

VOLUME 17 · ISSUE 2  
OCTOBER 2012knitting  
Yarns

## OCTOBER 17: FAROOQ IKRAM—SPECTACLE OF SHAWLS

Farooq Ikram is a textile artist who holds degrees in Textile Design from the National College of Arts in Lahore, Pakistan and Fashion Design Pattern Making from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, NY. He creates one-of-a-kind fashion accessories and scarves using non-representational forms with varied and vivid colour palettes. His designs are hand-rolled and executed on high quality silk, giving a beautiful finish to his line. The accessories are not just functional pieces of fabric, but wearable art.

He has worked as an Associate Professor at the National College of Arts and is now employed at the Textile Museum in Toronto. He continues to create and sell his line of unique, hand-painted fashion accessories throughout Canada and the United States.

Audience members are encouraged to bring knitted shawls with them to the meeting, and let Farooq help you display the beauty of the work of your hands. Farooq also encourages everyone to bring fabric shawls and scarves as well—he likes combining colours and textures in his demonstrations.



## WEBSITE UPDATE

We're happy to announce that DKC memberships may now be purchased online via PayPal or credit card. Simply visit [downtownknitcollective.ca](http://downtownknitcollective.ca) and click on the "membership" tab.

## COMING UP IN NOVEMBER

Next month will be truly action-packed. We're excited to announce that Amy Singer has just been confirmed to speak at the November meeting. Believe it or not, her very popular website [knitty.com](http://knitty.com) has just celebrated its tenth year of existence. A few days later, on November 24 and 25, we welcome the return of the Winter Workshops.

## COMING UP IN DECEMBER

Once again, it's time to celebrate ourselves and our craft with the annual Work Of Our Hands Fashion Show. Do you have something to show? Something that is perhaps not quite finished? Now's the time to hit that knitting accelerator and get it done.

## Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, October 17, 2012

Wednesday, November 21, 2012

Wednesday, December 12, 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

\$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](http://www.downtownknitcollective.ca/dkc_conduct.html)

President Carole Adams welcomed approximately 130 knitters back to the first meeting of the 2012-2013 season. The tables from Dye-Version and Indigodragonfly generated a great amount of interest before and after the meeting.

### Announcements

There's a new yarn store in town! EweKnit, a yarn store and café, has recently opened in Mirvish Village and can be found at 585 Markham St., just south of Bloor & Bathurst. Owner Claudia is pleased to offer DKC members a 10% discount. Visit eweknit.ca for contact info, inventory and hours.

This year's **Bus Trip** will be held on October 27. The first stop is Shelridge Farm, the second is Camilla Valley Farms, and the lunch location is Mono Cliffs Inn, near the scenic Bruce Trail.

We're pleased to announce that **Winter Workshops** are back this year, and will be held on November 24 and 25.

**Pucks n' Purls** was such a huge success last year, we're happy to announce that it will be returning on February 9, 2013. It's sure to be a ton of fun.

Planning for the 2013 **Knitter's Frolic** is already well underway, and knitter and author Ann Budd has been confirmed as our keynote instructor. Save the date! It's slated for April 27 and 28, 2013.

### Show and Tell

Trish Denhoed created a very cool shrug using bamboo yarn she bought from Dye-Version during their last visit to the DKC. The unique loop construction allows it to be worn upside down or right side up.

Louise Singer showed a beautiful and intricate Icelandic sweater made just a few days after shoulder surgery, with her doctor's blessing. There were a lot of forbidden activities, but knitting was ok.

Elena Boulatov had another epic project to share: an enormous white lacy shawl that was (in her words) almost a bedspread. She had no time for blocking—it was going straight into the mail after the meeting.

Cristina Simionovici showed the last

project of what she called "The Summer of Hempaty", a stunning grey and taupe garter stitch kimono that was almost knee-length.

### Raffle

*Noro Knits* was won by Victoria Warner.

A skein of Willow St. silk was won by Dawn Juruc.

A 'Namaste' project bag was won by Diane Martin.

### Guest Speakers

#### JANE EDMONDSON (DYE-VERSION)

For the September meeting, we were happy to change things up a bit by welcoming two "indie" yarn companies to our traditional new yarn kickoff meeting, and it was clear that the audience approved.

The first speaker was Jane Edmondson of Dye-Version. The company is a sister act featuring Jane on dyes and Anne on the books. They started out as a fabric outfit, but Anne (an avid knitter) suggested they try some hand-dyed yarns. They still do fabric, but yarn has become the primary focus of the business.

Jane (doing her first PowerPoint presentation ever) said it's been an insane year for Dye-Version. They've been doing lots of experiments with different fibres and colourways, many of them launched at the Frolic in April. 2600 bare skeins were delivered between June and August, and they have somehow managed to dye them all. Rich, saturated colours and deep tones seem to be what it's all about this knitting season.

Merlin is a new Blue-Faced Leicester sock yarn, and colourways include Morgan Le Fay, Princess, Chimney Sweep (definitely a "boyfriend colour"), La Fée Verte, Blue Jay, and a stunning hot pink and black cherry combination called Vampire's Kiss that completely sold out at the KW Knitter's Fair. A grey, black and dark purple called Lestat has also proven very popular. Vampires are very big this year.

Jane then gave us a sneak peek into the new yarns they're working on for next year. She says as a yarn company, they are inundated with samples from yarn mills they've never heard of—some are great,

some are not so great. This year they've discovered some real winners, including Mohair Sparkle Lace. This luxurious laceweight blend features a combination of brushed mohair, silk and just a touch of glitter. It will be ready to launch by Frolic time next spring.

#### KIM MCBRIEN (INDIGODRAGONFLY)

Indigodragonfly is a four-person team, consisting of Kim, her husband Ron and two "studio minions". Ron's job is to name the yarns, a task which he seems to take incredibly seriously.

Kim noted that the yarn names can really make you see colours in a whole new way. For example, she personally hates orange and yellow, but finds them irresistible with new names. It can result in what she calls a "creativity explosion."

New colourways include:

- Finding Pneumothorax
- Flavor Flav is Not a Time Lord: Discuss
- Lord Chatterly's Divorce Attorney
- Obviously I'm the Doppler Effect
- The Importance of Being Kermit
- Neurotical Disaster
- Egregious Philbin
- Cosby Sweater Repair Kit
- 20,000 Lawyers Under the Sea
- Just One Stanley Cup In My Lifetime (in "blue, white and failure")
- Rock Paper Scissors Liz ard Spock
- Plumber's Butt: Release the Cracken!

So anyway, what else is new?

Indigodragonfly is pleased to carry the work of craftspeople, including artisanal buttons made by a local potter (there may also be yarn bowls in the future). They've also started to carry a line of beautiful shawl pins from Maine.

Kim's patterns generally come in two versions, called Order and Chaos (detailed, line-by-line instructions vs. looser guidelines). Caulfield can be either a tank top or a cardigan. Shift and Loop are a multicoloured shawl and a button-up cowl. They've also brought out packages of contrasting mini-skeins ideal for modular or striped projects (including the Shift shawl) called Frütflies.

We'd like to thank Jane and Kim for sharing their time, insights and yarn!

On Sunday June 3, 2012, eight members of the DKC gathered at the Officer's Mess at Canadian Forces College on Yonge Boulevard to discuss volunteer opportunities and program planning for the guild. This report distills the spirited conversation that ensued and the many thoughtful, creative suggestions on both topics. As outlined in the report, the DKC executive has initiated action on some of these suggestions, and has others under active consideration.

### **Volunteerism at the DKC**

It was noted that calls for volunteers are not always well understood due to lack of specifics. Potential volunteers need to hear a clear message, including the skills required and the estimated time commitment. Better-targeted messages could yield better results.

It was suggested that a questionnaire be added to the membership form to gather the demographics about the guild members, how many years they have been knitting, where they get their yarn information, and more targeted questions about willingness to volunteer. While a volunteer database would be useful, there is work to create and maintain it. Other more informal methods of collecting information were suggested. The executive is looking at formal and informal data collection and has created a questionnaire for members.

It was suggested that one or more member volunteers be responsible for identifying new people at meetings, and engage them in conversation. The purpose would be to make them feel welcome, introduce them to other members and to discover their interests and willingness to participate in the guild.

Many organizations that rely on volunteers have a mature volunteer recognition program. They understand the importance to volunteers that their work is appreciated by the group. DKC volunteers could be recognized in many ways—from a special “Appreciation Night” as part of a DKC meeting to more tangible rewards. The executive has suggested that the topic for the next Focus Group this fall be “Developing a Volunteer Recognition Program”. The executive is also looking at how it could incorporate two other suggestions: partnering inexperienced volunteers with someone more experienced so they can be mentored in the new activity, and creating a feedback loop from volunteers so we can learn from their experiences.

### **Program Planning and Meeting Structure**

Keep announcements short and factual. It was suggested that announcements be moved to the end of the meeting then posted on the website for members who left early or could not attend the meeting. “Show and Tell” is inspirational and enjoyable. This should be moved to the beginning of the meeting. To keep the pace of the meeting sharp and crisp, people with “Show and Tell” items should line up at the edge of the podium area so no time is lost reaching the front of the auditorium. This would also permit more items to be shown.

An annual, short business meeting should be part of a meeting. The agenda and background information should be pre-

distributed so that all members present can participate fully. Participants saw the current meeting model as static, changing little over the years. They suggested that the membership look at developing a dynamic, adaptable model that will embrace change and aim for regeneration, perhaps with a “Master of Ceremonies” or moderator to chair the meeting and move the topics along. It was suggested that there be a two year plan for upcoming meetings and events to ensure the availability of speakers that are in high demand and cannot be invited on short notice.

The group endorsed having several high profile speakers per year. They believed that with a well-marketed event, many knitters would flock to the meeting. Suggestions for high profile speakers included Stephen West, Veronik Avery, Tannis, Annie Modesitt and Amy Singer. Suggested meeting topics included: how to write a pattern for publishing, a demonstration on how to upload patterns on Ravelry, Ravelry special features (e.g. Library), how to use the right yarns for the right project. Create a volunteer working group to help with the meeting planning and with gathering suggestions for interesting speakers and topics. This could be part of succession planning for the role of Programme Coordinator.

There was concern that the history of the guild will be lost. Several suggestions were made: do a piece on a different founder at each meeting, and invite the founder to that meeting; capture all the speakers that the guild has had over the years; and, write a history of the guild, perhaps to be housed on the website. Some of these suggestions are already being actively worked on. Cristina Simionovici has planned this year's meetings with the assistance of a working group. Speakers for all but the June 2013 meeting are confirmed and posted on Ravelry. Focussing on “Local Talent” this year, Amy Singer, Glenna C, Michelle Porter, Robin Hunter and Janelle Martin are all scheduled to share their talents with us. Janelle will help us maximize our use of Ravelry. Denise Powell is heading up a group to collect information and write a history of the guild.

There were a number of other interesting and provocative suggestions including:

- Create a strong relationship with local yarn stores, positioning the DKC as the “knitting portal” to the city.
- Build a partnership with the Fashion schools in Toronto, offering free memberships for future young designers interested in knitted garments.
- Ask members if they want to continue the heavy emphasis on cancer fund raising.
- Strike a nominating committee each year to solicit members willing to run for executive positions. The term of office for executive members should become more formalized, and the roles and responsibilities clearly defined. Perhaps each position should be held for a two-year term and with a limit of three consecutive terms.
- Investigate other options for a friendlier location that will encourage the social aspects of the meetings.

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Mary Pat McDonald and Susanne Tabur are looking for possible venue options and will bring the results of the research to the executive and members. On the point of charitable givings, at the September meeting, Carole Adams, the DKC president, asked members to consider the charity that the DKC should sponsor and bring back their suggestions for the October meeting.

It was a pleasure to spend an afternoon with this wonderful group of knitters who are all passionate about the DKC. Thank you for sharing your ideas.

### Let's Make the DKC Even Better

A recommendation of the Spring 2012 Focus Group was to implement a DKC Volunteer Recognition Program. Many organizations that rely on volunteers as we do have well developed programs, and we should too. We are calling on DKC members to come to the Fall 2012 Focus Group, where we will sketch out what a DKC Volunteer Program would look like. It will be a great opportunity to make our guild even better than it already is.

The meeting will be two hours on a date to be determined by the participants. It could be held on the 1st, 2nd or 3rd weekend in November, either on the Saturday or Sunday, in the morning or afternoon depending on everyone's wishes. If you are interested in having a lively conversation about the DKC, contact Edna Zuber at [edna@zuber.net](mailto:edna@zuber.net).

### Volunteers Needed for 2nd Annual Pucks n' Purls

Last year we inaugurated Pucks n' Purls, a collaboration between the Toronto Marlies and the DKC. We invited everyone to a family event bringing the knitting and hockey communities together for a professional hockey game with the Marlies at Ricoh Coliseum. It was such a success that this year we are doing it again on Saturday, February 9, 2013.

Volunteers are needed. You could volunteer to be on the planning committee where you would have the opportunity to plan and organize the extracurricular events during and after Pucks n' Purls. You would attend about five meetings and be responsible for some action items. Alternatively, you could volunteer to assist only on the day of the event. Pucks n' Purls is a lot of fun—come join us!

If you're interested, please contact Edna Zuber at [edna@zuber.net](mailto:edna@zuber.net).

### STITCH OF THE MONTH by Diane Martin

#### Rose-Hip Stitch

Multiple of 4 + 3

Slip all stitches purlwise, holding yarn to the wrong side of the fabric (on odd rows, yarn is to the back, on even rows, to the front)

Row 1 (right side) K3, \*sl 1, k3; rep from \* to end.

Row 2 k3, \*sl 1, k3; rep from \* to end.

Row 3 K1, \*sl 1, k3; rep from \* to last 2 sts, sl 1, k1.

Row 4 K1, \*sl 1, k3; rep from \* to last 2 sts, sl 1, k1.

Repeat these 4 rows. 1, k1.

Repeat these 4 rows.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Woodstock Fleece Festival

This annual event invites fibre artists and others to join together in an atmosphere of appreciation, learning and camaraderie. There will be demonstrations, workshops and of course—yarn, yarn, yarn! Festival takes place on October 13 at Woodstock Fairgrounds; please visit [fleecefestival.com](http://fleecefestival.com) for entry info and directions.

#### Creativ Festival 2012

October 12, 13 & 14 at the Metro Convention Centre. This massive fall craft event is celebrating its 25th year. [www.csnf.com](http://www.csnf.com)

#### Dye-Version Open House

From November 29 to December 1, the Dye-Version showroom will be open with lots of great deals. Please visit [dyeversion.com](http://dyeversion.com) for contact info.

### DKC Executive

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