

2019 Annual BAKG Luncheon Barbara Becker

Without question, the highlight of Guild activities every year is the BAKG Luncheon! This year's event took place on Saturday, September 28, at Tony's Di Napoli Restaurant in midtown Manhattan. The setting was comfortable, and the Italian food—as always—was plentiful and delicious. As in the past, tickets to this much-anticipated event, ably coordinated by **Nikki Kowalski** and her team of hard-working volunteers, sold out quickly—in two weeks, in fact. (Just something to keep in mind when tickets to next year's event go on sale....)



Luncheon Manager Nikki Kowalski speaks to the group. Photo: copyright Robin Platzer/Twin Images

Guest Speaker: Anne Hanson

Our guest speaker was Anne Hanson of [KnitSpot](#) and Bare Naked Wools. Anne came from her home base in Canton, Ohio, with a wealth of advice in her presentation, “Out of the Closet: Knitting for Real Life.”

In her talk, whose overall theme was knitting things you will love and use, Anne urged us to be realistic about what we will knit and what we will wear. She reminded us to resist the “evil temptress” that knitting can sometimes be, when

yet another colorway of a favorite yarn becomes available, or an overly complicated, challenging pattern teases us to cast on. Rather, Anne advised, evaluate patterns for comfort, fun, wearability and coordination with your existing wardrobe. Focus on styles that will flatter your body in fibers that are comfortable for you to wear. Consider the versatility of neutral colors, and the ability of texture to add interest in place of color. Knit with your luxury yarns so you can enjoy them now, rather than saving them for later. She even encouraged us to set deadlines for project completion, but take the time to “finish strong” with careful blocking and seaming techniques. Finally, Anne said, if you’ve knit something you’re proud to wear, show it off!



Luncheon speaker Anne Hanson. Photo: copyright Robin Platzer/Twin Images

“From My Wardrobe” Contest

As is our tradition, there was a contest that related to the theme of the luncheon presentation. Attendees were invited to enter a knitted garment or accessory that they wear a lot and are proud of having made. Anne kindly provided the prizes and, as is also our tradition, she was the judge.

Winners in the clothing category were: **Elaine Linet** for her Aspen Yoke sweater and **Neslie**

Jacques for her Scandinavian pattern sweater. In the accessories category, the winners were **Sue Simon** for her Jo-Jo scarf, and **Norine Grodin** for a shawl of her own design.

You can read about many of the other wonderful entries elsewhere in this issue.



The winners in the clothing category were Elaine Linet (with Anne Hanson, above) and Neslie Jacques (below). Photos: copyright Robin Platzer/Twin Images



Susie Simon (above) and Norine Grodin (below), both won for their entries in the accessories category. Photos: copyright Robin Platzer/Twin Images



Raffles

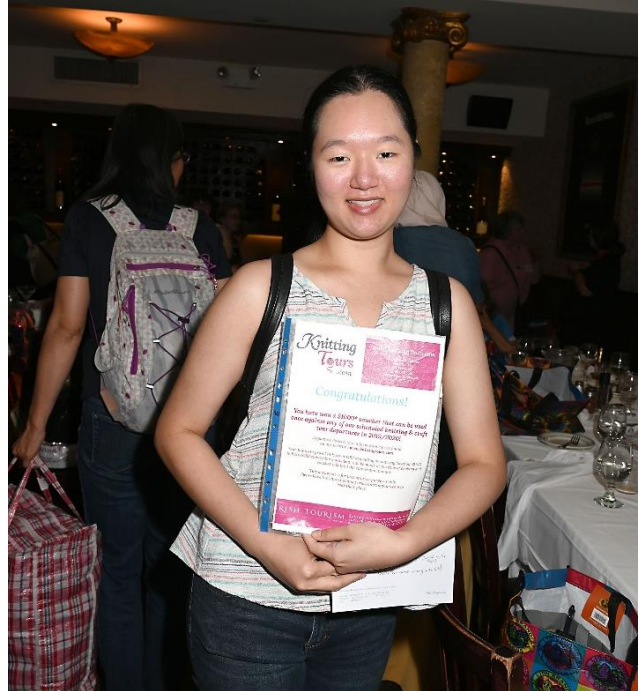
This year there were three different raffles for Luncheon attendees to try their luck at—each one different, and each one very, very special.

As she has done in the past, **Rosa Gentile** assembled a gorgeous and generous luxury yarn collection, this time bundled in a beautiful Vera Bradley duffle bag. **Rollie Abkowitz** was the lucky winner of this gift, which also contained quite a bonus: a \$150 gift certificate from WEBS.



Rollie Abkowitz with the highly sought-after bag/luxury yarn/gift certificate prize. Photo: copyright Robin Platzer/Twin Images

Knittingtours.com, part of the Irish Tourism group, donated a \$1,000 discount on a 2020 trip to Ireland, Scotland, or other destination from among their offerings. **Kelsey Lee** was the lucky and very happy winner of this extra-special prize.



Kelsey Lee, winner of the tour coupon. Photo: copyright Robin Platzer/Twin Images

Each year we also hold a “50/50” raffle. **Allyson Agathis**, sister of **Carren Shulman**, won the raffle, which generated \$665 in ticket sales, half of which went to Allyson and the other half to BAGG.



Allyson Agathis won the 50/50 raffle. Photo: copyright Robin Platzer/Twin Images

Goody Bags

As we all know, it wouldn't be a BAKG luncheon without goody bags! Each of the 115 attendees received a large Lion Brand tote bag filled with knitting treats of all kinds: yarn, notions, discount coupons, pamphlets or maybe even a book, all courtesy of the large group of generous vendors listed below. The contents of each goody bag are always a little different, so each one is a surprise. Goody-bag gifts often introduce us to new yarns or new designers, or to a really useful new tool that we didn't know existed. Please thank the gift donors by patronizing their businesses when you shop, and let them know, if possible, that you're grateful for their support of the Big Apple Knitters Guild.



A multitude of goody bags (above), and some happy recipients (below). Photo: copyright Robin Platzer/Twin Images



BAKG Cookies

Goody bags have traditionally been calorie-free, but not this year! BAKG member Charmaine Jones (also known as the "Cake Diva") pulled off an extraordinary feat by baking and hand decorating a gorgeous cookie for each of the 115 goody bags. Baked in a variety of flavors and decorated in different icing "colorways," each cookie said "BAKG" and actually looked like a piece of hand knitting. Amazing! If you went to the luncheon, be sure to thank Charmaine when you see her at a general meeting. And next time anyone needs a cake or cookies for a special event, just let Charmaine know.



Charmaine Jones proudly displays the BAKG-themed Cake Diva cookies. Photo: copyright Robin Platzer/Twin Images

Thank You, Luncheon Volunteers!

Any undertaking of this magnitude requires a dedicated band of volunteers, who put in countless hours in the months and weeks leading up to the event. Many thanks to **Barbara Becker, Anne Chubbuck, Arlene Cohen, Natascha Davis, Lilyan De Angelis, Jill Eisner, Rosa Gentile, Neslie Jacques, Beverly Katz, Nikki Kowalski, Nancy**

Lee, Mary Langevin, Evelyne Louis-Jacques, Jane Martin, Kathy Nathan, Robin Platzer, Robin Sanderson, Gopa Shah, CarrenShulman, RodicaTenenbaum, Janice Vrana and Helene Young under the leadership of Nikki Kowalski.



Luncheon volunteers with speaker Anne Hanson in their midst. Photo: copyright Robin Platzer/Twin Images

Lion Brand Yarns • Long Island Yarn & Farm • Loopy Mango • Lorna's Laces • Lost City Knits • M & J Trimming • Malabrigo • Manos (Fairmount Fibers) • Miss Babs • MoorehouseFarm Merino • mYak-Tibetan Fibers • Neighborhood Fiber • Nicky Epstein • North Light Fibers • Orange Flower Yarn • Patty Lyons • Plymouth Yarn • Purl Soho • RosehavenAlpacas • Schoolhouse Press • Spin-rite • StevenBe • String Yarns • Swift Yarns • Traveling Yarn • Universal Yarn • Vera Bradley • The Warm Ewe • We Are Knitters • WEBS • WestKnits • White Barn Farm Sheep and Wool • Wooly Wonka • Woolyn • The Yarn and Craft Box • Yarn Culture • Yarn Over New York

Thank You, Goody Bag Donors

Companies and individuals whose generous donations to the goody bags include the following. If you visit their stores or websites, or run into them at knitting events, please be sure to tell them how much you appreciated their generosity!

3 Green Sisters • A Hundred Ravens • Adiron-dack Yarns • Anonymous Donor • Annie and Company • AnzulaLuxury Fibers • Bar-Maids • BattenkillFibers • Bead Biz • BerrocoYarn • Brooklyn Tweed • Brown Sheep Co. • Cake Diva • Cascade Yarns • Catskill Merino • CG Naturals • ChurchmouseYarns & Teas • Clinton Hill Cashmere • Cloud9 Fibers • Clover • Craftsy • Dancing Leaf • DMC Corp. • Done Roving Yarns • Dragon-fly Fibers • Eucalan • Green Mountain Spinnery • Hunt Valley Cashmere • Indian Lake Artisans • Jade Sapphire • Jan Marek Racz-kowskiStudio • Jimmy Beans Wool • Katrinkles • Kelbourne-Woolens • Knitting Fever Inc. • Knitsalldone • KnitChats • knitCompanion • KnitPicks • Knitting Fever • The Knitting Place • Knitting Tours • Knitting Traditions • KnittyCity •