



The Center for Knit and Crochet, Inc.
2015 Annual Report

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Center for Knit and Crochet (CKC) thanks all its members and donors for supporting the CKC with vital resources in 2015, and its directors and volunteers for generously sharing their time, energy, and expertise to enable us to pursue our goal of creating a virtual museum for knitting and crochet.

The CKC continues to benefit from the leadership of professionals with diverse experiences and credentials. Thanks are due to the CKC's officers, Vice President Jolie Elder, Secretary Nicole H. Scalessa, Treasurer Marilyn J. Huset, and directors, Karen D. Kendrick-Hands, Founder; Mary Colucci; Lilly Marsh; Myrna A.I. Stahman; and Barbara S. Tuceling, who gave generously of their time and expertise in 2015. The Board of Directors also thanks these volunteers for contributing their professional skills and experience to the work of the CKC in 2015: Dr. Angharad Thomas and Beth Brown-Reinsel, Co-curators of the CKC's inaugural online exhibition: [*Sanquhar Gloves: A Living Scottish Tradition*](#), and Rebecca Keyel, who served as the exhibition's Technical Editor; Edie Eckman, Crochet Advisor to the Nomenclature Committee; and Kristi Gersbach, Membership Coordinator. Please see our [website](#) for CKC Board of Directors' and volunteers' biographies and contact information.

Our financial health and accomplishments in 2015 are outlined below.

Jennifer Lindsay
President

FINANCIAL REPORT

The CKC improved its financial situation during the 2015 fiscal year. Generous donations from Board members and others highlighted the 2015 financial operations. Karen D. Kendrick-Hands, the CKC's founder, and an active member of CKC's Board of Directors, donated \$5,000 to the CKC – a donation that has made it possible for the CKC to apply to receive additional funds from a matching donations program. She called her donation “seed money for those of us who revere knitting and crochet and wish to both preserve and promote these arts.” In that spirit, the CKC will begin to use this generous donation in 2016 to research the technical expertise, hardware, software, and institutional partnerships needed to develop a digital repository of resources, including high-quality images, significant to the preservation and promotion of the art, craft, and scholarship of knitting, crochet, and related arts. Larry Hands and Karen Kendrick-Hands also donated the office space that serves as the CKC's corporate headquarters in Madison, WI, and the Constant Contact subscription service for marketing the CKC and facilitating correspondence with CKC members. Secretary Nicole Scalessa donated \$2,500 in design services for the CKC's inaugural online exhibition on Sanquhar Gloves, and Board of Directors members donated their expenses totaling \$1,817 for attending an in-person board meeting. As in 2014, Trisha Malcolm, Editor of Vogue Knitting, generously waived the cost of the CKC's table at Vogue Knitting LIVE in November of 2015 so that the CKC could plan to promote the online exhibition at this event in January of 2016.

2015 Financial Statements:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Variance</u>
<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>			
<u>Assets</u>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 12,209	\$ 5,945	\$ 6,264
Prepaid Expenses	160	145	15
Total Current Assets	\$ 12,368	\$ 6,090	\$ 6,279
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 12,368	\$ 6,090	\$ 6,279
<u>Liabilities and Equity</u>			
Accounts Payable	\$ 71	\$ -	\$ 71
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 71	\$ -	\$ 71
Total Liabilities	\$ 71	\$ -	\$ 71
<u>Equity</u>			
Net Assets - Unrestricted	\$ 12,297	\$ 6,090	\$ 6,208
Total Equity	\$ 12,297	\$ 6,090	\$ 6,208
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 12,368	\$ 6,090	\$ 6,279
<u>PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT</u>			
<u>Income</u>			
Donations and Gifts	\$ 11,187	\$ 7,765	\$ 3,422
Membership Dues	1,295	2,975	(1,680)
Interest Earned	3	2	1
Total Income	\$ 12,485	\$ 10,742	\$ 1,743
<u>Expenses</u>			
Administration	\$ 2,347	\$ 649	\$ 1,698
Advertising and Promotion	170	5,398	(5,228)
Organizational Expenses	-	1,850	(1,850)
Program Expenses	2,561	-	2,561
Rent Expense	1,200	1,200	-
Total Expenses	\$ 6,278	\$ 9,096	\$ (2,819)
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ 6,208	\$ 1,646	\$ 4,562

ACCOMPLISHMENTS in 2015

Inaugural Online Exhibition: [*Sanquhar Gloves -- A Living Scottish Tradition*](#)

Background:

In November of 2014, CKC's Founder Karen Kendrick-Hands and Vice President Jolie Elder approached [Dr. Angharad Thomas](#) and [Beth Brown-Reinsel](#) about co-curating an exhibition on Sanquhar gloves for CKC's website. The collection of hand knitted Sanquhar gloves that Dr. Thomas shared at CKC's founding Symposium in November of 2012 served as the inspiration for the exhibition. Dr. Thomas maintains a regular blog, [Knitting Gloves](#), documenting her experiments in this historical technique, started [The Glove Project](#), and currently serves as an Archivist for the Knitting and Crochet Guild of the UK. Ms. Brown-Reinsel of [Knitting Traditions](#) is a noted author and designer widely recognized in the US for her intensive workshops and videos on traditional knitting techniques, including how to knit Sanquhar gloves.

Overview:

In [*Sanquhar Gloves: A Living Scottish Tradition*](#), Dr. Thomas and Ms. Brown-Reinsel move online visitors through the history, preservation efforts, distinguishing characteristics, and specialized knitting techniques associated with making and appreciating Sanquhar gloves today. They provide images of their own and from contributing individuals and institutions that enrich and support the scholarship presented, and bring the visitor forward into contemporary interpretations of these regionally developed patterns and techniques. The exhibition, under development throughout 2015, launched online and at Vogue Knitting LIVE in New York in January 2016.

On behalf of CKC, Vice President Jolie Elder served as Exhibition Coordinator. President Jennifer Lindsay provided review and oversight, shaping the scope and content of the exhibition to reflect the CKC's interests in offering a panoramic view of the subject matter with access to primary resources that facilitate ongoing scholarship and enjoyment. CKC Volunteer, Rebecca Keyel, a Ph.D. candidate in the University of Wisconsin-Madison's School of Human Ecology, served as technical editor to proof and format the citations and bibliography. Secretary Nicole Scalessa designed the crisp and professional presentation of the exhibition for CKC's website as an easy-to-access, mobile-friendly interface. The exhibition is accessible to anyone who has a computer or mobile device, anywhere, at any time.

In sum, this inaugural exhibition exemplifies the high quality resources the CKC will continue to deliver to its members and the public on historical and contemporary knitting and crochet.

Annual Membership Review:

In 2015, the CKC ended the year with 38 members. The Board thanks Kristi Gersbach, who volunteered for the first six months of 2015 as the CKC's Membership Coordinator, for her extraordinary dedication and hard work acknowledging all new members and keeping current

members up to date on their membership status. In 2016, the CKC Board has renewed efforts to reconnect with former members and to recruit new members.

Annual CKC Website, Blog, and Social Media Review:

The CKC thanks Secretary Nicole Scalessa for continuing to oversee maintenance and delivery of new content on the [CKC's website](#), and social media outlets (Facebook and Twitter). In 2015, [CKC's Blog](#) offered seventeen original, substantive blog posts from Board members and guest bloggers on diverse topics ranging from Victorian era beaded purses and knitting propaganda from World Wars I and II to contemporary exhibition reviews. During 2015, the CKC website garnered nearly 13,781 unique visitors (an increase of 97% since 2014), nearly 37,050 visits (an increase of 147% since 2014), and nearly 138,274 page views (an increase of 176% since 2014). Ms. Scalessa also manages the [CKC's Twitter feed](#), and the [CKC's Facebook page](#), which ended 2015 with 1588 "Likes." The CKC's Ravelry Group, led by Vice President Jolie Elder, ended 2015 with 198 followers.

President Jennifer Lindsay consulted in 2015 with CKC officers and a volunteer legal advisor to create the first of several basic agreements that will facilitate online submission of proposals for blog posts and future exhibitions, improve transparency, and streamline how permissions to publish images and content are secured. Other upgrades will enable more fluid communication with CKC members and supporters. These new systems will be rolled out on CKC's website as they are completed in 2016.

2015 Nomenclature Committee Report:

The Nomenclature Committee, formed in 2014, was made possible by the generous contribution of time and expertise by President Jennifer Lindsay, Nomenclature Committee Chair, and [June Hemmons Hiatt](#), knitting expert and noted author of *The Principles of Knitting: Methods and Techniques of Hand Knitting*, Touchstone Press, rev. ed. 2012.

Ms. Hiatt developed a concise yet comprehensive framework for identifying and describing knitted and crocheted objects that contained the essential general classifications applicable to both knitting and crochet, and special terminology for knitting. In 2015, [Edie Eckman](#), a noted crochet expert, designer, author, and instructor, reviewed the proposed general classifications for completeness as to crochet, and developed the special crochet terminology.

In 2016, the Nomenclature Committee will develop and seek Board approval for a plan to solicit review and comment on the CKC Nomenclature from curators and experts in knitting, crochet, and related textile traditions, and from experts in digital information management for online collections. Vice President Jolie Elder will oversee this effort as the new Chair of the Nomenclature committee when she leaves the CKC Board of Directors in 2016.

As outlined more fully in [CKC's 2014 Annual Report](#), once the work to vet and establish the CKC

Nomenclature as standard frame of reference is complete, the CKC Nomenclature will enable individuals and institutions to add meaningful and historically accurate terminology and terms of art to what is currently known about knitted and crocheted objects in their care, facilitating future scholarship and exhibitions across international collections. The CKC Nomenclature will also be used to organize and disseminate the metadata collected within the Technology Committee’s proposed mentoring system. As outlined more fully in [CKC’s 2014 Annual Report](#), CKC will function as a mentoring institution, supporting the digitization and standardized cataloging of knit and crochet collections in under-resourced institutions, and then gathering and disseminating this shared metadata from a lightweight central hub or portal that would lead everyone interested in the subject matter to collections that are otherwise hidden from view, in cooperation with partner institutions; participating galleries, libraries, archives, museums; historic sites; local history societies; and collectors.

CKC Board of Directors:

In 2015 the CKC Board began a rotation of service designed to maintain a balance of new energy and consistency in organizational leadership by ensuring that three of the nine Board member positions are open for re-election each year at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors. Action taken at the 2015 Annual Meeting scheduled director terms to expire as follows:

2016	2017	2018
Mary Colucci	Karen Kendrick-Hands	Marilyn J. Huset
Jolie Elder	Myrna A. I. Stahman	Jennifer Lindsay
Lilly Marsh	Barbara S. Tuceling	Nicole Scalessa

At the close of 2015, Vice President Jolie Elder gave notice that she desired to leave the CKC Board to spend more time designing, writing, and teaching workshops. In January of 2016, Myrna A. I. Stahman, a founding Board member, retired attorney, avid lace knitter, and collector, also resigned to spend more time writing a new book on lace knitting and enjoying her grandchildren. We are deeply indebted to these two dedicated, generous, and productive Board members. After serving so exceptionally as Vice President and as Exhibition Coordinator for the CKC’s first online exhibition, the CKC Board is thrilled that Ms. Elder has agreed to assume the role of Chair of the Nomenclature Committee after she leaves the Board.

The current Nominating Committee is Secretary Nicole Scalessa (Committee Chair); Treasurer Marilyn Huset; and Mary Colucci. Ms. Colucci intended to step down in 2016, but graciously agreed to serve an additional year on the CKC Board, and was elected to fill Ms. Stahman’s remaining one-year term. In 2016, the Nominating Committee solicited nominations from Board members and members, and interviewed and thoughtfully evaluated the qualifications of the candidates who expressed interest in serving on the Board of Directors to understand how their skills and experiences could best help CKC move forward.

The Nominating Committee has recommended three nominees to serve on the CKC Board of Directors, each for a term of three years, starting in 2016. The election of these new and renewing Directors will take place at the Annual Meeting on April 28, 2016, and will be generally announced immediately following the meeting.

CKC Volunteers:

Volunteers continue to be important to the ongoing productivity of the CKC. Accordingly, Ms. Scalessa has added an online form to our website to solicit information about the volunteer interests of new and renewing members. Information collected in this manner is improving efficiency in matching volunteers to opportunities. In 2016 CKC will recruit a Social Media Coordinator, a Membership Coordinator, and a Volunteer Coordinator.

2015 in REVIEW; LOOKING AHEAD to 2016:

2015 was a year of tremendous online growth for CKC. The number of visitors to CKC's website nearly doubled in 2015, and they spent substantial time reviewing the content published there - an important goal. CKC also developed its first online exhibition, [*Sanquhar Gloves: A Living Scottish Tradition*](#) – it exemplifies the high quality resources CKC will continue to provide to members and the public in the future. CKC's Founder, Karen Kendrick-Hands, made a substantial and generous donation of \$5000 to support CKC's future growth; she hopes this donation will stimulate individuals who value knitting and crochet to donate generously to CKC to see these arts more widely exhibited and studied.

CKC is already building on last year's successes in 2016. Membership has nearly doubled since the *Sanquhar Gloves* exhibition launched online and at Vogue Knitting LIVE in January of 2016. CKC attracted a talented new class of candidates for its Board of Directors who will help CKC move forward as both Directors and volunteers. Finally, CKC recently received a matching grant of \$5000 from the Mead Witter Foundation, Inc. of Wisconsin in support of Karen Kendrick-Hands' generous donation. These funds will be used to research the development of the digital repository for knitting, crochet and related arts that CKC has always envisioned.

In 2016, the CKC will continue to use its website and social media outlets to share rich and engaging content, and to connect professionals, practitioners, scholars, collectors, enthusiasts, and the public with its mission to preserve and promote the art, craft, and scholarship of knitting, crochet, and related arts. The CKC's growing digital presence will continue to be a critical asset in the virtual museum's success as we plan for the future.