

Neglected

Dear Blog:

Forgive me, great blog in the sky. It has been almost a month since my last post.

Ok, I'm not Roman Catholic, so I don't know what the next lines should be, but I am so glad that, as far as I know, that blogs do not get mad or sad. Blog readers might feel a tiny bit neglected, and I am sorry. There has been a lot happening, with vacation, a 90th birthday, a business trip, and adventure.

We'll have to do this in spurts to catch up, so first let me say that catching up on my vacation was a wonderful thing for my body. I am so glad that I went down to Monterey, which is in my experience, one of the most beautiful areas in California. Now, in winter, this can be an iffy proposition, but I lucked out. See?



I stayed in a lovely Inn called, [Old St. Angela Inn](#) in Pacific Grove, which is right next to

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Monterey, and a little quieter with amazing restaurants. See what a great room I had?



Seriously, between the bed and the chairs by the fireplace, I really didn't have to leave the room to have a wonderful time (and thanks be to the wonderful gift of the iPad, which makes all of this quite lovely!

Perhaps most importantly, Pacific Grove has a *great* yarn store called [Monarch Knitting](#). Seriously, even if you don't like the ocean, going to the store will be worth your while. The owner and staff are great, and they got me onto a lovely Knit-along, (KAL) called [Kinetik](#).

I am not generally a KAL kind of knitter. Knitting takes a lot of time, unlike, say, sewing, so I want to knit things that will be happy about, and with a KAL, you don't really know. But Laura Nelkins is a great designer, and she had a yarn and beads lace KAL planned. I'd seen the ads on Ravelry, but again, because I'm not a KAL girl, I didn't sign-up.

But at Monarch Knitting, two of the staff were doing the KAL, and they showed me their swatches and the first clue knit, and I realized that this was likely to turn out to be something that I would like. Since they are a great yarn store, there was plenty of fingering weight yarn to choose from, and they had the beads too! So, with a credit card in hand, I got all the materials, and purchased the KAL.

Honestly, it's been a while since my knitting skills have been challenged, and it was good to have that happen again. Lot's of beads were a new thing for me, and it took a bit of changing up the technique to get things working, but I did manage it.

Here's a photo of an early part of my project from this pattern:

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I also worked on some mittens for my twitter friend Cheryl:

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And with that, part 1 of the catch-up postings is done. I still have more to report including

- how to rock while turning 90 (my mom, Helen, not me)
- More knitting for Afghans for Afghans
- Kinetic progress
- and why my stupid phone is pretty smart.

BTW - I will be at Stitches West next week, just for the day on either Friday or Saturday - anybody else going? Would love to say hi!