



Dayton Knitting Guild

Call of the Wool

Celebrating 30 years

Volume 29, No. 1

March 2016

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THIS IS WHY I KNIT



I have often been told by non-knitters that it makes no sense to knit an item because I can purchase it at Wal-Mart for a fraction

of the cost. No matter how much I explain that it isn't about the price, non-knitters just don't get it.

A lot of knitters have an item that they always have on the needles. With many of my friends there is always a pair of socks or a preemie hat in a project bag ready to knit when there are a few minutes of free time.

With me, my item of choice is a baby blanket. I hear the argument that baby blankets are a lot of yarn and take a lot of time. I

can sum up my answer just with this photo. This is (was) a blanket I knit four years ago for a pregnant friend of my daughter. The blanket is the most favorite item the four year old boy has. He doesn't go anywhere without his blanket. The mother just sent me the photo as a thank you for making such a cherished item. This is why I knit and this is why I choose to keep knitting baby blankets.

Christine Hall

Do you have a story about what motivates you to knit? Please share it with us at: Callofthewool

UP-CYCLING UNFINISHED OBJECTS

Jenny Smith sent our brains into high gear with her presentation *Up-Cycling UFO's*. She started the talk with a question "Is there anyone here who doesn't have any UFO's?" Being that we are all knitters no one raised their hand.

Jenny took a very analytical look at all of her unfinished projects and came up with several reasons why she didn't finish the project.

The easy reasons are:

I don't like the color of the yarn. Easy to solve, over dye the project or finish it and gift it to someone who does like the color.

How about, the project isn't coming out the way I wanted it to. If you are unclear on a technique, ask someone at the next meeting for help. The guild has an extensive video library that covers an array of



MEET YOUR GUILD MEMBERS

Editors Note: We are starting a new feature story in each issue about our own guild members. Barb Evenson was a clear choice as she is one of the



kindest and most generous people in the guild. Barb is the co-chair for Warm Up the Community project. Her stories of the delivering hats and mittens to delighted children at the local schools inspire us all to knit for children as an act of kindness.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself?

A: I am married and just celebrated our

52nd anniversary last December. We have two children, a son, David, who lives in Denver, who has two daughters.

Our daughter, Susan, who lives in Crystal Lake, Illinois, a bedroom community of Chicago, has two sons. In my previous life, I was a retired registered nurse, working in various fields.

Q: What are you working on now?

A: I do enjoy knitting and making hats, though. Presently, I would like to start making myself a sweater. I just had a stroke, late last year, so I am working on getting my knitting under control, holding my yarn correctly, consistency in gauge, which involves holding my needles correctly. I am a work in progress.

Q: Do you have a favorite hint to share?

A: Many years ago, I was knitting a (Cont. pg. 7)

PATTERN REVIEW WHOORL

I just finished knitting two helix hats. There are several free versions of helix style hats on Ravelry. I highly recommend "Whoorl" by Pepper K. Here is the pattern description from Ravelry:

"Whoorl is a hat worked using the technique of helix knitting. Helix knitting involves working several yarns in continuous spirals, which creates jogless stripes and avoids the need to carry yarn floats up several rows in between color changes. The actual knitting part of helix knitting isn't complicated, but keeping the yarn balls organized to avoid tangling the yarns requires a little concentration."

There is a five-minute video to demonstrate the technique of helix knitting. You can find it here:
<http://youtu.be/yMvRafcvTvM>



The photo below came from Judy Banks. It represents about half of the hats, mittens and scarves donated for Warm Up the Community by members of the Dayton Knitting Guild. See the back page for contact information.



ON THE WEB

I just stumbled onto a great website called issuu.
(<http://issuu.com/>) From the issuu homepage the description states: "Enjoy the largest collection of free-to-read publications from incredible publishers around the globe." Of course this grabbed my attention. I typed in knitting in the search box. Wow!!! There are books, magazines, how to instructions and patterns. New to me is a magazine named Nako. The magazine is produced in Turkey, but the articles are in English. In the issue in the featured picture there are 191 baby and kids pat-

terns. Some of the patterns are absolutely beautiful and made me want to find yarn and needles to start knitting. A small percent of the items were very strange and if a child wore the knitted item to school I think they would be teased by the other children.

Some of the other items featured on the issuu website are *Knitters* magazine, *Knitting for Dummies*, *Simply Knitting* magazine, *Knit much* magazine, and Nancy Merchant's book *Knitting Fresh Brioche*.

My initial thought was how can this be legal? Some of the



books require you to watch a 15 second commercial before you can read it. The magazines contain ads also. This is worth a look.

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A BIT OF KNITTING GUILD HISTORY

Being in a guild meant that you were a highly skilled tradesmen. And yes, they were men. These weren't the domestic knitters that made socks and caps in their spare time to help support the family. These were the "professional knitters," but they were also businessmen and so they controlled quality, quantity, and pricing of knitted goods. If a man could get into a guild, he started as an apprentice for about three years. The next step was to move up to journeyman. As a journeyman, the knitter went to other towns and guilds and studied their craft. After about six years the journeyman had to take a test. Part one was a business test and he would have had to prove he knew the trade inside and out. Part two was a skills test. The journeyman have to knit a really complicated item and do a fantastic job in order to pass. If he passed the exam, he would become a master knitter. To be a master knitter was a big deal. You got to have apprentices of your own; you got to train journeymen. You commanded respect and a nice income. The knitting machine was invented in 1589 (during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I) by William Lee, a clergyman. After the invention of the knitting machine, knitting was gradually taken over by guild-organized cottage industries in the 17th and 18th centuries. There was a noted decline of knitting guilds and hand knitting during this period.

Get the latest news about the guild happenings on



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THE DAYTON KNITTING GUILD CELEBRATES ITS 30TH YEAR

On November 17, 1986 an organizational meeting was held to start a new knitting guild. At this meeting there was an election of officers and chairpersons for various committees. Since the group was starting from scratch, the name "The Dayton Knitting Guild" was selected. The meetings were to be held at 10 Wilmington Place, the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM.

The first elected officers were:

President	Kay Wolff
VP	Rose Peacock
Secretary	Ann Moscon
Treasurer	Mona Secrist

The first regular meeting was scheduled for January 19, 1987. The meeting was cancelled due to treacherous driving conditions. February 16, 1987 turned out to be the official first meeting.

At the February meeting the agenda was as follows:

- Show and Tell
- Business
- How to cast on and when to use various methods
- The history of knitting.

After reviewing old newsletters a few topics of interest became ap-

parent. 1989 the big topic of discussion was the Pretzel sweater. Does anyone remember that? Also in the early days of the guild there were mystery knit-alongs with the pattern clues in the newsletter.

The DKG continued to meet at 10 Wilmington Place until March 20, 1995 when the group moved to its current meeting place, the St. Mary Center.

If you have stories about DKG history please submit them to :
callofthewool@daytonknittingguild.com

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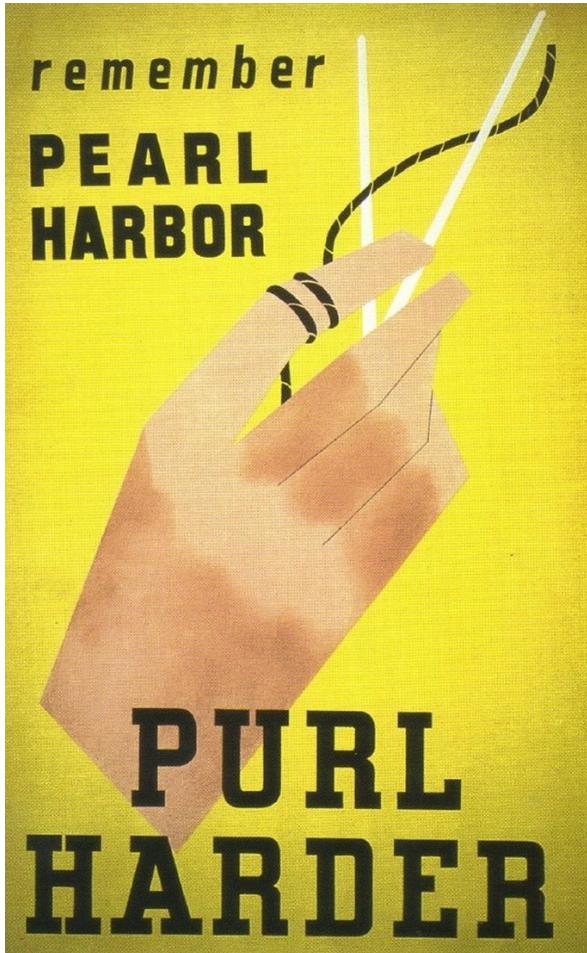
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INTERVIEW (CONT.)

Knitting a sweater for my husband out of Lopi wool, while waiting and having tests in a clinic in Wisconsin. It was humorous because I did not keep track of the gauge and the sweater really seemed to be never ending. My husband is 6 feet 6 inches, so the sweater was **really** long. He says it is warm but a bit cool when it is windy. I am proud of the sweater but wiser about gauge!

Q: Do you have any other interests?

A: I also enjoy sewing and gardening, to keep me busy and out of trouble.

If you would like to be interviewed or would like to suggest someone please send an email to :

callofthewool@DaytonKnittingguild.com

COMING ATTRACtIONS

Mindy Wilkes will be our guest speaker on March 21, 2016. Mindy's most well-known design is the Holden shawl. There have been 8,576 finished Holden shawls posted on Ravelry. Take a look at Mindy's blog:

<http://mindywilkdesdesigns.com/>. At the March meeting Mindy's trunk show will be on display.

Bring your lunch and we will have a knit along to make the Holden Shawl. From February 1 through March 31, all of Mindy's patterns will be 50% off to DKG members with the coupon code "**Dayton**". No limit on use or number of patterns. (Please do not share or post this code as it is exclusive to DKG members.)

PRODUCT REVIEW— THE GLEENER

This is the product description from Amazon.com

- “3 fabric-safe edges quickly and gently remove stubborn fuzz balls from natural and synthetic fibers including; wool, cotton, cashmere, fleece, acrylic, rayon, polyester and more.

Edge #1: ideal for big & bulky pills like those found on heavy woolens, blends and synthetics.

Edge #2: best for medium pilling like those found on cashmere, merino and finer wools. It also works great on fleece.

Edge #3: revitalizes your summer knits, t-shirts and ultra delicates by removing fine pills. For best results, use on an ironing board.

- 2-in-1 fabric care solution includes a handy lint brush to remove pet hair and lint from clothing and upholstery.”

I decided to put the Gleener to my own test. First item was my son-in-law's bulky sweater. It really looked rather sad as it was covered with pills. After less than five minutes with Edge #1 the sweater looked brand new. My son-in-law was quite surprised. My next test item was a finely knit cashmere sweater. The pills were mainly under the armpits. I changed the head to the Edge #2. It took more work with the finer gauge knit, but the pills were easily shaved off and cleaned up with the lint brush on the other side.

We spend a lot of time and money on our knits. I would recommend the Gleener to keep your knitted items looking new. The Gleener sells for \$19.95 on Amazon and at Bed Bath and Beyond (don't forget you can use your 20% off coupon also). Replacement heads are also available. The heads are supposed to last two to three years depending on usage.



HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR KNITTING

SHELLEY STEVENS

We are all addicts of the yarn and needle but how many of us just knit for the fun of it and don't care about the finished product. If you would like to improve your knitting I would suggest that you start entering competitions. When you know that your knits are going to be scrutinized and judged you are more careful in your knitting and finishing. It also helps to know that what you have OTN has to be finished by a certain date. Your county fair is a good place to start. If you don't want to enter this season, at least go to the fair in your county and see the entries. You may be surprised at how well your projects compare to the winners!

I can't speak for every county in Ohio but in some counties your project must have been completed within the last year. To find out what the rules and entry fees are for your county get a copy of your county's Fair Book. Some are available to

download online. This will tell you the dates of the fair and the dates by which you must have your registration and entries ready. You can even register online for some of the county fairs. If you are ready for the big competition, The Ohio State Fair, you must have completed your projects within the last two years. You do not need to win at a county fair to enter the state competition. You can register online but be sure to read all of the requirements and have your paperwork ready when you bring your entries. Go to Ohio-StateFair.com and click on competitions.

Our categories are in the arts and creative arts section. You will need to bring your entries to Columbus a few weeks ahead of the fair as there are so many entries to be judged.

Good luck to all of you! KNIT ON!

2016 OHIO AGRICULTURAL FAIR SCHEDULE

Logan County (Bellefontaine)	July 11-16
Warren County (Lebanon)	July 18-23
Clark County (Springfield)	July 22-29
Shelby County (Sidney)	July 24-July 30
Ohio State Fair (Columbus)	July 27-Aug 7
Preble County (Eaton)	July 31-Aug 6
Greene County (Xenia)	July 31-Aug 6
Champaign County (Urbana)	Aug 5-12
Miami County (Troy)	Aug 12-18
Montgomery County (Dayton)	Aug 31- Sept 5
Highland County (Hillsboro)	Sept 3-10



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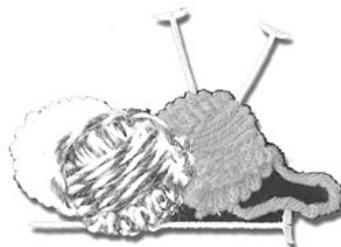
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BOOK REVIEW — *THE PRINCIPLES OF KNITTING*

Buying books is not something I usually recommend. My first choice is to look it up on the Internet or check a book out from the library. *The Principles of Knitting* (revised 2012) by June Hemmons Hiatt is a big exception. This is my go-to book when I have a knitting question. The book is 712 pages of knitting knowledge, in an encyclopedic fashion. Beginning with self-teaching methods and all of the different cast-ons and knitting techniques it progresses to stitch patterns, decreases, increases, making adjustments in fit and design based on stitch patterns, finishing techniques - just everything. Circular knitting, knitting with beads, double-knitting, making allowances for patterns with a slant or an unusual shape are just a few of the techniques and problems surveyed. Solving problems to knitting in general and specific techniques is a part of each section. Color knitting is extensively covered, not only the usual stranded and intarsia knitting but all of the differ-

ent Nordic and other methods of color knitting. It is all here and more. Lavishly illustrated in clear line drawings that demonstrate the techniques this book encompasses a lifetime of knitting expertise. For every knitter who has struggled to master a new technique or fix a seemingly insoluble problem or who has created a garment or item that bore no resemblance to the photograph on the pattern, this book shows you how to troubleshoot and fix.

The Principles of Knitting retails for \$45.00, Amazon \$36.61, Knit Picks \$27.00. Kindle version \$19.99.



RECIPE

Monica MacFarland's Greek Salad

1 head of Bibb lettuce
 8 - 10 oz. baby spinach
 1 small red onion sliced thinly
 1 can garbanzo beans rinsed and drained
 1 can pitted ripe olives
 1 cup marinated artichoke hearts
 1 cup crumbled Feta cheese (4 oz.)

Vinaigrette dressing

½ cup red wine vinegar
 3 cloves garlic, minced
 1 Tablespoon fresh oregano, (1/2 Teaspoon dried)
 ½ teaspoon marjoram (optional)
 3 Tablespoons lemon juice (about one lemon)
 ¾ cup olive oil
 Salt and pepper to taste

Arrange lettuce and spinach on a large platter. Spread onion, garbanzo beans, olives and artichoke hearts over spinach and lettuce. Sprinkle with Feta. Just before serving pour vinaigrette over salad.

FROM THE EDITOR

We have a few personnel changes to report for the guild. First we need to thank Joann McKee for being the newsletter editor for three years. It is a big job and we all appreciate her efforts.

Karen Balk has graciously volunteered to take over the labor intensive membership chairperson position.

I hope you all noticed the new look of the Call of the Wool. Please consider writing an article, for a future newsletter. There are some new features which will be reoccurring in each issue. We will be spotlighting a different guild member, reviewing books, patterns, products and retreats. I am looking for new ideas so please contact me. If you write an article you will be given by-line credit. Articles without by-lines are written by me.

Christine Hall

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ONE RETREAT — TWO VIEWS

Winter Knitting Adventure by Wanda Royer

A winter retreat was held at The Rabbit Hutch in Englewood OH Jan 15-17 2016. Several members from DKG attended and enjoyed one grand time. Double knitting, Entrelac, Brioche, reverse cable, chart reading and Raverly were presented by the most competent knitters!

While classes were being held, other knitters were participating in yarn games that were a lot of fun and prizes were awarded; there was plenty of time for personal knitting and sharing with the others.

The retreat participants were also pampered with massages, manicures, make up and the Exercise man! Food for the week-end was catered and delicious - especially the lasagna and fixings from Tony's. PAMPERED - you bet! Ya'll need to call The Rabbit Hutch (937-540-9292) to receive the newsletter on line.

Winter Knitting Adventure by Valerie Moseley

The Rabbit Hutch Yarn and Bead Shop of Englewood,

Ohio had Winter Retreat 2016 on January 15, 16, and 17. Thirty-one crazy knitters in one small room representing 720.5 years of knitting experience. Each table had a curse jar and at the end of the three days a couple of those jars were very full. The Hutch supplied all the food and drinks for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks for the entire three days. Oh yes, we did do some knitting. There were a variety of classes taught. Brioche, Double Knitting, Entrelac, Navigating the Ravelry website, and learning to use the Knit Companion software were but a few. The retreat games were numerous; many being loud and funny. The prizes were fantastic skeins of quality yarn. There was a lot of cleaning up to do after the game of the Saran Wrap Ball game, a version of the English Pass The Parcel game; as someone forgot to supply dice, so Popcorn was used (A LOT OF POP-CORN).

I do recommend signing up early for any Retreat that is held by The Rabbit Hutch, as the openings fill up quickly. For the procrastinators, there is always a waiting list. But that is gambling on missing a glorious time. Remember, "What happens at The Hutch stays at The Hutch;" is an often heard refrain.



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DKG RETREAT

The annual retreat for the Dayton Knitting Guild will be held April 29 through May 1, 2016 at the Bergamo Retreat Center. The presenter for our retreat is Patty Lyons. Below is her biography from her blog.

Patty Lyons is a nationally recognized knitting teacher and technique expert who is known for teaching the “why” not just the “how” in her pursuit of training the “mindful knitter”. She specializes in sweater design and sharing her love of the much-maligned subjects of gauge and blocking.

After deciding to leave her previous life as a Broadway stage manager to follow her passion and work in the knitting world, Patty managed a New York yarn store, and then in 2008 she joined Lion Brand Yarn to create the Lion Brand Yarn Studio in New York

City, where she served as the Studio Director for five years. Patty now teaches nationally at guilds & knitting shows around the country such as Vogue Knitting LIVE, Knit and Crochet Show (the official show of TKGA and CGOA), and STITCHES. Patty's popular classes can also be found online and on DVDs with Interweave, Annie's and Craftsy, and her “Improve Your Knitting Class” was named Craftsy's most popular class of 2013! Patty designs and knitting skill articles have been published in *Vogue Knitting*, *Interweave Knits*, *Knit Purl*, *Knitter's Magazine*, *Cast On*, *Knit Style*, and *Creative Knitting*, magazines, where she also writes a knitter's advice column called “Patty's Purls of Wisdom”. Patty's designs have also been

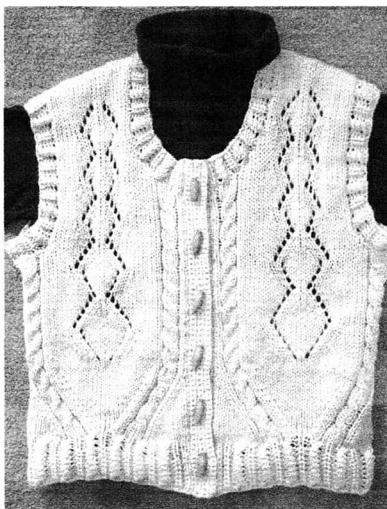
included in pattern collections from Classic Elite, Noro, Cascade, Universal, Tahki Stacy Charles and Kollage Yarns.

Patty loves to knit, crochet, spin and has even dabbled on the knitting machine.

Patty lives in Brooklyn with her husband, a room full of yarn, and her rooftop garden.



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Traci Hummer
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Karen

A letter from Greenmont Elementary School thanking the DKG for the hats and gloves we knit.

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NWAT is Dayton's newest Cascade Distributor of fine yarn. DKG members will receive a 15% discount off of any regularly priced yarn currently in stock including Cascade, mill spun and hand spun yarn.



Guild Information

The purpose of the Dayton Knitting Guild (DKG) shall be to promote interest and skill in the art of knitting, to encourage high standards of quality and workmanship, and to encourage the use of those skills for the benefit of others.

Officers and Board Members

President: Barbara Richardson
president@daytonknittingguild.com

Vice President/Retreat Chair: Heather Janney
vicepresident@daytonknittingguild.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Wanda Royer
treasurer@daytonknittingguild.com

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programs@daytonknittingguild.com

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callofthewool@daytonknittingguild.com

Advertising: Wanda Royer

Website Administrator: Katherine Misegades
katherine@atimetoknit.com

Ravelry Moderators: De-De Heeter, Shelley Stevens,
Valerie Moseley

Blog Moderator: Heather Janney

Vender Relations Chair: Susan Williamson

Dues

Our fiscal year is Sept 1 to Aug 31. Dues are \$15 per year including newsletter. Newsletter subscriptions are \$10 per year. Checks should be made payable to Dayton Knitting Guild.

To join, come to a meeting or contact

Karen Balk.

Annual Retreat

Attendance is limited to 45. Dues-paid members as of the Sept meeting (\$15 per year) have registration priority.

Registration forms must be accompanied by fully paid registration fees. For questions, contact Heather Janney, retreat@daytonknittingguild.com.

Knit-Ins

The hostess will provide beverages. Call the hostess to let her know you will be attending and bring a sack lunch or food to share. If you would like to host a knit-in, contact Kim Kulasa or Lynn McCown.

When you use information or material from our newsletter or web site, please credit these sources as follows:

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Call of the Wool

Our newsletter is published quarterly: Mar 1, June 1, Sept 1, Dec 1. Deadlines for materials submissions are Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1, Nov 1. The editor may edit any materials. Send inquiries about exchanging newsletters or other concerns to

callofthewool@daytonknittingguild.com.

Community Service Projects are collected at our scheduled meetings. These are:

Warm Up the Community

Barbara Evenson and Judy Banks co-chairs
warmupcommunity@daytonknittingguild.com

Members knit caps, ear warmers, mittens, scarves to be distributed through various organizations to keep heads, ears, hands and hearts warm during the winter months.

Dayton VA

Marti Coblenz, chair
vetlaprobes@daytonknittingguild.com

Knitted and crocheted lap robes are delivered to the Dayton Veterans Administration Hospital. Materials must be washable, of any design, colorful and measure about 36" x 42". Ties may be added for wheelchair use. Comfort items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, pens, pencils, combs, and DVDs are also collected.

Preemie Hats

Nancy Newman, chair
mvhpreemiehats@daytonknittingguild.com

Members knit these for the Miami Valley Hospital Neo-natal Center. The hospital uses at least 50 hats per month.

Visit us online at:

www.daytonknittingguild.com

www.daytonknittingguild.wordpress.com/
[Ravelry.com/groups Dayton Knitting Guild](http://Ravelry.com/groups/Dayton+Knitting+Guild)