

Inside this Issue:

President's Message	1
Re-Purposing	1
Book Review	2
A Few Extras	3
Color Theory	4

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THE KNIT STITCH

Minnesota Machine Knitter's Collaborative

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

With summer's arrival, it seems for me for me, knitting has taken a bit of a back seat. Funny though as knitting is most often on my mind. The Machine Knit Community, out of the UK, that Linda introduced us to provides us with great educational opportunities and inspiration which should get me back on track.

Having recently unraveled one & a half sweaters (as if I don't have enough yarn!), the half unraveled is my first project to complete. From the armscye up, to raise that, a bit smaller neck opening and new and narrower sleeves. The other sweater was knit double stranded which became heavy and drape-less will be transformed to something completely different.

Over the last year I have become quite appreciative of Zoom, so that we can see one another albeit from afar, as well as knit together. It is really nice that we can have those who are truly afar join us. Many people have requested that when guild meetings can resume at Textile Center that they provide groups with the technology to still have those who cannot make it to Textile Center join meetings via Zoom. Fingers crossed!

Jane

*Re-purposing Tip
from Maria Ann*

Here's how MariaAnn stores her cast-on combs and keeps them from fighting with each other.

These are cardboard tubes from wrapping paper and paper towels.



Book Review by Cynthia Erickson

'The Prolific Knitting Machine'

By Catherine Cartwright-Jones

Published 1990 by Interweave Press

When I first picked up the Prolific Knitting Machine, I was a very new machine knitter. I had done quite a bit of hand knitting and sewing, but I was never really satisfied with the fit of my garments. Spending hours working on a garment just to have it pull and poof in the wrong place was not fun. I was also knitting for others with...shall we say, "figure challenges", who wanted me to get better.

In her book, Cartwright-Jones writes about the basics of fit, good design, equipment, yarn selection and measurement. She makes garments using the half-fashioning technique, what I know as "Cut and Sew". First, crafting the ribbing and fabric of your sweater in basic shapes, and then cutting the knitted fabric to get personalized fit at the neckline, shoulder, bands, and sleeves completed on the sewing machine. She explains the process well.

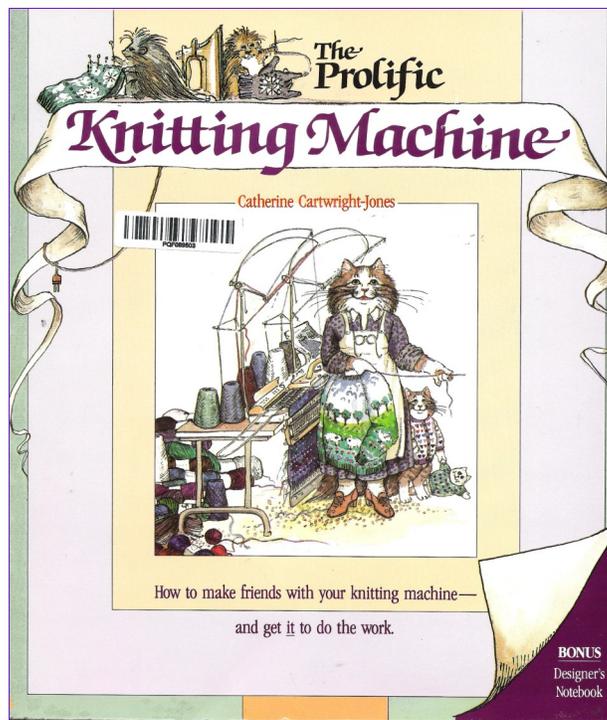
Included in the book are sections on creating half fashioned Drop Shoulder and Raglan Sweaters, English Vests, Capes, Coats, Mittens, Gloves, Caps and Berets. You learn to correctly measure for the best fit and comfort for each type of garment. Each garment type is diagrammed for clarity.

A unique chapter is her discussion of knitting for Extraordinary People, having special fitting needs. She suggests the correct questions to ask and design features to include providing better fit or ease in dressing. Examples include using Velcro closures in place of buttons, adjustments in size to cover needed equipment (such as braces), or the comfort of a sweater that really fits and allows ease of movement when using a wheelchair. Cartwright-Jones also discusses spinning your own yarn for machine knitting in the book. She provides suggestions and tips for those who would like to try it out.

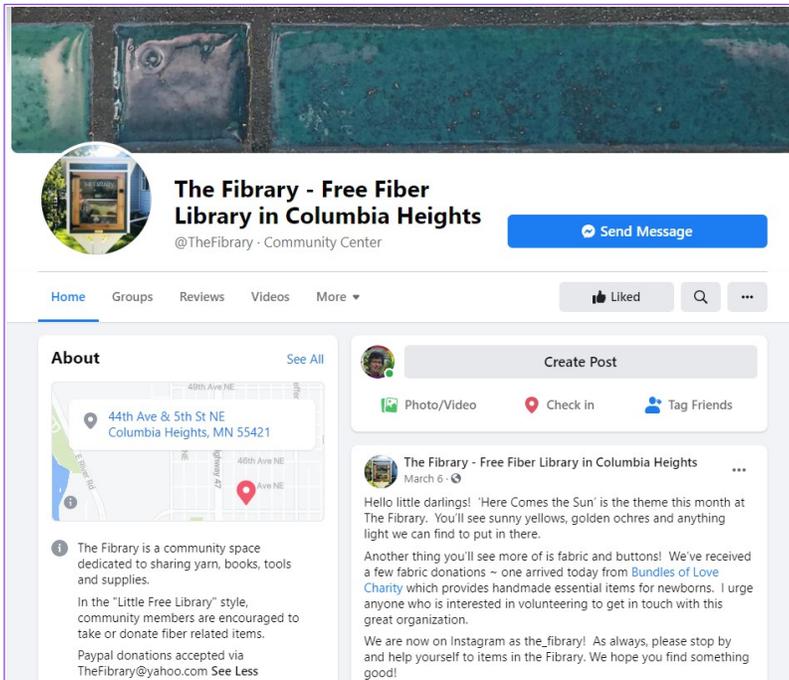
Near the end of her book she includes a chapter titled "When Nothing Goes Right". This chapter hit home for me. We've all been there, totally stuck and trying everything. Any author who offers up "Just Walk Away" and "you could make offerings of chocolate and wine to your machine so that it knits properly" is okay in my book. While half fashioning may not be for you, her book is a fun read and may provide ideas for your next project.

This book is available in The Textile Center library.

Editor's note: I have this book in my library, too, and originally picked it up because I thought it would be fun to use my hand spun yarn on my machine (that's not going to happen for me, lol). I find the pictures fun and numerous. All of the author's illustrations are hand-drawn and most of her models are cats, with a few dogs, mice, bunnies, and hedgehogs thrown in!



A few extras.....



If you're looking for a place to donate yarn or fabric, or maybe pick up some new crafting materials, consider **The Fibrary** located at the public library in Columbia Heights.

They have a presence on both FaceBook and Instagram ("the_fibrary"). As in the tradition of Little Free Libraries, it is always open!

Location is 44th Ave & 5th St., Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Coming Soon!

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

Planning to enter something wonderful into the MN State Fair 2021 competition? You can get registration and entry information online at:

<https://www.mnstatefair.org/competitions/creative-activities/>

Our members regularly win ribbons and gain accolades from thousands of visitors every year. MMKC has such fun in the annual program after the fair ends when we show off our creations and share what the judges have written. It pretty cool to be standing at a display case listening to folks oohing and aahing over an item they wish they could touch. I love to say to my companions, just loud enough for strangers to hear, "I know that person; they're so talented!"

Registration opened on June 7. Note that all individuals must register entries online or via mail BEFORE entry closing on **Aug. 10 at 4:30 p.m.**, and you must be a resident of Minnesota.

Jane N. provided this color chart for your reference from a previous MMKC program in 2013.



Color Theory



Color Wheel



Analogous Colors

Choose a color and then select the two shades of color that are on both sides on the color wheel for a harmonious effect.



Complementary Colors

Choose a color and then select the one color opposite on the color wheel for a striking effect.



Split Complementary Colors

Choose a color; then pick the two colors on both sides of the color directly opposite from the first color chosen.

Information by: Deramores