

Cablegram



Margaret Radcliffe

Luxury Yarns: How to get the best from them so they don't get the best of you!

Margaret Radcliffe has been a knitter for 45 years, a designer for 25, and a teacher for 17, she is the author of the bestselling Knitting Answer Book and The Essential Guide to Color Knitting Techniques. In 1997, she founded Maggie's Rags and publishes a line of knitting patterns under that name. Like many knitters, Margaret has a varied background. She has degrees in Medieval Studies and English Literature, has been a teacher, auditor, programmer, business executive, research administrator, dancer and editor. Margaret's website is www.maggiesrags.com.

Silk, cashmere, mohair and alpaca all present a challenge to knitters, especially if used in a pattern designed for that all-forgiving fiber, wool. And what about very wide range of fibers now available: bamboo, seacell, hemp, linen, qiviut, New Zealand possum, and bison, just to name a few. Maggie will discuss proven methods to avoid the pitfalls of these fibers; stretched out ribbing, biasing, and bagging. Have you ever made a garment from a luxury yarn and been disappointed in the results? If so, bring the garment along so we can analyze what went wrong and what you might have done (and could perhaps still do) to fix it.

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Looking Ahead:

February 16: Margaret Radcliffe of Maggie's Rags
 March 2, Tina Newton of Blue Moon Fiber Arts
 See back cover for more info

Wendee Shulsen

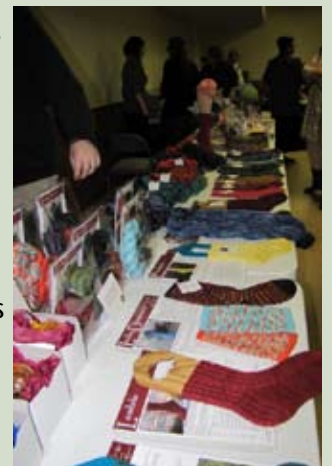
Hazel Knits Sock Yarn Extravaganza!

Walking into the January guild meeting was a little like walking into a very cheerful, fibery rainbow.

Wendee Shulsen, the fiber artist behind Hazel Knits, was the featured presenter for the January meeting, and when we arrived, it was to a wall of color.

Wendee brought vanload of totes full of samples of her hand-dyed yarns and had them displayed on racks and tables for us to enjoy. She also brought knitwear designer Melissa Goodale of Stick Chick Knits with her.

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Board Members

Thanks goes to following members who volunteer their time:

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Notes from the Board

Wool is a miracle fiber. It's warm, springy, forgiving, takes dye well and comes in many varieties. I even like the way it smells when there's some lanolin in it. There's a wool yarn that will fit any budget and it can be used for all kinds of projects. But sometimes I'm tempted by some luxury fiber – so soft, such a great color.....you know.

Other fibers don't act like wool, though, and I don't always know what to expect when I substitute them in a pattern written for wool (giant alpaca hat, anyone?) After this month's meeting, moved back to February 16th, I'll have a better idea about what to expect when I'm working with something else. I think you will, too.

We'll see you there.

I'd also like to introduce to all of you our newest board member, Emily Guadagno, who will co-chair the membership committee with Kathy. Welcome!

— Kristine Jackson, President



Kristine Jackson

Errata

We offer our most sincere apologies to Elizabeth Kelley whose name was misspelled in last month's Cablegram. — Lisa Kobeck, Editor

Library Report

Our sincerest thanks to Tracey Delamarter for acting as co-librarian for the past few months. Devorah Verburg-Sachs is now back on the library cart, so to speak.

There were no new titles added to the library cart this month. — Devorah Verburg-Sachs, Librarian

Membership Notes

Welcome to new members:

Bronwyn H Echols of Seattle (Ravelry name: BronwynEchols)

Margaret Frazier of Edmonds

Mary Ann Namtvedt of Seattle

Marion Scichilone of Bothell

Dee Dee Schubert of Seattle (Ravelry name: jagoknits)

Carol Sherman of Woodinville (Ravelry name: shmarollynn)

Sherry Toly of Redmond (Ravelry name: Chef Toly)

Penny Van Kirk of Seattle (Ravelry name: nickeldime)

— Kathy Hightower, Membership

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



Beth Kelley's Socks



Keisha Reis's Book Wrap



Norma Byrnett's Mittens



Ann Gibson's sweater



Jessica Rose's shawl



Debra Fox's shawl

Knitter's Calendar

- ☛ February 17-20, 2011 - Madrona Fiber Arts Winter Retreat, <http://www.madronafiberarts.com/>
- ☛ March 5-7, 2011 - Portland Yarn Crawl, <http://www.portlandyarncrawl.com/>
- ☛ March 5-14, 2011 - Alaska Fiber Festival, <http://www.alaskafiberfestival.org/>
- ☛ April 8-11, 2011 - Weekend Workshop with Karen Alfke, <http://www.grandfirlodge.com/html/retreats-110408-acorn.html>

Margaret Radcliffe

Continued from cover

Several of the patterns displayed were Melissa's designs.

Wendee grew up as part of a farming family in Idaho, but has lived in Seattle for the last seventeen years. In college, she majored in theater and speech, and then moved on to a career in retail. From retail, she wound up with a company that made games, eventually working as a product manager. This position allowed her to play with her creativity and her love of color.

She took up knitting at work, and decided to learn more. Her search for more information led her to a position in a local yarn store, the former Hilltop Yarn East. She frequently had customers request sock yarn, but there weren't many options to offer them. She saw a hole in the market and decided to try her hand at filling it. She bought some sock yarn off the shelf and took it home and started experimenting. Her first offering was a teal, silver, navy and white variegated yarn she dyed with the Mariner's baseball jerseys in mind. The rest is history.

Wendee began experimenting with yarn, searching for just the right base. She began sending samples off to various custom mills, trying to find one that would work with her. She eventually found an international company that she felt like would be a great fit. The owner kept putting her off though, eventually telling her to call back the following week when he was out on vacation. She wound up talking to someone else in the company who liked her ideas, and now the mill has an entire division devoted to custom spun yarns. They created a specially spun yarn with the merino wrapped around a core of nylon.

Once she saw that there was a demand for her sock yarns, she quit her job to focus full time on developing her craft. She added other yarn bases, including Entice, described on her website as "a luxurious blend of 70% merino, 20% cashmere and 10% nylon with Hazel Knits signature tight twist."

Her ideas for colors come from all over. An active person, Wendee is into rock climbing, camping, and other outdoor activities, and the names and descriptions of her colorways lend proof to that. She also pulls ideas from locations around the Northwest, with colorways like Green Lake, Alki Reflection, and Olympic Rainforest. Purple Hazel is a Hendrix reference; Euphorbia is named after a plant she saw outside of her house (even though she later learned the plant was not actually called Euphorbia.) She also loves oranges and pinks, and there are several colorways that explode with color like High octTANG and Cherry Fizz.

Keeping up with production is always a challenge, and for the most part, Wendee does everything all by herself. When the production began overtaking the house, she built a small shed in her backyard to house her business. It's a fully functioning studio with everything she needs, from dyeing to sending out orders from her current offering of sixty-five yarns.

Hazel Knits yarn can be found at <http://www.hazelknits.com/> or at several local yarn stores.

— Tracey Delamarter



Hazel Knits Sock Yarn



Yarn and Sample Socks

Sad News for Our Community

by Patricia Brunner

We recently lost two good friends of the Guild within days of each other – Bev Galeskas and Wilma Hoffman.



Bev was the founder and owner of Fiber Trends, the largest pattern distributor in the world and was known as the “Queen of Felting” (according to the Wenatchee World). She also was the wholesale distributor

for several lines of yarn. Bev was a very talented and prolific designer in her own right, writing the definitive book, “Felted Knits,” and designing and publishing a pattern for felted clogs that has become one of the most popular knitting patterns of all time. She was instrumental in encouraging and aiding many knitters to become professional designers and publishing their patterns and books. She was very generous, giving her time and talents to both friends and strangers.

I met Bev in a class on how to space dye yarn at Stitches West in 1995, about a year after she started her business, and I’ve been so fortunate to get to know her as a friend. I’m going to greatly miss her smile that could light up a room and her quiet little deep-throated chuckle.

Bev didn’t want to miss a minute of living by wasting time dying (including having to discuss her condition) so very few people knew she was ill. She passed away on December 29, 2010 after a year-long battle with cancer. Her husband Joe will continue to own and manage the Fiber Trends business.

Wilma was one of the founding members of SKG. I distinctly remember meeting her. I had just retired in 1994 and finally had time to pursue my



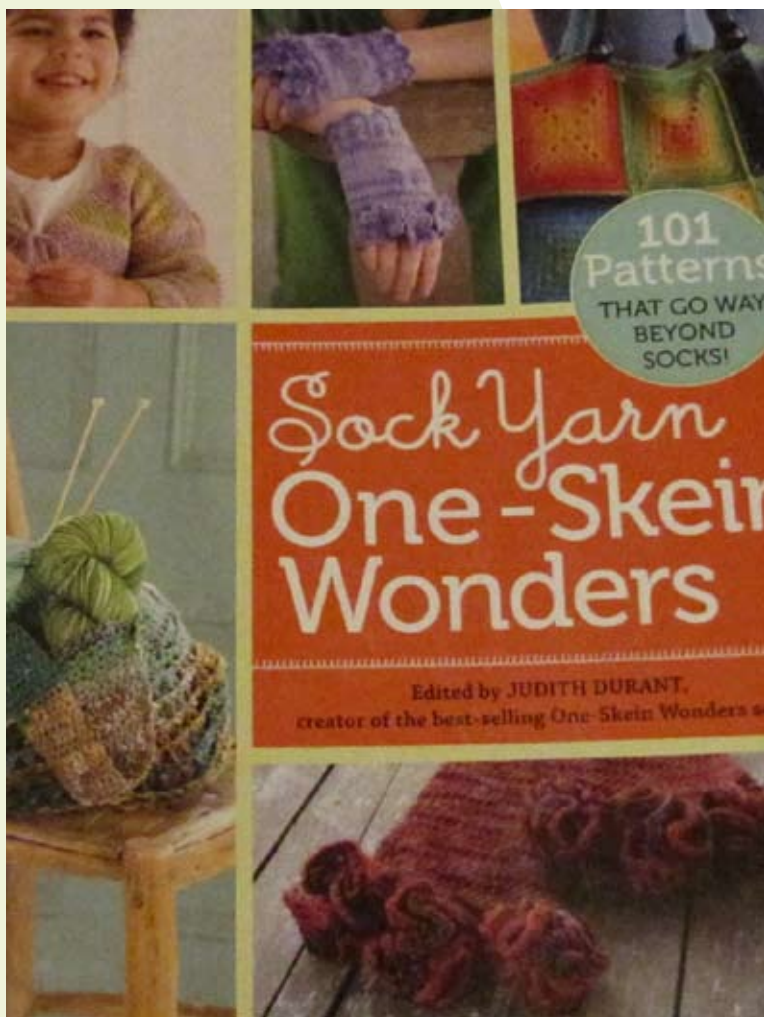
knitting passion. One of the first fun things I did was take a workshop with Kaffe Fassett. Wilma was in the class.. Kaffe was her knitting idol and she got to pick him up at his hotel and chauffeur him around town and she was in her element. She immediately introduced herself to me and made me feel so comfortable. Wilma was very outgoing and one of the nicest people I’ve ever met. She was an instant friend. One of her friends recently remarked about her ability to look for the positive, Wilma went one better than the proverbial, “If you can’t say anything nice about someone, don’t say anything at all.” When someone knitted something really atrocious she could always come up with a comment like, “Wow, your tension is perfect!” She was gorgeous, smart, talented, hilariously funny, kind, generous, thoughtful, and she looked great in sweaters!

Wilma was a registered nurse and worked at Harborview and the U of W hospital in Seattle and in the late ‘90s moved to Florida and then Philadelphia to further her career. At the time of her death she was a senior director with the American College of Radiology in Philadelphia.

Wilma passed away on January 5, 2011 after a short illness.

Rest in peace dear, lovely friends.





Book Review

Sock Yarn One-Skein Wonders

edited by Judith Durant, Storey Publishing 2010

In light of the start of the 2011 Seattle Knitter's Guild Knit-a-long, I thought it would be fun to take a look at *Sock Yarn One-Skein Wonders* this month. There are a lot of patterns calling for sock yarn out there, and a whole lot of sock patterns, so it's a nice to have a book of patterns that focuses on sock yarn itself. The goal of the Knit-a-long this year is to see what you can knit up from one skein of sock yarn, and this book has one hundred and one patterns. Just for sock yarn. And, only about thirty of the 280 plus pages are devoted to socks. I enjoy knitting socks, but it seems a little predictable to knit up a pair of socks for a sock yarn knit-a-long. Well, I think my real excuse is that I enjoy knitting up the first one and then I lose interest with the second one. So, in light of that, I'm looking for something other than socks to try for the KAL.

Sock Yarn One-Skein Wonders remains true to the theme of the earlier books in the series, creating projects

out of one skein of yarn. Many of the projects do call for larger than average skeins though, so if you are substituting a different yarn, you'll need to take the actual yardage into



consideration. The book is divided up into categories, and then subcategories, with multiple patterns in each.

The first section, *From Head to Toe* (and *Fingers, too*) contains hats, gloves, cuffs, and socks. There are a total of twenty-nine patterns, and while some of them seem rather ordinary, there are a few really lovely patterns. The *Floral Fingerless Gloves*, the *Hera Headband*, and the *Lacy Summer Footlets* were all patterns that I would try. There were also quite a few fingerless gloves that were very pretty in the photos. I found that each time I looked through this section, I found more patterns that I would use.

The second section, titled *It's a Wrap*, contains, you guessed it, various patterns for wraps. There are shawls, scarves, neck warmers, and shrug patterns. In all, twenty-five patterns, most of them scarves and shawls. There are quite a few lace



patterns, but also several non-lace patterns, for knitters that aren't keen on lace knitting. The Lifted Stitch Scarf looks like an intricate color work scarf, but the design actually comes from a clever lifted stitch technique that sounds rather simple in the explanation. The Lettuce Slide Scarf has a unique design that slides up a thread that runs through the center, creating a frilly look or a slight ruffle. Many of the scarf and shawl patterns would look lovely in a solid or a variegated yarn.



Section Three is all about Knits for Kids, including a collection of doll-sized knits. There are nineteen patterns for children and infants, and while it is the usual booties, hats, and sweaters, these are some of the cutest I have ever seen. I almost found myself wishing my kids were this small, just so I could knit up some of these patterns. I even think I would wear some of these myself, in a larger size, of course. One of the cutest patterns is a tiny Baby Boy Vest and Bowtie. There are also a handful of doll clothes patterns, and a pattern for blocks that would be a fun stash-buster.

Finally, Bag It and More has patterns for bags, purses, "decorative wearables", and items for the home. A few of these patterns are

crochet, and it made me wish I crocheted. There are several others that I would knit though, from the stash buster Beady Little Bags that only use one yard of yarn to the cabled Steppin' Out Wristlet bag with its rhinestone zipper. The rest of this final section of the book got even more creative, with patterns for a lampshade, a beaded necklace, a Mobius necklace and earring set, and lotion bottle cozy. There are a couple of window coverings (one called Nevermore, a tribute to Edgar Allen Poe's The Raven), a dog jacket, and two ornament patterns.

At the end of the book, Durant includes the standard Abbreviations and Glossary pages, as well as a section about the designers. There are no surprises in this book, especially if you are familiar with the earlier books in this series. The photos are lovely and vivid, and it is easy to see the details that make each pattern special.

My only complaint with this book is that there are several patterns that I would try if they came in the right size. A tank top pattern, some of the children's patterns, and the Manwell turtleneck dog sweater are all fun patterns, but only printed in the smallest sizes. I understand that the point of the book is to create these with one skein, but it would be nice to include the larger size when they're available.

There is some errata, and it is easy to find on the publishers' website at: http://www.storey.com/correct_book.php?isbn=9781603425797

Overall, this is a book that I would recommend. It has quite a lot of nice patterns and they are well written and photographed.



They are all simple enough that they would knit up fairly quickly, and would appeal to both beginner and novice knitters. This is a book that has a lot of quick knit patterns that anyone looking for ways to work through a sock yarn stash will enjoy using.

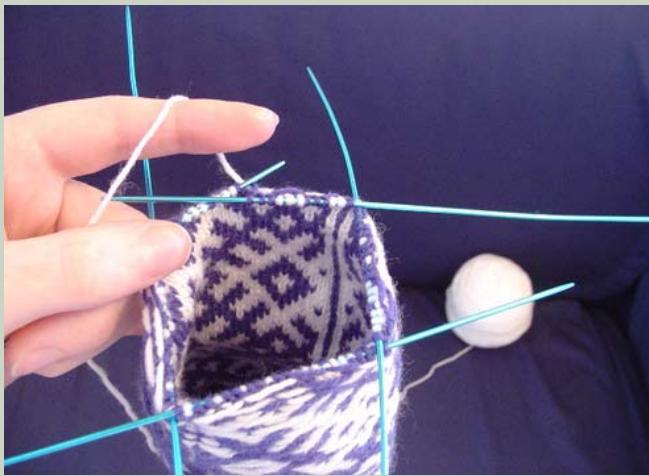
— Tracey Delamarter



This Month's Knitting Tip

Smooth, Even Colorwork on DPN's

Lately I've been knitting some Norwegian mittens on dpn's and I've had lots of knitters tell me, when the mittens come out in public, that they dislike knitting colorwork on dpn's because of the uneven tension they experience at the transition points between needles. I have found the best way to avoid this problem is to work the mitten with the public side to the inside of the knitting. This seems to leave just enough carried yarn to prevent that annoying puckering.



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

2011 Budget

Expense	2011	Comments
Newsletter	\$75.00	
Programs	\$1,000.00	Speaker honorarium, accomodations, meals, supplies
25th Anniversary Celebration	\$300.00	
Hospitality	\$250.00	Tea, coffee, cups
Holiday Party	\$600.00	Prizes, holiday supplies
Library	\$450.00	
Rent	\$700.00	
PO Box	\$70.00	
Website	\$100.00	
Projector Bulbs	\$200.00	
Projector	\$600.00	One time expense
Total Expenses	\$4,345.00	
Account Balance	\$6,178.24	Balance as of January

Member Meeting	Topic
February 16	Margaret Radcliffe
March 2	Tina Newton of Blue Moon Fiber Arts
April 6	Rebecca Danger of Dangerfieldcrafts
May 4	Fiber Frenzy