

VOLUME 16 • ISSUE 8

APRIL 2012

knitting Yarns



APRIL 18: CARLA CANONICO

Our guest speaker at the April meeting will be Carla Canonico, editor of *A Needle Pulling Thread*, the quarterly magazine devoted to Canadian needle arts: quilting, fibre art, knitting, crochet, rug hooking, cross stitch, beading, creative sewing and embroidery.

As a child, Carla was always fascinated with her mom's sewing, and was close by every time the sewing machine was on. Her mother had a passion for sewing from a young age, and because of her, Carla developed an appreciation for sewing with beautiful fabrics. Carla was also intrigued by her grandmother, who could whip up any kind of garment that fit like a charm! But being busy with school, learning classical piano and swimming, Carla hardly had any time to get involved in needlework.

That all changed in 1990, when she was introduced to cross stitch, and started stitching on the GO train to fill the time on her 45-minute commute. Once she started *A Needle Pulling Thread* magazine, she discovered other forms of needlework and delved into rug hooking. Most recently, she has also picked up knitting.

Carla believes that anyone can achieve their goals if they set their minds to it. *A Needle Pulling Thread* is a magazine that reflects this with every fibre artist she brings together in every inspiring issue. The magazine also reflects the fact that life is just better with needlework! We know Carla will have some interesting stories to share with us at the April meeting.

FROLIC 2012 COUNTDOWN

After months of preparation, the Frolic is nearly here (April 28-29). Will you be ready? Here are some tips to help make your Frolic experience even better:

- Exact change for the entrance fee is appreciated.
- Bring cash and your credit card. There is no ATM on site. Note that some vendors may only accept cash.

- Please come prepared to carry purchased items in your own bags. Vendors must charge 5 cents per plastic bag (City of Toronto by-law). Some bring wheeled suitcases or rolling shopping totes.
- Wear comfortable shoes. You will be walking, looking at booths, going away, and going back again—maybe several times.
- There will be a café serving coffee and light snacks on site. Take a break and enjoy yourself.
- If you plan to purchase raffle tickets or join vendors' mailing lists, make things easier and faster for yourself by printing up your own labels with your name, phone number, and email address. This will save you time for more shopping!

MAY MEETING PREVIEW

We are happy to welcome back knitter and author Stephanie Pearl-McPhee, “the Michael Jordan of knitting”. She will be talking about life, yarn, and her latest book, *All Wound Up*.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Wednesday, June 20, 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

Approximately 90 knitters braved the intense cold heat to attend the meeting.

Announcements

Due to ongoing problems at City Hall, Carole was not able to attend the meeting. Cristina took over the role of MC for the evening, and started off by going over the procedures for the annual **executive nominations**. If you wish to nominate someone for an executive position, please make sure you have their permission first.

Joan came up to talk about the **Frolic** preparations. Class registration is ongoing. While one of Franklin Habit's three workshops is full, there are of course many other workshops to choose from. Volunteers are still needed—remember that if you do volunteer at the Frolic, you get the benefits of both free admission and access to the vendor's lounge, where free food and beverages will be available to you.

Edna gave a **World Wide Knit In Public Day** update. Organization is ongoing, and more volunteers would be welcomed. There is a link for questions and suggestions on the blog set up for the occasion (wwkriptoedition.tumblr.com) and they will all be gratefully received.

Edna then moved on to the prospect of a second **focus group**. How can we improve the DKC? How can we increase membership? She noted that two key demographics are at different ends of the age spectrum—20-ish knitters who are just discovering the world of handcrafts, and those who are newly retired and finding more time to invest in hobbies. It was agreed by show of hands that a second focus group would be welcomed, and that some time in May was probably a good time to hold it. All we need now are participants, a definite date, and a location (preferably free). Please contact Edna with suggestions: edna@zuber.net.

There is a nice article profiling the DKC in the **Spring/Summer issue of Vogue**, on newsstands now. The article gives a history of the guild, speakers, activities, community involvement and the many designers in our midst. It also mentioned the success of Pucks n' Purls and the upcoming Frolic. Check it out!

Show & Tell

Kerry Fast showed a tiny coat with amazing colour work, knit for her new great-niece. Though the Rowan pattern was for a sweater, it ended up a coat, but Carrie prefers it that way.

Flo Flory showed a burgundy skirt and sweater set made for her granddaughter. The skirt was made from a ball of the frilly yarn usually used for scarves, resulting in a tutu effect. Great idea!

Flo Sherbanowski showed a colourful tam she made 15 years ago at a workshop out of Philosopher's Wool, and it's been waiting to be finished ever since. The audience agreed it was worth the wait.

Marilyn Brady showed a capelet made from hand-painted 100% silk yarn from Sweater Kits. The shaping was created entirely by switching needle sizes, starting with 8mm and working down to 4mm.

Elizabeth Hilton showed a stunning modular vest made of chevron shapes in peacock colours of blue and green. She originally intended it as a gift for her aunt, but eventually decided to keep it for herself and make a second one for the aunt.

Holly Yip wanted to show her first FO in quite a while—a red eyelet hat made of Dream In Colour Smooshy that is supposed to slouch, but doesn't. Big head? Gauge problem? She doesn't know, but it looks great nevertheless. To go along with the hat she whipped up a pair of matching wristwarmers from One Skein Wonders. She decided to leave out the thumb holes, making them much more versatile.

Lastly, Gloria came up to show a lovely short-sleeved top with cables she bought at a craft bazaar. She hates to say it, but it only cost \$15.

Raffle

Dream In Colour Classy and a mini teddy bear pattern went to Flo Flory. The Mirasol Collection-Book 1 went to Pat Broms. Katia Ondus Lux and a scarf pattern was won by Judy Renton.

Guest Speaker

Woodworker and fibre enthusiast David

Armstrong is from Toronto, and has been knitting since he was 18. He has a keen interest in both wood and fibre tools. Trees have more in common with us than you might think—they're living things that eat, grow, have a circulation system, and are around 60-70% water, just like we are. The harvested wood continues its relationship with water long after it's been cut. It stays flexible and expands and contracts, depending on the humidity of its environment. These factors play a part in its strength, adaptability and resilience.

Wood can be joined well, and the bond can last for centuries. Unlike modern plastic items, wood only gets better and more attractive with age. Even if it gets scratched or dented, this can add to its character—the same can't really be said if you get a dent in your car.

David showed us an antique spinning wheel he had restored, assembled from a box of pieces found at a flea market. He demonstrated how it was still rock-solid after 150 years. Grooves worn in the flyer told the tale of the passage of thousands of kilometres of yarn (most likely linen) over its lifetime. He then gave some tips to those interested in keeping wood beautiful.

Finishing: the prime function of the finish on a wooden object is to regulate the absorption and release of water. You can't go wrong with oil: canola, olive, walnut and tung are all great options (pure tung is food-safe, but you can try a beeswax polish if you have a nut allergy). Buy small quantities so it doesn't go rancid before it's used up—Lee Valley has a great selection.

Cleaning: Don't be afraid to use water! A damp cloth is perfectly ok. If your piece is dirty, try soapy water. In case of emergency, lighter fluid will cut through grease and sticker residue, then evaporate.

Repair: David recommends hide glue or fish glue only—no modern glue (and absolutely no Gorilla Glue). The old-fashioned glues will go down into the cracks and create a perfect bond, then clean up with water. With the right care, your wooden items can last for millenia.

We'd like to thank David for sharing his woodworking wisdom with us!

STITCH OF THE MONTH by Diane Martin

Multiple of 8 + 2

Row 1: (RS) K2, (*cross 2 front) 3 times, K2; rep from * to end.

Row 2: Purl

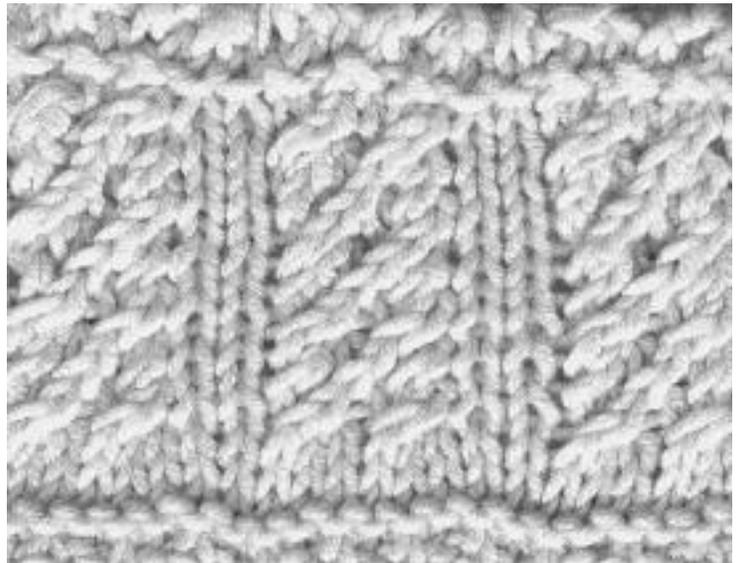
Row 3: K2, *(knit 3rd stitch from left-hand needle, then 2nd stitch, then 1st stitch, slipping all 3 stitches off needle together) twice, K2; rep from * to end.

Row 4: Purl.

Repeat these 4 rows.

Cross 2 front Knit into the front of the 2nd stitch on the needle, then knit the first stitch, slipping both stitches off the needle at the same time.

Stitch for April 20 from 365 Knitting Stitches a Year: Perpetual Calendar, 2002, Martingale & Co., Woodville WA.



KNITTING FOR A CURE - RELAY FOR LIFE 2012 by Joan Kass

Cancer touches all of us.

My first close exposure to cancer was in Spring 2000 when former DKC President Annabelle Dawson was diagnosed with brain cancer. What could I do? Knit of course. It was Annabelle's dream that a book of knitting patterns for chemo caps be done in her honour. With the aid of Lucy Neatby and 26 amazing knitting designers who generously donated hat patterns for "Annabelle's Caps", a pattern book was created and is still being sold to raise money for cancer charities in Canada and the US. Please contact me if you are interested in a copy.

Annabelle's legacy continues with our Knitting for a Cure initiative. First launched by the DKC Team at the June 2006 Toronto Central Relay for Life, our goal is provide hand knit or crocheted hats, scarves, prayer shawls etc to those undergoing treatment for cancer. Each month, members are asked to deliver their donations to a location next to the dollar table. "Knitting for a Cure" cards are to be filled out and attached to the item. Also at the Table there will be a selection from the many wonderful donations of yarn which are available to members to knit their

scarf or hat. Unable to knit? Consider donating a ball or two of yarn.

Denise Powell delivers many of our creations to Princess Margaret Lodge. In addition, Wannietta Prescod delivers donations to Gilda's Club Barrie where she continues to receive support in her personal journey with breast cancer.

As the warm weather approaches, so does the Relay for Life. We have registered a Relay Team for the June 15th Toronto Central Relay event in support of the Sunnybrook Odette Cancer Centre. It has been tradition that our tent is decorated with a colourful array of Knitting for a Cure scarves and hats. Our team knits from 7:00 p.m. Friday night until 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning, using headlamps and lanterns overnight. Help us with your knitted donation to cover our tent. We still need Relay team members. Interested in joining us? Please speak to me at a DKC meeting or email to dkcevents@hotmail.ca for details. Through our own DKC Knitting for a Cure programme, let us continue to send a knitterly hug to those undergoing treatment for cancer.

Wanted: Frolic Volunteers

There are many volunteer openings to be filled throughout the day on Saturday, April 28th. Urgently needed: teens to help with setup on Friday evening and tear down late Saturday afternoon. Does your teen need volunteer hours?

Please contact Lacey at dkcvolunteer@gmail.com, or sign up at the April meeting.

WWKIP: Toronto Edition

This year World Wide Knit in Public Day (WWKIP), the largest knitter run event in the world, will be held June 9-17, 2012.

The DKC is organizing an event in Toronto open to all knitters and wannabe knitters who want to participate. An organizing team led by Edna Zuber is looking for more participants for the team and creative ideas. If you want to take part in organizing this fun event, or if you have some ideas for activities you want to share, contact Edna: edna@zuber.net.



DKC Focus Group

The DKC is planning another Focus Group for May. The meeting will be two hours on a weekend, but the date has not been chosen. It will be based on the availability of participants and venue. The topics for the Focus Group are in development. Suggestions for discussion topics from the previous Focus Group members were: recruiting/retaining members; volunteer opportunities to involve more members; activities the guild could support with new volunteer involvement; year end review; monthly meeting format; and, topics/speakers for monthly meetings.

We are looking for participants. A few people that could not make it to the last Focus Group have already signed up, but there is room for lots more people—any DKC member is welcome. If you wish to participate or have ideas for discussion topics, please contact Edna Zuber: edna@zuber.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cat Bordhi in Ottawa

The Ottawa Knitting Guild is hosting Cat Bordhi, May 11th-14th (tulip time!) Visit ottawaknittingguild.ca for class descriptions and to download the registration form.

14th Annual Knitter's Frolic

Mark your calendars for April 28-29, 2012. As always, the event will feature workshops, food, fibre and fun. Visit the DKC website's 'Frolic' section for all the details.



All proceeds from the raffle at our meetings are donated to the Canadian Cancer Society. So far this year we have raised \$1,143, 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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