



The Swift

Knerdy Knitters / SFV

Stash exchange bounty made a great yarn party

Yarn, friends, good food and good drink -- who could ask for more?

The Knerdy Knitters' annual WIPs, Chains and Stash Exchange at the Gordon Biersch Brewery and Restaurant on Monday, Aug. 29, was a grand closing for the summer. Twenty Knerdy Knitters and visitors attended, engaged, indulged and enjoyed.



Lydia Cowger bringing yarn and magazines to be exchanged.



Above from the left, visitors Jared Baker and Myles Lira even got in some knitting at the stash exchange.



Yarn waiting for adoption.



Rita and Andrea Smith, fingers flying.



New member Nicole Briggs.

Calendar

September 2016

- 2-25 L.A. County Fair. Entries will be displayed Wednesdays through Sundays plus Labor Day Monday. Guild volunteers will be there Sept. 10, 11, 17 and 18.
- 3 Saturday Stitches, 10 a.m. to noon at Starbucks, 1520 W. Olive Ave., Burbank.
- 12 TGIFiber, 7-9 p.m. Monday at TGIFridays, 19855 Rinaldi St., Porter Ranch.
- 19 Yarn Club, 7-9 p.m. Monday at Panera, 132 E. Palm Ave., Burbank.
- 26 Guild meeting, 7-9 p.m. Monday at Panera, Burbank.

October 2016

- 1 Saturday Stitches, 10 a.m. to noon at Starbucks,

Chris Bahls' color code – 6 tips for using color



Chris Bahls

After the recent stash exchange party it's a perfect time to talk color. Knerdy Knitter **Chris Bahls** is the resident color expert at The Knitting Tree in Culver City. This is an informal distillation of his color wisdom.

1. There are no ugly colors – just ugly combinations. Everybody has colors they hate – burnt orange, neon lime green, cotton candy pink, khaki or you name it. But there are times when that so-called “ugly” color provides the perfect contrast or bridge between other colors to make a project sing. “Don’t be afraid to just try something,” Chris said.

2. Love your favorite colors – just don’t use them for everything. It’s so easy to turn to our favorite colors because, well, we LOVE them. Before long, you’re in a rut. “If everything you buy or knit is in the same favorite colors,” Chris said, “those accessories will do nothing to accent what you’re wearing.”

3. Get inspiration from what you see around you. Chris, a knitting designer with at least eight patterns available on Ravelry.com, often gets inspiration from the world around him – staircases, balcony railings, or palm trees lining a boulevard. You can do the same: a warm gray tree trunk with a branch of leaves in yellow and dark greens with a white highlight of sunlight might inspire colors for a cowl. A towel thrown down by a swimming pool can suggest blues, purples, yellows and oranges for a shawl. Sometimes it's easier to see colors in photos than nature; you can always go to Google images or Pinterest for ideas.

4. The proportions of each color you use in a project make all the difference. A shawl made of equal amounts of red, blue and purple might end up kind of *blah*. But a purple and blue shawl shot through with thin stripes of red could be interesting; as could a red shawl with some purple and even less blue. Since yarn is sold in balls and skeins of similar sizes, it can be hard to see the effect of varying amounts of different colors.

Cool tools

Help for color planning

Color can be a real challenge when planning a project. The tools below can help you select colors without having to go to art school

Color wheel. Color wheels can be simple or complex depending on how many colors



it shows. Just by the position of colors on the wheel, you can see warm versus cool colors,

and primary, secondary and tertiary colors. Complementary colors are directly across from each other on the wheel; analogous color schemes are side-by-side on a color wheel. Combinations can go on and on, depending on how you space the colors you select. (Triangular, square or rectangular formats offer a more colors with different degrees of complimentaryness.) A good tool for inspiration.

Color evaluator. A color evaluator is a piece of red or green plastic, film or eye glasses that you look through to see if the colors



you've picked have the right amount of contrast for

what you have in mind. Sometimes you want high contrast (think black and white) and sometimes you want something more subtle (think taupey gray and light blue). Sometimes two different colors have the same value -- certain reds and greens, for example.

Clear kaleidoscope. This is a kaleidoscope

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LA County Fair Volunteer Days

If you're going to the L.A. County Fair, plan to come when Knerdy Knitter volunteers will be in the DIY Studio: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 10 and 11, and Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 17 and 18.

Many thanks to the following for helping to promote knitting and crocheting to the public: **Joanne Bronson, Lydia Cowger, Tabitha Davis, Jeannette Hartman, Anastasia McGee, Deb Mobley-Burns, Stacie and Tim Rasmussen, Sarah Smith, Tammy Takahashi and Virginia Van Osdel.**

Dont forget to check out the entries submitted by Knerdy Knitters!

Survey shows knitting, crocheting are legacy arts



If you had any doubt, knitting and crocheting are legacy crafts passed down from grandmothers, mothers and aunts, according to a survey of Knerdy Knitters.

Friends, especially those made at guild events, also figured strongly as teachers. Teaching yourself or learning at a local yarn store trailed.

The survey, passed out at the May guild meeting, was completed by nearly 19 percent of the guild's 37 Knerdy Knitters. A total of seven surveys were turned in, so numbers are small, but patterns are clear in the responses.

More than 70 percent of those responding both knit and crochet. While all the crocheters were "bi-crafty," there were two knitters who were "mono-crafty."

The five people who crocheted, learned at an average age of 11 from grandmothers, mothers and aunts. Those who can knit learned to knit on average at the age of nearly 22. The range was wide, however, with one knitter reporting she learned at the age of 9 and another at the age of 53. Knitters were slightly more likely to learn how from friends, although mothers were a close second as teachers.

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Color Code

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One option is to take a strip of cardboard (about an inch-and-a-half wide) and wind the yarns you want to use in different proportions around the strip. You tape the loose end of the yarn to the cardboard, wind until you think you have enough, cut the yarn, tape the end, and start with another color. You can alternate the colors



in various widths – or start over again on another strip until you have what you think you want. (Check out the Cool Tools section for other ideas.)

5. Analyze why you don't like something and -- and why you do. Paying attention to what you like and why is a valuable education. Too often we have "push button" reactions – like it, hate it. Giving some thought to **why** we react as we do can be a stepping stone to seeing colors in new ways.

6. Experiment. Set out to make a combination you think you'll really hate -- or a combination you think a friend with different taste would like. Use scraps of yarn too small for a project and see what different colors do together. Nobody ever has to see it – and if you really hate it, you can frog it (rip-p-p-it, rip-p-p-it, rip-p-p-it). For the same reason, welcome mistakes. "Errors are a great inspiration," Chris said.

Survey results

(Continued from page 1)

While some responders have knitted or crocheted continuously since they learned, most (four) had breaks due to having kids, going back to college or graduating from high school or frustration with the results. Some of these interruptions were brief, but others decades long. The “knitters/crocheters interrupted” came back through the influence of another knitter, a desire to make a specific project or a life change such as a child leaving home for college.

There were many responses to the question of what a guild member likes best about knitting or crocheting:

- “The colors, the textures, the act of making something beautiful or cool. (In crochet) I love the squares and traditional motifs best,” said **Julie Kornblum**
- “I feel very accomplished when a new project gets completed. They are always gifts that are loved because they are handmade,” said **Rita Smith**.
- “I can take small projects to school or work on them in the car,” **Andrea Smith** said of knitting. Of crochet, she added, “I can make beautiful projects fast and it allows a bit more creativity than knitting projects such as stuffed animals.”

Regarding favorite projects, survey respondents said:

- “Learning something new.”
- *Amigurumi*, the Japanese art of knitting or crocheting small, usually cute stuffed animals and anthropomorphic creatures.
- “Quick, one- or two-skein projects.”
- “Anything that can be given as a gift; baby gifts seem to be well-received.”



Alzheimer’s Knit- and Crochet-along

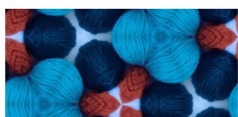
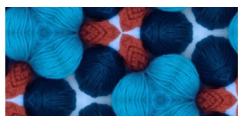
Alzheimer’s Greater Los Angeles is hosting a three-day knit- and crochet-along to make blankets and prayer shawls to comfort patients in memory care facilities.

The events will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on three Saturdays: Sept. 10, 17 and 24, at 4221 Wilshire Blvd., #400, Los Angeles, CA 90010. A \$5 to \$10 tax-deductible donation per session is suggested. Light refreshments will be served.

For pattern and yarn suggestions, go to alicesembrace.org, where you can also learn more about the cause.

RSVPs are required and can be given by phone at (844) 435-7259 or email at knit4alz@gmail.com.

Finished blankets and prayer shawls will be presented to Alice’s Embrace at Walk4Alz in Century City on Sunday, Nov. 6



Magic marble kaleidoscope and a pattern of orange, aqua and navy yarn.

Cool tools

(Continued from page 2)

with a clear glass marble at the end. You look through the viewing end and see the world fractured into patterns. Point the kaleidoscope at several balls of yarn and shift it to take in more of one color yarn versus another and you can begin to get a sense of how your color scheme will work. You can find them on Amazon.com described as variations of “magic marble kaleidoscope” and they come in a wide range of prices.