

News for Ewes

January 2026

Volume XXVI Number 1

The Rochester Knitting Guild is an organization in Rochester, NY that exists to promote learning fiber arts like knitting and crochet, to provide a social context for fiber enthusiasts, and to encourage the public to learn to explore new fiber crafts and techniques!



Rochesterknitting.org

President's Message

Happy New Year everyone! I hope 2026 is wonderful for you all. I like to start the year with a brainstorm of what I'd like to accomplish, new things to try, and experiences to have. This year I've put together a Life Bingo card of things—many of the squares include fiber-related fun and activities with friends. What are you looking forward to this year? Maybe you will find inspiration at our January 12th zoom meeting from Tinking Turtle's presentation *A Year of Repair*. I hope you join us!

Ingrid Lembach
President

Logo contest

Throughout this newsletter you will find submissions for our logo contest. Voting details will be available before the February meeting. Our current logo will be on the ballot.

Upcoming Meetings

All Hands Meetings

January 12th
February 9th
March 9th
April 13th
May 11th (Yarn Auction)
June TBD (picnic)

meeting starts at 7:00

Temple B'rith Kodesh event space,
2131 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester,
NY 14618

Board Meetings

January 19th
February 16th
March 16th
April 20th
May 18th

7:00 via Zoom
Link upon request

February Preview: *A Year of Repair* Featuring Jennifer Raymond of The Tinking Turtle

We are delighted to welcome Jennifer Raymond of The Tinking Turtle, an expert in both knitting and crochet repair, as our January presenter. Jennifer will join us via Zoom on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 7:00 PM for a thoughtful and inspiring presentation titled *A Year of Repair*.

In this talk, Jennifer explores the deep connections between repair, community, and handcraft through four repair projects—one for each season of the year. Each project tells a story rooted in caution, creativity, and care, highlighting not only how we repair, but why we do.

Winter brings tales of Christmas stocking repair, when sentiment and tradition meet skill and patience.

Spring, a season of renewal, also marks a time when many handcrafts are packed away. Jennifer reflects on repair as restoration, transformation, and intention. Summer features the “big doozies” of repair—heavily damaged crochet bedcovers and tablecloths that test both technique and resolve. Fall introduces the familiar culprits of damage—puppies, children, and kittens—and includes discussion on how objects become precious enough to repair, how we can help them last, and yes... the absolute necessity of weaving in the ends (even for crocheters!).

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this engaging and meaningful presentation.

If you'd like to attend as part of a Zoom watch party, visit the Rochester Knitting Guild website, where host locations will be posted. The Zoom link will also be emailed to members the weekend before the event.

We hope you'll join us for an evening that celebrates skill, story, and the beauty of making—and mending—by hand.

Anna Powell and Sharah Blankenship
Vice Presidents

Community Knitting

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and is looking forward to 2026. If you're like me, you spent much of December getting holiday projects finished. As you start to think about new projects for 2026, please consider making an item to donate. Just about all of the items collected so far this year have already been donated, but there is still a lot of winter left in our area and a lot of people who have need for warm handmade items. My contact at Strong says they always need baby items, especially small blankets to go on top of baby carriers (did you know hospitals are not allowed to release babies wearing coats or snow suits as the outerwear interferes with secure buckling in the baby carriers). The cold winter months are also a great time to make a lap blanket for the Meals on Wheels 2026 campaign. Hats, mittens (we never get enough mittens!) and scarves for children and adults are always needed as well.

Our January meeting is via Zoom, so you've got another month to make something to donate. Hopefully I'll see some new faces at the donation table dropping off items in February!

Pat Butterfield

Community Knitting and Yarn and Tool Auction



Shop Liaison

Happy 2026 to everyone!

New year, new knitting goals, and new shop info

This month's feature is one of our not-for-profit member shops,

Hidden on the west side of town, next to a pizza shop, and a dog groomer, sits Crafting for Good. It was started by Sheryl Byer in the back of a church, years ago. It grew so much, that a store front was necessary.

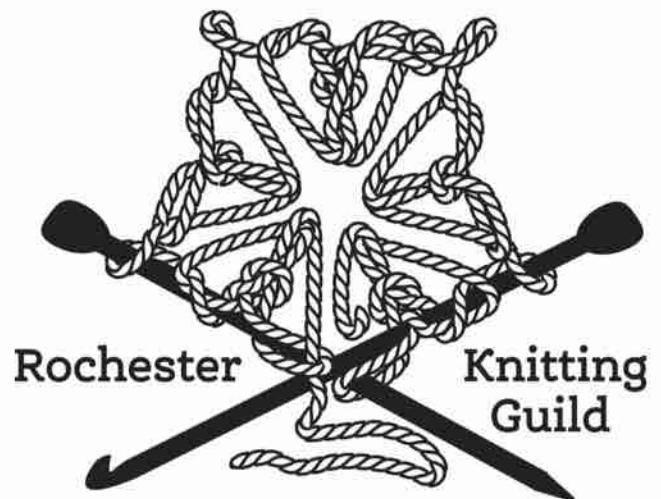
This shop is proud that all of its merchandise is donated. Their stock includes quilting fabric, sewing machines, notions of all sorts, and YARN. A knitting machine has even been spotted in the shop at times. The inventory rotates but assortment of yarn can always be found. You never know what gem of a skein you will find. There are also many crafting books.

The store's profits benefit the Rochester community via food & water donations.

Store hours are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 12–5, and Saturday 10–3.

Brenda Mudd

Shop Liaison



Hints from the help Table

Out with the Old; In with the New!

Do your New Year's Resolutions usually include organizing your yarn stash? That [room] [closet] [basement] where your yarn basks in all of its happy glory?

Mine, too. And I usually wind up organizing one or two plastic containers before my energy level takes a dive. I come across yarn I forgot I had, and yarn I decided long ago that, after knitting with it, I would never use again. Worse, I have dozens of label-less fragments whose fiber content is a mystery.

But it's hard to get rid of it. It's too much to toss. Or, it's too pretty. Or it's souvenir yarn from Hawaii. But it must be dealt with, and for that, RKG is a godsend.

Now, for the hard part: how can you detach from yarn to which you were once, and probably still are attached?

For me, it's getting easier because I have reached SABLE (stash acquired beyond life expectancy) So, in rare moments of rationality, I can look at a yarn whose charm has long worn off, and ask myself, "Am I really going to use this? Really? When?" And if the answer is "Never," then "Hello, Rochester Knitting Guild"

The Guild has two great avenues for donation: the Annual Yarn Auction, and Community Knitting. It's just that easy. Bring in your yarn. Leave it at the Community Knitting table. Or hand it to the Auction Chair. Speaking from my own experience, one person's discards are another's acquisition (Don't tell Mr. Sensitive Baby Skin, because I'm supposed to be on a yarn diet). Last year, I donated a sweater's worth of gradient yarns, because I thought it too scratchy. Also, some green and purple mohair boucle from the 1980s. Okay, I did come home with some ArtYarns sock yarn, but good diets have cheat days. And I did wind up with less yarn than I started with.

So, out with the old, in with the new! Happy New Year and Happy Knitting!

*Debby Abrahams
Help Table*

We still Need Help

The Guild needs a coordinator(s) for our spring workshops and guest speakers ASAP! This is the perfect position for a duo or team. This board position selects who will be speaking to the guild and who will be presenting our annual workshops.

If you have questions or are interested in volunteering for this position, contact any board member including Guild president [Ingrid Lembach](#)

Guild Notes

- *Save the date:* The RKG Spring Knitting Retreat will be held Feb 26th to Mar 1st at Camp Stella Maris. Sign up for the Saturday workshops because all overnight spots are sold out.
- *January Zoom Meeting:* The Zoom link will be sent out over the weekend and on Monday so that it is at the top of your e-mail inbox. This presentation will be recorded and will be available on the [members only](#) portion of the Guild web site for a short time following the meeting. Joan Fernbach our Membership coordinator e-mailed the password to you after you paid your dues or your membership status was confirmed.
- *Fiber Festival:* The annual Tina Turner Knits Fiber Arts festival will be Saturday, February 7th at the RIT Inn and Conference Center 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. \$5 admission. See [Tina's website](#) for more information
- *Financial Report:* The Guild's midseason financial report is attached to this newsletter. Please direct any questions to [Heather Lieb](#) our treasurer
- *Show and Tell:* Remember to bring your projects to share with us
- *Elections:* The Guild cannot exist without the Board. Please consider running for office or volunteering for a board position. Interested? Contact [Margaret Mullen](#).
- *Share!:* Show us your projects! Send photos of your works in progress and finished projects for work-in-progress Wednesday and finished Friday on the Guild's social media accounts. Send photos and pattern titles to Marcie Shapiro at director2year@rochesterknitting.org
- A life bingo card is a fun, gamified way to set and track personal goals, turning a traditional to-do list or vision board into a bingo grid where completing a row (or the whole card) earns a reward, making goals feel more achievable and engaging. These cards typically have 25 squares (5x5) filled with small, actionable tasks for different life areas like health, career, personal growth, or experiences, encouraging consistency and progress throughout the year according to Google
- *Food and drinks:* You are welcome to bring food and drink to our meetings. Please do not bring meat into the building out of respect for our hosts. Please use a container with a lid for any liquids to avoid any yarn-related accidents.



2025-2026 Board

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VicePresidents

Past President

Secretary

Treasurer

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Library/Knit Resources

Tech Team

Newsletter

Community Service

Shop Liaison

Auction

Workshops

Retreat

Financial Review

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Margaret
Lisa
Heather
Joan F.& Carol
Katy
Joan F
Natalie
Pat B.
Brenda
Pat

Nina
Holly
Marcie & Kate
Rachel

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vicepresident@rochesterknitting.org
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membership@rochesterknitting.org
librarian@rochesterknitting.org
webmistress@rochesterknitting.org
newsletter@rochesterknitting.org
communityservice@rochesterknitting.org
shopliaison@rochesterknitting.org
auction@rochesterknitting.org
workshops@rochesterknitting.org
nina.raqueno@gmail.com
audit@rochesterknitting.org
director2year@rochesterknitting.org
publicity@rochesterknitting.org

December Block

Cheers

How could we not start the year off with a block called Cheers! Our January block revisits many of the techniques from previous blocks. Polly provides plenty of direction and pictures to walk you through the block, so don't be intimidated!!

<https://everytrickonthehook.com/patterns-2/cheers/>

For those that haven't started the make along, it's never too late to jump in and make a square. And If anyone has any trouble along the way please don't hesitate to ask for help in the Discord chat channel or the Ravelry forum thread. Please remember to share progress photos in our Discord and Ravelry forums!

<https://www.ravelry.com/discuss/rkg----rochester-knitting-guild/4376585/1-25#3>

<https://discord.com/channels/1364034437159063562/1418272129962606672>



Member Shops

For more detailed information visit our [Member Shops web page](#)

Amelia's Fabric and Yarn Shoppe

ameliasfabricandyarnshoppe.com

Bead & Fiber Fantasy

beadfiberfantasy.com

Birch Tree Fiber Arts Co.

www.birchtreefiberartscs.com

Crafting for Good

Craftingforgood@mail.com

Expressions in Needleart

expressionsinneedleart.com

Embraceable Ewe

erin@embraceableewe.com

The Fuzzy Bunny

www.fuzzybunnyyarn.com

Heart Forge Solutions

<https://heartforge.solutions/>

Knit For You

<https://sites.google.com/view/knitforyouny/home>

Lift Bridge Yarns

www.liftbridgeyarns.com

Little Button Craft & Press

www.littlebuttoncraft.com

Megs & Co. Yarn Shop

www.megsandco.com/shop

Rabbit Row Yarns &

Haberdashery

www.rabbitrowyarns.com

Sew Green Rochester

www.sewgreenrochester.org

Strings 'n Things Yarn Shoppe

stringsnthingsyarn.com

Tina Turner Knits

tinaturnerknits.com/

Yarn Culture

<https://yarnculture.com>



The
Rochester
Knit & Crochet
Guild

Join our Discord Server!

The guild has created a Discord server to help members communicate between meetings. Discord is an online messaging service that allows communities to share, chat, and collaborate together at any time. We have dedicated spaces in our server for chatting, sharing pictures of WIPs and finished projects, for discussing community and charity crafting, and even to ask for crafting assistance from fellow members.

Join here: <https://discord.gg/J5UMgQ3rZ4>

If you have any questions about Discord or are having issues with accessing our server, we'll have a table dedicated to answering technical questions at our next meeting.

Rachel Silva
Publicity



Rochester Knitting Guild 2025-2026 Mid-Year Income & Expense Report

INCOME	BUDGET	As of 12/31/25
Membership Dues	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 3,990.00
Raffle Ticket Sales	\$ 350.00	\$ 252.00
Spring Retreat	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 2,140.00
Guest Artist Workshop	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 514.00
Silent Book Auction	\$ -	\$ -
Yarn Auction	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
Library Fines	\$ -	\$ -
Insurance Refund	\$ -	\$ 60.00
Newsletter Ads	\$ -	\$ -
Donations	\$ -	\$ 50.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$13,350.00	\$ 7,006.00

	BUDGET	As of 12/31/25
INCOME - EXPENSE	\$ (1,595.00)	\$ 2,881.41
Begin Bank Balance (7/1/25)		\$ 12,276.76
Ending Bank Balance (12/31/25)		\$ 15,258.17
Petty Cash		\$ 100.00
Heather Lieb, Treasurer		
treasurer@rochesterknitting.org		

EXPENSES	BUDGET	As of 12/31/25
Raffle Prizes	\$ 80.00	\$ 40.00
Guild Programming	\$ 700.00	\$ 46.11
Spring Retreat	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 100.00
Guest Artist Workshop	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 506.00
Yarn Auction	\$ 50.00	\$ -
Picnic (June)	\$ 150.00	\$ -
Community Knitting	\$ 50.00	\$ -
Library (books, etc.)	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Membership	\$ 45.00	\$ 20.24
Newsletter (Printing)	\$ 200.00	\$ 44.47
Newsletter (Postage/Supplies)	\$ 80.00	\$ 78.00
Hospitality	\$ -	\$ -
Board Expenses	\$ 50.00	\$ 42.50
Supplies	\$ 50.00	\$ -
Bank Fees/Checks	\$ 30.00	\$ -
Insurance	\$ 350.00	\$ 265.13
Postage (Other)	\$ -	\$ -
P.O. Box Rental	\$ 225.00	\$ -
Storage Unit	\$ -	\$ -
Rent (Temple)	\$ 5,350.00	\$ 2,750.00
Rent (Pavillion/Lodge)	\$ 150.00	\$ -
Rent (Board Mtgs.)	\$ -	\$ -
RKG Promotion	\$ 100.00	\$ 49.05
Web Page	\$ 25.00	\$ 23.19
Zoom Fees	\$ 160.00	\$ 159.90
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$14,945.00	\$ 4,124.59



Stay in the beautiful Wegman House

ROCHESTER KNITTING GUILD
Spring Knitting Retreat *And Crochet*
At Camp Stella Maris, Livonia, NY
Feb 26 – Mar 1 2026
Come Treat Yourself to a Crafty Retreat



Ewe NEED a Retreat!



Mosaic Knitted Hat



Tunisian Crochet

A weekend of knitting and crochet fun.

Friday Evening:

- Show & Tell

Saturday Workshop Choices:

- Mosaic Knitted Hat
- Intro to Crochet Chart Reading
- Knitting on the Edge
- Intro to Tunisian Crochet Braided Headband

Saturday Evening:

- Special Guest Entertainment & Game Night

Depart Sunday afternoon



Take a workshop or two

Weekend Retreat Fee Includes:

- Choice of 2 Saturday Workshops
- Meals Friday Dinner through Sunday Brunch
- Overnight Group Accommodations

Reserve Your Bunk Today!

Please select the desired workshops and enclose the completed form with a check payable to the Rochester Knitting Guild mail to:
 Nina Raqueno 5710 Old Orchard PT Livonia, NY 14487

Now accepting Venmo @RKG Treasurer ATTN RETREAT
 and email registration form to nina.raqueno@gmail.com



Crochet Chart Reading

RKG Spring Knitting Retreat
Feb 26 – Mar 1, 2026
 (Extra Night Thursday Feb. 26th)

Name: _____

Email address: _____

(Confirmation, complete weekend schedule, & supply list will be sent by email.)

Can't join us for the entire weekend?
Join us for Saturday Workshops!
(9am-4pm)

- | | |
|---|----------|
| ☐ Non RKG Guild Member Fee | \$ 30 |
| ☐ Knitting Weekend Fee | \$ 250 |
| ☐ Weekend Fee (no workshops) | \$ 200 |
| ☐ Saturday Day Camper Only | \$ 80 |
| (Workshops, Lunch & Snacks Included) | |
| ☐ XTRA Thurs. Night Lodging | \$ 100 |
| Total Deposit Included | \$ _____ |
| Balance Due February 1, 2026 | \$ _____ |

Please select 1 Morning and 1 Afternoon Workshop

- ___ Mosaic Knitted Hat (AM)
- ___ Crochet Charts (AM)
- ___ Tunisian Crochet (PM)
- ___ Knitting on the Edge (PM)
- ___ Crochet Refresher (Friday afternoon)

Questions? Contact Nina Raqueno by phone at (585) 281-3846 or by email at nina.raqueno@gmail.com.

Rochester Knitting Guild 2026 Spring Workshop

Dye With Plants!
with Nicole Cleveland,
Goldenrod Fiber Studio

Saturday, March 28th
East Lodge, Churchville Park
101 N Main St, Churchville, NY 14428

**Registration
Open Now on the
RKG website!**



Workshop 1: Dye With Plants! – Fabric
10:30am – 1:30pm
\$40 RKG Member Class Rate
***Additional materials fee (\$14/\$16)**

In this class, we will work with whole, dried botanical dye plants to create beautiful watercolor effects on cloth. Choose between a cotton bandana, cotton drawstring project bag, or silk scarf. You will learn the essentials of natural dyeing, including the pre-treatment processes of scouring and mordanting, as well as techniques for effective bundled botanical dyeing. All materials will be pre-treated before the workshop.

Workshop 2: Dye With Plants! – Yarn
2:30pm – 6:30pm
\$50 RKG Member Class Rate
***Additional materials fee (\$9/\$24)**

In this class, we will work with whole, dried botanical dye plants to create beautiful speckled and variegated yarns. This extended class will cover the essentials of natural dyeing, including the pre-treatment processes of scouring and mordanting, as well as techniques for effective bundle AND immersion dyeing with plants. The yarns for this workshop will be pre-treated prior, and participants have the option to submit their own stash yarns to be pre-treated for the workshop.

Optional Lunch
1:30pm – 2:30pm
\$8

