

## HUNTERDON COUNTY KNITTING AND CROCHETING GUILD NEWSLETTER



2017

### **OUR MEETINGS**

All of our meetings from September 2016 through June 2017 will be held at the Raritan Township Municipal Bldg. (Police Station). Our meetings this month are **Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**. The hours are 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. *Note that this is a change in dates from our regularly scheduled 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays.*

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Our membership remains at 48 members on our roster, including new and renewed members.

### **MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Spring at last!!! The sure signs of spring on the farm are daffodils, lovely, early morning mating songs and shorn sheep basking in the sunlight. This weekend we participated in two great activities, our annual sheep shearing on Saturday and a visit to one of the local churches on Sunday to give a presentation on our Guild to their knitting and crocheting group.

The sheep shearing was as much fun as ever and this year we had two helpers from our Guild members, Barb O. and Sue P. as well as a young man who helps us on the farm from time to time. Our shearer is a fantastic young woman who is so gentle and graceful that the sheep actually seem to enjoy their "spa" time including the mani-pedi part. After shearing, the lambs took a while to find their mothers given that everyone looks so different without their beautiful fluffy fleeces. After a few mistaken identifications all is well and they seem to be enjoying the new freedom that comes with being naked.

This week starts the down and dirty part of skirting the fleeces (all 18 of them) before they can be sent to the fiber mill to become yarn. Skirting involves picking

through the wool and removing manure and other bits of hay and seeds from the fleece. It is not a job most folks would enjoy, but Barb and I find it somehow gratifying and our hands get a good dose of lanolin as part of the process. Of course the fragrance is “eau de sheep” not lavender or rose.

On Sunday we met a group of knitters and crocheters who are part of a recently formed group looking for ideas and resources to improve their skills. We showed some of the knitted and crocheted items that we have made as a result of some of the many classes the Guild has held the past few years. We also told them about the history of our guild and some of the charities we support. We invited their members to be our guests at one of our future meetings. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit with this receptive and inviting group and we hope that they will join us.

See you all soon. Happy Spring!!

### **OUR OFFICERS AND STAFF for 2016-2017**

**President** – Georgia Muhs

**Vice President** – Meredith Higgins

**Secretary** – Jane Manley

**Treasurer** – Susan Perri

**Membership** - Shirley Covert

**Program Co-Chairs** – Trudy Grimm /Doris Gullion

**Newsletter/Publicity Chairperson** – Mary Shanahan

### **THIS MONTH’S PROJECTS WILL BE...**

#### **April 14 ... An Indie Dyeing Demonstration from Marianated Yarns!**

On Friday, April 14 Marian Ju-Scozzre, an Indie Dyer, will come to talk with the Guild about the yarn dyeing process. She will bring some of her yarn and patterns along with a trunk show. Take a look at some of Marianated’s beautiful yarns *and* our Guild’s mention in her end of March Newsletter at <http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=0ca7ef56bedf5fd3865247488&id=04568868e8&e=9568efcd93> And their website at <http://www.marianatedyarns.com/store/c1/Home.html>

#### **April 28 ... Tea Cozy Show N Tell and Spring Projects!**

Members are encouraged to bring in their completed Tea Cozies to show and to tell about the patterns they followed. Please bring any other Spring projects you are working on to share with the membership.

## SAVE THESE 2017 DATES ... UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, June 10, 2017 is the next scheduled World Wide Knit in Public Day and we are trying a new locale this year!** Georgia and Barb have secured a spot in the Stangl Factory Farmers' Market, near Turntable Junction in Flemington. The market can be found online at [www.stanglfactory.com](http://www.stanglfactory.com) This venue includes an inside location with restrooms available, and we will be very public to the market traffic. We are scheduled to be 'knitting in public' from 10 am to 2 pm to mimic our Guild meeting hours. Members will need to bring their own chairs *and there is one other special request ...* we have been asked to bring some Knitted Knockers to donate for Breast Cancer mastectomy recipients. The background for Knitted Knockers as well as knit *and* crochet patterns are available on their website at [www.knittedknockers.org](http://www.knittedknockers.org) Please note that you must use the yarn recommended by the founders, for comfort and accuracy of construction.

### **\*\* UPDATED DETAILS \*\* October 21, 2017 ... We are going to the New York Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck, NY**

*Please bring your \$20/person deposit by the May 19th business meeting, if you are interested in going on our Rhinebeck trip in October.*

This world famous fiber festival is an exciting experience. We will be taking a 49 passenger coach bus that has comfortable seats, great lighting and a bathroom on-board. The bus will leave from the Flemington Park and Ride on Route 12 at 6:30 am and return around 7:15 pm. The projected cost will be between \$40-50 per person, depending on the number of passengers, and it will include. Guild members who are interested should sign up by the June 16th meeting at the latest. You can include a friend or relative that you would like to invite. If we have additional room after that date, we will open the trip up to the public. The website for the festival is <http://sheepandwool.com/events/>

## OUTREACH

*If you know of any local non-profit organizations who are struggling and who would benefit from knitted and crocheted items made by our members, please let us know and I will happily include them here.*

*Perhaps we can add Knitted Knockers or a Baby Hat ministry for a specific health cause to a local hospital?*

***Warm Up America:*** An ongoing project, the goal of this nation-wide effort is to provide warm crocheted or knitted afghans to anyone in need. They are distributed by The Red Cross and Salvation Army to victims of natural disasters, area homeless, and to families and individuals who have lost their homes and belongings due to fire, flood or tornadoes. Forty-nine blocks that measure 7" X 9" are joined together to complete an afghan. Use your leftover and stash yarn to make some 7"x 9" knitted and/or crocheted blocks and bring them to a meeting. Myra will continue to collect them throughout the year.

***SHOW AND TELL --- Our Members Are Always Busy!***

Many of us are working on items for ourselves, family members, or for donation. Please bring in your finished projects to show the membership after our Business Meeting. You may inspire someone to try a new technique or style.

***Please visit our website [www.hunterdonknitcrochet.com](http://www.hunterdonknitcrochet.com) for further updates.***

"April" Clip Art from: <http://www.clipartkid.com/images/28/cato-connection-newsletter-paul-l-cato-middle-school-D7kCEa-clipart.jpg>