

Cablegram



SKG Member Jeny Staiman

This month we welcome Jeny Staiman. Jeny has been knitting for almost 20 years, but had a hard time thinking of herself as a “real knitter” since she didn’t knit sweaters. Good thing that’s not an actual standard!

As her UFOs piled up, she knit socks and other small projects that required twists and turns – and no sewing. (Sounds like me, on all counts!) Things changed when Jeny met Cat Bordhi and showed her a new super stretchy bind off that she had developed. With advice and support from Cat Bordhi and Judy Becker, Jeny’s Suprisingly Stretchy Bindoff was published in Knitty.com. Since then, Jeny has published other patterns on Knitty.com – Interlock Bindoff is a neat way to finish toe-up socks, Double Heelix is a great looking sock pattern with psychedelic heels, and if you’re looking for a fun baby gift – check out Duck! I can’t wait to knit those for the next zoo baby! Sure to get any baby off on the right (webbed) foot!

If you are looking for Jeny, you can find her at an SKG meeting, on ravelry or her blog, www.curiousknitter.com, or teaching at Weaving Works, Sock Summit, or some other Seattle-area venue.

As for being a “real knitter” I think knitting is more a state of mind, or of obsession – it’s all a question of degree, after all. And Jeny put it perfectly in her Ravelry information when she wrote about her job, which she likes very much. “And yet I still can’t help but knit in my head all day long.” A real knitter indeed! . — *Susan Parke*

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Looking Ahead:
 April 4, Jeny Staiman
 May 2, J.C. Brian
 June 6, Pat Brunner
 July 18, Ice Cream Social
 See back cover for more info

Susanna Hansson Bohus Knitting

Many of us didn’t want the March meeting to come to an end. Susanna Hansson’s talk on Bohus Stickning: Hank Knitting, Haute Couture, and Social Justice was interesting, engaging, and beautiful. The tables covered with original examples immediately drew the eye, but once Susanna began sharing the story of how these amazing works of art came about, we were all quickly drawn in.

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Board Members

Thanks goes to following members who volunteer their time:

Carol Sherman, President
president@seattleknittersGuild.org
shmarollynn on Ravelry

Tracey Delamarter, Vice President
vicepresident@seattleknittersGuild.org
delaknitter on Ravelry

Lizbeth Linares Davern, Treasurer
treasurer@seattleknittersGuild.org
llinares1 on Ravelry

Marilyn Tschetter, Program Co-Chair
programchair@seattleknittersGuild.org
DeanMarilyn on Ravelry

Susan Parke, Program Co-Chair
programchair@seattleknittersGuild.org
(sparke) on Ravelry

Lisa Burlingame, Membership
membership@seattleknittersGuild.org
jitteryknitter on Ravelry

Lisa Kobeck, Newsletter Editor
editor@seattleknittersGuild.org
convolutedstring on Ravelry

Tracey Delamarter, Newsletter Reporter
reporter@seattleknittersGuild.org
delaknitter on Ravelry

Margarite Hargrave, Webmistress
Board@seattleknittersGuild.org
knittingaviatrix on Ravelry

Ann Gibson, Librarian
librarian@seattleknittersGuild.org
annknits4ross on Ravelry

Kathy Riley, Hospitality Chair
hospitality@seattleknittersGuild.org
(seakath) on Ravelry

www.seattleknittersGuild.org

Notes from the Board

We're looking forward to having another local designer speak to us this month. SKG member Jeny Staiman will be talking to us about some of her fun designs, which I know I don't want to miss!

If you haven't already, please be sure to get your checks or cash in to Lisa for membership renewal. We are working on making renewals and new memberships easier by accepting credit cards on our website and at monthly meetings, so stay tuned for more details.

— Carol Sherman



Carol Sherman

Library Report

New books for the library:
Finishing School, Deborah Newton
The Knitter's Book of Socks, Clara Parkes
The Knitter's Life List, Gwen Steege
Extreme Double Knitting, Alasdair Post Quinn
Norwegian Mittens and Gloves, Annemor Sundbo
200 Fair Isle Motifs, Mary Jane Mucklestone
Alice Starmore's Charts for Color Knitting
The Magic Loop, Bev Galeskas
— Ann Gibson, Librarian

Important Notes

Our fabulous treasurer, Lizbeth Davern, will be leaving the board next year. She has given the guild several years on the board, and we certainly appreciate everything she has done for us! More details about this position will be coming, and if anyone is interested in filling it next year please get in touch with a board member at a meeting, or email president@SeattleKnittersGuild.org

Membership Notes

Welcome new members!
Regan Conley (regan)
Kim Magden
Jennifer Revall (volcanogrrl)
Sarah Wallace (cropduster)
Pam Courtnage
— Lisa Burlingame, Membership

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





Continued from cover

The Bohus Stickning story began in 1939, when the local economy was suffering and men were not able to support their families. The county's women came to the governor's wife for help, and possessing a strong sense of duty, Mrs. Jacobsson set out to fix the problem.

Mrs. Jacobsson pulled on her earlier training in scientific and artistic endeavors. As a young adult, she had wanted to be an artist, but after feeling that she wasn't quite good enough, she went on (after Sigmund Freud told her father to let her find her own way) to earn a Ph.D. in botany. With this training, as well as her wide collection of contacts and resources, Emma Jacobsson created the Bohus Stickning company and became the driving force behind the company for the next thirty years.

Emma Jacobsson's plan was for the Bohus designs to compete with the haute couture that was walking down the runways and being featured in the high-end department stores in New York. She let fashion dictate the designs, and as a result, there were no rules. The women would receive a pattern and a meticulously weighed assortment of yarn. The deadline for each piece was typically three months, but with the incentive of feeding and clothing their families, these women often turned the pieces out in as little as ten days. Some commented that they would often go to the outhouse and stay there for a really long time.

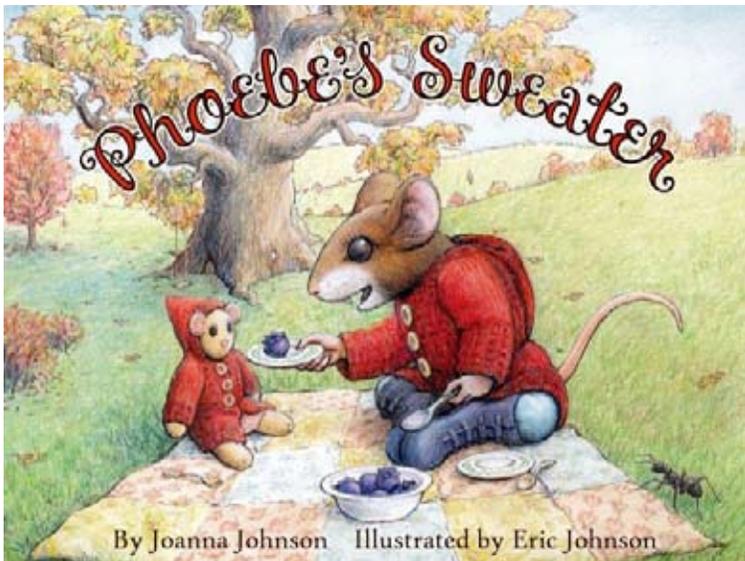
In 1957, one of the Bohus Stickning sweaters typically sold at a department store for around \$300. At the time, a nurse typically made that in a month, and you could buy a decent used car for the same. Celebrities like Grace Kelly and Ingrid Bergman were photographed in their Bohus sweaters. They were sold in high-end department stores alongside the latest fashions off the runways. With Emma Jacobsson managing both the business and artistic directions of the company, Bohus Stickning became an empowering force, allowing the women to support their families in a way that built on their strengths and talents.

Eventually, the women of Bohus County were able to begin working outside of the home. That, combined with the US economy falling into depression, led to the demise of Bohus Stickning when the irreplaceable Emma Jacobsson retired at the age of 84.

Today, Susanna Hansson carries the story of this amazing company and the women who created it around the world. There are at least 1,300 Bohus design names, and Susanna's dedication to preserving the story and examples of the original works is inspiring. Susanna donated two Bohus kits to be auctioned off at the meeting. The guild raised almost \$500 for Doctors Without Borders. I imagine Emma Jacobsson would be pleased that her legacy of helping others has continued.

You can find out more about Susanna Hansson at her website: <http://www.oneofsusannas.com/>. To order one of the Bohus kits that she donated, and to see the others available for purchase, check out: <http://www.solsilke.se/>. You can also learn more about Bohus by checking out the book *Poems of Color*, or by taking a look at the Ravelry group. — Tracey Delamarter





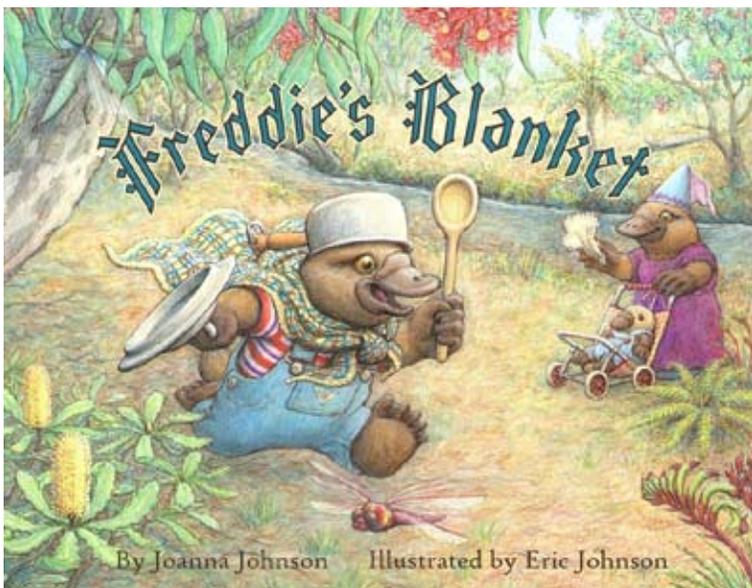
Book Review

Phoebe's Sweater & Freddie's Blanket

by Joanna Johnson
Slate Falls Press, 2010 & 2011

What is a review of children's picture books doing in a guild newsletter? Are these knitting books disguised as picture books? Picture books featuring knitting?

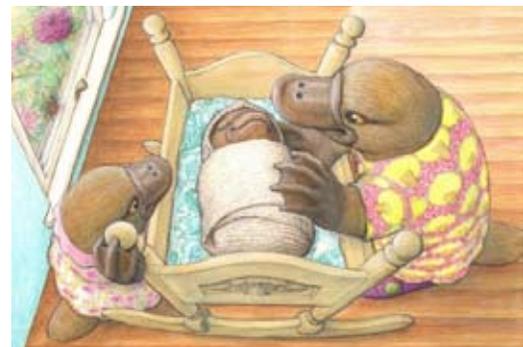
The answer is: a little of both. These are wonderful picture books aimed at 2- to 6-year-old children, where knitting plays a central part of the story. In one, a hand knit sweater helps a little girl adjust to life with a new sibling, and in the other a hand knit blanket helps a little boy learn to sleep in his own bed.



The pictures are delightful and appealing, and like Jan Brett's books, full of accurately drawn knitting. The characters hold their needles realistically (one picture is pretty clearly throwing, another I think is picking, though the strand is not really visible). In addition to blankets and sweaters, the animal characters are portrayed with knitted house slippers, knitted toys, and even a lacy shawl. Best of all is the book a character consults, "studying the perfect pattern for the sweater" -- with a jacket design that winks and nods at Elizabeth Zimmermann's Knitting Workshop.



But the books are also aimed at knitting moms, grandmas, and aunties. At the back are patterns for many of the knitted items depicted in the artwork: Phoebe's sweater (a seamless coat with texture pattern bodice and edges), Freddie's Blanket (a plaid slip-stitch design), dolls and their clothes, overalls with a toy hammer, and a baby swaddle. I haven't tried knitting any of the patterns, but at first glance they look well written and not difficult. They call for Brown Sheep yarns: Serendipity Tweed and Lamb's Pride. Substituting similar basic yarns should be no problem. The sweater and overalls do have schematics. I just wish there was a pattern for the house slippers. I'll have to content myself with the French Press pattern by Melynda Bernardi.
— Ann Gibson



Member Kitty Zimmerman on SKG

Moving has many advantages, and I have found all those in my move to Seattle. (Children and grandchildren are the greatest incentive for change.) It seemed easy to get settled in Seattle, but after the flurry of newness was over, a certain longing arose. I needed the clatter of knitting needles and the chatter of like-minded aficionados.

Soon, I began to peruse the local yarn stores. Each and every shop was inviting: great yarns, wonderful seducing colors, and enough patterns and classes to give me a chance to knit around the earth a few times. Still, there was that little nagging piece of my life that was missing, at least until I came across the Seattle Knitters Guild. The website was friendly sounding, the list of programs was spectacular, and the location in Wedgewood was easy to find. With a little timidity, I attended my first meeting.

As I hesitantly eased out of my car in the crowded parking lot, many women, a few men, and even a couple of children all streamed toward the Presbyterian Church. Their bulging bags with trailing yarns and telltale needles called to me to follow the parade. As I descended the few steps into the church's fellowship hall I was welcomed into that haven of knitting. I didn't know a soul, but it didn't seem to matter. Within 5 minutes I had found an open chair and sat down, still feeling my newness. Immediately, the knitters around me, between stitches, asked my name and introduced themselves. Upon learning that I was a recent transplant to Seattle, they began to tell where they were originally from and the reasons for their moves. Hum... Family is a strong draw.

My first meeting that night was the December Holiday party. The goup was in high spirits, food was shared, and comforting conversation was taking place all around me. The officers introduced themselves to new or visiting persons. At this initial meeting I felt most genuinely welcomed at a place that now feeds me with companionship, fellowship, knitting vistas, and that hum of knitting and needles that only yarnies can know.

I have been back each month since then. Great speakers and great companionship; could a person ask for more? So, if you are looking for a lively knitting community, do what I did... follow the yarn trail to The Seattle Knitting Guild. You won't regret it



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
May 2	J.C. Briar, Chart Reading Made Easy
June 6	Pat Brunner, Finding Our Knitting Mojo
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