

# knitting Yarns



## APRIL 20: JANELLE MARTIN

### Ravelry Road Map

New to Ravelry and wondering what all the fuss is about? Have an account but not sure how to make the most of it? Janelle will guide you on a tour of Ravelry, providing you with a “road map” through the features and benefits of this essential site. Though it’s sometimes been called “Facebook for knitters”, Ravelry is so much more than a social network. Launched just four years ago, the site has revolutionized the way knitters keep track of their stashes, projects, tools and patterns. As useful as it is addictive, the site has recently welcomed its one millionth user.

This presentation will introduce you to the main features of the site such as forums, groups, “friends,” adding projects and stash, and using the advanced search features to figure out just what you can do with those leftovers or impulse purchases in your stash.

Janelle Martin has been an avid knitter for the past 27 years, and has recently started designing patterns. Her shawl “Cartouche” was published in the Winter 2011 issue of Knitty. She lives in Waterloo, ON but makes her knitting home at Shall We Knit? in New Hamburg. She rarely goes anywhere without a book and her knitting... You can find her designs on [www.eclecticcloset.ca](http://www.eclecticcloset.ca) and on [ravelry.com](http://ravelry.com) (username Antheras).



### LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY

#### Sally Melville—Making the Most of Your Yarn Collection

We are excited to announce that Sally Melville has been confirmed as our May guest speaker. Sally will introduce ideas that knitters can employ to use, manage, and replenish a yarn collection! She will discuss the problems inherent in using multiple yarns and colours, show which stitch patterns will accommodate different weights and colours best, and talk about how to arrange a yarn collection to make the most of it.

### LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE

#### Alisa McDonald and Tamara Krievins

Knitted skirts don’t have to be droopy! These two DKC members generated quite a lot of interest when they modeled their skirts at our fashion show last December. At the June meeting they will share their skirt-making secrets with us—their successes, as well as their “learning experiences”.

#### Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, April 20, 2011

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

#### 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)

Two new attendees were among the 100 or so knitters in the Ennis college auditorium. President Carole Adams chaired the meeting.

### Announcements

The spring Creative Festival will be held at the International Centre, Mississauga, April 15 & 16th, featuring demonstrations and seminars involving many creative art forms.

The spring Fibre Arts Festival will be held at the Neilson Park Creative Centre at 56 Neilson Road, Etobicoke. The show and sale is slated for April 2 – 17, featuring spinning, weaving, rug making, and quilting. On opening weekend, April 2-3, there will be a merchant's mall, demonstrations, tea room and door prizes.

DKC needs volunteers or nominees for executive positions for 2011-12.

Particularly needed are: VP of Programming to work with a committee to develop ideas for meetings and coordinate with speakers; VP of Promotions, a new position to work with a committee to develop ideas for events and coordinate volunteers for them.

More registrants are needed for the Five Oaks Retreat May 27-29, to avoid its cancellation. Please contact Carole Adams to register. Details are in the March DKC newsletter.

Joan Kass spoke to the group detailing the types of volunteers needed for the Knitters Frolic, from helpers for publicity now, to those needed at the event April 30 – May 1st. We need LOTS of volunteers to make this international event successful. High school students who need community service hours would be welcomed as helpers in setting up for the event. This is our big chance in the year to give back to the DKC. Please Email Joan to indicate your willingness to help:

[events@downtownknitcollective.ca](mailto:events@downtownknitcollective.ca)

Several instructors, who will be teaching sessions at the Frolic, outlined their course offerings. Mary Pat, Robin, Mairi, Flo, Denise, Gloria and Diane showed examples of their subjects and/or described their workshops. The flyer is available on the DKC website.

### Raffle

Karen Kucherawy won a copy of the book *One Hundred Purses to Knit and Crochet*, Heather Mathis won 10 skeins of Diamond Edo yarn, and Janet Deline won a copy of the book *Destination Alchemy*.

### Show and Tell

Trish Denhoed showed a gorgeous blue “cloud chaser” vest she made of Tanis Yellow Label. She explained it as a rectangle with arm holes that is very versatile.

Gloria Easton showed cushions she made in the style of Merseyside knitters. They are made of six-inch squares of garter stitch, with central motifs depicting life's challenges. For example, sparkle indicates prom dresses, white leaves denote spring, intentional errors in the pattern represent mistakes in life.

Mairi McKissock showed first a doily she knitted while “trapped” in Scotland when the Icelandic volcano disrupted flights. Using #10 tatting thread, she knitted a doily from a free pattern from [yarnover.net](http://yarnover.net). She later expanded the same pattern into a wonderful shawl in fine red mohair.

### Guest Speakers

#### Robin Hunter: “Confessions of an Obsessive Knitter”

Robin can't remember learning to knit, but started knitting seriously in her teens. She remembers the first sweater pattern she knit, from McCalls magazine. By her 20s she was designing her own patterns. Robin was wearing a beautiful blue lace sweater she made, and showed an old favourite sweater her Mother made for her, with bobbles. She discussed some of the diverse motivations for knitting and how they relate to happiness.

Knitting is no longer the duty it was in the past. What we make today is expensive and time consuming, but we can't escape being drawn to this means of self-expression. There is still a gender divide, with men being vastly in the minority. The true profile of knitters today is younger than non-knitters picture. There is still something magical about making fabric from yarn and sticks.

Robin divided knitters into 11 types, from fashion knitters through sock makers to lace and charity knitters, some of us attracted to the process, some to the product. Over half the knitters Robin polled on a Ravelry discussion thread cited positive mental and physical health effects as their main reason for knitting, from increased self esteem to lowered blood pressure. Many people also noted the sense of purpose knitting gives and the creativity expressed in customizing patterns. Knitters have a perfect way of filling travel time and waiting time. Knitters often have a family heritage, connecting today's knitter to her mother or grandmother.

Social knitting gives knitters a sense of community, with those who understand. All DKC activities feed into our sense of well being. People need more than an absence of dysfunction to be fulfilled. We can control 50% of our happiness, while the rest comes from genetic and environmental factors. Relationships are key to long-term happiness. Robin described 4 stages of happiness that relate to knitting: anticipation, savouring the experience, expression as we wear our creation, and reflection, as old products become favourites.

Psychologists have used the term “positivity” in order to more scientifically study happiness. Knitters experience all ten forms of positivity, from joy and gratitude to hope, pride and inspiration. While most people test as having a 2:1 ratio of positive to negative feelings, those who have a 3:1 ratio really flourish.

Robin mentioned a book about a ten-step plan to increase positivity, and counseled us not to read it, as it is rather dull. Rather we increase happiness by determining our own preferences, and considering whether they make us feel better in the long run. In everything, we need to try for the “yes” factor, finding individual triggers to be happy. Knitting is definitely one of those!

Robin's patterns can be found at [patternfish.com](http://patternfish.com). She writes a blog that can be found at [knittingrobin.blogspot.com](http://knittingrobin.blogspot.com). A lively discussion period followed Robin's talk. We'd like to thank her for sharing her insights with us.

**Arch and Leaf Pattern**

Multiple of 30 + 8 to begin (multiple stitch count)

- Row 1: (WS)K2, p2, \*K6, p5, k6, k1-b,k1, k1-b, k1, p1, k1-b, k1, k1-b, p2; rep from \*; end k4.
- Row 2: P4, \*K2, p4, centred double increase (cdi) in next stitch, p4, k2, p6, ssk, k1, k2tog, p6; rep from \*; end k2, p2.
- Row 3: Work as stitches present.
- Row 4: P2, ssp, k1, \*K1, yo, p4, k1, cdi, k1, p4, yo, k2, p2tog, p4, sl 1, k2tog, pss0, p4, ssp, k1; rep from \*; end k1, yo, p2.
- Row 5: Work as stitches present; be sure to work yo's through back loop.
- Row 6: P1, ssp, k2, \*Yo, p5, k2, cdi, k2, p5, yo, k2, p2tog, p7, ssp, k2; rep from \*; end yo, p3.
- Row 7: Work as stitches present; be sure to work yo's through back loops.
- Row 8: P2, k2 \*P6, k3, cdi, k3, p6, 2-over-2 left cross, p5, 2-over-2 right cross; rep from \*; end p4.
- Row 9: Work sts as they present.
- Row 10: P2, k2 \*P6, ssk, k5, k2tog, p6, k2, 2-over-2 left cross (2 p & 2 k), p1, 2-over-2 right cross, k2; rep from \*; end p4.
- Row 11: Work as sts present.
- Row 12: P2, k2, \*P6, ssk, k3, k2tog, p6, k2, yo, p1, yo, p1, decrease 5 sts at once, p1, yo, p1, yo, k2; rep from \*; end p4.
- Row 13: Work as sts present.
- Row 14: P2, k2, \*P6, ssk, k1, k2tog, p6, k2, p4, cdi, p4, k2; rep from \*; end p4
- Row 15: Work as sts present.
- Row 16: P2, yo, k1, \*K1, p2tog, p4 sl 1, k2tog, pss0, p4, p2tog, k2, yo, p4, k1 cdi, k1, p4, yo, k1; rep from \*; end k1, p2tog, p2.
- Row 17: Work as sts present, working yo's through back loop.
- Row 18: P3, yo, &K2, p2tog, p7, p2tog, k2, yo, p5, k2, cdi, k2, p5, yo; rep from \*; end k2, p2tog, p1.
- Row 19: Work as sts present.
- Row 20: P4, \*2-over-2 left cross, p5, 2-over-2 right cross, p6, k3,

cdi, k3, p6; rep from \*; end k2, p2.

Row 21: Work as sts present.

Row 22: P4, \*K2, 2-over-2 left cross(2k & 2p), p1, 2-over-2 right cross, k2, p6, ssk, k5, k2tog, p6; rep from \*; end k2, p2.

Row 23: Work as sts present.

Row 24: P4, \*k2, yo, p1, yo, p1, dec 5 sts at once, p1, yo, p1, yo, k2, p6ssk, k3, k2tog, p6; rep from \*, end k2, p2.

Repeat rows 1 to 24.

**Abbreviations:**

cdi=centred double increase

Knit into the back of the stitch in the row below; then knit into the back of the first stitch on the left-hand needle; then with the left-hand needle point, pick up the left side strand of the same stitch in the row below, and k1-b into this strand to make the 3rd stitch of the group. In this pattern, all cdi's are knit.

decrease 5 sts at once:

ssk, k3tog, and pass ssk over

or

k3tog, return to left hand needle, pass 2 sts over (from left) & return to right hand needle

2-over-2 left or right cross

4-stitch cable: Left cross = put next 2 sts on cable needle and hold

in front; work next 2 sts, then work 2 sts from cable needle;

Right cross = put next 2 sts on cable needle and hold in back;

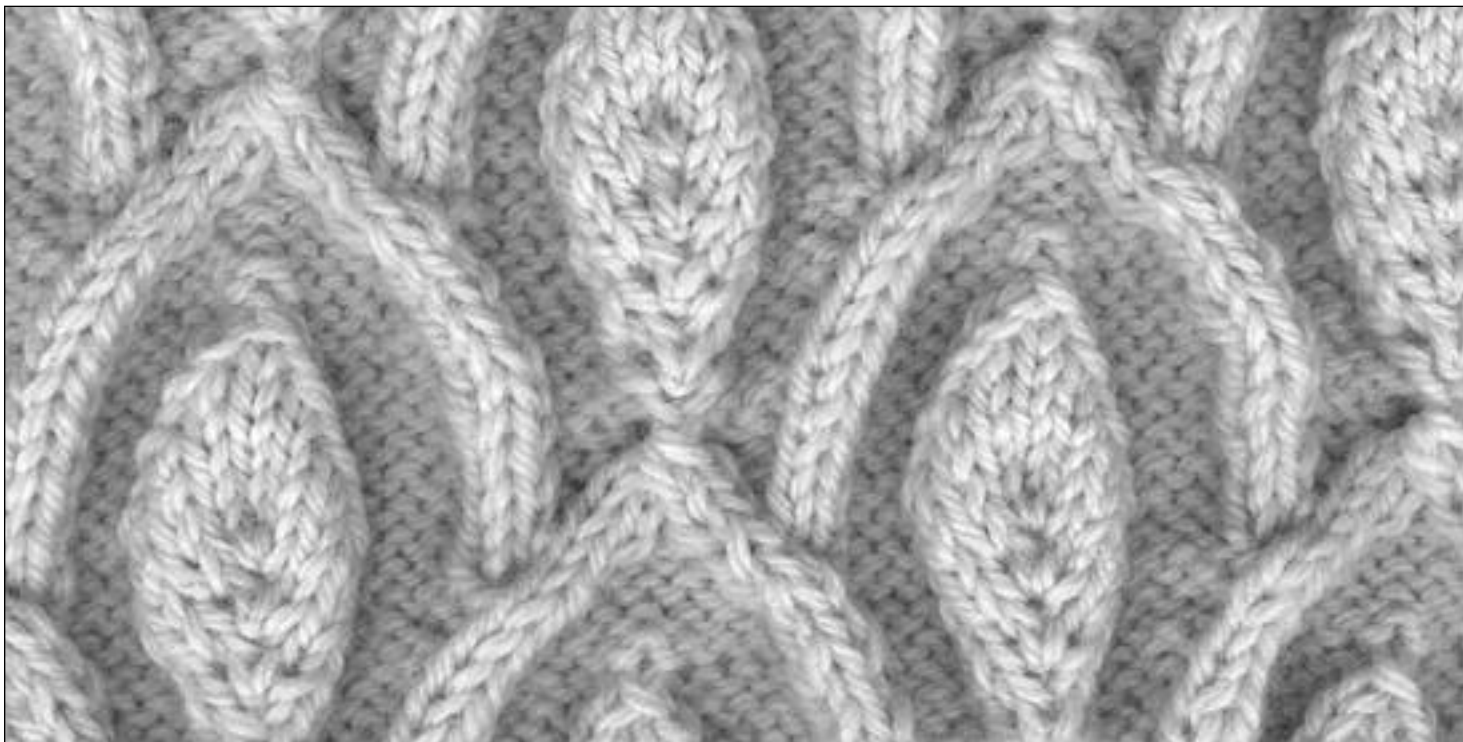
work next 2 sts, then work 2 sts from cable needle.

k1-b or p1-b knit or purl through back loop. In this pattern,

all yo's are worked through the back loop in the following row.

yo=yarn over

Source: Barbara G. Walker, A Fourth Treasury of Knitting Patterns, Schoolhouse Press edition, 2001.



*Simply Baby: 20 Adorable Knits for Baby's First Two Years*  
by Debbie Bliss

If there's one universal knitting truth you can always rely on, it's that you really can't go wrong with making baby things. They are relatively fast to make, deeply satisfying, and above all, always in demand—you can be sure that somewhere, somebody you know is having a baby. Another plus is that unless your gauge calculations are way, way off, the garment will be bound to fit... at some point in time. And with the usual lead time of about nine months, even the procrastinating knitter can get something, or even several somethings, done with time to spare.

As baby knitting books go, *Simply Baby* is simply a winner, for beginners and experts alike. Though many of the patterns seem targeted to the less-experienced knitter, there's no way even an expert would not enjoy making and giving these clean and classy-looking baby items. The patterns run the gamut from simple and quick to help newer knitters gain confidence, like booties and hats, right up to more involved projects like an intarsia blanket and fair isle cardigan. Just to change things up, there's even a knit teddy bear.

The book is very approachable and features clear, non-threatening instructions without a lot of abbreviations and jargon that might frighten the less-



experienced knitter (like, ahem, myself). And of course there are photos, lots and lots of beautiful, mouth-watering photos to whet the knitting appetite and strengthen resolve.

My only complaint about this book would be that the layout is a little odd—the first 41 pages are taken up with basic knitting instructions (very clear and well-illustrated, mind you), from the knit stitch and gauge swatches right up to colourwork, cables and embroidery, while the all-important index of projects has been inexplicably relegated to the last two pages of the book.

Above all, the fact remains that the patterns in *Simply Baby* are just really nice. There isn't a dorky one in the bunch—everything is sleek, simple and classic. They would be a joy to knit and a joy to receive. In the words of one Amazon reviewer, "The patterns in this book make me want to have babies." That pretty much says it all.

**PATTERN CORNER**

Irene Reed has a pattern to share with the DKC. She showed off her Frilly Collar at the February meeting and said she has had several requests for the pattern, so here it is. It's based on a scarf originally found in Creative Knitting's *Accessorize with Style*, Fall 2010.

Choose a yarn suitable for 6.5 mm needles. Cast on 6 stitches. Work garter stitch for 20 inches. Cast off, but do not cut yarn. Turn work and pickup and knit 82 stitches along one long edge. Next row knit back, increasing in every stitch (164 stitches) Work 5 rows of 2x2 rib and then cast off in rib.

Do the same on the other side of work.

Finishing: At each end, sew edges of ribbing together. On one end sew ruffle to garter stitch edge, and then sew on button. The other end opening is your button hole.

**Wanted: Frolic Volunteers**

Give an hour or two of your time at the Frolic and get free admission and entrance to the Hospitality Suite in exchange. We need help with setup on Friday and "wool-winding", admissions desk, workshop registration desk on Saturday. Please contact [events@downtownknitcollective.ca](mailto:events@downtownknitcollective.ca) or sign up at the April meeting.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**CreativFestival Spring Show**

This year a Spring show has been added, April 15-16 at the International Centre in Mississauga. See [csnf.com](http://csnf.com) for more details.

**DKC Knitter's Frolic 2011**

Mark your calendars for the weekend of April 30-May 1, 2011, at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre. The executive is already hard at work on this, and it promises to be the biggest Frolic ever.

**More Than Just a Yardage Sale**  
May 27-28, at the Textile Museum of Canada.

Yarn, decorator fabric, notions, thread, ribbons, quilting supplies, books, patterns, linens, fur trim, buttons, oddments, crafts... you name it, this sale has got it. The sale will be held in the parking lot to the south of the TMC rain or shine, and supports the exhibitions and public programs (also accepting donations!) Address, hours and info at [www.textilemuseum.ca](http://www.textilemuseum.ca)

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