

# knitting Yarns



## MARCH 21: DAVID ARMSTRONG

Our March meeting brings a different kind of guest—an expert on the construction and restoration of fibre-related tools. David has been woodworking and restoring antiques for over 25 years (ranging from pianos to rare books and, yes, spinning wheels). He has been knitting for equally as long, and spinning for the last seven years, usually with tools he has constructed himself. He and his son have recently launched an online storefront ([www.finefibretools.com](http://www.finefibretools.com)) where they sell their beautiful handmade tools—drop spindles, stitch markers, needle cases, darning eggs and shawl pins to name but a few, looking to historical artifacts and forms found in nature for inspiration.

An experienced public speaker, David is looking forward to sharing some of that expertise with us. What are the best materials for fibre tools? What's the best way to finish and maintain them? He'll answer these questions, as well as discussing restoration and minor repairs, and will of course bring some of his samples to look at. For anyone who truly appreciates the beauty of fine craftsmanship (and what knitter doesn't?) it's bound to be a fascinating evening.

### CRAFTER'S CORNER

Our March vendor is Robin Hunter. She will be offering “Notions for Knitters,” including a buttonhole placement gauge and a colour tool. She will be taking cash only, so be sure to have some on hand. If you'd like to book the table, please contact Cristina ([programme@downtownknitcollective.ca](mailto:programme@downtownknitcollective.ca)) for info.

### APRIL MEETING PREVIEW

Our guest speaker at the April meeting will be Carla Calico, editor of *A Needle Pulling Thread*, the quarterly magazine devoted to Canadian needle arts: quilting, fibre art, knitting, crochet, rug hooking, cross stitch, beading, creative sewing and embroidery.

Carla believes that anyone can achieve their goals if they set their minds and determination to it. *A Needle Pulling Thread* is a magazine that reflects this with every fibre artist she brings together in every inspiring issue. The magazine also reflects that...well...life is just better with needlework!

Carved Tree Drop Spindle—David Armstrong



### Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

### 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

\$6.00 for guests and Newsletter Only Subscribers  
Free to Full 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](http://www.downtownknitcollective.ca/dkc_conduct.html)

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FEBRUARY 2012 MEETING by Heather Brady

Approximately 75 knitters (at least 10 of whom were first-timers) attended the February mini-workshops.

### Announcements

Congratulations were extended to Robin Hunter, whose striking Prudence Crowley Vest was recently announced as the #1-selling vest pattern on Patternfish.

Pucks n' Purls was a huge success, with about 270 tickets sold. The game was action-packed, the Marlies beat Hamilton 5-1, and Wannietta Prescod won the Fastest Knitter contest. Marlies mascot Duke the Dog was very pleased with his scarf, designed and knitted by Denise Powell. The executive wishes to thank all who volunteered and attended. Will it become a yearly event? We'll see.

Edna took to the podium to give a brief update about World Wide Knit In Public Day. She noted that the dates (June 9-17) coincide almost exactly with the yearly Luminato art festival (June 8-17) and wondered if it might be possible to somehow piggyback on that event. Does

anyone have contacts? We need to form a planning committee as soon as possible.

Joan and Donna gave a Frolic update. Dozens of vendors have registered, and the official Ravelry group is now live (search for "frolic" on the groups page and join us!). They were also practically bursting to reveal the news that designer, author and photographer Franklin Habit has been confirmed as a guest workshop teacher. He'll be teaching two classes on Saturday and two on Sunday, and demand should be high (his recent workshops at the Madrona Retreat in California sold out in just ten minutes). Workshop info and registration information will be forthcoming in March.

The Mabin School will be offering weekend workshops with Sally Melville from March 31 to April 1, at a cost of \$60 per day. Please contact Dalia Besasparis (daliab@rogers.com) for more details.

### Show & Tell

New member Elena was back with another show-stopper, this time displaying a lacy off-white sweater in feather and fan with

an asymmetrical scalloped closure. She says that like last month's project, it's a simple rectangle with set-in sleeves and practically no shaping. Amazing work.

### Raffle

Two balls of Patons Lace Sequin and Patons Lace *Dazzling* pattern booklet were won by Blanche Douglas.

A book of beaded scarf and shawl patterns plus a package of beads from Swallow Hill Creations were won by Cristina Simionovici.

*Stashbuster Knits*, a book donated by Maylin Scott, was won by Cheryl Michalson.

### Mini-Workshops

This year's Mini-Workshops were a huge success, as always. When the signal was given, knitters keen to learn new techniques converged upon the tables of the six teachers. Dr. Knit also had a steady stream of patients looking for advice. The result was an evening of fast-paced fun, kind of like speed dating but with knitting. Thanks to all our teachers and participants for making the evening educational and above all, fun!



At this time, we are accepting nominations for the Executive positions for the 2012/13 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 [dkctreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:dkctreasurer@gmail.com). If you don't have email access, you may submit your nomination at the March or April DKC meetings. The deadline for nominations will be the evening of April 18, 2012 with elections being held (if necessary) at the May DKC meeting.

The positions with a brief description of the duties are:

**President**

Responsible for the 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 filing approved minutes on the shared drive; and, managing, organizing and maintaining DKC calendar and documents on the shared DKC Google Docs drive. Assisting in the organization of monthly meetings by preparing envelopes and purchasing supplies for monthly DKC mailings; communicating with facility landlord before each meeting regarding the specific requirements; preparing signage as required; preparing and organizing member name tags; and, preparing Powerpoint slide 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 proper procedures are in place and are followed when DKC financial transactions are made; and, providing financial statements monthly to executive and yearly to 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 the event, 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, 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 moderator with meeting information to promote the event; 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 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.

**Communications Co-ordinator**

This is a new position. The concept is that 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. 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.

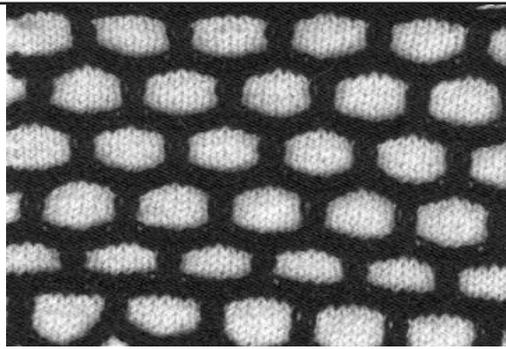
**Focus Group Update**

One of the suggestions from last fall's focus group was to schedule these events a couple of times a year. We are just starting to plan a spring DKC Focus Group for late April or May, but definitely not on the Knitter's Frolic weekend. Please e-mail me at [edna@zuber.net](mailto:edna@zuber.net) with your suggestions for date, location and topics for this focus group, and if you would like to attend. I'm looking forward to another lively conversation.

Hexagon Pattern

Multiple of 8 sts plus 6: worked with one light (L) and one dark (D) colour.

- Row 1 (D) (RS): Knit
- Row 2 (D): Knit
- Row 3 (L): K2, \*sl2 (dark sts of previous row) as if to purl, K6; rep from \*, end sl2, k2.
- Row 4 (L): P2, \*sl2 (same 2 as previous row), p6; rep from \*, end sl2, p2
- Row 5 and 7 (L): repeat row 3
- Row 6 and 8 (L): repeat row 4
- Row 9 (D): Knit all sts including the slipped sts
- Row 10, 11, and 12 (D): Knit
- Row 13 (L): K6, \*sl2, k6; rep from \*
- Row 14 (L): P6, \* sl2, p6; rep from \*
- Row 15 and 17 (L): repeat row 13
- Row 16 and 18: repeat row 14
- Row 19 (D): Knit all sts including the slipped sts
- Row 20, 21, and 22 (D): Knit
- Repeat Rows 3 to 22.



sl=slip stitch  
rep=repeat  
st, sts=stitch(es)

From: Carol Curtis, *Carol Curtis' Complete Book of Knitting and Crochet*, a Cardinal edition, Pocket Books of Canada, Montreal, 1954

NOTE: swatch has three repeats of the pattern and an error in the Rows 13 to 18 section of the first repeat (rows 17 and 18 were skipped). You really need to slip those two stitches over six rows to get the hexagon effect.

WWKIP: TORONTO EDITION by Edna Zuber

World Wide Knit in Public Day (WWKIP) is "the largest knitter run event in the world. Each local event is put together by a volunteer or a group of knitters." There will be local events planned around the globe. This year, WWKIP is scheduled for nine days, June 9-17, 2012 (2nd Saturday to 3rd Sunday of June).

The DKC has its yearly commitment to Relay for Life on June 8-9, so will celebrate WWKIP with a "Toronto Edition" on June 16, 2012. As with real estate, location is everything. Carole Adams, the DKC president has looked into Metro Hall Square, St. James Park and Speakers Corner at City Hall as possibilities but there may be other excellent locations for this event and we would love your input. WWKIP is at the same time as the Luminato Festival in Toronto this year so we may be able to find some great synergy with the arts festival.



We also need an enthusiastic working group to plan and promote the event. Carole, Lacey and Noa have signed on but we need more people involved. If you love (or even like) planning fun events and meeting new people, join us to create WWKIP Toronto Edition. We need everyone's ideas and help.

This event will be open to everyone, to any individual or group with a passion for knitting and other fibre crafts such as spinning and weaving and the interested public. We would love to partner with yarn stores, distributors and other guilds to make this a fabulous, creative knitting event.

A blog ([wwkiptoedition.tumblr.com](http://wwkiptoedition.tumblr.com)) has been started to chronicle the event. Send your suggestions and offers to join the WWKIP Toronto Edition organizing group to either the Suggestions & Questions link on the blog, or to me directly at [edna@zuber.net](mailto:edna@zuber.net)

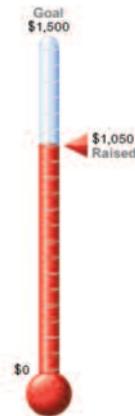
UPCOMING EVENTS

The Gathering

Spinners and knitters get together on April 14 in Port Hope for this annual event. [gprspin.blogspot.com](http://gprspin.blogspot.com) has all pertinent info.

14th Annual Knitter's Frolic

Mark your calendars for April 28-29, 2012. As always, the event will feature workshops, food, fibre and fun. Class and registration info will be available soon in the DKC website's 'Frolic' section.



All proceeds from the raffle at our meetings are donated to the Canadian Cancer Society. So far this year we have raised \$1050, with an end-of-season goal of \$1500. Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets at the start of each meeting!

DKC Executive

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