



Cablegram



BOHUS STICKNING: hand knitting & social justice

Susanna has been a member of the Seattle Knitters' Guild since 1988, served as SKG Treasurer for several years, and she is very excited to be sharing the story about Bohus Stickning with her home guild.

She has been instrumental in the renaissance of interest in the unique, patterned color work Bohus Stickning sweaters, and her collection of vintage garments was the centerpiece of a highly successful exhibit at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis in 2009. That year Susanna also travelled to Japan to give lectures and workshops on Bohus Stickning, and this past summer she was invited to bring her garments to Knit Nation in London for a series of workshops.

As part of the guild presentation, there will be a drawing for a Bohus Blue Shimmer wristlet kit as well as a raffle for a Wild Apple Hat & Scarf kit (both donated by Susanna). Raffle tickets will be available at the meeting for \$10, and all proceeds will go to Doctors Without Borders. The kits are created by Solveig Gustafsson and there are many more Bohus designs available in kit form (with instructions in English) for hand knitters everywhere. www.solsilke.se

In addition to teaching at the national 'Stitches' events, Susanna takes her workshops on the road to guilds, retreats, and shops all over North America. She is a frequent teacher at the annual Nordic Knitting Symposiums, and at the Knitting Conferences organized by the Nordic Heritage Museum here in Seattle. Her work is grounded in her love of technique, detail, history, and culture. She really does love to teach as much as she loves to knit! For more information about Susanna, please visit her website at www.oneofsusannas.com — Marilyn Tschetter

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Looking Ahead:
 March 7, Susanna Hansson
 April 4, Jeny Staiman
 May 2, J.C. Briar
 See back cover for more info

Nancy Marchant Knitting Brioche

Our speaker for the February meeting traveled a little farther than most in order to be with us. Originally from Indiana, Nancy Marchant now resides in Amsterdam, in a house that's considered big by local standards and tall, narrow, and small by American standards. By day, she works as a graphic artist, but her website proclaims that she is "Queen of this Brioche domain." While she may be referring to the

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Board Members

Thanks goes to following members who volunteer their time:

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Notes from the Board

This month we get to listen and learn from Susanna Hansson, a true expert in Bohus Stickning. I am so excited for this meeting, and I hope everyone else is just as eager as I am to hear from one of our very own guild members!

We now have two chairs to fill in the board, one of them immediately. The Guild needs volunteers to keep it running, volunteers like you! If you are interested in being the next SKG librarian or treasurer, please speak to a board member at a meeting or send an email to president@seattleknittersguild.org. — *Carol Sherman*



Carol Sherman

Library Report

No new books to report this month — *Ann Gibson, Librarian*

Important Notes

Ann Gibson, our librarian, will be moving to the East Coast with her husband as he takes a new job. Be sure to give Ann your best wishes when you see her at this month's meeting; she has thrown herself into the role of librarian, and we truly do appreciate all that she has done and will miss her terribly! If you have any interest in becoming the new librarian (or co-librarian) please get in touch with a board member at a meeting, or email president@SeattleKnittersGuild.org

Seattle Knitters Guild needs you. We are looking for reporters for the Cablegram. If you're not able to commit to reporting every month, we would still love to have you participate by submitting ideas for stories, items for the calendar, and pieces on anything of interest to you and other guild members.



Membership Notes

Pat Greenstreet (pkg)
Kathryn Calderwood
Sharon MacTavish
Janelle Amador (bunnydozer)
Vanessa Mateyko (funessa)
Kei Eriksen (eriku)
— *Lisa Burlingame, Membership*

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





Continued from cover

website itself, I suspect she could probably claim the title in the real world as well.

Nancy has been an artist for many years, and has had many areas of focus. She began as a quilter, spent time working with granny square creations, and eventually began knitting. She has won awards for her work, and at one time, placed third in a design contest to Nicki Epstein's first place win. She eventually completed grad school, and as part of her thesis created an amazing collection of shibori inspired designs.

After grad school, Nancy moved to the Netherlands where she went through a design phase that she refers to as the Hand Series. She created an assortment of graphic motif designs, most of them prominently featuring human hands. (I know that sounds a little unusual, but the photos of her designs are amazing!) She has a wide variety of publications: *Threads*, *Vogue Knitting*, *Knitter's*, and a variety of Netherlands magazines, to name a few.

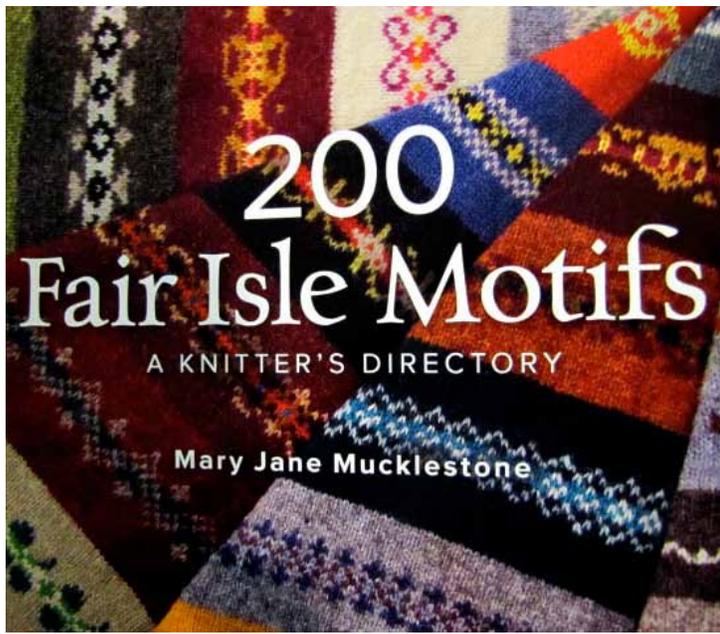
In 1992, she wrote her first Brioche article, but then promptly forgot all about the method. It wasn't until she was approached to write another Brioche article by *Interweave* in 2005 that she picked it back up again. The result was the lovely *Shadow Dance* capelet. After that, Nancy was hooked and approached *Interweave* with a proposal for an entire book on Brioche. When they weren't interested, she decided to take her idea online and created her website, <http://www.briochestitch.com>.

Nancy eventually published her book in 2009, after she was approached at a *Stitches* convention. In the book, *Knitting Brioche: The Essential Guide to the Brioche Stitch*, she took the brioche stitch and created an entire collection of techniques and patterns. Using increases, decreases, yarn overs, and a variety of other techniques, she creates amazing designs and patterns.

Just looking at the beret patterns on her website gives you a small idea of some of the variety of designs you can create by simply applying decreases in different ways. Nancy has taken the technique into lace knitting as well, experimenting with thinner yarn, bigger needles, and using only one color of yarn in order to get the lace definition since yarn overs typically disappear in the thicker fabric of brioche knitting.

She cautions that it can be difficult to get gauge with brioche since the fabric is by nature rather loose. It requires a much bigger swatch to get an accurate idea of what the fabric is going to look like. There are dozens of tips, ideas, and techniques in her book and on her website. Nancy continues to experiment with the brioche technique by creating designs with bubbles, color gradation, and syncopation (take a look at some of her patterns on Ravelry), and she is currently working on a stitch dictionary. — Tracey Delamarter





Book Review

200 Fair Isle Motifs: A Knitter's Dictionary

by Mary Jane Mucklestone
Interweave Press, 2011

Almost every style of knitting has at least one dictionary dedicated to it, and often there are quite a few. For example, a search for 'fair isle knitting' on amazon.com brought up almost five hundred selections, and so it's easy to dismiss a new offering as a redo of what has previously been published. However, Mary Jane Mucklestone's newly published '200 Fair Isle Motifs' is not a simple repeat of what's already been done.

Mucklestone doesn't skimp on information, and the first forty pages are dedicated to essential skills needed to successfully knit Fair Isle. She begins by covering yarns, claiming that, "for the purist, there is no substitute for genuine Shetland wool." She carefully talks through everything from reading ball bands to the pros and cons of knitting with yarns other than Shetland wool.

Needles and notions, gauge, steeking, how to hold the yarns, and how to handle floats are only a few of the topics that Mucklestone addresses in this section of the book. There is the always important 'how to fix mistakes' section, as well: a necessary addition if you knit like I do. Other helpful sections in Essential Skills are the entries on choosing harmonious colors, understanding Fair Isle design principles, and planning projects.

One of the reasons I love this book can be found starting on page forty. Mucklestone provides a 'motif selector' that is essentially a collection of photos of all the various motifs

laid out one after the other as a visual index. It makes finding the motif you are looking for very easy, and it makes choosing multiple motifs for a single project a much easier task.



The main portion of the book, over one hundred and fifty pages, contains the actual motif patterns. They are laid out in a very user-friendly format, and a large photo of the motif is included to make it very easy to see the end result. Each motif is written as a black and white chart, a color chart that matches the swatch in the adjacent photo, a color variation chart to show alternate color scheme ideas, and a repeat pattern chart that shows the motif as part of a larger whole. There are also mix and match suggestions on many of the larger motif pages. These highlighted boxes show a photo of a combined motif swatch, and include lists of motifs that would work well together. If learning how to combine two or more motifs to make a larger design is your ultimate goal, this section will be quite helpful.

Mucklestone has written a comprehensive, useful, and easy to use addition to the canon of Fair Isle reference guides. This is a knitting book that both novice and newbie knitters will enjoy, and would be a great addition to any library.

— Tracey Delamarter



Wear on Earth

There's more to Lynden than meets the eye. I recently drove up to this town surrounded by farmland just south of the Canadian border. I was there to stay with some friends who were there on vacation. Though I only had about twenty-four hours, I was able to ferret out a local yarn store. I guess that isn't too surprising since I typically google 'local yarn store' before I even book the hotel room when I plan trips.

For some reason, this was one of those rare trips when I didn't get a chance to do my research before I hit the road. I wasn't even really expecting to find a local yarn shop that evening, so it was a pleasant jolt when, driving down the deserted Front street, I spotted an easel board sign proclaiming YARN is bright colored letters.

The store is called 'Wear on Earth', and the sign reads 'Consigned Clothes and Yarn Shop'. Looking in the window revealed a nicely laid out resale clothing shop, but I could spy no yarn. I can never pass up the promise of fiber, though. Or, second-hand clothing stores, to be honest.

I went in, and, after chatting a bit with the very helpful Lori, was directed to the back of the shop. I was expecting a shelf or two of yarn, or at best, a tiny room. Instead, I found an entirely separate shop, packed to the gills with all sorts of

wonderful yarns and fiber.

Cheryl and Becky, two more gracious staffers, told me that Elva Eisel, the owner, had recently expanded the yarn portion of the business into this larger area. The yarn had been housed in a small corner of the resale shop, then moved into a small side room, but now had its own place. Her tag line is "Save on clothes, splurge on yarn."

It's always wonderful to discover a new yarn store, and in the current economy, it seems like more and more of these small businesses are closing down. It's a refreshing change to hear about a yarn shop that has been able to expand. Eisel and her staff have done a lovely job in creating a welcoming haven for knitters and crocheters, and it was great to see such a wide variety of yarns represented.

Between the great selection of yarns, the great clothes and accessories in the resale shop, and the kind and helpful staff, 'Wear on Earth' is certainly a shop that I look forward to visiting again.



SEATTLE KNITTERS GUILD
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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
April 4	Jeny Staiman, Double Heelix
May 2	J.C. Briar, Chart Reading Made Easy
June 6	To Be Announced
July 18	Ice Cream Social
August 1	To Be Announced
September 5	Back to School Mini Classes
October 3	Fiber Frenzy
November 7	Bohus Knit-a-long Fashion Show
December 5	Holiday Party and Gift Exchange