

VOLUME 17 • ISSUE 3
NOVEMBER 2012

knitting Yarns



NOVEMBER 21: AMY R. SINGER

Amy Singer is the editor of the online knitting magazine Knitty.com which has had more than 124 million site visits since its launch in 2002. Yes, it recently celebrated its 10th anniversary! Knitty projects are everywhere—the Clapotis alone has been made almost 20,000 times (and that's just among Ravelry users).

Most people who learn Amy is a knitter who is allergic to wool think it's hysterical. But never mind—she's perfectly happy knitting with cotton and silk and lots of other stuff, and even wrote a book on the subject (*No Sheep for You*; Interweave Press, 2007).

Our “Spectacle of Shawls” was such a success at the October meeting, we'd like to try a theme evening again this month. Have you ever made one of the hundreds of free patterns from **knitty.com**? Got a Clapotis shawl, February Lady cardigan, Lanesplitter skirt, Fetching gloves, Lizard Ridge blanket, Baudelaire socks or Urchin hat? We invite you to bring your projects to the November meeting and show them off!

CRAFTER'S CORNER

Carole Adams will be destashing at the November meeting, and she will accept cash and cheques. Want to book the table to sell your own wares? Contact programme@downtownknitcollective.com

FALL 2012 FOCUS GROUP

This Focus Group meeting will be held Saturday, November 17 from 1-3 pm at the Officer's Mess, Canadian Forces College, 215 Yonge Boulevard, Toronto. We are looking forward to a lovely afternoon discussing the framework for a Volunteer Recognition Program for the DKC. Many organizations that rely on volunteers (as we do) have well-developed programs, and so should we.

If you have not signed up yet, there are still a couple of spots left. Contact Edna Zuber by email at edna@zuber.net to reserve your space.

FASHION SHOW: CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The annual Work Of Our Hands Fashion Show is coming up fast, and here is the submission info:

- Garment name
- Knitter's name
- Model's name
- Designer
- Pattern name
- Pattern source
- Yarn (brand and quantity)
- Two pictures, or more!

1. What made you (the knitter) choose this project? (max 200 words)
2. Do you have any advice for someone who wants to knit this pattern? (max 200 words)

Cristina can provide an electronic form if you contact her at: programme@downtownknitcollective.ca

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, November 21, 2012

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Wednesday, January 16, 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

135 knitters (including about 5 newbies) were present for the October meeting, and almost everyone was wearing a shawl.

Announcements

Our ever-popular **Winter Workshops** will be returning to Metro Hall this month (Saturday, November 24). Denise Powell, Robin Hunter, Joan Kass and Diane Martin came up to the podium to talk about their workshops.

Edna spoke about the return of **Pucks n' Purls**, our hockey and knitting crossover on February 9. Tickets will be available at the November meeting.

Charitable giving was discussed, specifically the monthly raffle proceeds and what organization(s) should benefit from them. One audience member suggested that the money might be split, with half the money going to the Cancer Society as usual, and the other half going to other charities on a rotating basis. This idea was voted on and approved. Another vote was taken on whether the DKC should still be involved with the Relay for Life, and the answer was a resounding "yes".

Wendy Mauzeroll gave a tour of the **new website**, specifically demonstrating how to sign in and add things (such as guild

memberships and workshop courses) to the shopping cart.

A young woman came up to speak about **Bear Pals**, which is a charitable initiative to send small knitted bears to needy children overseas. The knitting pattern appears on the back page of this newsletter, and both the knitting and crochet patterns are available on the DKC's Ravelry group.

Show and Tell

Julia Bryant brought a very special project to the meeting—an enormous afghan in Tunisian crochet that has been 17 years in the making. The designs represented important parts of Julia's life, from her mug of tea to the initials of her grandchildren. She estimates the afghan is made up of 324,000 stitches and over 5,000 beads. What an inspiring creation!

Tanya Preobrazhenski showed purse covered with felted leaves called "October's Party," which she says was inspired by one of her favourite poems.

Pam McNaughton showed a Koigu ruffled scarf she has created for a friend who has generously offered to look after her store while Pam is away at Rhinebeck. What a great friend... and what a great scarf.

Raffle

A Namaste Hip Holster bag was won by Susan Monis Brett.

A skein of Loft and a pattern was won by Sam Smit.

A skein of Mille Colori yarn and a set of DPNs was won by Geraldine Brown.

Guest Speaker

FAROOQ IKRAM

Farooq is uniquely qualified to talk about shawls, being both a textile artist and employee of the Textile Museum. After his spellbinding presentation at the October meeting, he may well be known as the Shawl Whisperer from now on.

Farooq first gave a brief history of the shawl, speaking about the origin of the pashmina (which means 'wool' in Persian), a fine cashmere wrap which came to prominence early in the 15th century.

Though cautious at first, DKC members were soon lining up to have their shawls and scarves styled by Farooq. As he carefully tucked and folded, expertly bringing out the best in both the wearer and the garment, you could have heard a pin drop in the auditorium—the audience was completely enthralled. Special thanks go out to Farooq, as well as everyone who participated in our Spectacle of Shawls!



BUS TRIP 2012 by Joan Kass, photos by Victor Kass

The rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the 36 knitters on this year's bus trip. First stop Shelridge Farm, where the small kits marked down to \$5.00 soon all disappeared. We certainly made a dent in the 40% off kits and the yarn bins were much less full.

A lovely lunch of quiche, salad and apple crisp in a cozy room at Mono Cliffs Inn didn't disappoint our hungry gals.

Then off to Camilla Valley Farm where once again, our knitters continued to shop, shop, shop.

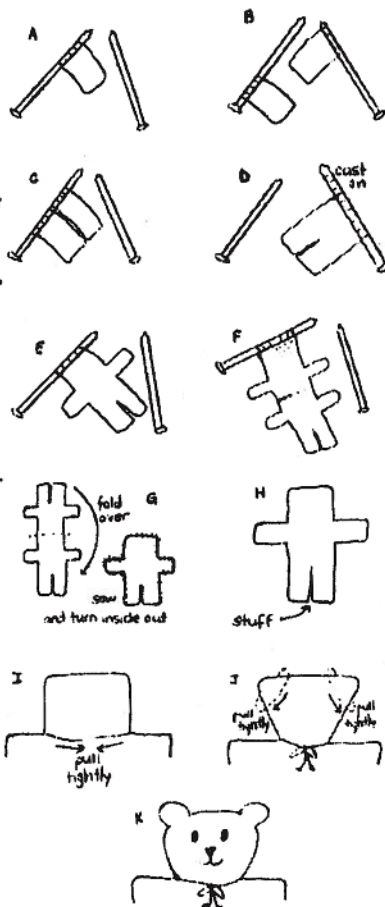
A lovely knitter's day out was had by all.



Bear Pal Instructions

Completed bears should be between 15-17cm tall and 13-14cm wide. The number of stitches varies depending on needle size and yarn weight. This example uses medium weight yarn (4) and 4.5mm knitting needles. Work in knit or garter stitch.

- A. Begin by making one leg. Cast on 7 stitches and knit 16 rows. Cut the end of the yarn and secure it with a knot. It should be ~3.5cm wide by ~4cm long. Push the leg to the end of the needle.
- B. Make a second leg.
- C. Work across both legs to join them by putting both legs on the same needle and knitting across both. Knit 16 more rows for the body (~4cm).
- D. To make the arms, cast on 7 stitches (same width as leg). Turn and knit to the other side and cast on 7 for the other arm. Knit 8 rows, or until the arms are ~3cm wide. Cast off 7 stitches back to the body width on both sides once arms are finished.
- E. Knit 24 rows to make the head of the bear (~6cm).
- F. Repeat entire pattern, but in reverse: head, arms, and body. To make the legs, knit halfway through the body for one leg (7 stitches) and complete its length. Cast off and cut yarn. Rejoin yarn at top of leg and knit the other half for the second leg.
- G. Fold bear in half and stitch with matching yarn along outside edges. Leave opening at the bottom and between legs for stuffing. Turn bear inside out.
- H. Fill the bear with polyester stuffing. Start with the head, arms, and then the body. Sew a bit more closed between the bear's legs and then stuff the legs before sewing the bottoms shut.
- I. Take a piece of yarn and thread it around the bear's neck, pulling tightly to form the neck. Tie a bow; double knot it.
- J. Stitch two pieces of yarn around corners of head, making triangles; pull tightly and tie to form ears. Thread the ends into the bear's head.
- K. Stitch on a smiling face - eyes, nose and mouth.



- ✓ Please make sure all ends are double knotted and poked to the inside of the bear.
- ✓ Bears may be done in all one colour or with different colours for paws, face, etc.
- ✓ Bears may be made in the round, vertically or any other way as long as they are similar and of appropriate size.
- ✓ For safety, please do not stitch on anything that can fall off (i.e. no buttons); use yarn for details.

for more information, please contact bearpals@hotmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Purple Purl 5th Anniversary

The Purl is having a party on November 17 which will include cupcakes, door prizes, a sale on all purple yarn and a food drive of non-perishable items. Find out more at thepurplepurl.com.

DKC Winter Workshops

They're back! Returning to Metro Hall on the weekend of November 24-25, 16 different classes will be held over two days. To sign up online, please visit downtownknitcollective.ca and click on the "calendar" tab to find the related info and sign up for classes online.

Dye-Version Open House

From November 29 to December 1, Dye-Version's Mississauga showroom will be open with lots of great holiday deals, plus hot cocoa by the fire. Please visit dyeversion.com for contact info, or friend them on Facebook for the latest scoop.

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It's back! The Downtown Knit Collective and the Toronto Marlies are hosting the second annual Pucks N' Purls at Ricoh Coliseum at Exhibition Place. The Toronto Marlies is a professional hockey team affiliated with the Toronto Maple Leafs which plays in the American Hockey League. At Pucks N' Purls, they will be pitted against the Chicago Wolves, a Vancouver Canucks affiliate. The Marlies are real

contenders so it is sure to be a great game. And who knows, it may be the only hockey game in town! There will be lots of knitterly fun planned for the event, and once again the DKC has secured the ice for a post-game skate for 250 lucky Pucks N' Purls ticket holders. What a fabulous Christmas gift!

Date: February 9, 2013

Location: Ricoh Coliseum, Exhibition Place

Game Time: 3:00 pm

Seating: Behind Marlies bench (Sections 100/101)

Price: \$21

Tickets will be on sale at the November meeting.