

# Cablegram



## Going for the Gaugeless:

*A variety of approaches for knitting garments (including the Seamless Cocktail Coat!) that bypass stitches per inch*

Long time guild member Jody Grage will be the featured speaker for our June meeting. She is an accomplished knitter and seamstress who can also instruct you on Norwegian Folk costumes. Her presentation will touch on 'going gaugeless' and her experience knitting from Virginia Woods Bellamy's patented number knitting from the 1940's (Book – *Number Knitting*, published 1952.) This technique is now more commonly called modular knitting and a recent exploration is Vivian Haxbro's, *Domino Knitting* and Iris Schreier's *Modular Knitting*.

Ask Jody who you should knit for and she will firmly tell you, "Yourself because you know what you wear and what you want to discover in your knitting." She feels too many knitters knit for others and worry about what someone likes and therefore they play it safe rather than exploring possibilities and creating their own means of artistic expression. The biggest thing holding her fellow knitters back is themselves. Too much time is spent worrying about the end product and therefore they do not begin. She encourages people to start. Start without knowing where you are going because knitting can lead you down a colorful and creative path. She should know as she has been knitting for nearly seventy years.

**Notes from the Board** 2  
**Library Report** 2  
**Membership** 2  
**Knitter's Calendar** 3  
**Book Review** 6  
**SKG Schedule of Events** 8

### Looking Ahead:

**July 7: Susan Strawn,  
 Knitting Nation**

**August 4: Summer Social**

*See back cover for more info*

## The Hedgehog Lady Cometh (to the SKG May Meeting)

Although Debbie Radke may have unintentionally become a designer of knitted animals, she seems very happy in the role. And also very aware of the many ways life could have taken her somewhere else.

Originally a lace tatter, Debbie won a gift certificate to a local yarn store for her entry in a fair. The LYS didn't carry tatting supplies, so she learned to knit.

*Continued on page 4*



### Board Members

Thanks goes to following members who volunteer their time:

**Terri Peña, President**

[president@seattleknittersGuild.org](mailto:president@seattleknittersGuild.org)  
dandelion on Ravelry

**TBD, Vice President**

**Lizbeth Linares Davern, Treasurer**

[treasurer@seattleknittersGuild.org](mailto:treasurer@seattleknittersGuild.org)  
llinares1 on Ravelry

**Debra Fox, Program Co-chair**

[programchair@seattleknittersGuild.org](mailto:programchair@seattleknittersGuild.org)  
yarnfox on Ravelry

**Mary Berghammer, Program Co-Chair**

[programchair@seattleknittersGuild.org](mailto:programchair@seattleknittersGuild.org)  
embeknits on Ravelry

**Kathy Hightower, Membership**

[membership@seattleknittersGuild.org](mailto:membership@seattleknittersGuild.org)  
khightop on Ravelry

**Margarite Hargrave, Newsletter Editor**

[editor@seattleknittersGuild.org](mailto:editor@seattleknittersGuild.org),  
206.459.5917  
knittingaviatrix on Ravelry

**Karen Jo Gustafson, Newsletter Reporter**

[reporter@seattleknittersGuild.org](mailto:reporter@seattleknittersGuild.org)  
karenjoseattle on Ravelry

**Natasha Puffer, Webmistress**

[Board@seattleknittersGuild.org](mailto:Board@seattleknittersGuild.org)  
puffer on Ravelry

**Devorah Verburg-Sachs, Librarian**

[librarian@seattleknittersGuild.org](mailto:librarian@seattleknittersGuild.org)  
devorahv on Ravelry

**Lisa Kobeck, Newsletter Distribution**

[newsletter@seattleknittersGuild.org](mailto:newsletter@seattleknittersGuild.org)

**Christina Cheng, Hospitality Chair**

[hospitality@seattleknittersGuild.org](mailto:hospitality@seattleknittersGuild.org)  
Cozyyarn on Ravelry

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

### Notes from the Board

#### Help Wanted: Newsletter Reporter

After four long years Karen Jo is ready to retire. Her departure will leave a big hole in the Cablegram. This is where you come in. Do you love reading and reviewing new knitting books? Do you attend most meetings and enjoy replaying them in your head? Do you love to play with and talk about new yarns or techniques? Would you like to be a part of what makes Seattle Knitters Guild so great? If so, the Board would love for you to join us. Karen Jo does not leave until the fall which

gives plenty of time to apprentice.

Speaking of apprenticeship . . . if there is a Board position that interests you, but it feels a little scary to jump right in, we have a solution. All Board positions are open for apprenticeship. Fresh ideas and change are good! When an organization is able to pass on its wisdom to people who are ready to try new things with enthusiasm, it benefits each one of us.

Try not to be shy, grab me at the next meeting or send me an email. We really would love to have you! — Terri Peña



Terri Peña

### Library Report



Devorah Verburg-Sachs

The Guild wants to thank the family of Phyllis Pederson for donating several books to our library:

☛ *The Swedish Mitten Book, Traditional Patterns from Gotland* by Inger and Ingrid Gottfridsson

☛ *Stickning*, which, although not in English, has several nice patterns

☛ *Anatolian Knitting Designs* by Betsy Harrell

☛ Thank you Laura Lee Fineman Karp for *Knit one Stripe Too* by Candace Eisner Strick

If anyone has any Books you wish us to purchase for the library, please email me at [dvsachs@gmail.com](mailto:dvsachs@gmail.com)

Thanks! — Devorah Verburg-Sachs, Librarian

### Membership Notes



Kathy Hightower

*Kathy Hightower*

Welcome to new member Sue Clement of Seattle, and returning members Donna Basiliere and Lori Knuckey of Seattle.

## And you were wondering What are the benefits?

- ☛ Twelve Programs
- ☛ Twelve Cablegrams
- ☛ Hundreds of Books
- ☛ 185 Knitters
- ☛ Holiday Party
- ☛ Prizes
- ☛ Presents
- ☛ Puzzles
- ☛ Food
- ☛ Free Tea
- ☛ Raffles
- ☛ Expertise
- ☛ Enthusiasm
- ☛ And Friendship

ALL FOR \$22 A YEAR – Why wouldn't you be a member of The Seattle Knitters Guild? Membership pays for the quality programming offered every month. Speakers are taken out to dinner and are given a one hundred dollar honorarium or offered the opportunity to sell their wares. The guild has tea for each meeting and contributes to the potlucks held twice a year. Each December we have a holiday party and purchase \$25 gift certificates to local yarn stores. Only members are eligible for holiday prizes, allowed to check books out of the extensive library and only members may sell at the guild's annual fiber frenzy. Membership pays for the use of the church and for the purchase of new knitting books.

*Become a member today.*

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

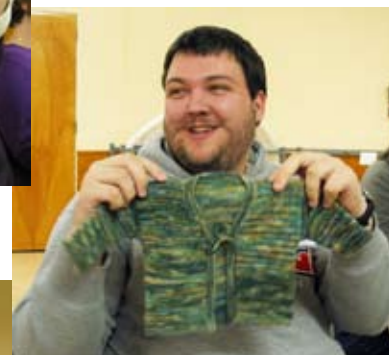
— Debra Fox



*Jessica Rose displays her SKG knit along Gisasole Shawl at May's Show 'n Tell.*



*Sandy Soreng's Windshief*



*Alex Butler*



*Gabrielle Green*

### Knitter's Calendar

- ☛ June 18, 19 & 20, Black Sheep Gathering, Lane County Fairgrounds — Eugene, Oregon, <http://www.blacksheepgathering.org/index.html>
- ☛ June 25–28, Acorn Street Retreat, Sleeping lady Retreat Center Leavenworth, WA The retreat is a weekend of relaxing, knitting, stitching, socializing, resting and energizing away from work. [www.acornstreet.com](http://www.acornstreet.com), 206.525.1726
- ☛ 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)



Debbie's friends line up for a photo op.



Debbie Radke shows off her Hedgehog



## The Hedgehog Lady Cometh

*Continued from cover*

Because she had no experience with charts, Debbie used the written instructions for her second knitting project. She found a mistake the chart-using test knitters hadn't. And being the kind of person who writes letters about such things, she told the owner of the pattern company — Bev of FiberTrends.

Bev soon asked her to become a test knitter. Debbie's status as a beginning knitter and her attention to detail made her an ideal candidate. And they found the need for Bev to explain knitting processes to Debbie over the phone made a perfect shakedown for writing the final pattern.

Since she worked for a knitting pattern company, a friend asked Debbie for a flamingo pattern. Debbie developed one from a chicken pattern, planning it as a one-off, but then at the Sleeping Lady retreat a serious need for a hedgehog puppet arose. The resulting pattern now has over 1,000 projects listed on Ravelry and Debbie's career pattern was set. Though she designs other patterns for FiberTrends, she's since amassed a menagerie of penguins, squirrels, owls and geckos.

Debbie doesn't like to sew seams so she designs her animals using short rowing. She gleefully showed off the prototypes that taught her many lessons about designing felted shapes. For the felting itself she emphasized that wool needs wet and movement; it doesn't have to be hot. And the solution for the penguin kits, which needed a white yarn that would reliably felt, was New Zealand. Instead of bleaching the fibers to a uniform shade, producers there blend the slightly different whites by blowing the wool fibers together into a mass that appears one color.

Debbie still works as a bookkeeper in addition to her designing and teaching, but she now has plans to retire with her motorcycle-enthusiast husband and bike across the country from one teaching gig to another, still following the winding road that led to the creation of the D & B (for Deb and Bev) Body Parts designs. She says Bev calls that pattern error the best mistake she ever made. And she calls her report of the error the best letter she ever wrote.



## Destination: YARN 2010

It's a marathon, not a sprint. I have heard rumors of those sprinters that are able to complete the journey in just two days, but I am going for the slow and steady wins the race approach.

The race is Destination:Yarn. It's the fifth year of the Puget Sounds yarn crawl - to the uninitiated, I liken it to a pub crawl. And while it's often intoxicating, it's still safe to drive from location to location, as long as you put the knitting needles down while going from store to store. The enticement, besides the bragging rights, is collecting free one skein patterns at each store, discounts, and the lure of prizes.

I am on day three right now. I still have a little money left in my pocket. I am a little weary, but still excited and enjoying the journey. I would love to say I was wrapping it up on Saturday night, but it looks like I won't pull up to the finish line until Sunday morning by using my favorite trick for visiting Churchmouse Yarn and Teas on Bainbridge Island on the cheaper by taking advantage of Sunday's free downtown parking and walking aboard the ferry.

I had the pleasure of starting my tour as a guest on the new Margaret Larson show "New Day Northwest" on KING5-TV. I was joined by lovely models from Renaissance Yarns and Tricoter showing off beautiful hand knits, and an audience sprinkled with supportive knitters. Check it out if you have

time <http://www.king5.com/new-day-northwest/Ready-Set-Knit-Destination-Yarn-Fashion-Show-94466534.html>

For store by store review of the tour visit [www.neuroticknitter.com](http://www.neuroticknitter.com) . . . it will be updated with every store as soon as I recover!





## Book Review

### *Knitting On The Edge, Knitting Over The Edge and Knitting Beyond The Edge*

by Nicky Epstein

Nicky Epstein has thoroughly exploited a niche with three books covering variations on the topic of knitted edgings — *Knitting On, Knitting Over and Knitting Beyond The Edge*. She also has one on crocheted edgings for those willing to cross over to that art and its lovely lacy results. These books will appeal to any knitter who likes to design their own projects, whether an embellished scarf, an Unpattern sweater, or a start-from-scratch effort. Those knitters who find themselves adding a bit of trim to a basic pattern or looking for a slightly different edging to substitute for one that doesn't quite light their fire on an otherwise desirable pattern will also find this series useful. The books themselves are beautiful to thumb through when you just want to do a bit of knitterly dreaming. And now that they will finally be coming out in paperback editions, starting with *Knitting On The Edge* for a \$20 list price this August, more knitters can justify indulging those fantasies.

*Knitting On The Edge's* subtitle *ribs, ruffles, lace, fringes, flora, points & picots* — *the essential collection of 350 decorative borders* actually is a list of the chapters in this volume. And that's the vast majority of what you'll find in this very to-the-point book. It opens with a couple pages showing a dozen examples of the same leaf stitch in different textures of yarn followed by a comparison of three gauges of the leaves. Then the *Notes On Using This Book* include very handy directional arrows used to show whether an edging gets knit from the bottom, the top, or separately to be attached and whether it's reversible.

Each chapter starts with a photo or two of a project incorporating one of the edgings. Then we go to pages of yummy sample photos and crisp written directions. The layouts are interesting, varying from pages to page with enough white space to make it all easy to read. Each section uses different colors of yarn — brick, red-brown and peachy cream for the ribs or various purples in the ruffles — and the stitch title font color coordinates. The page layouts and short-wide shape of the book make it easy to flip through looking for a sample that does what you need for your project — or maybe catches your eye as something around which to build a project.

What you won't see is text other than the stitch instructions. The chapters have no introductions, the patterns no explanations. Most of the time the sample photo will tell you much of what you need to know, like whether a stitch biases, pulls in or splays, even though they look nicely finished and blocked. I'd still want to play around with each stitch in one or more samples to see what it really does before I incorporated it into a project.

We do get patterns — just patterns — for the projects shown on the chapter title pages, including the fringed scarf with a classic Saxon Braid shown on the cover. Stitch abbreviations get a separate page from more general abbreviations, but it's a good thing they're side by side as you may need the latter to read the former. After a page with terse instructions for pompoms and simple fringe greatly helped by the illustrations, plus Lazy Daisy Stitch only shown as an illustration and provisional cast on instructions with no illustrations we're done — no index.

This first volume does have a few more errata than I like to see in a stitch dictionary type of book. I don't find the errors in two of the patterns surprising but 7 stitches have corrections, including the cover cable. It's a small percentage but leaves me uneasy about finding more. The two later books have only a couple of errors each in stitch patterns along with a couple of pattern snafus and a bit of a problem with page references not getting properly corrected for the final layout of *Beyond*. The corrections can be found on Sixth&Spring's web site at: <http://www.sixthandspringbooks.com/clarifications.php?osCsid=499d96e3e05e68a7c3524ca3ce5352f7>



Fortunately for Nicky, the editors titled *On The Edge* essential not definitive and so left open the door for *Knitting Over The Edge* — *unique ribs, cords, appliqués, colors, nouveau* — *the second essential collection of over 350 decorative borders*. The styling and layout duplicate that of *On The Edge* with the edgings here on average tending to the more unusual and occasionally just weird. Though the construction is fascinating, I doubt I'll ever try any of the ribs with fringe created from loops of dropped edge stitches or the

cables and lace patterns that neatly segue in to corded loops. I did find several unusual ribbings I want to try. Unfortunately the interesting corded edgings pretty much all get sewn on. Some might lend themselves to knitting on with some experimentation but, then, Nicky may have reasons for not doing so.

A section of colorwork trims covers many techniques with fresh but not outlandish ideas. It could use some explanation in places. Most of the colorwork patterns are charted with no indication of which technique she used. Usually it's obvious when you'll want to do intarsia, slip stitches, or strand but some that look stranded use more than two colors per row. I assume the instructions for duplicate stitch at the back of the book are a helpful clue. No such help pops up to tell how to use the beautiful horizontal cables in Unique Ribs. These and many other stitches shown here aren't going to function like a traditional ribbed edging and will take some experimentation to find the idiosyncrasies of each.

The components in *Knitting Beyond The Edge* — *cuffs & collars, necklines, corners & edges, closures* — *the essential collection of decorative finishes* seem more like parts of garments rather trims. I love looking at the interesting tall collars but wouldn't want to wear most of them. The Closures section looks most useful, especially several patterned button bands. Many get knitted on as the garment is knit, saving work and lending themselves to use as a hem edging, too. Stability comes from the stitch work rather than a picked-up edge. The back of this book also has sections that help with the work of fitting some of the collar and neckline edgings and the closure bands into your project. Here is where you'll find the directions for some of the



collars and not just the stitches used in them.

On first look I always think the original volume gives me the most ideas I'll use but the last time I went searching through these for a stitch to use on the ends of a scarf I found the perfect one in the second book; the one I think of as least essential. Nicky has done a good job of separating the topics among the books so each feels like a complete work but with little overlap and no redundancy. I'd be hard pressed to pick one to cull if I needed to. Instead I plan to keep an eye out for the crocheted edging volume. I have a feeling someday I'll find just the right thing in that book, too.

— Karen Jo Gustafson



**The Last Page**

*May's Show 'n Tell— And what are you working on?*



Sheila Cecil



Abbott Smith shows his Tam pattern



Alex Butler



Erin Birnel

**Seattle Knitters Guild**

*(Est. 1985)*

Meetings every first Wednesday  
of the month 7pm

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 July 1

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

**Cablegram** is published monthly.  
Submit stories and photos to  
editor@seattleknittersguild.org  
by the 2nd Saturday following  
the meeting.

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

**Member Meeting Topic**

July 7 Susan Strawn — Knitting Nation: Pictures, Patterns, and Stories of American Knitting. Susan is currently a member of the faculty of Dominican University in Chicago teaching fiber arts.

August 4 Annual Summer Social — “Mini-class” featuring Guild member and Professional Organizer, **Anna Nordstrom**, with tips on organizing stash. Plus discussion of **KNIT-A-LONG projects**.