

VOLUME 14 • ISSUE 5  
JANUARY 2010

# knitting Yarns



## JANUARY 20: KATHRYN BRENNE

Kathryn Brenne, a graduate of Ryerson's Fashion Design program, opened The Academy of Fine Sewing and Design in 2000. She is a pattern designer and founding member and past president of the Canadian Professional Sewing Association. She has many years of experience working with private clientele in menswear and ladies fashion. Kathryn founded The Academy to help the home sewer achieve success by providing professional instruction and techniques in a fully equipped facility.

A frequent contributor to THREADS, Vogue Patterns and, Butterick Home Catalogue magazines, Kathryn has also appeared in two episodes of Sew Much More on Home & Garden Television (HGTV). She lectures at various shows and conferences across Canada.

Kathryn will make a Power Point presentation to the guild about the world of textiles, including upcoming trends for Spring and Fall 2010. She is very well-spoken, lectures across North America and will be including samples of knits, woven and leather garments in her presentation.



## FEBRUARY MEETING PREVIEW

February will see the return of our annual **Skills Exchange Mini-Workshops**. We will invite guild members to present a knitting or crochet skill that can be taught in 15 minutes. Eight learning stations will be set up around the auditorium. Members who wish to participate will gather at a particular station, learn the skill presented and then move to the next station. It is a fun evening out, with many fun and valuable skills being shared by DKC Members.

**NOTE: Volunteer teachers needed!** If you have a knitting or crochet technique you'd be willing to share with your fellow guild members at the meeting, please contact a member of the executive.

## MARCH MEETING PREVIEW

We have just received confirmation that hand-dyers Dye-Version will be presenting at our March meeting. Details will follow in an upcoming newsletter.

### Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Wednesday, April 21, 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](http://www.downtownknitcollective.ca/dkc_conduct.html)

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DECEMBER 2009 MEETING

### Fashion Show 2009

The house was packed for the annual Work of Our Hands fashion show, and our new venue provided excellent sightlines and flow as each model took a turn at the front and then walked up the aisle through the back doors so everyone could ooh, aah and get a good look. Thanks to Fiona, our energetic MC, and of course all of our featured knitters and models. Fantastic work this year, everyone!

### FAIR ISLE & COLOUR

#### Irene Reed—Drew Vest

Irene bought the yarn on our bus trip to Needle Emporium and the buttons at the farm in the afternoon.

#### Trish Denohod—What's Next? Cardigan

She used 17 shades of cotton for this Kafe Fassett pattern from an old Rowan book.

#### Marie Houghton—Fair Isle Cardigan

Marie used 13 colours for her first all-over Fair Isle project. It took her two months, including one week just for swatching.

#### Irene Reed—Playing with Stripes

Irene says the knitting for this pattern (from the November '08 Creative Knitting) didn't take long, but the assembly did. Fun and easy to do.

### ACCESSORIES

#### Denise Powell—A Red Beret for Paris & Twisted Net Tam

No patterns were used for these hats that will be featured in Denise's upcoming Winter Workshops class.

#### Marie H—Tilting Blocks Scarf

When the guys from Diamond Yarns threw yarn into the audience at the October 2007 meeting, Marie ended up with three skeins of this merino silk yarn which other DKC members gave and/or traded with her until she had enough for a real project.

#### Cristina Simionovici—5 Stars Hat & Scarf

She says next time, she will start with the hat and knit the scarf afterwards but is very happy with the way these original designs turned out.

#### Robin Hunter—Baby I got the Blues

This original garment was knit in strips, sprinkling the yarns from two scarf kits into strips of Galway, increasing and decreasing stitches as required so that the thicker yarn would not bubble out.

#### Holly Yip—Fruit Hats for Little Melons

Lana and Elliot, Holly's twins, modelled matching watermelon hats. She says the hardest part was finding beads that look like watermelon seeds. Holly herself was wearing a grey zippered cardigan, for which she learned to knit continental.

#### Bonnie Jull—Neckwarmer & Hat

The pattern for both pieces were located via Twist Collective and are both slip stitch patterns using gorgeous Malibrigo.

#### Michele Bieler—Teddy Bears

Michele is a volunteer teacher in granddaughter Ariel's Family Studies knitting class. The bears will be sent to children in Niger, Africa.

#### Sammy Vilks—Slipper socks

The pattern was Sammy's adaptation of her grandmother's traditional Latvian socks. The leather soles were cut from a mini-skirt found at Value Village.

#### Christy Fedirchuk—Leaf Lace Scarf

She says this is the first thing she has ever knit for herself, as well as her first time using a lace chart as opposed to text instructions.

#### Robin Hunter—Simple Things

This shawl is Robin's own design, available on Patternfish. She says it's basically a garter stitch rectangle, but looks much more complex.

#### Cristina Simionovici—Ragtime Annie Cloche

Cristina took a millinery course last year and ever since has tried to combine her knitting with her love for hats. The pattern came from Yarn Forward issue #19.

### CABLES

#### Pat Eldridge—Girlie Gansey (Aberliday)

Pat says this sweater from Alice Starmore's *Celtic Collection* was a dream to knit because as more fabric was created, the Arrowhead Celtic key pattern started to really pop out.

#### Trish Denhod—House Warming Jacket

Trish wore this jacket the day she took possession of her first house. She loves the asymmetry aspect of the design, "Melissa" from Elizabeth Lavold, Book 5.

#### Bonnie Jull – Liv

Bonnie finished off this Elizabeth Lavold pattern specifically for the Fashion Show.

#### Michele Porter—Cable Panel Cardigan

Started on a Friday, and finished on Monday! This top-down design will soon be available on Patternfish.

#### Karen Cooper—Open to Change

Karen learned to cable without a cable needle for this Fiona Ellis pattern. Fiona herself helped Karen work out a sizing solution when the front knit up too large.

### LACE

#### Joy Gryfe—Brilliant Bolero

She had it all together, but it was too small. She took it apart and added to the circle by crocheting, then knitted on the border for days and days. Never again!

#### Carole Thomas—Shawls

Carole showcased two shawls knit by her son Christopher (aged 21) who came up with the patterns himself.

#### Cristina Simionovici—Greenland

The pattern (from Robin Melanson) was love at first sight, but it took almost a year to decide to get serious and make it.

#### Robin Hunter—Pinwheel Cardigan

Robin's design is available on Patternfish. She was inspired by the book *Knitting Counterpanes*. Mary Pat was the model.

### FINALE

#### Maura Payne—A Tribute to Anne Sweater

This was knit in memory of her friend Anne, who gave her the yarn. It involved at least as much ripping out as actual knitting, but it's her best sweater yet.

#### Wendy Eng—Icarus Shawl

Wendy adapted this Miriam Felton pattern for her friend Daphne to use as a nursing shawl. She estimates there are about 131,000 stitches, with 5 months to knit.

#### Trish Denhod & Karen Cooper—Loops Galore Cardigans

Trish says people keep stopping her to ask where she got this sweater (answer: Vogue Winter 05/06). Karen learned to knit backwards from a YouTube video so she didn't have to keep turning the work.

#### Carole Thomas—Red Coat

This coat was knit from a Mary Maxim vintage pattern. Carole saw the model hanging on a wall at MM's store in Paris, ON. Fortunately, it was still in their computer, so they printed it out for her.

**Pat Eldridge—Labyrinth Poncho**

This poncho was clearly a labour of love, as Pat worked and re-worked elements of this Elann.com pattern, ripping out thousands of metres in the process. She is truly happy with the final result and the way it drapes.



**Wendy Mauzeroll—Cable Dress**

Wendy says it took a year to finish this dress, but only because 90% of the time was spent finding the yarn and trying to get her niece to come for a fitting. Actual knitting was a few days at most.



## Knitting Styles

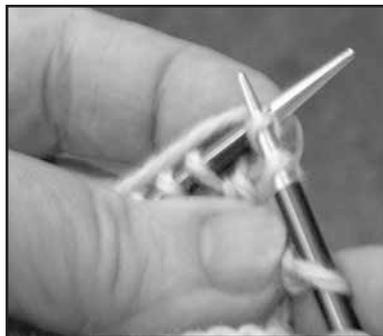
### Part V— A Personal Continental Style

I learned to knit continental style—controlling the yarn with the left hand—from a friend of Icelandic descent. She taught me the more conventional method of using the left index finger to support the yarn and wrapping around the left pinkie for tension. Unfortunately, I always found this method somewhat uncomfortable, so I gradually developed my own version.



For tension control, I hold the yarn along the top of the stitches on the left needle and close my left pinkie and ring finger lightly over it. The pad of index finger also helps control tension.

When doing a knit stitch, I simply insert the needle, hook the working yarn and pull through the stitch. My left index finger moves in a tiny circular motion as I do this:



Purling is also a simple insert and hook the yarn all in one motion. Due to the location of the working yarn, it's easy to hook it so the purl stitch is sitting correctly:



I can switch from knitting to purling and back again simply by dipping the left needle a bit so the working yarn slips over the needle point to the front (or back, as required). This means that ribbing or other stitch patterns that require moving the yarn become much faster to do.

Since learning a new knitting style is a very visual thing and requires seeing it in action, I will be demonstrating this technique at the February mini-workshops meeting. If you are interested in seeing it in person and perhaps trying it yourself, please see me then.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### DKC Winter Workshops

February 6-7, 2010, Metro Hall.

A fabulous weekend of workshops for every level of knitting experience. Come socialize, get out of the cold, and learn new skills! Please see the 'workshops and special events' link at our website for registration information and the latest course updates.

### 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! More information is forthcoming.

### Note Taker Needed!

We are still looking for someone to take meeting highlights. This is an important volunteer job which requires a member who attends all (or most) meetings and can write up a fairly succinct summary of the guest speaker's presentation for the newsletter. If this sounds like you, please contact the executive (see contact info in box below).

### Donation Table

Please remember that we are always accepting donations at our Knitting For a Cure table. We now welcome donations of all kinds of garments, not just scarves. If you need pink yarn for your project, you can pick some up at the table!

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