



The Swift

Guild's 2016-17 charity project: knitting and crocheting wildlife nests

How many nests could a Knerdy Knitter knit if a Knerdy Knitter were knitting nests?

We'll find out as we embark on the 2016-17 project Charity Chair **Kim Neuhauser** selected: knitting or crocheting nests or huts for wildlife rehabilitation groups to use as they care for injured, ill or orphaned wild animals they hope to return to their natural habitats.



Kim passed out patterns for a knitted and a crocheted version of the nests. Each takes a small amount of washable, worsted weight yarn (acrylic is great because it holds up to multiple washings). Novelty or fuzzy yarns aren't good because tiny feet and claws can get caught in the strands. Any color that is not very bright works.

The nests look like upside down hats. They worked knit in the round and need to be done tightly so paws and claws don't get stuck.

If you'd like to participate, please let Kim know. She will provide patterns and collect finished nests for distribution.

Gwen Bortner Knitting Workshops July 9 and 10

Knerdy Knitters are invited to four workshops on reversible fabrics, illusion knitting, provisional cast-ons and knitting in both directions sponsored by the Sand and Sea Knitting Guild on Saturday and Sunday, July 9 and 10.



Gwen Bortner

Taught by **Gwen Bortner**, an author, designer and Craft Yarn Council Certified Teacher, the workshops will be held at St. Andrews Church in West Los Angeles, and at a private home in Palms.

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Calendar

June 2016

July 2016

- 2 Saturday Stitches, 10 a.m. to noon at Starbucks, 1520 W. Olive Ave., Burbank
- 9-10 Gwen Bortner knitting workshops hosted by Sand & Sea Guild. (See article at left.)
- 11 TGIFiber, 7-9 p.m. Monday at TGIFridays, 19855 Rinaldi St., Porter Ranch
- 28 Yarn Club, 7-9 p.m. Monday at Panera, 132 E. Palm Ave., Burbank
- 25 Guild meeting, 7-9 p.m. Monday at Panera, Burbank
- 30 Saturday Stitches, 10 a.m. to noon at Starbucks, Burbank

Knerdy Knitters / SFV



KNIT IN PUBLIC DAY -- Knitters, knerdy and otherwise, converged on the Westfield Fashion Square mall food court in honor of the annual Knit in Public Day June 18. Knerdy Knitters who attended included Stacie and Kent Rasmussen, Tammy Takahashi, VaJezetha Payne, Virginia Van Osdel, Michelle Lockhart, and Rita and Andrea Smith. Guests were Rosio Torres, Steve Kadel, Cathy Jones and Kate Moran.

Cool Tools

A DIY pattern and chart guide

Oh, the headaches of keeping your place in a chart or pattern!

You can tick a row off, highlight it or put repositionable tape on it. OR, you can create your own portable pattern and chart guide from a metal ruler and neodymium magnets.

Line the metal ruler up at your place in the pattern, put the magnets behind the ruler and voila -- a strong, stable guide.

Don't be fooled by the small size of neodymium magnets, they are exceptionally strong; these are the types of magnets used for jewelry clasps and wallet closures.

You can get them at Magnet4sale.com, Amazon.com or many other places including hardware stores. They come in a variety of sizes, thicknesses and shapes.



Metal rulers are available at stationery and art stores in various sizes.

Needlepoints West 10% Discount

Joanne Bronson, owner of Needlepoints West and a Knerdy Knitter member, is offering a one-time, 10 percent discount to all Knerdy Knitters who shop at Needlepoints West, 6227 W. 87th St., Westchester, and present their membership card or this newsletter.

What a great way to celebrate summer!

It's also a great introduction to a great shop for knitters, crocheters and anyone else who creates with needles and fibers.

For hours and directions, visit needlepointswest.com/contact-us/

Talk to Us

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

Our guild serves the greater San Fernando Valley. We promote and support the craft and practice of knitting, crocheting and other fiber arts. 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 complimentary notions box.

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

Learn more about us at KnerdyKnitters.com, Facebook/Knerdy Knitters of the SFV or Knerdy Knitters of the SFV on Ravelry.com.

Spotlight on:

A Major Knitwork in Van Nuys

Walk into A Major Knitwork, you'll see so many familiar faces, you'll need to remind yourself you aren't at a Knerdy Knitters guild meeting.

That's not surprising: the shop is virtually in the center of the San Fernando Valley and is co-owned by guild member **Deb Cooper-Jaffe** and her mother **Sylvia Cooper**.

Tucked between a pharmacy and a real estate office, A Major Knitwork, 6746 Balboa Blvd., Van Nuys, is a treasure trove of fibers, expertise, hooks, needles, notions, accessories and patterns.

You can sit and knit on Tuesdays (4:30 to 6 p.m.) and Thursdays (2 to 4 p.m.) and walk into classes on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

You may find yourself sitting next to a designer, experienced knitters or newbies. It's a great place to pick up tips to make a project easier or more fun.

The store opened in 1984, after the owner of the knitting shop where Sylvia and Deb had been working retired. It was a natural next step for the pair, who have been involved in knitting and crocheting for nearly 60 years.

Sylvia's mother was a crocheter. Sylvia learned to knit from a friend's aunt, who bought her a ball of yarn and a pair of needles. Every week, when the aunt came to visit her niece, she taught Sylvia a stitch or new technique. Sylvia's homework was to use up the ball practicing. The following weekend, she ripped out her work, rewound the ball and learned something new.



Sylvia Cooper & Debbie Cooper-Jaffe

Deb grew up around yarn; making the move from hobby to profession was easy. While they worked in yarn and needlework shops, Deb and Sylvia took classes in pattern design, knitting techniques and garment construction, fitting and finishing.

That expertise really blossoms in their services. Whether it's help resurrecting unfinished objects (UFOs), finishing or putting together knitted or crocheted garments, creating patterns from an existing garment or a photograph or tweaking a pattern to get a perfect fit for your figure using your choice of yarn and your gauge, Sylvia and Deb will make you feel like a master knitter.

The stock at A Major Knitwork ranges from high-quality basic yarns to high fashion ones. The sample shawls, scarfs, hats and sweaters on display are stunning. They also offer a large selection of eye-catching buttons and shawl pins.

A Major Knitwork offers classes for individuals or groups. Fees vary depending on the type of class and the materials needed.

You can learn more at AMajorKnitwork.com, on Ravelry (ravelry.com/groups/a-major-knitwork) or on Facebook (facebook.com/AMajorKnitwork).

Bortner workshops

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The workshops cost \$40 for the Saturday classes on reversible fabrics (9 a.m. to noon) and illusion knitting (1 to 4 p.m.); \$75 for the Sunday classes on provisional cast-ons (9 a.m. to noon) and knitting in both directions (1 to 4 p.m.).

The cost for attending both days is \$115. Nonmembers will need to add \$30 to cover the cost of a guild membership. In addition, the workshops require yarn and needles, which are spelled out in a flyer given to those who register or request it.

To sign up or for more information call Karen McCleary or email her at karenesca@att.net.

Julie Kornblum, fiber artist and yarn revolutionary, finds creativity in yarnbombing

Fiber artist **Julie Kornblum** believes that knitting and crocheting should be freed from mothball-strewn drawers and closets and set loose on tree trunks, bus shelters, minivans, and even buildings like the Los Angeles Craft and Folk Art Museum.

From elementary school on, Julie knew that she would be an artist. Equally confidently, she knew that -- for her -- being an artist did not mean painting.

Her grandmother taught her to crochet when she was 12. Learning to sew in junior high deflected her interest in crocheting for nearly 35 years. During that time, she earned a certificate in fashion design from Los Angeles Trade Technical College and a bachelor's degree in art from California State University at Northridge (CSUN).

Specializing in fiber arts in art school is like putting yourself in “a marginalized niche inside a marginalized niche,” Julie said.

While her design education taught her how to plan a work physically, compose it artistically, play with color and texture while getting feedback and critiques, the world of fiber arts was blossoming with innovation, throwing out traditional ‘do’s and don’ts’ and experimenting with forms, materials and techniques.

She learned to weave and coil baskets and developed a fascination with reclaimed materials such as plastic bags, telephone wire and found “trash” like bottle caps or parts of plastic bottles that could be used in her award-winning works. (For a full list of her honors and photos of her work visit julieknornblum.com.)

She learned to knit at The Knot Garden in Sherman Oaks, when she was 28, but later set it aside until her daughter entered college.

Then, she discovered yarnbombing. Julie was a member of the team that covered the facade of the Craft and Folk Art Museum with crocheted granny squares. She also provided information and advice when the Knerdy Knitters Guild yarnbombed the bronze bear in Griffith Park with leis and a hula skirt in October 2015.

“Yarnbombing makes people smile,” Julie said. “It’s done ‘just because’ without compensation or recognition. It’s humorous and



Julie Kornblum setting up a yarnbombing exhibit at the Reseda Rising Art Walk for Yarnbombing LA.

whimsical.”

By contrast, she said, art usually has an underlying meaning. Its materials, colors, textures, structures are designed to relate to that underlying meaning.

“Yarnbombing subverts that,” she said. “It is ‘doing to do.’ It doesn’t have intellectual underpinnings. It’s temporary. It’s going to get dirty or faded. It’s anonymous. It uses cheap, gaudy acrylic yarn instead of something rare or precious.”

July, August Membership Renewals

If you see your name below, you need to renew your membership. Give your \$24 check to Treasurer **Sarah Smith**, President **Tammy Takahashi** or Vice President **Stacie Rasmussen** at a meeting.

July: Adelle Daniels and Sarah Smith

August: Tammy Takahashi