

Entrée to Entrelac...a presentation by Gwen Bortner

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On Thursday, July 14th about 45 guild members enjoyed a presentation Gwen by Bortner, author of 'Entrée to Entrelac'.

Before introducing Gwen, Robyn Schragger spoke about it being Bastille Day, the day celebrated by the French to mark the beginning of the French Revolution. Madame Defarge, one of the most famous knitting characters, is the relentless villain in Charles Dickens' *The Tale of Two Cities*. It started out that she was part of a group who wanted equal rights for all citizens, but in mob fashion stripped those very rights from many innocents. She is famous for her knitting because she just passively sat and listened to the revolutionary organizers and knitted the names of those they wanted dead. What a way to use ones knitting skills! There were many hangings during this period and women would knit while they watched. Knitting and a little TV is definitely a better combination.

Gwen told us that the book was 25 years in the making and although she anticipated that it would be a lot of work, it was more than she could have imagined. The book is arranged so that basics and easier projects appear first, with the projects increasing in complexity. We had the opportunity to see quite a few of the projects up close. Gwen talked about the nature of entrelac being often easier for a beginning knitter to master than an experienced knitter because a beginning knitter will follow the instructions while an experienced knitter will tend to over-think the directions. Gwen interjected many interesting stories about how the projects came to me and it really brought them to life. She gave a wonderful presentation that was followed by a question time. Everyone attending received a booklet with a pattern for the 'Market Scarf'.

Following Gwen's lecture we enjoyed a cake, brought by Jean Rosenfeld, that was decorated with pink roses and sparkling sugar to be reminiscent of diamonds for the "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend" theme for the workshops. The Creve Coeur Government Center was a good choice for the venue, being a conveniently located, spacious spot that would make a great place to consider for future events.