

knitting Yarns



MAY 16: STEPHANIE PEARL-MCPHEE

We are pleased to welcome back author and knitting rock star Stephanie Pearl-McPhee, the Yarn Harlot. Stephanie's last DKC appearance, believe it or not, was back in 2005. What's she been up to since then? Not much. Just maintaining her insanely popular blog (which averages about 17,000 visitors per day), jetting around the world making appearances and teaching workshops, raising over \$1,100,000 via her charitable initiative Knitters Without Borders, designing patterns, founding the Knitting Olympics, and writing New York Times bestsellers.

Stephanie's topic will be "This is your brain on knitting" which is all about what goes on in your brain while you're knitting. What sorts of neurotransmitters are released, how knitting is training your brain to be better, and essentially how great knitting is for you. It all sounds fascinating, and we're looking forward to spending the evening with Stephanie.



CRAFTER'S CORNER

DKC member Heather will be selling her unique handmade cards, letterpress and silkscreened items at the May meeting. Contact Cristina to book the table (programme@downtownknitcollective.ca).

RELAY FOR LIFE 2012

Once again, the Downtown Knit Collective is sponsoring a team in the Central Toronto Relay For Life. Team members will be knitting scarves, chemo caps and prayer shawls by lantern light at Sunnybrook Park from 7 p.m. on Friday, June 15 until 7 a.m. the next morning. We appreciate donations of knitting from DKC members to help us decorate our 20' x10' tent. All items will be delivered to Princess Margaret Lodge and Gilda's Club Barrie. Please pledge your support to our team members who vow to knit or spin all night long. Pledges may be made at the May DKC meeting, or online at tinyurl.com/dkc2012.

All money raised will go to the Sunnybrook Hospital Odette Cancer Centre.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Wednesday, September 12, 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

The hall was verging on a full house at the April meeting—about 140 people, including two first-timers.

Announcements

There was a last call for executive election nominations, which will be held in May.

Edna gave a Spring Focus Group update. Seven people have signed up so far, with room for several more. The date has been finalized: Saturday, June 3, at the Canadian Forces College's historic Officer's Mess.

World Wide Knit In Public (WWKIP) Toronto has been moved to Saturday, June 9 so as not to conflict with Relay for Life. The location has been finalized—Speaker's Corner at City Hall, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. It's a lovely spot with trees, grass, shade and lots of room for everyone (it's suggested that participants bring their own lawn chairs).

Several Frolic teachers (Denise Powell, Robin Hunter, Mary Pat McDonald) came up to give a brief synopsis of their Frolic workshops.

Fiona Ellis was invited to the podium to share some exciting news. She was interviewed by the Knitmore Girls, and the podcast has just been released. In the interview, Fiona talks about her career, design work and inspiration. You can download the podcast via iTunes, or at knitmoregirls.blogspot.com. Fiona also noted that the spring Twist Collective is now live, and it features an article by Fiona as well as a new sweater pattern, *Paisley*.

Show & Tell

Karen Wold showed three very different shawls, all based on the Tuscany shawl pattern from *No Sheep For You*. For the first one she read the pattern wrong, but it was lovely nonetheless.

Sam Smit and Tammy Elliott came up together to show their two Narnia shawls, made after joining a knitalong on Ravelry. It was the first advanced lace project either of them had ever attempted, and the results were stunning.

A friend of Trish Denhoed asked her to make a bedspread, and she wisely decided to make the friend a pillow instead. It was based on the Dahlia pattern. She was also

wearing a spectacular Phildar tunic sweater made of Baby Cashmerino.

Maylin Scott showed a Colour Affection shawl, the #1 pattern on Ravelry right now. She used hemp yarn, which she says is sustainable, antibacterial and very cool for summer. It's a tiny bit rough, but gets softer with each wash. Maylin assured the audience that the only high she got from the shawl was a knitting high.

Julia Bryant showed another amazing Tunisian crochet jacket design she calls Paisley and Pearls. She used sock yarn and worked in the pearls as she went, ensuring they will never fall off.

Cristina Smionovici has finally succumbed to Lanesplitter Skirt fever (the pattern is available on Knitty.com). She found the perfect Noro, and made one for herself, then one for her daughter. She says when you make one, you have to make another.

Sandra Wetherald showed a super-cute hat made from the book *Modern Top-Down Knitting*. She complemented it with a matching k5 p1 scarf.

Allison Decker's friend is pregnant, and the baby is going to be outfitted in knitwear from head to toe when he arrives. She started with a Blue Sky Alpaca chevron blanket, moved on to an owl sleep sack and matching hat, then made a second blanket (*Wool Leaves* by Jared Flood).

With a bit of time and yarn left over, Alison turned out tiny booties and a second hat.

Raffle

A copy of *Knit One Below* was won by June Murray-Lum.

A Gathering of Lace was won by Diane Phillips.

A Nashua Handknits kit was won by Holly Yip.

Guest Speaker

Our April speaker was Carla Canonico, editor of *A Needle Pulling Thread*, which focuses on creative Canadian design in knitting, quilting, needlework and more. Carla encouraged the audience to push their crafting boundaries and create something truly unique. She presented a visual showcase of projects, most of which employed at least two or three different disciplines: patchwork stained glass using beads as the leading, a tailored corset with a knit fabric exterior shell, and a quilt made by Carla entirely of linen objects that had meaning to her, such as a shirt from her husband and a dress worn by her daughter as a baby.

Thanks to Carla and her family for spending the evening with us, and providing each audience member with an issue of *A Needle Pulling Thread*. We hope everyone went home from the meeting with plans for a new interdisciplinary project.



STITCH OF THE MONTH by Diane Martin

Pseudocrochet

Odd number of stitches

You'll need:

- Double-pointed or circular needles
- 2 colours of yarn (A and B)

Cast on with A

Row 1: With A, k1, * yo, k2; rep from *. Slide sts to other end of needle.

Row 2: With B, P1, *k1 (the yo loop), p2tog; rep from *. Turn.

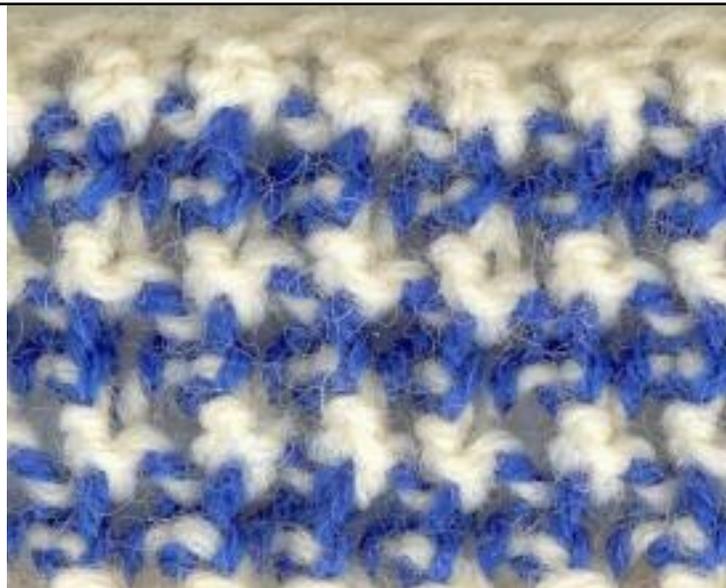
Row 3: With B, K1, *yo, k2; rep from *. Slide sts to other end of needle.

Row 4: With A, P1, *K1 (the yo loop), p2tog; rep from *. Turn.
Repeat Rows 1-4.

yo = yarn over

k = knit = purl

2tog = decrease: knit or purl 2 together



WORLD WIDE KNIT IN PUBLIC 2012 by Edna Zuber

WWKIP Toronto Edition is Coming!

The date is set for Saturday, June 9th, 2012 from 11am-4pm. If you work with wool and yarn, come join us at Speaker's Corner, Nathan Phillips Square.

Are you attending another WWKIP event? Why not do both! The folks at Wise Daughter's Craft Market are holding their KIP in the Junction from 9:30 to 11:30 on June 9, then hopping on the streetcar, knitting of course, to join us for the afternoon. What fun is that!

Most knitters and knitting groups never interact with each other, but on WWKIP Day we'll not only get to meet one another... we'll also be hard to miss! We'll be sitting in the grassy, treed area of Nathan Phillips Square right along Queen Street. And for all those Ravelers among us, if you want to reveal your secret identity, we are going to have a Raveler's Meet Up. No Ravelry folk, just ravelers hanging out together.

Everyone is welcome. Young or old, novice or master, area

SPRING FOCUS GROUP by Edna Zuber

Date: Sunday, June 3, 2012

Time: 1 to 3 pm

Location: Officer's Mess, Canadian Forces College
215 Yonge Boulevard, Toronto, ON

Elizabeth Hilton is hosting this event in a unique venue. The facility is the Officer's Mess at the Canadian Forces College on Yonge Blvd., a block from the York Mills subway station. Since it is up a steep hill, transferring to a bus for that block is advised. There is also plenty of parking. For those of you coming from out-of-town, there is easy access from the 401.

The Officer's Mess is in a beautiful heritage building, and it is one

residents or visitors. Knitters, crocheters, felters, spinners, and weavers of all stripes. Let's break some stereotypes and show off who's knitting now!

Your planning team is hard at work thinking up lots of fun for all ages and skill levels. Knitting relays, anyone?

But we need supplies! If you have yarn, even part balls would be great, or old needles to destash, bring them to the May DKC meeting.

Please bring weather-appropriate attire, sunscreen, a water bottle and your knitting or other fibre art of course! You also will need a blanket or chair to sit on. The event is on, rain or shine! There is shelter nearby in case of inclement weather.

Keep checking back our blog wwkiptoedition.tumblr.com for updates and details. More information on the WWKIP Day worldwide initiative can be found at www.wwkipday.com.



that as civilians we would not normally have the opportunity to visit. As the wife of the commandant, Elizabeth had an "in" to get us the booking. Refreshments will be provided.

I will be discussing DKC volunteer opportunities and the development of a database, and Cristina will be leading a discussion about program planning for the upcoming 2012-2013 season.

There are still a few more spots available. Contact me at edna@zuber.net if you would like to attend. Everyone is welcome. We would love to see folks from the previous focus group to continue the conversation.

A very big thank you to each of the seventy-some volunteers who made the 14th Annual Knitter's Frolic the most successful ever. From pre-planning, welcoming vendors, volunteer management, line control, admissions and workshop registration, vendor hospitality, wool winding, raffle ticket sales, Dr Knit, Relay for Life and cleanup, you were all amazing. Thank you so very much.

Joan and Wendy



Visitors: 1,900
Vendors: 50
Raffle prizes: 103
Workshop registrants: 114
Volunteers: 70+

Best Frolic ever: priceless!

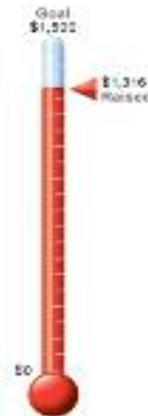
UPCOMING EVENTS

More Than Just a Yardage Sale
May 25-26 at the Textile Museum of Canada.

Yarn, decorator fabric, notions, thread, ribbons, quilting supplies... you name it, this sale has it! Visit textilemuseum.ca for times and information.

Relay for Life 2012

On June 15, our DKC team will be knitting through the night by lamplight at Sunnybrook Park in support of Sunnybrook's Odette Cancer Centre.



All proceeds from the raffle and dollar table at our meetings are donated to the Canadian Cancer Society. So far this year we have raised \$1,316, with an end-of-season goal of \$1500. We're so close! Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets at the start of the meeting.

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