



The Swift

Knerdy Knitters / SFV

Tim and Stacie Rasmussen: A Love Story with Yarn

In honor of Valentine's Day, we're highlighting Knerdy Knitters Tim and Stacie Rasmussen, who prove that the couple that knits together stays together.

Stacie has a master's degree in education and taught in maximum security juvenile hall. Since her son Kent's birth 12 years ago, she has home-schooled him and pursued her fiber arts interests. They include doing commissioned knitting projects for clients such as the International Spy Museum in Washington, D.C., and working at Needlepoints West. After the November presidential election, she co-founded Rise Up LA, a political action program to bring positive change to the country.



Stacie and Tim Rasmussen at home knitting.
(Photo by Kent Rasmussen.)

Tim is a screenwriter and producer, whose credits include work on "Meet the Fockers" (2004); the indie film "Smother" (2008), starring Diane Keaton; "License to Wed" (2007) with the late Robin Williams; and "Marmaduke" (2010) with Owen Wilson. He is currently developing a TV pilot with Johnny Galecki, who stars on CBS's "The Big Bang Theory."

Q: How did you meet?

A - Stacie: *We met online in the year 2000 through Love@aol.com. It was the dark ages of the internet, there was no Match.com or eHarmony and everyone thought we were clinically insane for even considering going out with someone online.*

A - Tim: *Three months after we met, we moved in together, two*
(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Calendar

February 2017

- 4 Saturday Stitches, 10 a.m. to noon at Starbucks, 1520 W. Olive Ave., Burbank.
- 6 Top-Down Sweater Class, Part 1 -- Members only, \$25 registration fee, at a private home.
- 10 Design Circle, 1:30 p.m., private home. This is a members-only group for those who wish to be professional pattern designers.
- 13 TGIFiber, 7-9 p.m. Monday, at TGIFriday's, 19855 Rinaldi St., Porter Ranch.
- 20 Yarn Club, 7-9 p.m., Monday at Panera Bread, 132 E. Palm Ave., Burbank.
- 27 Guild meeting, 7-9 p.m. Monday, at Police Headquarters, 200 N. 3rd St., Burbank.

Love Rasmussen Style

(Continued from page 1)

months after that I proposed, and six months later we were married. All of that happened at dial-up speeds, but in retrospect it seems like FIOS.

Q: How long have you been knitting?

A – Stacie: *I've been knitting about five years and Tim for about three.*

Q: How did you learn to knit?

A – Stacie: *I wanted to make Kent a stuffed Mongolian Death Worm. It wasn't something you could easily buy off the shelf or order online, so I decided to knit one. I didn't know that most knitters don't start out knitting tubes as soon as they pick up needles. I'm mostly self-taught – with help from YouTube.*

A – Tim: *Stacie's modus operandi on just about anything in life, up to and including marriage, is to simply dive in.*

I wanted to make a Christmas scarf for Stacie three years ago and decided to learn how to knit. She taught me how, supplemented with YouTube. It was frustrating at first figuring out tension, how to hold the yarn, etc. I'm not particularly patient when it comes to learning new things, so knitting has helped me get over myself. There are a thousand hard lessons in knitting, and I'm probably still only in the low 50s overall.

That said, I found I enjoy it so much that I've kept knitting. It's relaxing, peaceful and cuts down on my anxiety. I tell people it's not cheaper than Xanax, but it does have fewer side effects.

Q: What is your favorite part of knitting?

A – Tim: *For me, knitting has become an unlikely foundation to my adult life. I don't want to oversell it, but there is something comforting about knowing there's always a project to be finished, and then another project to be started. In a chaotic, unforgiving universe, knowing there's a yarn stash somewhere waiting for me gives me some hope. When I don't have a project, I get a little antsy.*

As a male knitter, I also get plenty of people coming up and asking

(Continued on page 4, column 1)

Volunteers sought for charity project

Knerdy Knitter **Julie Kornblum**, who is also a member of Yarnbombing LA, has inherited leftover granny squares from its coverage of the Craft and Folk Art Museum.



She is looking for volunteers to help join the squares into blankets, ponchos or scarves for homeless veterans. Contact her at julie@juliekornblum.com if you would like to help out.

February Membership Renewals

If you see your name below, your membership is up for renewal this month. Give your check for \$24 to Treasurer **Sarah Smith**, President **Tamala Takahashi** or Vice President **Stacie Rasmussen** at a meeting or send money via your PayPal account.

- **Michelle Lockhart.**
- **Kim Neuhauser.**

You can pay your dues or event fees through your own PayPal account this way:

1. Log into your PayPal account.
2. Click on the "Pay or send money" button.
3. When the window opens up, click on the "Send money to friends and family" panel.
4. Enter info@KnerdyKnitters.com in the box. Hit the "Next" button.
5. Type in the amount of money you are sending. Write a note about what you're paying for if you wish. Then hit continue and complete your payment authorization.

It's that simple.

Knit ta-tas in guild's 2017 charity knitting project

Our 2017 charity knitting project will be to knit or crochet breast prostheses for the KnittedKnockers.org program.

Knerdy Knitter and Knit-Along Chair **Virginia Van Osdel** suggested the organization after hearing from Barbra, co-owner of the Yarnover Truck, that there are 18,000 women on the waiting list to receive a prosthesis.

Patterns to knit or crochet knockers can be found on KnittedKnockers.org along with recommendations for yarn. The handmade prostheses can be worn in a regular bra, adjusted during reconstructive surgery and are more comfortable than typical manufactured ones.

If you would like to volunteer to be the Knerdy Knitters Charity Knitting chair, please let President **Tammy Takahashi** know at tamala.takahashi@gmail.com. The job only requires promoting the project, collecting finished knockers and getting them to the organization.

Other charity knitting opportunities

A series of charity Whedon Knit Nights 2017 have been organized by fans of screenwriter/director Josh Whedon for the San Fernando Valley Chapter of Newborns in Need. The events include:

- 6 to 8 p.m., Feb. 15, at Geeky Teas, 2120 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank.
- 5 to 7 p.m., March 11, at Gather DTLA, 453 S. Spring St., #M1
- 2 to 4 p.m., March 19, at The Ripped Bodice, 3806 Main St., Culver City.
- 5 to 7 p.m., March 25, at Galaxy of Comics, 17306 Saticoy St., Van Nuys.

The group is looking for items that are knit, crocheted or hand sewn including premie hats, lap blankets, clothing and bibs. More information is available at [Facebook.com/WhedonKnitNights](https://www.facebook.com/WhedonKnitNights).



Design Circle fundraising pattern book

A group of designing Knerdy Knitters are working on a new fundraising idea for the guild: A Knerdy Knitters original designs pattern book to be sold on Ravelry.com.

The group has been meeting monthly to work on original patterns.

If you would like to test knitting patterns, please let President **Tammy Takahashi** know. You should be a proficient knitter who provides the yarn and is willing to knit according to the pattern instructions. Feedback to the designer about how easy the pattern was to work with is welcome. Various sized projects need testing.

KAL, CAL patterns posted on web

Join the guild's Knit-Along (KAL) and Crochet-Along (CAL) by checking out the patterns on knerdyknitters.com.

The KAL project is a knitted, stitch sampler that can be done in one or multiple colors and in various widths and lengths for the item of your choice.

The CAL uses multiples of 24 stitches and is adaptable to various projects. It uses single, double, half-double crochet stitches and instructions for using multiple colors and changing them as you work.

Love Story

(Continued from page 2)

about my knitting. It makes me far more sociable than I have any desire to be, but it's also forced me to be more friendly and less of a skulking presence at the margins of humanity. It's satisfying to make things for others as well as myself. And given my hypothyroid issues which often make me cold, hats and scarves come in handy.

Stacie is much better than I at knitting and far more advanced. She pushes herself on big projects where she's not quite sure exactly how to do it. She's quickly becoming a yarn whisperer. We affectionately call her "Hacker Mom," because if she can't fix anything, she'll have it figured out before sunset.

Q: Do you have plans to teach Kent to knit?

A – Stacie: *He's already an avid participant in the fiber arts community. In addition to working with me at Needlepoints West, he has used portable looms to make hats and scarves and has taken a real interest in felting.*

A – Tim: *For Christmas, he felted me a cute cat figurine. He's regularly asked to felt characters for people in the store. Whether he ever comes around to knitting will be up to him, but I suspect at some point, he'll give in to the yarn side and become a full-fledged knitter.*

Q: Tim, it's still not common to see men knitting or crocheting. What's it like to be a man who knits?

A – Tim: *Although the verdict's still out on how manly I am, I am generally regarded as a novelty when I knit in public. I'll get smiles from ladies as they walk past. I'll also get women walking by saying, "I love a man who knits!" Other women, usually in their 70's, will touch whatever I'm knitting, eye me skeptically, then say, "You have lovely gauge."*

I'll sometimes have grown men approach me, and fondly relate how a grandmother or mother taught them to knit when they were young. I have never been harassed about being a male knitter, which is sort of surprising given the state of discourse these days.

A – Stacie: *We joked at the Yarn Crawl that a skein of yarn is 100 grams, but men only get 80 grams for the same price. Tim also tells people that the original knitting guilds in prior centuries were men*

only and that women were not allowed in, which is ironic given most people today consider knitting "women's" work.

Q: Have you set yourself any knitting challenges for 2017?

A – Tim: *I'm making a knit tank top for my agent, who is male and that was his request. It is a bold, bold choice, and so I've challenged myself not to make it look terrible!*

Beyond that, each project I do, I try to learn a new stitch or a new cast-on – something that makes me grow as a knitter. I'm also challenged to make something for myself as I am usually knitting for others. I guess I'm just really, incredibly, amazingly, humbly selfless that way.

Plan ahead for April 21-23 annual retreat in Julian

The guild is getting ready for its annual retreat, to be held this year in Julian.

If you're interested in attending, please let President **Tammy Takahashi** at **tamala.takahashi@gmail.com** or planning committee members **Deb Mobley-Burns** and **Julie Kornblum** at **julie@juliekornblum.com** know.

Knowing how many people plan to attend, will help with planning hotel reservations.

Julian is known for its apple orchards -- and hard cider breweries. It and nearby Ramona have yarn shops, wineries and craft breweries. The town is slightly less than 50 miles east and slightly south of Escondido and north east of San Diego.