

VOLUME 16 • ISSUE 4
DECEMBER 2011knitting
Yarns

DECEMBER 14: WORK OF OUR HANDS FASHION SHOW

What better way to end the year than with a party? The Work of our Hands Fashion Show is always the highlight of the DKC year. It's a time to come together and celebrate ourselves, our craft and our guild with music, fashion, friendship and food! See what others have been working on all year long. A chance to strut your stuff and show off your finished objects, large and small. As always, the December meeting is free to everyone, so it's a great opportunity to introduce newcomers to the guild. The meeting will culminate with the consumption of festive snacks and beverages.

COMING UP IN JANUARY

Our January speaker will be Carol Tomany, the founder of Infiknit. She will be telling us all about lace knitting and lace patterns.



COMING UP IN FEBRUARY

Our February meeting sees the return of the ever-popular Skills Exchange Mini Workshops, and we're looking for volunteer teachers. Do you have a simple knitting technique you could teach in 15 minutes or less? Please contact Cristina (programme@downtownknitcollective.ca) with the workshop title, description, homework and equipment required.

FROLIC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Tech savvy? Knowledgeable about Facebook and Twitter? Join the Frolic Social Networking Committee. Contact Donna Campbell (kittyknitter@bell.net).

Also, a Frolic Volunteer Coordinator is needed. Do you have good organizational skills? Work well with people? Please contact Wendy Mauzeroll (dkctreasurer@gmail.com).

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, December 14, 2011
Wednesday, January 18, 2012
Wednesday, February 15, 2012

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

The third meeting of the season drew a crowd of about 120 members. The pre-meeting crowd milled around the tables of our two vendors (Crafter's Corner and Dye Version) as well as a large display of our speaker's work. Cristina moderated the meeting in Carole's absence.

Announcements

The **fashion show** is coming up fast. If you wish to take part, please email Cristina with a picture of the item, the original name of the pattern, and a blurb about the item. And of course if you're attending the fashion show, bring all your friends because admission is free. The deadline for submissions is December 7.

Becky Mitts, the representative for the **Canadian Cancer Society** presented the DKC with a plaque recognizing our contributions to Relay for Life. This summer we raised over \$7200, and tens of thousands over the years.

Raffle

A cat project bag donated by our Crafter's Corner vendor was won by Sam Smit. A Katia Sabrina scarf kit was won by Debra Rowland. A Katia Ondas Lux scarf kit was won by Wanda Morawski.

Show & Tell

Flo showed an amazing shadow-knitting shawl that she actually finished two years ago but finally got around to blocking this fall. Knit in shades of burgundy and blue, a chevron pattern magically appears when viewed at certain angles.

Rochelle has recently finished a stunning patchwork shawl in earth and jewel tones made with mitred squares. She used Crazy Zauberball to great effect.

Krishna has only been knitting for eight months, but she's definitely off to a great start. Crafting two teeny perfect aran baby sweaters for two pregnant friends, she managed to teach herself new techniques like cables, collars and buttonholes.

June made a stunning version of Robin Hunter's Evelyn Howard shawl, beading all the edges with brown, gold and burgundy beads. Robin was in the audience and was really impressed.

Maura makes a special kind of shrug to keep your top half warm while sitting in bed, which she says is known to Nova Scotians as a 'hug-me-tight'. Both of those she showed were colourful and warm.

Guest Speaker

Jacqueline Schiller

There is a place where knitting and art meet, and that's where Jacqueline Schiller spends most of her time. She told us she works with yarn, lives with yarn and dreams about yarn, and has done so for most of her life. Growing up on a farm with three sheep and a mother who owns a yarn store, it's hardly surprising.

Jacqueline spent a year in Florence, Italy for her third year at OCAD. It was there she first realized that knitting could be art, and vice versa. Finding herself at creative loose ends, her professor suggested she go back to what she knew best and start from there. She began with a giant portrait blanket of her classmates, using yarn she dyed herself with Kool-Aid. When it comes to her projects, she tends to go really big or really small. She said she really has no interest in the medium-sized.

If Jacqueline looks familiar, you have probably seen her behind the counter at Romni Wools. Working at Romni allows her a nice employees' discount, and a chance to make new knitting contacts. When a designer needs a knitter, Romni is often the first place they start. Jacqueline is often commissioned to knit for movies and clothing designers thanks to this knitting



store connection. She noted that she created an aran sweater for the horror movie *Final Destination 4*, and unfortunately the script required that the sweater be torn to shreds.

A lot of people had questions about Jaqueline's process. She said she often works from photos or hand-drawn charts on graph paper, though sometimes she knits freehand and has subjects sit for her as she knits. The problem with freehand knitting is that it's difficult to duplicate the pattern. She seldom mixes yarns, always working at the same gauge. She does prefer to spin and dye her own yarn, in order to get the quantity and colours she needs. Lately Jacqueline has been knitting in very fine gauge silk, recreating animal skeletons, playing cards, and her own dental x-rays.



She enjoys experimenting with increases and decreases, and tries to get things in one piece whenever possible—she hates seams.

Jacqueline doesn't like floats, either. She catches each one as she knits, resulting in wrong sides as neat as the right. When her work is displayed, she prefers it to be hung so the front and the back are both visible, and no part of the process is hidden. She also never puts her work behind glass—she wants it to be touched.

We'd like to thank Jacqueline for joining us and showing us her amazing work. We'd also like to thank our enthusiastic audience for asking so many great questions.



On October 29, a Downtown Knit Collective Focus Group met at Creative Yarns to create a Customer Value Proposition for the DKC to use as a tag line with future promotional material; and, to consider how the guild could appeal to more members, particularly young people. The 15 volunteer participants formed a group that was a balanced mix of women of different age groups and duration of membership in the DKC.

A Customer Value Proposition is a statement of 10-12 words used by marketers to convince potential customers (or in this case, members) about the benefits they will receive in return for their purchase. It should be a 30-second elevator sound bite. In a round table, each focus group member spoke about the reasons they became a member of the DKC and out of that discussion, the group suggested the following Customer Value Proposition which I will be asking the membership to endorse at the December DKC meeting:

‘ADVANCING THE ART AND COMMUNITY OF KNITTING’

The group felt that the DKC is a great guild that is much more to its members than just meetings. While some refinements could polish its image and make it appeal to more members, the core of the guild is sound. It was noted that the Knitter’s Frolic, sponsored by the DKC, has become a very important event for knitters in the GTA and beyond. The reasons that people belong to the DKC and attend its meetings fell into several themes:

- Meetings are a social event, an opportunity to meet downtown in a community of knitters with shared interests and a networking opportunity.
- Meetings are also an opportunity for learning in a non-threatening environment. They are a way to broaden our

experience and provide a feedback loop for the professional members.

- The speakers bring a new perspective and provide the next level of knitting design and technique.
- Some members are looking for a professional guild, that perhaps could be a branch of the DKC, that would develop regulations for designers.
- A number of members look to the DKC for inspiration, particularly from other fibre artists.

While socialization and networking with other knitters is a prominent theme for attending the DKC meetings, it is often daunting for new members or visitors to meet people and forge new friendships. As a starting point, to facilitate more socialization, the focus group members pledged to make a point of speaking to at least one person they didn’t know at the November meeting. It would be great if everyone took up this cause by speaking to at least one new person at each meeting.

There is one topic of conversation we all have in common—knitting. A number of suggestions were made to enhance the DKC, and these will be reviewed at the next executive meeting. It was suggested that these focus groups be held once or twice a year in future, so watch for future announcements and calls for volunteers in the Newsletter and at DKC meetings.

It was a pleasure to lead this focus group of bright, capable women, all with a passion for knitting. I would like to thank Jody and Nina from Creative Yarns for generously providing meeting space and coffee, Carol Mather Miles for contributing delicious brownies, and to all the volunteers who participated in this lively conversation.

STITCH OF THE MONTH by Diane Martin

Christmas Trees

Multiple of 16 plus 1

Row 1 (WS) and all WS rows: Purl.

Row 2: K1, *k5, k2tog, yo, k1, yo, ssk, k6; rep from *.

Row 4: K1, *k4, k2tog, yo, k3, yo, ssk, k5; rep from *.

Row 6: K1, *k3, (k2tog, yo) twice, k1, (yo, ssk) twice, k4; rep from *.

Row 8: K1, *k2, (k2tog, yo) twice, k3, (yo, ssk) twice, k3; rep from *.

Row 10: K1, *k1, (k2tog, yo)3 times, k1, (yo, ssk)3 times, k2; rep from *.

Rows 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, and 26: Repeat Rows 8, 6, 4, 6, 8, 6, 4, and 2.

Row 28: K1, *k6, k2tog, yo, k8; rep from *.

Row 30: K1, *yo, ssk, k11, k2tog, yo, k1; rep from *.

Row 32: K1, *k1, yo, ssk, k9, k2tog, yo, k2; rep from *.

Row 34: K1, *(yo, ssk) twice, k7, (k2tog, yo) twice, k1; rep from *.

Row 36: K1, *k1, (yo, ssk) twice, k5, (k2tog, yo) twice, k2; rep from *.

Row 38: K1, *(yo, ssk)3 times, k3, (k2tog, yo)3 times, k1; rep from *.

Rows 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, and 54: Repeat Rows 36, 34, 32, 34, 36, 34, 32, and 30.

Row 56: K15, *2tog, yo, k14; rep from * to last 2 sts, end k2.

Repeat Rows 1 to 56.

For horizontal border or edging: Work Rows 1 to 28.

For vertical panel, work *Rows 1 to 28, 9 rows stocking stitch; repeat from *.



Knitting and Hockey—Together at Last!

Toronto Marlies vs Hamilton Bulldogs

Date: Saturday, February 11, 2012

Location: Ricoh Coliseum

Marlies' Alley Open: 1:30 p.m.

Gates Open: 2:00 p.m.

Game Time: 3:00 p.m.

Price: \$20.00 per ticket



This is a fun family event bringing the hockey and knitting community together for a professional hockey game between two arch rivals, the Toronto Marlies and the Hamilton Bulldogs. The Marlies are currently leading their division, so this should be a great game.

Four courageous guild members have signed up for the Duke the Dog Design Contest to design a scarf or toque for him. The winner will be announced at the December DKC meeting and the item will be presented during the game.

Starting about fifteen minutes after the game, there will be an hour free skate (no hockey) on the Marlies ice, exclusively for the Pucks n' Purls ticket holders up to a limit of 250 skaters. Note that skaters or their parent/ guardian will have to sign a waiver before going on the ice and that children 12 and under must wear a helmet. What a memory!

Tickets will be on sale at all DKC meetings, by contacting Joan Kass at dkcevents@hotmail.ca, or on-line. There is a generic DKC Special Offer Code, and there will also be specific Special Offer Codes for participating yarn stores that help promote Pucks N' Purls to their customers.

On-line ticket site: www.marlies.ca/PucksNPurls

DKC Special Offer Code: **pucksnpurls**

Get all the latest information on our blog: pucksnpurls.tumblr.com

BUS TRIP 2011 by Joan Kass

Once again, the weather was picture perfect as 44 knitters boarded the motor coach. First stop, the village of Port Credit and Linda's Craftique where we each did our best to fill the lovely canvas bags each of us received as we got off the bus. As we strolled along the street, we supported the local businesses: Gitta's Stitchery, Nostalgia Bookshop, St. Vincent de Paul and apparently a local lingerie shop!

Dutch Mill Country Market lived up to its name and provided more than a tasty meal. Fresh produce, baking and preserves, jewellery, pottery, Christmas decorations, and other unique delights including a petting zoo kept us entertained during our lunch stop.

Back on board for Julie's Needle Emporium in Ancaster. Shopping in this fabulous yarn shop, checking out the large selections of books, picking through the bins of discontinued Noro yarns, sitting in the sun or strolling along the street, what a wonderful way to end the day.

Wonderful yarn shops, wonderful small towns, wonderful food... a perfect day.



UPCOMING EVENTS

TMC Holiday Sale

From December 1-24 the Textile Museum of Canada's shop will be having a special sale, and museum members will receive 20% off their purchases.

Pucks n' Purls

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 11, 2012. The DKC is sponsoring Pucks n' Purls, a family-oriented event with the Toronto Marlies for knitters, with lots of activities and fun for family members of all ages. Tickets will be available at DKC meetings, or contact dkcevents@hotmail.ca.



As you may have heard, all proceeds from our meeting raffles are now being donated to the Canadian Cancer Society. So far this year we have raised \$527, with an end-of-season goal of \$1500. Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets at the start of each meeting!

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