

HUNTERDON COUNTY KNITTING AND CROCHETING GUILD NEWSLETTER



**MAY
2020**

OUR MEETINGS

Meetings are held at Raritan Township Police Station multi purpose room. All meetings are on hiatus, until further notice, due to our current health situation. When in session, business meetings occur at the beginning of the meeting on third Fridays. Please note changes to our regular meeting schedule for 2020 listed in our “Administrative Items” section.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership stands at 43 paid members. Dues are \$15 per year and Shirley C. will be collecting 2020 dues at our meetings. If you would rather renew your membership by mail, please send payment to Shirley Covert, PO Box 387, Neshanic Station, NJ 08853.

MAY 2020 PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We are all awaiting the time when our lives will return to “normal”. However, for many, if not all of us, the new “normal” will not look or feel like the normal that we left behind in early March. We have rescheduled important events, we have adjusted to different shopping experiences, and most importantly, many of us have experienced the loss of a person or several persons that we held close to our hearts. Resuming our regular lives will take energy, optimism as well as a healthy dose of caution.

Among the sad news is the loss of our own Trudy. There is a true limit to how words can describe her contributions to our Guild. She chronicled our accomplishments, cheered us on with words of encouragement, developed teaching ideas, and contributed to all of our lives. I know I speak for many of us: I am so glad that I was given the opportunity to know her. Tammie, her daughter, asked me to let everyone know that the Grimm family is asking for memorial donations to be made to Hunterdon Hospice. We all will miss her.

Many of the fiber-related events that we look forward to might be delayed or canceled. Currently, the Hunterdon 4-H Fair as well as the NJ Sheep and Fiber Festival are on schedule, and as soon as we are aware of any changes we will let you know. Our Spring Luncheon is still on the calendar. By mid to late May, we can make a decision as to whether that should be postponed/cancelled as well. I will send out an email to notify everyone about the Luncheon as well as when our meeting space is reopened and we are allowed to resume our meetings.

Perhaps for some of us, this is an excellent opportunity to begin our holiday charity knitting and crocheting! Doris is providing an updated list of the charities that we have contributed to, as well as what items they are requesting, and what fiber content they prefer.

Please take care of yourselves and your families, neighbors and friends. And we will see each other soon.

Sue

MAY 2020 PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Another month has passed with lots of time at home. As April showers are supposed to bring May flowers, we are in position for a May filled with colorful blooms.

I have emailed Toby of Toby Roxanne Designs to postpone our date of May 15 for her visit. As soon as I hear back with her available fall dates, I will let you know more about her presentation.

If you have run short of knitting or crocheting projects, you might think about some charity projects. Here are a few of the charities the Guild has supported in the past. Most of these sites have suggested yarns and needles or hooks along with patterns. These projects are a good way to reduce some of your leftover yarn stash.

Knitted Knockers: <https://www.knittedknockers.org> Knitted Knockers are soft, comfortable knit (crocheted) prosthetics for breast cancer survivors. Its purpose is to connect volunteer knitters and crocheters with breast cancer survivors to offer free Knitted Knockers to any woman who wants them. These knockers can only be distributed if made from approved yarns and approved patterns. Be sure to check their website.

Seamen's Church Institute: <https://seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea> The historic name of this volunteer program, *Christmas at Sea*, only partially describes the work of the people who make holidays a little warmer for mariners. While gift distribution happens during winter months, collection and creation of items happens year round, and while many gifts go to international mariners working "at sea," thousands of gifts also go to mariners working on inland waterways here in the United States. Knitting patterns are available for hats, scarves, socks, slippers, a vest and a ditty bag.

People Helping People in Need: Last Christmas this organization distributed knitted and crocheted hats, mittens and scarves to the children of the working poor in Warren County. I am thinking they would welcome items to distribute this year as well.

Brady Beanies: <https://bradybeanie.org> Our mission is "to keep heads warm and share the warmth with those in need". Anita Brady, who has attended several of our Guild meetings, has established this charity in memory of her husband Mike. She is collecting and distributing knitted or crocheted adult hats. You pick the pattern, the yarn and the needles. All adult hats are welcome.

There are numerous other charities looking for knitters and crocheters to help them meet their mission statement goals. If you have a favorite or favorites not mentioned here, please email me at dgullion48@gmail.com I will gladly include them in our next Guild newsletter.

Doris

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

We have 3 changes to our regular meeting schedule for 2020. The exceptions are:

July 24th and 31st
November 13th and 20th
December 11th and 18th

Please make a note of these changes on your 2020 calendar.

OUTREACH AND ONGOING PROJECTS

If you know of any local non-profit organizations that would benefit from knitted and crocheted items made by our members, please let us know so we may include them here.

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.

Knitted Knockers: You can find out information about donating knitted knockers for mastectomy patients at www.knittedknockers.org

1898 Seamens' Watch Cap Project: (idea provided by our member Rosemary G.), details for making and sending at:

<http://seamenschurch.org/sites/default/files/sci-1898-hat-kristine-byrnesweb-w-schematic.pdf>

Wigs and Fun Hats for Children: www.halokkeepers.org

Twiddle Muffs for Cognitively Impaired People: Refer to our recent email with the crocheted and knitted versions of the Twiddle Muff pattern attached, or you can also find the patterns by doing a Google search.

Brady Beanies: <https://bradybeanie.org>

Knitted Nests for Displaced Wildlife: WildlifeRescueNests.weebly.com or CWRescue.org. Find a simple pattern at: NativeSongbirdCare.org/uploads/How_to_Make_Knit_Nests_.pdf

UPCOMING FIBER EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES (subject to postponement/cancellation)

June 2020

6/19 Guild Spring Luncheon
Location: tbd

August 2020

8/19 – 23 Hunterdon 4H Fair
County Fairgrounds, Ringoes, NJ

September 2020

9/12 – 13 NJ Sheep and Fiber Festival
County Fairgrounds, Ringoes, NJ

October 2020

10/17 – 18 NY State Sheep and Wool Festival
Rhinebeck, NY



Happy Mother's Day!

Please visit our website at www.hunterdonknitcrochet.com and our Facebook page!