



BAKG 20th Anniversary Luncheon Gala September 24, 2011

After many months of planning, it's hard to believe that our luncheon has come and gone. I have so many wonderful memories of the day that it's hard to know where to begin. But I thought I would start by giving you a behind the scenes look at some of the work that went into preparing for the event. Since chairing the luncheon for the past three years, one of my absolutely favorite days is the one devoted to packing up the wonderful door prizes and goodie bags that are so generously donated by friends of our guild. This year, Barbara Becker, Rosa Gentile, Beverly Katz, and Jane Martin gathered at my home a week before the luncheon to assemble all the materials. As you can see from the photos, we had a blast.



Getting all these materials to the luncheon is another matter. But there are no worries when Susan Simon and her husband Tom are involved: For the past three years, with the precision of a military operation, they have shown up at my door at the appointed time with two cars, and have ferried me and all the stuff to the restaurant. Thank you Susan and Tom!

By popular request, we returned to Arno Ristorante, a wonderful northern Italian restaurant in the heart of New York's fashion district. But this time, we took advantage of Arno's private ballroom—an elegant and roomy space, it allowed for easy schmoozing among friends. Below are Linda Cheu and Lucia Boseli (left) checking people in and offering raffle tickets. BAKG Vice President Gladys Melchior assisted (right), and President, Rosa Gentile, was on hand (center) to greet folks as they walked to the ballroom door.



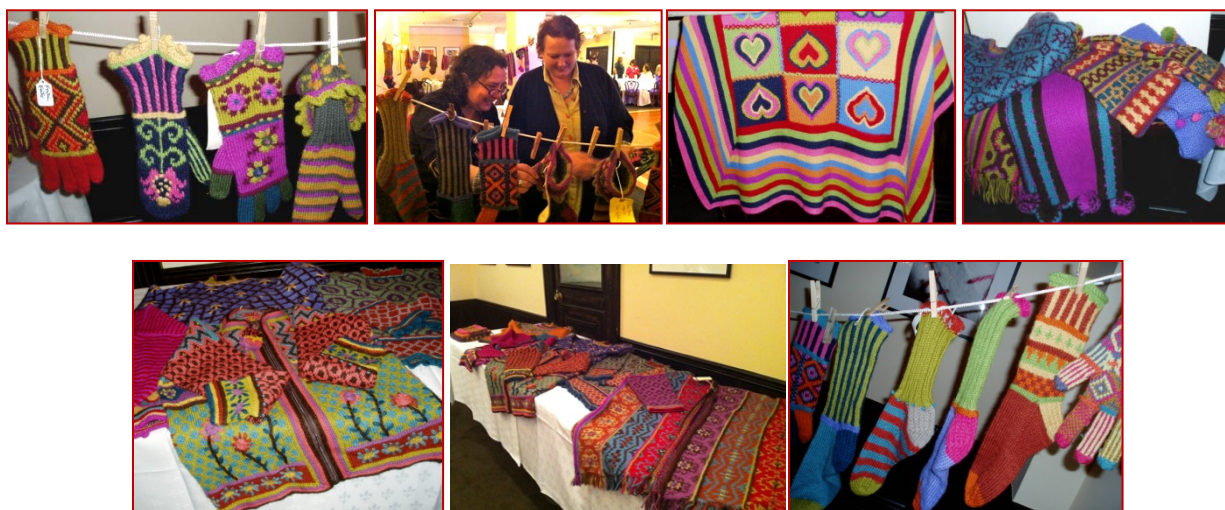
This year, 77 vendors supported us with fabulous yarns, knitting kits, knitting needles and totes, DVDs, gift certificates, and more. As people entered the ballroom, our team stood ready to hand out door prizes (below left). Judging from all the smiling faces, luncheon attendees were quite thrilled with their gifts. The names of our luncheon sponsors are listed at the end of my commentary. I truly hope you will thank our supporters for their generosity by selecting them for all your knitting needs.



We were especially delighted to welcome our wonderful guest speaker, Kristin Nicholas—legendary decorative artist, knitwear designer, teacher, and author. And as an added treat, Kristin (below left with me) was joined by her lovely daughter Julia and justly proud mom Nancy (below right). They are at once Kristin's creative muses and backup team. We were so happy to meet them.



If you recall, September 24th was a cloudy, gray day. But it was not at all dreary inside our ballroom! Kristin brightened up the entire place with an assortment of her gorgeous knitted creations, which were both hung and stretched out across tables. Below is just a sampling of her beautiful work.



Kristin's very enjoyable presentation focused on how she builds color into her knitwear. With her natural eye for color, Kristin showed us how she draws inspiration from many sources, including plants and flowers, ethnic textiles, Persian carpets, and her day-to-day life on a sheep farm, and how that all translates into her designs. Below are just a couple of the many beautiful images Kristin shared with us.



Kristin also graciously served as judge for BAKG's colorwork fashion show. We had many entries, most knitted and some even crocheted (we are truly a group of free spirits!). But five contestants, who were brave enough to enter their colorwork creations, won a personally autographed copy of Kristin's book, *Color by Kristin*, generously donated by SoHo Publishing. They included Laura Swain with a slip stitch cardigan inspired by fall foliage, Marcela Zappi with a Fair Isle beret and (one) hand warmer, Maryse Delatour with a colorful child's vest of her own design, Carol Muster with a multicolored sweater of her own design, and Natascha Davis who entered an assortment of lovely items, including an entrelac baby blanket and the Rose Trellis Cardigan, designed by Donna Kay.

We had a really fun-packed day, and many of us were pretty tired by the end of it. Our youngest BAKG member, Tatiana Schwartz's beautiful daughter Alicia, in her lovely hand knit outfit (courtesy of grandma Raye Schwartz) had no qualms about dozing off for a bit.



I extend my deepest thanks to all those who helped in putting together this wonderful event. Thanks to luncheon committee members Bonny Glisker, Jeanne Gold, and Beverly Katz who assisted in rounding up all our fabulous door prizes, and to Barbara Becker, Rosa Gentile, Beverly Katz, and Jane Martin for helping to assemble and distribute our goodie bags and door prizes. Many thanks also to Susan Simon and her husband Tom who delivered every item safely, and to our treasurer Janet Kelly who tracked our luncheon income and expenses. Special thanks go to Raye Schwartz and Mimi Hug for their audiovisual support and to Mimi Hug, Rosa Gentile, and Eileen Cheung for providing the lovely photos you see here. Finally, thanks to Merle Bolonkin, Lucia Boseli, Linda Cheu, and Gladys Melchior, who in addition to others already mentioned, provided on-site logistical support. And thanks to all of you who made our efforts all so worthwhile.

Helene Young
Luncheon Chair

BAKG 20th Anniversary Luncheon Gala Sponsors

Anzula	Artfibers	Artyarns
Berroco Yarn	Bijou Basin Ranch	Blue Heron Yarns
Blue Sky Alpacas	Boye Needles	Brittany Needles
Brown Sheep	Buffalo Gold Premium Fibers	Caron International
Cascade Yarns	Classic Elite Yarns	Claudia Hand Painted Yarns
Colonial Needle	Cottage Creations	Crystal Palace Yarns
Denise Knitting & Crochet	Fleece Artist	Green Mountain Spinnery
Halcyon Yarn	Harrisville Designs	HeartStrings FiberArts
HiyaHiya-USA	Hunt Valley Cashmere	Imperial Stock Ranch Yarn
Interweave Press	Jade Sapphire	Juniper Moon Farm
Kelbourne Woolens	Knitting Fever	Knitty City
LaLana Wools	Lion Brand Yarn	Lorna's Laces
Louet North America	Madelinetosh	Malabrigo Yarn
Mango Moon Yarns	Manos del Uruguay	Misti Alpaca
Moonrise Lace Knitting	Morehouse Merino Farm	Mountain Colors
Muench Yarns	Ozark Handspun	Pagewood Farm
Peace Fleece	Plymouth Yarn Company	Schaefer Yarn Company
Schoolhouse Press	Seacoast Handpainted Yarns	Skacel Collection
SoHo Publishing	Sticks & Strings	Stitchuary
Sundara Yarn	Swans Island	SweetGeorgia Yarns
Tahki Stacy Charles	Tess Designer Yarns	The Knit Kit
The Knitting Guild Association	The Mannings	The Yarn Company
The Yarn Sisters/Zealana	The Yarn Tree	Tom Bihn
Tradewind Knitwear Designs	Tunney Wool Company/O-Wool	Walker Bags
WEBS	Westminster Fibers	Yarn Barn of Kansas
Yarn & Craft Box	XRX Publications	