

The Conscientious Knitter

November 2007

Exploring Community, Social Justice, Environmental Respect and Spirituality through Knitting.
"We Get the Point"

Auction Action: Who Was that Mysterious Woman?

Those who came to the live auction saw the completed Baby Trousseau in all its glory. When dropped off at the sanctuary prior to the event, one volunteer greeted it by saying, "It almost makes me want to have another one!"

The project was definitely a triumph of collaboration, as nine different knitters contributed a total of 12 projects to the Moses basket that was auctioned off at the UUCF fund raiser on November 18th. The knitters included Laureen Branting, Su Davis, Martha Johnson, Connie Lehman, Laura Miller, Jean Moore, Ann Richards, Mary Tripp, and Joanna Walker. And the final bid? \$275. And that's not all! Many people who were unfamiliar with the Consciences Knitters commented on the basket, we were able to help UUCF through doing something we enjoy, and someone's baby will have a very special gift.

Many contributors are curious as to just who will receive the Baby

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Above, the Baby Trousseau on display in the Moses basket. Left, newborn sweaters knit by Laureen Branting with the collaborative baby blanket.

Cool Company: EcoHandbags



As the weather grows colder and the holidays approach, a young knitter's fancy turns to...knitting bags! And what better place to get the most stylish bags for a gift or for yourself than Eco-Handbags? "Eco-Handbags.ca specializes in offering the conscientious consumer, chic, unique and fashionable handbags created from recycled and eco-friendly materials."

These fine and fanciful items are made of such things as candy wrappers, album covers, pop-tops, newspaper, zippers, men's ties and juice boxes.

In addition to recycled materials, Eco-Handbags also uses such earth friendly fibers as bamboo, jute and hemp. Eco-Handbags was started in 2006 by Marisa Ramondo

and is a division of Alexram Internet Services. Its headquarters are in Montreal, Quebec.

If the bags themselves weren't enough, their web site reports that "Eco-Handbags.ca is a member of 1% For the Planet, an alliance of small businesses that pay a voluntary earth tax and donate 1% of all sales to non-profit, non-governmental environmental organizations. For more information please visit: www.onepercentfortheplanet.org"

While not all of Eco-Handbags are right for knitting projects, the savvy shopper will find a number of bags that are needle-prick resistant, have small pockets, and can be closed on top if so desired.



Auction Action, con't



Trousseau, and at the time of this newsletter's distribution, that is still a big mystery. Who was that mysterious woman in the

back of the room? We promise to spend the holidays sleuthing, and report to you in the December newsletter who won the Moses Basket.

Truly, the baby who ends up wearing the many lovely items in the set will be a lucky child. The set included the basket itself (decorated with lace and with a custom made mattress) a rolled edge sweater, a poncho, two newborn sweaters, three caps and two sets of booties, a bib, four toy blocks, a sweater with ducks, a bunting and matching hat, a bath towel, and a baby blanket made collaboratively by six knitters. Done primarily in white Baby Coordinates yarn, the trousseau had color accents in pink, blue, purple, green and yellow.

Many thanks to all those who helped with this project, and Laureen Branting in particular. It was Laureen who engineered the whole process, from the idea to picking out yarn and assigning projects, not to mention knitting a number of the projects herself. Many thanks, Laureen, for a job well done.



Yarn Exchange Stories

The Conscientious Knitters held their first yarn exchange on Sunday, November 18, in conjunction with the UUCF Bazaar. Several people stopped by, many with questions such as "Where is Uniquities?" "Do you know where I can get size 10 1/2 double pointed needles?" "What do Conscientious Knitters do?" and "How do you knot slippery yarn?"

In addition to questions, many visitors donated yarn. Several brought in bags, and a few also took yarn and equipment home. Collecting all that yarn was a humbling experience. People gave the yarn they had used for baby blankets, a sweater for a daughter, and many other precious and warmly remembered projects.

The most touching donation came from Robin, whose daughter Casey was a knitter. When Casey passed away, Robin couldn't bring herself to throw away the needles and yarn Casey had been using. They had been sitting in Casey's closet for several months, when Robin saw the notice in the newsletter about the Yarn Exchange. "I knew just what to do with them then," she explained.

We are honored to accept Casey's knitting things, and gratified to know that they will be used by other grateful knitters to create objects of love for those near (friends and family) and far (school children in Puriang India.)

Many thanks to all those who participated in the Yarn Exchange. We hope to do a similar event in the future.



Mitten Tree Alert!

While you may be trimming your own tree at home, the one at the back of the sanctuary will be especially beautiful this year. You may remember the mitten tree for the Beacon House kids from past Decembers, and coordinator Kerry Fraser says they'll be doing that again this year. Mittens, scarfs and hats will be collected for both Beacon House and FACETS on a Christmas tree in the back of the sanctuary. Grade school sizes in any color or fiber content are welcome.



As the past, the tree will have a tag for each child at Beacon House, and participants are encouraged to take one and buy a special present for that child. The same tree will then double as a mitten (and hat and scarf) tree and as the tags disappear, it will become covered with winter wear.

The tree will go up this Sunday, December 2, giving knitters (and shoppers if you prefer to buy them) a couple weeks to donate items.

Snips and Scraps: Gift Card Holder

My grandmother was a recycler long before it became the norm. After every Christmas, she would pick up the paper used to wrap large gifts, trim off the wrinkles and tape, then carefully fold it to wrap smaller packages the following year. I remembered this tradition when gift bags came in vogue: we have some that have been passed down like heirlooms from year to year, one with the same tag affixed meaning it can only be used for one specific gift recipient.

With our current emphasis on reuse, gift givers have become ever more creative in their wrapping. This month, just in time for the holidays, we feature a gift card wrap in the shape of a mitten. Not only does it use up stash scraps, but it can be reused from year to year, or hung as an ornament on a door or tree.

Quick to make on size 8 needles, the sample here is a snowy white, but it may be easily decorated with embroidery or duplicate stitch if desired.

Little Mitten

Materials: Small amount of worsted weight (4) yarn
Size 8 double point needles
Markers and holders (or contrasting color yarn for the purpose)
Yarn needle
Gauge: 4½ st to the inch (but don't sweat it)

Mitten

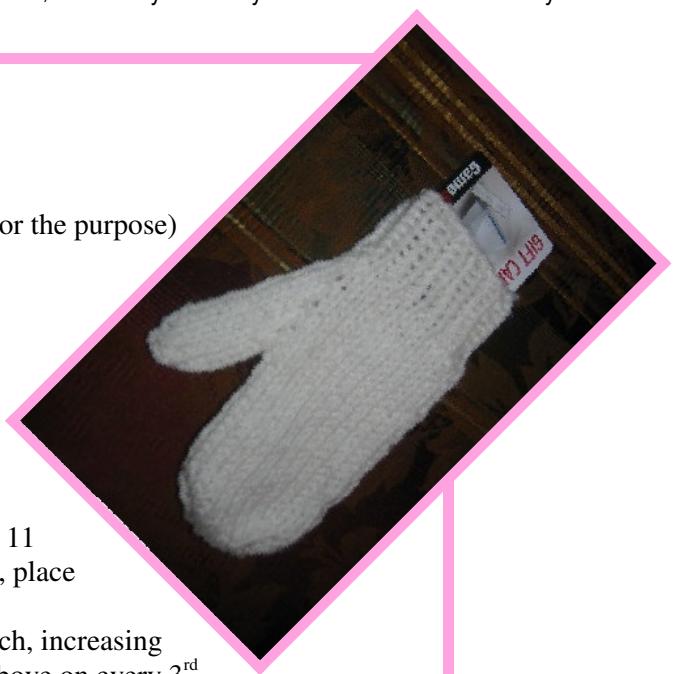
Cuff: CO 22 stitches, join
Rounds 1-8: K1, P1 ribbing
Round 9: K1, P1 ribbing, increasing one (23 stitches)
Hand: Round 1: Change to stockinette stitch. K across 11 stitches, place marker, increase 1, k1, increase 1, place marker, knit to end of round
Rounds 2-10: Continue to knit in stockinette stitch, increasing after first marker and before second marker as above on every 3rd round 3 more times. (9 stitches between markers)
Round 11: Knit to markers, slip stitches from between markers onto holder, drop markers, co1, and continue knitting around. (23 stitches)
Continue knitting in stockinette stitch until piece measures 2" above thumbhole, ending in column above thumbhole.

Mitten Top: Round 1: sl1 k1 pss0, k7, k2 tog, sl1 k1 pss0, k8, k2 tog
Round 2: sl1 k1 pss0, k5, k2 tog, sl1 k1 pss0, k6, k2 tog
Round 3: sl1 k1 pss0, k3, k2 tog, sl1 k1 pss0, k4, k2 tog (9 stitches remain)
Using yarn needle and kitchner stitch, weave the remaining stitches together. Cut yarn, pull tail through to inside of mitten, knot and weave in end.

Thumb: Slip stitches from holder onto dp needles, and pick up 2 stitches at the top of the thumb hole (11 stitches)
Round 1: K around, decreasing 2 stitches at the top of the thumb hole (9 stitches)
Rearrange needles if necessary so there are 3 stitches on each one.
K around in stockinette stitch for 1" from thumbhole

Thumb Top: Round 1: decrease first stitch on each needle (k2tog) (6 stitches)
Round 2: decrease one stitch on each needle (3 stitches)
Cut yarn and using yarn needle draw tail through remaining 3 stitches. Pull tail through to inside of mitten, knot and weave in end.

Ann Richards Ann@BassetLane.com



Conscientious Calendar



Wednesday, November 28 Regular Conscientious Knitter drop-in meeting. 7:30 p.m. UUCF Program Building. For more information contact Ann Richards at Ann@BassetLane.com.



Sunday, December 2 The Mitten/Hat/Scarf tree goes up in the back of the sanctuary, inviting donations for Beacon House and FACETs.



Wednesday, January 23 Regular Conscientious Knitter drop-in meeting. 7:30 p.m. UUCF Program Building. For more information contact Ann Richards at Ann@BassetLane.com.



March through mid-April Purling for Puriang sweaters featured on the Art Wall in the UUCF sanctuary. For more information, check with Laureen Brantinl at brantinl@hotmail.com

Knitter's Knots

- For more information about Conscientious Knitting programs, contact Ann Richards at Ann@BassetLane.com
- For more information about UUCF Adult Religious Exploration, check out the web site at www.uucf.org.
- Want to register for Conscientious Knitters '07-'08? Dues are \$10 for drop-in sessions, workshops and social justice knitting opportunities. Call treasurer Wini Atlas at 703-938-5640, or come by a drop-in meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the month.
- For back issues of The Conscientious Knitter and an article index, check out www.conscientiousknitters.com.
- There will be no Conscientious Knitters drop-in meeting in December.

Conscientious Knitters
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