

News for Ewes

December 2025 Volume XXV Number 10

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

December is a time that inspires me to up my crafting game and create things that celebrate the winter season. Will this be the year I use yarn to make a door wreath, a decorative tree, or knit a gnome to add to my mantelpiece? After the Thanksgiving festivities I plan to get out the yarn and glitter! Are there any favorite holiday decorations made by loved ones that you cherish every year? I'd love to see your favorite handmade items posted in the Discord chat. See you at our December meeting to wrap up the year!

Ingrid Lembach
President

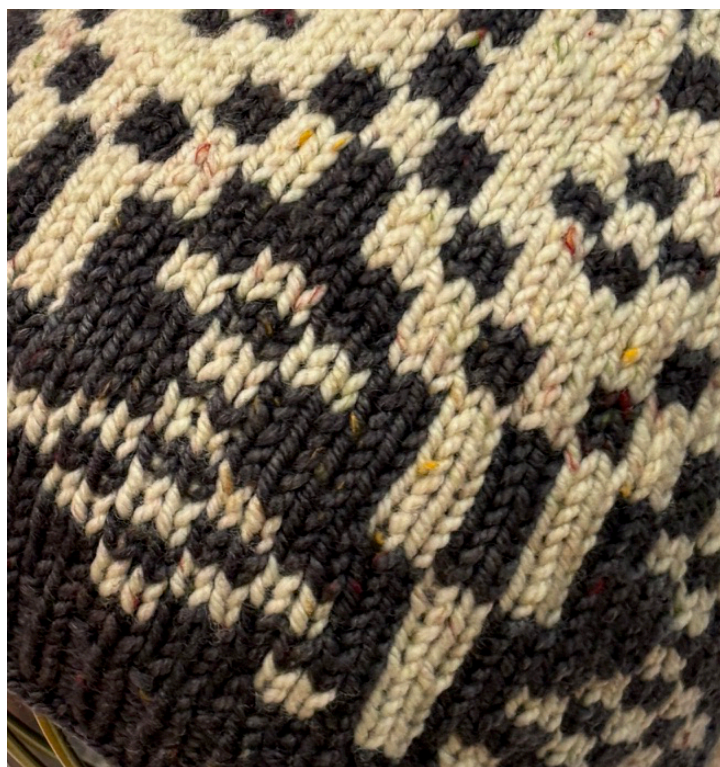


December Preview

We will be continuing our journey through sustainability with an introduction on different mending techniques at December's meeting. Many of us get so wrapped up in our next project that we don't want to think about something that needs some light repair. Let's be honest, how many of us have a basket of items that just need that one snagged stitch put back in place, or reinforce that stitch that is threatening to pop, or the sock with a small hole in it? Our own little island of misfit toys that are patiently waiting for us to pay attention to them so they can be worn again.

- Whether you are a fan of the visible mending trend, or want your mends to discreetly blend into your work; I hope you will be inspired to pick up one of those items and bring them back into rotation.
- If you have any items that you have mended, please bring them to display at the December meeting. We will have a table set out for display purposes.

Anna Powell and Sharah Blankenship
Vice Presidents



Upcoming Meetings

All Hands Meetings
December 8^h
January 12^h
February 9
March 9th
April 13

meeting starts at 7:00
Temple B'rith Kodesh event space,
2131 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester,
NY 14618

Board Meetings
December 15th
January 19th
February 16
March 16
April 20

7:00 via Zoom
Link upon request

Community Knitting

Another big thank you to all the Guild members that made cold weather items - hats, scarves and mittens - for both adults and children. Thanks you you, I was able to make a HUGE donation to both Spirit NYS and to the Vineyard. By now, you've all heard me talk about Spirit NYS many times. It's a organization that helps homeless teens finish high school and get into college. The Vineyard might be new to many of you. It's an urban farm that provides fresh produce, food boxes and prepared meals to an underserved area in our community. The Vineyard also provides mobile healthcare and clothing, especially cold weather items, to those in need.

As of now, all the items donated have been distributed. However, winter is just beginning in our area so please keep the items coming. Hats, scarves and especially mittens - for adults and children - are always needed. And, as always, I can accept donations of any items at any times during the year. I can truly find good homes for any items you can make. Thank you for your continued generosity to our community knitting program!

Pat Butterfield

Community Knitting and Yarn Auction

Guild Notes

- *Save the date:* The RKG Spring Knitting Retreat will be held Feb 26th to Mar 1st at Camp Stella Maris.
- *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](#).
- Member shop: Little Button Craft will be holding their tenth Handmade Holiday event December 6th 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- *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
- *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.

Shop Liaison

I would like to thank all of those that attended, and helped to make shop nite a success. Hard work does pay off.

This month's interview is one of our member shops who does not have a brick & mortar shop. She is one of our dyers whom we have as a member shop.

Let me introduce Meg of Meg & Co.

Meg actually started out as a crocheter, then dyeing, then knitting. She had noted the need of some colors to be added to her own palette of projects, and the dyeing adventure began. She remembers her first dye color being a speckled type hot pink. Neons were "in" at the time, so she went with it. Another reason for dyeing was she thought having her own materials would be cheaper. Gosh, we all know that is not true.

Being a dyer has helped Meg to evolve and try other avenues. She recently has written a pattern with yarn she had sourced here in the New York State region.

Meg continues to stretch herself in many parts of her life. Did you know that she has ducks as pets.

Continue to watch Meg on her journey in this fiber world.

Thank you Meg for being part of the Rochester Knitting Guild.

Brenda Mudd

Shop Liaison

Help needed

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](#)



Hints from the help Table

I Hate Charts!

A knitting chart is a simple, compact yet comprehensive presentation of a complex knitting pattern.

So why do so many people hate them? Because so many pattern charters are ignorant of the principles of readability. I once spoke to a well-known knitting designer that her design was very hard to read, and she said that it was to give the knitter an overall view of the pattern. I pointed out that that’s what good photo does, and that even though the chart is presented in 2 dimensions (rows and columns), it is knit solely in one dimension (rows), and in the end, she understood.

Let’s go through a few of the visual errors that make charts so hard to follow.

- 1. Grid lines and symbols of the same visual weight. It’s hard to differentiate the instructions from the background if both are the same line weight. Better to make the grid lines much lighter, so they don’t impede eye movement.
- 2. Undifferentiated rows. Sure, most charts number the rows, but it’s easy to lose track of which row you’re working on if one row looks like the next. Better to present rows with alternating, light background colors. Some people use rulers to help find their way; I use light color highlighters on every other tow.
- 3. Long stretches of knit stitches that require the knitter to count the stitches in the chart before knitting the stitches.

Easy to get wrong. One solution: place a number in the center stitch to indicate the stitch count.

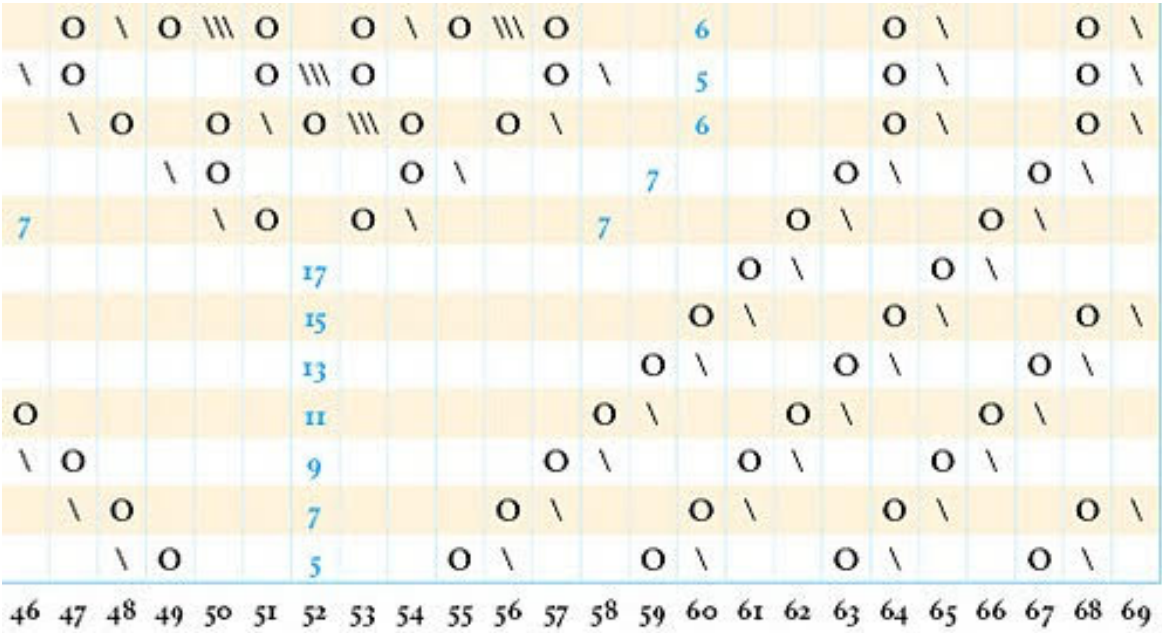
- 4. Unnecessary symbols. In my professional opinion, a knit stitch, as a default, needs only an empty box in the grid. That makes it easier to detect a change of stitch. Any other symbol just adds to visual clutter.
- 5. Unintuitive symbols. Does “B” mean “place bead” or “knit through back loop”? Does “*” mean “purl” or “place bead”? Yes, they will be explained in the chart legend, but that often means shuffling pages to find that legend.

When presented with poorly designed charts, I often redo the charts myself, using a spreadsheet program like Microsoft Excel, or a desktop publishing program like Adobe InDesign. You can see a snippet of such a chart below. Now, as a left-handed knitter, I read the pattern from left to right, and reverse the symbols for knit 2 together and slip, slip knit.

If you have a pattern with an easily read chart, you’re halfway done. If the chart is a mess, you can fix it to some extent with the tips mentioned here.

But you can also contact pattern designers to ask for the improvements that will make you love charts.

Debby Abrahams
Help Table



Key to Symbols

	knit		k2 tog
O	yarn over		k3 tog



2025-2026 Board

President	Ingrid	president@rochesterknitting.org
VicePresidents	Anna & Sharah	vicepresident@rochesterknitting.org
Past President	Margaret	pastpresident@rochesterknitting.org
Secretary	Lisa	secretary@rochesterknitting.org
Treasurer	Heather	treasurer@rochesterknitting.org
Membership	Joan F.& Carol	membership@rochesterknitting.org
Library/Knit Resources	Katy	librarian@rochesterknitting.org
Tech Team	Joan F	webmistress@rochesterknitting.org
Newsletter	Natalie	newsletter@rochesterknitting.org
Community Service	Pat B.	communityservice@rochesterknitting.org
Shop Liaison	Brenda	shopliaison@rochesterknitting.org
Auction	Pat	auction@rochesterknitting.org
Workshops		workshops@rochesterknitting.org
Retreat	Nina	nina.raqueno@gmail.com
Financial Review	Holly	audit@rochesterknitting.org
Directors	Marcie & Kate	director2year@rochesterknitting.org
Publicity	Rachel	publicity@rochesterknitting.org

December Block

Nadine

Our December block provides a little opportunity to learn mosaic crochet. This colorwork technique allows us to introduce color into previous rows, adding dimension to our finished item. As with 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/nadine/>

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.fuzzybunnyarn.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>



RKG Logo Contest

Make your mark on the Rochester Knitting Guild and shape the future of the Guild's look! We're creating a new visual identity to launch with our redesigned website next fall — and we want you to be part of it.

As a reminder, emblem submissions are due by December 21! Submit your design idea for the Guild's new emblem or mark — a visual symbol that represents who we are as a community of fiber artists. Details and guidelines are available at rochesterknitting.org/contest

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

2026 Spring Workshop

SAVE THE DATE!



Saturday, March 28th - In-Person!
Dye With Plants! by Nicole Cleveland, Goldenrod Fiber Studio

Dye With Plants! - Fabric (Class Limit: 12)
Saturday, March 28th, 10:30am - 1:30pm
East Lodge, Churchville Park
101 N Main St, Churchville, NY 14428

**\$40 RKG Member Class Rate/
\$50 Non-Member Class Rate**
***Additional materials fee (\$12 or \$14)**

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.

Dye With Plants! - Yarn (Class Limit: 12)
Saturday, March 28th, 2:30pm - 6:30pm
East Lodge, Churchville Park
101 N Main St, Churchville, NY 14428

**\$50 RKG Member Class Rate/
\$60 Non-Member Class Rate**
***Additional materials fee (\$9 or \$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.



Guild members only registration until February 9th, and we expect classes to fill up fast!
If you don't want to miss out, become a Guild member today!