

VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 6  
FEBRUARY 2011

# knitting Yarns



## FEBRUARY 16: JULIE SCHILTHUIS & OLD MILL KNITTING CO.

February's meeting welcomes Julie Schilthuis of the Needle Emporium in Ancaster, Ontario. Julie has been involved in the Knitting industry for 23+ years. She learned to knit and crochet at a young age, and it was always her dream to have a yarn shop. That dream became a reality when she was in her first year of university, 24 years ago. She now teaches knitting to all levels of knitters, both in the store and at her annual knitting retreat. Julie's experience and knowledge of the industry has made her one of the most valuable retailers out there. Have a problem? Want a challenge? Visit Julie. Her presentation on "Tips and Tricks for Knitters" will definitely pique the interest of knitters with all levels of experience.

Old Mill Knitting Company will be joining Julie for the evening to present to us the newest additions to their yarn lines. There will be something for everyone at this meeting, so please join us.



### LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH

**Robin Hunter—Confessions of an Obsessive Knitter**  
Join Robin in an exploration of why we are addicted to our knitting. Why do we invest the time, effort and money to do something that most non-knitters see as a waste of resources? Robin will be examining our diverse motivations which include our health, our sense of community, artistic expression and so much more.

Robin began knitting garments in her teens and designing in her 20s. She also has a strong background in sewing, tailoring and millinery, which has had an enormous influence on her knitting. She has been teaching in the Toronto area for 25 years. Last spring, she launched her full-time career as a Knitting professional.

Robin's patterns can be found on Patternfish, and you can read about her adventures at her blog ([knittingrobin.blogspot.com/](http://knittingrobin.blogspot.com/)).

#### Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Wednesday, April 20, 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)

The Innis Hall auditorium was packed with Elizabeth Zimmermann fans who were eager to get out of the cold and talk about knitting. Carole Adams was sick, so the sick-but-not-quite-as-sick-as-Carole Denise Powell assumed the dual role of MC and guest speaker for the evening.

### Announcements

There will be a fascinating presentation by Dr. Daina Taimins entitled “Seeing Between the Folds” at the Latvian Canadian Cultural Centre on Saturday February 28 at 2 p.m. Dr. Taimins will share her experience of moving from creating mathematical models to crochet sculptures. Cost is \$15 (and it’s also an excellent opportunity to see the centre’s Latvian mitten collection).

The Textile Museum is having a Bargain Bolt sale on Saturday, February 5 at the Workroom (401 Richmond St. West, Suite 1-B) from 11 am to 4 pm. Prices range from \$1-3 per metre, with proceeds benefitting the Museum.

### Raffle

A ball of Zauberball sock yarn by Shoppel Wolle was won by Barb Angier.

The book *Knitting in Tuscany* by Nicky Epstein was won by Mary Pat McDonald.

One skein of Casbah by Handmaiden was won by our very own ‘raffle lady’ Dawn Juruc.

### Show and Tell

New grandmother Flo Fleury showed a knitted giraffe made for her first grandchild, which elicited a collective ‘aww’ from the audience.

Julia Bryant showed two “wooly wormhead” hats made for two granddaughters. She also wanted to announce that one of her patterns has been included in a new book called *Crochet Master Class*. Congratulations, Julia!

Carole Thomas showed a beautiful turquoise sweater with an allover lace pattern. She says she always wears black underneath to accentuate the lace.

Gloria Easton gave something of a knitting public service announcement—according

to an article she read in the Star, imperfect knitting articles are officially “hot”. She showed what she considered “the ugliest sweater in knitted history” as a prime example of this new trend. The audience assured her that it really wasn’t that bad.

Maggie Newell showed a striped fulled bag she says came from a kit she bought at the Frolic. The bag isn’t actually felted yet—she said to make sure to ask her at the next meeting if she has fullled it yet. Well...?

### Guest Speaker

#### Elizabeth Zimmermann Celebration

Our president emeritus, Denise Powell, took to the podium and both entertained and elucidated on the topic of this prolific designer and influential knitter often known simply as EZ. Denise’s multimedia presentation included many pictures and also video, a treat for those in the audience who had never heard EZ speak before.

Elizabeth Lloyd-Jones was born in 1910 and spent her early childhood in London, Essex and Cornwall. She learned to knit early on in the English style, but later converted to Continental thanks to the influence of her Swiss governess. From these beginnings, she went on to revolutionize modern knitting. She has become something of a patron saint of knitting, elevating a lowly craft (or sometimes even household chore) to the artform we know today. She is credited with re-introducing the super-efficient Continental style to North America, where it had become unpopular during the war years for its German associations.

Elizabeth moved to Switzerland to attend art school at 15, then later to Munich. Once married, she and her new husband Arnold Zimmermann quickly moved to the US to leave Nazi Germany behind. These stories and more are available in her last book *Knitting Around*, which contains both knitting patterns and autobiographical tidbits which she dubs “digressions”.

In her new home, Elizabeth began knitting for local shops and magazines, becoming a recognized designer by the 50s. But when a magazine editor changed one of her in-the-round patterns to knit-flat to please the style of the average American knitter, EZ decided it was time to start publishing her

own patterns. She and her husband bought and fixed up a dilapidated schoolhouse in Wisconsin, and it became the headquarters for her mail-order pattern company, Schoolhouse Press. The first issue of her famous newsletter was published in 1958.

EZ loved yoked sweaters, always seamless and on circulars. A strong proponent of the Continental style, EZ also pioneered many other techniques modern knitters of today take for granted. For example, she invented the “i-cord” (which stands for “idiot cord”) and the EPS system (Elizabeth’s Percentage System) which is still widely used by designers today (Denise included). It is a series of formulas and ratios based upon EZ’s discovery of how the measurements of a knitted garment relate mathematically to one another. Using the system as a foundation, a knitter can create a perfect-fitting garment every time. For further reading, an excellent summary of the basics of the Percentage System can be found on the Knit Picks website under “Tutorials” ([knitpicks.com/tutorials](http://knitpicks.com/tutorials))—just search for the topic “EPS”.

EZ’s books are her lasting legacy. The most famous of these is *Knitting Without Tears*, released in 1971. Somewhat amusingly, this was not the title Elizabeth wanted, but one her publisher chose, as it was part of a series of “[craft] without tears” books. Of that series, only KWT remains in print. It introduced the now-common concepts of steeking, kangaroo pouches, and strandwork holding one colour in each hand. It was quite revolutionary, giving knitters a strong foundation and encouraging them to plan their own projects rather than just blindly following a pattern.

Many more books were released during her lifetime and *The Opinionated Knitter* posthumously. In fact, Denise revealed to the audience that a brand new book is in the works and due to be released soon (*Knit One, Knit All*) culled from EZ’s vast stockpile of unreleased patterns by her daughter, Meg Swansen. In fact, there will be absolutely no overlap with her previously-released books.

Special thanks to Denise for managing to deliver this feel-good presentation though somewhat under the weather.



## STITCH OF THE MONTH by Diane Martin

### 2-Colour Ladders with Twists

- Multiple of 6
- Slip all stitches purl-wise

#### Abbreviations:

C2F: cable 2 front: slip next stitch to cable needle, and leave in front of work; working behind the cable needle, knit next stitch; knit stitch off cable needle (also known as C2L – cross 2 left)

C2B: cable 2 back: slip next stitch to cable needle and leave in back of work; knit next stitch, knit stitch from cable needle (also known a C2R – cross 2 right)

1st Foundation Row: (right side) Using A, knit.

2nd Foundation Row: Using A, purl.

1st Row: Using B, K2, sl 2, \*k4, sl 2; rep from \* to last 2 sts, k2.

2nd Row: Using B, K1, p1, sl 2, p1, \*k2, p1, sl 2; rep from \* to last st, k1.

3rd Row: Using A, K1, C2F, C2B, \*k2, C2F, C2B, rep from \* to last st, k1.

4th Row: Using A, purl.

Rep last 4 rows.



## FASION SHOW 2010





## 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.

### **Weekend Retreat**

May 27-29, 2011: UFO weekend for knitting, quilting, beading or any other kind of UFO at the 5 Oaks Centre near Paris, ON. Cost is \$210.00-double or \$250.00-single. This includes Friday evening snacks, 3 meals on Saturday and snacks, and 2 meals on Sunday and snacks. Contact Carole Thomas at 416-691-3694 or email at [mcgaudet@rogers.com](mailto:mcgaudet@rogers.com) with "5 Oaks" in the subject line.

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