

# Cablegram

## June 4: Karen Alfke

### Sweater Design, Knit and Fit

Karen has been designing her own garments since she learned to knit in Germany in the 1980s. She learned to knit and design at the same time, at the hands of an amazingly talented intuitive designer: her aunt Anne. Her aunt doesn't use other people's patterns: by keeping garment shapes simple, she can change yarns and gauges and design elements at will. Karen learned the basics of gauge and garment design from her – and in her naïveté, she thought everyone knit this way! When she returned to the States, she had to translate her knitting knowledge into English and learn how to read patterns!

Since 1998, she has been developing 'Unpatterns' as a way to pass on the skills she learned from her aunt. She considers Unpatterns 'design tools for the independent knitter.' Rather than using stitch-by-stitch instructions, they walk the knitter through garment design with their own yarn and gauge. It is one of her greatest joys to see a student come back wearing an Unpattern garment they've finished – the look of pride and ownership in their creation is priceless. In that moment, she has created not just a pattern that knitters enjoy working with, but also a new designer!

In 2000, Karen founded 2nd Nature Design, now the parent company of Unpatterns, with the express goal of creating more independent knitters through quality instruction and unique, understandable designs. Her mission is twofold: to create beautiful things, and to make more independent knitters.

When Karen is not teaching, she knits, designs, and gardens in Port Townsend, Washington.

I'm so looking forward to her discussion, as I continue my sweater knitting journey! I hope you will be excited too.

— Paulette Hauck, Program Co-Chair

Unfortunately the guest speaker for last month did not show up. Instead, we talked about ongoing projects and upcoming events. Paulette did a mini lesson for a fellow member on kitchener stitch. And, the members, although I'm sure disappointed that there were no bunnies, took it in stride and stitched on.

— Mae Oberste, Marketing Chair

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#### Looking Ahead:

July 2,  
KnitALong  
One Skein Project

SEATTLE  
KNITTERS GUILD  
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## From the President:

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My new friend is the mother in law of someone I walk with occasionally. My friend is not a knitter (can't understand that) but she told me the story of her mother in law who knitted for years and now in her 90s is living in a nursing home with almost no eye sight and hard of hearing. She had given up on knitting as she couldn't see the pattern or follow her needles as well anymore. After several years and dozens of garments she had stopped knitting. The staff and family notice after a while her hands moving in a constant rate as if she was knitting and so they went and bought her yarn and she is happy.

I got to meet my new friend over at another friend's house for dinner last month and already knowing she was a knitter I was lucky to sit next to her and talk yarn and we made a plan for me to stop in and see her. She told me she "just knits" and while there are dropped stitches she loves the feel of the yarn and how content she is when knitting. Her son and daughter in-law are so pleased she is able to knit and continue with something that was so much a part of who she is.

My mother is also at this nursing home but in the memory care unit. My mother has severe dementia and after her almost five year stay in this facility she is very limited with language, eye contact but seems to always know when there is food to eat or a cheek to plant a kiss on. While sewing was my mother's passion, she also had a long history of family knitters and was pleased to see I had taken up this craft/passion. Now when I go see my mother – which is often – I also look for my new friend and knitting peer and talk yarn in the only way we can – with love. It makes stepping through those doors of the nursing home just a little easier. Thank you my new friend.

— Charla Jaffee, 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](http://www.librarything.com)  
username: *LibrarySKG* password: *SKGMember*  
Cablegram is published monthly. Send stories and  
photos to [editor@seattleknittersguild.org](mailto:editor@seattleknittersguild.org).

[www.seattleknittersguild.org](http://www.seattleknittersguild.org)

## Membership Notes

Welcome to new member:  
Jayne Cain

It is now possible to renew your membership online at <https://squareup.com/market/seattle-knitters-guild> If you renew using this link, please remember to enter your Ravelry name in the 'optional info' box.

— Lisa Burlingame, Membership

## One Skein Knitalong

The spring has sprung, the grass has riz – I wonder what your one skein project is??

Heck – I wonder what MY one skein KAL project is, too! I picked up some gorgeous Tosh Vintage (Purple Basil – seriously deep purple) that really wants to be a short Honey Cowl....I think..... but I'm also thinking of a new Baby Surprise Jacket for my cousin's baby, but I want to wait until I know what color. Paulette got a really charming cowl pattern and a skein of Fiber Co yarn on the LYS tour, at Tolt. And I got sucked into the Trellis Scarf at Churchmouse last weekend – one skein of a variegated Rowan fingering yarn makes a lacy spring sort of scarf. And, of course, I've been researching on Ravelry, and checking my stash.... Mittens? Another pair of socks? A sweater for a bear? So many one skein possibilities!

Remember to bring information about yarn type, pattern, and did you have a great time knitting or was it the bane of your life for several weeks!

Get those needles going!

— Susan Parke, Paulette Hauck, Program Co-Chairs

## Knit It Forward

Congratulations !!! You have completed outfits for over 30 bears and more cute, wonderful, charming, need I say more ... outfits are appearing every day. SO – we have recommitted to Providence and Camp Erin for 60 bears this year. That is the entire camp program for both the 6 to 12 year camp and the 13 to 17 year camp. Right now we have lots of bears in dresses, we could use some more boy bears with pants. Remember our bears must be completed by our August Ice Cream Social meeting.

Bears will be at our next meeting for checkout and sizing try ons. There are also three patterns written specifically for this bear, if you'd rather not worry about sizing (check our [Ravelry thread](#) or [facebook page](#)).

Keep up the great work - you guys are awesome!!

— Paulette Hauck, Program Co-Chair





## Looking Back: Lys Tour

Although we only made it to 16 of the 25 stores on the 2014 LYS Tour, it was an amazing experience. The wonderful patterns, yarns, and edible goodies, all so tempting and available at every shop.

There were highlights, of course. Yarn selections and pretty patterns aside, the happiest, most excited crew we found was at Mad Cow Yarns in Bothell – what fun they were having. The busiest store we found was our own LYS, Tolt Yarn and Wool in Carnation. The best coffee was at Makers Mercantile, and the best parking was at Bad Woman Yarn. The most unusual location, and the most supportive staff were found at Quintessential Knits in Monroe. The best view was found at So Much Yarn, overlooking Elliott Bay. It was an exciting weekend filled with all our favorites – yarn, friends, laughter and the promise of lovely hours of knitting ahead.

— Patti Puzan



## Seattle Knitters Guild at Mariner Stitch 'N' Pitch

Please join us for the 10th Annual Mariner Stitch 'N' Pitch Thursday, July 24th at 7:10 PM vs the Baltimore Orioles. Make sure you arrive early to visit the local yarn shops kiosks on the 3rd level before the game. The tickets are \$15.00 each (no hidden fees).

If we get at least 20 fans together "Seattle Knitters Guild" will be displayed on the scoreboard after the 4th inning. Feel free to invite friends and family.

I would like to pass the tickets out at our July meeting so please let me know how many tickets you need by our June 4th meeting. You can either pay me directly or mail your payment to Seattle Knitters Guild; PO Box 15341; Seattle, WA 98115 by June 4th.

Fun Fact from the official Stitch 'N' Pitch Website: "History of Stitch 'N' Pitch: 2005 - The first Stitch 'N' Pitch was held at the Seattle Mariners and the attendance of 1,200 was a startling success." How cool is that!!! GO MARINERS!

— Nanette Wielenga, Treasurer

### Seattle Knitters Guild at Seattle Mariners 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Stitch n' Pitch July 24th vs Baltimore Orioles

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Tickets @ \$15.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am planning on passing out the tickets at the July 2nd meeting. In case you cannot attend please include your mailing address:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Knitters' Calendar

June 20- 22, [Black Sheep Gathering](#), Eugene Oregon  
 September 27- 29, [Flock and Fiber Festival](#), Canby Oregon  
 October 3- 5, [Nordic Knitting Conference](#), Seattle, Washington  
 October 4- 5, [Knit City Fiber Festival](#), Vancouver, British Columbia  
 October 18-19, [Fiber Fusion Northwest](#), Monroe, Washington  
 November 8- 9, [Knit Fit](#), Seattle, Washington

## Check it out:

If it feels too hot to knit, consider needle felting:

[woolbuddy.com/](http://woolbuddy.com/)  
[www.woolpets.com/](http://www.woolpets.com/)

And if you just want to declare your love of knitting:  
[Zippy Pins](#)



## Seattle Knitters Guild Calendar

July 2	KnitAlong: One Skein Project
August 6	Ice Cream Social
September 3	Back-to-School Mini Classes
October 1	Annual Market Place: Shop and Socialize
November 5	Rebecca Danger: Toy Design
December 3	Holiday Party

Speakers are subject to change