

# Cablegram



## Franklin Habit Visited in September

Franklin Habit joined us on September 7 with *Impractical Magic: The Other Side of Weldon's Practical Needlework*. Beginning in the 1880s, and for decades thereafter, the editors of Weldon's Practical Needlework provided an enormous audience of amateur craftswomen with patterns for garments designed to be warm, strong, long-lived and, well, practical. But Weldon's had another side, too. A side that proposed the knitting of covers for tennis balls, of knitting whips for children, and of covering open flames with crinkled tissue paper. In this illustrated talk—not for the faint of heart—we'll take a look at what our great-great-grandmothers were up to when they'd already knit a sufficiency of Socks for Invalids.

Franklin Habit is a writer, illustrator, photographer and author of *It Itches: A Stash of Knitting Cartoons*. He is the proprietor of The Panopticon, one of the most popular knitting blogs on Internet where you'll find a mix of essays, cartoons, and the adventures of Dolores the Sheep. Franklin's other publishing experience in the fiber world includes contributions to Yarn Market News, Interweave Knits, Interweave Crochet, PieceWork, Cast On: A Podcast for Knitters, Twist Collective, and a regular column on historic knitting patterns for Knitty.com. These days, Franklin knits and spins in Chicago, Illinois, sharing a small city apartment with an Ashford spinning wheel and colony of sock yarn that multiplies alarmingly whenever his back is turned.

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### Looking Ahead:

October 5, Marnie McLean  
 and the Fall Twisted Collective  
 Trunk Show

November 2 Knit-a-Long and  
 Fall Fashion Show

See back cover for more info

## August Social And SKG's 25th Anniversary

What a great meeting. The food was incredible, a catered dinner of pulled pork, coleslaw, and the best mint sweet tea I've ever had. Several members brought additional treats as well, and an anniversary cake topped off the meal. With the plates piled high, and the visiting out of the way, we spent most of the meeting sharing knitting stories and guild memories.

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## Board Members

**Thanks goes to following members who volunteer their time:**

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## Notes from the Board

Knitting jokes and tall tales. Sounds a little oxymoronic but we modern knitters know that laughter and knitting are glued at the hip. Thanks to EZ, we know that knitting is not such a serious undertaking, that mistakes can be design elements and if we like our results, then we're doing it right. We have The Yarn Harlot with New York Times bestselling knitting humor books, a heretofore-unknown genre. And we have Franklin Habit, with knitting cartoons. Come listen to Franklin Habit pontificate about knitting history. We'll learn something about the rich history of our craft and share a laugh or two.

We'll see you there

— Kristine Jackson



Kristine Jackson



## Notices

We still need to fill the Hospitality Chair and the Reporter positions on the board for next year. If you're interested in the program committee, there's a need for more hands there, too. 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.

## Library Report

The library will not be available at the September meeting, because the library cart cannot make it up the stairs to the sanctuary. However, please, please do bring back all outstanding library books so that a complete inventory can be taken before the October meeting. Your librarian and her helpers thank you!

— Ann Gibson, Librarian

## Membership Notes

Welcome to new member:

Holly Beimler of Tacoma (rav name: hcbeimler)

— Lisa Burlingame, Membership



*Continued from cover*

There were so many great memories shared about the guild. Many members have been attending since almost the very beginning and remembered meetings at other locations, when it was just a few people sitting in a circle and sharing their knitting projects. They remember the meetings at Phinney Ridge growing from a circle one row deep, to three rows deep, to standing room only. Members shared their reasons for attending guild meetings over the years.

- Getting help and inspiration from other knitters
- Being surrounded by others who loved doing the same thing
- Finding a great place to be able to share and say, "I made this!"
- Learning things over and over again until getting them
- All the friends they have made through the guild
- Others shared that all of their friends are members
- A mother and daughter told about looking for something where they could spend time together and wound up attending regularly
- Knitting is a great way to learn serenity and anger management, and the guild is a great place to learn knitting.
- The excitement of designing a pattern, and then having people to share it with who understand exactly how impressive that really is.

Members shared anecdotes about their knitting:

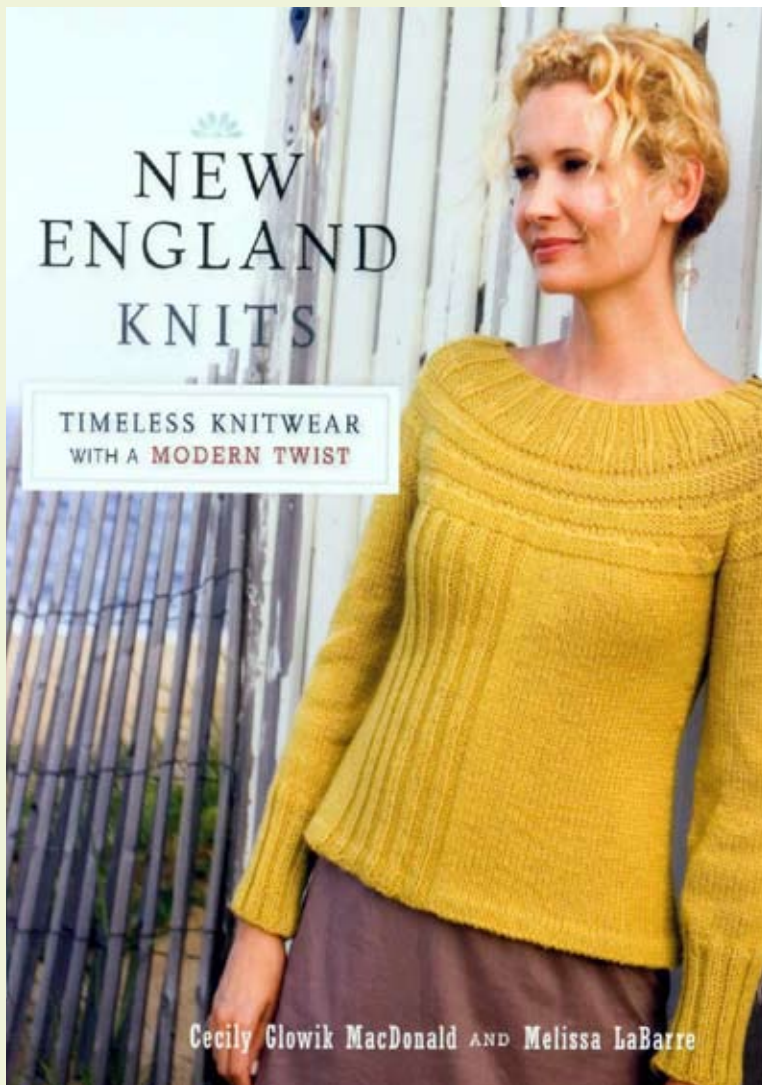
- One member shared that her five year old daughter was shocked to discover that sweaters could actually be purchased in a store. She had thought only moms made sweaters.
- Another member shared about her first experience with reading a chart. She was knitting a baby blanket with ducks on it, and knit the first duck by reading the back and forth, resulting in a Picasso-esque duckie.
- After finishing his first hat, one of our members told about gifting it to his mother. She wore the hat constantly, a soft creation of Baby Alpaca, until much later, she finally admitted that she was allergic to the hat.
- A few members shared about the ways that knitting has taken over their lives. They plan vacations around knitting, bring knitting to work, attend knitting events for fun, and talk about knitting at every opportunity.
- Member Jeremy admitted to only ever actually knitting one thing, but it was then frogged by Knristine in order to recycle the yarn.
- One member shared that she knit her first afghan, during Watergate.
  - A knit-a-bookmark kit from Costco was the first knitting project for one member, while other members have been knitting for so long, they can't remember all the projects they've knit.
  - One member started out by stating that she is a Yarnaholic, and she has not been sober for many, many years.

Thousands of knitting projects have been tackled, frogged, finished, and proudly displayed over the last twenty-five years; Wallaby sweaters, scarves, and hats for charity, helmet liners donated to troops, baby blankets and booties, and too many socks, shawls, and scarves to count.

Many members shared things they love about the guild. Show and Tell is a big favorite, and the speakers are a huge draw. The sense of community and camaraderie are what stood out most. One member shared that she was shy about showing up at the guild, worried that it was something for professional knitters. Instead, she found a warm, welcoming group where she fit right in. That sense of community is still going strong.

— Tracey Delamarter





New England Knits is a collection of patterns by six designers; all inspired by the six states that make up New England, and the people that live there. The two authors, Cecily Glowick MacDonald and Melissa LaBarre, are both New England natives, and admit to spending a lot of their time attempting to create the perfect New England wardrobe. It was that challenge that united them, and resulted in this book. Together, LaBarre and MacDonald have created most of the patterns, but the patterns by the other New England designers fit flawlessly into the collection.



### Book Review

## *New England Knits: Timeless Knitwear with a Modern Twist*

Cecily Glowik MacDonald and Melissa LaBarre  
(published 2010)

Before this book was even published, it appealed to me. Every photo I found online of the patterns was charming and unique. Finally getting the chance to read through *New England Knits* is every bit as satisfying as I'd hoped. Each piece in this pattern book speaks of farmer's markets, balmy afternoons at the beach, and meandering through small village shops.

The muted background colors, the rustic settings, and the gorgeous jewel tones of the knits themselves come together to create lovely photos that make me think that if I just knit that sweater, I too could be spending a charmed weekend in Nantucket at the beach house.

With the need to layer in New England, it makes sense that many of the pieces are sweaters, vests, or cardigans, but there are several accessory patterns, including various neck warmers, a bag, and a couple of whimsical hats, including the



Whale Watch Hat. It's the attention to detail that sets this book apart from others like it. Each pattern, at first glance seems to be just a sweater, or simply a tunic or vest. But take a closer look and you see the fitted lines, the lovely stitch patterns and decorative stitches, and the embellishments like lined pockets and beadwork.



The book contains ten cardigan and jackets patterns, and eight sweater and vest patterns. There

is a skirt, an over-the-shoulder satchel, and a pattern for mittens, as well as a couple of scarves and hats. Most of the patterns are sized from about 34" to 50" bust circumference, but they are all meant to be layering pieces and worn with generous ease.

New England Knits is a soft backed book, and is about 160 pages long. It contains all the usual features that you would expect to find in a pattern book: a glossary, several pages of techniques and explanations, and a list of resources. The twenty-five patterns



are divided up into three sections: Around the Town, Fall on the Farm, and Along the Coast. The editors have done a nice job creating these sections, and the patterns themselves reinforce the themes nicely.

The photos are well staged and there is a good mix of full length shots and close-ups of the textures and embellishments. There are charts throughout the book, but none of them are complicated and they are easy to follow. The patterns themselves are well written, and also easy to read. New England Knits also has explanations and illustrations of all the tips, techniques, and stitches that you



need to know to complete each pattern. Most of that information is included on the relevant pages, as opposed to just at the end of the book, and it makes following the pattern that much easier.

New England Knits is a charming book, filled with stylish, classic patterns. The pieces are great wardrobe staples that would layer well. Most of the patterns would appeal to more advanced knitters; newbies might find them a bit challenging. The only erratum in the book is the chart for the Whale Watch hat, and the later printings of the book have the correct chart. Be sure to check at the Interweave press website at [www.interweave.com](http://www.interweave.com). — Tracey Delamarter



**Notices**

You may have noticed that this month's Cablegram is both a little shorter and a little later than usual. As you all know Seattle Knitters Guild is a volunteer-run organization. When the summer vacation months arrive and many members are spending time vacationing with family, so are our volunteer members.

Please take the time to thank them for their efforts. Writing pieces each month for the Cablegram is a labor of love for all of them.

Also please consider submitting pieces for other members to enjoy. We welcome all of your input. Specifically, if you have items for the calendar of events, ideas for articles, books that you'd like to review or to see reviewed, yarn or event write-ups, please consider submitting them to the Cablegram.



**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)



Check the SKG Website for:

- Meeting dates & times
- Links to resources
- A list of local yarn shops
- Charity knitting
- Membership application

<i>Member Meeting</i>	<i>Topic</i>
October 5	Marnie McLean and Twist Collective Trunk Show
November 2	Knit-a-Long and Fall Fashion Show
December 14	Holiday Party
January 4	To Be Announced