



Knerdy Knitters / SFV

October 2017

The Swift

Knitting for Crocheters & Crocheting for Knitters Workshop on Monday, Oct. 23, in Burbank

No matter what craft your heart belongs to, it's always good to know something of a related one. The Knerdy Knitters will devote our October "fifth Monday" workshop to teaching knitters to crochet and crocheters to knit.



The workshop will be held from 7 to 9 p.m., Monday, Oct. 23, in the Burbank Community Service Building, 150 N. 3rd St., in Burbank.

(Please note that we have flipped the workshop to the regular guild meeting date on the fourth Monday of the month due to scheduling issues at the Burbank Police Headquarters building where our guild meetings are held.) The Community Service Building is located across the street from police headquarters.

The workshop is free to guild members and \$5 for nonmembers. Please bring some practice yarn and, if you can, knitting needles and crochet hooks.



Mark Your Calendars

Knerdy Knitters Holiday Party

6 to 9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2 at Pickwick Gardens, Burbank

Food • Drink • Fandom Challenge Awards • Fashion Show • Raffle

Calendar

October 2017

- 9 TGIFiber, 7-9 p.m. Monday at Four 'n 20 Restaurant, 5530 Van Nuys Blvd., Sherman Oaks
- 16 Yarn Club, 7- 9 p.m. Monday at the Food Court, Burbank Town Center, 201 E. Magnolia Blvd.
- 23 Workshop: Knitting for Crocheters & Crocheting for Knitters, Burbank Community Service Building, 150 N. 3rd St.
- 30 Guild meeting, 7-9 p.m. Monday at Police Headquarters, 200 N. 3rd St., Burbank

November 2017

- 4 Saturday Stitches, 10 a.m. to noon at Starbucks, 1520 W. Olive Ave., Burbank
- 5 Weaver's Guild Fiber Festival, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Torrance



Design Circle members build creative skills

The Knerdy Knitters' Design Circle lets members go from craft to creation in the company of like-minded fiber lovers.

Meeting from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the third Friday of the month at a private home, this members-only group works on designing knitting or crocheting patterns and getting feedback in anticipation of selling the patterns on Ravelry.com or other venues.

The members include **Elizabeth Booth, Karen Frazer, Julie Kornblum, Michelle Lockhart, Laurie Pastor, and Virginia Van Osdel.**

"We are serious designers who are working on publishing our designs on Ravelry," said **Tammy**, Knerdy Knitters president.

"We start the meeting with a design swap for feedback, talk about test knitting, and then move on to general topics relevant to designing.

"We're working on a Knerdy Knitters pattern book. If you want to be a part of that, there is still time to get your design together."

The pattern book will help raise funds and visibility for the guild.

If you're interested in serving as a test knitter for the Design Circle, let Tammy (or members of the group) know. You can send an email to Tammy at tamala.takahashi@gmail.com.

To be a test knitter, you need to be a proficient knitter, able to follow instructions and give helpful feedback to the designer about how easy the instructions were to follow, what you liked or didn't like about the pattern and whether you found any problems with stitch counts or instructions. Test knitters supply their own yarn for these projects.

Charity knitting updates

If you're working on knitted knockers, the guild's 2017 charity project, take note that Charity Projects Chair Rachel Decker needs to have your finished knockers by November.

All submissions should be bagged with a tag attached indicating the size of the knocker and what yarn was used. A copy of the yarn label *must* be included with the knockers.

5000 Poppies Project

If you like knitting for a cause, this Australian group hopes to gather at least 5,000 knitted or crocheted poppies to use at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra for Remembrance Day 2018 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ending of the World War I.

This effort grew out of a 2013 tribute by Lynn Berry and Margaret Knight to crochet 120 poppies in honor of their fathers, who fought in World War I.

They "planted" the poppies at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne Australia for Remembrance Day 2013.

They offer a variety of crochet and knit patterns on their website at <https://5000poppies.wordpress.com/poppy-patterns/>

A submission form with an address for where to mail the poppies in Australia is also available on the website.

Cool Tools: Random Stripe Generators and other ways to spice up stripes

Stripes! What could be simpler, right? Pick two or more colors. Decide how many rows wide you want each stripe and start knitting or crocheting.

But what if you don't want predictable, evenly wide rows? What if you have a stash of different colored yarns – and different amounts of each? What if you want to use up stashed yarn in a project and you want to be sure you don't run out of a color early on in the project?

What you need is a random stripe generator – or a little fun math knowledge of common numerical sequences.

Stripe generators

Let's start with the stripe generator. The website, BiscuitsandJam.com (http://www.biscuitsandjam.com/stripe_maker_wt.php) has two random stripe generators.

One is weighted so that if you have more balls of one color than any other colors, you can use more of it in the stripes so they are evenly placed throughout the project – either by making those wider stripes or by repeating them more often.

The other stripe generator allows you to set how many rows can be used in a stripe. For example, you can choose to never have stripes that are only one row wide. You can make sure you always have an even number of rows in the stripes. Or you can vary the width of the stripes.

Both let you pick a number of colors. Both allow you to set how many rows you do before the pattern repeats – or you can set it so the pattern is always random.

Unfortunately, they don't each have the same features. For example, if you are using the weighted random stripe generator, you can't pick and choose how many rows are allowed in each stripe.

This was annoying when I was working a kit that used

one ball each of four colors and two balls of a fifth color) and required stripes that were one, two, three or five rows wide.

I could set the row width pattern in one generator, but it wouldn't allow me to weight the colors based on the yarn provided in the kit.

Using the weighted generator requires that you start with full skeins – or have a scale to weigh the yarns you plan to use. Once you know what you have least of, you divide that weight into each of the other colors so you know the proportions of each that you have.

Plan on playing with this tool. When I first requested a pattern of random stripes, I had the total number of rows set at 100. That resulted in a pattern of stripes with a lot of single rows of color. The result was muddy looking. I had better results as I dropped the total number of rows.

Number sequences

Another approach for irregular stripes is to use numerical sequences. Think of the famous Fibonacci Sequence, which is found often in nature.

Designer Jessica Goddard has a wonderful website that explains various sequences and has knitted samples to demonstrate how they look.

Her site is ODDKnit.com <http://www.oddknit.com/design/colour/stripes.html> . (Jessica easily could be an honorary Knerdy Knitter: raised in southeastern English sheep country, she learned to knit from her granny. She went to college to study physics and started apply math to her knitting. As her website reports, "These days Jessica splits her time between her knitting, her love of all things sci-fi/fantasy, and her work as a spreadsheet gremlin . . .")

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Check out Twitch Creative's fiber arts community online

By Rachel Pieper Decker

Most people know Twitch as video and networking platform for fans of video games, but its new Twitch Creative is expanding to include a fiber arts section.

Launched in 2011, Twitch mainly shares and teaches about video games. Its emerging content section is for people with an array of interests beyond gaming. This includes Twitch Creative, In Real Life (IRL) content, Social Eating for sharing a meal with viewers and Programmatic TV focusing on interactive television.

The communities inside Twitch Creative (<https://www.twitch.tv/directory/game/Creative/communities>) include fiber arts such as knitting, crocheting and cross-stitching in their own sections as well as robotics, music, painting, food, drawing, comics, cosplay, chainmaille, makeup, leatherwork, perler, writing and many more.

In 2015, a user named LILBLUEBOXox created a team called "Knotty by Nature" for fiber artists to be found in one location, sharing streams that teach, create and allow home viewers to participate in knit- and crochet-alongs. In the spirit of Twitch, the fiber artists aren't required to ALWAYS stream fiber-related broadcasts, but many use crafting as their main focus.

I have been a proud member of the Knotty by Nature team (<https://www.twitch.tv/team/knottybynature>) for more than a year.

Knowing that more Knerdy Knitters will be aware of Twitch, I'll be getting my streaming game kicked into a higher gear.

Rachel's page: You can connect with me at <https://www.twitch.tv/hyperzengirl>. Here are some highly recommended streamers (Note that most of these people only know me as HyperZenGirl.) They basically have professional setups with user interaction built into their streams. It is a fun experience to visit these guys.

- LILBLUEBOX (Mostly crochet) <https://www.twitch.tv/lilblueboxox>
- MiniBerger (Crochet, knit, perlers games) <https://www.twitch.tv/xminibergerx>
- Jenny Knits (Knitting, games) <https://www.twitch.tv/jennyknits>

Her examples include:

- The Fibonacci Sequence in which each number is the sum of the previous two values: 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, etc.) Obviously the further you go, the wider your stripes -- unless you start a new repeat.
- Prime numbers. These can be divided only by themselves and one: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, etc.).
- There are also the Collatz/Haistone Sequence, the Figurate Number Sequence, the Golomb Sequence, the Juggler Sequence and the Kolakoski Sequence, which bend the brain to read.

Jessica's site has other wonders. She describes how to get different shapes in knitting and has a gallery of free patterns for flowers, leaves, toad stools, zipped pouches, an Advent calendar, Christmas ornaments, cupcakes, fruit, shells, stones and coral. A photo gallery can be seen at <http://www.oddknit.com/patterns/new.html>.

Fandom Challenge deadline Oct. 23

If you want to participate in the Fandom Challenge, you must fill out the registration form online at <http://www.knerdyknitters.com/fandom-challenge.html> (click on the link to get the form) or bring a completed form to the Oct. 23 guild meeting.

If you aren't a paid member of the guild, you must pay your dues by Nov. 27 to participate.

All submitted items must have been made in calendar year 2017. You can enter up to three projects, but you can only win one prize.