

VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 5  
JANUARY 2011

# knitting Yarns



## JANUARY 19: ELIZABETH ZIMMERMAN CELEBRATION

### Elizabeth Zimmermann—Knitting Genius

A proponent of circular needles and the Continental style, Elizabeth Zimmermann's designs and techniques revolutionized knitting as we know it today.

Since 2010 was the 100th anniversary of EZ's birth, this seems like a good time to take a look at her life, her designs, and her influence on modern knitters and knitting designers. Denise Powell will present a slide show and talk about her.

We hope that members who have knitted one of EZ's designs, or a design inspired by her, will bring in a garment for a special show and tell. Please contact Denise if you are interested in participating:  
[denisepowellknits@rogers.com](mailto:denisepowellknits@rogers.com)



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2011. So where did the year go? As I reflect on 2010, I remind myself about how grateful I am for having such wonderful people in my life. So many unfinished (UFO's) projects, books unread, magazines still wrapped in plastic – with time, it will all get done.

As we move into 2011, I want to wish you and your family all the best for the New Year. Below are three quotes to give thought to as we move forward into another busy year.

*"I am still determined to be cheerful and happy, in whatever situation I may be; for I have also learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions, and not upon our circumstances."*

–Martha Washington, first lady

*"Extend to each person, no matter how trivial that contact, all the care and kindness and understanding and love that you can muster, and do it with no thought of any reward. Your life will never be the same again."*

–Og Nadine, Author

*"Remember there's no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end."*

–Scott Adams, Cartoonist

Looking forward to 2011,  
Carole Adams, DKC President

#### Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Wednesday, March 16, 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)

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DECEMBER 2010 MEETING

With a fresh snowfall on the ground outside, DKC members were definitely in a festive mood at our December meeting.

### Raffle

Three Twist Collective gift packs (including a tape measure, buttons and a certificate for a free pattern) were won by Carole Adams, Dawn Juruc and Joan Kass. Three Estelle hat kits (Raccoon, Cat and Dog) were won by Nellie Dubinsky, Dale Hendry and Holly Yip. Three Needle Arts Book Shop gift packs (including scarf patterns and Fiddlesticks yarn) were won by Jill Cameron, Flo Sherbanowski and Nina Kleki. Quite a haul for our winners.

### Fashion Show

#### Julia Bryant—Perfect Pomegranates

This long vest in Tunisian crochet is Julia's original design and was inspired by American Indian beadwork. She used Knit Picks Palette yarn, fingering weight 100% Peruvian Highland wool and faceted beads. She really enjoyed making it.

#### Kerry Fast—Cardigan

The pattern is from Lopi yarns with some alterations. Kerry adopted the pattern after her sister Rosabel abandoned the project more than ten years ago; she was defeated by the complexity of the design. When she finally finished knitting it, the bodice pieces were much too wide and the sleeves much too short. Kerry wanted to give up, but Rosabel and another sister stepped in and saved the sweater by altering and lining it with a sewing machine. In the end, it was a great success!

#### Pat Eldridge—Shirt Tails

Designed by Ann Fietelsen from the book *Sweaters from Camp*. The design has two separate colour patterns: the main pattern is comprised of stars, diamonds and circles. A second pattern starts at the top of the shirt tails curve and carries on up the entire side of the sweater and down the underside of the sleeve right to the cuff. Pat says six years later, it's still her ultimate Christmas sweater.

#### Lisa Roosen- Runge—Charlotte's Vibrant Poncho

Lisa knit this for her nine-year-old niece from Berocco leaflet #280, using Lana Grossa Mielenweit, Lang Jawoll and various sock yarn leftovers. She says this

garment is not for those who do not like to pick up stitches. First one knits two strips, then picks up one side of each strip to start a sleeve, then one adds the hood. After that all of the bands have to be added, which are thousands of stitches.

#### Fiona Ellis—Georgie

From current issue of Twist Collective, Winter 2010

#### Krys Perron—Cape

This pattern is from Cat Bordhi's book, *A Treasury of Magical Knitting*. Krys used yarns and beads from her stash, though she ended up removing the beads afterwards. She overdyed one too-bright yellow stripe post-knitting by applying tea with a Q-Tip.

#### Robin Hunter—Tiers of Lace

This is Robin's own design, available on Patternfish and knit in Cadenza by Estelle Designs. Robin says this pattern swings from your shoulders with graceful gathers adding a sense of drama. It's knit top down in a silk blend yarn that drapes beautifully. The shawl is edged with a simple garter stitch border.

#### Flo Sherbanowski—Tangerine Jacket

This tangerine jacket was in the making of a few years. The pattern was designed by Marlena De Liske and the yarn was purchased from Shelridge Farms, 3 ply wool. She learned some new techniques, and refreshed some old ones. The pattern skillfully employs the basket weave stitch throughout as an accent feature, making the design very unique and beautiful.

#### Bonnie Jull—Cable Ready Jacket

Bonnie's garment is from the Early Fall Vogue Knitting Magazine and features a multitude of cable columns. The back neck is knit separately and sewn on. She fell in love with a yarn from Nashua called Creative Focus Chunky, and used a fine sock yarn for the seams which she says made them lie flat and become nearly invisible.

#### Fiona Ellis—Gwendolyn

From Fall 2010 issue of Twist Collective.

#### Judith Hanninen—Sweetheart Sweater

This pattern is from Americo and the yarn is Baby Dehaired Llama from Peru. Judith says this bright red sweater was super-easy

to make and was done in about 5 weeks. It is really soft and warm but very lightweight, great for under coats. Done in two pieces, you start at one sleeve and work to the end of the other sleeve, with a large button hole for the head. The sleeve and bodice seams are sewn together and the body is worked on stitches picked up on a circular needle around the bodice.

#### Irene Reed—Rusty Tracks

Irene was attracted to this lacy knit because of the way it's constructed—back and front are worked to underarms, and then armhole stitches are bound off and the centre lace panel is worked to the top of the neck. The pattern is from Knitter's Summer 2010.

#### Mary-Pat McDonald & Jean Anthes—Sunburst Surprise

Mary-Pat and Jean say the surprise here is that the sweaters fit them, given the 32" bust/one-size-only pattern from Schoeller-Stahl sometime in 2006. They decided to knit the sweaters as a team for the Needler's Retreat in November, which they've attended for almost 20 years.

#### Judith Hanninen—Silver Belle

This might be her favourite project ever. It was time consuming, but worth the effort. She gets compliments every time she wears it, and it's also super comfy. The designer is Debbie Bliss, the pattern came from the Vogue Knitting 25th Anniversary Issue, and the yarn is Elann Super Cable Aran.

#### Patrick Madden—Lars

Designed by Martin Storey, from Rowan Magazine #36. Patrick reworked this pullover to have a centre front opening and button band closure. He used 10 balls of Rowan Plaid, a yarn he says showcases the large travelling cables beautifully.

#### Marie Houghton—Olympic Sweater

This pattern is from the Fall/Winter issue of Debbie Bliss Magazine. Marie won the main yarn at a DKC meeting and chose the pattern as her Olympic knitting project last winter. The finished weight of this alpaca sweater is 2.5lbs compared to a wool sweater of similar size and bulk. Marie knit a large swatch and let it hang for a couple of days, which yielded a stretch factor of 2". She factored that into the length of sleeves and body, and it worked out well.

### **Judith Hanninen—Charming Cape**

Designer - Vladimir Teriokhin, pattern from Vogue Knitting 25th Anniversary Issue. Judith had this Paton's Chunky in her stash for about 12 years and finally decided to use it for this great cape. It is done in a basket weave pattern with sidearm slits and can be worn with a lot of things. wooden button from Romni finishes it off nicely.

### **Patrick Madden—Beau**

This was Patrick's Ravelympics project last winter, cast on during the opening ceremonies and finished during closing ceremonies. He loves the yarn (Beaverslide Merino) and wears the sweater constantly. Pattern by Kim Hargreaves from Rowan Vintage Knits.

### **Robin Hunter—Simple Things**

Another of Robin's originals available on Patternfish, knit in Freedom Spirit by Twilleys. This project can be worked as either a scarf or a shawl and can be put down and picked up without losing your place.

### **Julia Bryant— Almost Glorious Shawl**

This Queen Anne's Lace pattern was made with hand-dyed zephyr laceweight yarn. Julia says this is a well-travelled piece of knitting - Colorado, PEI, Nova Scotia, Muskoka, planes, cars and shuttle buses. It turned out somewhat differently from the pattern due to carrying only the chart and not the picture with her on her travels.

### **Denise Powell—Victorian Mantle**

Denise had planned to knit this mantle during a rowboat trip on the Rideau Canal from Kingston to Ottawa. As it turned out, most of her time was spent rowing so she got little more than the collar done. The leaf design is from Marianne Kinzel's Second Book of Modern Lace Knitting, adapted so that the leaf points along the lower edges could be knit without having to break the yarn and re-attach to knit the next leaf.

### **Robin Hunter—The West End Wrap**

An original design, available on Patternfish and knit in Indigo Moon Fingering Weight. The slip stitch pattern used in this wrap creates a fabric that will fool some knitters into thinking they are seeing crochet. While each side of the fabric is different, the reverse side is equally

interesting, creating a wrap with no obvious wrong side.

### **Julia Bryant—Thingamajig (official name Botanica Medallion Cardigan)**

This is a circular piece of knitting that turns into a collared shrug when worn. The pattern is from Vogue Knitting Spring/Summer 2009. She tackled this because she was fascinated by the construction of the circle and use of different stitches.

### **Pat Eldridge—Big Bang Wrap**

From Sally Melville's *Colour* book. Pat used a variety of worsted weight yarns that were in her stash, and 4 mm needles. She knit this for a replacement for her first BBW which she thought she had lost. As soon as it was completed, she found the first one again, so her sister received a bonus gift.

### **Robin Hunter—Evelyn Howard**

Another original design available on Patternfish, knit in Dream in Color Starry sock weight. This is a wide, shallow garter stitch-based scarf, with lace edges that are knit at the same time as the body. It can be made with any amount of yarn by working the increase portion until you have used up half of your yarn, then moving on to the decrease section.

### **Cristina Simionovici—Hat Trio**

Cristina says she has earned a reputation as "the hat lady" at the DKC. She calls one of them "Vincent" because the colours remind her of Van Gogh. It was knitted sidewise and then felted. It has a cable as a hat band, which unfortunately vanished during the felting process.

### **Holly Yip—Mitts and Cardigan**

Holly's twins, Lana and Elliot, wore Target Wave mittens from Interweave Magazine. The mitt is knit flat - the body first and then the stitches for the thumb target are picked up, and the sides sewn up along the way. Holly herself wore a Branching Cables cardigan knit with Loop-D-Loop, a unique yarn made of a strand of roving stitched down the middle.

### **Sammy Vilks—Latvian Group**

The pattern for this pair of traditional Latvian mittens comes from the district of Rucava. Sammy says that in this part of

Latvia the colour combinations and techniques used differ from the rest of the country. She has also adapted traditional patterns from this district as her inspiration for four cell phone cases and one "over the top" handbag.

### **Tamara Krievins—Bell Curve skirt**

Kira Dulaney's unique skirt was taken from the Winter 2007 Issue of Knitty.com. Tamara has substituted sock yarns held double for this pattern. This allowed her to achieve the correct gauge, and the blend of wool and nylon fibres has provided the necessary memory. The skirt is worked with one of this season's new colours of Noro Silk Garden Sock yarn and Austermann step Classic in solid navy. She carried a second skirt worked with Footloose by Diamond Luxury, and Zarina by Filatura di Crosa.

### **Cristina Simionovici— Skirt Trio**

Cristina used Cascade 220, super wash, a good yarn to work with and available in a variety of colours. Her only little problem with the skirt was that she had to cut the yarn every time she finished a mitered square. For Cristina, the magic of knitting is how a strand of yarn (as long as possible) is transformed into a beautiful garment.

### **Irene Reed—Coat Slyvi**

Designed by Mari Muinonen, a Finnish designer. Irene enjoyed it, but would not want to knit this coat again. It's hard to do in front of the TV, which is where she gets most of her knitting done.

### **Tamara Krievins & Alisa McDonald—Lanesplitter Skirts**

Alisa and Tamara wore their interpretations of Tina Whitmore's pattern from Issue 32 of Knitty.com. These saucy ladies are on a crusade to prove that the knitted skirt does not need to be dowdy or droopy. The fabric for this skirt is knit on the bias - which will reduce the potential for "baggy butt syndrome". Also, Alisa and Tamara used smaller needles than advised by the designer to tighten up the fabric even more. They used two balls of Noro Kureyon, alternating every two rows to make it even more interesting.

Huge thanks to Fiona, all our organizers, knitters and models for another amazing fashion show! It was a great success.

Ann Martin, Program Coordinator of Gilda's Club Simcoe Muskoka, wanted to pass this message along to our members:

*I want to extend my thanks for the wonderful donation of beautiful scarves we acquired through Wannietta Prescod. We offered up the scarves to our Wellness Support Group Members and they all wear them proudly. The workmanship is beautiful and many of our members hope that one day their skills will be as developed as some of your knitters.*

Gilda's Club is happy to accept donations of scarves, hats, shawls and yarn from the Downtown Knit Collective. This is the very club in Barrie where one of our popular workshop instructors, Wannietta Prescod, spends a great deal of time gaining support during her journey with treatment for breast cancer. Please bring all donations to our monthly meetings and I will be happy to deliver them.



**STITCH OF THE MONTH** by Diane Martin

**Corn on the Cob Stitch**

Even number of stitches, worked with one light (L) and one dark (D) colour

Knit first and last stitch of every row.

Row 1 (L) (WS): Knit

Row 2 (D): \*K1, slip 1 as if to purl; repeat from \*, end with k2

Row 3 (D): K2, \*yarn in front, sl 1, yarn in back, k1; repeat from \* the dark stitches of the previous row are knit, the light sts are slipped

Row 4 (L): K2, \*sl 1, k1; repeat from \*. All light sts are knit, all dark are slipped

Row 5 (L): \*K1, yarn to front, sl 1, yarn to back; repeat from \*. Light sts are knit, dark are slipped

Repeat Rows 2 to 5  
sl=slip stitch

Note 1: "yarn to front" and "yarn to back" keep the working yarn on the "private" or

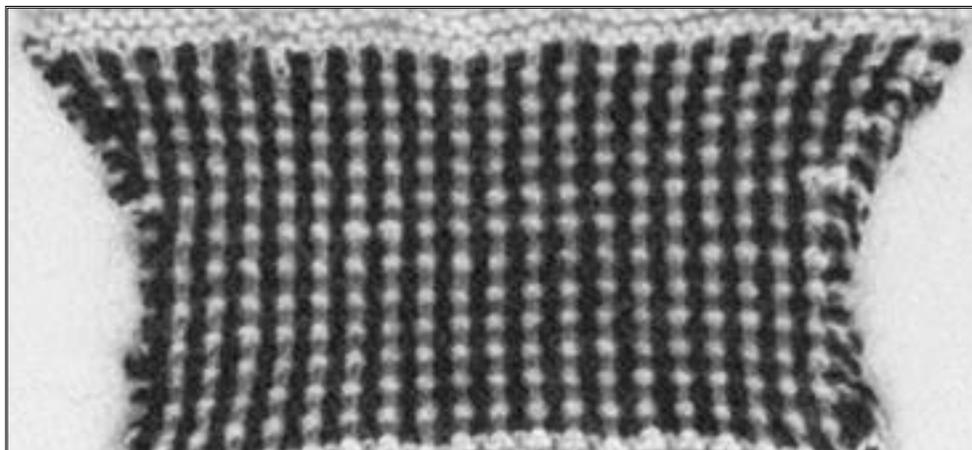
backside of the work so that the slipped stitches are visible on the "public" side of the fabric.

Note 2: The fabric really pulls in and is quite firm. The swatch includes some increases.

Sample was knit with 4-ply sock wool and 3 mm needles. The resultant fabric would be good for mitts and gloves. Using needles larger than normally appropriate for the yarn would produce a fabric with more drape.

Increases: With an even number of stitches, maintaining the colour scheme worked only on the left edge (public side facing). To maintain the colour scheme for increases at both ends of the colour swatch, an ODD number of stitches was required.

From:  
Carol Curtis, *Carol Curtis' Complete Book of Knitting and Crochet*, a Cardinal edition, Pocket Books of Canada, Montreal, 1954.



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Winter Workshops 2011**

The DKC Winter Workshops will be held on Saturday, Feb. 5 and Sunday, Feb. 6 at the Toronto Metro Hall.

Details of the workshops being offered are now available on our website, and a registration flyer will be mailed to DKC members with this issue of the newsletter. We are pleased to once again offer discounted fees to our members.

**DKC Executive**

**President: Carole Adams**

416-621-9820

president@downtownknitcollective.ca

**Past President: Denise Powell**

**V.P. Programme: Patrick Madden**

programme@downtownknitcollective.ca

**Treasurer: Wendy Mauzeroll**

treasurer@downtownknitcollective.ca

**Secretary: Wendy Eng**

secretary@downtownknitcollective.ca

**Special Events Coordinator:**

**Joan Kass**

events@downtownknitcollective.ca

[www.downtownknitcollective.ca](http://www.downtownknitcollective.ca)