

2014 Instructors

Donna Druchunas escaped a corporate cubicle to honor her passions for knitting, world travel, research, and writing. She is the author of six knitting books including *Arctic Lace*, *Successful Lace Knitting*, and *Ethnic Knitting Exploration: Lithuania, Iceland, and Ireland*. Donna also writes regularly for *Piecework* magazine, and has a column on ethnic knitting traditions on Knitty.com. Donna gives talks and teaches knitting workshops in the United States, Canada, and Europe as well as online at Craftsy.com. She has just finished writing a book about knitting in Lithuania, and has a new pattern line, *Stories in Stitches*, which features historical patterns and essays. Donna lives in Vermont with her husband, mother, and three cats who all help her test the usability and comfort of her finished knitted items. Visit Donna's website at www.sheeptoshawl.com.

Jolie Elder has explored a wide range of needle arts after learning to cross stitch at age four. Her formal education includes a B.A. in art and a M.A. in art history from the Pennsylvania State University, and a graduate certificate in Women's Studies from the University of Michigan. She designs, teaches, and stunt knits in the Atlanta area where she demystifies the obscure. She is a past president of both Atlanta Knitting Guild and North Georgia Knitting Guild, and is currently on the boards of both Southeast Fiber Arts Alliance and Center for Knit and Crochet. Her published patterns accentuate geometric structure and feature meticulous techniques. She blogs her knitting experiments at jolieaelder.blogspot.com and posts on Ravelry as "Jolie."

Charles Gandy, a TKGMA Master Knitter, learned to knit at the young age of four from his mother, a designer and shop owner. He designed his first sweater three years later and continues to create today. A two-time winner in the recent *Knitter's Magazine* "Think Outside the Sox" contest, three of his designs are featured in the new book of the same name: "Dread Sox", "Snake in the Grass" and "Pedicure Polka Socks". His own book, *The Embellished Sock: Knitted Art for the Foot* features eighteen creative sock patterns and numerous techniques and is available in yarn shops nationwide. His latest collection "Crazy Socks" for REGIA Yarns was recently introduced. His other designs are widely published in leading magazines and he is a popular teacher at workshops and conferences.

Mercedes Tarasovich-Clark is a knitwear designer, writer, and teacher based in Birmingham, AL, known for stylish and feminine designs. She has designed for many yarn companies, books and magazines, including *Classic Elite*, *Malabrigo*, *Interweave Knits*, *Knitscene*, *Twist Collective*, and *Knitty.com*. *Interweave* released her instructional video/DVD, *Brioche Knitting Basics*, in 2011. She has also taught online with *The Seamless Artemisia Sweater Class for Craftsy*. She is currently working on her first book, due out Fall 2014.

