

I like January. The holidays—pleasant and busy though they are—are always “long enough.” We are ready for the regular routine to resume. Cookie baking is just an occasional activity now, and food is plainer and kinder to our bodies. The garden seed order is in the mail, and we don’t have to think about starting seedlings for spring yet. So, it is a perfect time for projects that we don’t have time to consider during other months of the year.

The looms are empty of warp now, and though I have some ideas about what I want to weave next, I haven’t made any definite plans. And, I have a knitting project that I intend to finish before warping the loom again.

A friend and I have an ongoing series of “parallel” projects that involve wool in one way or another. We decide on our “rules,” and then each go about using those guidelines to produce something. But, we do not tell each other what we are making. When we are both finished, we reveal our creations. I have my item less than half finished now, while she has long since completed her project. So, January this year will see mine done, too.

But, the premier “project person” was here today. I have a cousin who is full of ideas. Some she gleans from books, the internet, or other people. Many, though, she comes up with on her own. Often with help from her husband, she hones and polishes an idea and adapts it to her subjects—her friends, my sister and other relatives, and me. We have made Lenten scarves, each week of that period knitting a section in a particular pattern, and we almost always—at this time of year—receive a “mystery knit.” These don’t usually take very long, and they are always intriguing, as she provides everything needed to make some clever little thing.

Her project for us this time, though, will take us all year. This is not because we have to work hours and hours on it, but because there is a commitment to what we are making each day. This daily enterprise will result in a winter scarf, but one with special attributes.

This is a Temperature Scarf for 2017. Each day, one notes the temperature—at noon, the instructions say—and then a row must be knit in a color that is chosen according to a coded temperature/ color scheme. I

am modifying those instructions, and I am going to knit two scarves—a morning scarf and an evening scarf. I never take note of the temperature at noon, but I do jot it down in the morning, and I can do the same late in the day.

The plan is to knit one row each day with the following colors: Gray for 0 or less (Fahrenheit), purple for 1-10, dark blue for 11-20, medium blue for 21-30, teal for 31-40, green for 41-50, light green for 51-60, yellow for 61-70, orange for 71-80, red for 81-90, and wine color for anything over 90 degrees.

Our benefactress supplied all the necessary yarn, plus scissors and a yarn needle, and, of course, a spreadsheet to record our temperatures. I am using my own yarn, though, since I have enough of all colors necessary to make the two scarves I will knit to show the difference between morning and evening temperatures this year.

Another friend has been making a “sky scarf.” She and her husband have been “on the road” for a couple of years, and she began knitting a scarf that mimicked the color of the sky each day. She said, though, that she began to lose interest after they’d been in one of the desert states for a time, and she was tired of knitting blue.

I’m sure our temperature scarves will vary in color a great deal this year. For my own part, I hope to have no rows in wine color (over 90 degrees F.) and not too many in red (81-90). A chilly winter and a nice, cool summer with just enough warm days to ripen the tomatoes would suit me just fine.