



VOLUME 32

February 2012

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE MADISON KNITTERS' GUILD

## MONDAY, February 13, Meeting: Clara Parkes

**Bishop O'Connor Center  
702 S. High Point Road**

**5:00 pm Doors Open**

- Registration
- Sign-up for Show-N-Tell
- Drop off charity donations
- Library
- Knit Aid
- Vendors  
*Sutter's Gold 'n Fleece*  
*Five Oaks Farm*

**6:30 pm**

- Meeting & Program
- Show-N-Tell

First we heard from President Obama, then Governor Walker. We promise that regardless of your political beliefs, you will want to tune into Clara Parkes' annual "State of the Yarn Union Address," at the next MKG meeting. Clara, who has earned the title "Yarn Whisperer," will explain where we are now, how'd we get here, and what's next for the knitting world.



Have you ever stood in front of an entire wall of yarn trying to figure out which one would turn that project you're itching to start into a masterpiece that you'll cherish for years to come? Or searched through your stash trying to decide if worsted weight or DK will give that sweater the right drape? Have you ever had second thoughts about substituting a yarn when your favorite Local Yarn Shop didn't have what the pattern called for? Or wondered why those socks came out of the

wash twice as long as when they went in? Clara is the passionate expert who can help demystify all that is yarn.

Clara Parkes left her career in the booming high-tech industry to pursue her love of knitting. She lives on the coast of Maine in a farmhouse full of yarn—in between book tours! Clara's most recent book is the *Knitter's Book of Socks: The Yarn Lover's Ultimate Guide to Creating Socks That Fit Well, Feel Great, and Last a Lifetime*, in which she explores what she calls the "Sock Trinity"—three consistent qualities that socks must have—durability, elasticity and the ability to manage moisture. There are 20 patterns in the book from top sock designers, including Cookie A, Cat Bordhi, Ann Budd, Nancy Bush, Anne Hanson, and Melissa Morgan-Oakes. She also has generously provided all of us reluctant sock knitters with a gift to get us started: a free download of her Stepping Stones pattern [http://www.knittersreview.com/stepping\\_stones.pdf](http://www.knittersreview.com/stepping_stones.pdf).

**MADISON KNITTERS'  
GUILD KNIT-IN**

**Saturday, March 10**

**Class descriptions**

**begin on Page 7**

**Registration Page 9**

**Or register online:**

[http://  
www.madisonknittersguild.com/knit-  
in2012](http://www.madisonknittersguild.com/knit-in2012)

– Continued on page 17

# Meet Our February Vendors

**Sutter's Gold 'n Fleece** is located in St. Germain in Wisconsin's beautiful north woods. Liz and Joe Sutter offer knitting and crocheting classes, kits, tools and yarns. Private and small group classes are available by request, and the fee is \$10 per student or per family, unless stated otherwise. Pre-registration is required for all classes. All supplies are available at the shop. Students receive 10% off supplies. They will bring us a variety of yarn and kits, including some yarns from their annual inventory sale at 30–50% off. They will also have the Lazy Susan Swift, wood buttons, and shawl pins that Joe makes. They'll also have the current patterns and samples from their new venture—Ravenswood Knit Designs.

Visit their website at <http://www.suttersgoldnfleece.com/>, email [liz@suttersgoldnfleece.com](mailto:liz@suttersgoldnfleece.com) or call 715-479-7634 to learn more.

**Five Oaks Farm** offers fine alpaca fleece, roving and yarn in a wide variety of natural colors. They are located approximately 15 miles south of Madison on a 24-acre farm. MKG members are more than welcome to come out to the farm to see the alpacas. Five Oaks has five female and eight male alpacas, one llama and a huarrizo. (Gizmo is half alpaca and half llama.) They are kept company by one goat and two miniature donkeys. All Five Oaks Farm yarns and roving are sold in 200-yard skeins, except for sock yarn which is sold in 300-yard skeins. Skeins are sold for \$15 plus shipping. Roving is offered for \$3/ounce. Based on availability of fleece, they are happy to accommodate special orders and requests. Five Oaks also offers alpacas for sale, siring service, and alpaca and llama boarding. The Five Oaks folks will bring yarn and roving to our meeting. Visit their website at <http://www.fiveoaksfarmalpacas.com/>, or call 608-835-0504.



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# FEBRUARY COMMUNITY PROJECTS

This month we will collect and deliver items to:



## [Bayview Foundation](#)

Warm hats mittens, scarves for 3rd–5th graders, ages 8–11. Many children are from immigrant families who are not used to Wisconsin winters.

## [Agrace HospiceCare](#)



Hospice can use small blankets to place on a lap or over the shoulders.

If you miss the meeting for a specific charity, your donations are still welcome! If you have questions, contact us here: <http://www.madisonknittersguild.org/drupal/contact>

## ONGOING COMMUNITY PROJECTS

**Yarn for Charity:** Donate yarn to be used by other knitters. *Remember*—this yarn is free if used to make community projects. Please donate \$1 per ball or skein if you take yarn for your own use.

**Women's Prison:** Donate yarn, crochet hooks, patterns and related supplies.

**Handmade Especially for You:** Guild member Lois Anderson collects completed scarves that are donated to women in domestic abuse shelters. Tags for your scarves are available at the guild meetings. Contact Lois at [landerson@uwalumni.com](mailto:landerson@uwalumni.com) or visit the web site:

<http://handmadeespecially.org/>.

- Jennifer Golubiewski, Community Projects Chair



## Start stitching for MARCH:

[The Road Home](#) is a support organization for families in need. A quick knit hat or scarf will help them immensely!

## Needles 'n Pins Yarn Shoppe

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## Fiber Farmin'

We just went through our first subzero wind chill cold snap and are now caught in the jaws of freezing rain. It's this image below of frolicking colored Angora goat kids that I have to keep in my brain to "keep on keeping on." Without the promise of these oh-so-huggable kids on the way, I'm not sure I'd be a goat farmer.

Angora goats are four times as much work as any of the other animals around the farm, so I know why not many people raise them. The sheep, the alpacas and the Angora bunnies keep their pens reasonably clean from day to day; but not the Angora goats! Despite six inches of dense mohair, they're all barn babies. If I didn't put the hay feeders outside, they'd never walk outdoors, I swear! They just walk outside to eat hay and come back in to relieve themselves. The other animals only need their 20-gallon water buckets cleaned out once a week; the goats require it almost daily (see previous sentence.)

Then there's the twice a year shearing. It takes the sheep and alpacas a full year to grow 6–7 inches fleece; Angora goats do that in six months! In addition to producing fiber like crazy, they grow crops of lice nearly as fast if you don't keep on top of problem. Even with Angora goats in the same barn as the sheep and alpacas, in the twenty some years I've been fiber farming, I've never had lice on any other animal other than the goats.

Then there's the hoof trimming... once or twice a year takes care of the alpacas and sheep; not so with the Angora goats. Their hooves need to be trimmed *at least* four times a year. And when I coat up the other animals in winter to protect the precious fiber from the

vegetable matter that winter-fed hay brings, the coats stay on until spring. Not so with the goats; they push, shove and hook one another with their horns, jump up on feeders and fences, and tear off the coats... weekly

If you farm or know someone who does, you *know* animals do get out of their pens from

time to time; it's inevitable. And let's face it: we're talking goats. Any other fiber animal goes to the lush law or maybe a low-hanging branch. But the goats go straight to the roses and raspberries and eat every leaf despite the "pickers."

They can wipe out

a flower or vegetable garden in 15 minutes, tops.

But then comes spring and those darling babies—the weak little "baahs," the frail little huggable kids with that distinct goat odor—and frigid days in the barn (like today) seem to fade. Angora goats aren't natural mothers, so they have to be penned up with their babies to understand that they must feed them; again more work. Seeing little curly-haired five-pound kid goats hopping about in the yard—they don't stay in *any* fence—is a treat few experience; and I get to experience it daily for eight to ten weeks in the spring.

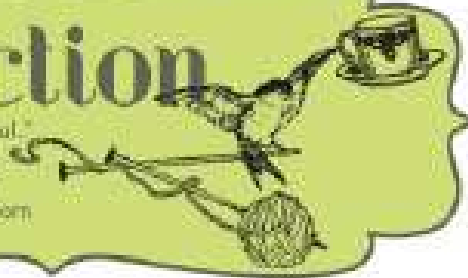
Yes, mohair is lustrous, takes dye wonderfully, and has that silky look and fabulous drape, which is an incentive to raise Angora goats. But the real prize are the curly cute kids. Who would work this hard for fiber without those little goat faces to spur you on?



We're looking for more *Fiber Farmin'* stories. Send your ideas to: [newsletter@madisonknittersguild.org](mailto:newsletter@madisonknittersguild.org)

# Distraction

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- continued next page

# 2012 MADISON KNITTERS' GUILD

## KNIT-IN

Saturday, March 10, 2012  
Classes

FEATURED SPEAKER: Kate Gilbert  
Twist Collective



REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 9

or

<http://www.madisonknittersguild.com/knit-in2012>

### MORNING CLASSES

#### **Socks at Any Gauge – Ann Budd**

Want to make socks that fit perfectly, no matter what yarn or needles or stitch pattern you use? This workshop will teach you how to measure your foot, knit a swatch, and devise a standard top-down pattern for any size foot and any gauge of knitting. You will plan a sock based on your gauge.

**Skill Level:** Advanced beginner knitting skills and experience knitting socks from the top down required.

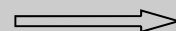
**Materials:** Tape measure; calculator; yarn of your choice and appropriate needles; ideas for stitch patterns; stitch markers.

#### **History, Methods and Styles of Lace Knitting – Franklin Habit**

3 hours; 20 students maximum

In this three-hour session, we'll examine the fundamental principles and techniques of knitting's grandest tradition. Subjects to be covered include beginnings and endings, chart reading, lifelines, nupps and other fancy maneuvers, edgings, dealing with mistakes, blocking finished work, and more. Students will also learn about the great national traditions of knitted lace and what makes them unique.

**Skill Level:** Participants must be fluent in the basic moves of casting on, knitting and purling.



### **The Magic of Needle Felting: Flat, 3-D and Embellishment - Liz Avery**

Use a special felting needle to create gorgeous flat or sculptural projects or embellish a felted project or other fabric. Multi-needle tools, fibers, safety and joining shapes will be discussed.

and students are welcome to bring a felted project to embellish (a bag, hat, mittens, etc) and/or their own wool fiber if desired.

**Materials:** will be provided.

**Materials fee:** \$5 for fiber, needle, craft foam and packet paid during the class

### **Print Ready! Prepare for Self-Publishing – Jaala Spiro**

Have you designed a shawl everyone wants to wear and you'd like to share the pattern with the world? *KnitCircus* editor Jaala walks you through the process from idea to putting a design in the knitter's hands. Style guides, templates, tech editing, sample knitting, creating a pdf file, and selling on Ravelry will be covered.

**Skill level:** Intermediate.

**Materials:** All students will receive a copy of the *KnitCircus Style Guide*. Notebook and pen/pencil suggested.

### **All Thumbs, No Holes - Marie Duquette**

Practice the three most prevalent thumbs: Norwegian, Peasant (Thumb Trick) and Common. We'll also practice and learn where to pick up stitches to avoid the dreaded holes. As we knit, we'll discuss fiber, shaping and patterns so you can make the mitten of your dreams.

**Skill Level:** Advanced Beginner - comfortable working in the round on double-pointed needles or that new-fangled way with circular needles or the magic loop.

**Materials:** 50g or so of worsted weight yarn (in a light color if

that makes it easier for you to see the stitches or any color that makes you happy). An appropriate size needle for you and worsted weight - usually sizes 5 through 9 work well - depending on how tightly you knit. 2 sets of double-pointed needles or circular(s) and one extra dp needle/cable needle in the same size or smaller. A small amount of waste yarn in a contrasting color. Scissors. Tapestry needle.

**Homework:** Cast on 30 sts and work for about 2 inches in the ribbing of your choice, K 3 rounds or so. Stop. Bring this to class so you're ready to start knitting a thumb.

### **Hand Knit Wire Beaded Necklace and Bracelet – Deb Oberlin**

Knitting with wire gives you a new fiber to experiment with. Best of all knitting with wire feels like play. You use the same process as you do with general knitting with yarn. Plus we will have fun working with beads. This is a perfect beginner's project.

**Skill Level:** Any

**Knitting skills needed:** Back loop cast on, garter stitch, sl 1 kwise (slip one knitwise), CO. These are all easy basic stitches which I can easily show you how to make in class if you are not familiar with any of them.

**Materials list:** Artistic wire, (2 spools of 28 gauge) of any preferred color and preferably wound on a spool. This wire can be found at Joanne Fabrics, World of Variety in Verona, some bead stores

*Continued on Page 11*

# 2012 MADISON KNITTERS' GUILD KNIT IN REGISTRATION FORM

March 10, 2012 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

at the Bishop O'Connor Center, 702 S. High Point Rd in Madison

Registration limited to MKG members only until February 17, 2012

All registrations must be sent by March 2, 2012

**Welcome Guest Speaker: Kate Gilbert from Twist Collective**

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please be sure your email address is legible. Confirmation of your registration will be sent via email unless requested otherwise.

MKG Member?  Yes  No

FULL DAY  HALF DAY  KNIT, SHOP & EAT  SHOP ONLY

\$50 member \$35 member \$15 \$5

\$60 non-member \$45 non-member

**Full Day** – Choose one class and Main Speaker Session OR choose two 1/2-day classes OR choose one all-day class.  
(Lunch included)

**Half Day** – Choose one 1/2-day class OR the Main Speaker. (Lunch included)

Classes: Please indicate your first, second and third choices. Classes fill on a first come basis.

9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon	12 Noon – 1:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/> Main Speaker	<input type="checkbox"/> Lunch & Market	<input type="checkbox"/> Main Speaker
<input type="checkbox"/> Socks at Any Gauge		<input type="checkbox"/> Conquering Kitchener Stitch
<input type="checkbox"/> History, Methods & Style of Lace Knitting		<input type="checkbox"/> Photographing Your Fiber
<input type="checkbox"/> Magic of Needle Felting		<input type="checkbox"/> Two-Color Knitting
<input type="checkbox"/> Print Ready! Prepare for Self-Publishing		<input type="checkbox"/> Beginning & Ending Your Knitting
<input type="checkbox"/> All Thumbs, No Holes		<input type="checkbox"/> Balm to the Soul Triangle Shawlette
<input type="checkbox"/> Hand Knit Wire Beaded Necklace & Bracelet		<input type="checkbox"/> Hand Knit Wire Beaded Necklace & Bracelet
<input type="checkbox"/> Modifying Patterns for Your Personal Style		<input type="checkbox"/> Rose Red Beret
<input type="checkbox"/> Recycled Yarns 101		<input type="checkbox"/> Recycled Yarn Advanced (must take 101)
<input type="checkbox"/> Conquering Cables		<input type="checkbox"/> Entrelac Essentials
<b>ALL DAY CLASS</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Two Colored Stranded Cap with a New Twist		

Guest Speaker Presentation begins at 9:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. (Sessions are the same for morning and afternoon)

**LUNCH:** Build Your Own Fajitas or Tacos - Seasoned Ground Beef, Chicken & Bell Pepper Strips, Soft and Hard Tortilla Shells (2-3 per person), warm Vegetarian Refried Beans, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Shredded Cheese, Salsa, Black Olives, and Sour Cream Served with Tortilla Chips and Salsa. A Vegetarian Soup Will Also be Available.


**Please note that our Vendor Marketplace will be open from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. There is something for everyone!**

**NOTE: Some Vendors may not be able to take credit cards, please plan accordingly**

Please make your check payable to Madison Knitters' Guild and mail it with this registration form to:

Madison Knitters' Guild, P.O. Box 14443 Madison, WI 53708

**A Note about Cancellations:** There is no refund on registration fees. While we understand that circumstances can arise causing a change in your plans, we must adhere to a business policy. Because it is impossible for the Madison Knitters' Guild to favor one individual situation or circumstance over another, we must adhere to our policy in all situations and can make no exceptions to our cancellation policy.



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**Upcoming Fiber Events**

- **Feb. 6:** Knit at Sequoia Library. Informal gathering for guild members & friends. Contact Jane Grogan for a seat: janegro@yahoo.com
- **Feb. 17-18:** Janesville Area Knitting Guild Knit In, <http://jakg.org/id18.html>
- **Feb. 24-26:** [Sheep in the City Getaway](#), Oak Creek, WI.

**For additional listings, go to:**  
<http://www.madisonknittersguild.org/drupal/fiber-events>

**Send your events to newsletter@madisonknittersguild.org**

**Knitter's Treat**  
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Saturday 10-2

*'Tis always the season to be knitting!*



and craft stores. I would suggest calling these stores before making a trip. If you can only find the wire in a small circular coil please wind it onto a piece of cardboard to create a spool prior to class. This can be a little tricky and takes a while, so if you want to wait I can show you in class.

Size 2 double pointed needles (I suggest Bamboo so the wire won't slip off the needle).

One tube size 8 seed beads in a color you would like to work with the wire color you chose.

Jewelry findings: 2 "S" hooks, 2 eyes and 2 jump rings all matching in size. I would suggest they be medium in size. Gold tone or silver tone, depending on what you prefer to use with the wire color you chose.

Jewelry size wire cutter. I have a couple I will bring. If you are unsure of what these jewelry findings look like, any bead store or craft store can show you.

**Homework:** Wind artistic wire onto a spool if it is in a coil. This works best if you place the coil over the top of a soda bottle and slowly pull it off the bottle top, winding it onto a rectangular piece of thick cardboard.

String 100 beads onto the beginning of one spool of artistic wire. Then string 180 beads onto the other spool of the 28 gauge wire.

**Additional Materials Fee:** There is an additional fee of \$2.00 for handouts to be paid during the class.

### **Modifying Patterns for Your Personal Style – Marilyn King of Black Water Abbey**

(AM only)

We all have different body types. The trick is to find the sweater shape that is right for you. Sometimes it's easier to change an existing pattern than to find the perfect pattern- if you know what to do. In this class we'll explore all of those issues and challenges, and you'll come away with a better understanding of your own body type and how to create the right sweater for you. **WE WON'T BE KNITTING IN THIS CLASS.**

**Skill Level:** All

**Materials:** paper, pen and tape measure. If you have a pattern or photos of sweaters you like bring them along.

### **Recycled Yarns 101 —John Loeffelholz**

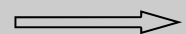
Your stash will never be the same once you discover the bounty of yarn that sits quietly waiting to be reclaimed in thrift stores, garage sales, and even in your very own closet. Styles may change but high quality yarn is always in fashion. Cashmere, silk, Merino, cotton, wool, and many combinations of yarns will be discussed as we go over the process of selecting sweaters for recycling.

Each student will start with a sweater and go through the steps of successfully deconstructing it. You'll end up with a ball of yarn to be used in your next knitting project OR to be used in the afternoon spinning class.

**Skill Level:** This class is intended for spinners and non-spinners alike.

**Materials:** small sharp scissors, ball winder, magnifying glasses. You might want to bring a portable light and extension cord.

**Material Fee:** \$5 (for sweater).



### **Conquering Cables – Elizabeth Prose**

Cables are one of the most fashionable ways to add texture, depth, and interest to knitted fabric. Although cables look complex, they are actually quite simple. This class will introduce you to the basics of knitting cables. You will learn how to make left and right leaning cables, how to read a chart, and a few hints and tricks to take your knitting in new directions.

**Materials:** Plain worsted weight yarn in a light color; needles appropriate for your yarn; cable needle; basic knitting notions: tape measure, scissors, tapestry needle, stitch markers, row counter, and point protectors; crochet hook.

## **AFTERNOON CLASSES**

### **Conquering Kitchener Stitch – Ann Budd**

Meet Kitchener stitch head on and overcome your fear, whether it used on stockinette stitch, reverse stockinette stitch, garter stitch, or ribbing. Through working samples and learning tips, you'll laugh in the face of this too-often dreaded grafting stitch.

**Skill level:** Intermediate skills required.

**Materials:** Yarn used for homework swatches and appropriate knitting needles; tapestry needle.

**Homework:** Knit eight swatches: two in stockinette stitch, two in garter stitch, two in k1, p1 ribbing; two in k2, p2 ribbing. Each swatch should contain 12 stitches and measure about 2" long. Cut yarn, leaving a 24" tail. Place each swatch on a separate holder.

Jewelry size wire cutter. I have a couple I will bring. If you are unsure of what these jewelry findings look like, any bead store or craft store can show you.

**Homework:** Wind artistic wire onto a spool if it is in a coil. This works best if you place the coil over the top of a soda bottle and slowly pull it off the bottle top, winding it onto a rectangular piece of thick cardboard.

String 100 beads onto the beginning of one spool of artistic wire. Then string 180 beads onto the other spool of the 28 gauge wire.

**Additional Materials Fee:** There is an additional fee of \$2.00 for hand outs to be paid during the class.

### **Photographing Your Fiber – Franklin Habit**

Bring your own camera and a project or two, and learn the basics of lighting, depth of field, styling and common fiber- photography problems like capturing true color, capturing stitch definition and photographing lace. We will also learn how to make a light box at home, cheap! No prior knowledge of photography necessary. The emphasis will be getting the best possible shots using your camera.

**Materials:** Camera (preferably digital), camera manual (if available) for your camera, 1-2 projects to photograph, notebook and pen or pencil.

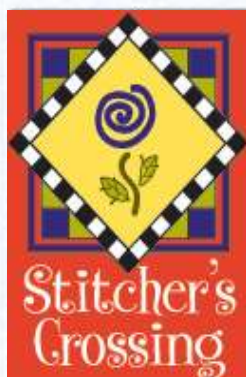
## Join MKG and Grow your Knitting!



*Jennifer Mack, Vice President, Madison Knitters' Guild*

I have only been a member of the MKG for 1.5 years now, but am the current vice president. I feel like I am still transitioning into this role because I have never been on a board before. What I do for the guild involves getting the space ready for the meetings, helping speakers with any of their needs, and getting the vendors settled into their space. I am one of the people who is generally wandering back and forth before the meetings making sure that everything is going smoothly. I also get to attend the MKG board meetings once a month and see what is happening "behind the scenes" at the guild. It has been a very fun experience.

I have been a knitter for 10 years (I started knitting just before my oldest son was born) but have been knitting a LOT for the past two years now that both kids are in school. I have been on a big shawl kick that started off with the "11 shawls in 2011" challenge and I suspect will continue with 12 this year. Who can resist a project where gauge doesn't really matter?!? When not knitting, spinning, or otherwise crafting I work as a RN and enjoy camping with my family.



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## **Two-Color Knitting – Amy Detjen**

Launch into 2-color knitting (Fair-Isle, Norwegian, Armenian) with an arsenal of tips for knitting with 2 colors (traditionally one color in each hand). It truly is much easier than it looks. We'll do stranded knitting, and avoid puckers and tangles and purls (oh my!).

**Skill Level:** Beyond Beginner

**Materials:** two balls of yarn (a light and a dark) and circular needles (1-16 inch or 2-24 inch) in size appropriate for your yarn.

**Homework:** Using either color (knitter's choice), cast on 128 sts. Join into a circle, being careful not to twist the stitches over the needle. Work about 8 rounds in ribbing (1x1 or 2x2). Stop and bring this to class, along with a second color of the same weight yarn.

## **Beginning and Ending Your Knitting: Gauge and Blocking - Liz Avery**

Learn to create an accurate gauge swatch for working flat and a quick, flat swatch for knitting in the round. Yarn substitution, reading your swatch and gauge secrets will be discussed. Practice several different blocking techniques for a variety of fibers, garments and stitch patterns. Learn to use pins, boards, irons and wires for a finished fabric your knitting deserves.

**Materials:** Light colored, smooth worsted or bulky weight yarn and appropriate sized 16" or 24" circular needle. Ruler, calculator, tape measure.

**Materials fee:** \$1 for packet paid during the class

## **Balm to the Soul Triangle Shawlette – Jaala Spiro**

A perfect first shawl pattern! Learn top-down triangular shawl construction with a sneak peak at this pattern, which will be published as part of Jaala's forthcoming book. Works up quickly in a DK or worsted weight yarn, using stockinette stitch, easy texture stitches, and very simple lace pattern. Pattern included with class.

**Skill Level:** Adventurous beginner: must know how to knit, purl, yarnover, and read a simple lace chart.

**Materials:** One skein of DK or worsted weight yarn and needles approximately one size larger than recommended on the ball band of your chosen yarn.

## **Hand Knit Wire Beaded Necklace and Bracelet – Deb Oberlin**

*See AM Description*

## **Rose Red Beret by Ysolda Teague – Kelley Foreman**

3 hours – 6 students

Knit a stylish slouchy beret featuring a lace and cable pattern that grows organically out from a center flower. Rose Red is worked from the top down with a simple I-cord beginning, features shaping incorporated into the stitch pattern and ends with a cabled band worked in one piece with the hat. In this class you will learn to knit i cord, lace knitting, how to read a knitting chart, cabling with and without a cable needle, and EZ's sewn bind off.

**Skill Level:** knitting, purling, knitting in the round, and proficiency with double pointed needles are required.

**Materials:** 220 yards dk weight yarn; US size 6 dpns; US size 6 16" circular needle; cable needle (optional); tapestry needle, stitch markers, scissors.

## **Recycled Yarns Advanced- John Loeffelholz**

*Prerequisite: Must attend "Recycled Yarns 101" class*

After you've deconstructed a sweater the possibilities are endless with the use of a spinning wheel. We will explore plying and combining yarns. This class will focus on what to do with the yarn from the morning class. We'll examine plied and cabled yarns as we work on variations of both in this hands on afternoon of yarn design. Samples will be shown of various completed yarns and items knit from them.

**Materials:** Spinning wheel (bring fast flyer if you have one) with extra empty bobbins, Kate, and niddy noddy. Basic spinning wheel knowledge and skill is needed for this class.

## **Entrelac Essentials – Elizabeth Prose**

Entrelac is a form of modular directional knitting. It is sometimes referred to as "basket weave" because the knitted fabric looks like strips of knitting woven together. Entrelac is a series of triangles and left and right leaning rectangles worked one at a time, back and forth, in tiers. In this class you will learn basic entrelac construction and how to "knit back backwards".

**Materials:** Worsted or DK weight plain wool yarn; straight or circular needles in size appropriate for yarn; basic knitting tools.

## **ALL-DAY CLASS**

### **Two-Color Stranded Cap With A New Twist – Carol Anderson**

In this workshop you'll learn how to create geometric two-color patterns without using a chart, but rather by regulating the stitch count. If you are comfortable using a 16" size 6 circular needles and double pointed needles and can memorize a 5-10 stitch pattern stitch, I can guarantee you'll have a good time learning a new, very useful technique.

**Materials:** Two 100 gram skeins of worsted weight yarn in contrasting colors. One skein could be variegated. A 16" circular needle, size 6 and double pointed needles in the same size, tapestry needle, crochet hook, scissors. (If you have used a much longer circular needle and employed the "magic needle concept" or if you've worked with two circular needles, or if you prefer double pointed needles, you may do any of those!)

**REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 9**

or

<http://www.madisonknittersguild.com/knit-in2012>

## FINE HANDMADE LOOK

Versus

## HOMEMADE LOOK?

A very helpful reference librarian helped me track down knitting articles that were published in the *Sunday Wisconsin State Journal*, from 1972 to 1994, under a column called Pat's Pointers. I think you'll enjoy the article that follows on how to avoid the homemade look and achieve a finely finished neck edge on sweaters. The article appeared in the March 22, 1990, Sunday paper.

### PAT'S POINTERS

By Pat Trexler

*This solution takes pain out of neck*

**Dear Pat:** I'm a self-taught knitter with quite a few hang-ups, and I'm hoping you can help me with one major one. Picking up stitches around a neck edge is a real stumbling block for me. Is there any way of doing this neatly without having unsightly holes? Any directions I have seen simply say "pick up and knit" without a word about how this is done. If you can solve this for me, I'll warn you that you'll probably hear from me often with other problems! – **Sharon Block, Ocala, Fla.**

**Dear Sharon:** You're certainly not alone in this. Many otherwise beautifully knitted garments have what I would describe as a "homemade" rather than a "fine handmade" look because of this problem.

Try a crochet hook for picking up stitches along any knitted edge. It is much easier than knitting them on with a knitting needle. Select a hook with a shaft that has the same circumference as your knitting needle.

With the right side of the work facing you, attach the yarn at the beginning of the area where the stitches are to be picked up. Pass the hook under an edge stitch, being sure to go under two strands of that stitch. If you go under just one strand, you are sure to have an unwanted hole in your work. Also, if your edge stitches are loose skip down a row where you should have more firmly knitted stitches.

– continued next page



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Pull through a loop of the attached yarn and continue to pull through loops along the edge. Then slide the loops to the opposite end of the hook and transfer them to the knitting needle. If you pick up 10 stitches before transferring, it is easy to keep track of the number picked up.

To make the transfer, insert the tip of the needle into the loop at the rounded end of the hook from the front or—to put it another way—as if you were going to purl it. Slip each of the loops separately to the knitting needle. Continue picking up, transferring stitches until you have all of them on your needle.

When you are picking up the stitches, if you pass your hook under the yarn strand to pull the loop through, the resulting loops will be slanting in the wrong direction when you pass them to the knitting needle. I was aware of this incorrect slant for a long time and would work into the back of each stitch on the following row to correct it. Quite by accident I found that the simple trick of passing the hook through the edge stitch and then passing the hook over the yarn to pull the loop through gave the stitches the correct slant. Problem solved!

Now you may be wondering what I mean when I mention correct slant. Look at a stitch on the right side of a row of stockinette stitch and you will see that the front of the stitch loop is slightly forward of the back of that stitch loop. It is a subtle difference, but the incorrect slant with the front of the stitch loop behind the back of the stitch loop, if not corrected, will give you a twisted stitch.

There are times when a twisted stitch is purposely created to achieve a certain effect in a pattern stitch. That is why in some patterns you will be told to work into the back of the stitch. But unless that is the case, you want the correct slant.

—Deborah Ross

## KNITTING TEACHER WANTED!

MATC is looking for a substitute teacher for spring semester, Monday and Wednesday mornings and afternoons at several locations. Approximately 10 weeks, starting in March. Other part-time future opportunities may also be available. Please e-mail [ace@matcmadison.edu](mailto:ace@matcmadison.edu) if interested.



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The advertisement features a small illustration of a sheep and a ball of yarn at the top left. The bottom of the ad shows a row of colorful yarn skeins in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple.

*Clara Parkes – Continued from page 1*

Clara is also the author of *The Knitters Book of Wool: The Ultimate Guide to Understanding, Using, and Loving this Most Fabulous Fiber* and *The Knitter's Book of Yarn: The Ultimate Guide to Choosing, Using, and Enjoying Yarn*. She empowers knitters by teaching everything you need to know about yarn: how it's made, who makes it, how it gets to you, and what it longs to become. The next time you pick up a skein, you won't have to wonder what to do with it.

If you're looking to expand your knitting knowledge, you'll also want to subscribe to *Knitter's Review*, a free weekly online knitting magazine that Clara founded in 2000. In addition to keeping you up to date with the many major events like The National NeedleArts Association (TNNA) winter show, it's a treasure trove of yarnreviews, needles and accessories. I found particularly helpful the pros and cons of each type of needle from wood, to aluminum and bryspun. She confirms that you do need more than one type of needle in your collection! You can also read her articles in *Interweave Knits* and *Twist Collective*.

If you can't wait until February 13 and want a sampling of Clara, enjoy this NPR interview: "Please Explain Wool." <http://www.wnyc.org/shows/lopate/2010/dec/17/please-explain-wool/> And check out her blog: Clara's Window—Beyond the Skein. <http://claraswindow.blogspot.com/>.

— Mae Knowles

Read an interview of Clara Parkes in the Winter issue of *Knitter's Review*: [http://vogueknitting.com/magazine/article\\_archive/twenty\\_minutes\\_with\\_clara\\_parkes.aspx](http://vogueknitting.com/magazine/article_archive/twenty_minutes_with_clara_parkes.aspx)



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