

Knitting yarns

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March 19: Fiona Ellis

Give it a swirl, give it a whirl—hear the story of the paisley unfurl. Join designer Fiona Ellis as she explores the roots of paisley designs. It's a story that takes us from the warm lands of eastern promise to the cool highlands of western Scotland, with many twists and turns along the way. Fiona will show you how the paisley motif swirled and twirled its way from the reign of Queen Victoria into contemporary knitwear design!

"Fashion should be a form of escapism, and not a form of imprisonment"— Alexander McQueen

Fiona Ellis's career is certainly one about escapism. After pursuing a sensible career in laboratory work for textile production and colour cosmetic formulation, Fiona escaped from career-captivity in the early 1990s to pursue fashion design at De Montfort University. She graduated with a degree specializing in knitwear design. Fiona then

founded her independent design business, selling designs to major fashion houses in New York, Paris and London. Her contacts in New York helped her to add design for the independent knitter to her repertoire. This led to her patterns appearing in major print and on-line magazines, and two successful books published by Random House. Fiona helps people escape from the mundane and bring creative design sensibilities to their knitting.



Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

Wednesday, April 16, 2014

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

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

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 February Meeting *by Heather Brady*

Guild members braved the ice and snow to attend our annual Skills Exchange Mini Workshops.

Announcements

Catherine Osborne gave a brief talk about the guild's potential name change. She assured members it's not just for kicks, it's for legal reasons. The term "collective" puts members at greater legal risk. *(full details on back page).*

Raffle

A Knit Happy project bag was won by Monica Hepner. A skein of Polwarth Silk by Indigodragonfly was won by Terry Sulymko. A skein of fingering weight bamboo from Dye-Version was won by Kim Hume.

Show & Tell

Denise Powell showed a Nautical Fair Isle sweater in Cascade 220. She

made Dorset Wheel buttons to ensure an exact match. She also showed a funky stash-busting version of her Chocolate Mint afghan.

Judith Somersett showed some Fleece Artist mittens.

Marilyn Brady showed a baby cardigan with cherry-red yarn from Dirty Water Dyeworks.

Yun Kang showed a Tulip Sweater and a striped scarf using two colours of Noro Silk Garden. Yun and Kim Hume then showed the two different results they achieved making the same Americo Linen Bias Scarf. Yun followed the directions correctly, while Kim did not. Both scarves turned out well, but very different!

Kellie Huffman showed a bright

yellow Smashing Walnuts skirt of her own design, modelled by her daughter Bronwyn (read Bronwyn's story in the September 2013 issue). The skirt is part of her Knitting for Gold cancer awareness campaign– knittingforgold.org.

Mini Workshops

The formal part of the meeting ended as guild members hurried to the different workshop tables. After attending four different sessions, everyone left the meeting feeling even more skilled than before.

Thanks to our workshop teachers:

- Marilyn Brady: I-cord edging
- Mary Pat McDonald: Braided yarn join
- Patrick Madden: Crochet cast-on
- Suzie Larouche: Stretchy cast-on
- Catherine Osborne: Finishing with a crochet hook



frollic



April 26-27, 2014

Toronto, Ontario, Canada
The fibre event of the year!

Countdown to the Frollic: Workshops, Workshops, Workshops!

The Knitter's Frollic is now just under two months away. Have you booked a workshop yet? Below are workshops from some of our very talented local instructors.



Introducing: Kate Atherley

Kate regularly teaches across North America at both yarn shops and events such as Vogue Knitting Live and

Interweave KnitLab. Kate is author of "Beyond Knit & Purl".

▶ Pattern Writing Skills

Whether you want to self-publish or submit to a publication, this workshop will demonstrate how to write up a clear and easy-to-follow pattern for both garments and accessories. Tips for creating easy to use charts will be included. Lastly, Kate will share the three key tricks to make sure both knitters and editors love you!

▶ Kitchener Confidence/Painless Grafting

Kitchener Stitch (Grafting) is feared by many knitters. This workshop will build confidence and skills through practice, sharing tips for remembering the steps, and for fixing errors. Its use with stockinette stitch, garter stitch, and ribbing will be covered.

▶ DPNs, Magic Loop & Two Circulars: Options for Working in the Round

There are three ways to knit in the round: on double-pointed needles, on magic loop, and with two circular needles. This class will demonstrate the three techniques, and show you how to easily convert project patterns from one style to another.

▶ Introduction to Fair Isle: Design Your Own Fingerless Mittens

This class will cover the skills necessary to be a confident Fair Isle knitter. A history of Fair Isle knitting will be discussed. The student will learn to read patterns and charts, and working with multiple colours – both one-handed and two-handed methods, both in-the-round and flat. In the afternoon we will look at the motifs, templates, and yarns to design and create your own pair of unique three-colour fingerless mitts.



Introducing: Janelle Martin

Janelle has been teaching for six years at Shall We Knit? and designing for four years. Her ongoing fascination is with Japanese stitch patterns.

▶ Pooling Scarf

Looking for something new to do with your skeins of handpainted yarn? In this class you will learn how to assess the colours in your

yarn, and line them up to create vertical stripes utilizing the natural pooling effects of the yarn. You will leave with the beginnings of a scarf.



Introducing: Wannietta Kirkpatrick

Wannietta is a professional knitter and published designer whose skill

and passion for knitting has allowed to her to teach internationally. Wannietta's classes provide basic skills to beautify your knitting.

▶ Necklines

Learn how to set your necklines up to be an integrated part of your sweater instead of an add-on.

▶ Buttonholes

Choose your buttons with confidence knowing that you can make a buttonhole to match!! Students will learn several buttonhole techniques and how to calculate their placements.

▶ Finishing

So much effort goes into your knitting, don't let finishing it be an afterthought! Students will learn techniques and tips to be able to finish their projects with confidence and pride. Students are welcome to bring specific projects for consultation time permitting.

Stitch of the Month *by Diane Martin*

Broken Rib Diagonal

This is a stitch pattern that looks like cables, but isn't.

Multiple of 6 stitches

Rows 1 & 3: *K4,p2; repeat from * to end.

Rows 2 & 4: *K2, p4; repeat from * to end

Rows 5 & 7: K2, *p2, k4; repeat from * to last 4 stitches, p2, k2.

Rows 6 & 8: P2, *k2, p4; repeat from * to last 4 stitches, k2, p2.

Rows 9 & 11: *P2, k4; repeat from * to end.

Rows 10 & 12: *P4, k2; repeat from * to end.

Repeat Rows 1 – 12.

from the Harmony Guide to Knitting Stitches and Techniques.



Guild Name Change

At the February meeting, Catherine Osborne spoke about legal concerns that were highlighted by the ongoing lawsuit arising out of the 2010 Knitter's Frolic, where two DKC executives have been sued personally.

We have looked at a number of alternatives (in addition to event insurance) that will lessen the risk of this happening again. While we considered incorporating the DKC, we have determined that the annual procedures required for a corporation are too onerous and too expensive for the DKC to maintain. Therefore our focus going forward is on identifying and avoiding activities that put the DKC at risk, and in obtaining executive officer insurance so that the executives of the DKC who sign contracts and make legal commitments on behalf of the DKC will be insured.

As the DKC has no plans to incorporate, removing "collective" from the name lessens the risk that individual DKC members will be regarded as jointly and severally liable for one another's actions. A Collective in the legal sphere is usually an organization where all decisions are taken by consensus and all members assume equal responsibility for the decisions made. As that is not how the DKC operates, the use of the term "collective" is confusing and potentially puts the members at risk. Therefore, Catherine has recommended that we remove the designation "collective" from the DKC name.

UPCOMING EVENTS

YarnOver SleepOver Retreat

Last year's retreat was so much fun, we've decided to do it again. It's a weekend of crafty fun with 9 teachers and 13 classes, plus a fashion show and marketplace. It runs from April 11-13 at Fern Resort, near Orillia. Visit the website for all the details: yarnoversleepover.com

16th Annual Knitter's Frolic

This year's Frolic is coming up fast! It's the weekend of April 26-27. As always, the event will feature workshops, food, fibre and fun. Our keynote instructor this year will be author and knitwear designer **Candace Eisner Strick**.

- **Marketplace:**

Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- **Workshops:**

Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- **Location:**

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre
6 Garamond Court, Toronto

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