

Knitting yarns

VOLUME 18 • ISSUE 10
JUNE 2014

June 18: Yarn Showcase

We'll wrap up our last meeting before the summer break with presentations from Diamond yarns and Westminster Fibers. These yarn companies will showcase their yarns and designs. This will be a great opportunity to see some of their new lines and make plans for a summer of knitting.



Also at the June meeting: find out about the guild's new identity, and changes to the executive. Big things are coming for the new season!



Meeting Location Change

Please remember that for the June meeting, we will once again be gathering at our temporary location: the Wallberg Building, Room 116, 184-200 College Street. The building is 400 metres west of the Queen's Park Station (about a five-minute walk).

Newsletter Editor Needed

After seven years, our newsletter editor will be stepping down in June. The editor is responsible for setting deadlines, liaising with contributors and producing the monthly 4-page newsletter (web) and yarn store flyer (print) in PDF format, as well as occasionally producing other promotional pieces for the guild as needed. Graphic design, photography, writing and editing skills a must. Please contact a member of the executive if you're able to step into this role, starting in September.

This position comes with a stipend.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

Location

Temporary Location: Wallberg Building
184-200 College St. Room 116
(North side of College, near St. George st.)
on the University of Toronto campus.

TTC Access

Five-minute walk west from
Queen's Park 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

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

Highlights of the May Meeting by Heather Brady

There was quite a large turnout at the May meeting (about 120 people) despite another temporary location change.

Announcements

The Frolic was a success-- thanks again to all the volunteers and the committee. Attendance numbers were down a little, but vendors are universally saying it was the best Frolic yet. When asked if they had spent any money at the Frolic, many audience members erupted into wild laughter.

Our next big event is June 13: Relay for Life. We are in third place so far in terms of team donations. If you'd like to support the team you can do it online. We have been given an "Event Tent" where we will be teaching a bunch of mini classes (including arm knitting). We even have glow in the dark yarn.

Exec nominations: a couple of people have come forward and the executive will discuss it further. A guild name change has been confirmed for September-- we will simply be the Toronto Knitter's Guild. There were general murmurs of approval around the room at this announcement.

You may have noticed there haven't been many events this year; this is for legal reasons, as we are in the middle of a lawsuit and all our resources are going towards that. Once things have settled down we can look at those again.

Is your LYS having workshops? Have them forward the info to the guild and we will post it on our website. We like to maintain our friendly relationship with yarn stores.

Rhinebeck (the Duchess County Sheep and Wool Festival) is Mecca for fibre enthusiasts of all kinds: knitting, crochet, weaving, spinning. Grab your best knitting

buddy and book a spot. \$425 gets you a seat on a private coach, two nights shared accommodation in a hotel, breakfast, and a two-day pass to the fair. Departure and arrival is in and out of Georgetown. You can park overnight and your car will be checked on. Oct 17-19. Contact Diana (dlurion@pathcom.com) or Mari (mariatavon@yahoo.ca).

Show & Tell

Cristina showed an original design based on the fairy tale "The Six Swans" in which a girl has to knit six sweaters for her brothers to release a spell. She finishes them all except for the last sleeve. Cristina calls her creation the Eliza Wrap-- a lacy shawl-like garment with only one sleeve. Intriguingly, if worn sideways, the arm hole becomes a neck hole and the wrap can be worn like a poncho.

Barb teaches weaving at Spun Studio, and brought a sampling of placemats and pillow covers that the women at Sistering have made. When the items are sold at Spun Studio, all the money goes directly to the women. Some DKC members have been asking how the guild's charitable donations are being used, so Barb wanted to show everyone.

Vivian was inspired by Sally's talk last month, particularly the garment she was wearing, L'enveloppe. Well, Vivian had one done for the next month, in seed stitch. She used Borocco Vintage Chunky in a taupe shade.

Cindy brought a sweater finished that very day-- she didn't even have time to block it. She used a free pattern from Knitting Daily called the Aran Jacket. The yarn is Sublime Tweed DK, a wool/cotton blend in a denim blue, with lapels and adorned with brass buttons.

Raffle

Warm Knits, Cool Gifts by Sally Melville was won by Judith Trotter-

Field. *Dolce Handknits* by Kim Dolce was won by Susan Ghan. *Boyfriend Sweaters* by Bruce Weinstein was won by Carole! At last! A bonus Kilkenny sweater kit, including 20 balls of Jamieson's Shetland and a pattern was won by a very lucky Gilda Grossman.

Guest Speaker

Lorraine Condotta: Twisted Traditions

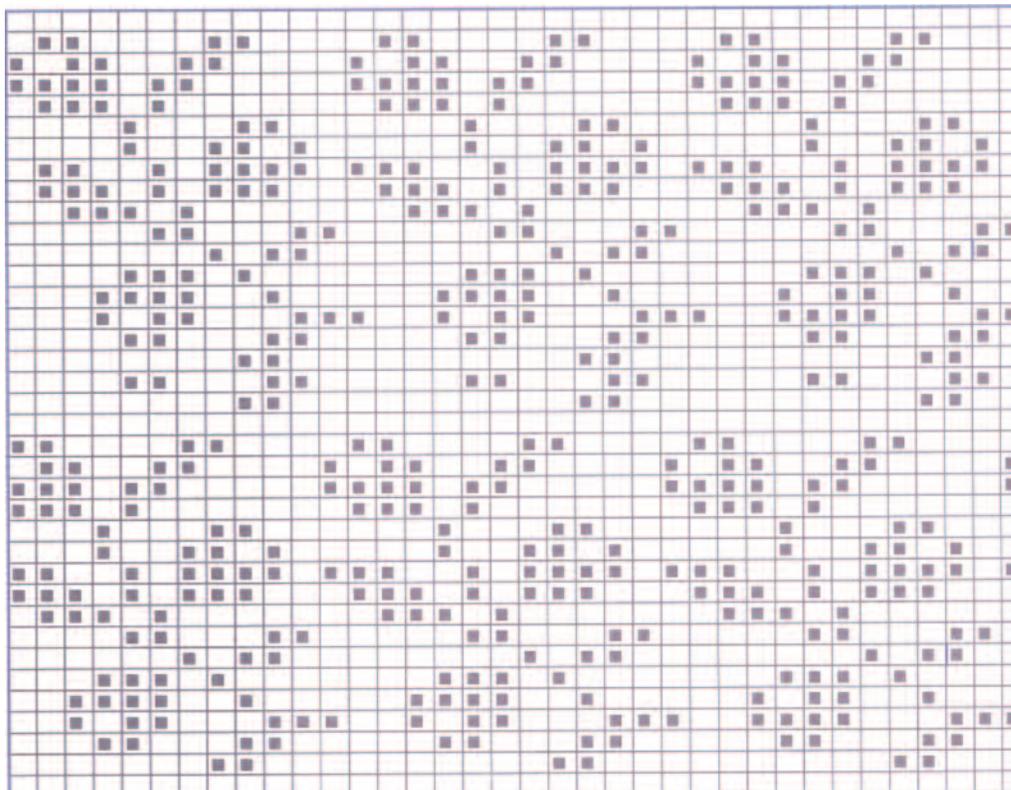
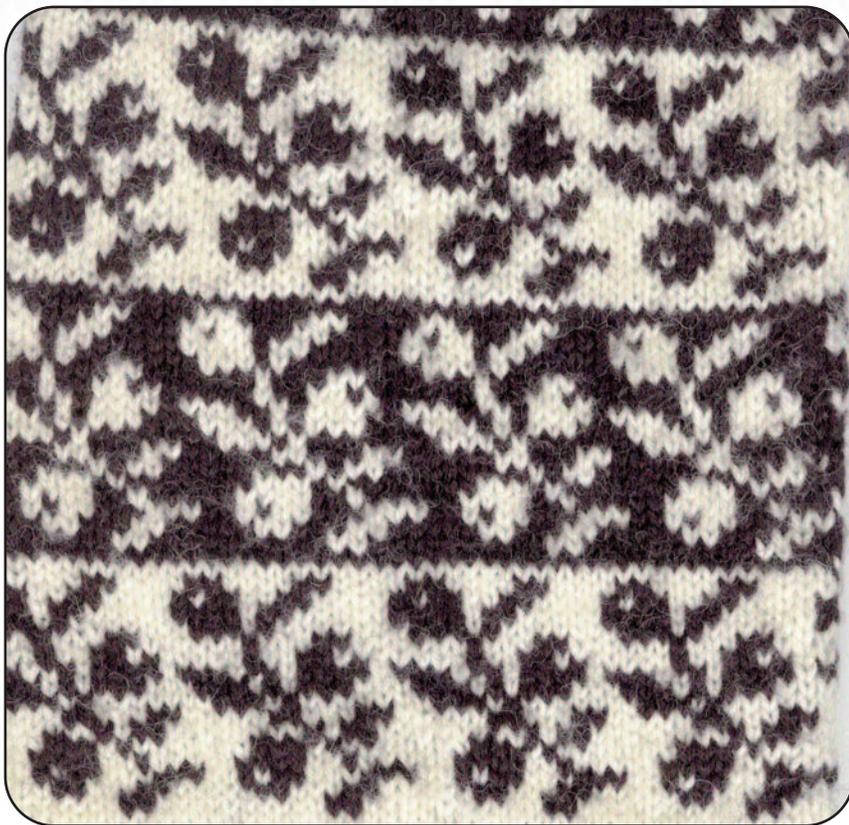
Lorraine says her non-knitting friends are polite listeners, but she can tell they're not really interested. She was happy to talk knitting to knitters, and she had lots of advice for those looking to dive into the world of Fair Isle (lots of samples too!).

Fair Isle is usually thought of as being 'too advanced' for the average knitter. Lorraine got her hands on the Alice Starmore pattern book (which she calls the holy grail of Fair Isle) and was captivated. Her first attempt was much too tight and she ended up with a huge mess, but she persevered. If you ever see *Traditional Knitting: Scottish and Fair Isle* book, grab it and run. It is very rare. Another great resource is *The Art of Fair Isle Knitting* by Ann Feitelson. There is a very comprehensive chapter on colour that Lorraine highly recommends.

Through trial and error, Lorraine realized that switching colours every row is not necessary, and is in fact a bit annoying. She started creating her own patterns out of a desire to make things simpler. Once she understood the concept of knitting Fair Isle in the round, things fell into place. After a lot of swatching (and swearing) she arrived at something pleasing: Ophelia, her first pattern. Lorraine's patterns can be found on Ravelry (her username is Twistedtraditions) and her blog is called The Sherriff of Knittingham. Thanks to Lorraine (and her family) for pitching in on her inspiring presentation!

Stitch of the Month *by Diane Martin*

Lingonberry Design



UPCOMING EVENTS

Relay for Life 2014

Time to celebrate our 10th Anniversary! The DKC team has raised nearly \$90,000 for cancer care, research and education.

Team members will once again be knitting chemo caps, prayer shawls and scarves by lantern light at Sunnybrook Park from 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 13th until 7:00 a.m. the next morning. We'd love donations of knitting from DKC members to help decorate our 10 x 20' tent. All items will be delivered to Princess Margaret Lodge and Gilda's Club in Barrie.

Pledge your support to our team members who vow to knit or spin all night in return for your donation. Pledges may be made at the May meeting, or online at <http://tiny.cc/relay14>. We will have pledge forms at our May meeting. Donations may be made by cheque or cash and all donations over \$20.00 qualify for a tax receipt.

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