

knitting Yarns



MAY 18: SALLY MELVILLE

Making the Most of Your Yarn Collection

We are excited to have author, teacher and knitwear designer Sally Melville join us at our May meeting. 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. Sally's presentation is sure to draw a packed house.

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”.



RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM MEMBERS WANTED

Join the DKC Relay for Life Team to raise funds for the Canadian Cancer Society in the overnight relay on **June 17** at Sunnybrook Park. Knit all night at our tent decorated with Knitting for a Cure Scarves. Unable to participate? Please sponsor a team member, or contribute some Knitting for a Cure Scarves. Please contact Joan Kass (events@downtownknitcollective.ca) for details.

DKC EXECUTIVE 2011/2012

Our new executive committee has been confirmed:

Carole Adams—President

Wendy Eng—Secretary

Wendy Mauzeroll—Treasurer

Joan Kass—Special Events Coordinator

Edna Zuber—V.P. of Promotion

Cristina Simionovici—V.P. of Programming

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Wednesday, September 21, 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

April's meeting drew a large number of knitters, including an amazing number of first-timers.

Announcements

A new position on the executive has been created. We're looking for volunteers for it—don't worry, it's not a lot of work. We'll walk you through it. Contact any member of the executive for details.

Carole congratulated Diane Martin for her cool pattern in last month's newsletter, but she warns it should not be attempted late at night or under the influence of alcohol.

We'd like to thank everyone who volunteered for the Frolic this year. We couldn't have done it without you.

Stitch n' Pitch! It's on again this year, July 20th, Jays vs. Seattle. Hopefully tickets will be ready for sale at the May meeting. Mark your calendars!

Show and Tell

Denise Powell showed off her recently completed Elizabeth Zimmermann "Adult Surprise Jacket" that she's been meaning to make for years, using Patons tapestry yarn she's had for years. She modified it slightly, adding slits to the sides for better fit.

Elena is preparing for Christmas already, having knit ten pairs of socks with more to go. She has to mail them in October to get them to Russia in time.

Julia created a bright yellow Hexagon Petal Tee from Interweave. Thanks to the innovative pattern, there is not a single seam in the entire project.

Trish showed off a wonderfully flattering cap-sleeved top from the current Vogue Knitting, in white with a cowl neckline.

Raffle

The book *Knitting For Good* was won by Nadine McLeod. Eight skeins of pink Estelle Cloud Cotton and a pattern for a lace top were won by Terry Sulymko. A 500 mL bottle of Eucalan, Clover cable needles and cute sweater-shaped DPN holders were won by Wendy Mauzeroll.

Guest Speaker

Janelle Martin—Ravelry Roadmap

Ravelry has taken the knitting world by storm, but remains a mystery to many. Janelle has been knitting and designing for 27 years, and recently had her *Cartouche Shawl* published on Knitty.com. She has been a member of Ravelry since its inception (username Antheras), and served as our tour guide for the evening.

Ravelry is a different experience for everybody, whether you use it for stash inventory, a social gathering place, pattern repository, buying patterns or just looking for ideas. Janelle covered the basics of setting up an account and customizing your profile. She doesn't recommend giving away too much personal information on the message boards, as much of the site is viewable without a membership.

So, what can you do? For over a million knitters, a visit to Ravelry is now standard procedure when starting a new project (and if you don't even know where to start, there are almost 50,000 patterns for sale on the site as well). Once you find the project you intend to make, one of the most powerful features of the site is the ability to find the hundreds of other similar projects that have already been created by other Ravelers. See the yarns they've used, the modifications and substitutions they've made, the possible mistakes they've discovered, their difficulty rating and happiness with the finished item. This is where Ravelry truly shines.

Another good place to start is the Stash. Here you can catalogue all your yarn (perhaps a monumental task for some), with pictures and info such as cost, the store where you bought it, and dye lot. Being able to see your entire stash at once, and even sort it by colour, weight, fibre and yardage, can really kick start your creativity. Or if you can't decide what to make with a particular yarn, click on the "projects" link and see what others have done with it. If you've run out and are desperate for just one more skein of an elusive yarn, you might even be able to find some in someone else's stash. Janelle had such an experience—right down to the correct dye lot. The user was willing to sell, and Janelle's shawl was saved.

The Bookshelf is also a super-handly tool to have at your disposal—stocked with all your knitting books, magazines and leaflets, displayed on a virtual shelf. It's a great way to navigate your personal knitting library. Click on the books to reveal the patterns inside, a gallery of projects completed by other users, and even a message board with helpful hints, questions and possible errata. There are even links to help you find the book in your local library, if you enter your postal code. You can see the incredible usefulness of just this one feature.

Next, Janelle moved on to the power of the Queue, a place to keep track of the projects you intend to knit. The list is infinitely customizable with tags and categories, plus a place to list the yarn you intend to use from your stash. If you try to use it on another project, it will remind you that yarn has already been reserved. There is even a button to print out a shopping list to take with you to the yarn store, complete with recommended yarn and gauge info. When you're ready to start, press the "Start Project" link, and the project will be elevated to WIP status.

Janelle then moved on to the Yarns tab. You can use it to find stores near you using your postal code, a top 10 list of the most popular yarns used on Ravelry (Cascade 220 is the reigning champ), and how much you have of each type in your personal stash. You can even see who else has bought yarn from the same store you did—your chances of finding an elusive dye lot will be much improved.

Janelle's favourite feature is to select yarn from her stash and see what she can make with it. For example, you can tell the database you have x number of yards of Aran-weight yarn and keep narrowing it down (garment type? purchased pattern or free?) until you find something you like. Then of course you can click the pattern, find other people's finished projects and see how they turned out. It's a great way to use up leftover yarn.

Though there wasn't nearly enough time to cover all the features, we thank Janelle for getting through as many as she did in the time allotted! It was truly a fun and informative evening.

FROLIC 2011

They came, they saw, they shopped! It's estimated that about 1,685 attendees came through the doors of the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre for this year's Frolic. Over 60 vendors participated, and we had people sign up for workshops from as far away as BC, Quebec, and the Northwest Territories. Thanks to all the hard work from our executive and army of volunteers for making this year's Frolic a resounding success!





UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Stitch n' Pitch

July 20, Rogers Centre
See the Blue Jays take on Seattle at this popular annual event. Contact Joan Kass for tickets.

Relay for Life 2011

The Relay For Life in Toronto Central is in support of Sunnybrook's Odette Cancer Centre. This year it will be held on Friday, June 17 and runs from 7 pm to 7 am, in Sunnybrook Park, Toronto, Ontario. Please join or sponsor our team!

DKC Executive

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