

# Cablegram

## Whoopee, Let's Party December 2nd

Our meeting in December is always reserved for our annual Holiday Party! Please join us on **Wednesday, December 2, 2009, doors open at 6:30 p.m., festivities underway at 7:00 p.m.**, for an evening of good food, great conversation, knitting and fabulous door prizes.

Be sure to get your **Raffle** ticket (free to members!) at the door. The Guild Board members have been purchasing **\$25 gift certificates** from local yarn shops to raffle off to you! It has always been a great way to say thanks to everyone for all the marvelous support during the year. Board members are also hard at work soliciting knitting-related gifts from yarn companies and/or local shops to raffle off to Guild members.

One of the highlights of the Holiday Party is the **Gift Exchange**. This is totally optional; to participate bring a wrapped gift — not to exceed \$15 in total cost. We pile 'em on a table and everyone who brings a gift picks another present from the pile!

In addition to great prizes and gifts, the other highlight of the evening is the wonderful **Potluck** supper we share. Whatever your fancy — a main dish, salad or dessert — please bring something to share. We will provide coffee and tea, cutlery, plates and cups. (It's helpful if you provide appropriate serving utensils, and a list of ingredients for those who may have allergies.)

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**Looking Ahead:**  
 January 6: Tanya Parieaux of  
 KNIT FOR LIFE  
 February 10: Madrona Fiber  
 Arts Retreat Guest  
**(Note February change of  
 meeting date!)**  
 See back cover for more info

## Jared Flood Draws Crowd

*SKG gets the scoop on Jared's rise to the top in the knitting universe.*

So many members and guests showed up to hear Jared Flood speak to the Guild for our November meeting that we had to remove the back wall of the Sanctuary to seat everyone despite transferring the meeting upstairs to the larger space. By unofficial count we had nearly 200 in the audience and signed up 13 of them as new members. *Continued on page 4*



Photo Charisa Martin Cairn

## Board Members

**Thanks goes to following members who volunteer their time:**

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## Notes from the Board

We had approximately 200 people attend Jared Flood's program. It was great to see so many new faces and be able to introduce the Guild to new people. We received 13 new memberships after the program with many others waiting until January to join.

Christina Cheng is our new Hospitality Chair. She will be responsible for the kitchen during events when the kitchen is used, and will send cards to members to honor life events. In addition, Christina will have the ability to organize committees to run big events, such as group attendance at fiber festivals or yarn crawls. Christina is smart and enthusiastic and a great addition to the Board. Please give her a warm welcome at the next member meeting.

While our monthly Board

meetings are required for Board members, they are also open to anyone who is interested in how the Guild runs. We have made the



Terri Peña

decision to move these meetings to the second Wednesday of the month. This change will give the Newsletter Editor some extra time to put together the Cablegram.

The Board decided to hold membership rates at the current level. We will readdress the topic in June.

We brainstormed many ideas for the 2010 KAL. The consensus was lace, in all its forms. Please visit our Ravelry group to vote on your favorites. If you are not able to vote via Ravelry, we will have a voting box set up at the Holiday Party. Results will be announced at the end of the evening. — Terri Peña

## Hospitality

Hello Seattle Knitters Guild. Thank you so much for the opportunity to be your new Hospitality Coordinator. I'd like to take this opportunity to say a little about myself and knitting. I dabbled in knitting about six years ago, working from a book called *Learn to Knit in Just One Day*. I found that I loved buying yarn and had grandiose ideas about what I would one day make. But I found that the more complicated patterns were just too difficult for me and my interest started to go in other directions. Then last year around this time I started working for the City of Seattle where I met Evanne. I was instantly a reborn knitter! It fascinated me seeing what Evanne was creating. Every few weeks she brought in a different project. I was hooked. I became so enthusiastic about learning from her. This led to meeting more knitters at Thursday knitting lunches, Dye Day, and now the Seattle Knitters Guild. I love to cook so look for me at the refreshments counter at all the monthly guild meetings. Besides my love of cooking, food, and knitting, I also enjoy bowling, traveling, and a good movie. I am excited and thrilled about this new position and I look forward to meeting everyone at the next guild meeting. — Christina Cheng



Christina Cheng



Our November meeting with Jared Flood. Where were you?

## Membership Notes

### Kathy Hightower

Please plan to renew your membership for 2010 in January, either in person at the January meeting, or by mail. The membership form is available on our web site: [www.seattleknittersguild.org/join.html](http://www.seattleknittersguild.org/join.html)

Quite a number of Jared Flood fans joined us in November! Welcome to new members: Christina Cheng, Lynda Dowell, Gabrielle M Green, Kathie Jordan, Zina Reh, Holly Bergstrom, Charisa Martin Cairn, Jule Castner, Dan Desmarais, Carla Johnson, Cecelia McGowan, Megan McGowan, Jeanne Miller, Jessica Steiner, Kim Swingle

## Library Report

Thank you Churchmouse Yarns for donating a copy of *Made in Brooklyn* by Jared Flood to the Guild's Library.

We also wish to thank Susanna Hansson for her book donations of *Swing, Swagger and Drape* and *Bohus Stickning!*

Please everyone who has had a book or two checked out of the library for two months or more remember to RETURN them at the December Party or contact the Librarian

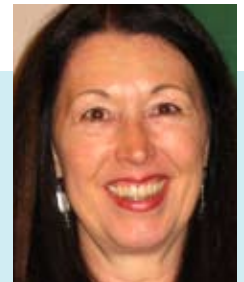
Thanks! — *Devorah Verburg-Sachs, Librarian*



Devorah Verburg-Sachs

## Knitter's Calendar

- ☛ December 6, Christmas Craft Markets, lace Knitting with Myrna Stahman, [www.craftcruises.com](http://www.craftcruises.com)
- ☛ December 4-6, NWRSA 2030 Retreat, Gwinwood Conference Center, Lacey WA, contact Ruth Haworth [ruthmhaworth@msn.com](mailto:ruthmhaworth@msn.com)
- ☛ December 8th, Entrelac Scarf Class with Coralie Meslin at Tricoter, Seattle, WA
- ☛ January 2, St. Distaff's Day Spin In, Cavelero Mid High, 8220 24th St. SE, Everett WA
- ☛ January 15-17, Jule Castner Winter Knitting Retreat at Semiamoo Resort and Spa contact [jule@gatheringstitches.com](mailto:jule@gatheringstitches.com)
- ☛ February 11-14, Madrona Fiber Arts Winter Retreat, Hotel Murano, Tacoma WA, contact [www.madronafiberarts.com](http://www.madronafiberarts.com)
- ☛ March 6, Japan & China Cruise, Knitting & Crocheting with Lily Chin, [www.craftcruises.com](http://www.craftcruises.com)
- ☛ March 11-14, NWRSA Camp Burton Spinning Retreat, Vashon Island WA, contact [lakeam@msn.com](mailto:lakeam@msn.com)
- ☛ April 10-11, Whidbey Weavers Guild Spin-In, Oak Harbor High School WA, [www.whidbeyweaversguild.org](http://www.whidbeyweaversguild.org)
- ☛ April 15-18, Shepherds Extravaganza, Puyallup Spring Fair, Western Washington Fairgrounds, [www.shepherds-extravaganza.com](http://www.shepherds-extravaganza.com)
- ☛ May 23, Musk Ox & Glaciers Alaska Cruise, Knitting with Lucy Neatby and Donna Druchunas, [www.craftcruises.com](http://www.craftcruises.com)
- ☛ June 10, Bermuda Cruise, Knitting, Crocheting & Beading with Lily Chin & Joyce Renee Wyatt, [www.craftcruises.com](http://www.craftcruises.com)
- ☛ July 4, Canada & New England Cruise, Knitting with Leslye Solomon & Jill Deal, [www.craftcruises.com](http://www.craftcruises.com)
- ☛ July 9, Baltic Cruise, Knitting & Beading with Chris Bylsma & Chrissy Day, [www.craftcruises.com](http://www.craftcruises.com)
- ☛ August 14, Scotland, Ireland & England Cruise, Knitting with Sally Melville & Beth Brown-Reinsel, [www.craftcruises.com](http://www.craftcruises.com)
- ☛ October 22, Australia & New Zealand, Knitting & Crocheting w/ Jenny King and Lily Chin, [www.craftcruises.com](http://www.craftcruises.com)



Evanne Vaivadas



(L to R) Debra Fox, Jared Flood, Terri Peña



Jared enjoying face-to-face knitting talk while signing books. Above photos Charisa Martin Cairn



## Jared Flood Draws Crowd

*Continued from cover*

Jared learned to knit as a child in Puyallup but it didn't grab him at the time and he soon dropped it. In late 2000 or early 2001 he convinced a friend of his he saw knitting to re-teach him. His friend was a 'Scarf Knitter' and soon told him he had to find someone else to ask his questions of as he had moved beyond her ability. He assured us she is now also a very accomplished knitter.

Part of the reason Jared had so many questions was the lack of patterns for men at the time. He wanted/needed to figure out how to adapt patterns to suit his taste and size, especially sweater patterns.

After graduating with an Art degree in painting and photography from the University of Puget Sound, Jared decided to move to New York. He referred to this period as his zombie commute to his job as a college admissions officer. He doesn't knit on transit, preferring to knit in a quiet environment he controls as an antidote to the drama of life in New York. This left him feeling disconnected from others who shared his passion for knitting so he started his blog, [Brooklyntweed](#), even though he finds the concept of blogging a bit weird.

Somewhere in there he also found the books of Elizabeth Zimmerman. He really appreciated the way she demystified the process of making a sweater and encouraged knitters to believe in themselves. Her seamless sweater construction made sense to him and felt very knitter friendly. He really likes to be able to bind off, block, and be done with a project.

Pam Allen, then editor at *Interweave Knits*, noticed his work on his blog and contacted him about creating a sweater for the magazine. Jared insisted he wasn't a designer, just altered others' patterns, but he ended up submitting patterns for his Cobblestone sweater and [Koolhaas](#) hat, both of which Interweave bought.

Two years ago Jared entered graduate art school in New York. Pam Allen had moved to a position as a director at Classic Elite Yarns. This time she came to him wanting a book of patterns. After much discussion, the two worked out an agreement whereby the patterns would revert to his ownership after a period of time. He also decided he could do all of the production himself — all of the knitting, the patterns and the photography — and promised to deliver it ready for editing and typesetting in nine months.

Those nine months corresponded to his second year of graduate school and essentially made for two full time jobs simultaneously. He did finish on time, including knitting a man's sweater in a week when one he'd planned for the book didn't work out. His tip: if you need to do a sweater in a hurry, a seamless round yoke version is the way to go.

For his design process Jared looks to textures and images. He loves symmetry, geometry and simplicity. He loves architecture and being inside of a wonderful building looking at how it was

put together. He finds inspiration in Japanese photography of garments and in English photos of nature and knitwear and knitwear in nature. He looks at the patterns and details of the street or trail where he is at the moment.

The book reflects what Jared likes to knit. Virtually everything in the book is seamless, since he prefers that construction. He seemed pleased when that fact drew applause. He likes to work lace patterns in heavier weight yarns like DK as then he can see what's happening in the fabric as he knits and because he really likes a nice big woolly piece of fabric, so a DK weight stole made it into the book.

For Jared it really is about the process, as much as he enjoys the product, too. He loves the process of looking at all of those things for design ideas and then the quiet time spent in his knitting chair by a window in his Brooklyn apartment flanked by plants and the antique dress form he rescued from the curb, a nice piece of woolly lace over his lap.

He gets to do that more now that he can make a living from his knitwear design and photography work. Besides the patterns and classes he has written articles for Vogue Knitting on seamless sweater construction, something that amuses him as all of his training is in two dimensional arts. He also works as a professional photographer of knitting and other crafts, including the pictures used in Churchmouse Yarns and Teas new publication of their classic shop patterns. He has a self-published book in the works. And he has more exciting things he couldn't tell us about yet. We'll definitely be watching for them.

— Karen Jo Gustafson

### SUCH A NICE GUY

Jared Flood's visit was a memorable event. Thanks to all who showed up to give him such a fantastic Seattle-style welcome.

On the way back to Bainbridge Island, Jared confessed that he had never, to date, appeared before a larger group. If he was nervous, he disguised it well because everyone found him charming and gracious.

Churchmouse Yarns & Teas brought 50 *Made in Brooklyn* books for those who did not yet have them, and still ended up being three books short. Who knew?

It appeared that the SKG membership signup table was crowded with new applicants. It was a great evening all around. Congrats to Deb and all who made it possible.

All the best, John & Kit

Churchmouse Yarns & Teas

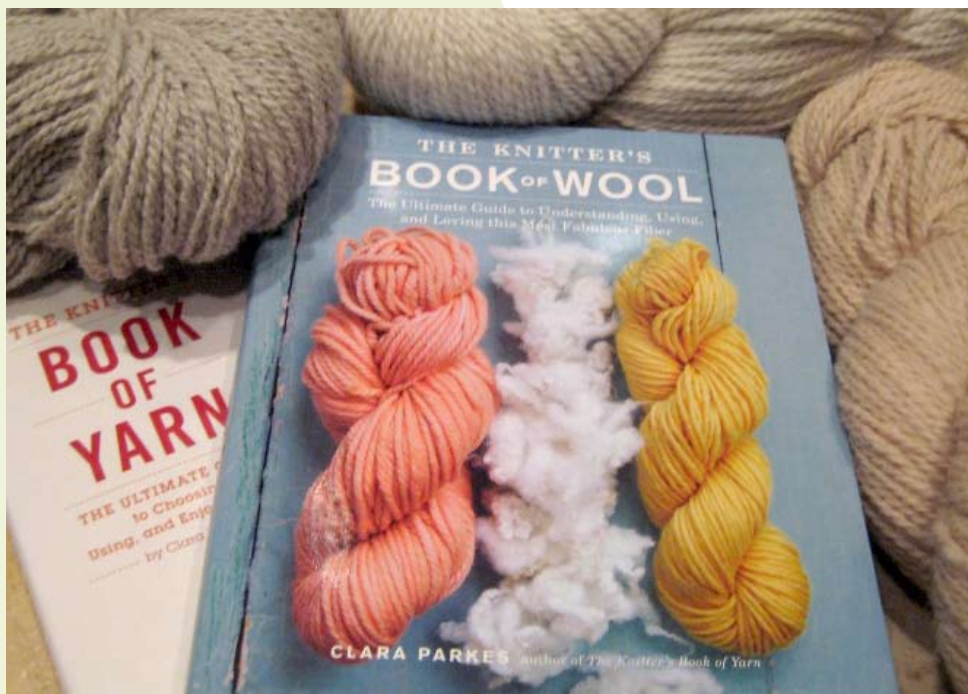
*Editor's Note: Special thanks goes to John and Kit, who made Jared's appearance possible.*



Left to Right: Shirley Rambeck, Puyallup; Gayle Coleman, Sumner; and Jo Ann Campbell, Lakewood show off their ariosa QUINCY hats.



Mary Berghammer with the Cobblestone she knit for her son. (Shh. Don't tell him. It's a Christmas present.)



### Book Review

*The Knitter's Book of Yarn; The Ultimate Guide to Choosing, Using and Enjoying Yarn*  
and

*The Knitter's Book of Wool; The Ultimate Guide to Understanding, Using, and Loving This Most Fabulous Fiber*

by Clara Parkes,  
published by Potter Crafts

Clara Parkes has written reviews of individual yarns for her site *Knitter's Review* for years in addition to articles for publications such as *Interweave Knits* and the online *Twist Collective*.

In 2007 after two years of work, *The Knitter's Book of Yarn* arrived and last month the companion volume *The Knitter's Book of Wool* appeared. This review covers both of these texts.

### *The Knitter's Book of Yarn*

If you always knit from a pattern with no variation, or wonder why a yarn behaves as it does you would enjoy this book, but if you like to know about your yarn and what to expect of it, substitute yarns in patterns or design your own projects, you need this book.

Clara starts with a section on each of the four major categories of fiber: protein or animal fibers (wool, cashmere, mohair, angora and silk with shorter sections on the camelids including camels, alpacas, llamas and on the musk ox, AKA qiviut, cashgora, pygora, pashmina, yak, and possum), cellulose or plant-based fibers (cotton, linen and hemp), cellulosic fibers (rayon in various forms, bamboo and corn), and synthetic fibers (nylon, polyester and acrylic).

She discusses the making of yarn, including factors that affect how the yarn behaves. She starts with a quick overview of how large yarn companies are structured and actually go about 'producing' yarn. Then she has a page on evaluating a yarn, especially as relates to differentiating two similar yarns. She also looks at small mills and microspinners, farm yarns and fiber festivals, organic yarns, color in yarn, the initial spinning into worsted-spun or woolen-spun fibers, and ends with a couple of pages on pilling and what to do about it.

The largest part of the book covers different structures of yarn: single double, triple and four or more plied yarns, cabled, textured, boucle, brushed and chenille yarns.

Clara includes 40 patterns in the book, some of her own design, with others from Cat Bordhi and Nora Gaughan Most patterns are

for hats, socks, mitts and scarves with a few sweaters and vests and a sprinkling of household items like throws and toys. The patterns are easy to read on the page and have surprisingly few error corrections on the *Knitter's Review* site.

The last section includes tips on washing handknits, the care of different fibers, removing odors, assessing the gauge of a yarn by the wraps-per-inch method, and the standardized categorization of yarn by gauge such as fingering or worsted weight. Abbreviations and short technique explanations get mixed into one list.



## *The Knitter's Book of Wool*

This is the book for those whose interest goes beyond reliable Cascade 220 into the realm of Bluefaced Leicester versus Border Leicester or differing virtues of fine wools, medium wools, and long wools. If you spin and your fiber festival dreams feature fleeces you'll also find a wealth of useful and interesting information here.

Clara gives an in-depth look at the basic structure of wool fiber, not just scales but also the cortex

and medulla and what traits arise from the construction of each layer. She writes about softness, or the lack of it, in wool and what determines it. She follows with a section on crimp and what it means for spinners and knitters. A side bar delves into wool allergies.

The second section of the book covers turning wool into yarn starting with shearing, skirting, sorting, scouring and spinning a woollen or worsted fiber. After a quick discussion of color and dyeing as it relates to wool, she includes a guide to reading a wool yarn by looking, shaking, tugging, smelling and twisting it.

The heart of the book is the chapter on breeds which contains descriptions of 37 different breeds of wool in five categories and explanation of fineness, staple length, crimp, and luster. Each breed gets a small drawing, a bit of history and a discussion of its significance. The fact box

also lists web sites for the breeders' associations.

A short section lays out wool blends with other fibers: silk, mohair and alpaca, and cellulosic fibers. The blending for halo sections cover angora and alpaca, cashmere, qiviut, American bison, and mohair. Blending for warm-weather comfort discusses cotton, linen and bamboo blends

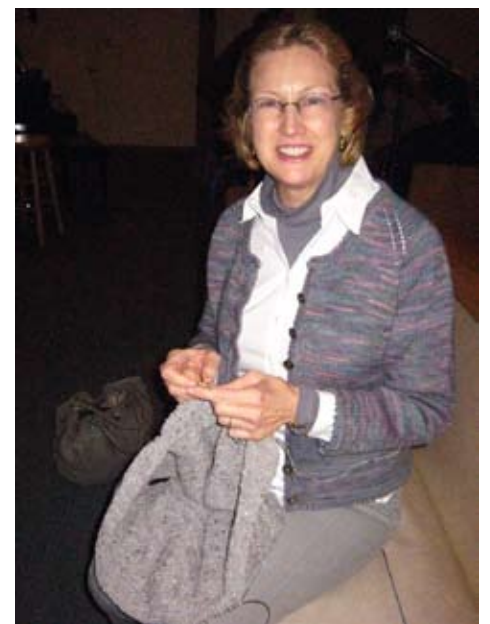
The book contains a large section of patterns designed by Clara and also Cat Bordhi, Nancy Bush, Pam Allen, and Evelyn Clark. Most

patterns are for accessories with lovely lace shawls, several sweaters plus a pillow and a colorwork knitting bag. Several patterns include colorwork, some use stitch patterns or lace, and several are the simple forms that highlight the wool itself.

Clara ends with a chapter pulling together a lot of different information: bits on washing wool, moths, a list of resources, and information about 11 mills in the US and 3 in Canada.

I foresee some pleasant time spent with my recovering-from-surgery cat, Winnie, a pot of tea, and lots of wooly dreaming as I work my way through *The Knitter's Book of Wool*. I may even reread *The Knitter's Book of Yarn* while I'm at it. I'm sure I'll find a few interesting tidbits I missed the first time.

— Karen Jo Gustafson



Karen Jo Gustafson

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**Notes From Your Editor**

Greetings fellow knitters! I'd like to introduce myself — I am Margarite Hargrave Cablegram's new editor/designer. I have been knitting since about twelve, learned from my Dad. And I've been working as a graphic design for almost as long.

I'm looking forward to getting to know each of you better. We welcome your stories, comments, and photos for publication. Whether it's a pattern or yarn you're in love with, the yarn shop you visited on your travels or showing off the project you've just completed — I'll do my best to find space to include your personal stories. Just email me at editor@seattleknittersGuild.org One of the things I love about coming to Guild is seeing what folks have on their needles; it sparks my creativity and imagination of all that's possible with just string and loops. I have a huge stash of yarn and am always looking for another way to use it.

My hat goes off to Evanne Vaivadas for her excellent stewardship of the newsletter this past year. Thank you, Evanne. It's so much fun starting new projects so here I've throw myself into the fire and started up as editor.

— Margarite Hargrave



**Seattle Knitters Guild**

(Est. 1985)

Meetings every third Wednesday of the month until August , 7 pm  
 Wedgwood Presbyterian Church  
 8008 - 35th Ave. NE, Seattle  
 (NE corner of 35th and 80th)

Visitors always welcome.

Parking available in the lot behind the church or across from the south side of the church on 80th.

Dues: \$22 per year,  
 \$11 after July1

Library cart open 6:30 to 7pm  
 (Only members may check out books.)

**Cablegram** is published monthly by the Seattle Knitters Guild. Material for inclusion should be sent to the Editor by the first Friday of the month.

[www.seattleknittersguild.org](http://www.seattleknittersguild.org)

Board Meeting	Cablegram emailed	Member Meeting	Topic
November 18	November 25	December 2	Holiday Potluck Party
December 9	December 30	January 6	Tanya Parieaux, Founder and Executive Director of Knit for Life
January 13	February 3	February 10	Madrona Fiber Arts Guest
February 17	February 24	March 3	
March 10	March 31	April 7	