

VOLUME 14 • ISSUE 6
FEBRUARY 2010

knitting Yarns



FEBRUARY 17: MINI WORKSHOPS

We continue our tradition of having short skill-building sessions as our February meeting. You have the opportunity to learn two or three new skills in short (under 15 minutes) sessions taught by guild members. Learn a skill, move on to the next table, learn another! This free-flowing meeting is always a fun night out—a great way to meet and socialize with other members while possibly even learning something!

The following topics have been confirmed as the newsletter goes to press. To get the most out of each workshop, please bring the items suggested:

- ▶ **Picking Up Stitches**
with Mary Pat McDonald
Bring a small swatch, suitable needles and extra yarn, perhaps in a contrasting colour
- ▶ **Easy, Almost Invisible Seam for Garter Stitch**
with Gloria Williams
Gloria will bring swatches for practice, but if you want to take a sample home, bring two garter stitch swatches (or swatches with garter edges) to seam, plus a yarn needle and yarn for seaming.
- ▶ **Centre-Out Cast-on Techniques**
with Robin Hunter
Bring needles and two colours of yarn.
- ▶ **One-Row Buttonhole**
with Diane Martin
Bring a small swatch still on the needles.
- ▶ **Continental Knitting**
with Denise Powell
Cast on about 20 stitches and knit a few rows in preparation.
- ▶ **Needle Felting**
with Carole Adams
Bring a small wool or other animal fibre stockinette swatch for embellishment.



MARCH MEETING PREVIEW

The hand-dyeing experts from Dye-Version will be presenting at our March meeting. Full details will be forthcoming in next month's newsletter.

APRIL MEETING PREVIEW

Our own past president and current Dr. Knit will be giving the talk, "A Knitter Visits Peru." at our April meeting. In October of 2009, Denise had the pleasure of visiting Peru on a textile-focused tour.

Peru has a long and very rich tradition of textiles created in many techniques. This will be a presentation about the history of textiles, design elements, techniques, and current state of various types of textile production in Peru.

Denise will also bring examples of Peruvian knitting, backstrap weaving, braiding, and machine embroidery.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, March 17, 2010
Wednesday, April 21, 2010
Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Location

Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex Ave.
NW corner of St. George St. and Sussex Ave.
on the University of Toronto campus.

TTC Access

Five-minute walk south from St. George subway station.
Parking available at several nearby locations.

Meeting Time: 7:30 p.m.

Doors Open: 6:45 p.m.

Admission

\$6.00 for guests and Newsletter Only Subscribers
Free to Full Members (please show card at door)

All Downtown Knit Collective meetings, functions and events are governed by the Rules of Conduct as determined by the Executive.
To read a copy of the Rules, please visit
www.downtownknitcollective.ca/dkc_conduct.html

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JANUARY 2010 MEETING

Announcements

The DKC is still looking for a **note taker!** We need someone who regularly attends meetings to do a brief write-up of the guest speakers' presentations for the newsletter. Please get in touch with any member of the executive (contact info on back page).

A new event is on the horizon: the **Canadian Bead Oasis Show** will be in Toronto from March 12-14 and Calgary, Alberta from June 18-20.

Village Yarns is now unfortunately closed, however, purchases are still available by appointment.

Needle Arts Book Shop and Fiddlesticks Yarn Celebration—thank you for the special sale offer extended to DKC members until January 31st.

On Ravelry, **Dr. Knit** (Denise Powell) has been nominated for the **BOBBY AWARDS** for most unusual project—sweater for a lobster, featured in our May 2008 newsletter.

Meredith Burbidge wants to remind everyone about two **Knitting Cruises** in 2010. The first is a June cruise to Alaska

hosted by Shirl “the Purl” Scott and Mary Pat Macdonald. The second is a 10-day tour of the East Coast, tentatively scheduled for September. Visit www.knit1cruisetoo.com for more info.

There is an urgent call for knitting from **St. Michael's Hospital**: they need washable newborn hats and sweaters, crib-size blankets, child and adult scarves and children's mittens (toddler - age 6) in gender neutral colours. Please drop off items at the DKC or contact Donna Campbell (Kittycrazy on Ravelry) at KittyKnitter@bell.net.

Raffle Winners

Flo Flory
Mary Moreau
Wendy Mauzeroll

Show and Tell

Flo Flory showed a bead-knitted evening bag and matching Shrug.

Victoria Warner showed a purple cabled bag which she made for her mother. The bag needs to be lined, but Victoria's mother is afraid to hand the bag over in case she doesn't get it back.

Anastasia made a Tangled Yoke Cardigan from Interweave Knits.

Flo Sherbanowski brought a styrofoam head, which she says is excellent for blocking hats and, of course, needle felting. She found it at Hiscott R Beauty Supplies and Theatrical, 43 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario.

Guest Speaker

Kathryn Brenne spoke to us about design inspiration, and my thoughts turned to the fantastic skirt she made using a pattern by Koos van den Akker and a matching knit top sourced from a buying trip to New York. For those of you not at this meeting, you missed an amazing showcase of Kathryn's designs and projects created for Vogue Sewing in Manhattan, Threads Magazine and her own line of sewing patterns. The samples of woven, leather and knit garments she presented were exquisite in their construction and finishing. On par with the finest in Paris and New York.

So, my heartfelt thanks, Kathryn.
You are an inspiration.

-Patrick Madden



Ribbons of Hope

Cancer touches us all. For more than five years, we have knitted PINK scarves, hats, shawls etc. for those undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

Now, we are extending our Knitting for a Cure programme to those undergoing treatment of other forms of cancer.

We all know that pink is associated with breast cancer because it is so widely promoted. Did you know that there are special colours for just about all known cancers?

All cancers—Lavender
Bladder—Yellow
Bone—White/gold
Brain—Grey
Cervical—Teal
Childhood—Gold
Colon/ Colorectal—Royal Blue/Brown
Esophageal—Periwinkle blue
Gynecological—Lavender
Head/neck/oral—Burgundy/Ivory
Hodgkins Disease—Violet

Kidney/renal—Orange
Leukemia—Orange
Liver—Emerald green
Lung—Pearl/clear
Lymphoma—Lime green
Melanoma—Black
Multiple melanoma—Burgundy
Ovarian—Teal
Pancreatic—Purple
Prostate—light blue
Retinoblastoma—white
Sarcoma—Yellow
Stomach—Periwinkle
Testicular—Orchid/violet
Thyroid—Blue/teal/pink
Uterine—Peach

Lastly, we must not forget to honour the caregivers with **Plum**.

We cannot change history or get our loved ones back but with our handknitting we will reach out and give a “hug” to those affected by cancer.

PATTERN CORNER

 by Denise Powell

Easy Reversible Knit/Purl Stitches

Sometimes it's nice to have an easy yet reversible pattern to knit scarves; here are a couple of examples, suitable for anyone.

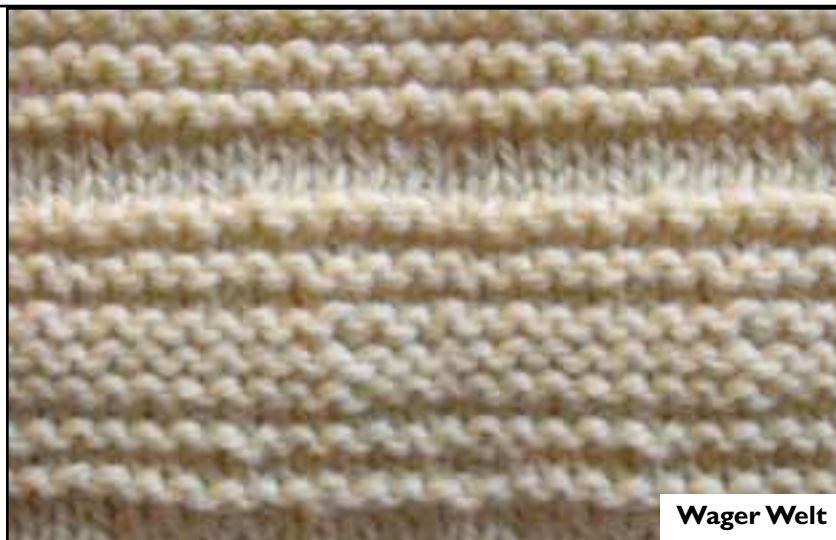
Both examples were knitted with 4.0mm needles using Paton's Classic Wool. Forty stitches will make a scarf about 20 cm (8 inches) wide.

Wager Welt—this stitch was traditionally done as an 8 row repeat. By simply removing one of the knit rows, we make it into a reversible stitch that has succeeding welts of stockinette, garter, and reverse stockinette. Keep careful track of how many knit rows you've done!

Row 1: knit
Row 2: purl
Row 3 to 7: knit
Repeat these seven rows for desired length.

Double Seed Stitch (also know as **Double Moss**)
A multiple of 4 stitches

Rows 1 and 2: *k2, p2, rpt from *
Rows 3 and 4: *p2, k2, rpt from *
Repeat these four rows for desired length.



Wager Welt



Double Seed Stitch

Knitting Styles

Part VI— Combined Knitting

This month we're looking at a style which has less to do with how you hold the yarn and more to do with how you form the stitches. Named 'Combined' or 'Combination' knitting because it combines a technique from the middle east with more conventional western European technique, it results in a fabric that looks exactly like the knitting you are used to.

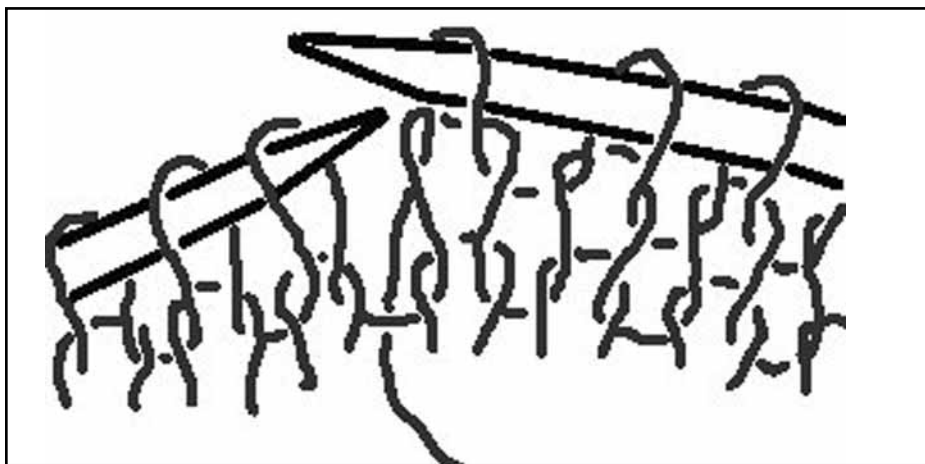
In Western knitting, stitches sit on the needle with the right leg on the near side of the needles. That is, the yarn that connects to the stitch on the right is at the front of the needle. The way a stitch sits is caused by the direction you wrap the yarn when knitting or purling.

In combined knitting, the purl stitches are wrapped in the opposite direction to conventional western knitting. This causes them to sit with their left legs on the front of the needle.



The above diagram shows a stitch about to be purlled, wrapped in the combined method. The stitches on the right needle have been purlled and are sitting backways; the stitches on the left needle were knit on the last row and are sitting normally.

When you turn the work to knit, the stitches are sitting with the left leg in front. To produce a knitted stockinette fabric that looks exactly like that produced by the usual Western methods, you must knit the stitches into the back leg, wrapping in the usual Western direction.



In the above diagram, the stitches on the right needle have been knitted and are sitting with their right legs in front. The stitches on the left needle were purlled last and are sitting with their left legs in front.

Combined knitting is usually done by one of the picking (continental) methods of holding the yarn, but can also be done by any throwing method.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spinning Workshop at Pioneer Village Sunday, February 28, 2010.

Mixing history with practical techniques, this day-long workshop in one of our historic homes will teach all the basic skills necessary to turn raw fleece into yarn: from carding and dyeing wool to spinning on an antique treadle spinning wheel. Call Jeanette at **416-667-6295 ext. 2** to register.

Canadian Bead Oasis Show

March 12-14, 2010 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. A retail show featuring beads, supplies, tools, and classes too! Visit www.oasisshows.com for more details.

Knitting Retreat

March 26-28, 2010—Shall We Knit First Annual Knitting Retreat at Benmiller Inn (Goderich, Ontario). Two days of Lace Knitting Workshops taught by Joan Kass. Details at www.shallweknit.com or by calling Karen at 519-662-9916

DKC Knitters' Frolic

The weekend of May 8-9, 2010, at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre. This is the big one—the knitting event of the year!

Seeking Knitting Events

Got inside info about a fibre-related event? Let our newsletter editor know: heatherbee@gmail.com

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