

The Swift

October 2016

Calendar

October 2016

- 1 Saturday Stitches, 10 a.m. to noon at Starbucks, 1520 W. Olive Ave., Burbank.
- 10 TGIFiber, 7-9 p.m. Monday at TGIFridays, 19855 Rinaldi St., Porter Ranch.
- 17 Yarn Club, 7-9 p.m. Monday at Panera, 132 E. Palm Ave., Burbank.
- 24 Guild meeting, 7-9 p.m. Monday at the Burbank Police Department, 200 N. Third St.

November 2016

- 5 Saturday Stitches, 10 a.m. to noon at Starbucks, Burbank
- 6 Weaver's Guild Fiber Festival, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Torrance Cultural Center, adjacent to 3341 Torrance Blvd.

Beribboned Knerdy Knitters light up fair

A huge hurrah for the nine Knerdy Knitters who entered the Los Angeles County Fair this year. They submitted a total of 42 entries and took home a Best of Show ribbon, 10 blue ribbons, 12 red ribbons and 14 white ribbons.

Here are the winners, their entries and their ribbons:

Ginny Mateen – submitted 11 entries. She won Best of Show for a grey shawl made of yarn she had spun. She won blue ribbons for a baby sweater, another shawl, a sweater, a brown lace shawl, a shawl in purples with a colorful border and a cabled baby sweater, and a red ribbon for a baby sweater.

Lydia Cowger – submitted five entries. She won three red ribbons for a purple and lilac shawlette, a blue and white entrelac scarf and a pair of brown baby booties; and won white ribbons for a grey and white striped scarf and a multi-colored scarf.

Tabitha Davis – submitted two entries and

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Ginny won a number of ribbons, including "Best of Show" for the shawl above knit from yarn she had spun.



Above, Lydia's entrelac scarf won a second place ribbon.

At center, Virginia's Leftie Shawl won a first place ribbon.



Above, Deb, a first time entrant, won a third place ribbon for her pink crocheted cowl.

Knerdy Knitters / SFV

Fair ribbon winners

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won red ribbons for a pair of gray fingerless gloves and a bag of voodoo people.

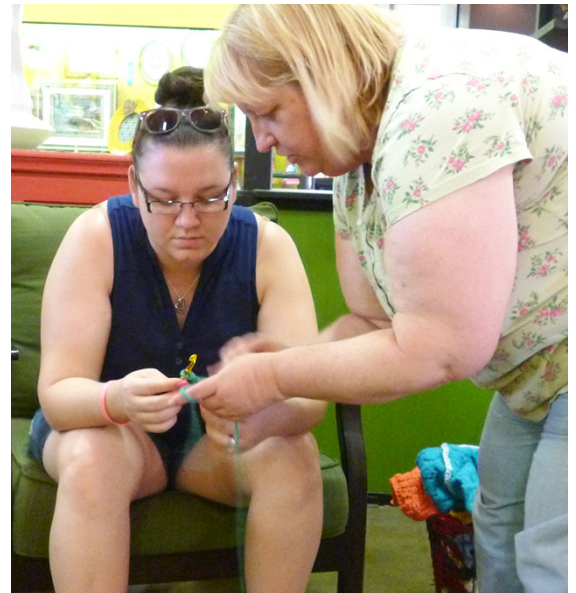
Anastasia McGee – submitted nine entries. She won a red ribbon for a toy alien in the “Give a Child a Smile” division, and six white ribbons for a colorful crocheted shawl; a blue knitted cat toy; a V-stitch, fringed shawl; a toy octopus; a scarf; and a pair of slippers.

Deb Mobley – submitted one entry and won a white ribbon for a pink crocheted cowl.

Stacie Rasmussen – submitted two entries. She won red ribbons for her illusion knit portrait of Albert Einstein and for a wavy patterned cowl.



Anastasia's toy alien.



LA County Fair DIY Studio -- Knerdy Knitter Anastasia McGee was one of 11 volunteers who worked two weekends at the fair teaching interested people how to knit or crochet.



Tim's striped scarf.

Tim Rasmussen – submitted one entry and won a red ribbon for a green and yellow striped scarf.

Tammy Takahashi – submitted three entries. She won a red ribbon for an angular lace shawl, and white ribbons for a blue and white crocheted bag and a pink and gray shawllette.

Virginia Van Osdel – submitted eight entries, including three needlepoint pieces. She won blue ribbons for a Leftie Shawl, two needle-point

Christmas stockings and a framed needlepoint of a Japanese kimono. She won a red ribbon for a pink cables and seed stitch sweater; and white ribbons for a lavender silk lace scarf; a purple, pink and blue shawl collared sweater and a Doodler Shawl.



Tammy's crocheted market bag.

Thinking about entering the LA County Fair next year?

Both veteran and first-timers resoundingly agreed that anyone interested in entering the fair should (in the words of **Anastasia McGee**): “Just. Do. It!”

This year, it cost \$2 per entry form. **Stacie Rasmussen** delivered the entries to the fair, while **Tammy Takahashi** picked them up. It couldn't be any easier.

“Even if your item isn't perfect,” **Deb Mobley** said, “go ahead and enter it anyway. There is a lot of satisfaction from just entering. Winning a ribbon is the icing.”

First-time participant **Lydia Cowger** agreed: “Go for it! It's fun to see your work displayed and exciting to win a ribbon.”

There's no time frame in which the work must be completed to qualify. Most Knerdy Knitters said they entered what was finished, what had never been submitted

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A simple guide for taking better photos of knitting and crocheting

We're headed into the fall and winter holiday cycle with all sorts of delightful fiber projects to be done. And who wants to let go of knitted and crocheted gifts without a commemorative photo? In fact, some people say a project isn't finished, until you've taken the picture.

You can spend thousands of dollars on cameras and equipment and thousands of hours learning about lighting, composition and post-production tools -- but you don't have to. Whether you just want to share a photo on Facebook, upload a record of a project to Ravelry or attract buyers on Etsy, a few simple tricks can go a long way toward helping you create better photos.

These are simple tips that skim the surface. We'll have more to come in future issues.

Use natural light whenever you can. This can be either outdoors or inside next to a window with good light. Try shooting photos in the early morning hours or the hour or so before sunset. This gives you soft, beautiful light. Shooting at midday or with a flash will give you harsh shadows or hot spots that wash out the detail of texture and stitches. Avoid dappled shade that will give you blotchy light. The color in photos shot in natural light will be truer than those shot with artificial lighting.

Arrange your knitting or crocheting so that the light hits it from the side. This type of lighting can be more dramatic. Because one side of every stitch or row or bump is lighter and the other side darker, it brings out the texture of stitches and yarns.



Keep the background simple. You want your fiber work to stand out. You can use a stucco wall, a wooden fence or lattice, a tree branch, throw a neutral tablecloth or length of fabric over a wall or use plain or painted poster board or foam core as a background. Don't use bright white or pitch black backgrounds; it will cause your camera to make adjustments that distort the colors in the finished photograph.

"Pose" your work carefully. It's often best to hang your knitted or crocheted projects over a hanger or set them on a table or shelf so they are vertical when you taking the picture. Putting something flat on a table, a bed or a rug, can distort the shape of the item because of the angle you are shooting at. You can also have someone model your piece. Just keep in mind that the portrait you're taking is of your work -- not the model. You may want to show the piece in use -- a model winding a scarf around his neck, a gloved hand holding the handle of an umbrella, a baby blanket draped over a crib.

Work all the angles. Don't just shoot one shot and call it a day. Think of all the elements you may want to focus on: the stitch pattern, an edge detail, the overall look, shape and drape of a piece. Be sure to take photos that focus on each one of those. Get the front, the back, the top of a slouchy hat, the heels of a pair of socks -- really challenge yourself to take lots of photos from different perspectives.

Don't forget the post-production work. There are few photos that can't be improved with cropping, exposure tweaking or color corrections. You don't have to be a PhotoShop maven to do this. There are a number of free, easy-to-use graphic design sites that are free that allow you to adjust the exposure, make the photo level (or tilt it artistically), brighten or soften lighting, add text, intensify colors and so on and so on. Examples include PicMonkey, Canva, PIXLR Editor, BeFunky, Picozu, and Fotor, which are web-based tools. Croppola, also web-based, as its name suggests is primarily used for cropping photos.

Enter the fair in 2017

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before and what wasn't intended to be a gift.

The items are judged on the quality of the workmanship. The only judging that compares an entry with other entries is the "Best of Show" ribbon, which goes to the item the judges deem the best of all the blue ribbon winners.

Tammy noted that sometimes simpler projects have a better chance of a higher rating because more complicated ones "have more room for errors." She added that shawls and blankets seemed to be judged more strictly than in the past

Anastasia observed, "It seemed that traditional granny squares got lower scores, and also that the simpler the stitches and the more solid-colored yarns, the higher the score."

Every year is different, so make 2017 your Blue Ribbon year!

Fall membership renewals

If you see your name below, you need to renew your membership. You can renew via PayPal on the KnerdyKnitters.com Membership page or give your \$24 check to Treasurer **Sarah Smith**, President **Tammy Takahashi** or Vice President **Stacie Rasmussen** at a meeting.

October: Leslie Bravin, Jennifer Schierholt and Anastasia McGee.

November: Chris Bahls, Tabitha Davis, Catherine Fabre, Ginny Mateen, Sue Miller, Debra Mobley, Karen Peak-Marder and Kat Vesom.



Guild meetings moving to Burbank PD-FD HQ in Oct., Nov.

The October and November guild meetings will be held at the Burbank Police and Fire Department Headquarters after a successful trial run in September.

Show and Tell



Deb Mobley's Mandala Magic afghan takes shape.

Located at 200 N. Third St., the building offers a large, quiet community room that will make it easier to see and hear each other. There's parking behind the building.

You may bring food and nonalcoholic beverages to enjoy during the meeting.

Yarn Club meetings on the third Monday of the month will continue to be held at Panera's, 132 E. Palm Ave., in Burbank.



Tammy Takahashi's baby sweater and the beginning of a color block DROPS 107-18 sleeveless dress in purple, lavender, pink and black

Talk to Us

Knerdy Knitters of the San Fernando Valley publishes The Swift monthly.

Our mission is to promote and support the craft and practice of knitting, crocheting and other fiber arts in the Greater San Fernando Valley. People of all experience levels, ages and fiber persuasions are welcome.

We are an active guild with charity knitting, knit- and crochet-alongs, workshops, retreats, social events, casual knitting/crocheting and more. Membership is \$24 a year and includes a newsletter subscription, event discounts and a gift such as a project bag or notions box.

To submit items, e-mail them to editor Jeannette Hartman at News4KnerdyKnitters@gmail.com, or bring them to a guild meeting.



Virginia with one shawl finished and one in progress wearing her knitted eyelet tank top.

You can learn more about us on knerdyknitters.com, our Facebook page or our Ravelry page. You will find the minutes of the guild's meetings at <http://www.knerdyknitters.com/2016-meeting-minutes.html>.