

Knitting yarns

VOLUME 18 • ISSUE 1
SEPTEMBER 2013

September 18: Twist Collective

We are very excited to kick off our 2013/2014 season with Twist Collective, an Online Magazine, at our September meeting. Fiona Ellis, a designer for Twist Collective, will host the evening which will include samples of the garments for a combined trunk show and fashion show. It will feature the latest designs from the 5th anniversary fall issue. It's a great opportunity to see the garments up close, and meet the people from Twist.

We are still looking for models, so if you or someone you know fits the sample size (approximately 32-36" bust size) and would like to volunteer at the September meeting, please contact Fiona Ellis- fiona.ellis@sympatico.ca.

It's going to be such a fun evening, so be sure to renew your membership in advance. Have you made a Twist Collective item? Wear it with pride to the meeting and help celebrate.

Since this event is likely to attract quite a crowd to the small auditorium at Innis College, seating priority will be given to returning DKC members, then new members, and finally non-members. The doors will open for returning DKC members at 6:30 p.m. New members will be admitted from 7:00 p.m., and then non-members.

To speed things up, renew your membership right now online at downtownknitcollective.ca/wp. At the September meeting, simply pick up your new membership card and walk right into the auditorium.

Textile Museum of Canada/ROM Exchange Weekend

If you're already a member of the Textile Museum, you can use your membership card to get into the ROM (and vice versa!) from September 14-15. A great weekend of exploration and discovery for members of both institutions.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, October 16, 2013
Wednesday, November 20, 2013
Wednesday, December 11, 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

\$10.00 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 June Meeting *by Heather Brady*

Approximately 70 members and seven newcomers came out to spend the last meeting of the season with the guild and special guest, crochet aficionado Lara Veerasammy.

Announcements

The guild is looking for a new meeting note taker. This would make our newsletter editor's life a lot easier.

World Wide Knit in Public Day: the weather and location could not have been better. There was great fun and a great turnout (at least 12 people in the audience raised their hands to show that they were there).

Relay for Life: Congratulations to our team. Denise, Carole, Dawn, Pam, Andrea, Donna, Wannietta, Helen and Joan knit all night and raised over \$9,000. The team hung up their scarves at the tent to showcase them and could have sold every one, but of course they're for charity.

Patternfish is celebrating its 5th anniversary! The current issue highlights original designers, many of them DKC members.

Denise Powell's Crazy For Cashmere quilt is appearing in the summer issue of *A Needle Pulling Thread*. It's made from old cashmere sweaters that were felted, dyed and cut into pieces, backed with pieces of old silk shirts she used to wear for business. An amazing creation!

Is anyone interested in going to Rhinebeck? There is a bus tour this fall. More information will become available closer to the date. It's a great time.

Carole asked the audience to challenge themselves a bit this summer– to do a little more charity knitting, or maybe knit something for someone else just to see the

smile on their face. Crochet a blanket for an animal shelter. There are a lot of ways to keep busy.

Show & Tell

Julia showed an afghan in Tunisian crochet entitled "If Music be the Food of Love". Her youngest granddaughter is going away to university this fall to study music, so Julia covered the afghan with musical motifs. It's sure to be treasured.

Trish originally fell in love with a pattern for a short-sleeved summer top in Japan 10 years ago. The sweater has always been a bit too short, so she and Cristina made it again in their own private knitalong. The innovative pattern is cast on and knit upwards, put on a holder, knit from the side, then knit in the other direction, creating a cool patchwork effect. A variegated yarn with a long repeat (Classic Elite Sanibel in crimson) really makes the pattern stand out.

Debra showed her Knitty "Templeton Square" contest entry, a shawlette based on a pattern provided by Franklin Habit. The garment was as beautiful as it was innovative (in other words, very!)

Guest Speaker

Lara revealed right off the bat what she considered to be a controversial statement– she doesn't knit. Gasps

were heard around the room, but she carried on. Lara has friends who are very eager to teach her, but so far she has managed to resist.

Lara's crochet journey began when she was a young girl, about eight years old. Her mother lent her a steel crochet hook and some leftover thread, and started her off with a little yellow daisy. Crocheters at the time made three things: doilies, coffee table runners and bedspreads. Lara lived in a tropical climate (Guyana) so yarns apart from cotton were unavailable or simply impractical. Patterns were shared, and books were few and far between.

Lara has crocheted practically her entire wardrobe, and her finely-crafted pieces are easily classy enough to wear to work. Models from the guild showcased her creations, including a crisp pleated skirt, a silky cotton top with tiny shell stitches, a smart bamboo suit jacket and a colourful cardigan that looked just like Fair Isle.

Lara's finale was her stunning wedding veil, made of 100% silk and covered with motifs meaningful to both her and her husband. The reveal of the veil ended Lara's presentation in spectacular fashion. We'd like to thank her for opening knitters' eyes to the endless possibilities of crochet.



Knitting for a Cure by Kellie Huffman

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Here is Bronwyn's story, in her own words:

Imagine this, you are 14. You dance, you curl, you read books by the series and watch your favourite movies so many times you can quote them. You hang out with your friends at rodeos, at your favourite store, in each other's homes, cooking, playing games and talking, talking about all the things and people you love, your hopes and your dreams. You have your whole life ahead of you and then you get sick. It's just a cold so you go on. You dance a few recitals, you curl a bit but then two months pass and your cold still has not gone away so your mom takes you to your family doctor. The next thing you know you're being rushed to the Children's Hospital in London. You have cancer.

Your life has been put on hold. You can't see your friends or do the things you love. The only people you see are the doctors, the nurses and your mom. You don't even know if you'll survive.

I don't have to imagine it. That happened to me.

On January 15th, 2012, I was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia, AML. This is a tricky Leukemia to treat so the protocol is to hit it with a lot of chemo over a short period of time. The chemo left me feeling sick. Being nauseas just became a way of life, a new normal. I had to take many drugs to counteract side effects. I had many blood transfusions but there is no transfusion for white blood cells that fight infection so I spent most of the four months of treatment in isolation.

On May 16th, I was airlifted to Sick Kids with heart failure. When I got there my parents were told I would die. My diagnosis is chemo-induced

cardiomyopathy, a rare side effect, and when it happens so soon after chemo children do not survive. The doctors explained to my parents that because my blood cell counts were still low from chemo they couldn't operate, so going on life support was not an option. If I went into cardiac arrest, I would not be resuscitated. My only hope was a VAD, a small pump that fits inside the heart to keep blood flowing and can last for years but, again, my blood counts were too low to survive the operation and the doctors didn't think I would last more than a couple of weeks. My parents had no choice but tell me what my prognosis was.

That was a really bad day. My mom told me what the doctors had been saying, that I wouldn't live, but I didn't believe it. I was determined to do whatever the doctors told me to do. To keep pressure off my heart I was kept dehydrated. It was hard not being able to drink or eat what I wanted but the doctors and I worked together to help me to live long enough so my blood counts could recover.

And they did! On June 3rd I got my VAD. It was a 4 hour, open heart surgery and was a big success! Recovery took months. It was difficult and painful. Sometimes I doubted myself. My body was so weak. My legs were like sticks but on July 6th, I took my first steps. On August 9th I became the first child discharged from Sick Kids with a VAD. Because of the risks that come with the VAD I will stay in Toronto until I qualify for a heart transplant on January 15th, 2014 and then while I the wait for my new heart.

Some facts about childhood cancer:

- 1 in 330 children will be diagnosed with cancer before the age of 20.
- It is the #1 killing disease of kids

in Canada, killing more children than asthma, diabetes, cystic fibrosis and AIDS combined.

- 10,000 children are fighting cancer in Canada right now. One in four will die.
- Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia has the best survival rate at 90%, but most childhood cancers have rates less than 50% and have barely changed in the last 30 years.
- 98% of all childhood cancer survivors will suffer from at least one chronic health issue, and by age 45, 80% have a life-threatening or disabling chronic condition
- In potential years lost, childhood cancer comes in second only to breast cancer.

Bronwyn's mother, DKC member Kellie Huffman (redplaid on Ravelry) designed the newly released Childhood Cancer Awareness Hat to draw attention to Childhood Cancer. A knitter since Bronwyn's birth, Kellie found it to be the stabilizing constant that comforted her while she helped her daughter through the torture of chemo and subsequent heart failure. She is founder of the Knitting for Gold Project- knittingforgold.org



Bronwyn and her Dad

Stitch of the Month *by Diane Martin*

Garter Stitch Twisted Rib

Multiple of 4

Row 1:

(RS) K1, *cross 2 back, k2; rep from * to last 3 stitches, cross 2 back, k1.

Row 2:

K1, *cross 2 purl, k2; rep from * to last 3 stitches, purl 2 cross, k1.

Repeat these 2 rows.

Cross 2 back

Knit into the back of the 2nd stitch on the needle; then knit the first stitch, slipping both stitches off the needle at the same time.

Cross 2 purl

Purl into the front of the 2nd stitch on the needle, then purl the first stitch, slipping both stitches off the needle at the same time.

From 365 Knitting Stitches a Year Perpetual Calendar, stitch for February 4.



Relay for Life *by Joan Kass*

Our nine team members raised a total of \$9068.73, good for a Silver Award. Despite a damp chilly night, we kept knitting and walking and having fun. We blew bubbles, had henna tattoos, and ate lots of goodies. We taught a few people to knit including Team Captain David of the Super Karate Monkeys. We proudly wore the flower headbands made by Donna. And of course... we knit all night! Congratulations, team, on a job well done.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Kitchener-Waterloo Knitter's Fair

This annual fair will be at Kitchener Memorial Auditorium with shopping, speakers, classes and snacks on September 14, 9:30 to 4:30 p.m. Admission \$7. www.kwknittersguild.ca

Woodstock Fleece Festival

It's an annual event that invites fibre artists and others to join together in an atmosphere of appreciation, learning and camaraderie. Workshop registration is now open. Saturday, October 19 at Woodstock fairgrounds. 8:30 - 4:30, admission is \$6. www.fleecefestival.com

CreativFestival 2013

Now in its 26th year, this massive multi-craft expo returns to the Metro Convention Centre on October 25, 26 and 27. Visit www.csnf.com for details and workshop registration.

DKC Executive

President: Carole Adams

president@downtownknitcollective.ca

Programming Coordinator: Catherine Osborne

programme@downtownknitcollective.ca

Communications Coordinator: Suzie Larouche

communications@downtownknitcollective.ca

Treasurer: Wendy Mauzeroll

treasurer@downtownknitcollective.ca

Secretary: Kerry Fast

secretary@downtownknitcollective.ca


Special Events/Promotions

Coordinator: Joan Kass

events@downtownknitcollective.ca

www.downtownknitcollective.ca
feedback@downtownknitcollective.ca

 @DKCtoronto

 facebook.com/DKCtoronto