

Cablegram



Andrea Rangel

Local designer and knitting teacher Andrea Rangel will bring a trunk show of her samples to the Knitters' Guild on January 4th. Andrea was taught to knit by her grandmother, but it was her aunt who got her knitting in college and she's been knitting and designing ever since. She loves to create all sorts of knitted garments; skirts, dresses, and, yes, pants. With cables!

Andrea will also bring the usual sweaters and socks and discuss her design process. Her Shilshole sweater design with colorwork was inspired from the traditional Cowichen sweaters. Lately she's been focused on designing her Lenke collection filled with rich colors and textures. Her designs are intended to keep wearers in the Seattle winter climate warm and fashionable. This collection is available on Ravelry as an ebook or by individual designs. You'll also find a warm shawl, "Pembroke Wrap", in the fall 2011 issue of *Interweave Knits*.

If you follow Andrea's blog on Ravelry, you'll discover she recently took part in the Teen Feed knit along project to help homeless teens. If you are interested in helping with this project, check out her blog on Ravelry as hats are still being accepted for donation.

When she's not designing, you'll find Andrea helping knitters expand their techniques at Bad Woman Yarn or So Much Yarn. Andrea's designs have been published in *Interweave Knits*, *Knit Magazine*, *Knitty*, and independently. Learn more about her work at www.andreaknits.com or on Ravelry, user name Andreakr. — Marilyn Tschetter

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Looking Ahead:

January 4, Andrea Rangel

February 15, Nancy Marchant

March 7, Susanna Hansson

April 4, Jeny Staiman

See back cover for more info

Holiday Party And Gift Exchange

When the annual Christmas party comes around, it always comes around in style, and this year's event was no exception. We had a full room for the December 7th meeting, and several extra tables were put up to accommodate everyone. Right from the start, there was a party atmosphere,

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Board Members

Thanks goes to following members who volunteer their time:

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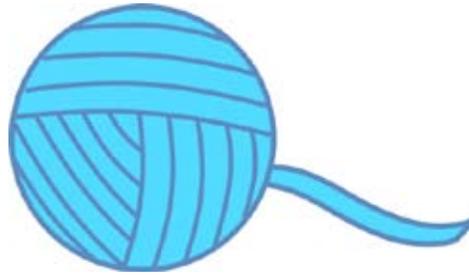
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Notes from the Board

See you in January! — *Carol Sherman*



Carol Sherman

Library Report

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

Important Notes

Please be sure to mark your calendars for the meeting date change in February. We will be hosting one of the Madrona Fiber Arts Winter Retreat Speakers just prior to this event on the 3rd Wednesday of the month instead of our usual 1st Wednesday. The speaker is yet to be announced. Seattle Knitters Guild Needs You!



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

Welcome to new members
Hannah Ingalls Seattle (iknityouknot)
Sasa Foster Seattle (itseloise)
Kitty Zimmerman Kenmore (kzimmerman)
— *Lisa Burlingame, Membership*

Scherer

Shared by January Speaker Andrea Rangel

This is a perfectly basic hat pattern. It was designed for a charity knit along to give winter hats to Teen Feed, a Seattle area shelter. I encourage you to use it to knit a hat for someone in need too. And then, because it's so quick and easy, make one for yourself!

Materials

- 80yds Bulky Weight Yarn (Shown in: Berroco Vintage Chunky) 130yds/120m per 100g skein); 1 skein
- 16" US #10/6mm circular needle (use size necessary to obtain gauge)
- Set of US#10/6mm double pointed needles
- Tapestry Needle
- Place Markers

Sizes & Finished Measurements

- To fit average adult
- Brim Circumference: 20.5in/52cm

Gauge

- 14 sts/20 rows = 4in/10cm St st

Abbreviations

- BO bind off
- CO cast on
- K knit
- K2tog knit 2 together
- P purl
- Rnd(s) round(s)
- St st stockinette stitch
- St(s) stitch(es)



Directions

Brim: With 16in circular needle, CO 72. Place marker and join for working in the round.

Rnd 1: *K2, P2; repeat from * to end.

Repeat rnd 1 for 2x2 rib 5 more times or until brim measures 1.25in/3cm from CO.

Work in St st (knit every rnd) until piece measure 6in/15cm from CO.

Crown: Switch to double pointed needles when circumference becomes too small to work comfortably on circular needle. Decrease for crown shaping as follows:

Rnd 1: *K4, K2tog, place marker; repeat from * to end. (Last marker is the one marking beginning of rnd; leave this one in place.) (60 sts remain)

Rnd 2: Knit

Rnd 3: *Knit to 2 sts before marker, K2tog; repeat from * to end.

Repeat rnds 2-3 three more times. Last rnd will be K2tog around. After all decreases have been worked 12 sts remain. Break yarn, leaving a 6in/15cm. Thread tail onto a tapestry needle and draw through all sts, pulling tight like a drawstring and removing needles. Weave in all ends and block.

Andrea Rangel knits, designs, and teaches in Seattle. See more of her designs at www.andreaknits.com or visit her on Ravelry, user name andreakr. Contact the designer at andreaknits@gmail.com.



Continued from cover

and it was wonderful to see all the happy, chatting members, guests, and children that were present.

Members brought in all sorts of delicious dishes to share, from salads, cheese plates and bowls of fruit, to wonderful, decadent desserts. There was plenty to go around, and everyone enjoyed the food with gusto.

A large number of guild members also brought in gift exchange packages to swap, and the tables were loaded with packages and shiny bags with tissue paper peeking out.

The noisiest part of the night had to be the raffle. The guild was given a wonderful array of prizes, donated by an amazing assortment of vendors, local yarn shops, and individuals. With program co-chairs Marilyn Tschetter and Susan Parke calling out names, and President Carol Sherman and VP Tracey Delamarter handing out prizes, it was a fun part of the evening. Prizes included knitting books, skeins of hand dyed yarns, and needles and notions. The guild itself had also purchased an assortment of gift certificates that were given out as raffle prizes, as well. With each prize handed out there was cheering, ooohs and aaahs, and laughter.

The evening wound down with show and tell, and each shared item was admired and exclaimed over with the level of enthusiasm you can only find surrounded by fellow knitters. Thank you all for a lovely evening, and may you each have a wonderful New Year! — Tracey Delamarter



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



Ann Gibson



Mary Mara



Jackie Siegel



Gabrielle Green



Pat Brunner



Jane Fields



Deb Fox



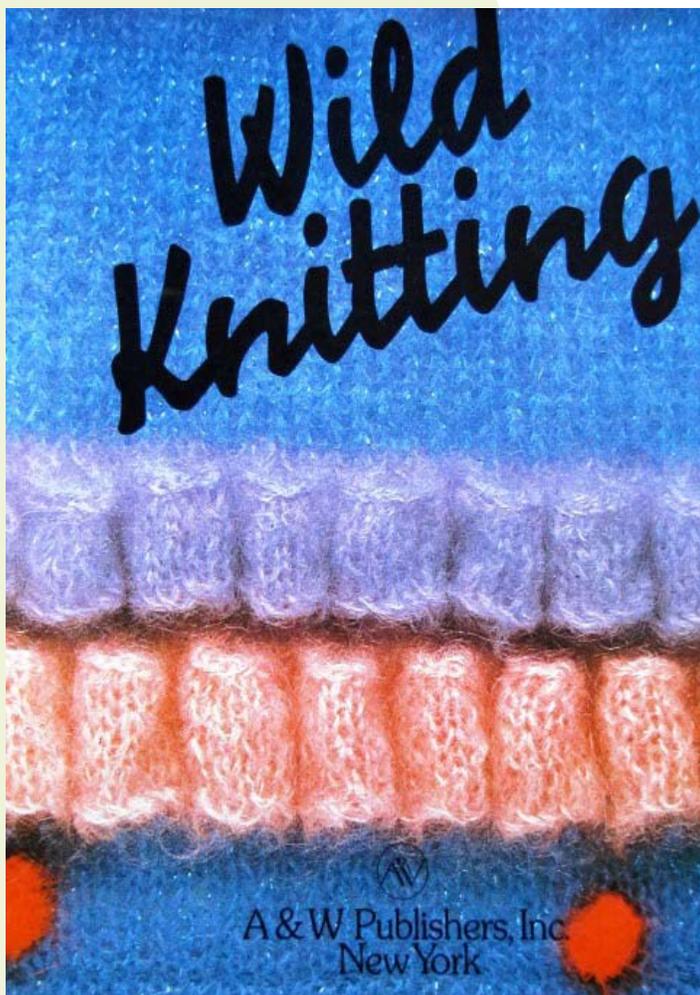
Nanette Wielenga



Robyn Chernick



Jessica Rose



Book Review

Wild Knitting

Edited by Angela Jeffs
A&W Publishers, Inc., 1979

If you search for knitting books on amazon.com, the search engine pulls up over 14,000 titles. That's a lot of knitting books. I've only been knitting a couple of years myself, and I'll admit to having a rather large collection of knitting books. As with building a yarn stash, once you start collecting them, it gets hard to stop. I even house my knitting books in a lovely wooden bookshelf that I got from my neighborhood yarn shop when it closed. Most of my collection is exactly what you'd expect from a knitter looking to expand her skill set; I have the Harmony guides, books that our guild speakers sold and autographed, and an assortment of pattern books that I've been gifted or picked up over the last couple of years.

Then there's the other shelf in my bookcase. The "special collections" shelf, as I like to call it. Before I fill you in on the actual titles, let me tell you how this collection got started. Sometime in the last year or so, Debbie Bliss

stopped in at my local Pacific Fabrics for a talk and show and tell of some of her latest designs. It was a great presentation; she was lovely and gracious, and I was impressed with how flattering her designs were on all of our different body types. As she spoke, she told us how she got started with designing knitwear, and she briefly mentioned some silly patterns that she had published in a tongue-in-cheek knitting book early in her career. Now, anytime someone mentions something in passing like "tea cozy that looked like a hamburger," I have to follow up on it. During the meet and greet, I asked her about the book. It's called Wild Knitting, and so, of course, I immediately went home and looked it up online. I love the Internet.

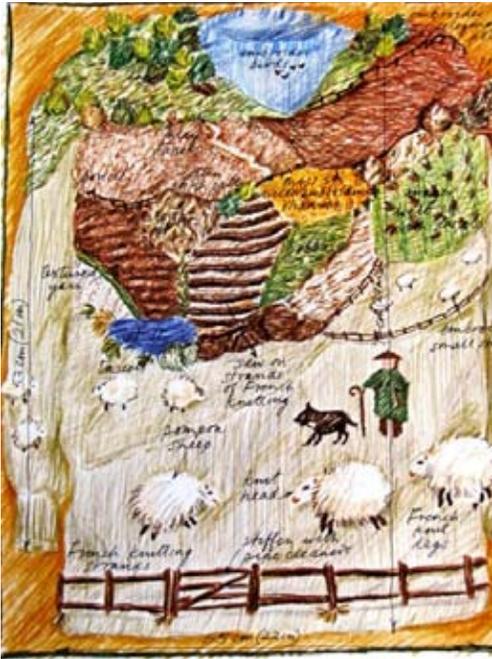
I found and ordered the only copy of Wild Knitting that I could find in my price range. Of the three copies available, two were selling for over \$100. This book must be amazing, I thought.

Amazing doesn't even begin to cover it.

Wild Knitting is a collection of, um, interesting patterns. There are over fifty in this oversized, hard backed book, and each time I look through it, I find something I missed before. It starts out fairly unremarkably. There are the typical "getting started" pages, what materials to use, how to knit the basics, and how to get the project off your needles when you're done. But even these first pages go above and beyond most books that I've encountered. There are also pages dedicated to renovating existing knitwear, creating interesting edges, adding unique finishing touches, and several pages detailing how to design your own pieces. There are a couple of pages titled Coping with Disasters, and the book as a whole contains really useful information. In fact, it's actually quite a useful book, overall.

Then there are the fifty plus patterns.





Want to make a child's raincoat out of trash bags? There's a pattern for that. How about a road kill armadillo wrap, complete with tire tracks through its middle? You're in luck! There's a pattern, a photo, and several drawings. Are you heading out on the town to celebrate the New Year? You'll definitely want to knit up a stylish plastic bag cocktail hat or perhaps a fly, bumble bee, or bat for your hair. Don't forget the men. Wild Knitting has patterns for neckties sporting cocktail glasses, pen nibs, cactus, and sardines. Or, maybe he'd rather have the amazingly amazing Pastoral pullover, a sweater that defies description. (It's the most incredible sweater I've ever seen, and that's saying something.)

The list goes on. Need a pair of clown dungarees? A knit tube of lipstick? A sign of the times (this book was published in the late '70s), there's even a pattern for a lighter and a pack of cigarettes, complete with removable cigarettes stuffed with rolled up tissue paper. The page before the smokes contains patterns for children's toys: knitted crayons and a paint set, popsicles and ice cream cones.

We've all seen the patterns for knitted fruits and veggies, right? This book has those, too, but these fruits are big enough to become floor cushions.

There are several patterns in Wild Knitting that I would actually consider knitting up. There are some fun hat and sock patterns, some of the toys, and even a couple of the sweaters (with a few modifications) that I would make. The directions are clear and concise, and there are design notes and photos throughout to supplement the written instructions.

The appeal of this book goes beyond the patterns, though. It's the joyful disregard for the status quo that shines through the pages of this book. Look closely at several of the photos, and you can see that the models are barely suppressing a laugh. While the rest of the knitting industry was busy taking itself seriously, Angela Jeffs and her band of witty designers were having some serious fun. That's why I love this book. It's just pure, silly fun.

Wild Knitting was so much fun that it started me looking for more zany knitting books and patterns. It's amazing what you can find at a thrift store. I am now the proud owner of dozens of "vintage" patterns books (if the words vintage



and totally bizarre can be used interchangeably). I have books for knitting with trash, patterns to ensure your children will never speak to you again, and books that remind us that the "good 'ol days" really weren't that great after all (fashion-wise, at least).

There are a few copies of Wild Knitting available on Amazon, but this book is difficult to find. I would be happy to let you have a peek at mine; just send a message to Delaknitter on Ravelry. Be forewarned though: there are



some rather risqué photos, including one of a topless model. And, as for errata, I had a hard enough time finding the book; locating any corrections was a lost cause from the start.— Tracey Delamarter

Knitter's Night Before....

(from the Laura Fry Weaving Studio, via Betty Bell)

'Twas the night before Christmas and all around me,
Was unfinished knitting not under the tree.
The stockings weren't hung by the chimney with care,
'cause the heels and the toes had not a stitch there.
The children were nestled all snug in their beds
but I had not finished the caps for their heads.
Dad was asleep; he was no help at all,
And the sweater for him was six inches too small.
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I put down my needles to see what was the matter.
Away to the window, I flew like a flash,
Tripped over my yarn and fell down with a crash.
The tangle of yarn that lay deep as the snow
Reminded me how much I still had to go.
Out on my lawn, I heard such a noise,
I thought it would wake both dad and the boys.
And though I was tired, my brain was a bit thick,
I knew in a moment, it must be Saint Nick.
But what I heard then left me perplexed-ed,
For not a name I heard was what I had expected
"move,Ashford; move,Lopi; move,Addie and Clover,
Move,Reynolds; move,Starmore; move, Fraylic--
moveover"
"Paton, don't circle round; stand in line.
Come now, you sheep wool work just fine!
I know this is hard semi, it's just your first year,
I'd hate to go back to eight tiny reindeer."
I peered over the sill; what I saw was amazing,
Eight woolly sheep on my lawn all a'grazing.
And then,in a twinkle, I heard at the door
Santa's feet coming across the porch floor.
I rose from my knees and got back on my feet,

And as I turned round, Saint Nick, I did meet.
He was dressed all in wool from his head to his toe
And his clothes were handknit from above to below.
A bright Fairisle sweater he wore on his back,
and his toys were all stuffed in an Aran knit sack.
His cap was a wonder of bobbles and lace,
A beautiful frame for his rosy red face.
The scarf round his neck could have stretched for a
mile,
And the socks peeking over his boots were Argyle.
The back of his mittens bore an intricate cable,
And suddenly on one I spied a small label.
SC was duplicate stitched on the cuff, and I asked
"Hey Nick, did you knit all this stuff?"
He proudly replied "Ho-ho-ho, yes I did,
I learned how to knit when I was a kid."
He was chubby and plump, a quite well-dressed old
man,
And I laughed to myself for I'd thought up a plan,
I flashed him a grin and jumped up in the air,
And the next thing he knew he was tied to a chair.
He spoke not a word, but looked in his lap
Where I'd laid my needles and yarn for a cap.
He quickly began knitting, first one cap then two;
For the first time I thought I'd really get through.

He put heels on the stockings and toes in some socks
While I sat back drinking Scotch on the rocks!!
So quickly like magic, his needles they flew,
That he was all finished by quarter to two.
He sprang for his sleigh when I let him go free,
And over his shoulder he looked back at me.
And I heard him exclaim as he sailed past the moon,
"Next year start your knitting sometime around June!
— Marilyn Tschetter

Member Meeting	Topic
February 15	Nancy Marchant, Brioche Knitting
March 7	Susanna Hansson, Bohus Knitting
April 4	Jeny Staiman, Double Heelix
May 2	J.C. Briar, Chart REading Made Easy
June 6	To Be Announced
July 4	To Be Announced
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

