

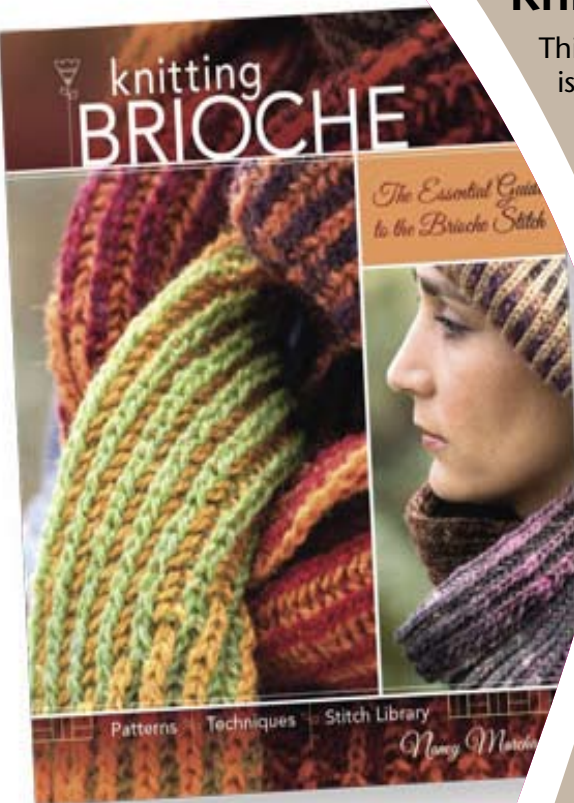
Cablegram

Knitting Brioche with Nancy Marchant

This month we welcome Nancy Marchant to our Knitters Guild meeting. She is, as her website (www.briochestitch.com) proclaims, the Queen of This Brioche Domain. Join us to learn about this interesting and versatile way of knitting with two colors and getting a terrific variety of textures and color patterns. I have always found brioche stitch an interesting pattern – and that was before I got her book, and realized that brioche is NOT just a one-texture technique, that it's far more than making two colors look like ribbing. Check out her website for yourself – really interesting.

I read an interview with Ms. Marchant in which she was asked what her studio looks like. "It is completely full from top to bottom with yarn. I keep having to create new spaces in my house to work because I keep filling up the space where I have just been. I really do need to de-stash." Something we can all relate to!

Ms. Marchant was born in Indiana, but now lives in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. She has been published in Vogue Knitting, Interweave Knits and Knitters Magazine as well as a number of Dutch knitting magazines. She is the author of *Knitting Brioche*, the definitive work on the technique of brioche knitting. She is currently working on standardizing the abbreviations used in writing brioche knitting patterns to make them more clear, and to make it easier for knitters to learn this way of combining colors and textures. She is also working on a stitch dictionary for lace brioche knitting. — Susan Parke



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Looking Ahead:
 February 15, Nancy Marchant
 March 7, Susanna Hansson
 April 4, Jeny Staiman
 May 2, J.C. Briar
 See back cover for more info

Andrea Rangel Trunk & Sample Show

Our speaker for the January meeting was local designer Andrea Rangel. Andrea has been designing full time for the last year, but she has been involved with the fiber world for much longer. She has been a knitting instructor and has worked at local yarn shops, as well. When it comes to designing, Andrea's goal is to create purpose driven items;

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Board Members

Thanks goes to following members who volunteer their time:

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Notes from the Board

Looking at our speakers who have come to the guild and who are scheduled to come in the next year, I've realized just how lucky we are as knitters to live in the Seattle area. The talent around here is pretty amazing, not only in our area but in our very own guild! Designers, dyers and just plain awesome knitters are all around us, and I feel pretty fortunate to draw my inspiration from them, and all of you!
— Carol Sherman



Carol Sherman

Library Report

No new books to report this month — 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

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

Lynn Austin (speedy1)
Trista Davis (trista23)
Rosemarie Jackson
Teresa Jewell (water-bird)
Deb Otto (dpotto)
Patti Puzan (puzan)
Andrea Rangel (andreakr)
— Lisa Burlingame, Membership

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





Continued from cover

she or a friend wants or needs a particular item, and so she works up a design for it. Her husband Sean has dreamt up many of her creations, sometimes leaving her sketches to work from. She told of how before a trip to Hawaii, she woke up one morning to a series of seven sketches left on the table for her to find. The sketches became The Hanalei Collection, inspired by the prospect of Hawaiian beaches and balmy weather.

Andrea revealed her design process, and it's impressive how structured and mathematical it is. She credits Marnie MacLean's tutorials for helping her learn the ropes of designing patterns for multiple sizes, but she actually almost (not quite) makes it look easy with her organization. Andrea uses checklists, sketches and stitch pattern swatches, drawing software, spreadsheets, flow charts, and graphs to create her designs, which typically cover three to seven different sizing options.

She infused the talk of charts and spreadsheets with humor, reminding us about all those times our teachers told us we'd need math someday. Each design takes her anywhere from one to nine months to complete, sometimes longer. If she only ends up frogging a couple of times, she feels like she's done well. More often though, she spends a lot of time ripping out and starting over, trying to find the right combination of style and function. Once, she works up a new design, she works with test knitters and a tech editor to proof and perfect it.

In addition to explaining her design process, Andrea also took us through how she chooses projects and the yarn to knit them. The yarn itself often inspires her, and she named Brooklyn Tweed, Hazelknits, and Spincycle Yarns as favorites. She loves tailored looks, woven fabrics, and texture, and it shows in her designs.

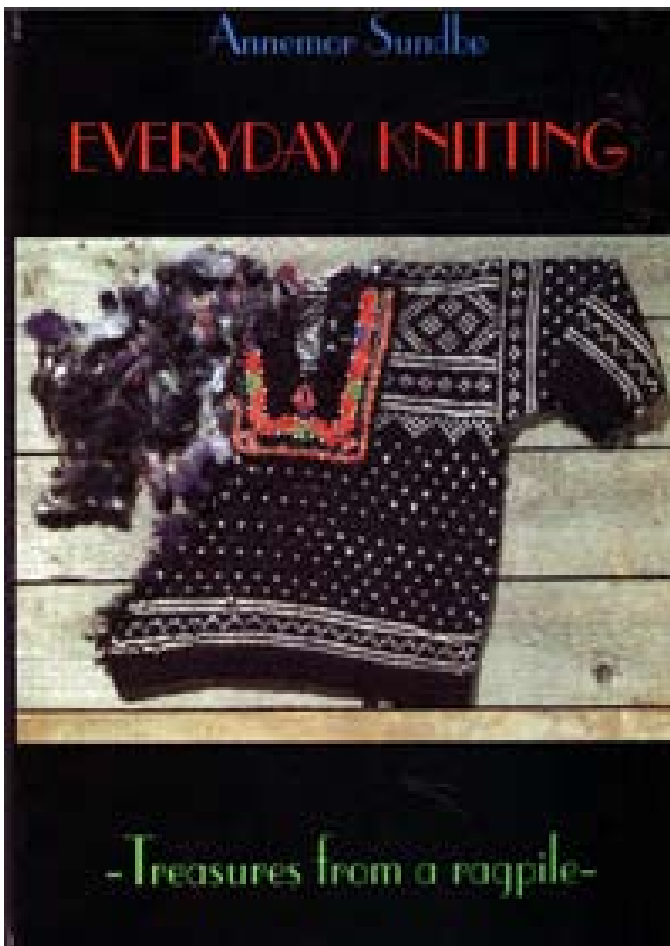
She's also an outside the box thinker, and several of her designs are creative twists on something that has been done before. Her Pembroke Wrap is a lovely triangle shawl, but it's knit up in gigantic yarn. It's a very fast knit, but it doesn't lose the charm of a lace pattern in spite of its bulkiness. She created a circular scarf (Ablaze) because she loses things easily, and she wanted a scarf that would stay put.

She decides on yarn by looking at a few factors. If she wants warmth, she chooses animal fiber; if she needs breathability, she goes with plant fibers. Once she has her pattern ready, and test samples knit, she works with husband Sean to get photos. Sean is a fantastic photographer, and the photos that Andrea includes with her patterns are wonderful.

For the photo shoots, she invites anywhere from one to ten models, sometime friends, sometimes people she's just happened across around town. They do the shoots around Seattle for the most part, places like St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle Pacific University, and Discovery Park. Andrea watches, and Sean runs the show. The results are picture perfect.

Andrea Rangel's user name on Ravelry is andreakr. You can see her designs there, or on her website: <http://web.me.com/andreaknits/>! — Tracey Delamarter





Book Review

Everyday Knitting: Treasures from a Ragpile

by Annemor Sundbo

Torridale Tweed, 2001 2nd English language edition

I purchased *Everyday Knitting: Treasures from a Ragpile* for the SKG library from a fellow Raveler in July. I first became aware of the book from Kathie Jordan, an SKG member. It is an imported book from Norway, but Schoolhouse Press carries it.

Annemor Sundbo was a weaving teacher who bought a wool-recycling (the industrial term is “shoddy”) factory in 1983. The factory had a 16 ton pile of woolen rags, containing garments that had been delivered as early as 1945, but contained many items that were much older. Sundbo received a grant from the Norwegian Council of Culture to sift through the pile, and the result is this book.

In the first part of the book, Sundbo catalogs traditional designs from her ragpile, such as Fana sweaters and Selbu mittens, with many photographs of knitted items and period art and photos. There is interesting material about old garment types, such as underwear, swimwear,

and nightcaps. She also traces how traditional designs have been translated into modern garments, both handknitted and commercially made. And there is a chapter on knitting history, similar to Richard Rutt’s *A History of Handknitting*.



If the first part of the book is mostly social and cultural history, the end is more “knitterly.” Sundbo presents useful information, such as how to isolate, copy, vary, combine, and position motifs -- again, with many photographs and diagrams. There are many charts of 2-color designs and also some garment schematics. Finally, there is a selection of vintage patterns from the 1930s and 1940s, in Norwegian with no English translation, but many with schematics and/or charts.

This is a perfect example of the type of book that I love to have in the SKG library: a specialized, hard-to-find title, that is nevertheless interesting to a wide range of our membership. The prose is well written and engaging. Even if you are not as passionate about traditional knitting as I am, the chapter on modern fashion garments is fascinating and I know of no other discussion like it in current knitting books. I don’t yet have one in my personal library, but when I make a Schoolhouse Press order, one might just jump into the box. — Ann Gibson



Images of Briche Knitting to Whet Your Appetite!



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
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