



Cablegram



Ann Weaver

Punk Inspired Knitting

Ann Weaver will be at Seattle Knitters Guild on Wednesday, October 6th to talk about her new book inspired by Johnny Rotten and other early punk styles and the Portrait of a Square series of paintings by Josef Albers.

She will talk about how these are translated into knittable, wearable garments that appeal to, well, not everyone, but a wide variety of people. Ann has an extensive collection of design inspiration images that she will share, just to offer a perspective that is different than many other designers.

She will also give us a glimpse into the experience of publishing and knitting as work. She has strong opinions about knitting as craft and as a skilled trade like carpentry or tailoring as well as a tremendous respect for skill and for work itself. Her attitude as a designer, as a worker in other fields, as well as her design aesthetic, reflect this. She likes to think of her designs as the sort of thing someone would wear with work clothes; a regular person in work clothes and a FABULOUS sweater. Or hat.

Ann's book, *Craft Work Knit* will be available for \$25 with a free pdf version (normally available for \$18) for members who purchase the book at the meeting. She will also bring all of the samples from the book for guild members to see.

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Looking Ahead:

**November 3: Knit-Along
 Fashion Show**

**December 1: Holiday Party
 and Social**

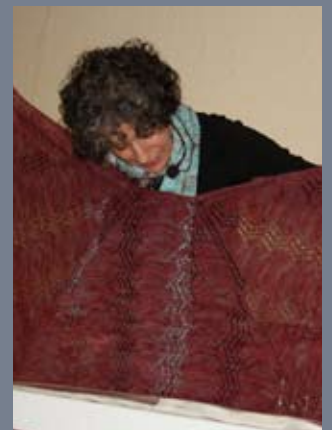
See back cover for more info

Sivia Harding

Beaded Knitting Design

Early in Sivia Harding's recounting of her path to her current vocation as designer and teacher of beaded lace knitting I suspected she had a background in art that went beyond the casual. Something in the way she talked about her projects hinted at a trained eye that had turned to knitting for its outlet. That and her willingness to try anything without asking if it was practical or even doable led me to believe this.

Continued on page 4



Board Members

Thanks goes to following members who volunteer their time:

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Notes from the Board

September is such a crossroads sort of month. If you have kids, they are heading back to school. If you have a garden, it is slowing down. The air has a fresh chill and the morning light is very different than it was two weeks ago. Changes in the world around us are reflected in changes at Seattle Knitters Guild. September is the last month of my presidency. October brings a fresh new person to run the business of the Guild. Kristine Jackson is smart and committed and ready to guide us through another year. We have a whole passel of new Board members ready to share their experiences and ideas. Please welcome them with a hardy THANK YOU!

It has been a pleasure to serve as president of SKG and I thank each of you. — Terri Peña



Terri Peña

Library Report



Tracey Delamarter

We add new material to the guild's library cart all the time. Take a few minutes at next month's meeting to browse through old favorites and new selections. One of the wonderful benefits of membership in the Seattle Knitters Guild is the opportunity to borrow items from our extensive library of knitting and fiber arts books. Take advantage of this great resource!

Recent additions to the Library Cart:

- One More Skein by Leigh Radford
 - Power Cables by Lily Chin
 - Knitting Traditions - an Interweave special edition magazine
 - Interweave Knits 2008 collection CD
- Tracey Delamarter, Co-Librarian

Please remember to return borrowed library materials in a timely manner. Other Guild members may be waiting for the return of these items and will appreciate your consideration.

Membership Notes

Welcome to new members Teri Bell of Issaquah (R2Ktog on Ravelry), Mary Hendrickson of Seattle (hedgewood on Ravelry), Olivia Hermann of Renton (liafal on Ravelry), Beverly Wagener of Seattle, Melissa Walpole of Seattle (sweetmelissa on Ravelry) and April Wilson of Redmond (aprilwilson66 on Ravelry). — Kathy Hightower, Membership

September's Show 'n Tell — What are you working on?



Sheryl Small



Peggy McCune's Square of the Square



Zina Reh



Abbott Smith



Debra Fox



Pat Brunner

Knitter's Calendar

- ☛ October 2-February 27, Weaving Heritage Exhibit at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, <http://www.washington.edu/burkemuseum/weaving/>
- ☛ October 8-10, Schafer Meadows Fiber Festival at Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds, Elma, <http://fiberfest.wordpress.com/>
- ☛ October 8-10, Trailing of the Sheep Festival, Ketchum and Hailey, Idaho, <http://trailingofthesheep.org/>
- ☛ October 15-17, Nordic Knitting Conference, Instructors include: Britt-Marie Christofferson (Sweden) Ruth Sorensen (Denmark) Beth Brown-Reinsel (U.S.) Evelyn Clark (U.S.) Nancy Bush (U.S.) and Carol Rhoades (U.S.), <http://www.nordicmuseum.org/events.aspx>
- ☛ February 17-20, 2011, Madrona Fiber Arts Winter Retreat, <http://www.madronafiberarts.com/>



Sivia's Beaded Gaunlets and Armwarmers



Speaking about Her Design Process



Guild Members Peruse Sivia's Sample Garments

Sivia Harding

Continued from cover

Sivia's grandmother declined to teach her to knit saying that it would be too hard for her. The crochet she learned instead just didn't hold her interest. Fortunately the museum in her native Atlanta offered a summer program of crafts where rug hooking and macramé did ignite a love of fiber arts.

When Sivia's first husband bartered his chiropractic services for a loom and weaving classes she decided she also needed to learn to dye the yarn in order to get just the right colors for her work. By the time she met her second husband she mainly practiced painting and printmaking.

But Husband #2 lived in Canada and they wouldn't let her import all of her art supplies when she moved to British Columbia. The best the local library could do for a substitute interest was a video on knitting. Sivia became obsessed. Then a friend and neighbor she met on-line through KnitU showed her a Shetland cobweb lace shawl and it was all over. She said it felt like both the ending and the beginning of something.

Not long after, someone donated an enormous box of undyed yarn to her guild a few months before their annual charity sale. Since she had dyeing experience, Sivia volunteered to take it for projects for the sale. The lack of cost and of expectation of her actually producing anything in time for the sale gave her a feeling of freedom to do whatever she wanted so she decided to experiment with her new-found love of lace.

As a new lace knitter and a solitary knitter with few opportunities to ask advice, Sivia made mistakes and often did things the hard way, such as charting out an entire shawl not knowing that there was a protocol to indicate repeats. She experimented with shaping and structure free of the knowledge of what couldn't be done, showing us many of the beautiful and practical shawls that resulted. Somewhere along the way she started stringing beads onto her yarn and playing with ways to incorporate them into her knitting. She still prefers to pre-string her beads as it allows the bead to follow the path of the yarn and she prefers the interplay of yarn and bead in this method.

At about this point she talked not only of unexpected color interplays between translucent beads and yarn but also of experimenting with surface design through beads. That's when I knew her background contained more than a casual study of art, which she confirmed when in Q&A she answered that she had indeed attended art school. Her casual use of the terms of an artist and her assumption that they'd be understood reflected her respect for her fellow knitters. That early unsure designer who started selling patterns like Diamond Fantasy that would later become big favorites on Ravelry to her local stores because she didn't feel they were good enough to do more with them is still a part of her down-to-earthiness.

But I also realized days after Sivia spoke to the Guild that the way she talked about knitting as if it were an art - a fine art - as well as a craft had subtly altered the way I thought of my own knitting and looked at the knitting of others. Some day I hope to thank her for that. — Tracey Delamarter, Newsletter Reporter

Chair Booties

A number of years ago I wrote a blog post about Chair Booties. I had pulled up the carpets in our newly purchased home and found glorious hardwoods. Hardwood floors that had been covered for more than 40 years! Of course we put little felt pads on the dining room chairs, but it was only a matter of time before Chair Booties were born. Many years and a new blog have happened since that post, but it is still the most viewed. People continue to ask for a pattern. Last month I finally gave in and wrote one up. It is available on Ravelry, but I thought it would be fun to put it in the Cablegram. Maybe we can start a revolution? Maybe people will think of Seattle as the Chair Bootie capital of the world?

CHAIR BOOTIES

Chair Booties do a great job of protecting your wood floors from scratches. They also add a bit of whimsy to a room. You could make your booties all different colors, or make each chair one color, or use one base color of yarn and work with the values of that color, or switch them out to match the season...it's up to you.

Notes: For bigger booties, increase the number of stitches, divisible by 6, or use larger yarn and



needles. The booties will wear out. How fast depends on the amount of use and the yarn used. Be sure to check for holes from time to time.

Materials: leftover sock yarn

Needles: size 1 double point needles, or size needed to knit a tight fabric

Pattern:

Cast on 24 stitches. Divide between 3 double

pointed needles, 8 stitches each needles, join for working in the round.

Rounds 1-5; *K1,P1*

Rounds 6-16; knit

You will now have something that looks like this:

Round 17; *knit 6, k2tog*

Round 18; Knit



Round 19; *k5, k2tog*

Round 20; knit

Round 21; *k4, k2tog*

Round 22; knit

Round 23; *k3, k2tog*

Round 24; *k2, k2tog*

Round 25; *k1, k2tog* 6 stitches remaining.

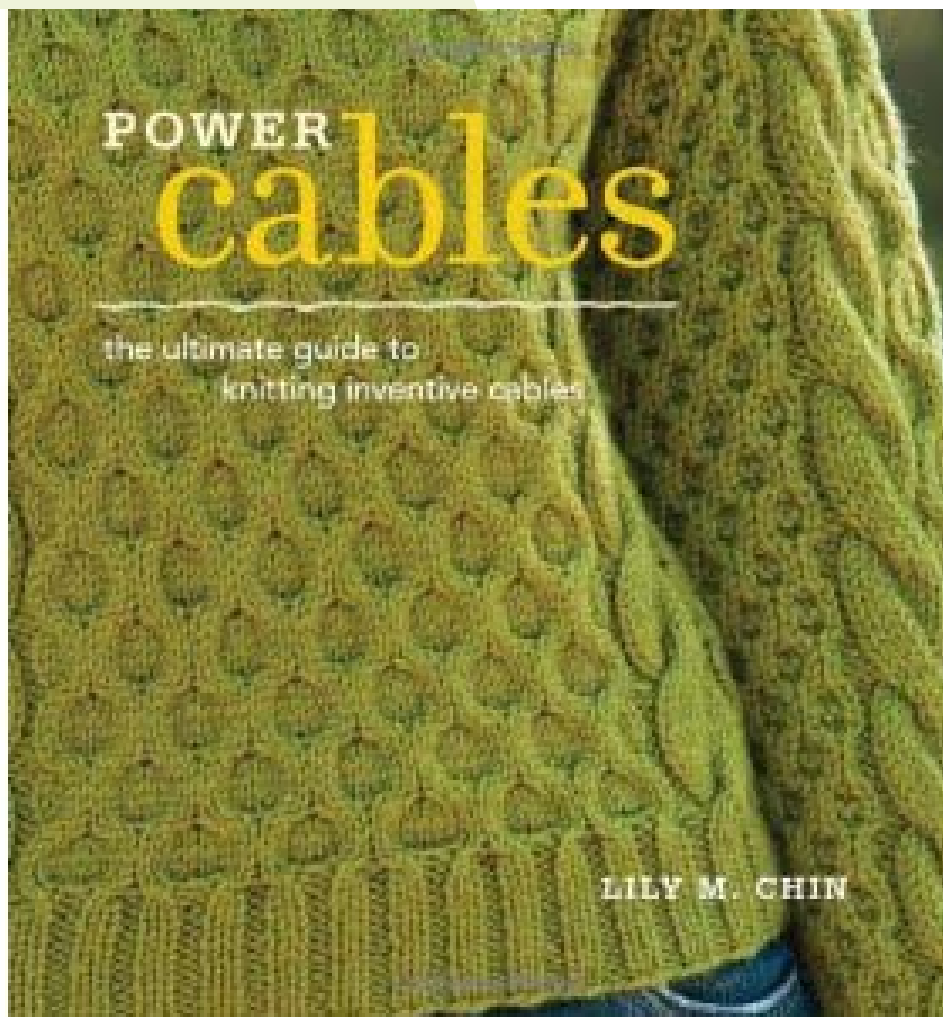
Cut yarn and thread tail through remaining 6 stitches. Pull tight and weave in ends.

Ta Da:

You can find the original post with photos here: [http://knitandnosh.blogspot.com/2007/07/under-table-and-](http://knitandnosh.blogspot.com/2007/07/under-table-and-dreaming.html)



[dreaming.html](http://knitandnosh.blogspot.com/2007/07/under-table-and-dreaming.html). — Terri Peña



Book Review

Power Cables

by Lily Chin, Published June 2010

I love cables. Before I was a knitter, I was drawn to knitted things with cables on them. My very favorite sweaters all sport jaunty cables on practically every available surface. When I first started knitting, though, I limited myself to simple things like stockinet scarves, ribbed scarves or, if I was feeling particularly daring, seed stitch scarves. The thought of trying something like cable knitting had my needles knocking together in terror.

I was standing in line at a yarn store one day, waiting to purchase my weekly dose of fiber therapy, when the woman in line behind me asked me if I had made the sweater I was wearing. Her question startled me. It had never actually occurred to me that I was capable of knitting up something so epic, so massive, so cable-y. I think she must have thought I was a few yards short of a full skein, because I suddenly burst out laughing and grabbed her arm, telling her in my outdoor voice, "I did NOT knit this sweater, but I could if I wanted to!" As my fellow shopper surreptitiously scooted back a few feet, I whirled around to the counter to pay for my yarn so that I could hurry home and revel in this epiphany.

My very first cables were knit too loosely and had gaping holes in

them from where I didn't scrunch my yarn together closely enough. They don't show up very well against the fabric because I knit them in a dark colored yarn, and I didn't know that setting them against a pearled background would help them stand out better. I didn't know anything other than the basic concept of how to make a cable that I had picked up out of one of my knitting books. The whole time I was knitting them I was consumed with an irrational terror that the whole project was somehow going to explode off my needles and send me to the ER or, worse, back to the yarn store to ask for help.

Now that I've been knitting for a while, I'm no longer terrified of cables. In fact, I'd even like to incorporate them more often into my knitting. Seeing Sivia Harding's fantastically beautiful Rosalind Shawl with the cabled center panel last month made me think about how cables could be added to any project. When someone requested that we add *Power Cables* by Lily Chin to the guild library, I thought this would give me the chance to put thought into practice.

Lily Chin has been teaching classes and workshops on cable



knitting for the last twenty years, and *Power Cables* is a compilation of many of the ideas and techniques that she shares with her students. She has written this book with the intention of allowing the reader to be “empowered.” Her goal? “I want to give you, the reader, the tools to come up with your own cable patterns.”

Chin has the book broken up into chapters, each one covering a specific cable technique. Each chapter is split into three sections. The beginning of each chapter details the theory and composition of the particular cable highlighted. The middle section of each chapter features stitch patterns with charts



and written instructions, as well as a sample swatch. The last pages of each chapter contain patterns that feature the skills learned.

In the introduction, Chin recommends reading through chapter one, *Understanding Cables*, even if you are already comfortable with cable knitting. Many of the techniques in the later chapters build off of this first chapter, and Chin does some things a little differently than I have seen done before. Some of her charts, for example, are unique, and it was only after reading the explanation in chapter one that I understood them.

The chapters cover wide-rib cables, textural cables, traveling stitch cables, and raised wale cables. A chapter on phony cables presents several ways to achieve a cable look, but without actually crossing stitches. The chapter on colorful cables combines cable knitting with different color techniques like intarsia, slip-stitch and Fair Isle to create amazing patterns. There is also a chapter on reversible cables, where she uses ribbing to make the cables appear on both sides of the knitting.

In the final chapter, Chin addresses “cable integration” and design principles, giving instruction for adding cables to existing patterns, designing your own cabled patterns, and exchanging one style of cable for another.

This book is easy to read, well laid out, and full of pictures and charts to illustrate the various cable techniques and patterns. The charts themselves are on the small side. I would definitely need to enlarge them in order to keep myself from getting lost.

There are also some lovely patterns in this book, including two bag patterns. The rest are patterns for things you would wear: a honeycomb scarf, reversible-cuff cabled socks, several sweater and shawl patterns, and the ever-present hat and mittens pattern.

Pictured on the right is a sweater incorporating three different methods for creating the illusion of knitted cables without actually cabling (*Three Fakes Hoodie*, featured in the book), one method utilizes two-color braided i-cord at the bottom edge, one i-cord laced through yarnovers up the center front and finally one reversible phony cable in the hood resembling smocking.



Power Cables is a great book for anyone wanting to learn cables, but it’s also a helpful resource as a stitch dictionary. The patterns appeal to anyone who loves cable knits, and there are enough interesting techniques in this book to keep more advanced knitters happy as well.

The book has two errors in it, but Interweave makes it very easy to find errata on their website, <http://www.interweave.com/>

— Tracey Delamarter



This Month's Knitting Tip

Thanks to Karen Jo Gustafson for this month's tip.

Needle Storage Plus A Few Other Needle Related Tips

Different yarns and stitches work better on different materials in the needles. For years I most often reached for the Addi Naturas. But a stitch pattern that included a K3tog in Baby Cashmerino taught me the usefulness of Addi Turbos. Then they introduced the lace needles and I found my happy-medium-with-a-good-point and had to stock up. And then I just love good tools - lots of good tools. So I own a lot of needles, almost all circular since I also use them for knitting flat. A few years ago I gave up on my outgrown system of a zippered bag for each size and bought a large file box. I filled the box with black accordion bottomed hanging file folders with sides to contain my unorthodox intended contents.

I filled the file box with folders to determine how many I had to work with. With a bit of room to spare I could have folders for US0 and smaller through US15 and larger with some of the close small sizes like 2.75mm and 3.0mm (both US2) doubled up but separate folders for the bulkier US10.5 and US10.75. I made separate folders at the front for 40" and 47" needles since I tend to use those only in special circumstances and don't have full size ranges. I labeled the tabs with both the US and the metric size to encourage myself to learn both, which has mostly worked.

Because as many of my circular needles get stored without their original packaging as make it back into their bags, I keep needle sizers tucked into the front 40" needle folder to confirm the proper place when filing needles. Besides a Susan Bates ruler/sizer I now have specific ones for my Addis and my Inox/Prym needles as I've found enough difference in the lower range of sizes to make a difference. I also keep a small plastic basket on top of the file box for those times when I just can't face refiling and entire conference's worth of needles as I unpack them, which at least keeps them in the vicinity of where they belong.

I store the short double points I use for cable needles in their original envelopes at one end of the file folders. My crochet hooks live at the front of the box in a small divided folder intended for check storage.



Interested in Upcoming Knitting and Fiber Events?

Seattle Knitters Guild could use your expertise! If you are interested in compiling the monthly listing of upcoming knitting and fiber events that we present to our members in every issue of Cablegram contact editor@seattleknittersguild.org to volunteer.

Send in items even if you don't want to take on the entire project but you want to make sure everyone knows about an upcoming event.

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

Member Meeting	Topic
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October 6	Ann Weaver — of Weaver Designs and her punk rock inspiraton
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November 3	Knit-Along Fashion Show - Jared Flood's Girasole or anything by Evelyn Clark
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December 1	Holiday Party and Social
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January 5	To Be Announced
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