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knitting Yarns



SEPTEMBER 22: NEW YARNS KICKOFF

We can't think of a better way to start the knitting season—a sneak preview of what's new and exciting in the world of yarn! At what is always one of our most popular and fun-filled meetings, yarn representatives will showcase the most exciting new fibres, colours, textures and trends from their new fall collections. As of press time, Louet, Diamond Yarns and Kertzer are confirmed for the September meeting.

It's time to look, touch, dream, and start planning all those fall and winter projects to come. Let's celebrate the start of another fantastic knitting season!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2010-2011 membership year.

It is with great pleasure that I remain as the President of the DKC for another year. I hope that our year together will be as exciting for you as it will be for me. We have a wonderful Executive Committee and an amazing group of volunteers.

In preparing for 2010 – 2011, I have been thinking about what a “guild” or “collective” means. The dictionary states:

Guild: *a society for mutual aid or for some common purpose. In the middle Ages, a union of the men in one trade, formed to keep standards high and to protect their common interests.*

Collective: *of a group, as a group; taken all together; a collective effort; a collective decision; formed by collecting; functioning or operating on the principle of collectivism.*

Looking at the definitions, key words jumped out at me. SOCIETY, AID, COMMON PURPOSE, UNION, ONE TRADE, STANDARDS, INTERESTS, GROUP, TOGETHER, COLLECTING.

Then I looked at the definition of KNIT in the dictionary:

Knit: *made by looping yarn or thread together by hand with long needles or by machinery which forms similar interlocking loops.*

More key words jumped out—YARN, TOGETHER, HAND, INTERLOCKING, LOOPS.

I picked up my knitting project and began to work away. As I went along, my mind started to relax, my fingers fell into a rhythm, and I was in a good place. That's it! As DKCers, we come together as a group (society / union) with common goals and purposes. We talk about our interests in the knitting world (trade). We discuss patterns and standards—we share stories and experiences.

We are collectors of yarn—we are fibre crazy!

Most importantly, we are an interlocking community of talented people. Our lives are interconnected by many many loops—work, local yarn stores, life events, etc. And some of us are just plain loopy! I enjoy our meetings and special events—talking with members, meeting new people and sharing our common interests.

That being said, I believe that one of the most important parts of our meeting is the “mingling” at the beginning. The doors open at 6:45 p.m., and at 7:30 p.m. our formal program starts. This gives us plenty of opportunity to meet and greet. I encourage every member to reach out to someone you don't know and introduce yourself. Start up a conversation—bring *new* friends into your existing circle of friends.

After all, as the definitions are clear, the words tell it all. All we need to do is take action!

Once again, I look forward to another exciting year and I thank you all for your support.

Yours in Knitting,
Carole Adams
DKC President

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, September 22, 2010 (fourth Wednesday)
Wednesday, October 20, 2010
Wednesday, November 17, 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

Announcements

The Relay for Life got rained on, but nevertheless our 2010 team (which included three cancer survivors) raised over \$4500. Carole noted that they called her at 5 a.m. asking for coffee.

The World Wide Knit in Public Day world record day got rained out on Saturday and was rescheduled for Sunday. The last-minute date change is probably the reason the record did not get broken. Next year!

DKC tote bags are available for the low low price of \$5. Carole promises to keep flogging these bags until they're all gone.

The positions in this year's Executive committee have all been filled by acclimation—all members will be returning for the new DKC year.

Is there a particular guest or topic you'd like to see on the roster for the upcoming season? If so, please contact any member of our executive. This is your guild... feel free to contribute!

As a PSA to all members, Carole wants to report that drugs and knitting do not mix. While on pain medication following her knee surgery, she has never done so much ripping back in her life.

Show and Tell

Flo showed red baby booties with bells on the toes that will fit a baby aged 9-12 months. She made it from a kit bought at the Frolic.

Cheryl made what she called a "knitting surprise" which consisted of a sock monkey with a knitted banana (the peel even comes off).

Grace showed a forest green afghan she designed for a Mary Maxim contest. It was lovely, but alas, didn't win.

Linda knit a lacey grey "Tuscany" shawl in 17 days. It was made from a luscious blend of alpaca and silk.

Patty displayed a true show-stopper, a cobweb-weight Orenburg shawl made from 9000+ metres of cashmere and silk. She said, "That's how I spent my winter."

Victoria showed a Fern Glade hat and purple skirt. The hat was her first lace

project, and the skirt was made by her Nan on a knitting machine. She just loves it.

Raffle

Karen Kucheray—T-shirt

Karen Kucheray—"Knit Two" book

Tamara Marcinek—Knitting bag

Denise Powell—Knitting bag

Diane Martin—Dye-Version bootie kit

Guest Speaker

Kirk Dunn says one of the best things about his ongoing "Stitched Glass" project is that it's a conversation starter—and the conversation is always different. The technical as well as theological aspects of his incredibly ambitious project certainly gave DKC members plenty of food for thought, judging by the questions asked following the presentation.

Kirk's idea began with simple sketches on the back of an envelope, and resulted in a \$45,000 grant from the Ontario Arts Council in 2003 (long gone, he says). Kirk said he has always been fascinated by the different religions, particularly the conflicts and controversies that result when they butt up against each other. He's also an avid knitter, and hit upon the idea of making enormous stained glass windows out of yarn.

Kirk decided to start with the Christian window, as Christianity is what he's most familiar with—and as the son of a Presbyterian minister, he feels he has a special license to be as critical as he likes. Through thorough research and meetings with leaders of three main faiths (Christianity, Islam, Judaism), he has attempted to highlight both the positives and the challenges of each. He also hopes to do a fourth window which combines the best aspects of all three faiths and gives hope that they can somehow find common ground. The irony, he says, is that all three have so much in common, yet just can't seem to get along. It's so very human.

Politics and religion aside, the Stitched Glass project is also technically astounding. The sheer magnitude of the pieces left the audience gasping. A student of Kafe Fassett, Kirk has a great love of colour and feels mixing and blending them is the key to a piece's vitality. He knits with at least four or five strands at once, blending colours as an Impressionist would with paint. He showed pictures of himself sitting

on what looked like a mountain of yarn (a "yarn bomb" in his words) but reassured the audience it's not as complicated as it looks. Though it's true there are an awful lot of ends to deal with, at least he doesn't have to worry about dye lots. Kirk says he knits anywhere he can, including at the beach and on vacation.

With the Christian window fully finished and pieced together, and the pieces of the Judaic window completed, slowly but surely Kirk's vision is becoming reality. We thank him for his inspiring presentation, and for lugging all the pieces to our meeting! For more information about Kirk, please visit his website: www.kirkdunn.com



STITCH N PITCH 2010 by Wendy Eng

It was a beautiful night for a baseball game, not too hot or muggy, and even the occasional lake breeze. There were lots of great plays and home runs, and yes, the Jays won! There were goodie bags and lots of prizes to be won, and also lots of knitting. Thanks to the organizers and volunteers. I'm already looking forward to next year's Stitch n' Pitch.



RELAY FOR LIFE 2010 by Joan Kass

For the sixth straight year, the Downtown Knit Collective had a team at the Central Toronto Relay for Life. This year we raised just under \$5000 for the Canadian Cancer Society. Our team included Denise, Pat, Wendy M., Dawn, Cristina, Julia, Wannietta and two of her friends, and myself. Joining us on the team was Edna, a breast cancer survivor. This year we were very thrilled to have two very special guests, Patrick and Mary Pat join us. We all stood up and cheered as Patrick, Mary Pat and Edna participated in the Survivor Lap proudly wearing "pink scarves of hope" to start off the evening's events.

Many gorgeous, brightly coloured scarves decorated our tent. In fact, we happily handed out some scarves to some participants with cancer. We were totally thrilled to send Cristina's blue shadow knit scarf to a young fellow undergoing treatment for

testicular cancer at St. Michael's Hospital. His brother was very touched to have this "scarf of hope" to deliver.

Overnight, we knit by lantern and headlamps, even when the rain began during the early hours of the morning. And once again, we delivered a huge garbage bag full of scarves to the Cancer Society at the closing ceremonies. Our team was honoured to receive a certificate for the Best Decorated Tent.

Participating in this event just reinforces the impact that our Knitting for a Cure scarves do have on those undergoing treatment for cancer. Please keep those scarves coming in every colour of the rainbow. Help us keep sending out those "scarves of hope".





UPCOMING EVENTS

Kitchener-Waterloo Knitters' Fair

September 11, 9:30 - 4:30 p.m. This Fair, the largest event of its kind in Canada, presents more than 70 vendors offering the latest and greatest of knitting products. Imagine 35,000 square feet—in 2 large showrooms—dedicated to the craft of knitting, offering an incredible display of a diverse variety of yarns in an explosion of colour, knitting books, patterns, and accessories. 425 Bingemans Centre Drive, Kitchener, ON.

CreativFestival 2010

October 22, 23 & 24

This massive fall event returns to the Metro Toronto Convention Centre for its 23rd year. Fibres, fabrics, papers, beads, patterns, kits and must-have notions, tools and equipment. 200+ hands-on workshops are featured, including our own Dr. Knit, Denise Powell:

- Tips and Tricks for Upsizing Sweaters—Thurs Oct 21 9 am to noon,
- Slip Sliding Away—Thurs Oct 21, 5 pm to 7 pm
- A Hat Without a Pattern—Sat Oct 23 from 9 am to noon.

Registration and more information is available at www.creativfestiva.ca

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