

VOLUME 17 · ISSUE 6
FEBRUARY 2013

knitting Yarns



FEBRUARY 20: GLENNA C

Glenna C has been a knitter for nearly a decade, and blogging and designing knitwear patterns for almost as long. She enjoys working with cables, colour-work, and other adventurous projects that keep her brain interested and her knitting needles active. In fact, she once cut a steak while riding the GO bus and lived to tell the tale. Her yarn stash is well stocked for any knitting emergency, and she believes in knitting fearlessly and often.

Her subject will be “21st Century Knitting: knowledge and friendship in the age of the knitting internet.” This is something we can all relate to—please join us for this very topical discussion.

COMING UP IN MARCH

MICHELLE PORTER is a young Toronto-area knitter and knitwear designer who hails from the East Coast. Taught by her grandmother as a youngster, Michelle has broad experience in the knitting industry which has helped her develop her signature style and understand what her

customers want.

She currently designs for both a yarn company, (Diamond Luxury Collection), and under her own label, Fondle Patterns. You can see her designs at local yarn stores and online at Ravelry and Patternfish.



MINI WORKSHOPS

Our April meeting will see the return of our ever-popular Skills Exchange Mini Workshops. Our regular meeting schedule is thrown out the window in favour of an open-concept, round-robin style rotation of small 15-minute sessions. Sit down at a table, pick up a skill, and move on to the next when the timer goes off. It's a fun evening—a great way to network with other guild members and just have fun.

Do you have a simple knitting skill that is easy to teach within our 15-minute timeframe, or do you have a suggestion for a skill you'd like to learn? Please contact our Programme Coordinator, Cristina: programme@downtownknitcollective.ca

CRAFTER'S CORNER

Do you have handcrafts to sell, or excess stash to get rid of? A craft table just for guild members is available for the extremely low price of \$10 per meeting. Contact Cristina to book the table (address above).

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

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

\$8.00 for guests and Newsletter Only Subscribers
Free to 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

Four newbies and just over 100 members took in the January meeting. President Carole asked the audience: how many people got yarn for the holidays? A few hands. How many people bought *themselves* yarn? Lots of hands. Carole claims she's on a yarn diet, but says it's not working. Instead she's decided to make finishing more projects her new year's resolution, and encourages everyone to give it a try.

Announcements

The Frolic is coming up fast—April 27-28. We will be signing up volunteers for the Frolic starting at the February meeting. There are many benefits to volunteering, including free admission and refreshments. If you're unable to sign up for workshops online, pick up a registration form from Joan or Wendy at the meeting, or email treasurer@downtownknitcollective.ca to have one sent to you.

Welcome Spring 2013 at Fern Resort with the first annual YarnOver SleepOver Retreat on the second weekend of April. The retreat will interest knitters, crocheters, dyers and machine knitters with a choice of nine different classes chosen for all skill levels. Class details and how to book your spot can be found at www.yarnoversleepover.com.

Interested in joining the Executive? We're accepting nominations, and also putting together a nominating committee to work with the executive and help run the election process. If you don't want to actually be on the executive but want to get involved, this is the way to do it. See the back page for more details.

Raffle

The book *Eternal Noro* was won by Michelle Bennett.
10 balls of Diamond Edo was won by Gilda Grossman.
Indigo, Madder & Marigold was won by June Murray-Lum.

Show & Tell

Cristina Simionovici showed an asymmetrical sweater with a very simple construction, using a beautiful yarn from Lang. She says it was a very interesting knit. She usually prefers baggy sweaters and weird constructions, but finds this one

looks best on her daughter who has a slim build and square shoulders. The pattern is from the Zauberball book.

Sam wore her Amplification shawl in honour of our speaker and knitwear designer, Janelle Martin (pattern available on Ravelry). It was made with Katia Linen. Sam said this pattern blocks amazingly well.

Elizabeth Hilton showed several illusion scarves. Ever get tired of your kids losing their scarves? This is one solution. She made scarves with both her kids' names knit into them using illusion stitch, and lined each with fleece because they don't like the "yarny" feeling on their necks. These scarves will never be stolen by classmates.

Karen Wold showed a Kimono sweater which her mother knit for her with Berocco Origami. What a lovely and flattering construction.

Holly Yip showed Colour Burst socks. Last spring she took Robin Hunter's course at the Frolic for using hand-dyed and variegated yarns. She thought about what she liked most about the yarn (the pink and green flecks) and decided to stack them using short rows. Brilliant!

Margaret Bryant showed a stunning shawl in a beautiful wine colour. She bought this yarn in a destash on Ravelry, and was surprised at how fine it was—so fine it practically floats.

Guest Speaker

Janelle was asked back for a second helping of her Ravelry Roadmap presentation, but this time she had received requests to delve into some of Ravelry's more advanced features. Janelle wanted to make it clear right off the bat that she has no official ties to Ravelry—she just uses it a lot. People are always asking her for advice on using the site, and it has evolved over time into this presentation.

CONTRIBUTING

One of the topics Janelle was specifically asked to cover is how to add a pattern to the Ravelry database. First, go to your **my notebook** tab and click the **contributions** category. Both patterns and yarns can be

added here. To add a pattern you have two options: either add one you've designed yourself, or add one someone else has designed, but is not in the database yet—maybe you've seen it in a magazine or book. First, search thoroughly to confirm that it's not already in the database. It may be difficult to find, so try searching by the designer's name, or do an advanced search for the distinctive pattern features: mitred construction, dolman sleeves, etc. The step-by-step entry system is quite new, and it's very quick and easy to fill out. If you prefer, you also have the option to use the old system, which can be found via a link at the top. Once you've filled everything out and hit **publish**, it will be put into a queue for final review by a Ravelry editor before it goes live on the site. The editors responsible for each pattern can be found by clicking on the **editors** tab on any pattern page. Editors can be contacted at any time for advice on submissions. If the pattern you've submitted already exists, the information will be merged.

The link for adding a yarn is under the same **contributions** tab. Note that this is adding a yarn to the Ravelry database, not adding a yarn to your stash. The database is enormous, but if you've found a rare, discontinued or obscure yarn, this is the right place to start. First, as with the pattern page, do searches to see if you can find the yarn under a different name (it might have changed if one company was bought by another) or by searching for weight, colourway or a pattern that might have called for a specific yarn.

FORUMS

When you sign up for Ravelry, you're automatically subscribed to six default groups, and all other groups end up on the same page. Things can quickly get out of hand, but fortunately it's quite easy to declutter by sorting these groups into custom tabs. Go to your **forums** page and click the **settings** tab—it's the one with the little wrench. Here you can select options like which of the default communities you'd like to follow, and which voting boxes you'd like to see while browsing forums (educational, funny, agree, disagree). Click the **add a new tab** button to create customized tabs, and click the title of the tab to rename it. Then you can simply click and drag all your forums into

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED

the appropriate categories. For example, you might have a Knitting tab, a Dyeing tab, a Crochet tab, Social groups, etc. You can also change the order of the boxes by hovering over them and moving them around with your mouse. Once you're happy with the order, click the **return to boards** tab and all your changes will automatically be applied. Behold your new neat and tidy forums!

Janelle often gets questions about how to keep track of forum posts, specifically, how to keep new posts at the top so you don't have to go through page after page if you haven't read the forum in a while. When in the forum, hover over the thread and you will have the opportunity to select **watch thread**. A little green dot will appear, and it will alert you if new posts have been made. You can also **ignore** threads you don't want to see. But if you change your mind, how do you un-ignore? Look at the very last page of the message board, and there you'll find your ignored thread. Click it again to un-ignore.

If you want to read a forum without joining it, put keywords into the search box and then you'll have the option to search within just your own groups, just your own posts, all groups on Ravelry, and more. Save your search and you'll be able to easily find that same information again. You can also "favourite" a specific post, right beside the post number (a heart) and you'll easily find it again in the future. For example, Janelle likes to favourite any posts that mention her patterns, without having to subscribe to each forum.

FRIENDS

Not only can you organize your forums,

you can also organize your friends into "sets". This is helpful if you have a lot of friends (it's not unusual for a Raveler to have 150 or more). Janelle has sets of friends like Test Knitters, KW Knitters and Designers. For example, if you have a knitting group, you can put all your real-life knitting friends into their own set so you can see them all at once, see their recent activities, see their forum posts, search their stashes, etc. You can specify what kind of updates you want to see from your friends—such as their forum activity, new yarn acquisitions and recently completed projects. You can also filter your friends' projects by colour, yarn, type, etc. Janelle demonstrated this by filtering the display to show everything her friends had made that was brown. Searching your friends' stashes can be fun too... you can even check where they have stored it, which can come in handy the next time you're at their house (Carole says she has a storage tag called Left Couch Cushion).

You can also sort your **queue** into categories, the same way you do with forums and friends. This way you don't have to wade through all 37 pages of your queue to find a project if you create tabs like Shawls, Socks, Hats, Sweaters, Gift Knitting, or Lace using the **organize** button in the upper right. Side note: When you queue a project, you have the opportunity to select the stash yarn you intend to use. Then next time you view the yarn in your stash page, it will show you a little reminder that the particular yarn is "taken". Very handy! This is easy to change by editing the queued project.

LINKING TO YOUR BLOG

If you've linked your blog to your Ravelry

account, you can attach blog posts to projects. Then the pattern page will have a link to your blog post in the **blog posts** tab—this is a great way to promote your blog. First, go back to the **my notebook** tab and select the **blog posts** link. This will bring up a list of all your external blog posts. Clicking on the individual post titles will bring up a drop-down menu that allows you to link the post to any of the projects on your **project page**.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Janelle took some questions from the audience at the end of her talk.

Q: Can you view all the patterns in a pattern book in your library?

A: The best you can do for now is view "popular designs" in a particular book or magazine. At this time it's still a multi-click process, unfortunately.

Q: Can you make your library private?

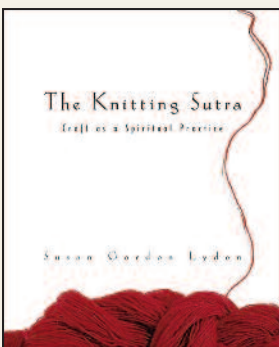
A: At this time, no.

Q: How do you export your stash so you have a list you can take with you?

A: Use the **download to Excel** button at top right of stash page. Very handy if you want a hard copy. This also works with your Needles page and your Library page. If you keep the list in your purse, you will never buy redundant needles again!

As you can see, there are tons of very cool advanced features on Ravelry that you may not have noticed, even if you've spent a lot of time on the site—no doubt because you were busy staring at pictures of yarn. We'd like to thank Janelle for bringing these useful features to our attention! Everyone in attendance learned a lot.

BOOK REVIEW by Trish Denhoed



The Knitting Sutra (Craft as a Spiritual Practice)

by Susan Gordon Lydon

This small 161 page book is a delight. The back cover says "The Knitting Sutra reveals how women can learn to knit their way to nirvana". It is the story of a woman who is a writer, and a knitter. She breaks her arm and struggles with

not being able to knit. Since this is one of my fears, I had to read this! It was not disappointing. Lydon writes well and tells a good story. She has done a fair bit of research about various "fringe" religious groups and weaves bits about each of them into her true story about her life. She also confesses to being a drug addict earlier in her life, so this woman knows how to tackle challenges. She clearly understands a knitter's thought process and will make you laugh and sigh.

I found this at my local library, but plan to get a copy to have on hand for inspiration.

Description Of DKC Executive Positions Nominations Open For DKC Executive 2013/2014

At this time we are accepting nominations for the Executive positions for the 2013/14 membership year. 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 president@downtownknitcollective.ca. If you don't have email access, you may submit your nomination at the February, March or April DKC meetings. The deadline for nominations will be the evening of April 21, 2013 with elections being held (if necessary) at the May DKC meeting. The positions with a brief description of the duties are:

President

Responsible for leadership of the DKC including: approving the agenda for and chairing both the monthly executive and monthly DKC meetings; acting as the editorial board for the DKC newsletter; planning DKC activities in collaboration with other executive members; participating in and promoting DKC activities; fundraising for the DKC; and, assigning a designate for duties as required.

Secretary

Responsible for the documentation and maintenance of DKC records including: drafting and distributing approved executive meeting agenda; drafting executive meeting minutes; and, managing, organizing and maintaining DKC calendar and documents on the shared DKC Google Docs drive. Preparing signage as required; preparing and organizing name tags, and, preparing PowerPoint slides for meeting introduction. Participates in DKC activities as required.

Registrar and Treasurer

Responsible for all aspects of DKC finances including: collecting revenue from all DKC planned events; arranging timely deposits; making payments to vendors / suppliers; reimbursing members for incurred expenses;

preparing payments for speaker honoraria and expenses; ensuring and providing financial statements monthly to executive and yearly to the general membership. Responsible for yearly membership registration including, form development and for organization of Registration table at monthly DKC meetings. Sends out blast emails to membership as required and requested. Participates in DKC activities as required.

Special Events Co-ordinator

Responsible for the organization of traditional DKC events such as the annual Bus Trip, Winter Workshops, Knitter's Frolic and Relay for Life Team. For each event, the co-ordinator will work with a dedicated team to plan and organize and run the event. At event completion, the co-ordinator, with the assistance of the treasurer will provide the executive with a full report including a financial statement, about the event. Participates in DKC activities as required.

Programming Co-ordinator

Responsible for the program at the monthly DKC meetings including: developing a programming committee/network to develop ideas and formats for monthly meetings; contacting guest speakers and negotiating suitable dates, acceptable honoraria and expenses as per the approved budget allocation. A/V equipment required and presentation content; organizing Work of Our Hands fashion show, selecting moderators, collaborating on format and calling for entries; organizing Skills Exchange mini-workshops, calling for teachers and compiling requirements; providing newsletter editor, webmaster and Ravelry group moderators with meeting information to promote the event; communicating with facility landlord before each meeting regarding the specific requirements; ensuring that meeting set up and Speaker Table meet requirements and, greeting, introducing and thanking speaker. Participates in DKC activities as required.

Promotions Co-ordinator

Responsible for organizing events and developing strategies to promote knitting and

to ensure that the DKC programs and activities appeal and are attuned to the needs and interests of the knitting community. Specific duties include chairing DKC Focus Groups and organizing special events, such as Pucks N' Purls and World Wide Knit in Public Day, that promote knitting in the community. At event completion, the co-ordinator, with the assistance of the treasurer will provide the executive with a full report including a financial statement, about the event. Participates in DKC activities as required.

Communication Co-ordinator

This position, working with a dedicated team, is responsible for the coordination of DKC communications including Social Media (Twitter, Facebook, and DKC email), DKC website and Ravelry to ensure clear, accurate and consistent messaging to promote the DKC brand. Assisting in the organization of monthly meetings by preparing envelopes and purchasing supplies for monthly DKC mailings. The position will work closely with other DKC members to support the various programs and events and ensure clarity in division of responsibilities. Participates in DKC activities as required

DKC Executive

President: Carole Adams
president@downtownknitcollective.ca

Programming Coordinator: Cristina Simionovi
programme@downtownknitcollective.ca

Promotion Coordinator: Edna Zuber
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Communications Coordinator: Donna Lyons
communications@downtownknitcollective.ca

Treasurer: Wendy Mauzeroll
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Secretary: Trish Denhoed
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Special Events Coordinator: Joan Kass
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