

Atlanta Knitting Guild

General Meeting

November 3, 2016

Susan Duralde called the meeting to order; she asked everyone to spend a few moments introducing themselves to a couple people around their seat. She asked if we had any new members, there was one named Teresa.

Carol Hassell spoke about the trauma bears that go to the Children's Advocacy Group. She currently has 30 "naked" bears that need clothes. Susan asked for volunteers to drive the December clothing donations to the shelter the next morning. Elizabeth Halberstadt has a list of items the shelter needs. We will post a reminder in the next newsletter. We also need volunteers to knit scarves for a homeless shelter.

Susan thanked Barb Moore for an outstanding program with Brooke Nico. Barb told the members she has been doing the program for 4 years, and has enjoyed getting to know the superstars personally. She feels the October program was our best event ever. We had a huge response, filled all the seats, and had tremendous feedback about Brooke. Most student of Brooke felt she is a great teacher and her classes were well received. Barb thanked all members who attended. Barb also thanked Gro Cox who helped Brooke on Sunday. We enjoyed a \$274.00 profit from this event.

Susan reminded everyone of the upcoming mini-workshop with Barbara Benson entitled "Tips and Tricks With Variegated Yarn". The class will be held November 12 at the SEFAA Center in Atlanta from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Susan Nease introduced Barbara to the group. She gave a preview of her upcoming class, where she will teach different techniques for working with variegated yarn including how to analyze potential color patterns for compatibility.

Susan reminded everyone to visit the Wandering Fox Farm table. Lyn Davidson has brought skeins of alpaca wool yarn from her farm in Douglasville, GA. She will be giving us a presentation later this evening.

Susan asked Jolie Elder to give an update on the upcoming event where we will be showing the movie 'Yarn'. We have contracted with the LaFont Theatre in Sandy Springs. The event will take place around 10:30 in the morning on one of the last 2 Saturday's in February, 2017. We need a number of volunteers to help with marketing this events, getting sponsors, putting goody bags together, etc. Susan challenged the group to volunteer. She explained that the goal of AKG is to build and share our love and interest in fiber. If we continue to self fund our programs, and expand our membership throughout the Atlanta community, we will be able to offer additional programs in the future such as having 2 superstar programs per year. We then had a number of people volunteer to help. Susan announced a planning/organizing meeting will be held soon. We will need to work on communication, sponsorship, and logistics. If anyone else would like to volunteer, please contact either Jolie Elder or Susan Duralde.

Our Library has a great list of books available. Clair Kooy will be posting the list on our website. Stephanie Johnson is taking requests for any books members would like to have added to our library.

We have had Jackie Hicks volunteer to be our “Sunshine” coordinator. Her job will be to send cards to members with personal or family illness; or other situations in need of communication from the Guild. Lyn Davidson and Natalie Green have volunteered to help with Social Media. Kendra will help with the Superstar program and Arletta Bertin will help with ‘Yarn’ – the movie. Susan stated how pleased she is that the pearl power list is growing so quickly, and she thanked everyone for their help.

Show and Tell

Susan Nease showed a Noro Silk Garden kit shawl called Saturn Embrace. She completed the shawl while watching a Star Wars marathon on T.V.

Joyce Culpepper showed several items. A blue shawl called Architecture from Crafts; a vest for her sister in a James Brett cranberry chunky yarn; a green Noro lace shawl in a ladder pattern, from her stash; and a Ms. Babs “Spice Market” shawl pattern using Anny Blatt yarn;.

Lois Mitchell showed a tan cardigan using a dk yarn from Eat, Sleep and Knit that had a lace pattern around the hem; also a turquoise cowl out of ZuZu’s Petals pattern.

Barbara Benson showed a chocolate and beige shawl with special Leister long wool yarn from Rock’s Farm; a cranberry cowl called “The Contraction” made with cranberry nebula by Anzula with sparkles; her design ‘Cloud Street Stole’ using 575 yards of Anzula Could merino fingering yarn in olive green, knit on a bias.

Diane Weinberg had a little monster doll knit of neon variegated citrus colors.

Ashley Jackson showed her progress on a pink, white and lilac baby blanket.

Susan D. shared a request we had for someone to offer help with a knitting machine. One member mentioned to check the web, and there might be a knitting machine group locally.

AKG Program with Lyn Davidson “Knitting with Alpaca Yarn”

Lyn is the owner of Wandering Fox Farm, an Alpaca Fiber Farm in Douglasville, Georgia. She currently has 24 alpaca’s, 8 ducks, many chickens as well as various other dogs, cats etc. Lyn is originally from the U.K., she has lived in London, then moved to New York where she had a 30’ x 50’ yard. She had always wanted to own lots of land. The opportunity came up to purchase a farm in Georgia. After a back and forth negotiation, the sellers gave Lyn their final offer of a selling price plus 6 chickens and 5 alpaca, Lyn was sold! Lyn discussed the difference between an alpaca and a llama. Llamas have long banana shaped ears while alpacas have shorter spear shaped ears. A llama is also much larger than an alpaca. There are 2 types of Alpaca, the Huacaya Alpaca with fluffy fur, and the Suri with long hair. Both have luxurious and soft fleece. Most alpaca live 15-20 years, but can live to 28-30 years old. They usually have a single birth, twin births will not survive. The gestation period is 10 ½ to 13 months; they prefer To give birth during daylight, for safety, and usually in the morning; never at night nor during rain. The fiber comes in 22 colors with 5 grades ranging from 1 to 5. No. 1 fiber is the finest grade and No. 5 is considered worsted.

After the alpaca is sheared of the fleece ‘blanket’, it is placed on a table with holes to be cleaned of fur guard hair, dirt, twigs, debris, etc. If fleece is not cleaned, the wool will be coarse. It is then spun into wool, any ‘seconds’ are used for rug yarn. Consistent length of the yarn is important. Georgia alpaca’s get less yarn because of the humid, warm weather here. Lyn has placed giant fans in her barns and even sometimes pours cool water on the animals. The full process consists of shearing, blanket cleaning, tumbling, carding, roving, and spinning, then to skeins or cones. She sometimes adds another fiber to her yarn to change the texture/feel. She has 24 alpaca’s of various ages. The fiber will be coarser from

the older alpaca. The male has to be castrated to achieve a better fiber, which presents a tough choice for her between using the male for breeding or for fiber. She also gets attached to them and finds it difficult to part with them as they age. The alpaca eat hay, Bermuda grass and winter rye wheat. Two times each day they receive a cup of pellet that contains nutrients. Lyn showed a photo of the Chullo Hat, a Peruvian Earflap Hat (Pam Cornutt modeled one). The Chullo is normally worn by unmarried males, the colors and styles are symbols representing the man's age, their tribe, and the area they are from. There are many styles of The Chullo hat and many patterns available on line. Andrea Wong offers a Craftsy class on Peruvian style knitting. The technique usually has 22 stitches to the inch and the alpaca yarn is twisted on the purl stitch with a knitting pin.

Pam Cornutt then updated the group on the multi color chart. She offered a good trick when knitting with multiple colors, which is o stretch your yarn before you change color to avoid puckering or bunching of stitches.

Susan reminded the group that the December meeting will be pot luck; and will be a social, fun event so we can get to know each other in our knitting sisterhood.

No more business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Crowley, Secretary
Atlanta Knitting Guild