

## A Look Back at the DHKG

Twenty-one years ago on July 2, 1991, 6 women had an idea to start a knitting project.

Those women were Judy Gamper – the instigator – Sue Tuley, the first ever president, Carol Groves to whom we are forever grateful for a wonderfully perfect Texas logo, Susan Corser, Sheryl Dial and Carol Walser – who introduced me to the Guild.

That group was our swatch for the project we know as the Dallas Hand Knitter's Guild.

Little did these women know that it would be a never-ending project.

Over the last twenty years we have gone from 6 original members to over 125 – sometimes as many as 192 members in one year. The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tea invitations went to a total of 600 past and present members.

So what has happened in the last 20 years?

Well, we've had 18 Presidents. They were:

Sue Tuley, Linda Ramsey, Sabrina Brown, Sandy Melton, Sheryl Dial, Patricia Kalthoff, Susan Corser, Sabrina Brown, Jackie Merriman, Libby Patterson, Rojean Taylor, Leahe Serpan, Sheryl Dial, Betty Kay Seibt, Lea Lohstreter, Maki Roberts, Gigi Firth, Mary Jo Mundell, Denise Clair and Suzuko Davis.

Leading us into the next 20 years, is Melissa Tedora, our current president.

It has always seemed that we've had the same old people as president, yet we've only had two repeats –Sabrina and Sheryl. However, I will say that many of our presidents have served in many other capacities on our board over the years.

Our workshops have included teachers from all over the US and abroad, including:

Melba Kerley, Alice Starmore,  
Nancy Bush, Carol Anderson,  
Olga Federova, Mary Egelston,  
Wendy Keele, Maureen Mason-Jamieson,  
Jackie Erickson-Schweitzer,  
Joan Schrouder, (2x)  
Nancie Wiseman (2X),  
Suzanne Thompson (twice),  
Gloria Tracy (2x)  
Candace Eisner Strick, (2X), and for  
a whopping 9 workshops – Beth Brown-Reinsel

We have dyed yarn in indigo, learned about yarn from buffalo, llamas, alpacas, sheep, goats, rabbits, and more.

We have had 4 retreats from the first at Heavenly Acres, one at Lake Texahoma and our last two at Sky Ranch.

Over the years, we have had various fundraisers including a red bag, an natural canvas bag, a blue sock bag, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary pin and charm, plus worm bags (ask an old member), mugs, and probably others that I am forgetting.

We have had a table or booth at the Celtic Festival, Dallas Blooms, The Texas State Fair, the Quilt Show, Knit Out and Crochet Too, The Plano Blackland Prairie Festival, Channel 5 Health Fit Expo and other fun events.

In other words, we've made our presence known, including a few mentions in the Dallas Morning News.

As with most projects, we have had to rip out a few rows and re-knit them. We have had tangled yarn in losing our meeting place at Walnut Hill recreation Center to meeting in a few places not so conducive to knitting, to now having the lovely Hockaday to call home, thanks to Lea Lohstreter's husband Pete.

And like most yarn, our members have been a varied lot, from as young as around 10 to I don't know how old, but all are welcome in this project we are working on.

We have dropped stitches along the way with members moving away (sometimes coming back – Libby & myself – sometimes remaining a member from afar, such as Patricia Kalthoff, Julie Harris, Susan Corser and many others.

Those stitches we have picked up again with new members; others we have lost due to death and those remain as lace stitches in this project we are working on – not forgotten, just holes in the knitting and in our hearts.

After receiving the invite to this tea, one member's husband sent me a lovely email informing me of his wife's death and asked us to remember Janet Sholty on our Memorial Page.

It saddened me that we did not have a Memorial Page, but we are going to fix that and start one, thanks to Ed Sholty.

Besides workshops and retreats, the Guild has educated Brownies, boys at the Dallas Arboretum, quilters, Celtic fans and many more. We have had bees, bears and bunnies as our mascots and assorted other creatures. We have knitted caps for premies, socks for Bosnia, blankets and socks for soldiers and probably the best thing is to donate yarn to the Women's Prison in Fort Worth so women not as fortunate as ourselves can learn to knit and do something positive for the first time in their lives by giving back to the community as all the items they knit are donated.

Guild members have entered projects too numerous to count in the State Fair, and for several years, had an opportunity to win a \$100 DHKG Best of Show award. Unfortunately, the Fair stopped this practice. But we continue to enter items for blue ribbons and bragging rights.

The Golden Needle Award –started by Sandy Melton - in 1994-1995 is given annually by the President to the guild member who has done the most to move the guild forward. The recipients are as follows:

Sheryl Dial,  
Betty Kay Seibt and Ann Gerasi,  
Kris Elliott  
Judy Gamper  
Libby Patterson  
Julie Harris  
Marsha Semple  
Marsha Semple  
Margo Lynne Hablutzel  
Christina Lee  
Jackie Merriman  
Lea Lohstreter  
Sheryl Dial  
Regina Beach and Erica Finch  
Patricia Kalthoff  
Denise Clair  
Sabrina Brown

As I finish, I want to thank everyone who has been a member for 1 year or 20 and hope you will continue to support this project that 6 women started so many years ago. And remember no matter how difficult a project is, you can rip it out and start over – because it 's just two sticks and some string!