

Piedmont Fiber Guild Newsletter

January 2017

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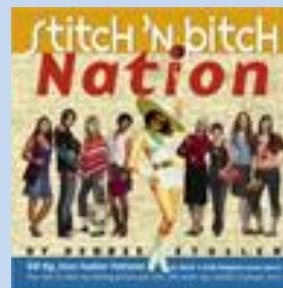
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A Recommendation from the PFG Library

From Christine Dunlap



S `N B Nation

By Debbie Stoller

Written on the heels of the popularity of her first book, Stoller explores knitting from a design perspective in this second volume. Many patterns include tips for successful completion of the garment, and sprinkled among the many patterns are reports from all over the country and the world about groups that have formed as a result of Stoller's first book. She encourages knitters to be social not only because knitting together is more fun but also as a means to exchange ideas and knowledge. Patterns include both simple and more challenging garment constructions so there's something for every knitter/reader.

This book was donated to the PFG library by the family of Ann Brinnkhous. On checkout, I was unsure I would find it interesting, but was soon captivated by Stoller's common-sense approach to design and her encouragement to make a standard pattern your own. Many common knitting techniques are also covered at the end of this book, so there's a quick reference for anything you can't remember or are unfamiliar with.

This selection will be available for checkout at the January meeting and I encourage you to take a look at it as well as Stoller's first volume, both of which are available in the Guild Library.

A Note from Our President

Gail Boyles



And so it happened - "Blizzard 2017" (as I like to call every first winter storm of the year). I do this sarcastically because of all the needless panic us Raised-in-the-South people (my family roots run deep in Georgia, Florida and South Carolina) put into scrambling to the grocery store/Dollar General to buy all the milk, bread, eggs and beer in sight. It is fun to watch, right?

January is the halfway point in the PFG calendar year. Some exciting things to look forward to:

- We've got a big event coming up: Carolina Alpaca Celebration - information on this is in another article. [see page 6]
- There are some exciting workshops under discussion: how to make moccasins, how to make socks and a few others.
- We've got lots of new titles in our ever expanding PFG library. The library is always open before and after meetings and on special requests. The catalog of books is available in the files section of the PFG chat group.

Although it's a bit early, something else to start thinking about is the PFG Board. We don't start voting until later in the spring, but, according to the bylaws, the end of my term is May. It's been a great position to hold and I've had many past Presidents and a fantastic Board to draw upon for support.

If you're interested in what the PFG Presidency is all about, now would be a good time to contact me to see if it's something you want to do. Let me know if you're interested - gboyles44@gmail.com

I look forward to seeing everyone on January 15!

- Gail Boyles

The DFC Board

For the convenience of Guild members, we include in each issue of this newsletter a list of the members of our Board, including contact information. The editors would like to thank each Board member for volunteering their time and efforts to the Guild.

President: Gail Boyles

[E-mail: gboyles44@gmail.com]

Immediate Past President: Sara Munday

[E-mail: sarat11970@gmail.com]

Treasurer: Tammy Diener

[E-mail: tdiener27265@yahoo.com]

Programs: Donna Molles

[E-mail: dmmolles@gmail.com]

Secretary: Sue Helmken and Beth Nathan

[E-mail (Sue): barefootweaver@earthlink.net]

[Beth: falafee2222@gmail.com]

Newsletter: Beth and Will Dunlap

[E-mail: dunlap_b@bellsouth.net]

Charity: Julia Roskamp

[E-mail: juliamarie55@gmail.com]

Webmaster: Maurice Blackburn

[E-mail: mblackburn1@carolina.rr.com]

Membership: Dick Kistler

[E-mail: dickkist@hotmail.com]

Library: Christine Dunlap

[E-mail: dunlap_b@bellsouth.net]

Hospitality: Lorene Lovell and Janet Kaufman

[E-mail (Lorene): stargazerstudio@hotmail.com]

[Janet: janet.kaufman.littlejohn@gmail.com]

Workshops: Shirley Young

[E-mail: syoung4@carolina.rr.com]

Publicity, Social Media: Lori Smith

[E-mail: LNSUPPLY@carolina.rr.com]

Publicity, Marketing: Adrienne Joslin

[E-mail: ada.joslin@yahoo.com]

Equipment Manager: Vivian Brenner

[E-mail: SockLady@aol.com]

This Year's Guild Meetings

- January 15, 2017
- February 19, 2017
- March 19, 2017
- April 23, 2017
- May 21, 2017

All regular meetings 2-4 pm at Arts on Main, 212 West Main Avenue, Gastonia, 28052. Visitors are welcome.

A Note on the Upcoming Meeting

We would like to thank Peggy Hood, Sonia Salvucci, and Kathleen Engart for providing refreshments for this month's meeting, along with Lorene Lovell and Tammy Diener for volunteering Opportunity items. If you are interested in bringing food, drinks, or Opportunity items to a subsequent meeting, please contact our Hospitality chairpersons Janet Kaufman or Lorene Lovell. A signup sheet will be available at the upcoming meeting.

This month's program comes from Mary Crew, coordinator of Project Linus of Charlotte (covering six counties). She will speak to us about how Project Linus makes, collects, and distributes hand-made blankets to children who are seriously ill or in crisis or trauma.

We hope you will join us for this meeting on Sunday, January 15 at Arts on Main in Gastonia. Guests are always welcome.

The Guild's Charity Projects

For those of you who are new to the Guild, we are currently maintaining a number of ongoing charity projects to benefit primarily local organizations and individuals. These efforts are led by our Charity chairperson, Julia Roskamp, and are often inspired by the suggestions of other Guild members. If you are aware of any charity projects or charitable organizations which could use the Guild's help, especially those interested in fiber-related contributions, please contact Julia or share your ideas with the group at the upcoming meeting.

One of the Guild's current projects is helping to support St. Michael's Catholic Church's food pantry and thrift shop. The Guild has encouraged members to donate personal care and toiletry items, especially hotel samples or travel-sized soaps, shampoos, etc. If you are interested in making a donation, please bring your items to an upcoming Guild meeting. Our contacts with St. Michael's will ensure that your donations make it to those who need them.

This year, one of our members decided to take this project into her office at Amerisure Insurance, to great effect. She has shared the company's bulletin post on the collection's success:



Charlotte CSC Donates Personal Care Items for Many in Need

Employees from the Charlotte Core Service Center (CSC) have been a great help to a local food pantry/thrift shop run by St. Michael's Catholic Church. The team collected more than 250 personal care items such as shampoo, soap, toothbrushes and lotions to help those in need.

Pam Durrett, Executive Secretary at the CSC, started the collection. As a member of an area fiber guild, she learned of the church's service through a fellow member, and began contributing toiletry items when she attended her fiber guild meetings. Durrett then decided to ask her coworkers to participate. "Several of our staff members travel frequently," she said. "It's an easy thing to bring in the complimentary toiletries from hotels that you never use. It's a simple thing to do that makes a real impact on people."

Durrett simply placed a box near her desk and Charlotte employees responded, dropping off items on a regular basis. "I often come in on Monday mornings to find a little pile of shampoo, conditioner, soap and lotion," Durrett Said. The year-end donation of over 250 items was delivered by a fiber guild member just in the nick of time as the director of the thrift shop said they were nearly out of personal care items.

More about St. Michael's Catholic Church's thrift shop

The food pantry portion of the thrift shop distributes items to anyone in need, including foster children aging out of the system and clients from the area's battered women's shelter when they find new housing. Many are referred to the thrift store when they need clothes for a job interview, and the Red Cross refers victims of household fires. The food pantry also is frequently used by clients on a fixed income and those who are homeless.

The Charlotte CSC plans to make their donations of these items ongoing, and Amerisure thanks the Charlotte team for helping their neighbors in need.

Other Charity Updates

The Guild continues to carry out the legacy of late member Ann Brinkhous. In October, the Guild began its effort to complete a number of her unfinished quilt tops for donation to a local hospital. If you volunteered to finish one of these quilts, please know that the deadline for completion has been extended. A new date will be set for some time this spring.

PFG is also participating in the Baby Bundle Hats charity for Ft. Bragg soldiers and their families. Members are encouraged to contribute all sizes of knit and crochet baby hats and booties (contact Julia Roskamp or Lori Smith for patterns and details on desired materials). For this project, the Guild will be holding another charity handwork meeting on Saturday, January 21, when members are invited to come together and work on items for this or other of the Guild's charity efforts. More details will be discussed at the upcoming meeting.



Board Member Profile

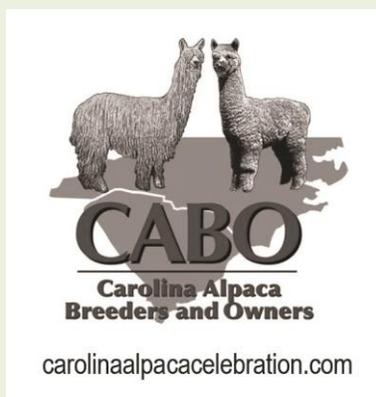
Vivian Brenner, Equipment Manager

Vivian Brenner handles the rental equipment for the Guild, and has been on the Board in different capacities since about 2004. She moved to Charlotte in 2000 from the Washington DC area. She has lived in North Carolina, Maryland, Washington, DC, Colorado, Wyoming, Nevada and did a two-year stint in St. Lucia as a Peace Corps volunteer, working in a handicraft center in a remote village.

She learned to crochet and embroider from her Ukrainian grandmother, Zenaida, when she was six, and has spent most of her life learning new textile arts and reading about textile history. Her skills include knitting, crochet, embroidery, mending, sewing, bobbin lace, tatting and spinning, and she is trying to learn to weave.

Since retiring from Family Dollar last April, she has been trained to teach a class at the Charlotte Crisis Assistance Ministry about tenants' rights, to help people counter evictions in the court system. She serves on her church's Social Justice committee, and is active in the local political scene, advocating for the homeless and working poor.





Carolina Alpaca Celebration

February 18 8am – 5pm / February 19 8am – 4pm
Cabarrus Arena

Piedmont Fiber Guild will once again participate at the Carolina Alpaca Celebration! This event has always been a great time to get together with other Guild members and show off our fiber skills to the alpaca breeders and visitors at the event.

It is a drop-in event, but please contact Gail Boyles (704-661-2015 gboyles44@gmail.com) if you're able to participate. Bring your own chair. Event style food (hamburgers, fries etc.) will be for sale or you can bring your own food.

The organizers keep the air conditioning on the whole time for the alpacas. Please dress appropriately; look at it as a great opportunity to show off your fiber handiwork ; o)

For those of you who like competitions, there will be a Fiber Arts competition. I entered last year and won 3 blue ribbons - if I can do that, any of you can!

- Your entry must be at least 50% alpaca
- Registration is a little tricky to navigate because it's also for the farmers registering their animals. Contact me and I'll get you through it.
- \$10.00/entry - enter 3 items and get the 4th free.
- Entry website is: <http://www.alpacareg.com/>

There is talk of some fiber competitions with prizes late Saturday afternoon (2/18). Stay tuned for more information on that.

Andrea Nissen, who oversees the educational aspect of the event, will be visiting at our January meeting to answer questions.

I will post more information on the PFG chat group as I get it.

*Although our regular Guild meeting also takes place on February 19, don't worry. Sara Munday will be covering for me.

- Gail Boyles

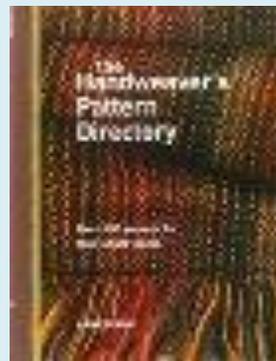
DFG Library News

From our Librarian, Christine Dunlap

Our new library cabinets have been organized and all recently donated items are now logged and available on the PFG website for your perusal.

We have recently received a donation of a selection of weaving books from long-time weaver and weaving teacher Susan Doggett. These will be entered into the Lending Log and be available at the January meeting. Thanks so much to Susan for donating so many useful books to our Guild Library.

The PFG Library is open from 1:30pm-4:30pm on Guild meeting days. Please be sure to look at our selections, organized by topic and author name, and let me know if you have any questions about the check-out procedure.



Twice as Nice (DVD), by Liz Gipson

This selection explores the power in your hands when you add an extra heddle to your rigid heddle loom. Also included are many of Ms. Gipson's very useful tips about rigid heddle weaving in general.

The Handweaver's Pattern Directory, by Ann Dixon

This selection can be found in the personal library of many serious weavers. Ms. Dixon explores several different weave structures, including twills and overshot, while working almost exclusively on a 4-shaft loom, proving you don't need a multi-shaft complex loom to weave complex beautiful cloth.

Happy New Year, and Read a Good Book!

Christine Dunlap (dunlap_b@bellsouth.net)

PFG Librarian

Terms for Guild Equipment Rental

From our Equipment Manager, Vivian Brenner

The Guild has equipment to rent to members in good standing (dues paid for at least one year). If you would like to rent any of this equipment on a month-to-month basis, please contact the Equipment Manager, Vivian Brenner, at 704-841-1624. There is a brief contract you will sign at the time of the rental.

If you have any fiber equipment you would like to donate, please contact Vivian or Gail, the Guild President.

Equipment	Rental Fee	Security Deposit
Drum Carder	\$30/month	\$50
Cotton Cards	\$5/month	\$20
Elbee Picker	\$30/month	\$100
Warping Board	\$5/month	\$25
Cleme & Cleme Spinning Wheel	\$25/month	\$100
Ashford Spinning Wheel	\$25/month	\$100
Sabina 32 in. 4-Shaft Folding Loom	\$50/month	\$100

Suggested Workshops

From our Workshops Coordinator, Shirley Young

If you are interested in attending the Moccasin workshop or Basic Sewing workshop mentioned last year, please let me know directly at syoung4@carolina.rr.com. I had heard from several members, but unfortunately I've had an issue with my tablet and will need to ask for your responses again.

A sock knitting class has also been offered to the Guild, likely a series of workshops teaching varying cast on, bind off, heel and toe techniques, but starting with a basic method. Please respond to me directly if you would be interested in attending, so I can plan accordingly.

When I have info such as dates, costs, and materials, I will post on the Chat list. The moccasin class looks like a weekend date, as Jeff is still involved with work during the week, but please stay posted for more details.

If anyone has a wish, want, desire, or idea for an upcoming class, please contact me. I promise to try to arrange something.

News from Carolina Handspinners

From Christine Dunlap

Our group had a fantastic holiday get-together, gift exchange and Spinning Wheel Round Robin during our December meeting. We were pleased to see so many members join us on a very chilly day. The Spinning Wheel Round Robin was so much fun we have decided to continue it at our January meeting.

The regular meeting of this group will take place on Tuesday, January 10 2-4pm at Lowell Community Center, 501 West First Street in Lowell. This meeting is open to the public so please invite all fiber-interested friends to attend.

Our next Bimonthly Saturday meeting will take place on Saturday, January 28th at the home of Nora Bachan in Conover, NC. Please contact Nora directly (samora_56633@yahoo.com) if you would like to attend this event, and be sure to let her know what you will bring to share for Potluck lunch. We thank Nora for opening her home for this meeting that allows those who can't attend our week-day meetings to enjoy the fun of Carolina Handspinners.

Happy New Year and Happy Spinning!

Christine Dunlap (dunlap_b@bellsouth.net)

Coordinator, Carolina Handspinners

Upcoming Meeting of the DFG Weaving Study Group

From Maurice Blackburn

The group's next meeting will be held at Sue Helmken's house in Clover on January 25th beginning at 1:00 pm. This year's weaving study project is a Huck Weave, which we will explore in the form of tea towels.

