

News for Ewes

April 2026 Volume XXVI Number



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 Spring! Every day I notice more changes to our natural world - a clutch of snowdrops, two birds chattering away in my backyard, clearly sharing a juicy story, the enormous puddles after a heavy rain. I'm so glad I was able to participate in our guild workshops, held in person for the first time since 2019. We gathered at a lodge in Churchville and used botanical dyes to transform fabric items and yarns into one of a kind treasures. I hope to see some of your handiwork during show and tell at our meeting! Thank you to all who participated in the workshops, to our skilled creative instructor Nicole Cleveland, and especially to Anna Powell for being the driving force behind making our workshops happen this year. Did you know she cooked the wonderful soups offered for lunch? We might need a guild cookbook!

Ingrid Lembach



Upcoming Meetings

All Hands Meetings
April 13th
May 11th (Yarn Auction)
June 8th (picnic)

meeting starts at 7:00

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

Board Meetings
April 20th
May 18th

7:00 via Zoom
Link upon request

April Preview

For our final entry in our sustainability journey for this year, we will be focusing on modifying your existing makes to fit you better. There is nothing more heartbreaking than working on a garment and finding out something just doesn't fit quite right. Whether it is too tight, too loose, or bunches up in a weird way. What do you do then? Rip it all out? Shove it to the back of the closet? Maybe there is another option... let's explore modifying our makes together, in order to get the most out of the effort, time, and yarn we've already invested!

Anna Powell and Sarah Blankenship
Vice Presidents

Last chance to
donate!
Bring your yarn
and tool auction
donations to the
April meeting!

Community Knitting and Auction

Thank you for all the donations at the March meeting and a big thank you to Natalie for covering for me (again!). I will be at the April meeting and will be happy to accept any items you have to donate. As a little extra incentive, for every item you donate, your name gets added to the raffle for two \$25 gift certificates to the member shop of your choice. The two winning names will be drawn at the May meeting. So April and May are your last chance to donate items and be included in this year's raffle.

The April meeting is also the last chance to bring in yarn and tools for the May auction. Remember, the money from the auction goes to support our guild. So please be generous in your donations, and in your bidding at the May meeting!

Pat Butterfield

Shop Liaison

Well, here we are at April . We think of pastel colors, possibly. Definitely flowers are going to start coming up.

This month's feature will be Jerry Burch, of Birch Tree Fibers, who brings many colors year round.

Jerry began dying yarn about 9 years ago. His inspiration comes from the beauty of the things seen everyday. Whether it be flowers or books or movies; each of these play a part of Jerry's color thought.

While working full time during the day, his evenings & weekends are time spent for his craft. It is not limited to dying; but spinning, crocheting, sewing and even acting have been part of his life. Did I mention that running is part of his life also.

Jerry can be reached at www.birchtreefiberartsco.com.

Thank you Jerry for bringing part of the Rochester Knitting Guild!

Brenda Mudd

National Events

Knit for Food

April 11th is the Knit for Food Knit-a-thon. This is a 12-hour knitting marathon to raise funds and awareness for food insecurity. 100% of funds raised will be equally divided between Feeding America, World Central Kitchen, No Kid Hungry, and Meals on Wheels. More information is available at [Modern Daily Knitting](#) or your local participating yarn shop. [Rabbit Row Yarn and Habdashary's](#) social media post reminded me to notify you about this year's event.

Local Yarn Store Day

Local Yarn StoreDay is April 25th. General information can be found at the [LYS Day web site](#) Check with your favorite local shop(s) for specific events. Start with the member shops listed later in this newsletter.

Publicity

Shepherd's Wool Market

The Rochester Knitting Guild will be hosting a casual sit and stitch circle at the Shepherd's Wool Market on May 9, 2026. Come hang out, bring a project to work on and maybe a lawn chair, and chat with us after shopping with local fiber vendors. We'll have space in/around the pavilion outside of the market with other local guilds. This is a great daytime opportunity to show off projects that you're working on, projects you've made recently, and new purchases from the market! We look forward to seeing you there!

Rachel Silva



Hints from the help Table

Questions Answered

So here's the first question I received: Susan Braverman asked about the proper way to knit the SSK (slip 1 stitch, slip the next stitch, knit the two slipped stitches together), noting that one source says to slip both stitches as if to knit, and another source says to slip the first stitch as if to knit, and the second as if to purl.

I explained that both were usable. The slip one purlwise would result in the stitch twisting underneath the topmost stitch, but it was "knitter's call."

Upon further investigation, I found a YouTube video demonstrating not two, but eight ways to knit the SSK. I couldn't find the address for a link, but the title is "Clo knits: I tried 8 variations of SSK to find the best."

Why so many? Because while the knit two together instruction leaves a neat slope, SSK is less tidy. It all has to do with the amount of slack between the slipped stitches. Knitters have grappled with this problem for years, and various solutions have been suggested.

If you are dissatisfied with your SSKs, the YouTube video will help you find the decrease you like.

And here's a tip from Joan Fernbach: "I use small hair claw clips to clip pieces together for sewing, rather than pins - so much easier to work with." Thanks, Joan.

Please feel free to send in your questions and tips so we can all learn together.

helptable@rochesterknitting.org

Debby Abrahams

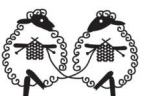
Treasurer

Please remember that RKG is not a business when sending transactions in Venmo. Venmo considers us friends and family. Even though RKG provides many opportunities, they are not taxable goods and services. Venmo takes out a fee for business purchases. If a transaction to RKG is accidentally misclassified, the sender will have to contact Venmo to get the fees refunded. Unfortunately, every transaction must be scrutinized as Venmo tends to default to the business classification. Thanks in advance for your attention to detail and your contribution to the guild.

Heather Lieb

Guild Notes

- *Save the date:* The Guild picnic is back! This strictly social event will be back at at Quinzi Lodge in East Rochester on June 8th.
- The photos in this newsletter are from our Spring workshops and retreat.
- *Miss the January Meeting?:* A recording of our meeting with Jennifer Raymond of the Tinking Turtle is available in the "Members Only" section of the Guild Web site. A password is required but all members in good standing should have received one from our membership team
- *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](mailto:MarcieShapiro@rochesterknitting.org)
- *Upcoming Fiber Events:* The Sheperd's Wool Market is May 9th at the Rush United Methodist Church (10:00 to 4:00 and the CNY Fiber Arts Festival is June 6th and 7th at Herkimer County Fairgrounds. THE WNY Fiber Arts festival is September 26th.
- *Show and Tell:* Remember to bring your projects to share with us
- *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.



Guild Elections

We will be voting for the 2026–2027 Board at our May 11th meeting. The board positions up for election are Director and President (please note that this year's election will include waiving the term limit for the president position.)

Curious about what our board members and volunteers really DO? Here are the (abridged) descriptions of the positions:

Elected Positions

President: oversees the Board and acts as the liaison between the Guild and our member community. Officer elected by majority of the members from a nomination

Vice President: coordinates the monthly programming for the Guild. They may present these lectures themselves or find guest speakers. Officers elected by majority of the members from a nomination

Directors 1 and 2: act as liaison between the Guild membership and the board. If you're not comfortable speaking with the Board directly about a matter, these folks are your advocates. There are two Directors (two years per position) elected by majority of the members from a nomination

Secretary: records the minutes of all business meetings of the Guild and the Board and may carry on necessary correspondence on behalf of the Guild. Officer elected by majority of the members from a nomination

Treasurer: manages the money and financial accounts of the Guild and conducts budget assembly and review. Officer elected by majority of the members from a nomination

Immediate Past President: chairs the Nominating Committee for Board positions. Officer carried from the President position

Voluntary Positions

Financial Reviewer: works with Treasurer to review the Guild's finances and provides a report to the Board. Volunteer



Librarian: maintains library materials and the distribution of Guild resources to members. Volunteer

Membership Coordinator: receives dues and applications for membership and maintains the membership list. Volunteer

Newsletter Coordinator: prepares and distributes the newsletter to Guild members. Volunteer

Community Projects Coordinator: receive donated items and coordinates donation to community organizations. Volunteer

Publicity Coordinator: responsible for all publicity and announcements of the Guild's activities. Volunteer

Shop Liaison: responsible for liaising between Guild Shop members and the Guild. Volunteer

Yarn Auction Coordinator: responsible for the collection and coordination of yarn and other items for the Guild auction. Volunteer

Tech Team: responsible for the maintenance and updating of the Guild's web site. Volunteer

Workshop Team: plans and oversees workshop classes offered to Guild members and community non-members Volunteer



Spring Event Highlights

Dying Workshops

I hope everyone who attended our Spring Workshop enjoyed themselves. I for one was blown away by Nicole's knowledge of her craft and left empowered to continue playing with botanical dyeing, and plan to pick up some dye plants from Nicole at the upcoming Shepherd's Wool Market.

Our workshop weekend was the epitome of a Rochester Spring weekend. 25 degrees with scattered flurries on one day and 55 degrees and sunshine the next. While the outside struggled to make up its mind, our workshop attendees were surrounded by the vibrant colors that Nicole selected for our classes, yummy snacks and hanging out near a cozy fireplace.

I was amazed to see the transformation of everyone's items, and how unique each application was. I hope to see the beautiful dyed items again at any of our upcoming guild events, and please be sure to tag @goldenrodfiberstudio and @rochesterknittingguild in any Instagram posts of your dyed items and anything you end up making with your dyed yarns!

The last little seed I'd like to leave you with is that discussions are happening with Nicole about future collaborations! Stay tuned on our socials for more information!

*Anna
Vice President*



A Wonderful Spring Retreat & Save the Date!

This spring, RKG proudly hosted our 15th Annual Knitting Retreat at Camp Stella Maris, and what a fantastic weekend it was!

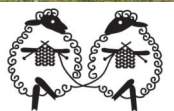
We had record-breaking attendance, with 35 overnight campers and 5 additional participants joining us for Saturday workshops. We kicked off the retreat on Friday with a crochet refresher workshop—a fun way to warm up before diving into the weekend. Later, we gathered for Show 'N' Tell, sharing stories of knitting triumphs and woes alike. The laughter and camaraderie made it a truly memorable evening.

On Saturday, the weather finally cooperated, allowing us to take our group photo outdoors—something everyone appreciated after such a long, rough winter. The day was filled with engaging workshops, relaxed knitting time, and plenty of opportunities to connect. Saturday evening was especially unforgettable, featuring a rollicking game night and special knitting-themed entertainment that kept the fun going.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and made this retreat so special. We're already looking forward to the next one!

Save the date:
16th RKG Spring Knitting Retreat, February 25–28, 2027

*Nina
Retreat Coordinator*



2025—2026 Board

President	Ingrid	president@rochesterknitting.org
VicePresidents	Anna & Sarah	vicepresident@rochesterknitting.org
Past President	Margaret	pastpresident@rochesterknitting.org
Secretary	Lisa	secretary@rochesterknitting.org
Treasurer	Heather	treasurer@rochesterknitting.org
Membership	Joan&Anne	membership@rochesterknitting.org
Library/Knit Resources	Katy	librarian@rochesterknitting.org
Tech Team	Joan, <i>et.al.</i>	webmistress@rochesterknitting.org
Newsletter	Natalie	newsletter@rochesterknitting.org
Community Service	Pat	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

April Block

Maybellene

Named after the Chuck Berry song, this is the perfect way to turn some scraps into a beautiful spring bloom!

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

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.birchtreefiberartsco.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>

