

# What the Knit!

A 501(c)(3) corporation PO Box 21594, Bakersfield , CA 93390 go to www.what-the-knit.org for more information



Honestly! Getting everyone to smile at the same time is like herding cats. Can you guess which of us have our smiles "pasted on"? It's safe to say we were inspired by Steven Be's workshop. "Work a little and shop a lot!" He was fun and infectious! All who attended were inspired to knit, knit, knit and splash in all kinds of color. Mistakes are "variations"! Don't try to "match"! Coordinate and compliment instead!



Click here to be see more photos from the Steven Be Event!









Letter from the President

Dear Guild Members,

Nothing thrills me more than to see how many wonderful knitters we have in our group. We continue to grow in number and in experiences.

We recently had a wonderful experience hosting Steven Be. For those who were able to attend, I am sure you had a wonderful time. We plan to have more events like that in the future.

It takes a team to put on these types of events, and your guild pulled together and made this a successful event. I am especially proud of these members.

As many of you may know, I have been sidelined the last couple of months with depression. And although I initially planned the Steven Be event, I was unable to follow through due to the dysfunction caused by my depression. Hopefully I am on the upswing.

Many people have corresponded with me and shared their own experiences with depression. It is amazing how many lives it effects. It is an understatement that it has been an eye opener for me. I am so thankful for all of the friends that I have made through this guild. Their support has been very heartwarming and nurturing. Thank you.

Knitting certainly plays a role in mental as well as physical health and I am thankful for my hobby.

I look forward to seeing each of you and visiting with you either at the guild meeting, or in one of our social knitting settings.

Happy Knitting, Suzanne



### Guild Meeting Saturday March 11th, 2017

9:00 AM to Noon Kern Co. Supt. of Schools Bldg. 1300 17th Street, Room 1A Free parking in structure accessible from 18th Street

Suzanne Bryan will share tips and techniques for making smoother fabric and even stitches during the

#### Educational Topic: Improving Your Tension.

Bring your swatch, the yarn and needles you used to make it, and a ruler for checking gauge. If you haven't already started on your homework swatch, the instructions are available on our guild website www.what-the-knit.org (click here)

## **March Birthdays & Blurbs**

#### **Charlene Kossmayer**

**Carolyn Nichols** 

**Bill Hungerford** - On my 12th birthday my mother decided that the whole family would go to the movies and see "My Fair Lady". She enjoyed it, I did not. She did however make an angel food cake for me. Thanks Mom.



**Christel Ruddy** - This year around the sun was my "answer to life, the universe, and everything". If you know how old I am, you are a fellow Douglas Adams fan!

**Nichole Hernandez** - Five years ago on my birthday my husband surprised me with 1,000 daffodils and asked me to marry him.

**Jane Kleindienst** - On my 25th birthday I had been married 5 years with 2 children and had my hair in a long pony tail. I was given a Gift for a haircut. I had it cut *short* short. My father and my husband had a fit. Long hair no more. They eventually got over it. I am now 85 and did the times ever change!

**Jacqui Engstrand -** Birthdays are to be celebrated no matter how young you are going to be! I have so many memorable ones: playing pass the parcel when I was a kid, getting some sun on my 21st in Ibiza, my 30th enjoying a mud spa in California with my bestie & cousin who flew in from England to celebrate and picnics in the park with my daughter. I tell my hubby that one year I want to spend a birthday in Argentina learning how to tango! However, the highlight of every birthday, is when I answer the phone & all I can hear is my mom & dad singing happy birthday to me from England. Just brilliant!

**Valentine's Day** was made sweeter for all who attended last month's Guild Meeting. April Cox made and handed everyone a Valentine stitch marker! Thank you again April!





**Shirley Compton** 

Renee Petrowsky writes from Austin, Texas...



Whenever I am visiting my son and his family (read, grandchildren!) I go to a local yarn store near their home in north-central Austin called Gauge. The yarn for my first-place Kern Co. Fair entry, Rustling Leaves Beret by Alana Dakos, was purchased here on their sale shelf. The store is not very large, but they have a nice selection that is well arranged by weight. There is a room in the back that has a table and chairs. There are also a couple of tables and chairs on a front patio. This time I got a few skeins of Quince & Co. Chickadee to make a hat for one of my daughters-in-law, and they wound it for me.

On the day I went, they were having a going away get together for someone so there were refreshments and several people standing around having conversations, and ladies knitting at the table. Just what a neighborhood yarn store should be! The owner has always been very friendly to me. They also have drop-in classes at prearranged times. One session of one and a half hours is \$15 or 4 sessions for \$40.

I only took one picture, but you can see more at their website: http://gaugeyarn.com/ If you google "Gauge Austin" you'll find some 360°degree photos of the shop.)



Amy St. Amor shares this about her trip to Stitches West...

"Well I already shared pictures on Ravelry and Facebook, so let me tell a little about one of my classes. I learned Jogless Fibonacci Stripes. Hun, you say?! The fibonacci sequence (discovered around 1200 by Italian mathematician **Leonardo Fibonacci**) is a number sequence found everywhere in nature and is pleasing to the eye. It is a sequence where each number is the sum of the 2 preceding numbers: 0,1,1,2,3,5,8,13, etc. When knitting, use the sequence to chart out how many rows of a color to knit before changing color. The result is pleasing to the eye. The jogless part is a separate trick I learned. Here are some class works in progress: "





#### **Claire's Guild Retreat Notes**

After Knit Happens Fine Yarns closed its doors, I hiber-knitted for a few years until a friend pointed me to the What the Knit! Guild. I attended a meeting at the Fruitvale Community Center, an outdoor Open House, Panera Bread a few times, and "Knit-in-Public" once. Even so, I was slow to join. Any organization where one has to "propose", "second a motion", or "take a vote" has seemed judicial and mysterious to me. Jacki R. tells me I was guiet and "all ears" at first. Fair enough. I prefer to observe, then jump in when I feel like I won't belly-flop. I'm in and I've fallen down the Rabbit Hole. So much to learn and do.

Equally slow to dawn on me was the idea of a knitting *Retreat*. Sometime before or after the Fall 2015 Retreat with Sivia Harding, murmurs and mentions of it floated around until I started to ask questions about it. Who's going? How long is it? What do we do? How much is it?

Luckily for me, someone dropped out of the Fall 2016 Retreat with Vera Sanon and I got to go. Loved it! I met a new friend and got to know some of you a little better.

I took at least two walks in the clear clean air and got away from home for the weekend. I laughed and ate. A *lot*.

The What the Knit! Fall Retreat 2017 will be our guild's 4<sup>th</sup> knitting retreat.

**Guild** /gild/ noun 1. a medieval association of craftsmen or merchants, often having considerable power

**Re-treat** /rəˈtrēt/ *noun* 1. an act or process of withdrawing especially from what is difficult, dangerous, or disagreeable

Other guest instructors were Suzanne Bryan and Sivia Harding. Interest has grown within the guild and we have invited two new instructors to join us this year, **Beth Brown-Reinsel** and **Binka Schwan**, both TKGA Master Hand Knitters. It is held in the mountains east of Visalia at St. Anthony Retreat Center, a former Catholic Franciscan Retreat House.

Vera spent the weekend with us, describing and showing us how to work her sweater pattern, Imagina (a flattering A-line perfect for Bakersfield), from the top down without having to seam or break the yarn. It was amazing and a little mind-boggling. We knit back and forth and picked up stitches here and there until magically the sweater neck, shoulder, and sleeve caps appeared. No sewing or joining. We each moved at different speeds with plenty of time to get help and help each other. Even those who did not plan on completing the sweater gained valuable skills. I started and restarted mine a few times during the weekend and eventually finished the sweater 2 months later. I wear it all the time.

I drove to St. Anthony's by myself. It takes around 2 hours. Others carpooled. I arrived at 11:30 AM. The rooms have two twin beds, AC/Heat, a bathroom, towels and linens, extra pillows and blankets. There is a privacy lock on the door but otherwise **no key**. Everyone eats together in a large bright dining hall. The food is served buffet style with good choices. All 24 of us fit into the large classroom with tables placed in a U-shape and comfortable padded chairs (some folks brought an extra seat cushion). There is a long kitchen counter with a sink and every kind of snack imaginable.

Here are some of my packing notes for the next retreat:

Pack light. Bring hair dryer. Real walking shoes. Use a rolling bag. Good quality water bottle to take to classrooms (the cafeteria has small glasses). Clogs. Light sweater or shawl in case A/C is blasting. Sweats you can wear in public or sleep in. IKEA lamp and brightly colored extension cord with extra outlets. iPad & charger (St. Anthony has wi-fi in the cafeteria and classrooms only.) Scrap yarn for testing a technique before using "real" yarn. Better note taking materials like a large book and mechanical pencils.

\$10 cash to put in the kitchen staff tip jar.

Perhaps you are thinking, "September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017! That's too far in the future". "I don't know what I'll be doing that weekend." I think of it as a pre-printed calendar event. Like the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Halloween, and Thanksgiving. The Fall Retreat is written in ink!

I recently spoke to Binka Schwan and learned that her "Knitting 911" series was published in Cast On Magazine, a TKGA (The Knitting Guild Association) publication. https://tkga.org/ I promptly joined TKGA in order to gain access to archival issues of Cast On and see what topics we might be covering. We are in for a great Fall **Retreat course!** Binka begins by going over stitch anatomy and tension. It's not enough to manipulate the errant stitches if the overall fabric becomes pinched or badgered looking. We'll learn how to fix things and not leave a scar! We'll "ladder" down one or more columns of stitches to surgically repair dropped increases, decreases that went left instead of *right*, and cables that went *under* instead of over.

# K: "Must I unravel this?" P: "I "tink" not."

Did you drop or twist your Central Double Decrease? Fixable.

Snag your shawl on a theater seat and break the yarn in two? Fixable.

Finish that baby vest only to find a split stitch right in the front? Fixable.

Lost a needle and your edge stitches have unraveled? Fixable.

Bullet hole in your sweater? Fixable. (Assuming you kept a little extra yarn from your original project.)

Binka might show us how to use a duplicate stitch and embroidery to fix a cable or she might tell us to cut the cable (!!!) for a less bulky repair. She promises to show us new ways to look at mistakes and assures me that we'll come away with much more knitting confidence.

Fair warning! Binka will have us prepare some "learning swatches" ahead of time in order to hit the ground running.

**Guild** /gild/ noun 2. an association of people for mutual aid or the pursuit of a common goal.

**Re-treat** /rə'trēt/ *noun* 2. a time of solitude or a community experience where everyday business is left for a few days, often conducted at rural or remote locations, either privately, or at a retreat center such as a monastery. Some retreats are held in silence, and on others there may be a great deal of conversation, depending on the understanding and accepted practices of the host facility and/or the participant(s).

The goal is to let go of daily stress and problems.

**Beth Brown-Reinsel** (pronounced 'Ren-sel) of *Knitting Traditions* located in Vermont is an encyclopedia of traditional knitting styles from the British Isles, Northern Europe, and the Coast Salish indigenous people of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. She holds three divine-sounding, bucket-listworthy, annual retreats in the lovely setting of Dutton Farmhouse (built in 1837) in Dummerston, VT.



Luckily, Beth is coming out to California to share her knowledge for our Fall Retreat at St. Anthony's in late September. She'll be teaching Fair Isle, a particular style of stranded knitting with its own sets of rules and preferences. I can't wait to hear about the historical knitted pieces she has seen in her travels. What stories do they tell?

-Claire Christian

You'll find the Fall Retreat 2017 details and application form on our guild website www.what-the-knit-org