

Cablegram



Wendee Shulsen of Hazel Knits

And the Guild's Annual Knit-a-long Project

For our January meeting we will be joined by Wendee Shulsen, the creative force behind Hazel Knits yarn. Wendee has created a custom colorway for the Seattle Knitters Guild. It is available in three of her custom milled sock bases. Artisan Sock is 90% Merino, 10% Nylon. Entice is 70% Merino, 20% Cashmere, 10% Nylon. Piquant is also 90% Merino, 10% Nylon but is a 9-ply. Each skein is 400 yards. Our 2011 knitalong will be a challenge. What can you do with our custom colorway? Will you make a shawl or gloves or a special pair of socks? We want to see how the yarn inspires your creativity. You don't have to design your own pattern for the challenge just find a beautiful way to use the yarn.

The Seattle Knitters Guild Colorway can be previewed and ordered through the Hazel Knits website here: <http://www.hazelknits.com/products/Seattle-Knitters-Guild-colorway.html>. Wendee is offering a 10% discount with the coupon code SeattleKnittersGuild. Your order will be hand-delivered by Wendee at the January meeting. At that meeting she will also have her Artisan Sock in her stock colorways available for purchase. The coupon code is valid through January 15th, 2011. However if you would like to have your yarn brought to our January meeting please send Wendee your order as soon as possible.

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Looking Ahead:

January 5: KWendee Shulsen of Hazel Knits

February 2: Speaker TBA

See back cover for more info

Annual Holiday Party

Fabulous Food and Gifts!

With the promise of a gift exchange, door prizes, a visit from Wendee of Hazel Knits, and of course, mountains of food, we had a wonderful turn-out for the December meeting. The potluck was a great success with many different kinds of salads, lots of pasta dishes, meatballs, and all sorts of other culinary delights. The desserts were amazing, and ran the gamut from cookies and cupcakes to pie and a included a wonderful and realistic Yule log cake.

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Board Members

Thanks goes to following members who volunteer their time:

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Notes from the Board

Whew! Happy New Year! We survived the holiday hubbub and are ready to settle down all cozy with a cup of something warm to consider what amazing projects we can think up for our new knit along. Hazel knits will be delivering our yarn at the January meeting, so get the idea generators going!

We'll see you there.

— Kristine Jackson, President



Kristine Jackson

Guild Announcements

TIME TO RENEW! Your dues for 2011 will remain \$22 and are due on January 31, 2011. Please bring a check to the January meeting or mail it to: Seattle Knitters Guild, PO Box 15341, Seattle, WA 98115. It is easiest for us if you pay by check, but if you must pay by cash, please bring exact change in an envelope marked with your name. If any of your contact information has changed, complete a membership form (seattleknittersguild.org/join.pdf) with the updated information and attach it to your check.

Mimi Allin, the poet-in-residence for Tent City 3 in Meadowbrook, seeks a volunteer to teach a knitting class. Contact her at mimiallin@gmail.com or 617 460 6110. Her project, Song of Tent City, is at <http://songoftentcity.blogspot.com/>. She can also use donations of supplies.

Danielle Butz wants to buy one skein of Noblesse yarn (slate) with low shipping fees. If anyone can help, please contact her at the next meeting or drop the president a line at SeattleKnittersGuild.org.

Library Report

New to the library cart:

Sock Yarn One Skein Wonders edited by Judith Durant
Knit. Sock. Love. by Cookie A.

We will be contacting people who have overdue library materials in January. Please contact Tracey at reporter@seattleknittersGuild.org or Devorah at librarian@seattleknittersGuild.org if you have any book purchasing requests, need help returning any outstanding library materials, or if you have any questions or concerns.

Membership Notes

Welcome to Liz Callahan of Mercer Island, raverly name: dogmacoffee — Kathy Hightower, Membership

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



Jackie Siegel's Shawl



Kathleen Schneider's Felted Vest



Eva Rozelle's Scarf



Gabrielle Green's Wristwarmers



Elizabeth Kelly's Wing of Peace Shawl



Sandy Marafino's Pink Baby Sweater



Jessica Rose and Erin Birnel show off their shawls

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>



The members' gift exchange table

Annual Holiday Party

Continued from cover

Once everyone had finished with the edible part of the evening, we moved on to more fun, the eagerly anticipated door prizes. Several of the board members had the chance to play Santa's elves, doling out the boxes of door prizes to members. Prizes included gift cards to local yarn stores, skeins of yarn, pattern books and magazines, and knitting notions. Several local yarn stores donated, as well as yarn companies and knitting book publishers, so there were lots of packages to give out.

Our most sincere thanks to those local yarn stores who donated prizes for the event; Weaving Works, Fiber Gallery, Acorn Street, Church Mouse Yarn and Tea, and Pacific Fabric and Crafts. Prizes were also donated by many national yarn companies such as Mountain Colors, Cascade 220, Brooklyn Tweed, and others. Our thanks also go out to our Program co-chair Debra Fox who solicited these donations on behalf of the guild.

Once the door prizes had been awarded, we were introduced to Wendee of Hazel Knits Yarn. Wendee brought an lovely selection of her vividly colored hand-dyed yarns to show, as well as several knitted pieces in order to let us see how the variegated yarns knit up. She will be coming back to the January meeting, bringing her specially dyed Seattle Knitters Guild colorway, created especially for the guild. We will be featuring this yarn as our 2011 Knit-a-long; what can you create from a skein of it?

The meeting ended with the gift exchange and the customary show and tell. There were quite a few wonderful projects that were shown. Several of them were intended as Christmas gifts, so it was fun to see them before they head off to their intended recipients.

Congratulations to everyone who ended the year with projects completed. Have a wonderful holiday, and we'll see you next year! — Tracey Delamarter, Newsletter Reporter



Door Prizes were enjoyed by every member who attended the meeting



The potluck buffet was delicious



Wendee Shulsen displayed her color palette

Frisly Cowl

by Patricia Brunner

This pattern was inspired by the popular Citron Shawl by Hillary Smith Callis in the Winter 2009 issue of Knitty. I loved it but I wanted a cowl and wanted to use buttons that perfectly matched the color of the yarn so I designed this piece. It is knitted flat and shaping is achieved by knitting the center piece diagonally in wedges formed with short rows resulting in a curved shape which is wider at the bottom. Bands of ruching decorate the center piece. Stitches are then picked up on the long sides of the center piece and the ruffled edgings are added to the top and bottom edges.

Materials:

100 g, approx. 360 yds fingering weight yarn. Yarn used is Madeline Tosh Pashmina, color Saffron
5 - ¾" diameter buttons
Needle size: US 7 or size to achieve gauge
3 coil-less safety pins
Gauge: 5 sts & 7 rows/inch
Measurements: depth – 9", length at top – 22", length at bottom – 37"

DIRECTIONS:

Center piece:

CO 40 stitches

R1: (RS) P (Note: Do not slip edge stitch at end of rows)

R2: K

R3: P

R4: make buttonholes – K3; K2tog, *YO twice, SSK, K5; repeat from * 3 times; YO twice, K2 tog; K4.

R5: K3; *K into front and back of YO, K6; repeat from * 3 times; K into front and back of YO; K3.

R6: P

Begin Segment 1:

R7: K1, K2tog, K36, M1, K1

R8: P6, PP, turn.

R9: K to end of row.

R10: P6, sl next st, LP, P2tog, P6. PP, turn.

R11: K to end of row.

R12: P to pin, sl next st, LP, P2tog, P6. PP, turn.

R13: K to end of row.

R14: P to pin, sl next st, LP, P2tog, P6. PP, turn.

R15: K1, K2tog, K to last st, M1, K1

R16: P

R17: K1, K2tog, K to last st, M1, K1

R18: P20, PP, turn.

R19: K to end of row.

R20: P13, PP, turn.

R21: K to end of row.

R22: P6, PP, turn.

R23: K to end of row.

R24: *P6, LP, repeat from * 2 times; P to end of row.

R25: *K in front and back of stitch, repeat from * to next to last st, K1.

R 26: P

R27: K1, K2tog, K to last st, M1, K1

R28: P

R29: K1, K2tog, K to last st, M1, K1

R30: P

R31: K

R32: P1, *P2tog, repeat from * to last st, M1, P1.

End of Segment 1

Segments 2 thru 9: repeat R7 thru R32.

Segment 10: repeat R7 thru R23.

Next Row: P

Next Row: K

Repeat previous 2 rows twice.

BO in K

Ruffled edging:

R1: (RS) Pick up and K 1 stitch in each edge stitch along top side of center piece.

R2: P into front and back of each stitch to end of row.

R3: K

R4: P

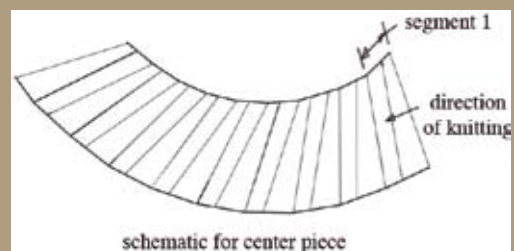
R5 and R6: repeat R 3 and 4

R7: K

BO in K

Repeat for bottom ruffle.

Finishing: Weave in ends. Sew on buttons.



Abbreviations:

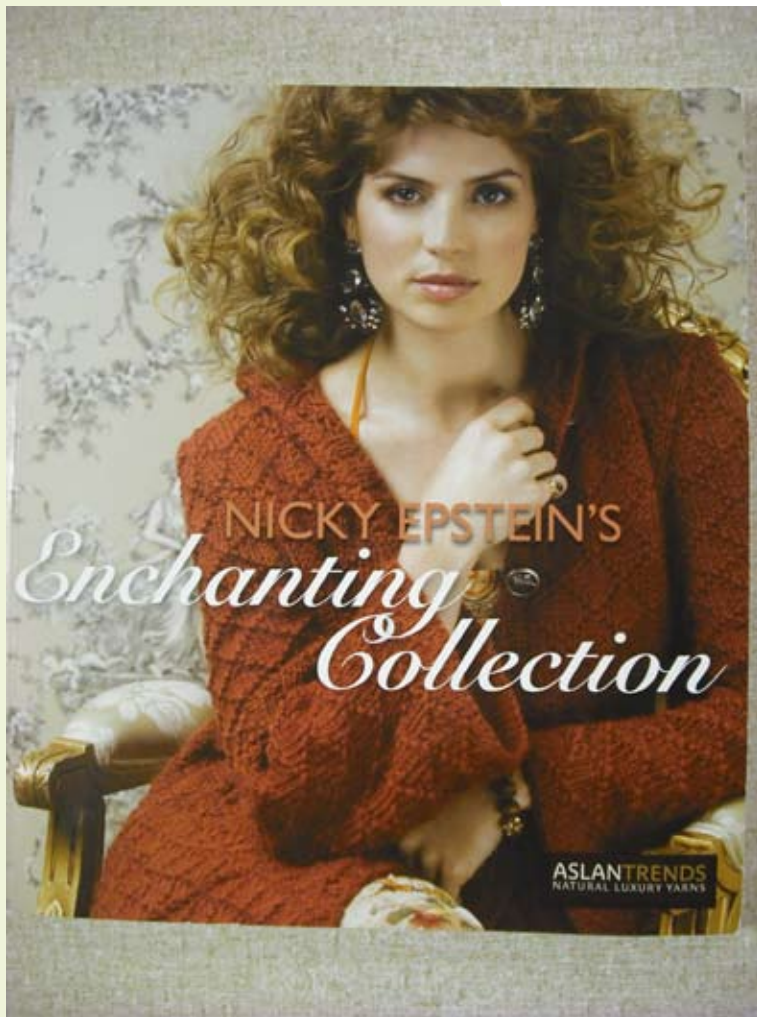
LP – lift pin and place resulting loop on left needle. Slip 1st st back to left needle, P2tog.

PP – place and close pin around yarn after working last st and turn, holding pin against back of needle.

sl – slip stitch purlwise

M1 – pick up the bar between the 2 sts on the needle and knit into the back of the loop.





Book Review

Enchanting Collection

by Nicky Epstein, SOHO Publishing 2010

Nicky Epstein is one of a handful of designers that come to mind when I'm looking for unique patterns with creative embellishments and details that will make my knitting into a work of art. Epstein has published nineteen books, and many of them are wonderful source and reference manuals for creating one-of-a-kind pieces. With her *Knitting on the Edge*, *Knitting Over the Edge*, and *Knitting Beyond the Edge* books, she makes it possible for me to take a simple cardigan, scarf, bag, or any other knitted item and transform it into a stand-out piece of art. Epstein's new book, *Enchanting Collection*, takes her attention to detail and the application of embellishments to a high fashion conclusion. The setting, the models, the knitwear, and everything else about this brief book says haute couture.

Only sixty pages long from cover to cover, *Enchanting Collection* is a showcase for both Epstein's creative flair

and for Aslan Trends' Natural Luxury Yarns. When the company asked her to put together a book of designs for them, she looked at the yarn and "the colors and textures... generated images of gardens, seasons, flowers, leaves, of styles and shapes and of the word 'enchantment.'" As always, her goal was to design knitwear pieces that were unique and creative yet relatively simple to create and easily wearable. Using embellishments and a wide variety of decorative stitches and details, she assembled a collection that would look at home on the runway. Each of the thirteen patterns is high fashion, and Epstein states in the introduction to the book that she wants our friends to be stunned that we could possibly knit something so luxurious and beautiful.

The book is intended to highlight Alan Trends' yarns, and so they are obviously used for every pattern. At the end of the book, Epstein includes a list of the yarns she used, giving the specifics of each. Using that information, it would be easy enough to substitute the yarn of your choice. The book also includes a few pages of explanation for a few of the more difficult or less well-known techniques, like three needle bind-off and duplicate stitch. Unlike many pattern books though, *Enchanting Collection* does not include directions for the more common knitting techniques, and therefore would not be a good choice as a stand-alone book for a new knitter or someone looking for a how-to book.

The book contains thirteen patterns. There are four coat or jacket patterns, five patterns that are capelets or shrugs, a cardigan shawl, a tunic pull-over, and woven vestlet, and a wedding bodice. Two of the patterns are crocheted: the Bedazzling Wedding Bodice and the Heavenly Cardigan Shawl. A few of the patterns use beads for embellishment, and some require metal clasps for the closures. The clasps can be ordered on Epstein's website (www.nickyepstein.com).

The patterns themselves will appeal to knitters who both enjoy elegant garments that make a statement and who want something that looks luxurious and sophisticated without being prohibitively difficult to knit. Epstein does include a page of abbreviations at the end of the book so readers can decipher the patterns, but the patterns themselves seem to be written to be as short as possible, almost as an afterthought to the photos. I found several of the patterns difficult to decode and understand. They had so many abbreviations, some of them needless, and so many steps (one



pattern included: pattern 1a, pattern 1b, pattern 2, and pattern 3 in addition to the individual piece instructions) that reading them through took some effort. Although the book looks like a high fashion catalog, the layout makes reading the patterns more difficult than necessary.

The photos themselves are wonderfully done, and the whole collection flows cohesively. The models wear the clothes beautifully, and each photo is staged in a way that makes the book look like a lovely fairytale. Many of the projects are displayed well in the photos, but some of them are more fashion statement and less functional pattern book. I would like to see more close up photos of the details that make each piece special in order to know what I am getting into before I cast on. Granted, there is a "Details" page at the back of the book with very close up shots of one of the embellishments from each pattern, but it would make more sense to include them with the patterns themselves, as well as showing some of the busier



pieces photographed from all angles.

I really enjoyed looking at this knitting book. However, with the exception of the Alluring Diamond Coat and maybe the Cozy Cable Coat, I don't think I would knit any of these patterns. They are striking and original, but the patterns I knit need to be functional in multiple settings. For me, many of these don't fit that bill. This book is essentially an advertisement for

Aslan Trends. This book will appeal to knitters who yearn for the haute couture looks of Fashion Week, or who are looking for something elegant for a special occasion.

I couldn't find any errata for this book, and I searched Epstein's website, Aslan Trend Yarn's website, and the publisher's site. Because it is recently published, I wasn't able to find many comments about the patterns either, so be sure to check carefully before you start knitting.

— Tracey Delamarter



This Month's Knitting Tip

Thanks to Tracey Delamarter for this month's tip.

Traveling with Sticks and String

Getting knitting projects safely through airport security (still intact and on the needles!) is always a worrisome undertaking. To say I was worried that mine wouldn't make it through is an understatement. To put my fears into context, I spent the day before our trip not packing but instead racing around to different LYS, searching for wood needles to replace my metal ones. I also worried that I was taking too many needles. One project with one set of needles: normal. I had my bulging bag crammed with no less than seven WIPs through, and if my needles were confiscated, I'd be waiting up for Santa to try to talk him into dropping off a few more gifts to replace my UFOs.

So in honor of all the knitters (and any other needle-crafters) that find themselves braving the security checkpoint gauntlet, our Tip (tips, actually) of the Month is a response to traveling through airports with knitting.

I spoke to at least three airline professionals (and a lady I spotted knitting in the airport), and was informed that knitting accoutrement were allowed, but as always, it is up to the individual screener.



Here are a few tips for making your travel experience go a little more smoothly:

- Place your project in a clear Ziploc bag so security screeners can look it over without the risk of them inadvertently sliding it off your needles.
- Use tip protectors to keep your knitting in place and to keep your needles from poking out of the bag and into a flight attendant (like mine did).
- Though metal needles should be fine, I switched all mine over to bamboo. They seem to look a little less threatening, according to the non-knitters in my life.
- Carry a back-up set of needles. I dropped a size 2 DPN on the plane, and two flight attendants and the occupants of three rows couldn't find it. Having a back-up set would've made me a trifle less frantic.



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

- Make sure you remove any cutting tools (scissors, rotary blades, thread cutters, nail clippers, etc.) from your bag. I'm sure that an actual blade would've sent me to that special room with the two way mirror.
- My knitting was all on circular needles. They stayed put the entire trip. Both my kids had their knitting on straight needles. With all the jostling, maneuvering in and out of the overhead bins, and projects getting dropped on the floor, their knitting fell off the needles repeatedly, even with the stoppers.
- ALWAYS check to make sure you have everything before you move on to the next stage of your journey. We left a needle under a seat in the airport. We almost got off the plane without my daughter's knitting, which she had put in the pocket in front of her seat.

Member Meeting	Topic
January 5	Wendee Shulsen of Hazel Knits
February 2	To Be Announced
March 2	Tina Newton of Blue Moon Fiber Arts
April 6	To Be Announced