

Cablegram



Mary Scott Huff

Making Time to Knit: How Eating, Sleeping and Childrearing are Overrated

Once again the Guild will be welcoming a fiber friend from the south. On June 1st, Mary Scott Huff who lives in Portland, Oregon, will be the presenter. Mary has intrigued us with her topic of "Making Time to Knit: How Eating, Sleeping and Childrearing are Overrated" Discover ways to fit more knitting into your life. We can all use that information!

Mary's bio tells us that she is:

- A wife to one and a mother to two
- A native of the Pacific Northwest
- A classically trained actor
- A fiber artist
- The caretaker of 3 cats, a fish, and a Scottish Terrier
- An avid motorcycle enthusiast
- A ferocious friend
- A caring daughter

Mary will be bringing copies of her book, *The New Stranded Colorwork*, for sale. The book utilizes classic Norwegian knitting techniques with a modern twist and features 20 fabulous patterns. Find out what's on Mary's mind and her needles at www.maryscotthuff.com.

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Looking Ahead:

June 1, Mary Scott Huff

July 6, Jessica Rose

August 3, Annual Social

See back cover for more info

Fiber Frenzy

Another Fabulous Fiber Extravaganza!

When I left home for the May Guild meeting, I had two boxes of yarn to sell. When I came home, I still had most of the yarn I had brought with me. I also had two giant bags of fiber, and several extra packages with yarn and books in them. I'd never been to Fiber Frenzy before and no one told me that you could come home with more than you left with. *Continued on page 4*



Board Members

Thanks goes to following members who volunteer their time:

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Open Position, Vice President

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Notes from the Board

So, our next guest is going to tell us how to find more time to knit. In my case, there is little room to do less housework (you know the acronym CHAOS, right? Can't Have Anyone Over Syndrome. That would be me.) My husband does all the cooking; he decided early in our marriage that he didn't want to live on Budget Gourmet. That leaves the child rearing, but really, I can knit and participate in parenting. My 12 year old is used to me being the mom who always has a project on hand and we can argue (he's at that age...) even while I'm knitting. Then there's stop light knitting, simple projects that can be picked up and put down while waiting for the light to change and waiting in line knitting and waiting room knitting and....if I'm missing an opportunity, I surely want to know. Which is why I'll be listening avidly to our next guest's presentation. Maybe she'll be able to guide me in my quest to be knitting 24/7.

We'll see you there. — *Kristine Jackson*



Kristine Jackson

Notices

Notice: We're still losing some of our board members at the end of this year to attrition.

We need to replace the Hospitality, Membership and Program chairs and still don't have a committed vice president.

If you love the guild and would like to contribute to its long-term survival, come to a board meeting. You don't have to be a long time member.

A special thanks to Ann Gibson, who came to the last meeting and is looking forward to taking over the library, and to Marilyn Tschetter, who spoke to me at the last meeting about her intention to volunteer as a co-chair on the program committee. We're looking forward to working with both of you.

Membership Notes

Welcome new members:

Debi Kirac of Edmonds (Ravelry: dekin)

Megan Segó of Sammamish (Ravelry: funsize)

— *Kathy Hightower, Membership*

Seattle Knitters Guild is Turning 25!

Photos and Stories are Needed Now for our Anniversary Party

The Seattle Knitters Guild is rich in its membership. For twenty-five years members have been meeting to share their knowledge, passion and enthusiasm for knitting. For our August meeting we will celebrate the quarter of a century of our guild.

We want to feature stories and photos from our membership. Please gather those items and send them to Debra Fox at foxbarlow@comcast.net. Please talk to Debra if your photos are not in digital form.

We will be putting together a booklet and/or slide presentation. Send photos of finished items, unfinished items, and your yarn stash; things you have learned from our presenters, other guild members, and the SKG library! We want to take the time to celebrate all that the guild has done and be ready for our next 25 years!



Knitter's Calendar

- ☛ June 11-19 - Victoria Fibre Fest, <http://www.victoriafibrefest.com/index.html>
- ☛ June 24-16 - Black Sheep Gethering, <http://www.blacksheepgathering.org/>
- ☛ July 14, 2011 - Stitch 'n' Pitch, http://seattle.mariners.mlb.com/sea/ticketing/special_group.jsp?group=stitch
- ☛ July 15-24, 2011 - Great Northern Arts Festival, <http://www.gnaf.org/default.aspx>
- ☛ July 28-31, 2011 - Sock Summit, <http://www.socksummit.com/>

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I'm actually amazed I didn't come home with more.

The annual purge your stash so you can make room for more event of the season has come and gone. For those of you that missed it, there was an amazing array of needles, notions, books, and fiber crafts for sale. And, yarn. Lots and lots of yarn: cashmere yarn, acrylic yarn, llama yarn, wool yarn, cotton yarn, bamboo yarn, silk yarn. You name it; there was probably a yarn for it. There was quite a lot of fiber as well, for spinning or for felting, in a rainbow of colors.

It's always amazing to see what Guild members are capable of, and Fiber Frenzy was no exception with the various hand spun and hand dyed yarns that some members brought to sell. A lot of hand-crafted items were available as well: shawl pins, felted items, and stitch markers to name a few.

The turnout was better than expected, and we had to squeeze in a few extra tables in order to fit in all the goods for sale. While quite a lot of shopping took place, there was also plenty of socializing. It was fun to see several new knitters benefiting from the expertise of some of the more seasoned knitters throughout the evening.

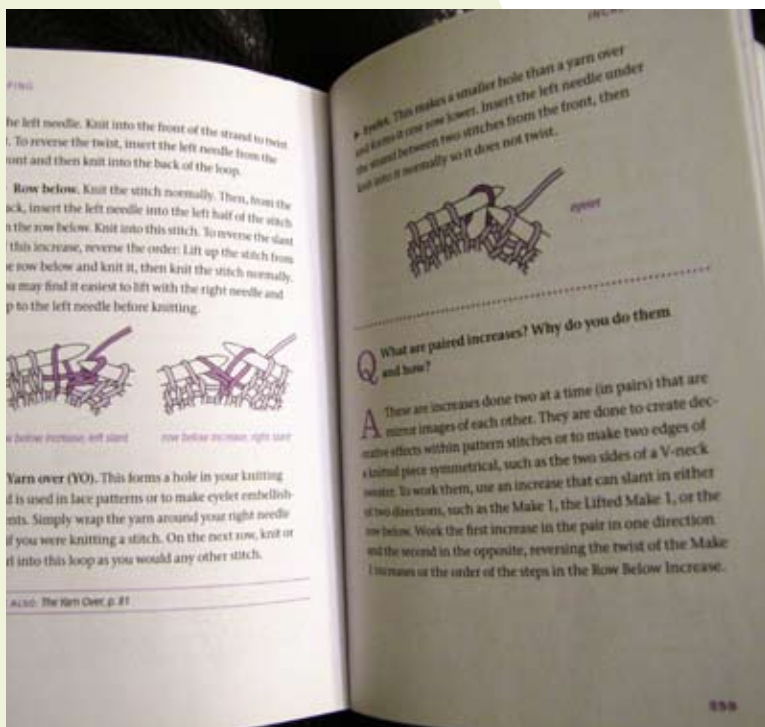
By the end of the evening, \$25 was raised for the library from the sales of donated needles and books, and an assortment of yarns, needles and notions was donated to several area charities.

— Tracey Delamarter



Fiber Frenzy in Pictures





Book Review

What's In My Knitting Bag

A Guide to Knitting Guide Books

No matter how long you've been knitting, there usually comes a point in time when you need a little bit of help. It may be figuring out the correct order of threading stitches for sewing up a seam with Kitchener stitch or it may be looking up charts in order to add a bit of color work to a project. Whatever the reason, we all need a little backup on occasion. The Internet is helpful, but nothing beats having the perfect go-to book. There are tons of them out there, in addition to all the how-to sections in the back of most pattern books, and some are better than others. The following are a few that I like to flip through when I'm looking for inspiration, explanations, or I'm just plain confused about a technique (something that happens quite frequently, I'm sad to admit.)

The Knitting Answer Book by Margaret Radcliffe (2005)

At 6 ½ by 4 ½ inches, this is a great, compact little book that easily fits into a knitting bag or purse. It's written in a question and answer format, and it feels like a knitter's collection of Dear Abby letters. Radcliffe covers just about any question you can think of about knitting in general. She breaks the book into chapters (Casting On, The Basics, Binding Off, Tools, Yarn, Reading Patterns, Pattern Stitches, Circular Knitting, Color, Shaping, Fitting, Finishing and Embellishments), and each chapter

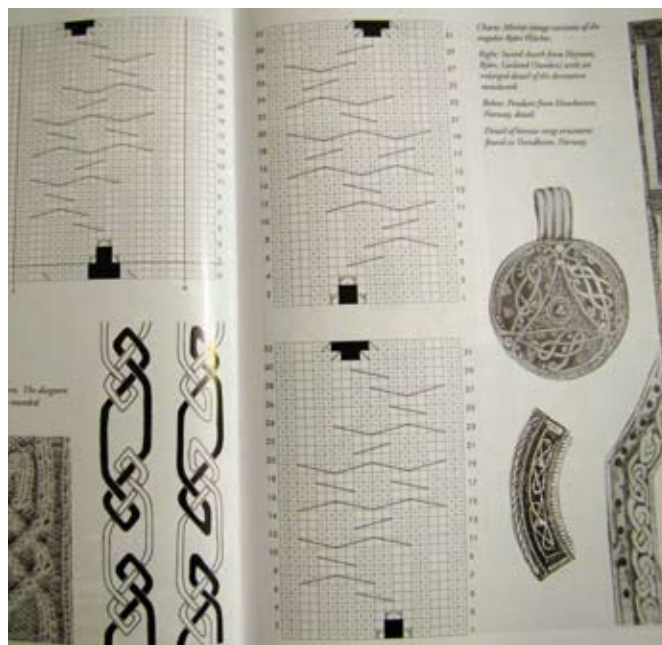
has multiple entries. There are handy drawings throughout that illustrate many of the techniques that may be difficult to understand without a visual.

Radcliffe's book is wonderful for newbie knitters who need an instruction book, but it's also a handy cheat sheet for more advanced knitters that need a reminder on a forgotten technique. The book is a soft cover, but it's a thick one, so it will stand up to being tossed around in a knitting bag. There are no photos, only drawings, but they're well done and illustrate the point easily. At almost four hundred pages, it's a worthwhile investment, and it can be found for under \$10 online.

Viking Patterns for Knitting by Elsebeth Lavold (1998)

This is a book for cable knitters. Lavold has put together an amazing collection of patterns and motifs based on years of studying Viking artifacts and this book really shows them off. It's an interesting read anyway because of the way she gives the history and stories behind the various motifs. She includes photos of artifacts next to the charts that enable us to create the same patterns with needles and yarn. There's something special about creating the same chains and plaits that people were creating over two thousand years ago.

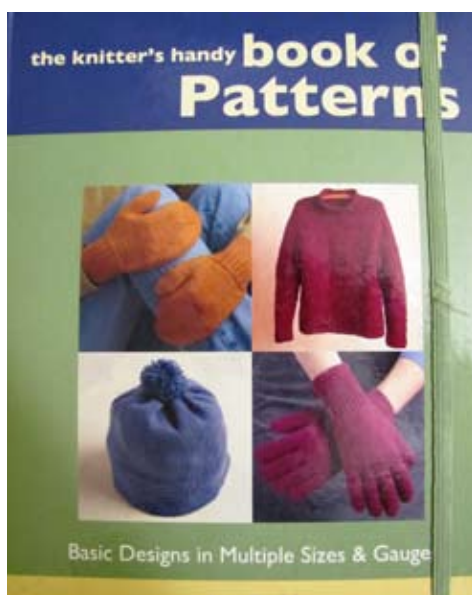
There are over 60 motifs in the book and fourteen patterns. The charts are tiny but not complicated, and with a little enlargement it's easy to incorporate a cable pattern into a project. This is a hardback book, 127 pages, and it's very well orga-



nized. The photos are crisp and show off the motifs nicely so you can see what you're knitting. One downside though: the key to the chart symbols is at the back of the book. It makes sense really, since there are charts on nearly every page, but it's a little frustrating to have to flip back and forth and the



symbols don't always correspond with the stitches you'd think they'd correspond with. All in all, Lavold's book is full of lovely cables and it can be found online for around \$19.



The Knitter's Handy Book of Patterns by Ann Budd (2002)

This is one of those books I've seen in multiple yarn stores, and I've had several knitting instructors reference it. It looks pretty mundane at first glance, but it's definitely worth owning if you ever want to try creating your own patterns or modify existing ones. The entire premise of the book is that all clothing adheres to a relatively standard basic shape, and by giving you these patterns with the stitch counts, you can create whatever you want. Budd covers mittens, gloves, hats, tams, scarves, socks, vests and sweaters. In a separate section at the end of the book, she takes time to discuss adding decorative stitches or color patterns and making adjustments for different gauges.

Budd opens each chapter with a section on basic anatomy and then provides charts for determining gauge, fit and circumference. Using this book makes adjusting a pattern to a larger or smaller size relatively simple. It would be easy to take these very basic patterns and create something truly original by adding embellishments, color work, or decorative stitches.

It's hardback, spiral bound, and meant to be used as a working book. About 110 pages, Budd's book has a photo at the beginning of each chapter of the subject and its variations. Because everything in this book is so simple, there's really no need for more. It's mostly full of charts, but they're so straightforward that even I could breeze right through them. Each chapter has quick tips sections full of invaluable advice. You can find this book online for under \$20, and Budd also published *The Knitter's Handy Book of Sweater Patterns*.



Uniquely Felt by Christine White (2007)

This book covers just about anything and everything you need to know about the process of felting. With 46 projects, dozens of how-to guides, tips and tricks, fiber bios, and featured artist segments, this book covers a lot of ground. Nuno felting (when fiber is felted onto another fabric), cobweb felt making, and creating large garments are a few of the chapters. There are plenty of projects to create, and each one is really



SKG Budget

Many thanks to Lizbeth Davern for providing us with the following snapshot of the Guild's operating budget.

Expense	2011 Budget
Newsletter	\$ 75.00
Programs (Speaker expenses and misc. supplies)	\$ 1,000.00
25th Anniversary Celebration	\$ 300.00
Hospitality	\$ 250.00
Holiday Party	\$ 600.00
Library	\$ 450.00
Rent	\$ 700.00
PO Box	\$ 70.00
Website	\$ 100.00
Projector Bulbs	\$ 200.00
Projector	\$ 600.00
Total	\$ 4,345.00
Account Balance	\$ 6,178.24
Delta	\$ 1,833.24

Interested in having a say in how our budget is spent?

Join the Board. Our guild needs interested, enthusiastic member participation to thrive.



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
June 1	Mary Scott Huff - Making Time to Knit: How Eating, Sleeping and Childrearing are Overrated
July 6	Jessica Rose - Navigating Ravelry
August 3	Social and 25th Anniversary Party
September 14	To Be Announced