

VOLUME 17 · ISSUE 7
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knitting Yarns



MARCH 20: MICHELLE PORTER

Michelle Porter is a young Toronto-area knitter and knitwear designer who originally 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 impressive bevy of designs at local yarn stores and online at Ravelry and Patternfish.

Michelle will be talking about the ins and outs of designing a collection for yarn companies that feature new or unfamiliar yarns. Each season, the yarn companies decide what yarns they want to feature as they discontinue some and develop new ones to take their place. They determine how many patterns the designer should make, and set a deadline. It's the job of the designer to understand them inside and out. Michelle decides what each yarn will become.



Her patterns aren't just for the knitters to follow, but also the tool that the sales reps will use to demonstrate to the yarn store owner the features and benefits of stocking this new (or overlooked), wonderful yarn.

COMING UP IN APRIL: MINI WORKSHOPS

Our April meeting will see the return of our ever-popular Skills Exchange Mini Workshops. Members 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 socialize, learn, and just have fun.

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now open, with elections taking place in May. This year there are at least two vacancies that urgently need to be filled, as Edna (Promotions Coordinator) and Cristina (Programming Coordinator) will both be stepping down. All positions are open to nominations, so if you can help out, please contact a member of the executive.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Wednesday, May 15, 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

President Carole hoped everyone had a great long weekend and Family Day, and also a great time at Pucks n Purls. There were about 90 people in the audience, including three first-timers. Thanks to those who donated yarn to the raffle table, and also items to the dollar table.

Reminder: before the meeting begins is your chance to sign up for Show & Tell, buy raffle tickets, visit (or donate to) the dollar table, visit Dr. Knit with your knitting problems or drop off finished scarves and chemo caps for Knitting For A Cure.

Announcements

Signups have started for Frolic volunteers. You might staff the raffle table, wind yarn, take tickets, etc. You get in for free and we feed you—what a deal!

Edna came up to give a brief synopsis of DKC events. Pucks n Purls was a lot of fun! There were tons of knitting prizes and hockey prizes given away. A special Fastest Knitter jersey was created by the Marlies that will be awarded in years to come. Very cool! Linda was this year's winner.

World Wide Knit In Public Day 2013 is in the planning stages, and we need volunteers to help plan and coordinate the event. Contact Edna at edna@zuber.net if you'd like to pitch in. Will there be a Stitch n Pitch this year? We don't know yet, but we've heard through the grapevine that several yarn stores have been approached by the Blue Jays, so we're waiting to see what happens with that. It's very successful and we often sell tickets and do giveaways at the game, but it's technically not a DKC event.

In the Celebrating Our Own segment, congrats were extended to Nadine McLeod, who won the People's Choice Award at the CreativFest in the fall with her "Starry Night" double pendant lamp shade, covered with knitted lace and hundreds of silver beads. Nicely done!

Fiona Ellis has been published again in Spring/ Summer Vogue with a hooded eyelet vest, and also has a new Soakbox pattern called Elvis Paisley.

Just a reminder that the Executive

Nominations are now open—nominate yourself, or nominate a friend (if you have that friend's permission, of course). The election will take place in May and we'd really like it if a few people would work on the Nomination Committee to keep the process from getting too insular.

Raffle

One skein of Skacel Merino lace was won by Janet Elias.

One skein of fuchsia Zen Yarn Garden Squooshy was won by Elizabeth Hilton
One skein of Dye-Version Silk Linen was won by Barb Angier.

Show & Tell

Denise Powell was wearing a dress to show off her new knee socks! She notes you can stretch a regular ball of self-striping sock yarn into knee socks by doing alternate rows with a second yarn.

Judi H made a stuffed guinea pig (from pattern 'Gertie Guinea Pig' on Ravelry) as a Christmas present for her son, whose pet guinea pig Skeeter passed away last year. It was *extremely* realistic, and elicited squeals of delight from many audience members. The hair was fluffed up after knitting using a dog brush to great effect. A sweet tribute to a beloved pet.

Wendy Eng made a beautiful rectangular shawl in bright red. Through calculations and fudging, she turned a regular shawl into a rectangle and used only two balls of Knit Picks Shadow. She says she would rank it as "easy" despite its appearance—so easy it could be knit on the subway.

Kim Hume made an Americo linen scarf with yarn and pattern purchased at a TTC Knitalong. She and her friend did the same pattern, only her friend did it right and Kim did it wrong. It was supposed to be knit on the bias, but it didn't turn out right. Still looks great!

Patrick wore a Garter Ridge Pullover, designed by himself using Noro sock yarn, letting the stripes fall where they may. It was a stash-busting project in a Ravelry knitalong. When asked, he claimed his test swatch was 8x8 feet.

Guest Speaker

Glenna C is from Hamilton, but so much

of her knitting life is in Toronto she considers herself a Toronto knitter. She's here at least once a week teaching classes (her duct tape dress form workshop being one of the most popular). Her thoughts on knitting in the age of the internet resonated with our audience members.

As someone who uses the internet a lot for blogging and communication, Glenna has done a lot of reflecting on how the internet and knitting fit together. Glenna started her blog, Knitting to Stay Sane, back in 2006. It was, as she put it, the "golden age" of blogging. Blogs were the default method for connecting with other knitters in that bleak, dark time before Ravelry. The age-old desire to tell someone, "I love that thing you knitted!" is basically unchanged, no matter what the method used to communicate it.

What did the knitting internet used to look like? 10 years ago we had blog rings, listservs, Interweave Knits, knittinghelp.com and of course, the brand-new Knitty. Now we have so many more ways to connect—YouTube, Ravelry, Knitscene, Knitting Daily, Twist Collective, Patternfish, and of course, Facebook and Twitter. Technology is changing so fast, our sense of time can be easily distorted. For example, can you believe YouTube has only been around for eight years? The iPad was introduced just three years ago and there have already been five versions of it.

Knitting itself has been transformed over the last decade as a social and cultural phenomenon. The game-changing book *Stitch n Bitch* is nearly 10 years old already. It made people think about knitting in a way it hadn't occurred to them before. Knitting is now considered a bona fide cultural phenomenon, and academics and anthropologists are busy researching it.

What sets "our thing" apart is our desire to get together in real time to do it. Glenna thinks the fact that we do what we do *with other people* is quite profound. We have this desire not just to make things, but to make things in each other's company. We seek out other knitters, and share what we're doing—with or without the tech. As an audience member noted, at least we have something to do when the power goes out.

PUCKS n' PURLS 2013

On February 9, more than two hundred knitters and their families converged on Ricoh Coliseum for Pucks n' Purls 2013. It was a fun time. It was a great, fast-paced hockey game and our Marlies won!

Everyone was thrilled by prizes donated by distributors, Canadian indie dyers, local yarn stores, the Marlies and our very own DKC members. Many thanks to Estelle Yarns, Old Mill Knitting, Soak Wash Inc., Westminster Fibres, Wool and Wicker, Indigodragonfly, Tanis Fibre Arts, Creative Yarns, Knit-O-Matic, Lettuce Knit, Linda's Craftique, MSLE-Marlies, Fiona Ellis, Michelle Porter, Denise Powell, Cristina Simionovici and Judith Trotter-Field. The two huge prize tables were overflowing with fibre, blocking boards, knitting patterns, totes, signed hockey sticks, Marlies T-shirts, knitting kits and Addi-ART diamond needles.

One highlight of the game came at second intermission when last year's combatants, Wannietta Prescod and Linda Benne, faced off in a rematch of the Fastest Knitter competition. What a tense three minutes, all streamed on the Jumbotron for everyone to watch. The judges, Jennifer from the Purple Purl and Cristina from the DKC, declared Linda the winner this year, by **three** stitches. As a special prize, the Marlies donated one of their jerseys encribed with FASTEST KNITTER on the back, for the winner to keep until the next matchup. Wannietta and Linda are such enthusiastic participants—thanks so much to all for making this such a memorable event.



Hyacinth Blossom Stitch
Multiple of 6 sts + 2

1st Row: (wrong side) K1, *p5tog, (k1, p1, k1, p1, k1) into the next st; rep from * to last st. k1.
2nd row: Purl
3rd row: K1, *(k1, p1, k1, p1, k1) into next st, p5tog; rep from * to last st, k1.
4th row: As 2nd row
5th row: Knit this row winding yarn round the needle 3 time for each st
6th row: Purl to end dropping extra loops
Repeat these 6 rows



from the Harmony Guide to Knitting Techniques and Stitches

Focus Group: Spring 2013

Would you like to spend three hours on a Spring day with a group of bright, intelligent knitters sipping tea or coffee, knitting and discussing topics of interest? Who wouldn't? We invite you to participate in the Spring 2013 DKC Focus Group in May. The date, time and location will be based on participants' needs and availability. The topic for this Focus Group is tentatively titled "What happens next?" Please contact Edna Zuber at edna@zuber.net to let her that you would like to attend. You won't regret it— the response to these events has been overwhelming.

World Wide Knit in Public Day: Toronto Edition

What a fun event. World Wide Knit in Public Day (WWKIP) is a yearly public celebration organized by knitters around the world. The dates for WWKIP this year are June 8-16. Our Toronto Edition will be an open invitation to all knitters and fibre artists in and around Toronto.

We need volunteers to help us plan and organize this. You can either be on the planning team or volunteer to help with activities on the day. The planning team will:

- Choose the WWKIP Toronto Edition 2013 theme
- Choose the date and time
- Choose the location
- Plan promotion of WWKIP to other knitters and fibre artists
- Promote the event through traditional and social media
- Plan fun activities to engage knitters and public during WWKIP



If you are on the planning team, you will attend about four face-to-face meetings. These will be convenient for everyone on the team. From the planning, there will be some tasks that will be shared by the team members that can be done at their convenience. If you are volunteering just for the event day, possible assignments will be discussed with you in advance so that you can choose something that interests you.

Please contact Edna Zuber at edna@zuber.net to let her know how you can help.

UPCOMING EVENTS

15th Annual Knitter's Frolic
Mark your calendars for April 27-28, 2013. This massive event will feature workshops, food, fibre and fun. Our keynote instructor will be **Ann Budd**.

- **Marketplace:**
Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Workshops:**
Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **Location:**
Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre
6 Garamond Court, Toronto



The proceeds from our monthly raffles are donated to our chosen charities, including the Canadian Cancer Society and Sistering women's shelter. We have raised **\$995** so far this year, with a goal of \$1500. Thank you for your support!

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