

knitting Yarns



MARCH 16: ROBIN HUNTER

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).



LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL

Janelle Martin—Ravelry Road Map

Having recently welcomed its one millionth member, Ravelry has taken the knitting world by storm! Janelle 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.

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.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Wednesday, April 20, 2011

Wednesday, May 18, 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

The February meeting drew a near capacity crowd, featured a huge number of raffle prizes thanks to the generosity of our guest speakers, and an accordingly long ticket line. In the words of President Carole, “Oh em gee, have we got prizes.”

Announcements

The Alpaca Ontario Fibre Fest is accepting submissions for assorted competitions. The event is on March 18, which Carole said this leaves “plenty of time” to whip something up. See alpacaontario.ca for all the details.

The organizers of the Winter Workshops would like to thank all participants for a successful event. We got great reviews and a fine time was had by all.

April 16 brings “The Gathering” put on by Great Pine Ridge Spinners & Weavers Guild in scenic Port Hope. It’s a good time, and a chance to enjoy the spring weather as it’s an indoor/outdoor event.

The Frolic is coming—there has been an overwhelming response from vendors and it promises to be an epic event. The executive are looking for volunteers, needed both now and later. They need help for promotion and all the other tasks that go in to preparation for this massive festival. Contact Joan Kass if you’re able to help with putting it all together.

Carole talked briefly about the need to raise the profile of knitting in the community after the airing of what many considered a questionable piece on Global TV which featured, among other things, a knitted toilet seat cover (Patrick then stood up and identified himself as a proud knitter of toilet seat covers). Carole would like to brainstorm with members and find ways to get more people knitting, and more members involved. We have talent and it needs to be showcased! Drop the executive a line if you’ve got ideas to share.

Raffle

Shepherd Wool & Peony pattern: Debra Rowland
Skein of Kami Bison, Needles & Pattern: Dawn Juruc
Mason Dixon Knitting CDs: Heather Mathis
Namaste Bitty Bag: Wendy Mauzeroll

Fibre Trend Sheep Kit: Mary Moreau
Fibre Trend Clog Kit: Phyllis Garden
10 balls of Cupcake Yarn: Cristina Simionovici
10 Balls Zara Chloé and Lantern Moon
Needles: Patricia Ross

Show and Tell

Denise Powell—on the needles at the last meeting, Denise has since finished her stunning Elizabeth Zimmermann “Pi Are Square” shawl, which is round at the back, square on the ends. Denise says this cleverly-designed shawl will never fall off.

Mairi McKissock—Twined Hat
Mairi’s husband lost his twined (tvåändsstickning) hat while they were on a trip. Fortunately, the trip happened to be in Scotland and Mairi was able to stock up on some great Shetland yarn to make the replacement. Twined knitting is extremely dense, forming two thicknesses of fabric that are already double thickness. It is virtually windproof (and very beautiful!)

Irene Reed showed a frilly pink collar and “Odds & Sods” cardigan. The collar has lettuce-like edging and closes with a single button from her button collection. The stash-busting sweater featured stripes of various cottons she had on hand to very nice effect.

Trish Denehoed was at the recent Vogue conference and made herself a commemorative hardbound book. Over 3,000 people were in attendance at the conference and she says it was a great experience and she would definitely go again. The next one will be in September, in Los Angeles.

Guest Speakers

Julie Schilthuis—Yarn Emporium

As owner of a yarn store for almost 25 years, Julie has seen and heard it all. She generously shared the wealth of knowledge

she has accumulated in that time with DKC members. There was plenty to learn, for both veterans and newbies alike. Some of her tips included:

- Let your tension swatch sit overnight before measuring, especially if it’s cotton.
- Try doing your swatch the day you buy the yarn, when you’re still excited about it. When you’re ready to begin your project, you can get started right away.
- Don’t wind a skein into a cake with your ball winder until you’re ready to use it—it stretches the yarn and can cause it to lose its bounce and elasticity over time.
- When seaming, always use a new piece of yarn, not the tail. If you need to undo the mattress stitch for any reason, you can pull the whole thing right out.
- Always photocopy your pattern and work from the copy. Julie says you would not believe the number of people who come in needing a new pattern book because the original has been ruined somehow.
- Keep a small card in your purse with a list of all the needles you own. This will prevent you from buying redundant ones.

Beth Schilthuis—Old Mill Knitting

Beth is a familiar face to DKCers, as she has participated at Yarn Rep nights in the past. Old Mill is the Canadian distributor for many well-known product lines including Classic Elite, Filatura Di Crosa, Fiber Trends, and now boutique needle and knitting accessory maker Lantern Moon. Many new products were passed around the room, including the super-soft colour-changing Liberty Print wool from Classic Elite. The yarn has become so popular, two new colourways are being released each month. Beth also did a product giveaway scavenger hunt that sent several lucky audience members home very happy.

We’d like to thank the Schilthuis sisters for making the trip from Ancaster to give us such an entertaining evening.



WINTER WORKSHOPS 2011

Our annual Winter Workshops took place on February 5 and 6, 2011. With nine teachers, 24 workshops and scores of attendees, it was a great way to spend a freezing cold weekend! Thanks to the organizers for a successful event, and all our teachers—Diane Martin, Julia Bryant, Denise Powell, Robin Hunter, Joan Kass, Cristina Simionovici, Kate Atherley, Mairi McKissock and Elizabeth Falone, for making it an enjoyable experience.



2011-2012 EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

At this time we will be accepting nominations for the Executive positions for the 2011/12 membership year. The positions are:

President

Secretary

Treasurer

Vice-President of Programming

Vice-President of Promotions

Special Events Programmer

You may nominate yourself or another member of the DKC. If you nominate another member, we will confirm with that member that they wish to accept the nomination before putting their name on the ballot. Nominations should be emailed to wmauzeroll@sympatico.ca. If you don't have email access, you may submit your nomination at the March DKC meeting. The deadline for nominations will be the evening of April 20, 2011 with elections being held (if necessary) at the May DKC meeting.

I am pleased to announce that this year's executive have agreed to run for another term. However, we have two positions which will need nominations. This is the Vice-President of Programming and the Vice-President of Promotions.

The duties of the Vice-President of Promotions will be to create a standing committee and work with them to develop ideas for upcoming DKC meetings.

The duties of the Vice-President of Programming will be to create a standing committee and work with them to develop ideas/events that will promote knitting and the DKC in Toronto.

Wanted: Frolic Volunteers

Are you a PR guru? Do you spend a lot of time on Ravelry? Can you stuff envelopes? We need you now to help publicize the Knitter's Frolic. Please contact events@downtownknitcollective.ca. Signup for those wishing to assist at the Frolic itself will begin at the March 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 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 with "5 Oaks" in the subject line.

DKC Executive

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