

Cablegram



January 7: Epic Fails

Time to share your Epic Fails! And, if you have any, your Epic Saves!

I love Show 'n' Tell! Seeing everyone's triumphs and good work – very satisfying. But that's not the whole story of our craft is it? No..... there is another side to the knitter's work – the ones we DON'T show at meetings, the ones we don't show anyone. The Epic Fails. Those projects, begun with the best of intentions, materials and skills, that somehow fall completely short of the goal. The projects that we are too annoyed by to even frog. The ones you look at, sometimes completed, sometimes not, and wonder what the heck you were thinking when you started.

Don't be shy – this is what makes us knitters, in the truest sense of the word. Not just people who knit – we are knitters. And crocheters. And weavers. And spinners. We are the Fiber Arts community, and there is some balance in the fiber universe.

Bring in those projects. The ones you wonder about, the ones that just don't make you happy. Bring the ones that you brought back from the Fail with a Save. We want to share!

— Susan Parke, Program Co-Chair

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*Looking Ahead:
next meeting
February 11,
Margaret Radcliffe*

SEATTLE
KNITTERS GUILD
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From the President:

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Liz Bates joins us as membership chair. She will give Lisa Burlingame a much-needed break from double-duty, as Lisa is also handling webmaster duties. Liz will be handling new and renewing memberships, printing name tags, and greeting members at meetings. Say hi to Liz when you pick up your name tag at the meeting.

In Liz's words:

"I work as a 3D design/drafter with Solid Edge for a remote site monitoring company near Northgate. I am from a lot of states, moved around a lot; Texas, California, Michigan, Indiana, Georgia, last place I lived before coming here over 20 years ago was West Germany. I learned knitting from books in 2010, mostly Debbie Stoller's (ed. note: *Stitch 'Bitch*). I prefer continental knitting (I think "throwing" with the right hand?), I tried the English way with the left hand but it just didn't feel right, although I can use both hands for two color knitting.

I've been a member of SKG around 2 years. I'm working on a hat and socks (Monkey socks!) now. Ravelry name: lizpb

I would love to learn to spin, but I don't have the time needed. I find yarn very addictive! (As I think we all do!)"

Welcome, Liz!

Loralee Wenger has stepped forward as the new vice-president. Loralee owns a landscape design and installation company in Seattle. She tells me she is currently doing a lot of work installing rain gardens in Seattle. Loralee is also a garden editor for *Better Homes and Gardens*, and welcomes tips on great gardens in the area that could be featured in *BHG*. Before landscape design, Loralee was a writer.

Loralee will be taking notes at board meetings and will stand in for the president when needed.

Welcome, Loralee!

— Paula Ward, President

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: \$25 per year, \$15 after July 1
Library cart open 6:30 to 7pm
Only members may check out books.
View book list on www.librarything.com
username: *LibrarySKG* password: *SKGMember*
Cablegram is published monthly. Send stories and
photos to editor@seattleknittersguild.org.

www.seattleknittersguild.org

KnitAlong 2015

Your board members looked back at many years of Guild KAL's, and the one with the most participation, and the most creativity and fun, was by far the year that we had our very own special colorway from Hazel Knits. So we're going back to that idea, not with a specific yarn, but with a specific color. It was so fun to see the incredible variety of projects that we all did with that yarn - we want to see what we can do with another color. We will be voting on which color to choose:

Red
Green
Blue
Yellow

We understand that there are different shade within each colorway, and that it can be difficult to do some projects with one solid color. No worries! Any shade of the chosen color will be great, and if another color (or a couple of other colors) sneaks in, that's fine, too. As long as the primary color is easily recognizable as the KAL color - terrific.

So think about which color you want for the 2015 Guild KAL – and be ready to vote on January 7. And be thinking about the project YOU want to knit in that color!

— Susan Parke, Program Co-Chair



Membership Notes

We have a new Membership Chair! Welcome to the board, Liz Bates! And just in time, as January is membership renewal month!

The membership team will be collecting your membership dues at the January 7th meeting. Membership for January through December 2015 is \$25. We will be accepting credit cards, checks and good ol' cash.

Be sure to stop by, pay your dues and wish Liz good luck!

OR if you'd rather pay online – follow this link <https://squareup.com/market/seattle-knitters-guild> and you'll be all set for 2015! Thanks!

— Lisa Burlingame,





Recap: Rebecca Danger, Stuffing and Finishing Toys

Rebecca Danger learned to knit at 13 and has been knitting for 17 years. She started knitting toys in 2009, published her first pattern in February and by May was approached by Martingale, a local publishing house in Bothell, to write her first book. *Knitted Monsters* was written in 2009, and came out in 2011. Despite the fact that for every dollar she makes on a book she has written, she makes twenty on the Internet, she has published three books with Martingale and is currently working on two more. Rebecca has been selling individual patterns on Etsy and Ravelry since 2009. She focuses mainly on toys but knits other things, for example she recently did a shawl for a yarn club.

The most important thing about toys is stuffing. You can use the cheapest polyfill stuffing, the nicest one is [Perfect baby loft fiberfill](#). Before you start stuffing, picture the shape in your head. Most of the shaping comes from shaping with stuffing not from knitted shaping.

To achieve a nice smooth toy, you have to break the stuffing up into small tufts and sculpt with it. Start by filling the head, then fill the legs, then the center. Push the stuffing in with one hand and shape it on the outside with the other hand. Whenever you see a dip, add some, if you see a lump, smooth it out.

If you knit limbs over several days, stuff them all at once or at least set aside equal amounts of stuffing for all limbs at once, otherwise you are pretty much guaranteed a toy with some limbs larger than others. If your toy starts looking worse and worse despite your efforts, just take all the stuffing out and start over making sure you break the stuffing apart again.

If you are making a toy for a small child, make sure to embroider the eyes, safety eyes can come out of the knitting and over time the plastic can break down and the eyes might fall out. If you are unsure how to embroider faces go on Ravelry and look what others have done.

A great glue for attaching teeth is [Unique Stitch](#). Another great one is [Aileene's Tacky Glue](#).

Favorite yarns for toy knitting: Berrocco Comfort (it is cheap, has excellent stitch definition, looks really clean), Knitpicks Brava, Lorna's Laces Superwash, Skacel Cobasi (great twist even if some might consider it a bit splitty). She liked to use wool for toys until she got little people of her own and nonwool toys are infinitely more washable.

Why knit toys:

- it is quick, talk about instant gratification!
- one size fits all
- all you need is one skein
- the gauge does not matter (the density of knitting does!)
- you can use whatever yarn and needles you want



Same pattern, different yarns: Sock yarn, #1 needles; Dk, #2; Worsted, #3; Heavy worsted, #5; Chunky, #9; Cascade Magnum, #13



Check it out:

[aroundtheworldin80skeins](http://aroundtheworldin80skeins.com)



Yarn Notes

Bad Woman Yarn has moved, it is still in the Wallingford Center building, just different suite.

Acorn Street yarn shop has been remodeled and reorganized.



Seattle Knitters Guild Calendar

January 7	Epic Knitting Fails and Saves
February 11	Margaret Radcliffe
March 4	Suzanne Tidwell, Fiber Artist
April 1	Fiber Frenzy
May 6	Lorilee Beltman, Teacher and Knitting Visionary
June 4	Let's Knit
July 1	Yoth Yarns
August 5	Ice Cream Social
September 2	Mary Newlander, Canterling Crow, Hand Dying Yarns Demo
October 7	TBA
November 4	KnitAlong
December 2	Holiday Party

Speakers are subject to change