED SHAWL for my daughter-in-law.
- PRAYER SHAWL I always keep on the needles. I use Lion Brand Homespun because it comes in beautiful colors and machine washable and dryable. Working on shawl #42.
- SHIBUI FAÇADE TEXTURED SCARF IN Shibui/Staccato (Merino & Silk) and Shibui Maai (Merino and alpaca) knitted together. This was a door prize from the 2017 Retreat. (Editor—Yum!)
- SHORT ROW MULTI- DIRECTIONAL COTTON BLEND SCARF by Ann Norling in Uhur Queensland.
- COTTON WASH CLOTHS for gifts.
- NEWBORN APPLE HATS. Working on hat #189
- INDIAN BLANKET in primary colors of bulky wool.

Thank you Shelley & Melanie for sharing what's on your hook, loom, and needles. We love the range and diversity of the projects and look forward to seeing some FO's at an upcoming meeting.

(Continued from page 7)

morning or evening walk. We even saw human swimmers in the bay – in May! – that water had to be bitter cold.

The next day we visited an organic Shetland sheep farm (with a shop set up at the farm where we could purchase yarn). Everywhere we looked as we traveled around the islands there were sheep – and lambs— it was spring after all. We also saw many Shetland ponies, some with young foals. Each day there were interesting places we visited. The trip had been well planned with some sightseeing each day, some knitting lessons, and plenty of shopping opportunities. Most breakfasts and dinners were included with the trip. We also visited some lovely local restaurants and community fund-raising events where local residents brought in home cooked specialties for purchase. Overall, we ate very well!

In addition to classes with Amy and Janine, we spent time with some noteworthy local knitters and designers for other lessons and samples of their work (Hazel Tindell, Donna Smith, Ella Gordon, and Elizabeth Johnson, to name a few). We visited the Shetland Textile museum as well as the Shetland Museum to see some amazing knitted garments. We toured the Jamiesons of Shetland spinnery and finished the tour with an opportunity to shop in the attached store. We spent a day with Oliver Henry of Jamieson and Smith who showed us how he grades wool and told us the story of how they were instrumental in bringing Shetland's

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wool industry back to life. We then had fun shopping in that store!

Our hotel was within easy walking distance of downtown Lerwick where shopping and restaurants were readily available. Many of us purchased sweaters with hand-knit yokes and ribbing for slightly more than the price of the yarn to knit it. Lots of yarn, some fleeces, handmade jewelry, knit garments and toys, and many other Shetland souvenirs came home with us. Our scheduled flight back to Edinburgh was cancelled due to an air-traffic controller's strike, so we got a lovely overnight ride on a ferry complete with dinner and breakfast and very comfortable if snug sleeping quarters. After we got off the ferry, we got a bonus trip to Scone Palace and its splendid gardens located in Perth, Scotland.

We then got a day back in Edinburgh to do more sightseeing and shopping before a wonderful farewell dinner. We made some great knitting friends and had many adventures together. It truly was a Dream Trip.

Note: We'll all be seeing Janine again next April. She is scheduled to be our instructor at the April 2020 DKG retreat. ***

Program Notes

By *Monica MacFarland*

Dayton Knitting Guild Programs Fall/Winter 2019—2020

Editor: Monica is still dealing with the aftermath of the tornado damage and other summer activities. She sent me information about the September program which appears below.

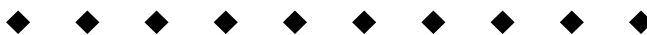
The full program schedule will appear in the September 1 newsletter.

September — June Cashmere and Morning Star Fibers, a talk by Amy P. Swanson.

With a pop-up shop of cashmere yarn and fibers. The Cashmere yarns are made from 100 percent Kyrgyz cashmere, sourced from family farms in Central Asia.

Have a skill or technique to share with us or something you'd like to learn more about? I'd welcome your help.

Monica MacFarland



(Continued from page 1)

cardigan and a dish towel have found their way onto my needles for the duration of the hot, humid weather. Soon enough, the chunky scarf and the guest room throw-in-progress will make an appearance, but for now...it's cool cotton sliding through my fingers.

Jean



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Guild Information

The purpose of the Dayton Knitting Guild (DKG) shall be to promote interest and skill in the art of knitting, to encourage high standards of quality and workmanship, and to encourage the use of those skills for the benefit of others.

Membership is open to all skill levels.

Officers and Board Members

President: Lynn McCown

VP/Program Chairman: Monica MacFarland

Secretary: Kim Kulasa, **Treasurer:** Mary Owens

Membership Chair: Sue Pfeiffer, Newsletter Editor: Jean Andrews

Retreat Chair: Heather Janney, Ravelry Moderators: Valerie Moseley, Shelley Stevens, Blog Moderator: Heather Janney

Dues

Our fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. Dues are \$15 per year including digital newsletter. Digital newsletter only subscriptions are \$10 per year. \$25 for membership with a mailed newsletter. Make checks payable to Dayton Knitting Guild. To join, come to a meeting or contact Sue Pfeiffer at 937-344-6834.

Annual Retreat

Attendance is limited to 45. Dues-paid members as of the September meeting have registration priority. Registration forms must be accompanied by fully paid registration fees.

**Meeting location: 310 Allen St., Dayton, OH
at the St. Mary Center at 10 AM and 7 PM**

No meetings December, July and August

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info@daytonknittingguild.com.

The Dayton Knitting Guild email address is
info@daytonknittingguild.com
for questions or feedback.

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